

PH 36224 X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 29 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

* 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mount Olive United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Lafayette and Knox Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Minister & Trustees, Mt. Olive United Methodist Church (Rev. Robert E. Felder)

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 1136

CITY, TOWN

Fort Smith

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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

Mount Olive United Methodist Church is a simple, Gothic-style, brick structure. Completed in 1889, the building cost \$900 to construct. The structure is rectangular in shape with a cast-stone foundation.

Set into the southeast corner of the building is a hipped-roof bell tower. The Gothic entry on the east elevation of this tower is set into a slightly recessed panel. Over these double-entry doors is a horizontal pane of glass divided into two equal sections which form a base for the Gothic-shaped transom. The transom is marked by a center pane in a diamond shape flanked by a divided Gothic-shaped pane on each side. Above the entry is a circular window with a centered triangular pattern. Buttresses mark the three corners of the bell tower. The south elevation of the bell tower features a circular window with triangular pattern over a narrow double-hung, Gothic-shaped window.

The facade of Mount Olive United Methodist Church is marked by a large Gothic window. This window features three, tall, double-hung windows with irregular-sized rectangular panes. The upper one-third of the window is marked by a variety of stained glass panels in diamond and triangular shapes.

The north and south elevations of the church feature three windows each. These windows are of stained glass with Gothic-style pointed heads over double-hung sash. The lower sash has six panes while the upper sash features three rectangular panes over which are three arched panes with three diamond-shaped panes in the point of the arch.

All corners of the building are marked by buttresses, those on the southwest and northwest corners being smaller and simpler in design. A band of cast stone extends around the structure at the ground level.

On the west elevation of the church is a gabled projection which contains the apse. A circular stained glass window with a cross in its design forms the focal point of the apse. Tall slender Gothic-shaped windows are found on the north and south elevations of the apse.

The interior of Mount Olive United Methodist Church appears much the same as in 1889. The original ceiling of narrow-plank wood and the wide-plank pine floors remain.

The chancel features a small railing with delicately turned posts. The three rows of hardwood pews in the structure remain in excellent condition.

The focal point of the interior of the church is the apse. It is marked by a circular window with a cross design in the stained glass. Tall, slender, Gothic-shaped windows on the north and south walls of the apse illuminate the area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Mount Olive United Methodist Church remains basically in original condition. An extensive restoration was undertaken in the fall of 1975 which included the replacement of stained glass in the windows and a new foundation.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren rests on a corner lot, surrounded by a rock wall. Its age, excellent condition, simple Gothic touches and importance to the black community combine to make Mount Olive United Methodist Church an important historical landmark.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1889, Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas, is a significant historic structure in its representation of black cultural development in Crawford County. Located in a city of historical significance in itself, the church stands out as one of the more important landmarks in Van Buren. In addition to its continual use as a religious institution and its representation of black history, the simple Gothic-style architecture of Mount Olive United Methodist Church further enhances the significance of the structure.

Since the beginnings of Methodism in the United States there has been participation in its membership by blacks. In 1829 the South Carolina Methodist Conference officially organized a system of missionaries to the slave population. From this a system of Methodist missions for blacks sprang up all over the South. It is generally accepted that Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas, is the oldest black congregation of the United Methodist Church west of the Mississippi River.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church was organized in 1869 by J. G. Pollard. At its origins the church consisted of thirty-eight members who were newly emancipated slaves. They met in a frame building on Main Street in Van Buren. By 1889 the congregation had grown enough to warrant construction of a new and larger structure. The present structure was constructed at the cost of \$900 by the members of the church, many of whom were former slaves. The church building was completed in 1889.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church was the location of the first annual session of the Little Rock Conference of Methodists in February, 1897, and hosted the Conference four more times.

It was an active and prestigious church which maintained a strong congregation up until the 1950's when black people began moving away from the area. However, the small congregation at present is made up of the people who have recognized the historical importance of the church enough to instigate the renovation of the building.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church is probably the most significant structure associated with black history in the City of Van Buren. As representative of a segment of black history, the structure stands as an important local landmark.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Methodist, October 10, 1975.

Crawford County Courier, October, 1975.

Felder, Reverend Robert E. J., Pastor of Mount Olive United Methodist Church,
to Parker Westbrook, November 12, 1975.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast
Arkansas. Little Rock: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
---	---

3	7	7	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	2	2	1	4	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

June 8, 1976

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 ☐

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 June 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7.30.76

DATE

7.26.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE 1

Jewell, Horace. History of Methodism in Arkansas. Little Rock, Press
Printing Company, 1892.

Mallalieu Message, September, 1975.

Southwest Times Record, November 30, 1975.

CRAWFORD CO.
74000473

Property Mount Olive United Methodist Church

State Arkansas Working Number 6.29.76.3686

TECHNICAL

Photos 5

Maps 1

Easting incorrect

7.14.76

CONTROL

OK - 7.1.76

HISTORIAN

*Accept
E. Smith
7-2-76*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept
S. Oldham
7/6/76*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Acc

BRANCH CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
7-8-76*

KEEPER

*Hung
7.30.76*

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUL 30 1976

Federal Register Entry _____

9-7-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olive United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade, viewed from the east

PHOTO NO.

1

INT: 2983-75

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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2 LOCATION

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade and north elevation, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

2

INT: 2983-75

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2 LOCATION

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___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

South elevation, viewed from the south

PHOTO NO.

3

INT: 2983-75

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CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

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STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

West elevation, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

4



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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Interior, note apse

PHOTO NO.

5

INT: 2983-75

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 29 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olive United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1947 (photorevised 1971)

4 REQUIREMENTS

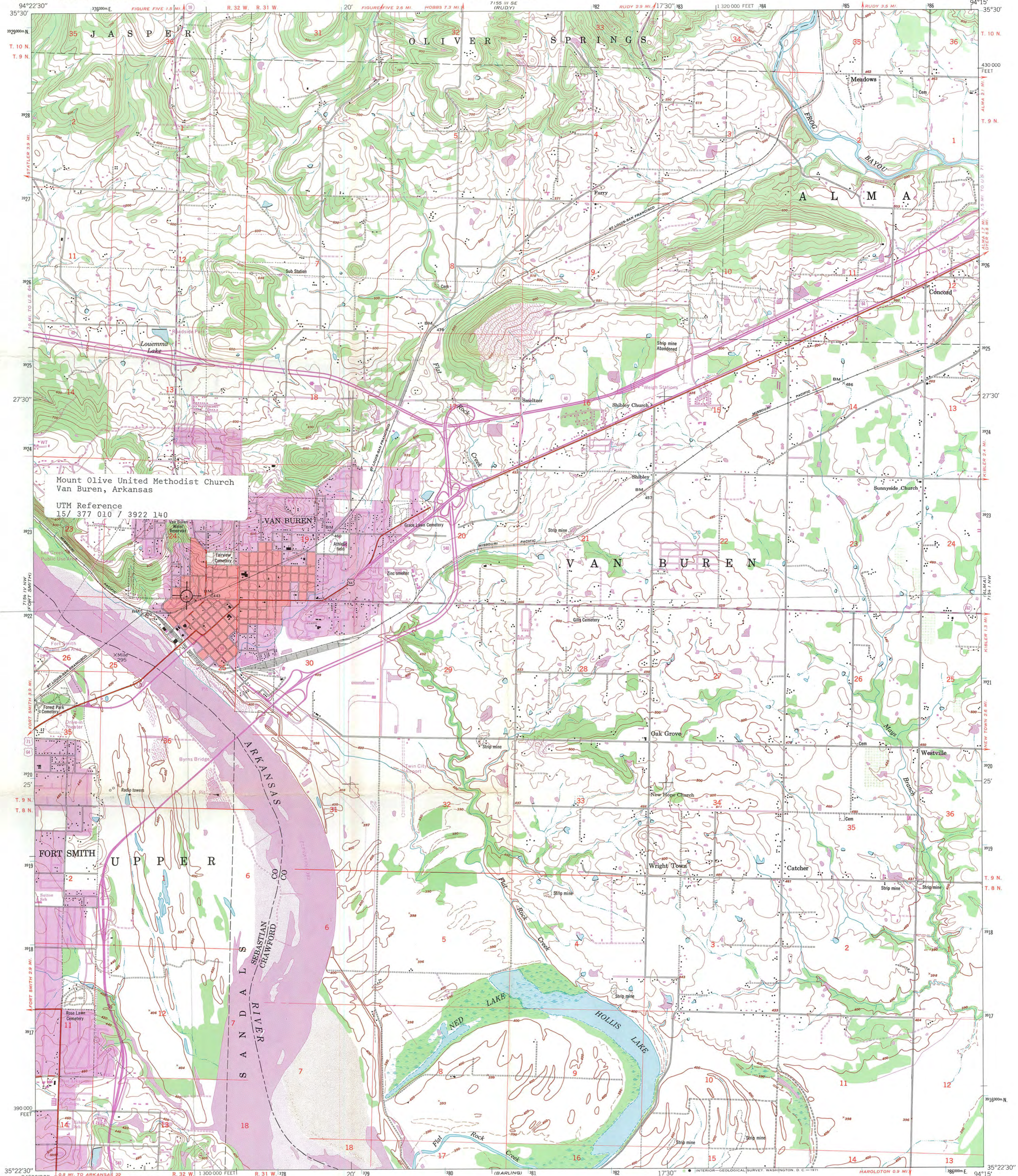
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

VAN BUREN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 1/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE



Mount Olive United Methodist Church
Van Buren, Arkansas

UTM Reference
157 377 010 / 3922 140

FORT SMITH U P P E R

SEBASTIAN RIVER
CLAWFORD

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE
Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE
U. S. Route
Interstate Route
Light duty
Unimproved dirt
State Route

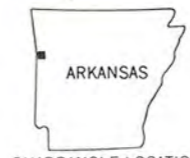
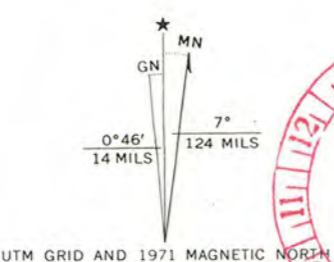
VAN BUREN, ARK.
NE 1/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3522.5—W 9415/7.5

1947

PHOTOREVISED 1971

AMS 7154 IV NE—SERIES V884

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



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered JUL 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Clarendon Monroe County
Logan County Courthouse, Eastern District	Paris Logan County
Mount Olive United Methodist Church	Van Buren Crawford County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Eumpers
Hon. Bill Alexander
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director
Department of Natural and
Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR MMott/row 8/4/76

November 2, 1978

Mrs. Susan Guthrie
Executive Director
Van Buren Community Development
Program
P. O. Box 644
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

Dear Mrs. Guthrie:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 1978, in which you find that the rehabilitation of the Mount Olive Methodist Church, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places, will not adversely affect that property. As a basis for this finding, the City of Van Buren proposes to conduct the rehabilitation in accordance with the Guidelines for Rehabilitating Old Buildings and to obtain approval by the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of all final plans and specifications. Normally, the City should first submit a finding of no adverse effect to the SHPO and then provide the Council with both the finding offered by the City and written views of the SHPO. In this case, however, we have solicited the views of the Arkansas SHPO office by telephone in order to facilitate the planning for the project. Based upon the project description and the views of the SHPO, the Executive Director of the Council does not object to your determination of no adverse effect. As you know, however, if the recommended treatments in the Guidelines cannot be observed, or if the SHPO objects to a proposed treatment, then the steps set forth in the Council's "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800) should be followed by the City of Van Buren.

A copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental

Page 2
Mrs. Susan Guthrie
Mount Olive Methodist Church
November 2, 1978

Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1329).

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Signed

Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director
Office of Review and Compliance, Denver

cc: Chairman
SHPO:AR
FLO:HUD-EMBRY
HUD-Karas
HCRS:NR
ORC:Quinn
FILE:AR/MOUNT OLIVE METHODIST CHURCH/106/CITY/Rehabilitation
MCQ:DRS 11-02-78

Harrison 3/18

The Reverend Mr. Peacock

cc:

436

MAR 23 1981

The Reverend Robert H. Peacock
First Assembly of God
20th and Lyon Streets
P.O. Box 2758
Batesville, Arkansas 72501

Dear Mr. Peacock:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 1981, expressing your thoughts on the inclusion of religious properties in the National Register of Historic Places. We apologize for not responding sooner.

The criteria for evaluating potential entries for the National Register state that ordinarily properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not considered eligible for the National Register. However, a religious property which derives primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance does qualify for listing in the National Register. The impact on society of religion and religious institutions is recognized by the National Register criteria and provides a basis for the listing of many religious properties. There are a number of religious institutions in Arkansas which are listed in the National Register, including

Trinity Lutheran Church, Conway County.
Mount Olive United Methodist Church, Crawford County.
Selma Methodist Church, Drew County.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Franklin County.
Old Bethel Methodist Church, Green County.

Enclosed are copies of the "Federal Register", which list all properties entered in the National Register prior to December 1980 and information on the National Register program.

Once again we appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with us. If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration

Enclosures

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7-2-76
 Reviewer INITIALS: [initials]
 NR DOE JUL 30 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Mount Olive United Methodist Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER Lafayette and Knox Sts.

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd

STATE Arkansas 05

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code
 Crawford 033

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

(CIRCLE) 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:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION
 AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE
 ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION LITERATURE
 ART ENGINEERING MILITARY SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 COMMERCE EXPLORATION MUSIC
 COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY PHILOSOPHY TRANSPORTATION
 INVENTION 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: *Gothic elements*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *Blacks*

NAMES:

personal

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

~~Growth~~ *Growth of Methodism
among blacks 1829-1889.*

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century) *1889*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

~~1869-1889~~ *1869-1889 and
1889-Present*

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) *1 - .9*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

see attached
1 story, brick, rectangular shaped structure with
gabled roof ~~which forms the front facade~~; a large
arched window ^{is} centered on the front facade; ~~a~~
a hipped roof bell tower ~~on the south east~~
~~corner~~ with a Gothic entry is on the south east
corner of the building, ~~corner buttresses~~, entrance in bell tower with
pointed arched transom set in recessed panel.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The Mount Olive United Methodist Church in
Van Buren founded in 1869 is generally accepted
as the oldest black congregation of the United Methodist
Church west of the Mississippi River. The ^{single} Gothic
~~This building with Gothic Revival elements was built in 1889.~~
~~style architecture of the present structure built in 1889 further~~
~~enhances the importance of the congregation.~~

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Gothic elements*

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *Blacks*

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal

events

institutional

*South Growth of Methodism
among blacks 1829-1889.*

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century) *1889*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

*1869-1889 and
1889-Present*

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) *0.1 - 0.9*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

see attached
1889

Brick, 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, hipped roof SE bell tower
with
~~containing~~ entrance with pointed arch transom set in recesses panel, corner
buttresses, large pointed arched window on front facade; ~~extensive~~ extensive
restoration, 1975. Gothic Revival elements. *Church* Organized in 1869; considered
the oldest black congregation of the United Methodist Church W of the
Mississippi River. *Private.*

*style architecture of the present church would further
enhance the importance of the congregation.*