

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 8 1986

date entered 6-5-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mount Pleasant Methodist Church

and/or common Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Highway #248

N/A not for publication

city, town Waldron

☒ vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Scott

code 125¹²⁷

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<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 Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Congregation

street & number c/o Mrs. Raymond Lawson, RR 3, Box 255

city, town Waldron

☐ vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Waldron

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ nodate ☐ 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

Sited in the Ouachita Mountains of eastern Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church is located within the floodplain of the Poteau River in an area of gently rolling hills adjacent to Prairie Creek. The Mount Pleasant community Methodist congregation built this simple, unadorned, one story church in 1891. It has a gable roof and is covered with horizontal weatherboards that are broken by symmetrically placed window and door openings. This building is distinguished by a projecting exterior narthax that has a square bell tower piercing its gable roof. This design is not common to the rural nineteenth century church architecture found in this area.

ELABORATION

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church is a simple, one story, rectangular frame structure that sits on a continuous foundation of cut field stone. It is covered with 1" X 6" weatherboard siding attached with square nails and has a skirtboard with drip molding that encircles the building above the stone foundation. A fairly steep gable roof covered with asphalt shingles is pierced by a bell tower on the front (north) elevation. Each gable has an undecorated frieze under a simple cornice. Cornerboards decorate each corner of the building.

The front (north) elevation features a central, $\frac{1}{2}$ front, single bay narthax that projects from the front facade. It has a central double door entrance with a single, double paned transom trimmed with plain molding. This projection is covered with a gable roof and is decorated with simple frieze, cornice, and cornerboards. A square bell tower projects from the narthax, pierces the ridge line of the front gable and is capped with a pyramid roof that is accented by a simple finial. Elongated frame vents are located below the cornice on three sides. This bell tower contains the original cast iron bell that was first used by the Mount Pleasant Methodist congregation in 1891. A single six-over-one double-hung window is symmetrically located on both sides of the narthax. A series of five symmetrically placed six-over-one double-hung windows are located on both the east and west elevations. They are trimmed with simple molding and are covered with aluminum screens.

A full rear shed addition was constructed on the south elevation in 1964. As a result, the original rear windows were filled in and a new door opening was added to obtain access to these new classrooms. This addition has a low pitched shed roof, two-over-two double-hung aluminum windows, single door entrances on both the east and west sides, novelty siding, and cast concrete pier foundations. This addition does not distract from the very simplistic details of the main structure.

Although the original church pews have been replaced, the interior of the building retains much of its original integrity. A distinctive gambrel ceiling is noted in both the narthax and the sanctuary. These ceilings, plus the interior walls are covered with flush pine boards that have been painted white.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1891

Builder/Architect un.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

Built in the late nineteenth century in rural Scott County, Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was closely allied with the Arkansas Methodist Conference and other Methodist organizations in the state. The Mount Pleasant community developed around the varied business holdings and enterprises of Joseph Self, an early settler and strong supporter of the Methodist congregation. An interesting variation to the stable and somewhat consistent architectural church designs found in nineteenth century rural Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church more than eloquently illustrates its significant role in the Mount Pleasant community as both an important religious institution and social community center.

ELABORATION

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was constructed in 1891 on property that was donated by prominent Scott County farmer Joseph L. Self and his son, Alvin W. Self, to members of the newly formed Methodist congregation of Mount Pleasant. Joseph Self was originally from rural Georgia. In 1863 he enlisted in the Confederate Army, was attached to Company K of the Thirty-ninth Georgia Regiment Infantry, and became a veteran of the Battle of Vicksburg before the end of the Civil War. He brought his family to the Ouachita Mountain region in 1870 and settled on several hundred acres of land located a few miles east of the county seat of Waldron, in what is now Mount Pleasant Township, Scott County, Arkansas. Undaunted by the booming commercial competition found in Waldron, the Self's immediately started the operation of a series of small family owned businesses on their property. By the 1890's, these businesses consisted of a steam operated cotton gin, a saw and grist mill, a general merchantile store that found relative success catering to the plantation supply market, two other general stores, and a blacksmith shop. This small scale commercial enterprise eventually attracted other families into the immediate area and it started to become locally known as the Mount Pleasant community. Joseph Self was a staunch Methodist and actively supported the construction of this church for his community as well as a school house that was later built on the same property.

As described in the 1935 "Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism", the methodists were well established in Scott County as early as the 1820's. By 1892 they were operating two large circuits in the region. Each circuit contained several dozen churches and covered over several hundred square miles. The Waldron Circuit (containing the Mount Pleasant Church and first established in 1850) and the earlier Fourche La Fave Circuit contained "... 500 members, a number of good church buildings, Sunday Schools and other evidences of church prosperity." The congregations in each circuit were closely tied together by certain by-laws established by the Arkansas Methodist Conference. As an example, a Methodist preacher was allowed to remain at a church for no longer than two years, then was required to start another term at a separate congregation within the circuit.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, James A., Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism, L. B. White Printing Company, 1935 Benton, Arkansas.

Goodspeed Publishing Company, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas, 1891 The Southern Publishing Company, Chicago.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Waldron, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	0	6	4	7	0	3	8	6	4	7	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Raymond Lawson (edited by M. Swanda, AHPP staff)

organization Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church date April 23, 1986

street & number Rural Route 3, Box 255 telephone (501) 637-2408

city or town Waldron state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

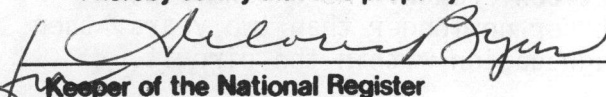
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer date 5-5-86

For NPS use only

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

 Entered in the National Register date 6/5/86
Keeper of the National Register

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

The Mount Pleasant congregation had their church constructed in much the same manner as other rural churches in Arkansas in the late nineteenth century. It was built as a simple one story, rectangular frame structure with a gable roof, weatherboard siding, and plain trim around the symmetrically placed window and door openings. A projecting narthax on the front elevation has a plain square bell tower piercing its gable roof and gives this church a distinctive design not familiar to the region's rural church architecture.

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church has served its small rural community as both a religious institution and a social center continuously for a period of over ninety years. The church still serves a congregation of which some current members are descendants of the original organizers. Arvil Self, at 92, is Joseph Self's grandson and is still an active member.

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 Tract 3, North of Range 28 west and running due East 60 yards, thence due North 80 yards, thence due West 60 yards, thence due South 80 yards to the place of beginning.

86001207

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
Scott County
ARKANSAS

Working No. MAY 8 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 6/5/86 - 6/22/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6-5-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ 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	

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
Waldron Mo.
Scott Co.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Scott County
Photographed by D. Brown
December 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from northeast



Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
Waldron vic.
Scott Co.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Scott County
Photographed by D. Brown
December 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from west



Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Mo.
Scott Co.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Scott County
Photographed by D. Brown
December 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from southeast



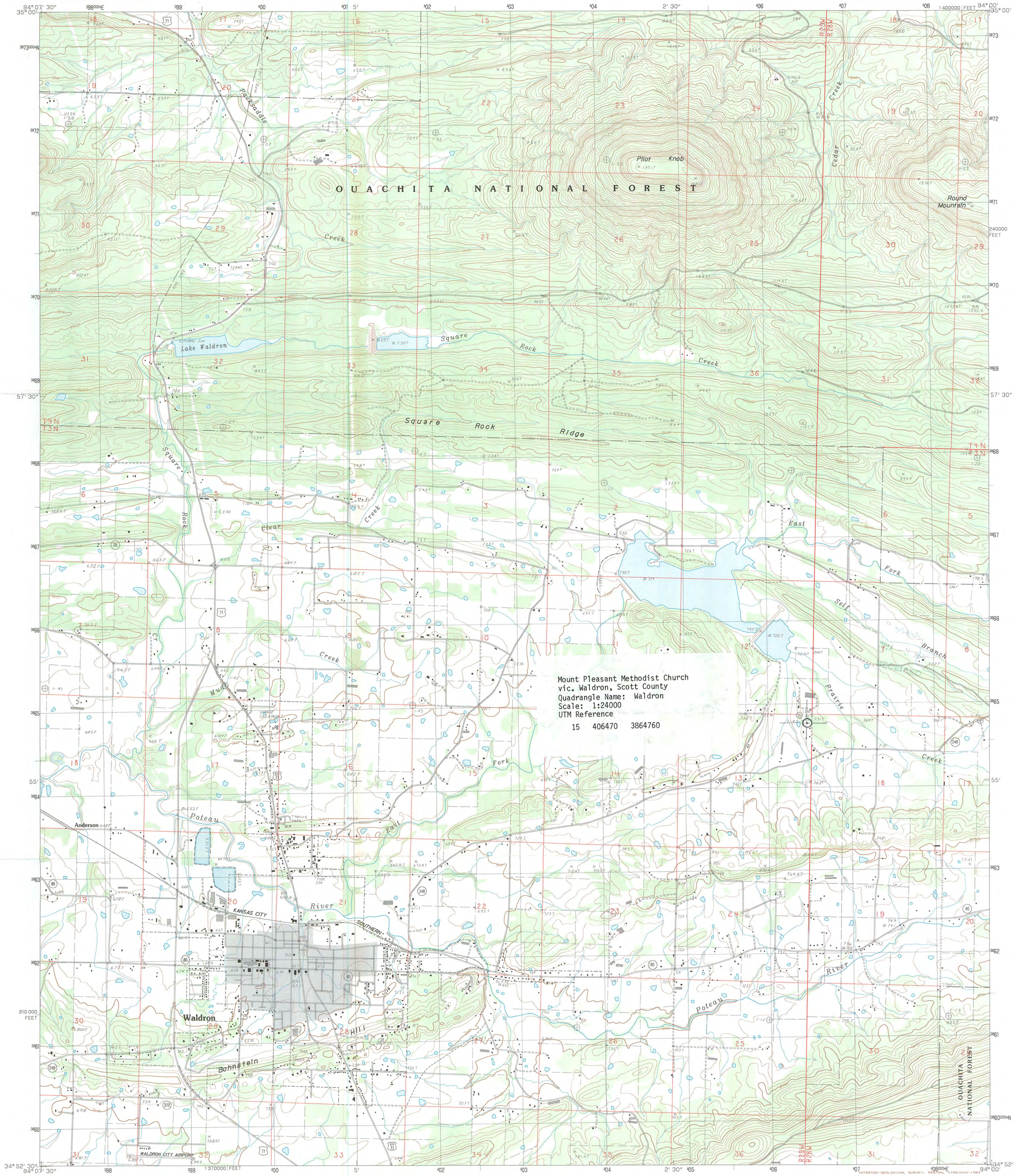
Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
Waldron vic.
Scott Co.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Scott County
Photographed by D. Brown
December 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
Interior-viewed from narthax



Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
Waldron vic.
Scott Co.

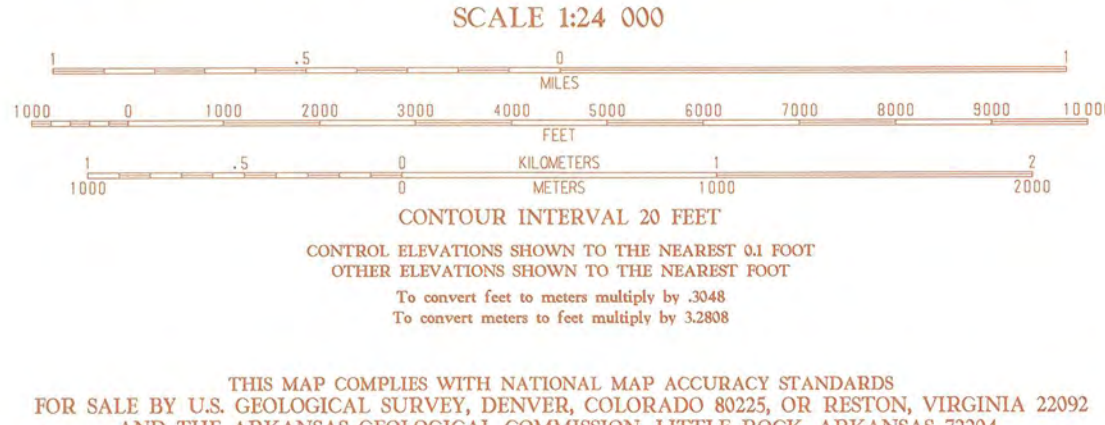
Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. of Waldron, Scott County
Photographed by D. Brown
December 1984
Negatives on file at AHPP
Interior-viewed from altar



Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. Waldron, Scott County
Quadrangle Name: Waldron
Scale: 1:24000
UTM Reference
15 406470 3864760

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY: U.S.G.S. AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: 1979
FIELD CHECKED: 1982. MAP EDITED: 1983
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
UTM GRID: 1000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS
HORIZONTAL DATUM: 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
VERTICAL DATUM: 1929
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(7 meters south and 18 meters east)
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.



RECEIVED
MAY - 2 1986
AHPP



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

May 6, 1986

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: Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
vic. Waldron - Scott County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Mount Pleasant Methodist 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/JW/do

Enclosure/s



MAY 8 1986