

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0351717

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 29 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

** Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church-South and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Cato Road

CITY, TOWN

Cato

☒ VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

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

Trustees, Cato United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 600 (312 West Pershing Blvd.)

CITY, TOWN

North Little Rock,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Markham & Spring Streets

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cato Methodist Church, a small frame structure of simple lines, was constructed in 1880 under the direction of a local contractor named Wilkerson. The present frame building replaced a log church which was built about 1872 and burned in 1880.

Originally the church was of two storeys with a steep gable roof and boxed cornices with returns. The upper floor was used by the local Masonic Lodge and the lower floor housed the Methodist congregation. In 1945 the upper storey was removed.

The present structure is one storey and measures approximately 30 feet x 60 feet. The building is sheathed in its original clapboard and has a low-pitch gable roof with exposed rafters. Projecting above the ridge line at the east end of the roof is a small bell tower with a high hip roof and a wooden finial.

The simple lines of the building are broken only by door and window openings. Both the north and south elevations have four double-hung windows set in simple wood frames. Two separate entries are symmetrically situated on the east elevation, and originally provided separate access for the men and the women and children. Plain wooden porches with low gable roofs and exposed rafters cover these twin entries. Like the bell tower, these porches were added during the 1945 remodeling of the church.

The simplicity of the structure is continued on the interior. The single open room is lined with narrow flushboard above vertically paneled wainscot. Simple moulding surrounds the window and door openings. The original floor was covered in 1945 with narrow planks set in a diagonal pattern. Aisles leading from each entry divide the simple pews of wide-plank pine into three sections. A small raised platform with railing projects from the west wall and encloses the minister's pulpit.

Lying due south of the church is the cemetery. Enclosed by a wire fence, this grassy area contains a large number of simple gravestones and monuments erected in the cemetery during the past century.

This simple church and cemetery, still on the original site, represents a significant part of rural Arkansas history.

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 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

1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Wilkerson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This old church was organized in 1872 by the first settlers who moved to the southern Faulkner County/northern Pulaski County area just after the War Between the States. It was the typical Methodist Circuit Rider's Church and was on the same circuit with several other churches.

The Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company donated and deeded the property to the trustees, John J. Jagers, Noel Beasley and William D. Springer, of the Frenchman Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and their successors and assigns forever in a deed dated May 2, 1874. Its cemetery dated back to 1873 when Mrs. Watt Caples was buried there. The first church building was a log structure, but it was lost by fire in 1880. The present building, which originally contained an upper storey as a Masonic Lodge, was built in the style of the 1880's in rural Arkansas

The church was remodeled in 1945 and the upper storey removed. The original interior is still complete with pine pews that contain boards as wide as 24 inches. The original two separate front entrances were retained when the church was remodeled, one for the men and one for the women and children.

For 90 years, the church served as the community center for the Cato community, which is one of the oldest settlements in Faulkner and Pulaski Counties. When the Camp Robinson reservation was taken over by the army in 1940, it left the church in a small pocket and the community of Cato cut-off from its direct routes to North Little Rock. Indeed, it forced the largest group of families that supported the church and community out of the area entirely. The church then declined and is now inactive except for occasional fellowship services and for the annual "Homecoming" held each first Sunday in June. At this annual event money is raised to maintain the old building and cemetery, which are in good condition at present. The property is in the charge of four trustees who are appointed by the Charge Conference of the Bethel United Methodist Church located about 4 miles east of Cato.

The chairman of the trustees has a file containing all the church rolls and "Quarterly Conference" records back as far as 1873. The Daughters of the American Revolution has copied these books of records and cross-indexed the names of the members in those early days.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Cato Methodist Church Celebrates 75th Anniversary." Arkansas Methodist, June 19, 1947, pp. 8-9.

"Cato United Methodist Church Bulletin," 100th Anniversary Homecoming, June 4, 1972. On file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Quarterly Conference Records, Bartlett Circuit, Little Rock District, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, March 1873-1906. On file with Cato Trustee William H. Burgin, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY five acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 5 6 7 1 6 0 3 8 6 5 1 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
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

S. H. Burgin, Chairman of Trustees, Cato Methodist Church

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Dianna Kirk, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program 6-8-76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

300 West Markham

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

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 6-8-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 10/22/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 10/28/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Although revered as a shrine in the hearts of all those who worshiped there or whose ancestors did and spoke so many times of the little white church, the main historical significance of the old church and cemetery is that it is a rare and perfect example of the old circuit rider's church which was so very important in settling this part of the United States, and indeed the whole country.

Property Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery

State Arkansas

Working Number 6.29.76.3683

Pulaski Co.

76000450

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
7.1.76

HISTORIAN

The appearance has been greatly affected by the removal of the 2nd story, but the structure used as a church has been retained, including the 3 entrances (separate for men & women) and an essentially intact interior. Its historical significance is enhanced by its date of origin (late for circuit riders) and its continuing use as a community center until recently. *B. Groves* 7/9/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Beth & I agree this is a pretty marginal nomination but accept it under Criterion A as a typical Methodist Circuit Rider's Church

Accept
Soldham
7/20/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

It has local importance, despite removal of 2nd story, agree c Beth & Sally

Accept
Cole
10-19-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Wm
10/20/76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____
Federal Register Entry 12-7-76 Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 22 1976

INT:2106-74



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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church, South and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Cato

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Church and cemetery, viewed from the southeast

PHOTO NO.

1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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1 NAME

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AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Cato

☒ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

East and north elevations, viewed from the northeast

2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Cato

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Interior

3

INT: 2983-75



Cato Methodist Church

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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RECEIVED

JUN 24 1976

DATE ENTERED

OCT 22 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church, South and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Cato

—X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn, copy

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

C. 1895 photograph, south elevation

PHOTO NO.

4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

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DATE ENTERED

OCT 22 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church, South and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____XVICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Cato

Pulaski

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geogological Survey

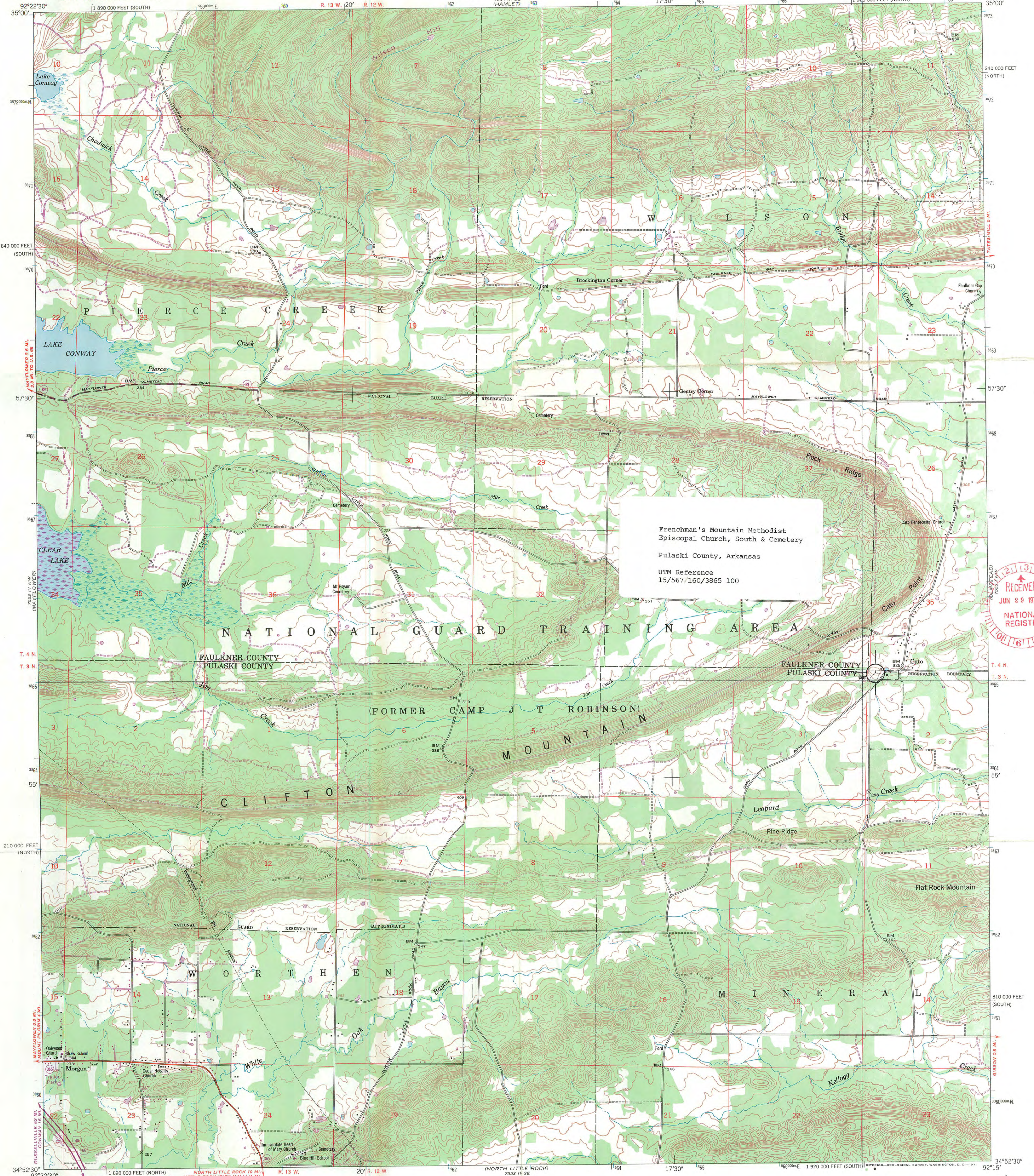
SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1953
Photorevised 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

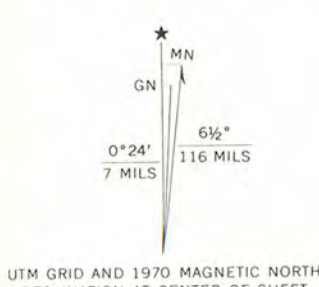
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Frenchman's Mountain Methodist
Episcopal Church, South & Cemetery
Pulaski County, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15/567 160/3865 100



Maped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system,
north and south zones
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked



SCALE 1:24000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
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
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

CATO, ARK.
N3452.5—W9215/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 7553 IV NE—SERIES V884

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered OCT 22 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery	Cato vicinity Pulaski County
Gazette Building	Little Rock Pulaski County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

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

880 MMott/row 11/1/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/9/76
 Reviewer: INITIALS: BG
 (NR) DOE OCT 22 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Frenchman's Mountain Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery

OTHER NAMES: Cato United Methodist Church and Cemetery - secondary

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: W of Cato on Cato Rd.

CITY, TOWN

STATE: Arkansas

05

VICINITY OF: Cato

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

COUNTY: Pulaski

code

119

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
 EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
 ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR

DETERIORATED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated

UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church

now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC, AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE, ART, COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, EXPLORATION, INDUSTRY, INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LAW/Gov't/politics, LITERATURE, MILITARY, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION -22, SCIENCE, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment, health, recreation, settlement -29, socio/cultural, urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder: ? Willkerson

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role
&
appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1880

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1945

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1880 - 1940

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

with pyramidal roof, description: Frame, clapboarding; 1 story, rectangular, gabled roof, small front porch, 2 separate entrances on west with gabled porches; added in 1945; bell tower, porch, and new floor added, 2nd story removed, 1945; original interior; although original floor was covered with new wooden floor in 1945; 2nd story removed in 1945. Acreage includes cemetery.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Second Church built for a parcel of early settlers in northern Pulaski and southern Faulkner counties; originally served by Methodist circuit riders, the church remained an important focus of community activity well into the 20th century.