

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Mary's Mountain

CITY, TOWN

Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

047

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

The Reverend Lawrence Miller, O.S.B. (guardian)

STREET & NUMBER

Church of St. Mary's; Route 1, Box 5

CITY, TOWN

Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ozark

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

The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help rests atop Pond Creek Mountain overlooking the Arkansas River Valley. This quiet hilltop in western Arkansas is an appropriate setting for one of the state's most interesting and unusual churches.

Reminiscent of Romanesque architecture, this basilica style church is built of hard white sandstone cut from a nearby quarry. These stones are rock-faced with margins and are cut in various rectangular sizes and set in a broken course. The two-foot-thick walls enclose an area measuring 117 feet by 56 feet.

The nave rises a full storey above the one-storey aisles. A gable roof of galvanized steel shingles covers the nave with a shed roof over each aisle. Enclosing the apse on the east elevation is a semi-decagon bay with a conical roof. At the southeast corner of the building a 120-foot bell tower rises a full storey above the nave.

The wide center facade rises one storey above the flanking bays. Three semi-elliptical-arched openings on the projecting center bay give access to the small enclosed porch. The center arch leads directly to the main double door entry to the church. Above the wide stringcourse at the second-storey line, three semi-circular arched windows are set Palladian-style into a wide half-circle arch. The pediment features a round window and a cross above the ridge line.

All the windows around the church are of stained glass set in semi-circular arches. Like the three entry arches, the windows set in stone have small keystones. The ten windows of the tile-sided nave walls are set in simple wooden frames.

The four-storey bell tower has a separate arched entry on the south elevation. Stringcoursing separates the window openings on each storey of the square tower. Slender paired windows on the second storey, round windows on the third storey and triple vented-arches on the fourth storey are interesting features on the tower. On the fourth floor are four melodic bells, together weighing more than three tons.

The interior of St. Mary's Church makes it one of the most beautiful buildings in Arkansas. Corinthian capitated columns support the arcades which separate the nave from the aisles. Pressed tin in a fleur-de-lis pattern covers the walls of the upper nave, while the ceilings have a clover-like pattern.

Each of the stained glass windows depicts a Biblical character or event and bears a dedicatory script in German. Twelve small murals, each measuring 3½ by 5 feet, decorate the white plastered walls. Illustrating scenes from the life of Christ, these small murals were painted by a German artist, Fridolin Fuchs, during 1915 and 1916. The German captions painted by Fuchs were replaced with English inscriptions in 1964. Fuchs also painted figures in the extrados above the high altar and large murals set into the arches at the front of each aisle. The domed ceiling above the apse was hand stenciled by Fuchs.

Original to the church is a communion railing of cherry and walnut. Hand-carved by a local parishoner, this railing is made from trees grown in the area. Side

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

altars, added in 1918, contain ten different kinds of wood. Another later addition came in 1924 when a pipe organ was installed.

Over the years minor repairs have been made to keep St. Mary's Church in its excellent condition. Though changes in the form of artwork and furnishings have been made, there have been no significant alterations to the structure. Resting on its original site, St. Mary's Church represents an unusual architectural style in Arkansas.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 Sept. 2, 1902 (dedication) BUILDER/ARCHITECT
May 24, 1901 (cornerstone laid)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of Arkansas' most architecturally significant churches is the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help near Altus, Arkansas. This impressive edifice was constructed atop Pond Creek Mountain overlooking the Arkansas River Valley. Completed in 1902, the church was built to serve the German- and Swiss-Catholics who immigrated to Franklin County in the late nineteenth century.

The records of the congregation begin with the arrival of the first priest in 1879. The Reverend Father Beatus Maria Ziswyler was sent by the Little Rock Diocese to serve the Catholic congregation at Altus. During the first year services were held in the upstairs room of Father Ziswyler's two-storey log cabin, but by 1881 a frame church had been constructed. Father Ziswyler's cabin, the frame church and the later stone church were all built near the same site on a forty-acre tract donated by the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad.

The congregation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, also known as St. Mary's, grew rapidly. By 1888 the parish had forty-five families and operated two missions of its own. Further immigration of German and Swiss families combined with the rapid growth of coal mining in Franklin County to cause a relatively rapid population increase in the 1890's.

This population increase brought a corresponding need for a larger church. On January 28, 1900, the congregation of St. Mary's Church voted to erect a new church building. Architectural plans were partially drawn by a priest in St. Louis, and, though never quite completed, were used to build the church. The actual construction was supervised by Father Placidus Oeschle, the local parish priest, and John Riedt, a stone mason from St. Louis.

In February, 1901, the conerstone of St. Mary's Church was laid. Into the 25" x 18" x 27" cornerstone was set a copper box containing documents, contemporary newspapers and a few coins. On September 2, 1902, the church was completed, and dedicatory ceremonies, presided over by the Abbot of the nearby Subiaco Academy, were held.

Designed to seat 500 persons, St Mary's Church was built in a basilica style. The choice of this particular style was due in part to the fact that much of the labor on the new church was performed by local parishoners. According to Father Oeschle, "Our workmen could easily erect such simple construction, and this was one of the important features that guided us." *

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dean, Ernie. "A Church That Stands High on a Hill." Arkansas Gazette, December 30, 1962.
- Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889.
- Lucy, J.M. "The Catholic Church in Arkansas." Publications of the Arkansas Historical Association, Vol. II, Little Rock: Democrat Printing and Lithograph Company, 1908.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 3 1 1 8 0	3 9 2 3 2 7 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

12-9-75

TELEPHONE

501 - 371-1639

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

12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

5/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.3.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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St. Mary's Church is constructed of hard white sandstone cut from a nearby quarry. The basilica style church has the typical features of a center nave rising above the aisle, transept and projecting altar area. A somewhat unusual feature is the 120-foot bell tower rising from the southeast corner of the church. Original interior features include the numerous stained glass windows, pressed tin ceiling and a communion railing carved from cherry and walnut trees grown on Pond Creek Mountain.

The most significant interior features of the church are the murals painted by Fridolin Fuchs, a German artist employed by Father Oeschle. From January, 1915, until April, 1916, Fuchs painted on the white plaster twelve "stations," small murals measuring 3½ feet by 5 feet. Reminiscent of European church murals, these paintings depict various scenes from the life of Christ. Each station was inscribed with a German text, as were the written dedications in each of the stained glass windows. Fuchs, who was paid \$600.00 plus room and board, painted the faces of several individuals involved in St. Mary's Church into his murals. His own likeness and that of Father Oeschle, who assisted him, appear in the stations on either side of the high altar. Fuchs also stenciled and painted holy figures on the domed ceiling above the altar.

Other unusual features of the church include the massive bells and the pipe organ. On Thanksgiving Day, 1902, four bells, the largest weighing 2,712 pounds, were installed in the top of the four-storey bell tower. These melodic bells added further to the European flavor of the church. In 1924 a pipe organ, still operable with a hand-pumped bellows, was installed in the organ loft at the rear of the church.

Built by German and Swiss immigrants, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was a tangible symbol of the congregation's origins. Religion played a most important part in the lives of these Catholic immigrants, and the church at Altus, reminiscent of old parish churches in Germany and Switzerland, was in part a recreation of the society they had left behind. St. Mary's murals, painted by the German artist Fuchs, give the church an artistic flavor unique in Arkansas.

Significant because of its architecture, artwork and relationship with the German-Swiss immigrants in Franklin County, St. Mary's is one of the most important church buildings in Arkansas.

* Ernie Deane, "A Church That Stands High on a Hill," Arkansas Gazette, December 30, 1962.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Oeschle, Placidus. "Historical Sketch of the Congregation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Altus, Arkansas." Privately printed, 1930. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

Property Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (St Marys Church) **FRANKLIN CO.** 74000406
State Arkansas Working Number 12, 29, 75, 2234

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

Important ethnic site

CONTROL

OK pl
1.5.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
w. R. Wice
1/26/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Lebovich
1-29-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-28-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Hurington
5.3.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 6-1-76 Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 3 1976

INT:2106-74



1. *St. Mary's Church*
Altus
me

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

AND/OR COMMON

Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Franklin

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

North elevation and facade, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

144

GPO 892-454

Loc.

*North elevation,
viewed from northwest*

144



2 St. Mary's Church
Altus, Arkansas
South

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Franklin

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

South and rear (east) elevations, viewed from the southeast

PHOTO NO.

2

GPO 892-454

altus Help
K
east)
elevations, viewed from
southeast.
2/24



3. St. Mary's Church
Alt
inter

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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AND/OR COMMON

Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

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Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas

COUNTY
Franklin

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Interior of the church, viewed from the west choir loft

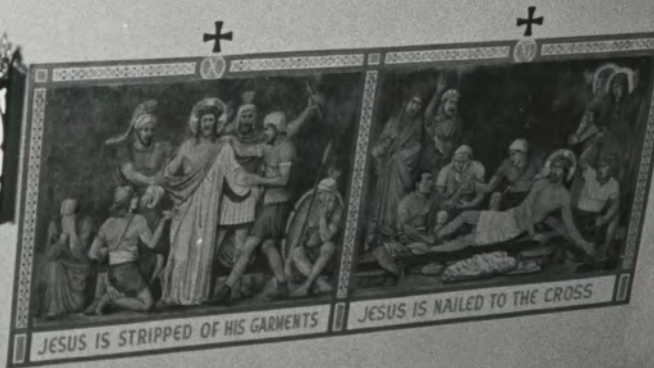
PHOTO NO.

344

GPO 892-454

Loc.

Interior, viewed from
west choir loft



4. St. Mary's Church
Re
As
de

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

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Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Franklin

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Detail of Fuchs murals and stained glass window, north wall

PHOTO NO.

4 24

GPO 892-454

actual Help
Ark
murals
and stained glass win-
dow, north wall
424

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 3 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

AND/OR COMMON

Church of St. Mary's

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Altus

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Franklin

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey, Ozark Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE 1966

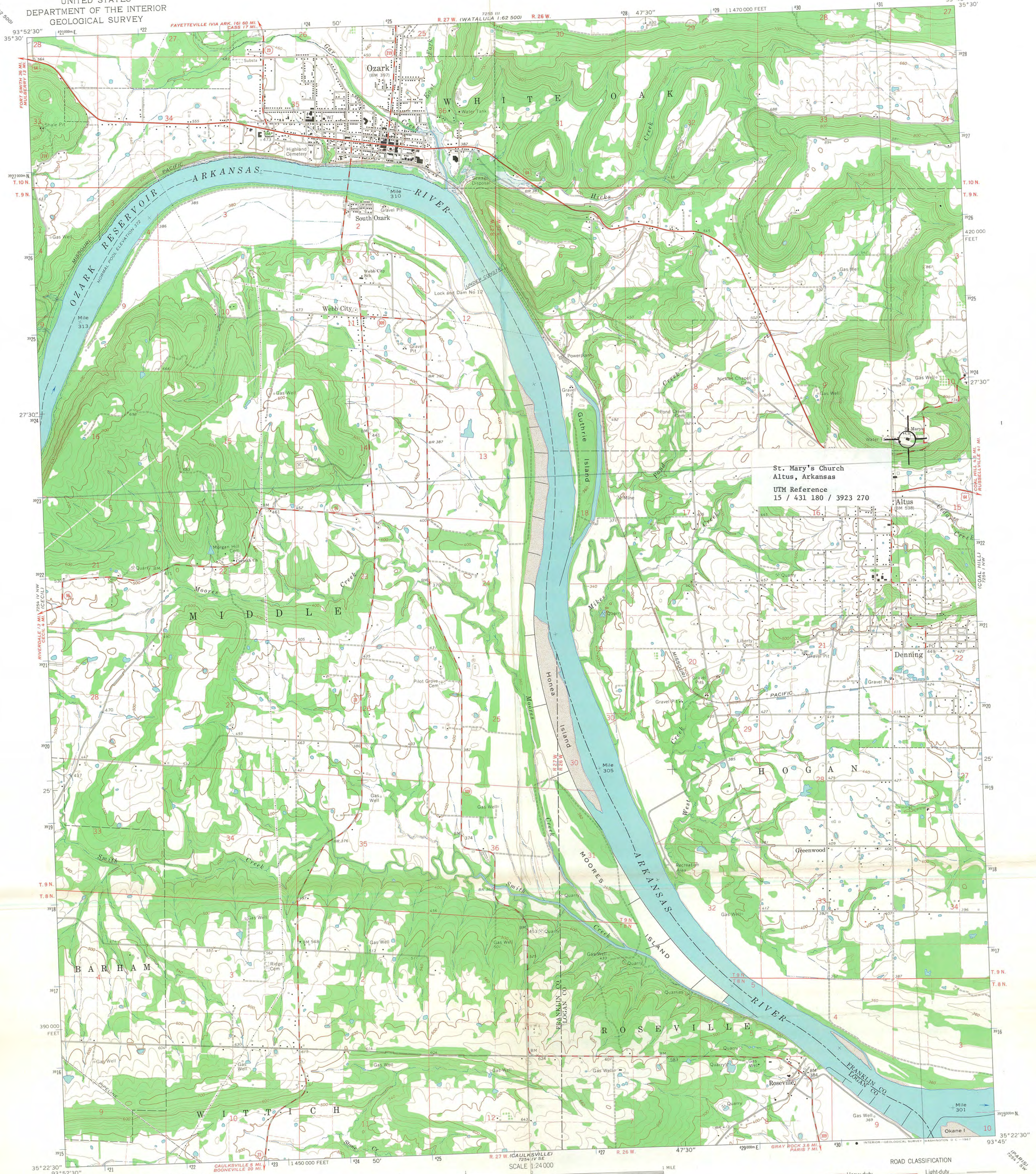
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

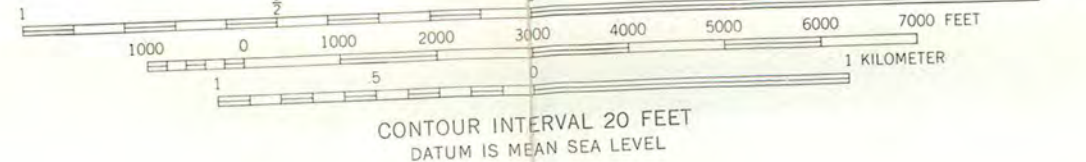
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OZARK QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



St. Mary's Church
Altus, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 431 180 / 3923 270

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Blue hatching indicates area to be submerged by Ozark Reservoir
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 ———
OZARK, ARK.
N3522.5—W9345/7.5
1966
AMS 7254 IV NE—SERIES V884



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FIRST STATE CAPITOL • 300 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201



December 24, 1975

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service - National Register
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Attached are National Register nominations for the following properties:

Modern News Building	<i>in separate envelope</i>	K. G. McRae House
St. Joseph's Home		First Presbyterian Church
Stitt-Patterson House		Ebenezer Camp Ground
John Tilley House		Dearing House
Vinson House		Joseph Starr Dunham House
Wiederkehr Wine Cellar		Dunn House
O'Neel-Blackburn House		Cleveland County Clerk's Building
Oakland Farm		Mouth of Calf Creek
Palmer House		Blakely House
Russey-Murray House		Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College
Short-Dodson House		Aycock House
Simon Sager Cabin		Alexander House
St. Mark's Episcopal Church		Bob Burns House
Elizabeth Lodge 215 F&AM		Adam Boyd House
Alexander George House		Baytown Site (3M01)
Gazette Building		Old State House Square Historic District
Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help		

These nominations have been approved by majority of the State Review Committee.

It is especially important that the Old State House Square Historic District nomination be considered as soon as possible, since one of the significant buildings within the district is scheduled for demolition at the hands of the Urban Renewal within a few weeks. We hope to be able to effect alteration of these plans so as to save the building, and the inclusion of the building in the National Register is critical to this aim.

Sincerely,

Anne Bartley
State Historic Preservation Officer

AB:cm

Enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered MAY 3 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
2 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (St. Mary's Church)	Altus Vicinity Franklin County
Dunham, Joseph Starr, House	Van Buren Crawford County
O'Neel-Blackburn House	Osage Vicinity Pike County
Blakely House	Social Hill Vicinity Hot Springs County
Stitt House	Hot Springs Garland County
Short-Dodson House	Hot Springs Garland County
Dearing House	Newark Vicinity Independence County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Humpal
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt
Hon. Ray Thornton
Hon. Bill Alexander
Regional Director, Southwest Region

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

✓PR:M Mott:coc 5/5/76

Harrison 3/18

The Reverend Robert H. Peacock

cc:

436

Preservation

National Building

Streets

Arkansas 72201

MAR 23 1981

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

South Central Regional Office

NR
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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
 ② OTHER NAMES: St. Mary's Church
 ③ date of entry: 5-3-76
 ④ county code:

⑤ LOCATION street & number: N of Altus city / town: Altus vicinity of: Altus state: AR county: Franklin
 ⑥ NPS REGION: SW

⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name):
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL ⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 3 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO ⑮ ACREAGE: 1.1
 if state who prepared form? Sp1 & O
☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION ☒ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☒ original site ☐ moved
☐ good ☐ ruins ☒ unaltered ☐ unknown
☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated
 ⑰ features: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0
☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ UNKNOWN-6
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☒ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO ⑳ SAVED? ☒ YES ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29
☒ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31
☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
☒ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐
 'oldest' ☐
 'only' ☐

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CHURCH CURRENTLY: CHURCH ㉕ dates of initial construction: 1902 major alterations: historic events: ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s): ECLECTIC ㉘ architect: ㉙ master builder: ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer: ㉜ interior decorator: ㉝ artist: ㉞ artisan: ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP Random ashlar sandstone, 1-story with tall clerestory, modified rectangle, gabled and shed roof sections; front triple-arched porch in antis, double-door entrance surmounted by three round-arched windows set into a half-circle, and pediment roundel; 1-story nave aisle, polygonal apse with conical roof; 4-story near square bell tower with arched entry, stylized denticulation, and louvered triple arches; interior Fridolin Fuchs murals, pressed-tin upper nave walls and ceiling, hand-carved railings. Unique eclectic church in Arkansas built by Swiss and German immigrants.

reviewers initials: KB date: 9/28 IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE