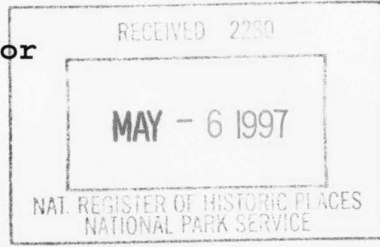


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

Historic Name: Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Other Name/Site Number: DR 0082

=====

**2. Location**

=====

Street & Number: W. Railroad St.; N. of Arkansas Hwy. 277

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Tillar

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Drew Code: AR 043 Zip Code: 71670

=====

**3. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

4-17-97  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson A. Beall 6.4.97

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Religion Sub: Religious Facility

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt, Metal  
walls Brick other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining exterior element of this high style structure is a hemispherical dome positioned in the center of a flat roof with parapets. Interior features include an elaborate pulpit surround and original doors and hardware throughout. A modern-era classroom building is located adjacent to the south elevation of the church and is noncontributing to the nomination. Located on W. Railroad Street in the small town of Tillar, the nominated property is virtually unaltered and in excellent condition.

**Elaboration**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining element of this high style structure is the central hemispherical dome. The circular base of the dome is completely fenestrated by wood pivot windows each consisting of sixteen triangular-panes. Above this window band is a projecting cornice ring, which forms the base for the ribbed metal roof that is capped with an encircled cross finial. Resting upon a continuous concrete

foundation, the masonry walls support two levels of nearly flat roofs which are hidden behind parapets. There are no visible chimneys.

The front, or northeastern, elevation consists of a wide projecting central section with clerestory flanked by two one-story arched-entrance bays. The central section is dominated by a large semi-circular arched, eight-part, stained-glass window. The window is outlined by simulated pilasters of horizontal banded brick with corbelled capitals. The window arch fills the open space of a pediment formed by a projecting boxed cornice with dentil course and returns. This projecting cornice extends around the entire church. There is a single rectangular stained-glass window to either side of the central window. Above these windows in the clerestory are two multiple-paned oculus windows.

The double-leaf entrances are each composed of two three-quarter-glazed wood doors with a multiple, triangular-paned transom within the overhead semi-circular arch. The entrance sections are capped by a flat roof with parapet, lending a "tower" appearance despite being lower in height than the one-and-a-half-story central section.

The central section of the northwestern side elevation is nearly identical to that of the front elevation with the exception of the two windows flanking the central pediment. Here, the windows are wider with a semi-circular arched transom. The entrance tower section to the viewed left contains a pair of narrower semi-circular arched, stained-glass, windows (the arch is integral with the upper window sash). The single-story section to the viewed right of this elevation is punctuated by a single one-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The rear, or southwestern, elevation is relatively simple in composition compared to the other three elevations. The single-story section that extends across all but one window's width of the rear elevation is entered through a central single-leaf door with flanking one-over-one, double-hung windows. Above this section are three multiple-pane oculus windows in the clerestory. The end, or southeastern, side of the single-story section contains another one-over-one, double-hung windows. As previously mentioned, at the extreme viewed right of the southwestern elevation is a portion of the central one-and-a-half-story block that is fenestrated with a one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass window with transom.

An unusual five-side, single-story bay projects from the southeastern elevation of the church. A total of six one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass windows with transoms are utilized for this bay. Again, two multiple-paned oculus windows are found on the clerestory of this elevation. The entrance tower section is fenestrated by a pair of arched stained-glass windows like those on the opposite elevation.

The interior is virtually unaltered and features an original staircase with a panelled newelpost leading to a choir loft at the front of the building. The pulpit area is positioned to the rear of the building and is denoted by an imposing door surround directly behind the altar. This door surround

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

features square pilasters supporting a classical entablature that is embellished with dentil molding and scroll brackets. A five-sided bay section on the south side of the sanctuary features three roll-up wood doors and can be closed for use as a classroom or opened for additional seating. Another pair of roll-up doors is located underneath the choir loft.

Original doors and hardware remain throughout the church, and the only apparent alteration to the interior is the presence of a nonhistoric dropped ceiling in the five-sided bay area.

A modern-era classroom building is adjacent to the church on the southern elevation and is considered noncontributing to the nomination.

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1913

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Monk and Ritchie  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

### **Summary**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church.

### **Historical Background**

The town of Tillar came into being as a result of the railroad line that was built along the banks of Crooked Bayou, from Varner to Trippe, after the original track was abandoned because the annual water overflow disrupted service. The new right-of-way followed an early Native American trail which ran through the northeast corner of Drew County and brought two new Drew County towns into being - Winchester and Tillar.

The first evidence of the beginning of a town was a store opened c. 1876 by two Selma merchants, Chesley C. Clayton and Z. T. Prewitt, Sr. (Selma was an unincorporated village seven miles to the west of the eventual site of Tillar.) The decision to open the store was undoubtedly prompted by the presence of the railroad crew, with pockets full of money, who were working on the new line in the area.

With the rail line completed, other Selma merchants followed their lead and opened stores at what was then known as Tillar Station.

The town received its name in 1879, the year the depot was constructed and the opt office was established. The town was named for Major Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar who built the depot and was repaid by the railroad company in free freight coupons. The population of the town was recorded as 200 when the application was made for the post office.

As an interesting aside, the man for whom the town was named never lived in Tillar. He, with Dr. A. C. Stanley, owned some ten thousand acres of land in the Tillar-Selma area, but he continued to live in Selma until he moved to Little Rock in 1880. His son, Frank, did move to Tillar and operated the family interests known as Tillar Mercantile Co.

The first few years of the town saw few people becoming residents. The town remained a "commuter's" town for Selma merchants who made the seven to eight mile trip by horseback or buggy every day that weather permitted. Most of the men had bachelor quarters in the back of their stores where they would sleep during periods of bad weather.

By August of 1881, enough people had moved to Tillar from Selma to make them feel the need for a Methodist Church in the new town. The organizational meeting was held under an oak tree on the lawn of the Frank Tillar home.

The new congregation continued to meet under the oak tree until cool weather forced them to meet in member's homes. A church had been completed by 1882 and then services were held in the new structure. At the beginning, from about 1881 to 1897, church services were held only one a month but Sunday

School met every Sunday.

Those who left a written record about the church differ as to the donor of the land on which the church was built. One source says that Mr. Anna Hughes, grandmother of John Cheairs, gave the land. Another says that the Tillar family donated the plot of ground on which the first church was built. The deeds show that the land was deeded by J. T. W. Tillar, Anna E. Whiting, and A. E. Hughes. Therefore, the legend of the donors is correct on either count.

The first church was a simple frame structure about sixty feet long. It was used until the present buff brick structure was completed in 1913. The brick structure has been used continuously since that date. The builders were Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The original cost of the building was said to have been \$8,500, of which Mrs. Frank Tillar gave \$8,000. The building was named Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South as a tribute to the donor and her husband.

As this was the first denomination to complete a sanctuary, both the Baptists and Presbyterians were invited to hold their serviced in that original frame building. The practice of sharing continued in later years when Methodists held church services for the entire community on the first and third Sundays of each month (they being the only denomination with a resident minister), and joined the Presbyterians for worship services in their sanctuary on the second Sunday of the month and the Baptists for worship services on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The stained glass windows in the church memorialize some of the original twenty-one members and some of the more recent dedicated church members.

The first parsonage was built in Tillar in 1907. Before that date, the minister of the church lived in Selma and preached to that congregation (and also Mount Tabor, Winchester, and Newton's Chapel) along with the Tillar group.

Between the time the church was organized in 1881 until the new church was constructed in 1913, 209 members were received into the congregation by vows and letter. Death and withdrawals depleted the church so that the membership was down to 106 when the new church was opened.

### **Architectural Significance**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church, especially when considering the relatively small physical size of the church and its setting in a small town. By virtue of being the best example of this style in Tillar, and perhaps all of Drew County, the Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Church, South is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

Burns, Louise. "Tillar Was Once a Booming Community." *The Advance Monticellonian*, July 1, 1976.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Little Rock: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1922.

Interviews by Jayne Ladd on local history with  
T. A. Prewitt, Sr. (son of original settler)  
Bertha T. Tillar (Mrs. J. S.)  
Caroline Strider Prewitt (Mrs. J. R., Sr.)

Minutes of the Desha-Drew School Board

National Archives, Washington, D. C.  
Official Records: City of Tillar  
Official Records: Drew County, Arkansas  
Official Records: Tillar Methodist Church  
Official Records: Tillar Presbyterian Church  
Scrapbook of Tillar Baptist Church kept by Sybella (Mrs. B. C.) Prewitt

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*.  
Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_



Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>643290</u>	<u>3730910</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point created by the intersection of a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the northern elevation of the church and the western curb of W. Railroad Street, proceed west along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the western elevation of the church; then proceed south along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the south elevation of the classroom building; then proceed east along this line to its intersection with the western curb of the street; then proceed north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic church, the nonhistoric classroom building, and surrounding property that is historically associated with this resource.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

Name/Title: Jayne Ladd, Tillar Methodist Church Historian  
Patrick Zollner, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 24, 1997

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tillar, Frank, Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Drew

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/97      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/97  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/97      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/20/97  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000525

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6.4.97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Frank Tiller M.E. Church, South  
Drew Co., Arkansas  
Photo by P. Zollner  
November 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the northeast



Frank Tillor M.E. Church South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the Northwest



Frank Tillar M E Church, South  
Drew Co., Arkansas  
Photo by P. Zollner  
November 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View of rear elevation from southwest





Frank Tillar ME Church South  
Drew Co, Arkansas  
Photo by P. Zollner  
November 1994  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the South



Frank Tillar ME Church South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the east



Frank Tillar M E Church, South  
Orew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of window detail from the northeast



Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew CO, Arkansas

Photo by P. Collier

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of northern front entrance from northeast



1913.

FRANK TILLAR MEMORIAL.  
M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

COMMITTEE

R. W. MCKAY, P. E.

P. S. HERRON, PASTOR

W. L. HARRILL.

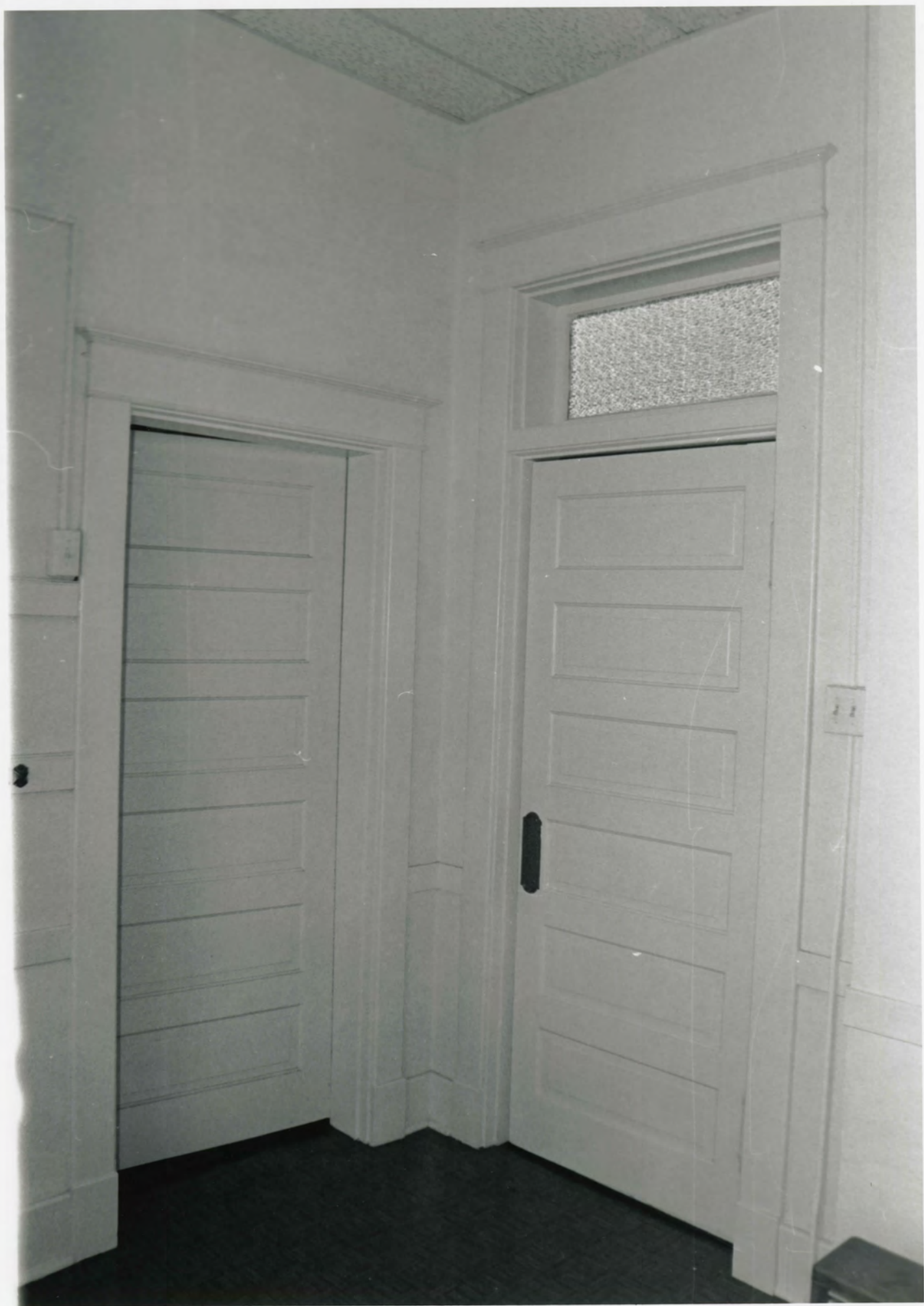
R. H. WOLFE.

J. H. BAKER, JR.

MRS. BERTIE HARRILL

MRS. RUBIE HARRILL

Frank Tillar ME Church, South  
Deer Co, Arkansas  
Photo by P. Zollner  
November 1994  
negative on file at AHPP  
view of CORNERSTONE on front elevation



Frank Tillor ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file on AHPP

View of interior doors



Frank Tillor ME Church, South  
Drew Co, Arkansas  
Photo by P. Zollner  
November 1994  
negative on file on AHPP  
view of pulpit Area from the northeast



Frank Tillor ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file on AHPP

View of entablature detail from the northeast





Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of dome from interior





Fredrick Tillier ME Church, South

Drew Co. Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of Roll-up doors from the west



Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

view of choir loft from the southwest



In Loving Memory of  
Rose Maddell Stanley  
By her Sunday School Class

Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of Northeastern elevation's stained-glass windows  
from the southeast





Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew Co, Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

Negative on file at ATHP

View of newel post + staircase from the South



Frank Tillar ME Church, South

Drew Co. Arkansas

Photo by P. Zollner

November 1994

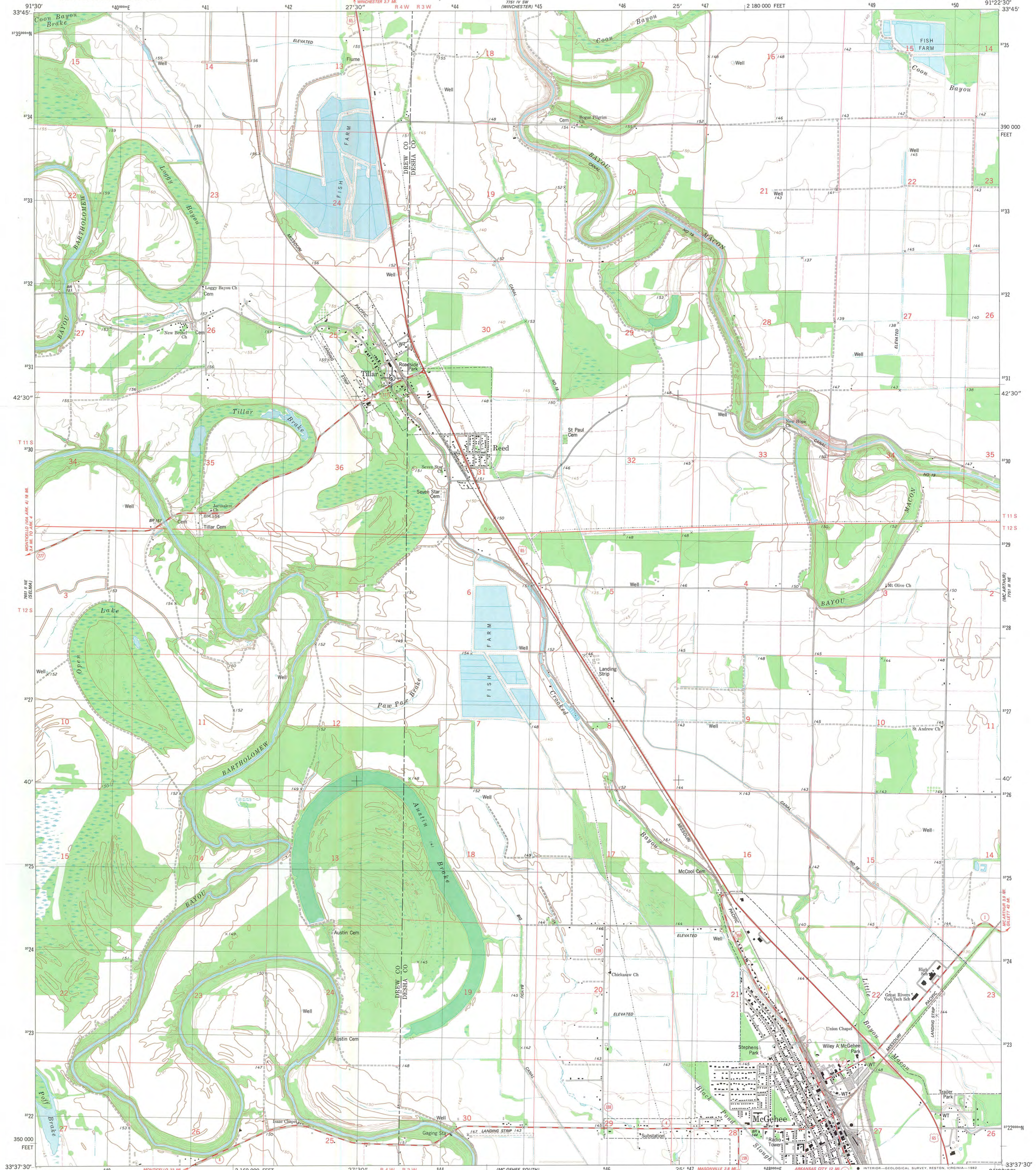
Negative on file at. AHPP

View of front elevation window Arch from choir loft

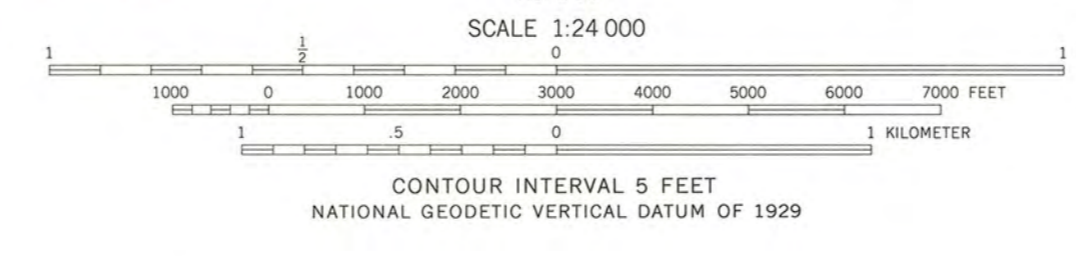
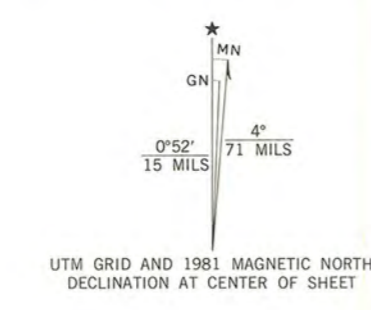
Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Drew Co., Arkansas  
UTM: 15/643290/3730910

MC GEHEE NORTH QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 MC GEHEE 15' QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



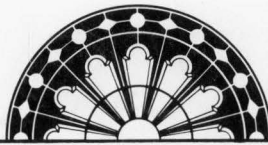
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1975-76. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 10 meters south and 12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road  
Interstate Route (I) U. S. Route (U) State Route (S)

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MC GEHEE NORTH, ARK.  
NW/4 MC GEHEE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3337.5-W9122.5/7.5  
1981  
DMA 7751 III NW-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

April 17, 1997

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002



RE: Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Tillar, Drew County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:rm

Enclosures



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT

REFERENCE No.: 97000525

Control No.: 970528/sbd

PROPERTY NAME: Tillar, Frank, Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South

OTHER NAME/ DR 0082  
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ W. Railroad St., N of AR 277  
BOUNDARY :

CITY: Tillar

COUNTY: Drew

STATE: ARKANSAS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: PRIVATE Resource Type: BUILDING

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings	1	1
Sites	0	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:  
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal Agency: NOT APPLICABLE

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 05/06/97

Other Certification: NOT APPLICABLE

Historic Functions: RELIGION

Historic Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

Current Functions: RELIGION

Current Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

Level of Significance: LOCAL Applicable Criteria: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance: 1900-1924

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:

1913

Architect/Builder/Engineer/  
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

Monk and Ritchie

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural Styles: CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE  
Wall Materials: BRICK  
Roof Materials: ASPHALT  
Other Materials: WOOD METAL

Acreage: 0.9

UTM	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Coordinates:	15/	76 43 290/	37 30 910	/ /	/ /	/ /