

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

historic name Mt. Prospect Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Intersection of County Rds. #446 and #61☐ not for publication N/Acity, town Richland☐ vicinity N/Astate Arkansascode ARcounty Columbiacode AR 027zip code 71764

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

2-9-90

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls WOOD/Weatherboardroof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Mt. Prospect Methodist Church is a single story, wood frame ecclesiastical structure designed in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The rectangular layout of the exterior walls belies its unusual triple entrance/intersecting aisle floor plan. Its gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, its walls are sheathed with weatherboard, and its foundation is composed of brick piers.

Elaboration

The Mt. Prospect Methodist Church is a single story, wood frame ecclesiastical building. Its gable roof shelters a typical rectangular exterior wall plan and an atypical intersecting aisle floor plan which is accessed by single-leaf entrances in three of the four walls. Its roof is covered with asphalt shingles and its walls are sheathed in weatherboard. It is without a basement, as it is supported on brick piers. It is designed in a vernacular Greek Revival style typical of wood frame, rural Arkansas churches of the period (and later).

The eastern or front elevation and the western elevation opposite are similar, though important differences remain. The eastern elevation consists of two four-over-four wood sash windows flanking the central, single-leaf entry on the first floor and a single four-over-four wood sash placed centrally above in the full gable pediment. All four openings are trimmed with simple moldings except for the low, pyramidal crowns, the top of which is finished with a slightly projecting strip of molding. The western elevation is relieved by only two four-over-four wood sash windows placed symmetrically across the first floor, the only other trim being the gable returns above.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. Each is four bays in length. Two four-over-four wood sash windows are placed evenly toward the eastern end, and another placed near the western end. In the third bay (in the western half of each elevation) is a single-leaf entrance. A simple, slightly projecting box cornice runs the entire length of both elevations.

The interior is equally simple, with flush horizontal planks finishing all four walls, and both the floor (except for the area near the pulpit) and ceiling being finished with planks also. The windows and doors are trimmed with milled moldings. The pews are built from wood strips with kick rails. The wood box around the pulpit, and the pulpit itself, feature a panelled design stained a dark, mahogany color. Two thin, chamfered posts support the ceiling to either side of the central aisle and are placed near the center of the nave.

The Mt. Prospect Methodist Church, with the exception of the carpet and possibly the benches, is virtually intact and unaltered.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

1886

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: John Pickering

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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4	9	2	9	6	5
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3	6	9	2	0	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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

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

Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number 225 E. Markham St., Suite 200

city or town Little Rock

date February 8, 1990

telephone (501) 371-2763

state Arkansas

zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Mt. Prospect Methodist Church, constructed in 1886, survives in its original location (now an extremely rural site) as the finest extant example in the local area of a vernacular Greek Revival church design. As such it is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Elaboration

The Mt. Prospect Methodist Church was constructed in 1886 to serve the surrounding community of Richland. Richland was established in 1873 (though the area was settled earlier, as gravestones in the cemetery adjacent date to 1867) by immigrants from southern states further east who sought relief from the oppressive social and economic conditions which characterized the post-Civil War, Reconstruction period. The town was named Richland in honor of the fertile soil the settlers found in the area and its growth was based almost exclusively on the agricultural production of its residents. The land brought sufficient prosperity to the community by 1880 to support two general merchandise stores, one doctor, a tobacco factory, a post office, a barber shop, a union church, and a subscription school.

The first church building the community erected (which also served as the school) was by all accounts a crude affair, with four walls and beams across the top, but no ceiling. By 1885, the community of Methodists was of sufficient size that Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Smith, two prosperous local residents (Mr. Smith was a successful merchant, first in Richland and then in Stephens, where he dealt in cotton and other goods), donated an acre of land for the express purpose of the erection of a Methodist house of worship. The church trustees purchased the lumber for their new building from John B. McCrea at Mt. Holly (Union County) and hired one John Pickering to be their contractor. By the following year (1886) the church was complete.

However, the expected development of Richland from a thriving small community into a larger town and municipality was thwarted by the decision of the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Lines (or Cotton Belt Railroad) in 1881 to construct their rail lines several miles to the north. By 1882 the completed rail line connected Pine Bluff with Texarkana and gave rise to the thriving railroad town of Stephens. Most of Richland's residents gradually relocated to Stephens over the next several years and provided most of that community's earliest population. As early as the first decade of the twentieth century all that remained of the Richland community was the Mt. Prospect Methodist Church.

Ironically, the demise of the community may have contributed to the excellent state of preservation of the building, as there has never been any pressure upon the congregation to expand or modernize. Virtually all of the building's principle architectural elements and details are completely intact. Of especial significance is the unusual aisle plan, with one aisle running between the opposing side gable entrances and another leading from the eastern end gable entrance to an intersection with the intersecting aisle just in front of the pulpit. An intersecting aisle plan in church buildings of this general type is not typical in Arkansas generally, and certainly renders this structure unique relative to other known church floor plans in the vicinity. In addition, the church's pyramidal decorative window and door crowns, full front pediment, and restrained Classical temple form render it by far the best example of a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival in the local area.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Columbia County Deed Records, Record Book "P", pg. 505.

Goodspeed's History of Southern Arkansas, (Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis, 1890), pp. 693-94.

Poindexter, Kenneth W., "The Story of Mt. Prospect," The Stephens Star, May 9, 1957, pg. 1.

Poindexter, Kenneth W., "Mt. Prospect Methodist Church," Featuring Churches of Stephens, Arkansas, honoring the Bicentennial Celebration of America, published as part of the celebration held in Stephens, Arkansas, July 3-10, 1976, pp. 15-18.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of County Rd. #446 with a line running along the northern elevation of the building, proceed westerly along said elevation to the northwest corner of the building; thence proceed southerly along the western elevation to the point of intersection with the northern edge of County Rd. #61; thence proceed northeasterly along said edge to its intersection with the western edge of County Rd. #446; thence proceed northerly along said edge to the point of beginning, comprising in all approximately 1 1/2 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000428

Date Listed: 3/22/90

Mt. Prospect Methodist Church

Columbia

AK

Property Name

County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Federman
Signature of the Keeper

3/22/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The church is privately owned.

Discussed and concurred in by the Arkansas SHPO in March 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mt. Prospect Methodist Church

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 2/12/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/27/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/29/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000428

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT/WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/22/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Vernacular building - in relatively
rural setting - very small scale
Structure

Bldg now owned by museum non-profit
group - therefore SLR done

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER J. Federman
DISCIPLINE Arch Hist
DATE 3/22/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

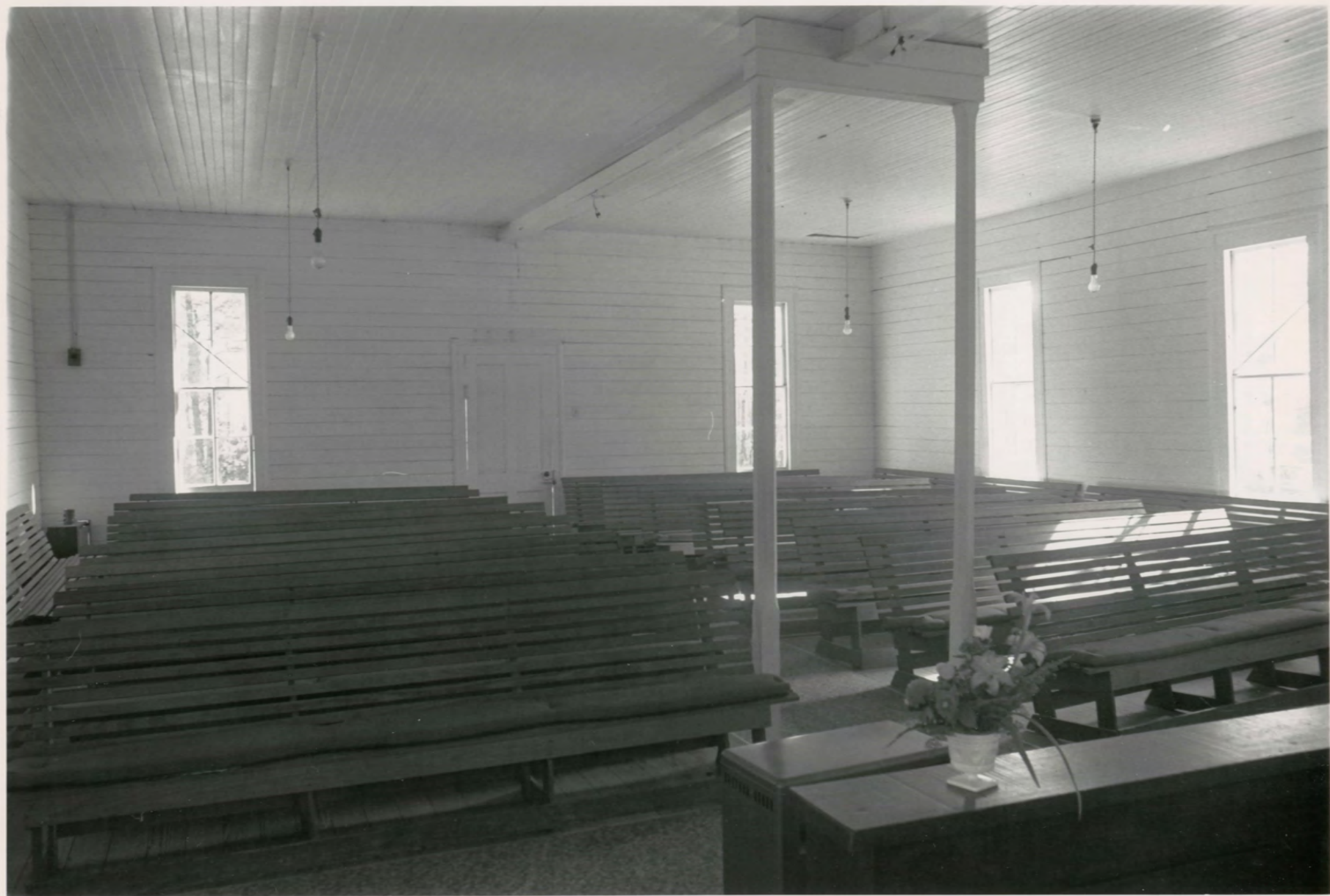
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____
Date _____



Columbia a

MT. PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH
RICHLAND, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
OCTOBER, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM EAST



MT. PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

Columbia &

RICHLAND, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT NHPP

INTERIOR DETAIL



MT PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

Columbia Co

RICHLAND, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT NHPP

INTERIOR DOOR DETAIL



MT PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH
RICHLAND, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY
OCTOBER, 1989
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT ATHP
EXTERIOR WINDOW DETAIL

Columbia cc



MT PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

RICHLAND, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STOREY

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

Columbia Co

Cole

Columbia Co #12



MT. PROSPECT METHODIST CHURCH

Columbia Co

RICHLAND, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

Mt. Prospect Methodist Church
Richland, Arkansas
Columbia County
15/492965/3692020
Village Quadrangle
1:24000

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
LITTLE ROCK

VILLAGE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—COLUMBIA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



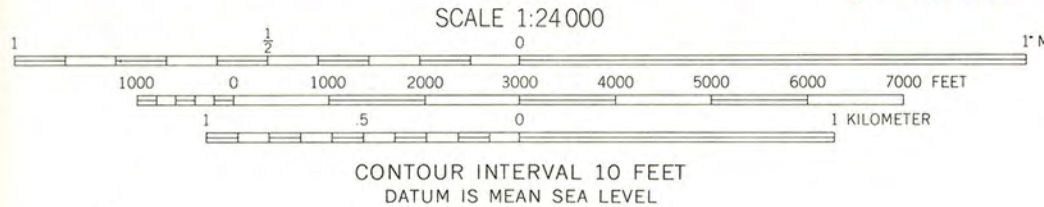
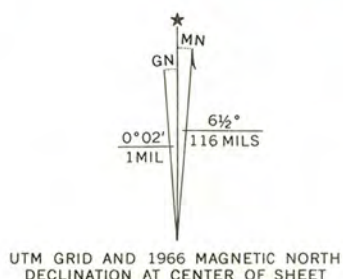
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

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

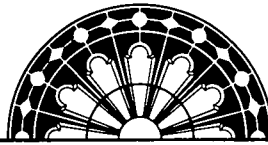


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

V025
VILLAGE, ARK.
N3315—W9300/7.5

1966

AMS 7350 I SE—SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

February 9, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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: Mt. Prospect Methodist Church

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for 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/KS/lss

Enclosures

