

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Formreceived JUN 5 1987  
date enteredSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle, Arkansas

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Second &amp; Quay Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Dardanelle \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Arkansas, 72834 code 05 county Yell code 149

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name congregation, First Presbyterian Church

street &amp; number Second &amp; Quay Streets

city, town Dardanelle \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Arkansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yell County Courthouse

street &amp; number Union Street (Highway 7)

city, town Dardanelle state Arkansas 72834

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas, was built in 1912 in the Neoclassical style. It is basically rectangular in plan (approximately 40 x 80 feet) with a hipped roof. It is buff brick and trimmed with white masonry. All of the windows are stained-glass. The structure appears to be two stories on the exterior and there is an addition on the rear corner of matching brick that appears to be detached. The church also shares the property with its manse.

#### ELABORATION

The architectural design of the First Presbyterian Church is Neoclassical, yet eclectic. The facade features a recessed porch with a pediment that is supported by four masonry Tuscan columns. The porch is accessed by six shallow steps. The recessed wall has three round-headed, stained-glass windows, with the one in the center being slightly higher and wider than the others. The porch is flanked by matching towers which are reminiscent of Gothic, rather than Neoclassical, architecture. The towers are squat, barely extending beyond the top of the pediment. Each tower has a double door which opens onto the porch. The left tower space serves as a choir room and the right serves as the main foyer to the sanctuary. Above the foyer is the church bell.

Each elevation of the towers is treated identically: double-hung, round-headed stained-glass windows are placed on the first level with square stained-glass windows directly above. The towers are capped by parapets that are broken by a palladian motif opening. The four corners of each tower are accented by posts with pyramidal tops that give the appearance of a medieval lookout. The corners of the towers, along with the other corners of the church, are trimmed with brick quoins.

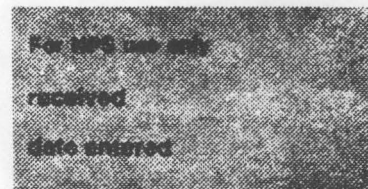
Each of the side elevations has a projecting bay, approximately sixteen feet in width, which is topped by a cross gable roof. The one on the left projects about six feet further than the one on the right. (The left bay also has an exterior door.) Each bay has the same window arrangement as that on the front -- three grouped, round-headed, stained-glass windows, with the emphasis placed on the center fixed window. To each side of the bay projections there is a single round-headed window on the first level with a square window above, identical to the arrangement on the towers. This arrangement continues on two more windows at the rear of each side and on the four windows across the rear elevation. All of the arched windows are trimmed with brick hoodmolds and masonry keystones. The square windows are topped by masonry lintels.

The 1952 addition has matching brick, masonry trim, and translucent glass windows without arches. The juncture was made between the projecting bay and the rear corner so that it nearly appears as separate. The addition has a single door on each side, one of which is an interior door that gives access to the main building. Each exterior door is a simple single wooden door, painted white and reached by steps. Only the front door has a stoop with a gable roof.

All of the interior walls feature dark, panelled wainscotting above which there is off-white plaster, except for about sixteen feet of the rear wall of the sanctuary which has a large, brown door with translucent glass panels that slides up into the wall above it. This feature provides additional space in the sanctuary for special occasions, space used regularly as the church parlor. The interior design of the church is not revealed on the exterior. Laid out in

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

the "Akron plan," the square sanctuary has diagonal seating (oak pews with red velour cushions), facing the raised platform and lectern in the rear left corner. The floor slopes toward the platform. The choir loft, located in the larger projecting bay, has a railing that matches the wainscotting and projects into the sanctuary for space enough to include steps up at each end.

The church appears to be two stories on the exterior; however, the space is only utilized as such in the rear portion. The upper level of this area, treated similar to a balcony, houses three small rooms for Sunday School classes, accessible by a triple-flight staircase, and a passage with balustrade fronting two of the three rooms. Below are two rooms of unequal size, altered from the original three. The open area which gives access to these rooms and the sanctuary has the lofty characteristic of a two-story high ceiling.

The interior details of First Presbyterian are distinctive. Each set of the grouped stained-glass windows presents a different scene: behind the choir loft, a scene of Bethlehem with the natal star; in the opposite bay, Christ knocking at a door; in the front, a resurrection angel. The ceiling of the sanctuary is centered with a large square section, decorated with repousse tin squares painted white and centered with brass lighting fixtures with milk glass globes. The center square is edged with constructed dark brown beams, as is the juncture between walls and ceiling. The ceiling slopes from the edge of the center square to the wall. The staircase that is in the church parlor is simply decorated with beveled railings attached to square coffered posts trimmed with quarter-round. The posts are decorated by being alternately square and round lathe-turned.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1912

**Builder/Architect** Reverend Frank McKenzie

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle has had a colorful past which cannot be ignored; however, its significance is based on its architecture, both the Neoclassical design of the exterior and the "Akron plan" on the interior. The quality of the structure that was built in 1912 is distinctive in this small Arkansas town. There are a few other churches in the vicinity, but none can compare to First Presbyterian in style or age.

#### ELABORATION

Dardanelle, in Yell County, Arkansas, is a small town of approximately 3,500 people, located on the bank of the Arkansas River. The First Presbyterian Church is located in an area which has both commercial and residential structures. This mixed land use reflects the period in which the church was built -- before zoning was thought of and while the citizens still constituted a walking population. The First Presbyterian Church is located at Second and Quay, one block from Front Street, the historic center of commercial activity in Dardanelle.

One of the most interesting stories associated with the First Presbyterian Church is the way in which the money was raised to have the third, and present, structure built. Besides the expected traditional source of private donations from members, the majority of the money came from other, more unusual sources. Part of the money was a reimbursement by the federal government for the utilization and destruction of the original church during the Civil War. An even larger portion was raised by the women of the church who did manual labor such as picking cotton and peaches -- and in so doing attracted much attention, including that of a philanthropist from New York City who was to become the largest single donor.

The stories that relate to the actual design of the church are of greater significance. The style is basically Neoclassical, although there are several eclectic details. This is reflective of its "architect" or designer, Reverend Frank McKenzie, who was not an architect at all, but rather a Presbyterian minister. (His brothers were the contractors for the building.) The Reverend McKenzie studied at a seminary in Richmond, Virginia, but also studied ecclesiastical architecture as a hobby. Perhaps this is why the structure that he designed in Dardanelle is representative of the two most popular church styles of the day -- Neoclassical and Gothic.

The interior plan of the First Presbyterian Church also reveals the Reverend McKenzie's knowledge of contemporary church design. It is laid out in the "Akron plan," a floor plan that originated in a church in Akron, Ohio. The plan is unusual in that it is laid out on the diagonal, with the pulpit being in the corner. The seats were originally made like those on a train -- they could be flipped to face the opposite direction.

On one side there is a raised area which could be used as a stage and another area which can be partitioned off (by doors that slide into the wall above) to be used as the church parlor. The "Akron plan" allowed for the maximum use from a minimal amount of space.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Historical Foundation (of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches, inc.)  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Dardanelle, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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3	8	9	7	3	5	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 5, Lots 2, 4, 6, 8

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Evelyn Snyder & AnnieLaura Jagers, members, edited by AHPP staff

organization First Presbyterian Church date

street & number telephone

city or town Dardanelle state Arkansas 72834

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*William S. Lee*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

6-2-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*John M. Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

7-9-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

This interior layout, combined with an imposing exterior appearance, make the First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle the most significant example of turn-of-the-century religious architecture in the city.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Presbyterian Church  
Yell County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. JUN 05 1987  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 7/9/87 - 7/20/87  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7-9-87  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT

Entered in the  
**National Register**

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below \_\_\_\_\_

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_

Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell County  
November 1986  
Photographed by Julie Vosmik  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
viewed from the southeast



First Presbyterian Church

Dardanelle, Yell Co.

November 1986

Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

Viewed from the southwest



First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell County

November 1986

Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

West elevation

JUN 5 1987



First Presbyterian Church

Dardanelle, Yell County

November 1986

Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

South elevation



First Presbyterian Church

Dardanelle, Yell County

November 1986

Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

Exterior detail



First Presbyterian Church

Dardanelle, Yell County

November 1986

Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

Interior detail



First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell Co.

November 1986

Photographed by Julie VOsmit

Negatives on file at AHPP

Interior detail



First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell County  
November 1986  
Photogrpahed by Julie Vosmik  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Interior detail

JUN 5 1987



First Presbyterian Church

Dardanelle, Yell County

November 1986

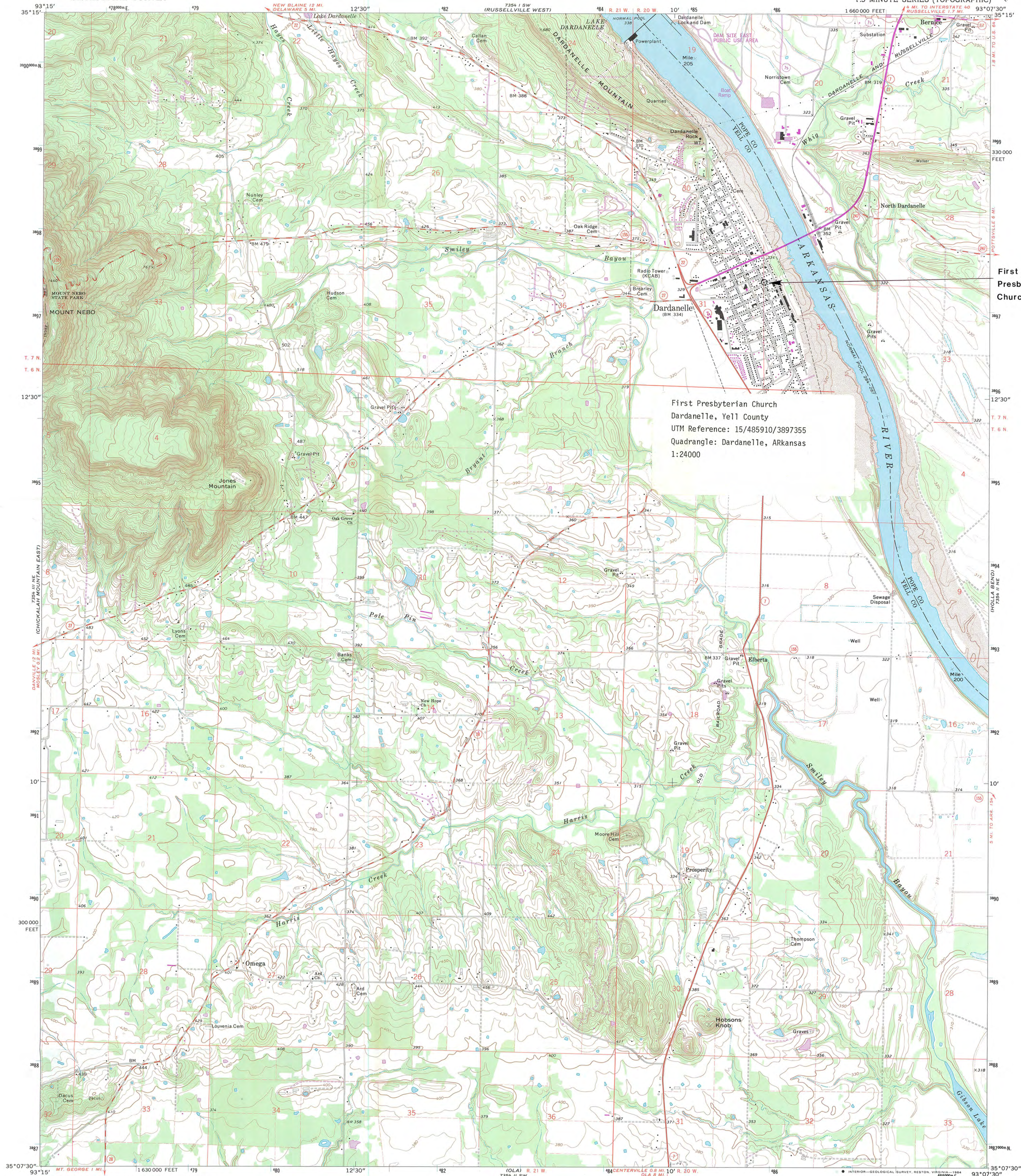
Photographed by Julie Vosmik

Negatives on file at AHPP

Interior detail

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DARDANELLE QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

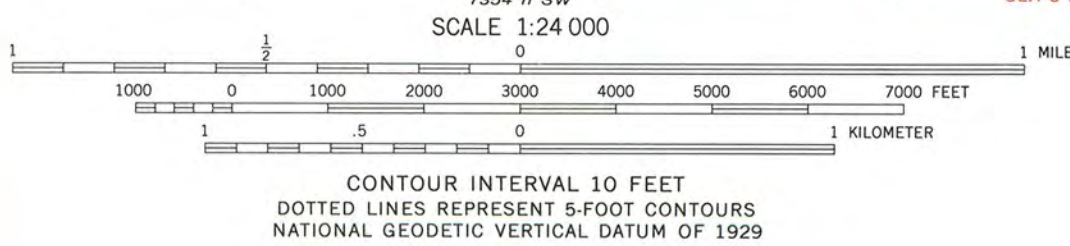


First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell County  
UTM Reference: 15/485910/3897355  
Quadrangle: Dardanelle, Arkansas  
1:24000

First  
Presbyterian  
Church

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972.  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken  
1977. Map edited 1979. This information not field checked

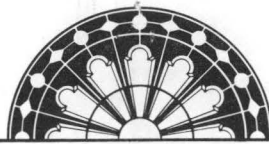
UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 6 meters south and  
16 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

DARDANELLE, ARK.  
35093-82-TF-024  
1972  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
DMA 7354 II NW-SERIES V884

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



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

June 2, 1987

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: First Presbyterian Church  
Dardanelle, Yell County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the First Presbyterian Church. 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,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/TJ/dr

Enclosures

RECEIVED

JUN 5 1987

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

