

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church

other names/site number Site# IZ0127

2. Location

street & number Southwest corner of the intersection of Izard County Roads 12 & 18 ☐ not for publication

city or town Mount Olive ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Izard code 065 zip code 72556

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Mattans
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/8/04
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

5/26/04
Date of Action

Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Plain-Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Built in 1916, the Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a well-preserved example of Plain-Traditional architecture. The single story wood-frame church building was constructed for the community of Mount Olive located on the banks of White River in Izard County. Measuring 44 feet long and 26 feet wide, the rectangular shaped building rests atop a continuous foundation of locally quarried stone and is sheltered by a gable roof covered with composition shingles. The weatherboard clad building departs somewhat from a typical rural church building in that the steeple is located on the roof's slope near the north corner of the church as opposed to centered on the ridge of the gable-roof which is typically the case with vernacular church buildings. The steeple also serves as an open bell tower with the building's original bell visible under the shelter of the steeple.

ELABORATION

The Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a well-preserved example of Plain-Traditional architecture. The single story wood-frame church building was constructed for the community of Mount Olive and has served the community since 1916. The rectangular building rests atop a continuous foundation of locally quarried stone and is sheltered by a gable roof covered with composition shingles. The weatherboard clad building departs somewhat from a typical rural church building in that the steeple is located on the roof's slope near the north corner of the church as opposed to centered on the ridge of the gable-roof which is typically the case with vernacular church buildings. The building is in excellent condition.

A few alterations have been made to the building since it was built in 1916. A small porch was added to the front of the building in 1938. The porch is topped by a gable roof that is supported by slightly battered wood columns atop concrete piers. A small rear addition was added in 1982 to be used as a kitchen. Although a fairly recent addition, the kitchen is sheathed in weatherboard siding that matches the rest of the building. This is the only non-historic addition and does little to detract from the historic appearance of the building.

North Elevation

The building faces north. Two symmetrically placed five-panel doors each provide entry into the sanctuary. A bronze plaque located between the doors gives a brief history of the church. Transom windows above the entry doors allowed additional ventilation for the sanctuary, but were covered with the addition of the front porch in 1938. Cornice returns exist at the ends of the roof slopes adding an element of detail to the façade.

East and West Elevation

The sides of the church face east and west and are identical. Four one-over-one double-hung windows placed six feet apart fenestrate the original portion of the church. The back part of each elevation is made up of the 1982 addition and is void of windows or doors. An infilled cistern located a few feet from the east side of the building once provided water for church-goers and the horses and mules that brought them to church.

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South Elevation

The kitchen added in 1982 comprises the south elevation. The kitchen was designed to blend with the existing building and is accessed by a single entrance in the rear center of the building. The addition is also fenestrated by two two-over-two double-hung windows.

Interior

The interior has several interesting elements. Original pine flooring remains in excellent condition. The sanctuary design is a traditional lecture hall floor plan. Two rows of pews are separated by a center aisle that leads directly to the front of the sanctuary. The right side of the sanctuary contains eleven rows of pews. The left side has ten rows of pews to make extra room for accessing the cord that is attached to the church bell. Two more pews located along the west wall accommodate the choir.

As one enters the sanctuary the pulpit is located at the front end of the center aisle on a raised platform. The unpretentious dark-stained, hand-made pine pulpit blends well with the quiet simplicity of the sanctuary. Directly in front of the pulpit is a four feet long communion table that complements the pulpit in color and symmetry. Directly in front of the communion table is a "mourner's bench". It is made of lightly stained pine that contrasts with the floor, pulpit, and pews of a darker hue. An even lighter ivory-colored center strip runs the length of the bench to accent the piece. Directly behind the pulpit is a dark-stained, tongue-in-groove pine bench that serves as a seat for the minister and visiting speakers. A piano stands on the left side of the pulpit as one looks toward the front from the rear of the sanctuary. A simple pine lectern is located to the right of the pulpit half way to the east wall. Two original kerosene lamp stands remain as reminders of times past. Likely there were at least a dozen or more of these lamp stands along the walls when the church was first built.

Outbuildings

Two privies built in the late 1970s are located near the back of the property. One was for males while the other is for females. A covered pavilion is located off of the building's southwest corner. All three are non-historic and thus considered noncontributing resources.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1916-1954

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

E.W. Jeffery

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church, located in the small community of Mount Olive in Izard County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** as the only remaining institutional building in the town of Mount Olive. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an outstanding example the Plain-Traditional style of architecture commonly used in the construction of rural church buildings. The building has served as a religious center for the community for almost 90 years and thus falls under **Criterion Consideration A: religious owned properties**.

ELABORATION

Jehoiada Jeffery arrived in present day Izard County in 1815 and was the first pioneer to permanently settle the area. Jehoiada was twenty-six years old when he, his wife Mary Weir (or Ware) of Virginia, his daughter, Jane and sons, Elijah and Miles arrived on the banks of the White River in the wilderness of north central Arkansas. Coming fresh from the War of 1812 where he served under Andrew Jackson, Captain Peter Craig and Captain John Shaw; fighting in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and New Orleans, Jehoiada received with his discharge the right to one hundred sixty acres of land west of the Mississippi.

Returning to his home in southern Illinois, Jehoiada collected his young family and trekked across the wilderness from Illinois to north central Arkansas, settling on the banks of the White River in an area known as Pine Bayou. There he built a two-story log home and cleared land for farming, creating with his farmstead the first permanent settlement between Batesville and the Missouri State line.

Soon after Jehoiada and his family became established in the area, other settlers began arriving, including his father James Jeffery and brothers Daniel and Jesse. As settlement in the area grew, Pine Bayou became a small, established community which soon had its name changed to Mount Olive, after the mountain rising on the eastside of the town.

Jehoiada prospered over the years, becoming a wealthy, respected farmer raising cattle,

Orleans. He served as a representative to the Territorial Legislature in Little Rock from 1824-1829. During his legislative service, Jehoiada introduced bills that created Izard County and Fulton County. Following the establishment of the county seat of Izard County at Mount Olive in 1830, Jehoiada served as county judge from 1833-1838. He also served as Justice of the Peace for twenty-five years.

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The Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church was one of the first churches founded in Arkansas. It was organized in 1826 as the White River Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a member of the Arkansas Presbytery. The Arkansas Presbytery was created in 1824 in Batesville and organized into three districts: White River, Crawford, and Red River. The Mount Olive Church was designated for membership in the White River District.

Jehoiada Jeffery, and his brother, Daniel Jeffery were both founding members of the Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Jehoiada represented the Mount Olive congregation in the 1827 organizational meeting of the Arkansas Presbytery. Jehoiada's son, Little Daniel Jeffery became a noted Cumberland Presbyterian Minister at Mount Olive. Jehoiada's son-in-law, Elihu Bone, and a nephew, Phillip Jeffery also would become prominent ministers. Jehoiada's daughter, Eda, and a niece, Synthia Brickey, were charter members of the nearby Strawberry congregation which was formed shortly after the Mount Olive Church was established.

After the Civil War, steamboats began to navigate White River in the late 1800s making Mount Olive an important commercial port. Cotton, furs, hogs, cattle, lumber, and other produce were shipped from Mount Olive to markets in such places as Batesville, Memphis, and New Orleans. Steamboats returning up the White River carried salt, clothing, guns and ammunition for hunting, whiskey, and other consumer goods for residents of the Mount Olive area. The courthouse and river trade made Mount Olive the most important community in Izard County by the end of the 19th Century.

By 1902, the Iron Mountain Railroad had completed tracks down White River through Mount Olive to Batesville and other points south. Inevitably, the steamboat traffic on the White River began to fade away. Mount Olive's river port vanished almost overnight but it was replaced by a train depot established by the Iron Mountain Railroad. The depot became an important hub of commercial activity instead of the river landing, and business continued at a more intensive rate.

By 1916, Mount Olive boasted a population of over 1,000. It was during this time that a new Cumberland Presbyterian Church building was constructed. The land, material and much of the labor was provided by descendants of Jehoiada and Daniel Jeffery who had originally founded the church. Another institution, the Mount Olive Male and Female Academy, thrived as the area's most prominent center of education and culture. Rail transportation made it possible for the academy to draw students from a wide area up and down the White River Valley. In addition to an outstanding Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the locally renowned Mount Olive Male and Female Academy, the town had two cotton gins, several blacksmith shops, and a large lumber and stave mill that employed at least 100 men counting those who cut and hauled logs to the mill. The town contained several retail stores, and a couple of hotels that were filled during court days. It had a post office, and two medical doctors that served the town and surrounding farms.

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The Iron Mountain Railroad made it possible for Mount Olive residents to order their clothing, tools, seed, fertilizer, and other goods from Sears and Roebuck in Chicago. It also made it possible for people to easily travel to faraway places like Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Little Rock, and Memphis. Life was good. Store bought clothes from the city, full employment in the town, good medical doctors, a comfortable new church, an outstanding school, and the county seat gave Mount Olive some powerful bragging rights as one of the White River Valley's shining jewels.

Just over the horizon, however, lurked a sea of changes that Mount Olive did not anticipate. The town's retail establishments began to struggle trying to compete with Sears and Roebuck catalog sales. The white oak timber in the area had been stripped away for barrel staves manufactured by the Mount Olive Stave Company, the town's largest employer. The political balance of power had shifted from Mount Olive eastward toward Melbourne, and the Melbourne residents were successful in gaining the courthouse for their community.

Mount Olive was already showing signs of trouble when World War I began to beckon many of its young men to participate in the fighting. Some were killed in the war and others, by choice, never returned. Having seen the outside world for the first time, young, ambitious ex-soldiers sought greater opportunities in faraway places like Kansas City, Batesville, Little Rock, and Memphis.

Ironically, by 1916, exactly a hundred years since its birth, Mount Olive was headed for its grave. It had lost its largest industry, the Mount Olive Stave Company to Batesville; the railroad and Sears and Roebuck had dried up the town's retail business, the courthouse had relocated to Melbourne, its excellent school enrollment was dwindling, and most of its young men were on their way to great adventures far beyond the mountains that would no longer be their home. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church was losing members and barely hanging on.

By the end of World War II Mount Olive was practically a ghost town. The train depot was closed, the post office shut down, the retail businesses disappeared, the school was empty, and the few remaining young men that were there had served in the military, and like many of their World War I counterparts, were settling in other places with greater promise of economic and cultural opportunities.

By 1950, Mount Olive was stone cold dead. The only remaining institution was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

By November of 1961 the church had ceased meeting. Although the Church was down, it was not completely defunct. Thanks to the will of some older members of the Presbytery, the Mount Olive was left on the active roll of churches. The church was barely managing to cling to life when in the 1970s a few families begin

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Bibliography

returning to Mount Olive. In 1979 several members in the community led a drive to revitalize the church and regular services were once again held there. Under the leadership of Jeff Sanders the church has continued to make progress.

The Church now hosts an annual Mount Olive Homecoming in September of each year. The Homecoming is a high-profile activity that attracts a hundred or more visitors each year from places near and far who come greet old friends and reminisce about days gone by. The Church continues to have regular services with a congregation of about 30 or more people assembling there each Sunday for worship.

Today Mount Olive survives as a rural community with few remaining reminders of the thriving town that once existed on the banks of the White River. One of those reminders is the Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Built at the end of the town's heyday, the church stands today as a reminder of Mount Olive's rich history and as a landmark for the community.

Statement of Significance

The Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A and C** with **local significance**, as the only remaining historic institutional building in Mount Olive and as an excellent example of a Plain-Traditional style building. It is also being nominated under **Criterion Consideration A: religious properties**.

Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 581853 3984203
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lots 8,9,10,11, and 12; Block 8, Town of Mount Olive; Section 31 Township 16N, Range 10W

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale Hanks Edited by: Zac Cothren
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3/15/2004
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street telephone (501)324-9880
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Izard

DATE RECEIVED: 4/14/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000503

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/26/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
2. Izard County, AR
3. Zoe Coffman
4. Jan. 2004
5. AHPP
6. Eastward North (front) elevation. Looking southwest.
7. 1



1. Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
2. Izard County, AR
3. Zane Cethura
4. Jan. 2004
5. AHPP
6. North and west elevation. Looking southeast
7. 2



1. Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
2. Izard County, AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. 1/2004
5. AHPP
6. Vest elevation looking east.
7. 3



1. Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church
2. Izard County, AR
3. Zinc Coffin
4. 1/2004
5. AHPP
6. South east corner looking north west.
7. -4

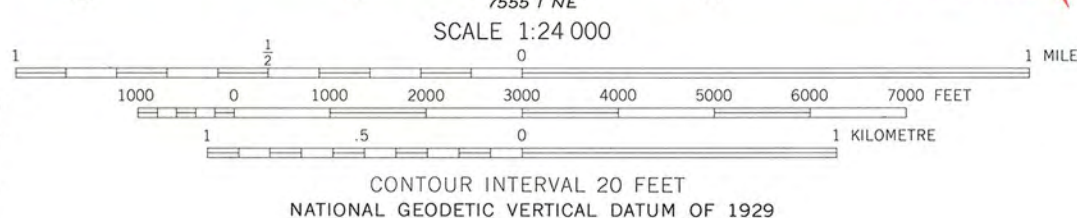


1. Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
2. Izard County, AR
3. Zae Githran
4. 1/2004
5. AHPP
6. East side looking west.
7. 5



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre 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
Map photoinspected 1980
No major culture or drainage changes observed

Mount Olive Cumberland
Presbyterian Church
Mount Olive, Izard Co., AR
UTM: 151581954/3984203



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt =====
State Route

BOSWELL, ARK.
N3600—W9200/7.5

1964
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980
AMS 7556 II SE—SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

Little Rock, AR 72201

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fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

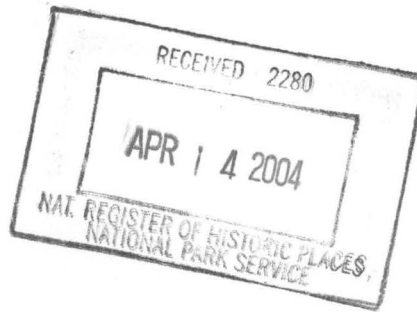
e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

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April 8, 2004

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Mount Olive Cumberland Presbyterian Church- Mount
Olive, Izard County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zac

Enclosure



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SOY INK