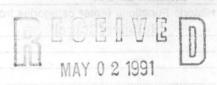
### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property	Company of the Compan		
nistoric name Pleasant Hill M	ethodist Church		
other names/site number N/A			
2. Location		ical uppearange.	synd phoself this little one admis
street & number Corner of La	awson Road and Lake Norrell	Road	not for publication N/A
city, town Pleasant Hill			X vicinity
state Arkansas code	AR county Saline	code	AR 125 zip code 72002
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Re	esources within Property
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public-State	site		sites
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4. State/Federal Agency Certif	lication		
Signature of certifying official  Arkansas Historic Pre State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property most	servation Program	egister criteria. S	ee continuation sheet.
State or Federal agency and bureau			
5. National Park Service Certif			
, hereby, certify that this property is	s: /	Notional Notice	L Register , /
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	Signature of	the Keeper	Date of Action

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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#### Summary

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is a single story, wood frame church building constructed in 1894 for the Pleasant Hill community, located in the northern part of Saline County. This simple, gable roof building is of the simplified Greek Revival style that rural congregations had employed since the mid-nineteenth century for their houses of worship. The rectangular overall plan directly reflects the single room within. It is covered with a standing-seam metal roof, sheathed with weatherboarding, and supported by a combination of original stone piers and later concrete block piers.

#### **Elaboration**

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is a single-story, wood frame church building designed in the vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style that was popular for such rural church buildings throughout Arkansas during the last half of the nineteenth century. Its rectangular plan contains a single room that serves as the sanctuary. Its gable roof is covered with a standing seam metal roof, its walls are sheathed with wood weatherboard, and it is supported upon a series of original stone and later concrete block piers.

The building is accessed via a single, central, double-leaf entry in the southern or front elevation. Though the original panelled doors have been replaced with modern metal panelled doors for security reasons, the original transom and entablature atop the entrance remains, even retaining some of its original, delicate dentil course. Otherwise, this gable end is blank. The gable end opposite, to the north, is lighted by a pair of two-over-two wood sash windows, placed symmetrically to either side of the rostrum within.

The eastern and western elevations are identical, each being relieved only by four symmetrically-placed two-over-two sash windows running the full length of the exterior walls.

Aside from the entrance entablature (mirrored by the even more simple entablatures atop the windows around the building), there are no exterior details of note.

The interior is remarkably intact. The original horizontal flush plank walls are intact throughout, as are the original, hand-finished pews and all the original sash. Of special note is the semi-circular altar rail that separates the rostrum from the remainder of the sanctuary. This rail, through its uneven top bevel and the rough though ultimately successful attempt to fashion rounds at each end, clearly bears the marks of the local craftsman who fashioned it.

The only alterations of note are the replacement of the original wood shingle roof with the metal roof (first done in 1930), the removal of the original central flue that vented the wood

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

7	2		
Section number	Page		

stove (which was replaced with two butane stoves in the relatively recent past), some carpeting of the celebratory spaces at the northern end of the sanctuary, and the installation of an acoustic tile ceiling within.

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is in excellent condition.

8. Statement of Significance Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop		· 经现代的证券的证券的 100	
nationally	state	wide X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B XC			
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)		□E □F □G	
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9. Major Bibliographical References	a shabilize is in materials an
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	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Significant Pareon
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	Primary location of additional data:  State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data  Acreage of property Less than one	
UTM References A 1 5 5 3 5 2 1 5 3 8 3 9 2 5 0  Zone Easting Northing C	B
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the point form Lake Norrell Road with a perpendicular line running proceed northerly along said line to a point formed running along the northern elevation of the church; point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular church; thence proceed southerly along said line to perpendicular line running along the northern edge thence proceed westerly along said line to the point to the point formed because of the point formed by the said line to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge thence proceed westerly along said line to the point formed by the said line to the	g along the western elevation of the church, d by its intersection with a perpendicular line; thence proceed easterly along said line to a lar line running along the eastern elevation of the a point formed by its intersection with a of See continuation sheet Lake Norrell Road;
Boundary Justification	
THis boundary includes all the property historically	associated with this resource.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Ken Story, Architectural Historian	
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Progan	
street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300	telephone(501) 324-934 6
city or town Little Rock	state Arkansas zip code 72201

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

		8		1
Section	number		Page	

#### Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best and one of the last surviving examples of this simple, wood frame church type in this rural part of Saline County. Such modest, vernacular renditions of the Greek Revival style had been popular throughout the rural areas of Arkansas since the style became popular in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and examples could still be found throughout these areas up until the mid-twentieth century. Many of these are now gone or severely altered, a situation that only underscores the importance of such extant and relatively intact churches as the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church.

#### Elaboration

Pleasant Hill was settled prior to the Civil War along what was known as the Middle Road that ran between Little Rock and Hot Springs. However, it was the quality of the bottomland around the North Fork of the Saline River that first drew settlers here, as it proved to be excellent crop land for the growth of cotton, corn, peanuts and hay. The agricultural focus of the Pleasant Hill community continued after the Civil War, and it remained a relatively dispersed community of farmsteads, most of which were farmed by their owners.

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church was constructed in 1894 on land that had served this particular congregation since 1880. The Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized in that year, with this particular church being on the Oak Hill circuit. This congregation's first church building was a log structure of unrecorded plan and type; like so many such early buildings, it served the community as both church and school in the early days of the settlement. Apparently that structure stood on private land owned by neighbors, as it was not until 1893 that J.M. and Sarah T. Vaughn sold this land to the Methodist Episcopal Church South for the sum of \$45.00. One of the terms of that sale was that the original school house must be moved off the land, presumably so that a new church building could be constructed, the execution of which may have also been part of the understanding behind the sale of the property. A codicil to the deed stating that the old school house had indeed been moved satisfactorily was executed on February 26, 1894. The trustees were W.M. Mitchell, L.G. Grimmett and J.T. Grimmett.

The current church building was built by Walter Overhault with the assistance of many of the men of the Pleasant Hill community. Little information on Overhault has survived, except that he was obviously a competent carpenter as well as the postmaster at nearby Tatumville. It is noteworthy that, according to the oral tradition, he was assisted by neighbors of various religious affiliations, a fact that is easily understood when one considers that churches of any denomination were not plentiful in such rural areas. While denominational distinctions were

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Page	8	2	
	Section number	Page	

strictly drawn in theory, their observance was less vigilant and subject to compromise due to the limitations imposed by rural living.

Nearby native materials were used throughout, such as creek stones for the original foundation piers and yellow pine for the framing and sheathing of the structure itself. Walnut was selected for the altar or communion rail, supported by pine balusters.

As was common for such rural churches, the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, then as now, served more than the community's spiritual needs. Located as it was at the intersection of two principal local roads, it provided a natural gathering place for local meetings and community events. Noteworthy among them is the reunions that have taken place here over the years. In fact, to this day the former residents of the Pleasant Hill community and their descendants return here to this church on the third Sunday in July every year to attend services and hold a day-long reunion, complete with home cooking and reminiscence.

The Pleasant Hill Methodist Church retains all the principal features that typify rural, vernacular Greek Revival churches of the last half of the nineteenth century. Its simplified entrance entablature and window crowns, interior horizontal plank walls and tall, gable roof are all signature features of this architectural type. However, in addition, this church features such distinctive features as the hand-made pews and communion rail within. For all these reasons, the Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

#### **Bibliography**

Dunnahoo, Pat, "90-Year-Old Church to Hold Annual Homecoming," Arkansas Gazette, July 19, 1970, p. 5E.

"Pleasant Hill Reaches Century," The Benton Courier, Tuesday Evening, July 22, 1980, p. 5.

Warranty Deed, Saline County, Arkansas, Book "O", p. 506.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINA	TION			
		G1 1		
PROPERTY Pleasant Hill NAME:	Methodist	Church		historic
MULTIPLE NAME:	-			
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS	, Saline			
DATE RECEIVED: 5/02 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/05			PENDING LIST	: 5/20/91 6/16/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:				
REFERENCE NUMBER: 910006	84 bus alss	nceCh	of Significa	
NOMINATOR: STATE				Specific dates Statement of Signi
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OTHER COMMENTS		
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	Phone	
Signed	Date	



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PLEASANT HILL METHODIST CHURCH

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

VANUARY 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



PLEASANT HILL METHODIST CHURCH
PLEASANT HILL, ARRANSAS SALLINE CO
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
VANUARY, 1991
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
FRONT DOOR DETAIL



PLEASANT HILL METHODIST CHURCH
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PHOTOGIRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
VANUARY, 1991
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF INTERIOR



PLEASANT HILL METHODIST CHURCH

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

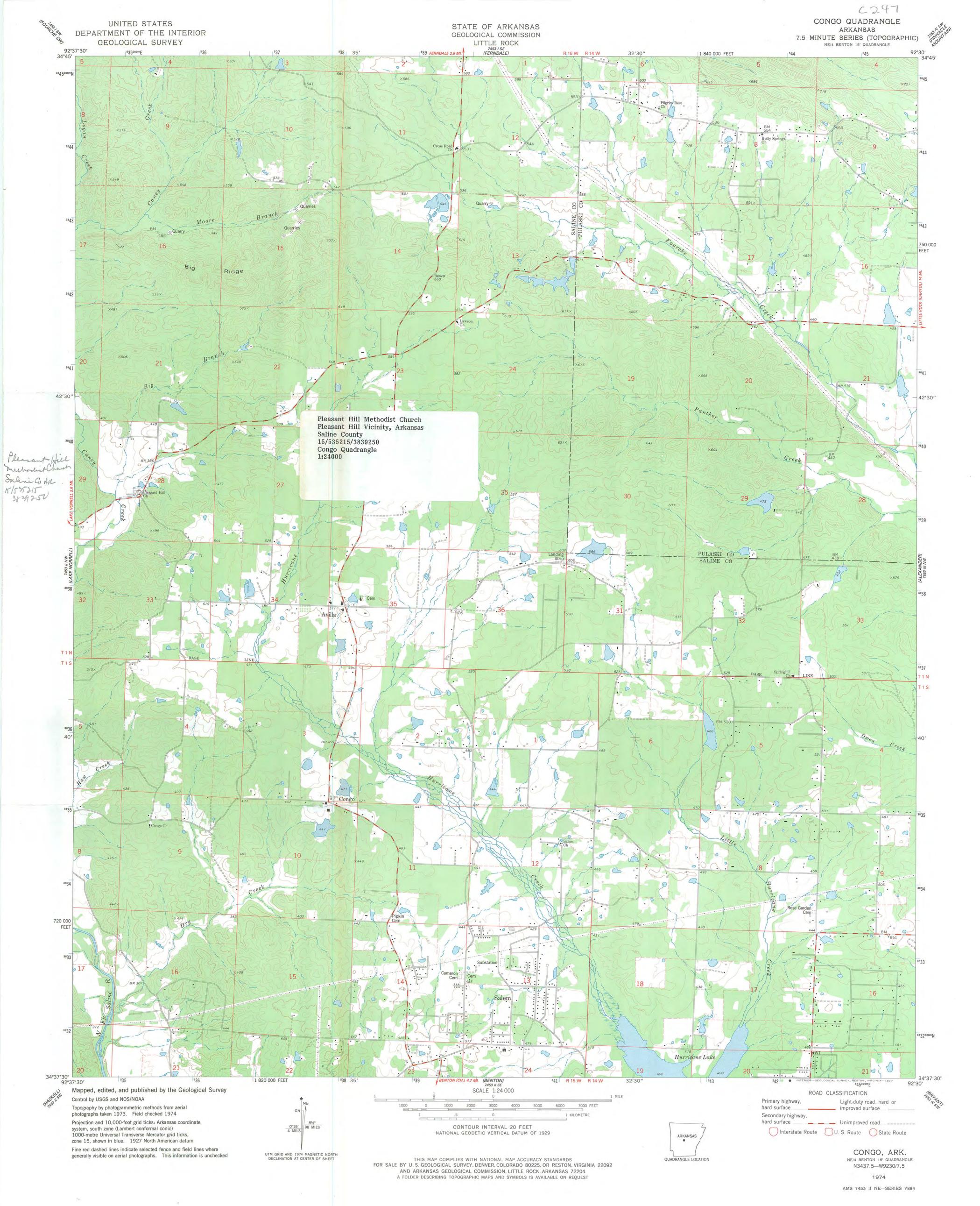
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NATIONAL REGISTER

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

April 29, 1991

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

RE: Pleasant Hill Methodist Church

Pleasant Hill - Saline County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. 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,

Cathy Buford

State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

**Enclosures** 

