

PH036234x

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEP 29 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Philadelphia Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Larkin

☒

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Izard

CODE

065

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

United Methodist Church, Batesville District

STREET & NUMBER

960 Water Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

☐

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Izard County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Melbourne

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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

Philadelphia Methodist Church in IZARD County, Arkansas, was constructed in 1858. It is a one-storey frame structure of simple rectangular plan set on a foundation of native stone. The building features paired entries on the west elevation and an unusual window bay on the east elevation.

The symmetrical building has a medium pitch gable roof covered with sheets of tin. A narrow boxed cornice lies along the north and south elevations while the east and west elevations feature a similar flat cornice. The church is sheathed in clapboard and encircled with a wide plank baseboard just above the stone foundation.

Both the north and south elevations feature four tall symmetrical windows which are double-hung and have nine lites in each sash. The west elevation is marked by paired entry doors which were originally used as separate entrances for men and women. These unusual doorways feature long narrow paneled doors. Above each doorway is a square transom with four large lites. Each entry has its own cast-stone steps.

The most unusual feature of the building is located on the east elevation. This feature is a three-sided bay which rises above its own stone foundation and is topped by a composition hip roof. As the rest of the building, the bay is sheathed in clapboard. Located on the northeast and southeast sides of the bay are double-hung, four-over-four-lite windows.

The interior of the bay features an ogee arch, which is an unusual style for such a simple structure. Projecting from the bay is a small, wooden platform with a square pulpit set between square posts and a narrow railing. Built into the recess of the bay is a three-sided bench. Four steps on either side of the platform curve at right angles. Directly in front of the bay platform is another platform raised slightly from the floor and now used as a pulpit.

Interior walls and ceiling are sheathed in flushboard. There are three sections of pews, all planed by slave labor. The wide center section of pews is separated by a centered row of tall posts where the kerosene lamps used for illumination used to rest. This row of posts also serves to separate the women's and men's sides of the church.

Alterations to Philadelphia Methodist Church have been minimal. In 1917, during a restoration of the building, the tin roof was put on, windows were replaced and the interior painted. In the early 1950's the lower level platform and pulpit were added.

The basically original condition of the church combines with the unusual bay to make Philadelphia Methodist Church an architecturally significant historical structure. Resting on its original site and in fair condition, Philadelphia Methodist Church has recently been housing a local worship service again.

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Church buildings were once the center of pioneer life in rural communities. Rich in history, the Philadelphia Methodist Church, located near Larkin, Arkansas, was constructed in 1858. It is believed to be the oldest church building in Izard County. It is one of the few remaining antebellum church buildings still standing in the state and is a source of many memories to the descendants of those who founded the church.

Architecturally, the building is significant in its authenticity. It is a one-storey frame structure of simple rectangular plan set upon a foundation of native stone. An unusual bay on the east elevation sets the building apart from many other rural church buildings of the time. The three-sided bay rises from its own stone foundation and is topped by a composition hip roof. As the rest of the building, the bay is sheathed in clapboard. Located on the northeast and southeast sides of the bay are double-hung four-over-four-lite windows.

The interior of the bay features an ogee arch, which is an unusual style in a structure of this kind. Projecting from the bay is a small, wooden platform with a pulpit set between square posts and a narrow railing. Built into the recess of the bay is a three-sided bench, said to have been used by visiting ministers. In the early days of the church it was common to hold two-to-three-week revivals with five or more ministers.

In 1857 the Philadelphia community, now known as Larkin, had become quite populous. Church services were held in homes in the neighborhood. In July, 1857, it was decided that a church building was needed. A committee composed of William Criswell, Henry Williams and James D. Watkins was selected to secure means to build a meeting place for the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

According to a committee report of July 31, 1857, the church was to be built near a spring upon land deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church South by B. F. Dryden and W. S. Vannatti. The committee was to take subscriptions, receive contributions, let out contracts and superintend the construction of the building. The church was designed to be a frame structure, fifty feet long and thirty-one feet wide.

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South held on September 12, 1857, the committee was confirmed and instructed

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Batesville Guard and Evening Record, July 27, 1967.

Batesville Guard and Evening Record, July 16, 1967.

Melbourne Times, June 27, 1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 6 0 2 0 0 0 3 9 9 6 6 5 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-9-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

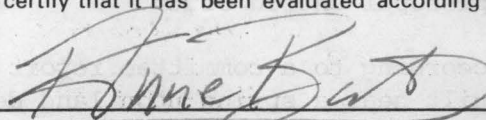
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/29/96

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/27/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

by the Conference to proceed with the work. The church was to be built in the fall of 1857, but an illness of almost epidemic proportions fell upon the community and temporarily paralyzed the construction.

On April 15, 1858, the actual construction of Philadelphia Methodist Church began with Samuel L. Wicks as chief carpenter. By January of 1859 the building was complete except for the painting. The Philadelphia Methodist Church was constructed at a total cost of \$734.04.

The church building was used by all denominations, mainly Methodist and Baptist. When the North Arkansas Academy burned in 1887, the building was used to hold classes.

In 1916, Reverend J. W. Black, pastor, and four committeemen laid plans for restoration of the church building. A new roof was put on, the inside and outside walls were painted and the windows were replaced. On Sunday, July 1, 1917, soon after completion of the restoration, a large reunion of early settlers was held at the church. As was often common in rural communities, the reunion included an accounting of the history of the area, particularly of the church building.

From 1917 until the centennial celebration in 1956, annual reunions were held at Philadelphia Methodist Church. The last pastor of the church was Mrs. D. G. Hindman whose husband was pastor of the nearby Melbourne Methodist Church. They often held joint services at the Philadelphia Methodist Church building. The Hindmans made the last change to the interior of the building. As they were both short of stature, they felt dwarfed by the high pulpit. They had the lower platform and pulpit added to bring them closer to the congregation. Throughout the history of the church, pastors had complained that the high pulpit caused an echo which reverberated through the structure. Thus, the unusual second pulpit and platform had been a long-desired addition.

Since 1956 the building has been used for reunions, funerals, revivals and a few meetings of the Izard County Historical Society. Recently local church services have been held in the building.

Philadelphia Methodist Church stands as a monument to the settlers of the area and their lifestyle. The church building is an outstanding example of the small rural church in Arkansas in the nineteenth century. Adjacent to a well-cared-for cemetery, Philadelphia Methodist Church stands as the most historically significant structure in the area.

Property Philadelphia Methodist Church

Izard Co.

State Ark

Working Number

3-31-76-2915

76000420

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 4.6.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
Ruttenbaum
6/15/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

MODEST, BUT INTERESTING CHURCH

ACCEPT
LEBOVITZ
6.16.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

services are again being held in the church

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
W.R. Luce
9/24/76

BRANCH CHIEF

[Signature]
9.2.7.76

KEEPER

[Signature]
9/27/76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 29 1976

Federal Register Entry 11-2-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



1. Philadelphia Methodist Church
IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WEST ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE WEST

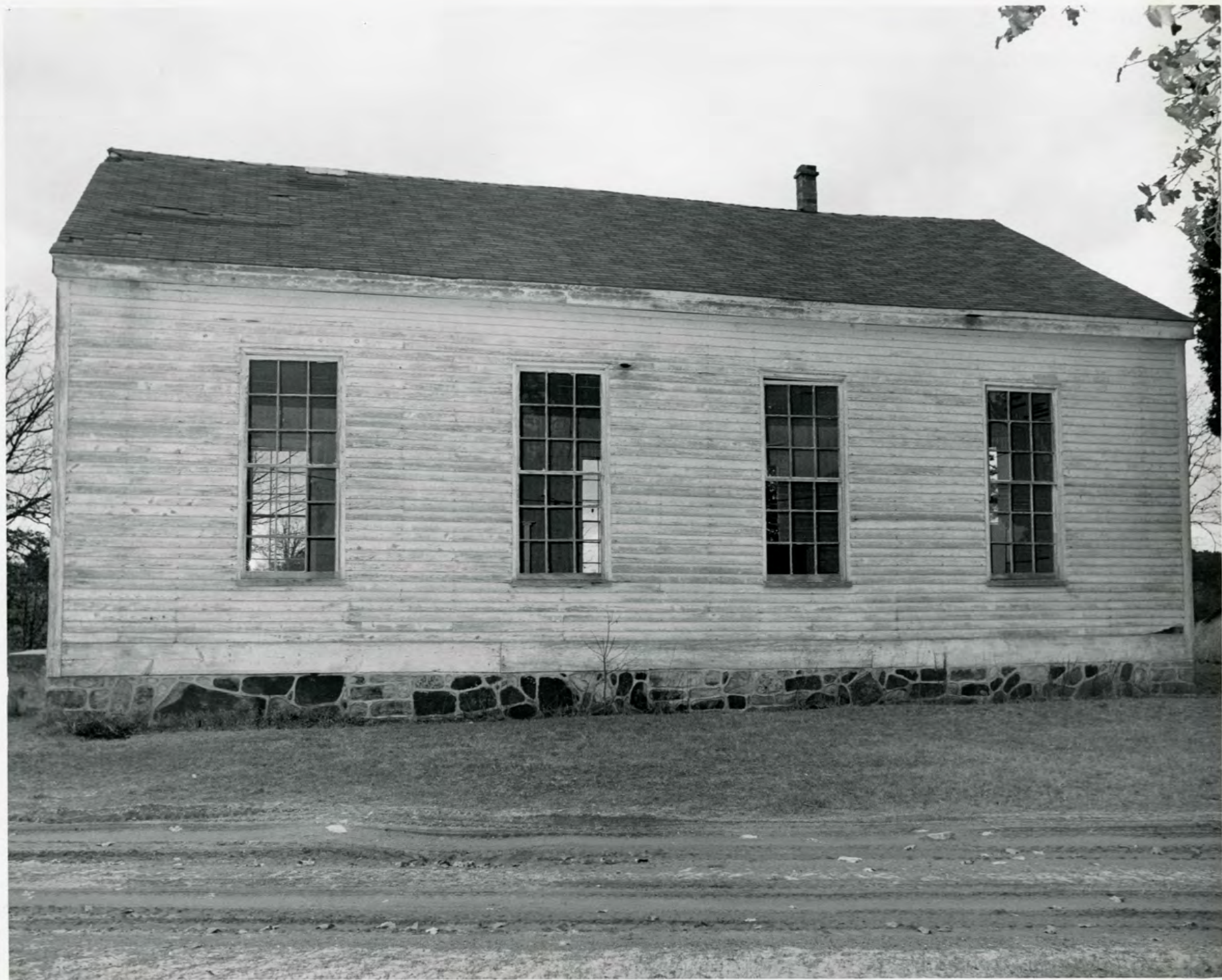
- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas *Ignacio*
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) West elevation, viewed from the west
- 7) 1

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1 of 4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2. Philadelphia Methodist Church
IZARD County, ARKANSAS
South Elevation, Viewed from the South

- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas *Izard Co*
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) South elevation, viewed from the south
- 7) 2

SEP 29 1976

2 of 4
MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2. Philadelphia Methodist Church

IZARD County, ARKANSAS

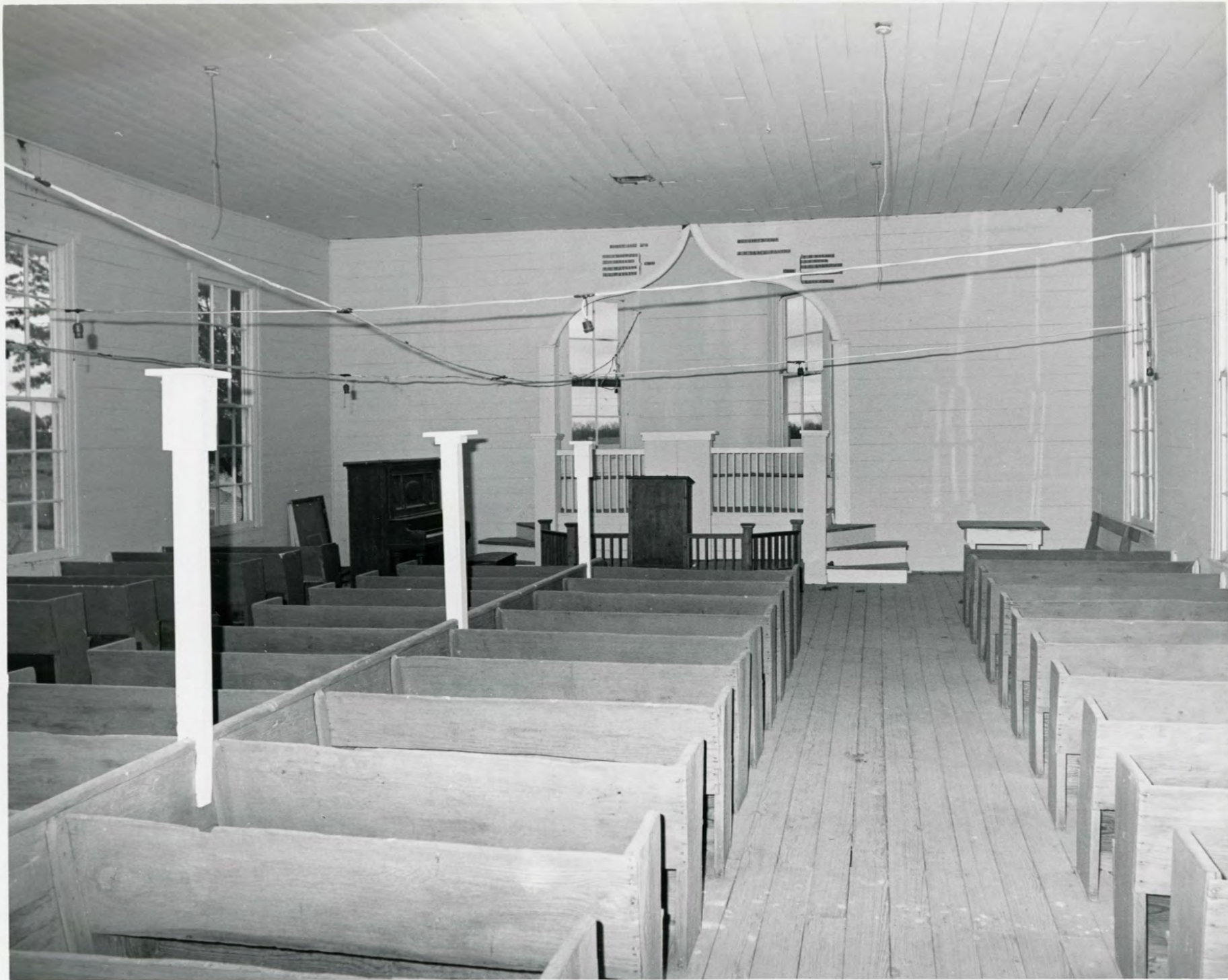
BAY ON EAST ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Bay on east elevation, viewed from the east
- 7) 3

SEP 29 1976

MAR 31 1976 3 of 4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



4. Philadelphia Methodist Church
IZARD County, ARKANSAS
INTERIOR, facing east

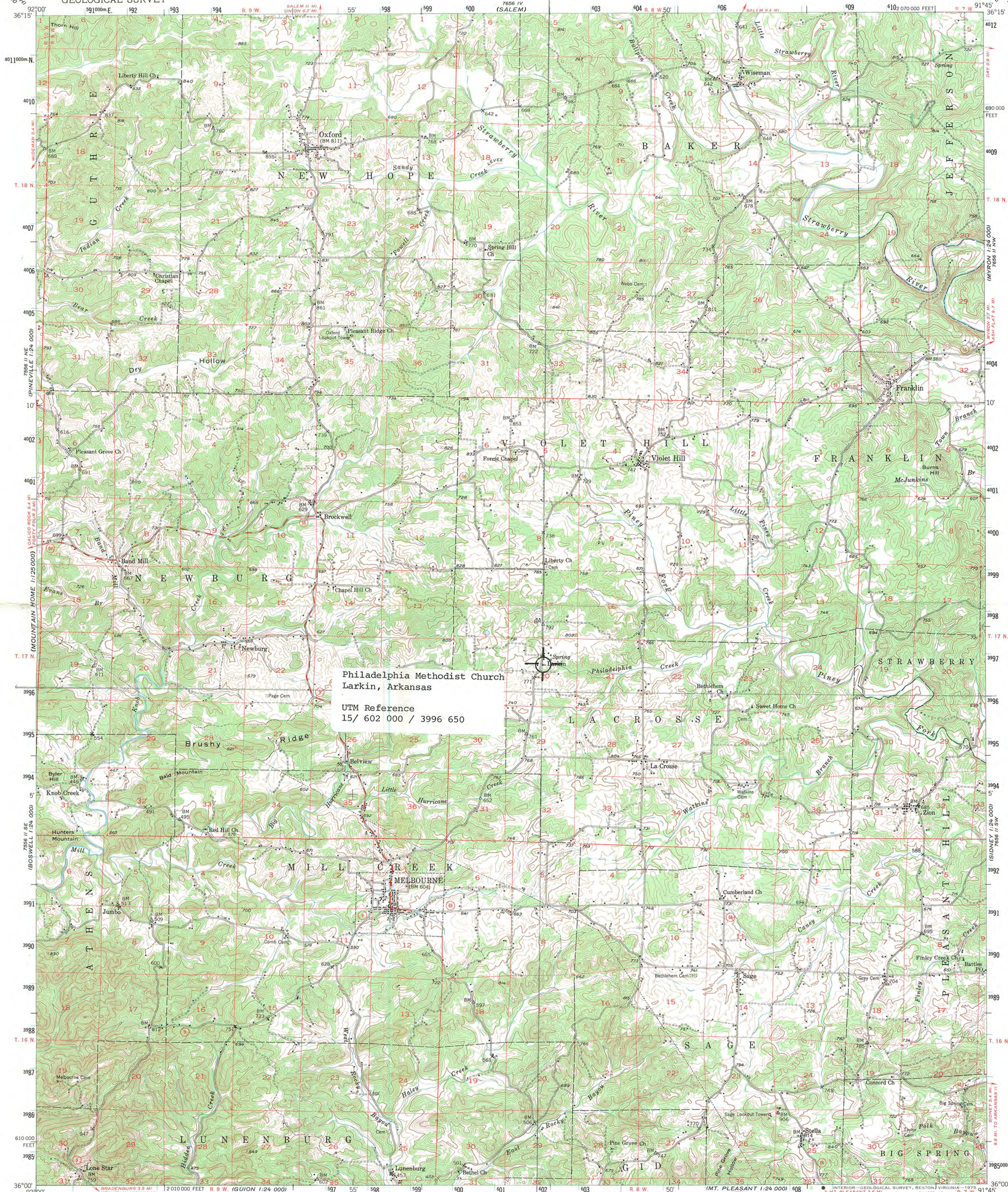
- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas *Izard*
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Interior, facing east
- 7) 4

SEP 29 1976

MAR 31 1976

4 of 4

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Philadelphia Methodist Church
Larkin, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15/ 602 000 / 3996 650

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1950-1951
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system,
north zone
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

UTM GRID AND 1951 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— 2 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— 2 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route State Route

MELBOURNE, ARK.
N3600-W9145/15
1951
AMS 7656 III-SERIES V784

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Philadelphia Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Larkin Melbourne vic

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Izard

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62,500

DATE 1951

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered SEP 29 1976

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Herrn House | Evening Shade Sharp County |
| Little River County Courthouse | Ashdown Little River County |
| Philadelphia Methodist Church | Larkin (Melbourne vicinity) Izard County |
| Stone County Courthouse | Mountain View Stone County |

Also Notified

| | |
|--|---|
| Hon. John L. McClellan | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| Hon. Dale Bumpers | Ms. Anne Bartley |
| Hon. Bill Alexander | Acting Director, Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage |
| Hon. Ray Thornton | The Old State House |
| Regional Director, Southwest Region | 300 West Markham |
| PR Mott 9/29/76 | Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 |

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 6/15/76
 Reviewer INITIALS: SRR
 NR ✓ DOE SEP 29 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Philadelphia Methodist Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER N. of Melbourne

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE Ark. 05 Melbourne

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

code

Hard

065

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
☒ Substantially intact-1 ☒ Substantially intact-2 ☐ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4 ☐ unknown - 5 ☒ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7 ☐ not applicable - 8 ☐ Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
 GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
☒ FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
 Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church

now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

4- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC CONSERVATION LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE
 AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS LITERATURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION MILITARY SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 ART ENGINEERING MUSIC
 COMMERCE EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY TRANSPORTATION
 COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ENTERTAINMENT
 HEALTH
 RECREATION
 SETTLEMENT
 SOCIO/CULTURAL
 URBAN & COMMUN
 PLANNING

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: VERNUCLAR (?)

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1858

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1917 RESTORATION

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) less than one

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Clapboarding; 1 story,
FRAME, ONE STORY, RECTANGULAR, GABLE, TIN ROOF, CLAPBOARD
STONE FOUNDATION 2 gable end double-door entrances, each with
transom; rear projecting polygonal apse; interior

WEST: 2 ENTRANCES, 2 PIN DOUBLE DOORS, 4 LITE
EAST: 3 SIDED BAY, WITH WINDOWS IN OUTSIDE OUTER PANELS
APSE ogee apse arch.

INTERIOR: OGEE ARCH SURROUND TO APSE

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) The church stands as a

monument to the settlers of the area + their lifestyle. An
outstanding example of the ^a small rural church in Ark.
in the 19th century; the most historically significant
structure in the area.