

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
MOUNT OLIVET METHODIST CHURCH
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER off AR 35 on the FAIRGROUNDS
CITY, TOWN RISON
STATE ARKANSAS
VICINITY OF CODE 05
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOURTH
COUNTY CLEVELAND CODE 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
CLEVELAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MRS. JAMES L. MOORE)
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN RISON
VICINITY OF
STATE ARKANSAS

Not in use at present.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
CLERK'S OFFICE
STREET & NUMBER
CLEVELAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CITY, TOWN RISON
STATE ARKANSAS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

—UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

—ORIGINAL SITE
☒ MOVED DATE 1975

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Olivet Church is a one-storey frame structure constructed c. 1870. The basic floor plan is rectangular with twin entries located on the short side of the rectangle. White clapboard walls and a gable roof of green shingles enclose the structure, which measures approximately forty feet by sixty feet.

The simple lines of the church are broken only by window and door openings, all of which have very plain trim. The windows are all six-light, double-hung sash. The north and south elevations each feature four such windows, and the rear of the church (east elevation) has two of them. The symmetrical facade features two separate entries, both of which have horizontally paneled doors. A boxed cornice with returns is found on both gable ends of the building with a plain frieze along both side elevations.

The simplicity of the exterior is continued in the interior of the church, which consists of a single open room. A row of square slender posts bisects the room, and a small raised platform lies across the northwest corner. The original floor has been covered over, and the ceiling has been lowered; however, restoration plans call for the removal of the floor and ceiling alterations. The original floor and the original board and batten ceiling are still in place.

In 1975 Mount Olivet Church was moved to a new location to prevent its demolition. The church now rests at the Cleveland County fairgrounds, about sixteen miles from the site where it was built. The Cleveland County Historical Society plans to move in several other historic structures from around the county to reconstruct a nineteenth-century village. The peaceful tree-shaded setting provided at the fairgrounds area is now more appropriate than the original site which lies near a busy highway.

The simplicity of Mount Olivet Church is typical of a great many nineteenth-century rural churches in Arkansas. Though moved from its original site, the building itself has changed little since its construction. Structurally, the building is in excellent condition and is now undergoing minor restoration efforts to return it to its original appearance.

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 July 10, 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Olivet Methodist Church typifies the simple style of rural Arkansas churches in the second half of the nineteenth-century. This Cleveland County church is a simple rectangular structure with a gable roof and plain trim around the symmetrically-placed window and door openings. The functional structure consists of one large room, approximately forty feet by sixty feet, which was used for church meetings.

According to the centennial edition of a Cleveland County newspaper, the early settlers in the area were predominantly of the Methodist faith. This fact is supported by census figures which show the Methodists as having the largest number of churches in the area in 1870. Mount Olivet, constructed about 1867, is the oldest surviving Methodist Church in the Cleveland County area.

On July 10, 1867, Anson and Harriet Black deeded an acre of land in what was then Bradley County to five trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. P. Culpepper, James Chambers, T. Harper, John Culpepper and Jonathon Cooper, trustees of the newly organized church, paid a token sum of ten dollars for a building site on the Pine Bluff-to-Warren road. The deed stipulates that the land be used "to erect and build or cause to be erected and built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the members of Methodist Episcopal Church South...."*

Construction of the church is believed to have commenced soon after the land was acquired in 1867. Lumber was hauled by ox-drawn wagons from Warren, located some twenty-three miles away. Church members worked together to construct the building and to make the necessary furnishings for the interior. (Some of the original hand-hewn pews are still in existence and will be placed in the church when its restoration is complete.)

Like other rural churches in nineteenth-century Arkansas, Mount Olivet Church was both a religious and social center in the surrounding community. Brush-arbor and tent-meeting revivals were often held on the grounds of Mount Olivet Church. After Sunday morning services "dinner-on-the-grounds" enabled church members who were often isolated during the week to visit and have fellowship with other families.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradley County Deed Record Book, Vol. I, p. 597.

Cleveland County Herald (Rison, Arkansas), March 14, 1973.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

Wilson, Cora. "Mt. Olivet Methodist Church." Unpublished manuscript on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK - w
12-22-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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5	7	4	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	7	5	7	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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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

SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

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 GENE RICHARDSON

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Though the congregation of Mount Olivet Church still meets, the 1867 church building is no longer in use. To prevent its demolition the building was given to the Cleveland County Historical Society and moved to a new location at the county fairgrounds.

Mount Olivet Church is now being restored by the Cleveland County Historical Society. The building will be used for meetings of the society and other groups. The church is the first of several historic Cleveland County structures to be moved to the county fairgrounds as part of a planned pioneer village.

Though Mount Olivet Church has been moved from its original site, it nevertheless deserves National Register recognition because of its architectural and historic significance. Architecturally, Mount Olivet represents the simple style employed by rural churches scattered across Arkansas in the nineteenth century. The church building, which predates the organization of the county in 1873, is one of the oldest structures still standing in Cleveland County. Historically the construction of Mount Olivet Church illustrates the important role of religious institutions in the lives of nineteenth-century rural Arkansas people.

Property Maunt Olivet Methodist Church

State Arkansas

Working Number 10.14.75.1800

75000377

CLEVELAND
STUBBS CO.

TECHNICAL

Photos 2

Maps 1 1 cont. sheet (#18)

CONTROL

OK pl
10.20.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
11-21-75

A religious structure that has been moved.
However it is the "oldest surviving Methodist Church"
in the County and does represent a style of architecture
that is rapidly disappearing.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Not unusual architecturally or historically - moved in '75 to prevent demolition and will be
part of a recreated historical village. Since it is moved, the bldg must derive significance from architecture. How many
of these churches are still remaining in Arkansas? CALL ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
called Dianna Kirk: 20 or so left - typical of rural church bldgs in Ark. This will be the first
11/26/75 bldg from the county on the NR. Previous site had
new church 20 ft. from it, on busy intersection. The
church is the first bldg in reconstructed village.
The age of this bldg is unusual for the area.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
11-26-75
Colz

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
11-28-75

I don't see any significant
damage to integrity here - it would
appear that the setting will improve.

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

2-3-76

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered DEC 1 1975

INT:2106-74



Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland Co., Ark.
east and north elevations

2

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 12/1/75

Title: Mount Olivet Methodist Church

Cleveland County, Arkansas

Loc. Elevation & facade, viewed
from NW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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OCT 14 1975

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DEC 1 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

MOUNT OLIVET METHODIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

RISON

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
CLEVELAND

STATE
ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 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

1

of 4



Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland County, Ark.

north elevation + facade, viewed from the northwest

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 12/1/75

Title: Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland County, Arkansas

Loc. E + N elevation, viewed from
NE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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1 NAME

HISTORIC MOUNT OLIVET METHODIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

RISON

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

CLEVELAND

STATE

ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

EAST AND NORTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE NORTHEAST

PHOTO NO

2

24



Mt. Olivet Church (+ Cleveland County Clerk's Building)
Hison, Cleveland County, Arkansas
viewed from the northeast

3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 12/1/75-

Title: Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland County, Arkansas

Loc. viewed from the northeast

3 of 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 23 1975

DATE ENTERED Dec. 1, 1975
~~10-14-75~~

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olivet Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Rison

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Cleveland

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO December, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

3 of 4



Mt. Olivet Church (+ County Clerk's Building)
Hickson, Cleveland County, Arkansas

viewed from the northwest

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 12/1/75-

Title: Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland County, Arkansas

Loc. Viewed from the northwest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 23 1975

DATE ENTERED

DEC 15 1975
~~10-1-75~~

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olivet Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Rison

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Cleveland

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO December, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

4 24

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC MOUNT OLIVET METHODIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN RISON

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY CLEVELAND

STATE ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RISON QUADRANGLE

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1970

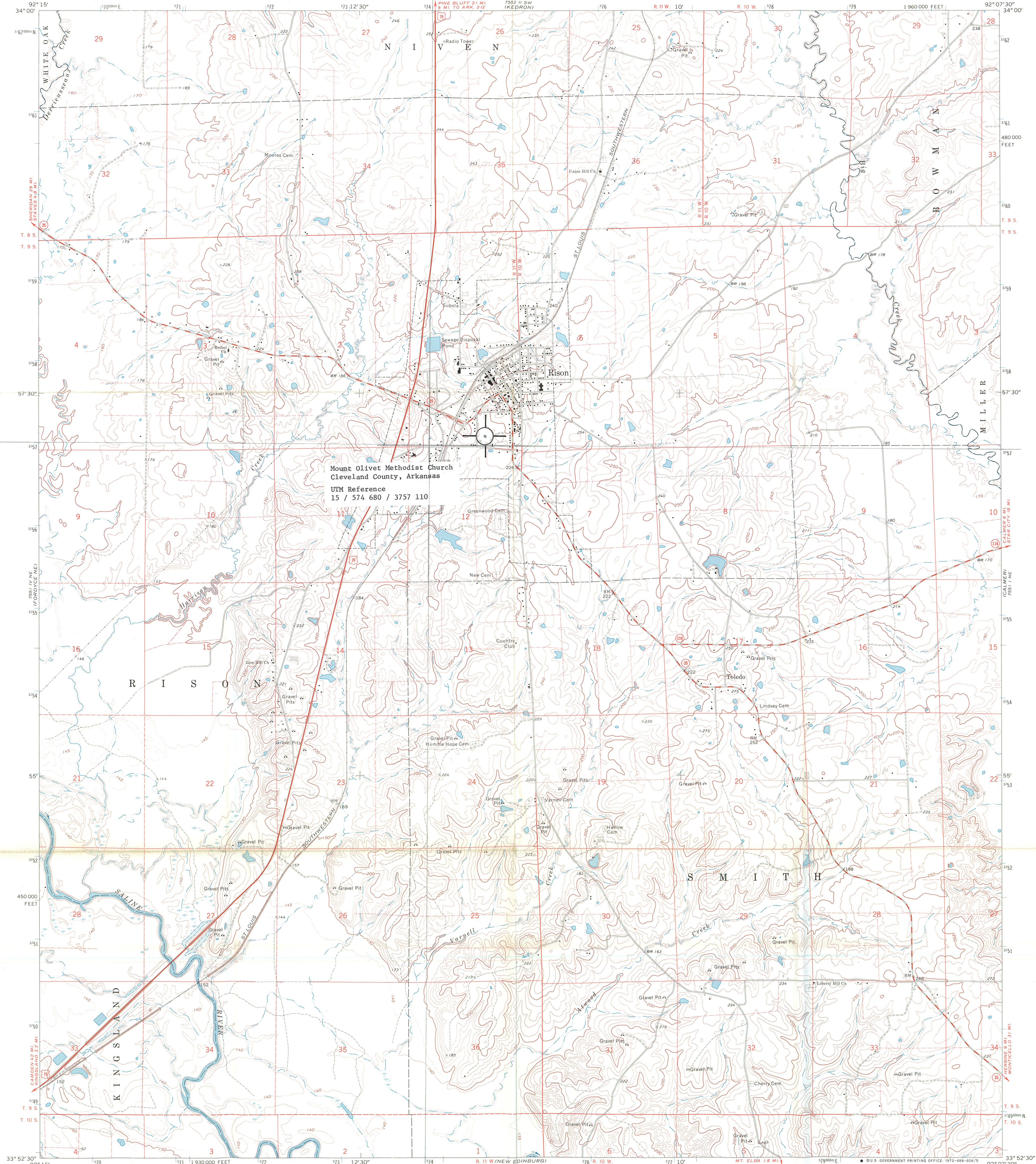
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

RISON QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—CLEVELAND CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Cleveland County, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 574 680 / 3757 110

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
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

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route



RISON, ARK.
N3352.5-W9207.5/7.5

1970

AMS 7551 I NW—SERIES V884

4
RAY THORNTON
4TH DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1109 LONGWORTH BLDG.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3772

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2520 FEDERAL BLDG.
PINE BLUFF, ARK. 71601
501-535-7750

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMBER:

COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

November 13, 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington
Chief, Branch of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Interior Building, 18th & C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

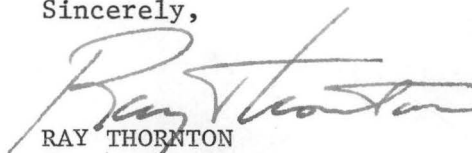
Dear Mr. Herrington:

This is to express my interest in the application of the Cleveland County, Arkansas Historical Society for the preservation of the 108-year-old Mt. Olivet Methodist Church in Rison, Arkansas.

As you may know, this church will form the nucleus of a Pioneer Village that the Historical Society hopes to erect, and will serve as a living museum.

I would appreciate your giving favorable consideration for this worthwhile project. Thank you.

Sincerely,



RAY THORNTON
Member of Congress

RT:ar

November 21, 1975

Honorable Ray Thornton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thornton:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter on behalf of the Cleveland County Historical Society, Arkansas, regarding preservation of Mt. Olivet Methodist Church.

We appreciate your interest and will provide you a reply at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Everhardt
Director

LS (2)) w/incoming
FNP:CRBraxton:crb:11-21-75

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 1 1975

Name

Location

Mount Olivet Methodist Church

Fairgrounds
Rison
Cleveland County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. Ray Thornton, Jr.

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Gene Richardson
Acting Director
Dept. of Natural and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR MMott/je 12/8/75

H34-PR

DEC 3 1975

Honorable Ray Thornton
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Mt. Olivet
Methodist Church in Rison, Arkansas.

This property has been reviewed by the National Park
Service. We are pleased to inform you that, under the
provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of
1966, it was entered in the National Register of Historic
Places on December 1, 1975.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally
Associate
Director

bcc:
Mr. Gene Richardson
Acting Director, Department of Natural
and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 w/c of inc.

bcc:
Reg., Dir., Southwest)

D's Reading File/ P/ PH/ PR)/ L) IS)/ IS-DChron.
✓ BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

FNP:WJandl:aep:12/2/75

Braxton 12/2
Jandl
Herrington
for Murtagh
Wilson for
PH

T. Wood
12/2
Whitaker 12/3



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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



December 16, 1975



Mr. Ward Jandl
Office of Nomination and Review
National Park Service - National Register
Department of the Interior
18th & "C" Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Mount Olivet Methodist Church
Rison, Cleveland County, Arkansas

Dear Ward:

Enclosed are the additional photos you requested of Mount Olivet Methodist Church in Rison, Arkansas. Please add these photographs to our National Register nomination of Mount Olivet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianna Kirk

Dianna Kirk, Historian
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DK:cm

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Mount Olivet Methodist Church
 2 OTHER NAMES:
 3 date of entry: 12-1-75
 4 county codes: 025

5 LOCATION street & number: Fairgrounds off AR 35
 city / town: Rison
 vicinity of:
 state: AR
 county: Cleveland
 6 NPS REGION: Southwest

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

9 EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ NABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL
 10 FUNDED?: ☐ YES ☐ NO
 11 CONGRESS DISTRICT: 4th
 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?: ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?: ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO
 15 ACREAGE: 2.1
☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION:
☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☐ original site
☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☒ moved 1975
☒ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown
☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated
 17 features:
 INTERIOR: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONMENTAL: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☒ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

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

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

23 functions:
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CHURCH
 CURRENTLY: VACANT
 24 dates of initial construction: 1867
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): GREEK REVIVAL
 27 architect:
 28 master builder:
 29 engineer:

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

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

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: FRAME, CLAPBOARDING; 1 STORY, RECTANGULAR, GABLED ROOF, TWIN FRONT paneled ENTRANCES, FLAT-ARCHED OPENINGS, SIMPLE FRIEZE, BOXED EAVES, PARTIAL END RETURNS; SIMPLE INTERIOR; RESTORED; MOVED, 1975. ~~RESTORED~~ GREEK REVIVAL. OLDEST SURVIVING METHODIST CHURCH in COUNTY.

reviewers initials: GEOFF date: 9.13.77

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE