

C. 1892

HANDY CHAPEL

In 1883, Grand Junction's founder, George A. Crawford, deeded four Grand Junction Town Company lots to the "black citizens of Grand Junction." Soon after, a small group of African Americans started a campaign to raise the \$962.50 necessary to construct a church while holding services on the vacant lots. It took the congregation nine years to raise the required money.

Built in 1892 in a simple architectural style by local contractors Hunt & McDonald, the new church was called Wright's Chapel. William Austin was one of the men who helped carry the bricks and mortar to build the church. He was the great-grandfather of Josephine Dickey, and today six generations of William Austin's family attend church at Handy Chapel.

Handy Chapel stands today as the only original church building in Grand Junction built on the original lots in the original square mile town site. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.



NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER

