

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

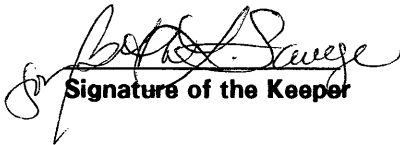
NRIS Reference Number: 98001470 Date Listed: 12/15/98

Ambrose Chapel \_\_\_\_\_ Morgan \_\_\_\_\_ WV  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

---

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/15/98  
Date of Action

---

Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Consideration and Period**

Criteria exception A applies because of the property's historic religious function.

The period of significance for the property relates to the church and the cemetery and is amended as c.1839-1920.

This information was discussed with Katherine Jourdan, National register Coordinator, WVSHPO, by telephone.

---

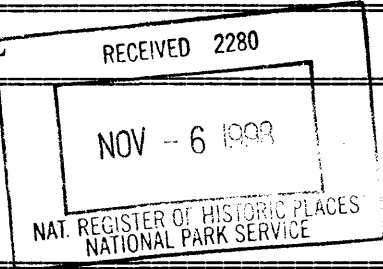
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

1470

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property AMBROSE CHAPEL



historic name: Ambrose Chapel  
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Winchester Grade Road not for publication: N/A  
city/town: Stotlers Crossroads vicinity: X  
state: WV county: Morgan code: 065 zip code: 25411

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce 10/8/98  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

Ambrose Chapel  
Name of Property

Morgan County, WV  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

PS Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

Beth L. Savage

12/15/98

determined eligible for the  
National Register

See continuation sheet.  
determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Ambrose Chapel  
Name of Property

Morgan County, WV  
County and State

---

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

---

**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

RELIGION: Church and Cemetery

Vacant: Not in Use

---

---

**7. Description**

---

---

**Architectural Classification:**

**Materials**

Vernacular

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Wood

Roof: Metal

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation sheets.)

---

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

---

---

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ambrose Chapel  
**Name of Property**

Morgan County, WV  
**County and State**

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

Military

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1850-1920

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

Ambrose Chapel  
Name of Property

Morgan County, WV  
County and State

---

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

---

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

---

Acreeage of Property:        1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 737975 4378870  
Zone Easting Northing

Stotlers Crossroads Quad Map

### Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Ambrose Chapel  
Name of Property

Morgan County, WV  
County and State

---

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

---

Name/Title: Brent Sherrard, with Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: June 26, 1998

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Phone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

---

---

**Property Owner**

---

---

Name: Brent and Sonjia Sherrard

Street & Number: 702 B Thomas Lane

Telephone: 304/262-4338

City or Town: Martinsburg

State: WV

Zip: 25401

---

---

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel  
Name of Property

Morgan County, WV  
County/State

Section number            7                            Page            1

---

Ambrose Chapel sits on a hill surrounded by approximately 400 acres of pastures and woodland. The church is bordered on three sides by large pastures and on the fourth side by the Winchester Grade Road. The property is enclosed by wire and wood fences which mark the property boundaries and protect the grounds from grazing cattle.

Within the church grounds are numerous trees. The most striking is a large oak tree which sits at the highest point on the property. The estimated age of the tree is over 200 years. Numerous other hardwoods are located within the boundaries. Several cedar trees are located among the tombstones, with one tree being over 40 feet in height. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century plantings such as Yucca plants are locate on the grounds along with roses, crape myrtle, and lillies.

Church            1851            Contributing Building

1 ½ story rectangular church with hewn log framing, stone foundation, and metal roof. The southeast entrance is 2 bays with wood siding. The west and east sides of the church are identical with three 6/6 double-hung sash windows and wood siding. The rear, or northwest facade, of the church has two 6/6 double-hung sash original windows, wood siding, and a small 10' x 30" sign reading "Ambrose Chapel." Original shutters exist for the church, but are currently stored inside the building.

The interior of the church has wood plank flooring, the lower 1/3 of the walls are wood paneled while the upper 2/3 of the walls are plaster with traces of paper. The ceiling is tongue and groove pine. The wooden pulpit is centered between the two windows on the northwest facade and is surrounded by a wooden railing. Twenty-two original pews still exist within the church. Wooden light boxes were added above the windows along the west and east walls, but plans call for these to be removed. An original ladder is on the southeast wall for the entrance to the attic. A wooden cross hangs on the northwest wall above the pulpit.

Cemetery                            Contributing Site

The cemetery is located on approximately one acre of ground. Documentation has over 101 names, with some burials going unmarked or the stone being illegible. Dates of burials range from the mid-19th century to roughly 1920. While some stones are old creek stones that can no longer be read, others are sandstone or marble. Carved designs and symbols include roses, willows, hands pointing up, hands shaking with one finger pointing, doves with branches and gates of heaven.

Ambrose Chapel is a small country church and cemetery dating to the mid-19th century. The building reflects its original construction and materials.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel                      Morgan County, WV  
Name of Property                      County/State

Section number      8                      Page      1

---

The land for the free meeting house and cemetery was donated in the 1790s, when the church was started by the United Brethren in Christ. The church and cemetery are significant under Criteria A for Military, and Criteria C for Architecture. Ambrose Chapel was used as a parish church during the period of 1851 to 1920.

In 1772, William Henry Ambrose left Frederick County, Maryland, and purchased approximately 400 acres near the forks of Sleepy Creek in what was then Berkeley County, Virginia (now Morgan County, WV). William Henry and his son William Hanby were both early preachers of the United Brethren in Christ Church. They were two of the first 100 licensed or ordained preachers of the United Brethren in Christ faith. In 1789, the first formal conference was founded becoming the first church born on American soil.

In the 1790s William Henry Ambrose divided his land among his children and set aside one acre for a "Free Meeting House" and cemetery. Builders of the church were members of the United Brethren faith, but the church was free for use by all who preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. Circuit riders from the Albrights, United Brethren in Christ, and Methodists preached at Ambrose Chapel one of the early rural churches in the area.

During the early to mid-1800s Ambrose Chapel became strictly a Methodist Church. In 1845, Mathias Ambrose, jr., grandson of William Henry Ambrose, and Issac Michael in partnership purchased the original 400 acres previously owned by William Henry Ambrose (deceased), and then divided it. With this division Issac Michael deeded another small parcel of land, adjacent to the original acre, to the Methodist Episcopal Church and trustees.

In 1851, a new church was erected at a cost of \$287.30 in cash and generous donations of materials and labor. The church has a two door facade, which is different from other churches in Morgan county. However, this style was popular in both Methodist, and United Brethren denominations and may be similar to the previous church. The interior has plaster walls and a tongue and groove pine ceiling. There is a circular chandelier in the center of the room with a star in its center.

Burials in the cemetery date from roughly 1839 to 1950s. Among the cemetery are the names of many of the early trustees, and church members including the Ambrose family. While some of the stones appear to be creek stones and are hard to read; some have very fine workmanship. These headstones are sandstone and marble and have designs often in reset circles, of roses, doves, heavenly gates, willows, and a variety of hands shaking (which symbolize devotion), and hands pointing the way to heaven. The cemetery is laid out in rows with the bodies laid out behind the stones. Many plots do have small plain foot stones.

The church was used during the Civil War as a military hospital for Confederate soldiers. As cited in WARM SPRING ECHOS, and other books for the Bath Campaign, Stonewall Jackson marched his troops past the chapel while on the move from Winchester to Berkeley Springs and used the church as a military hospital for the wounded. Skirmishes had occurred nearby in and around Berkeley Springs and Hancock, Maryland, near New Years 1862. On his way to Romney,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Ambrose Chapel                      Morgan County, WV  
**Name of Property**                      **County/State**

**Section number**        **8**                      **Page**        **2**

---

Stonewall Jackson's men marched from Berkeley Springs to Unger's Store at a nearby crossroads where they camped for a time.

**Summary:**

Ambrose Chapel is a rural county church in Morgan County which has been unchanged over time. The frame building construction represents the period of the 1850s. The building served the community as a short term military hospital during the Civil War during local fighting. The cemetery was established by the 1830s, and served the community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel                      Morgan County, WV  
Name of Property                      County/State

Section number      9                      Page              1

---

**Bibliography**

Ambrose, Cecil. AMBROSE FAMILY HISTORY. 9 Vols. Berkeley Springs, WV: 1980.

Baylor, George. BULL RUN TO BULL RUN. Published by George Baylor, 1900, pp 31-34.

Berkeley County Records, Deed Book 1

Casler, John O. FOUR YEARS IN THE STONEWALL BRIGADE. Morningside Bookshop, 1971, pp. 62-64.

Douglas, Henry Kyd. I RODE WITH STONEWALL. The University of North Carolina Press, 1940. Pp. 20-25.

Morgan County Records  
Deed Book 4, page 166  
Deed Book 5, page 262

Morgan County Historical Society. GRAVEYARD HISTORY OF MORGAN COUNTY.  
Vol. 1, Berkeley Springs, WV: 1980

Morgan County Tax Plat Book

Newbraugh, Frederick T. WARM SPRINGS ECHOES. 3 Vols. Berkeley Springs, WV: Morgan Messenger, 1975.

Robertson, James I. Jr. THE STONEWALL BRIGADE. Louisiana State University Press, pp. 31-34.

Interview with Margie Ours, (daughter of Cecil Ambrose), by Brent and Sonjia Sherrard, Berkeley Springs, WV. 1995-1998.

“Plan Restoration Ambrose Chapel in Morgan County.” MARTINSBURG JOURNAL. 5 August 1953, p. 12.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel                      Morgan County, WV  
Name of Property                      County/State

Section number      10                      Page      1

---

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Original acre deeded by William Henry Ambrose in 1790s. Outlined on accompanying tax map.

Additional half acre parcel deeded in 1851:

Beginning at a stone set in the north line of an acre of land reserved in a deed from Mathias Ambrose to Isaac Michael, for a free Meeting House and Grave Yard; thence leaving it N 28 W 40 feet to a stone; thence S 08 E 30 feet to a stone; thence S 28 E 40 feet to a stone in said line; thence with line N 08 W 30 feet to the beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

The original boundary for the church and part of the cemetery was deeded by the owner in the 1790s. The original deed was lost during local fighting the Civil War. The property is outlined on accompanying tax parcel map. The additional parcel of 1851. is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Morgan County, WV, in Deed Book 5, page 252.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel                      Morgan County, WV  
Name of Property                      County/State

Section number    Photo                      Page    1

---

Name                      Ambrose Chapel  
Address                      Winchester Grade Road  
Town                      Stotlers Crossroads, WV  
County                      Morgan County

Photographer:              Brent Sherrard

Date:                      May 1998

Negatives:                      Brent Sherrard

Photo 1                      Front facade of church, and east elevation  
Camera facing

Photo 2                      Rear and west elevation  
Camera facing

Photo 3                      Overview of site, church and cemetery  
Camera facing

Photo 4                      Overview of site, church and cemetery  
Camera facing

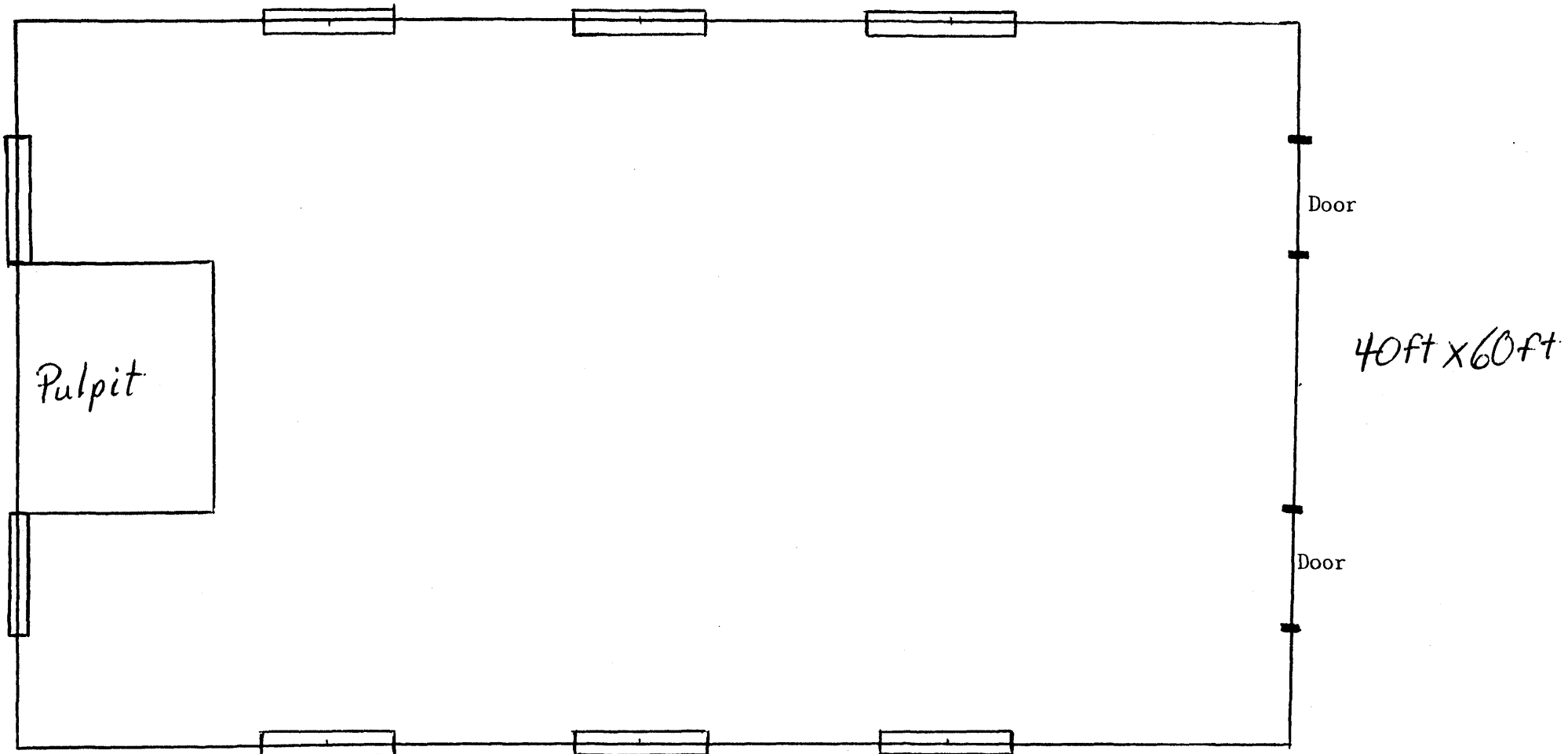
Photo 5                      Overview of cemetery  
Camera facing

Photo 6                      View to south of property  
Camera facing south

Photo 7                      Interior of church, altar and pulpit  
Camera facing

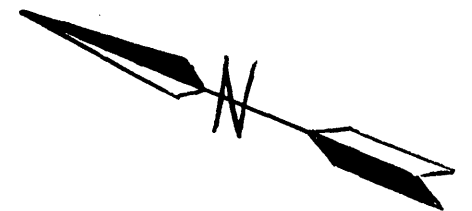
Photo 8                      Interior of church, rear doors  
Camera facing

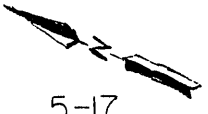
Photos 9 to 13              Variety of stones in cemetery



Floorplan

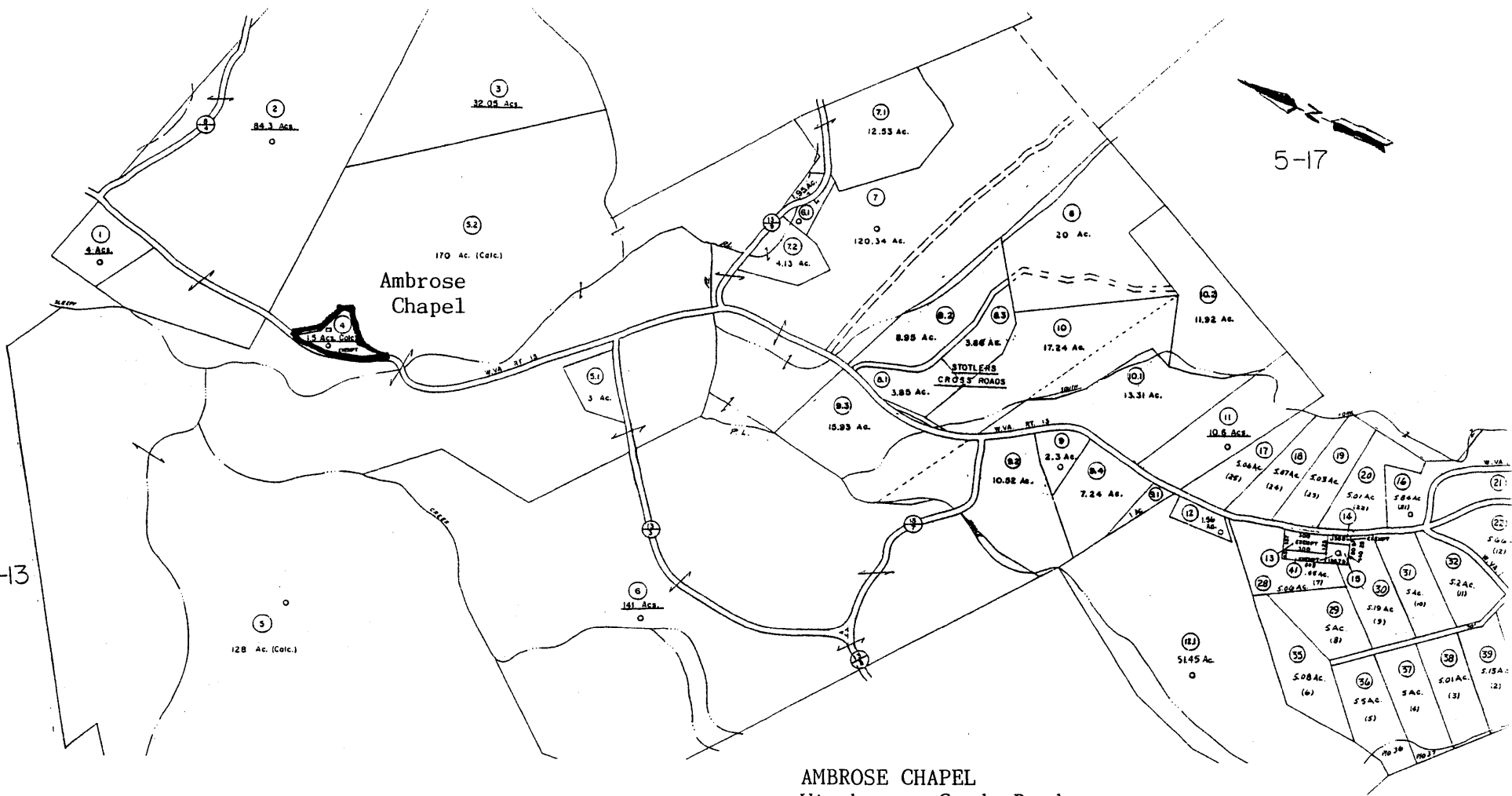
AMBROSE CHAPEL  
Winchester Grade Road  
Morgan County, WV





5-17

5-13



AMBROSE CHAPEL  
 Winchester Grade Road  
 Morgan County, WV

Morgan County Tax Map

AMBROSE CHAPEL  
Winchester Grade Road  
Morgan County, WV

Site Plan and Photo Map

