

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-22

Owner Reverend Nolan Brown

Property Name Sardis Methodist Church
NE of Pine Grove OFF Ar 126

Address 203 Highland Drive

Location Sparkman

Fordyce, AR 71742

Significant Date/s ca. 1895

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Built circa 1895, Sardis Methodist Church is located just north of the Pine Grove community. The one-story wood frame church is clad in weatherboards and rests on brick piers. Although basically square, the church has a cross gabled roof giving the impression that the building is a cross in plan. The north, south, and east gable facades, have two symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung windows. Each window is capped by a triangular arch. A diamond shaped panel is set within and mirrors the arch. Centered above each pair of windows in the gable is a round window. The southeast corner of the church has a small rectangular addition of compatible materials. An entry belltower capped with a hexagonal spire which flows into a pyramid roof is located in the southwest corner. Supporting this roof are four large columns which create an open area where the bell is housed. The west face of the tower contains the main entry of two six panelled doors under a two light transom. Covering the entry is a shed roofed porch supported by three square posts which wraps around the south side of the tower. Connecting the posts is a simple balustrade of square balusters. An early photograph of the church and congregation shows that the tower, then covered by wood shingles instead of asphalt, and the porch are in their original form.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sardis Methodist Church stands out distinctively among the rural churches of Dallas County. Constructed in about 1895, this one-story wood frame church has a cross gabled roof which gives an illusion that the building is a cross in plan. Sardis is one of two good examples of this type. It, however, unlike its counterpart, Princeton Methodist Church, illustrates the strong vernacular influences. This is especially evidenced in the treatment of the bell tower and its configuration. With its thoroughly rural setting, Sardis Methodist Church is a truly outstanding example of the vernacular interpretation of a popular church plan.

Acreage: less than 1

Quadrangle Name: Sparkman

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 521340/3750330

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, T9S R16W, is bounded on the south and east by the cemetery, on the west by a county road and on the north by a line running parallel to and 100' from the north facade of the church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

9/14/83

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Dallas County Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Princeton Methodist Church

Keeper

Bob Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

22. Rock Island Railway Depot

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

23. Russell, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

24. Sardis Methodist Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

25. Smith, Jessie B., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

26. Thomas Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 3/27/84

Attest

27. Tulip Cemetery

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bob Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

28. Wynne House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

29. Charlotte Street Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/14/87

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sardis Methodist Church (Dallas County MRA)
Dallas County
ARKANSAS

Working No. SEP 14 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 10/13/83 - 10/29/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/28/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

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"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

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: _____



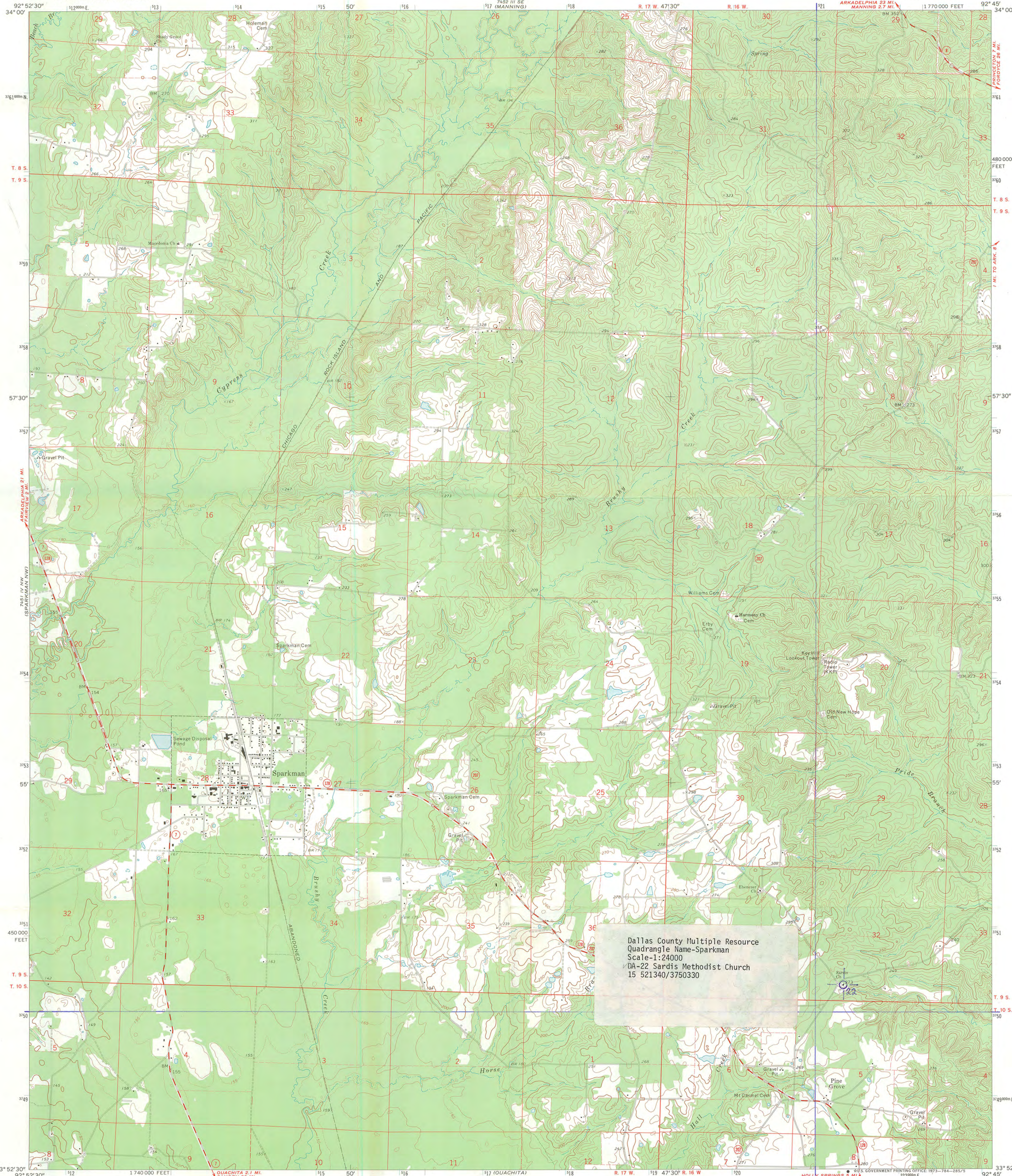
DA-22
Sardis Methodist Church
Don Brown, photographer
May 18, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the South



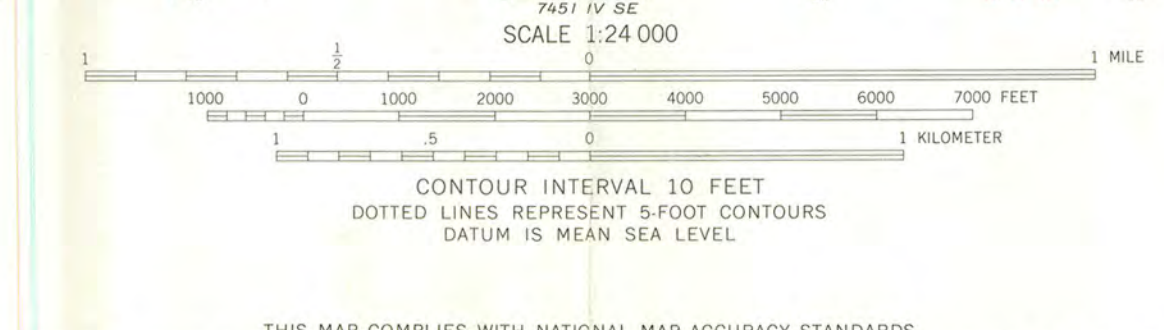
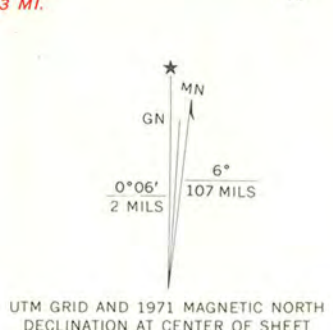
DA-22
Sardis Methodist Church
Don Brown, photographer
May 18, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the West

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SPARKMAN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-DALLAS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 1/4 SPARKMAN 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, south 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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SPARKMAN, ARK.
NE 1/4 SPARKMAN 15' QUADRANGLE
N3352.5-W9245/7.5

1971
AMS 7451 IV NE-SERIES V884