

NR listed 4/27/92

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: First United Methodist Church

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 204 South Main

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hamburg

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Ashley

code: AR 003

zip code: 71646

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

3-10-92  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic: Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Gothic Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation brick roof asphalt  
walls brick other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1910

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: J. A. Nolley/Sebe Nolley  
R. J. McBride

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>612030</u>	<u>3676650</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

All of Lot Number One in Block Number Twenty Three in the town of Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

=====  
Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 01/08/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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### Summary

The First United Methodist Church consists of the original, single-story brick Gothic Revival sanctuary and associated anterooms to the north, and a sympathetic two-story brick addition that wraps around the western (rear) and southern elevations of the original structure.

### Elaboration

The First United Methodist Church consists of the original, single-story, brick construction Gothic Revival sanctuary and associated anterooms to the north, and a sympathetic two-story brick addition that wraps around the western (rear) and southern elevations of the original structure. The overall plan is thus irregular, though the original structure featured a belfry tower to the north and a symmetrically-placed entrance tower to the south, both of which led into separate small foyers or vestibules. The sanctuary was designed to be roughly rectangular in shape, though an "aisle" area to the south was incorporated into the design to allow for extra capacity when required, yet could be closed-off from the main auditorium for Sunday School classes and other functions by the means of rolling wood doors (since removed). The sanctuary was set upon a raised basement, which served as the larger function and meeting spaces for the church. A single chimney rises just to the west of the wall gable in the southern elevation of the original church, venting the original pastor's study below. The sloping roof planes are covered with composition shingles, while the flat sections are sealed with a built-up tar roof. The walls are constructed of red and buff brick, and the entire structure rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

The eastern or front elevation of the church is composed of the two-story addition to the south and the original building to the north. The original structure consists of two square, crenelated towers flanking the gable end of the tall sanctuary space behind that are connected by a flat roof, single-story space (that provides a continuation of the seating space of the main sanctuary within). The smaller tower to the south is lighted with three symmetrically-placed lancet windows placed above the large, central, double-leaf entrance below, also set into a pointed arch opening. The recessed gable end between the towers is lighted with a single, central pointed arch, stained glass window above two symmetrically-placed pair of windows in the crenelated, single-story section below. The northern tower features two louvered lancet windows in the belfry section above, both of which are set into buff brick panels recessed into rectangular openings in the red brick of the tower. Directly below are two rectangular openings that are lighted with a single stained-glass window each, and a central double-leaf entrance below is also set into a pointed arch and accessed via a concrete staircase. The towers are defined by both perpendicular and angled buttresses, stepped with formed stone offsets. To the south of the southern tower extends the "aisle" section mentioned above, which is also lighted with a single, stained-glass Gothic window, and the eastern elevation of the addition is accessed via a central door set into a pointed arch opening, and lighted with six-over-six clear glass windows set into rectangular openings.

The southern elevation of the addition is lighted with three groups of six-over-six wood sash windows to the east and a single window just to the west of the projection in the wall that allows for the eastern entrance into the addition. The southern elevation of the original church (a narrow alley separates it from all but a connector at the rear of the addition) is lighted with stained-glass windows of various sizes and configurations, the bays of which are also defined by large buttresses. The northern elevation is composed of a pair of stained-glass windows set into a broad pointed arch in the eastern tower, a monumental, central tri-partite stained glass window in the center, and

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a smaller crenelated tower at the western end of the original building that has been turned approximately forty-five degrees. To the west of the original building is the two-story wall of the addition; it is relieved on this elevation only by two entrances, the eastern of which is accessed via a short concrete and brick staircase.

The western elevation of the building is covered by the two-story addition. It is lighted on both floors with the same six-over-six wood sash seen elsewhere on the addition and is accessed via two entrances: one directly behind the northern wall of the addition and the other at the southern end of the addition.

The interior of the sanctuary is highlighted by a painted, pressed tin ceiling ornamented with a variety of decorative patterns. A circular medallion is placed at the crossing of the gables, and a handsome chandelier hangs directly below. Wood pews survive throughout the sanctuary, and a handsome wood altar is placed at the western end of the auditorium. The walls are plaster, and the abundance of stained glass provides a dark, somber cast to the interior overall. The addition is relatively modern within, though it has been maintained and is in good condition.

The only alterations of note regarding the First United Methodist Church are the southern addition (which is actually two separate additions, the two-story addition at the rear of the church having been constructed in 1950 and the adjacent addition to the south having been constructed in 1956) and the removal of the rolling wooden doors that separated the space directly to the south of the sanctuary from the sanctuary itself.

Another adjacent building, the Fellowship Hall, was constructed in 1983 and is connected to the rear of the nominated structure only by a gable roof that shelters the entrances to both; hence it is not included in this nomination.

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**Summary**

The First United Methodist Church is locally significant not only as the best example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture but also through its status as a Moorish variant thereof, as such influences are rare throughout the state.

**Elaboration**

The First United Methodist Church of Hamburg was organized in 1850 and housed in a wood frame building on this same lot for a number of years before this building was constructed in 1910. This congregation was the first formed in Hamburg and has remained active throughout its history.

The design genesis of the current structure is of some note. The Nolley brick yard, operated by the brothers J.A. and Sebe Nolley, had been producing high-quality brick since its opening in 1903. By 1910 the Methodist Church congregation had outgrown its earlier wood-frame structure (also of the Gothic Revival style) and decided to raze the building in favor of a new brick structure. As the Nolley brothers were the local residents and craftsmen most familiar with brick construction, it was they who were asked to formulate a design for the new Methodist church building. One of the brothers agreed to take on the task of designing the building, but felt himself too unfamiliar with Gothic construction (as the congregation had requested) to attempt the design without some initial research. This prompted him to journey to the St. Louis World's Fair for the purpose of viewing the various examples of Gothic Revival architecture constructed as part of that event. Reportedly, it was this research that resulted in the current design, though exactly what models he used was not recorded.

The church was constructed by R.J. McBride, a local Hamburg contractor who also built the old Palace Hotel on the square in Hamburg. The handsome stained glass, designed specifically for this church, was fabricated and installed by the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

This Moorish variant of the Gothic Revival style (reflected by the broad pointed arches that appear to take on an "onion dome" shape rather than a pair of curved lines that terminate in a point) that was especially popular for church construction in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is unusual at this early date. Though it became widely popular throughout Arkansas and the nation by the 1920's, it was uncommon in the state prior to that decade. The Moorish vocabulary, however, is employed throughout this design, and is handled in such a consistent and confident manner that its influence on this design is certain and not the result of vernacular whimsy or chance.

The First United Methodist Church is the only example of this style in the Hamburg vicinity, and quite possibly one of the finest in the state (however, a complete survey of such architecture is not available, so statewide significance cannot be established). As such, it is eligible under Criterion C for its outstanding architectural significance.



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## **Continuation Sheet**

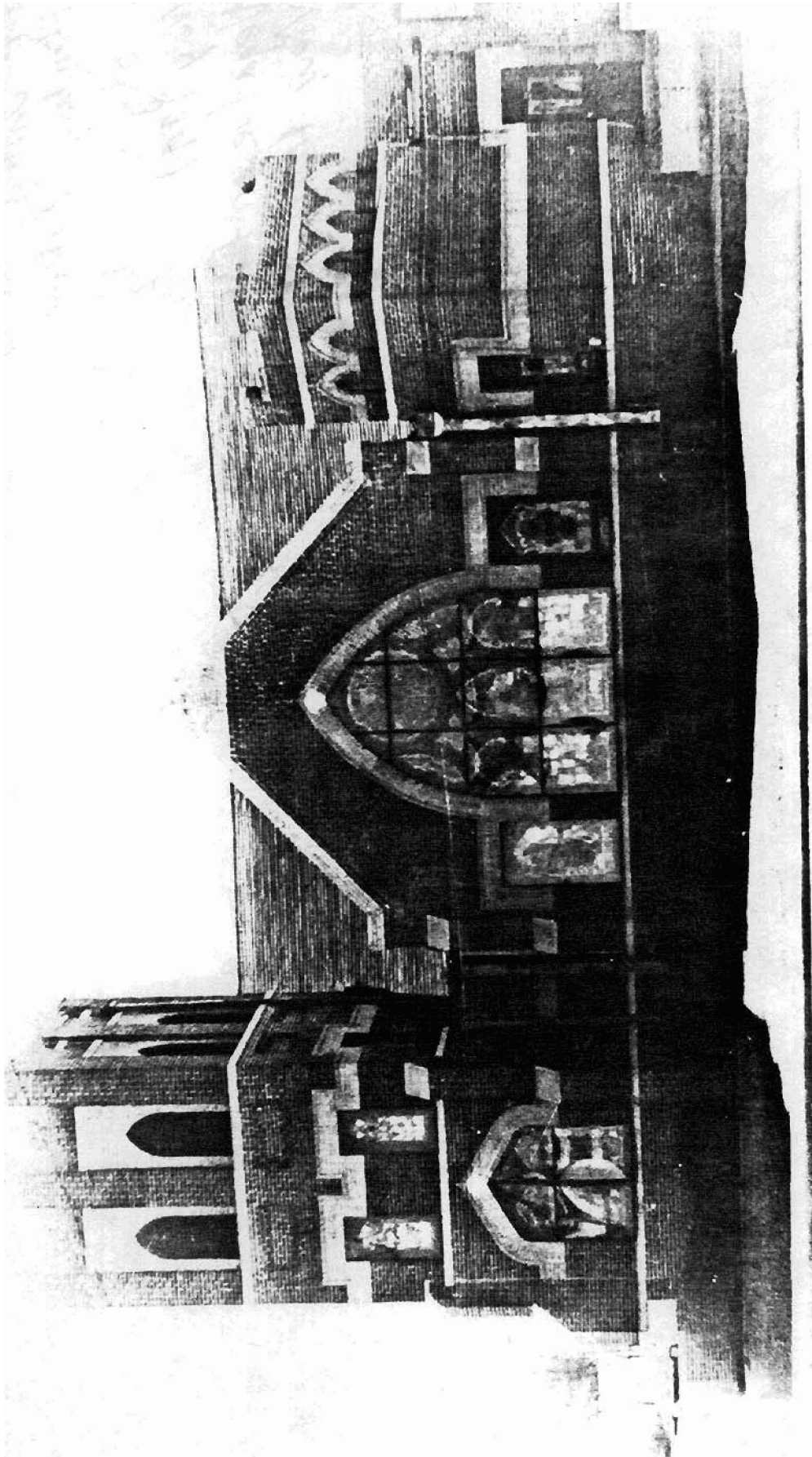
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### **Bibliography**

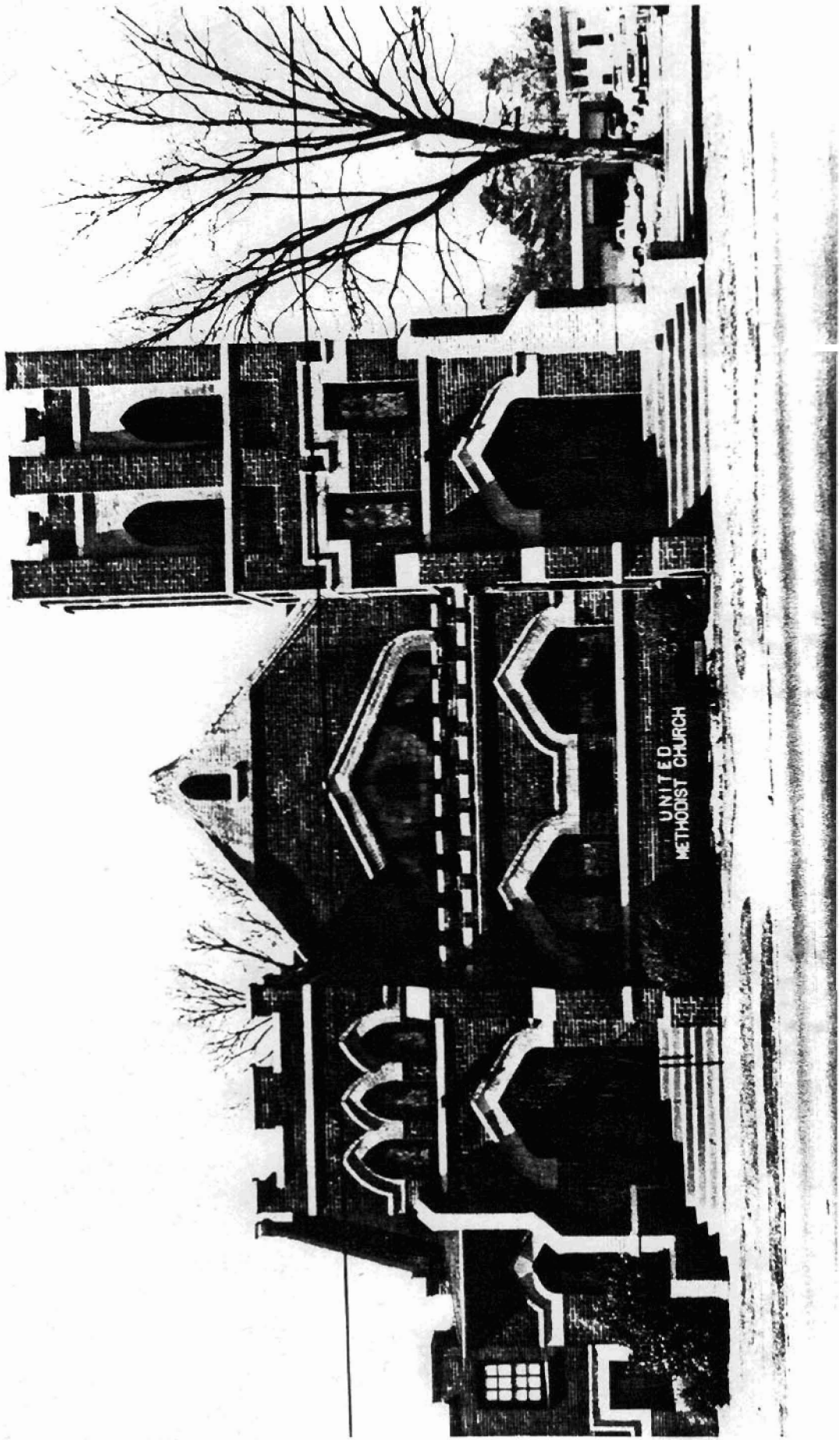
Etheridge, Y.W., *A History of Ashley County, Arkansas*

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas, 1889.*



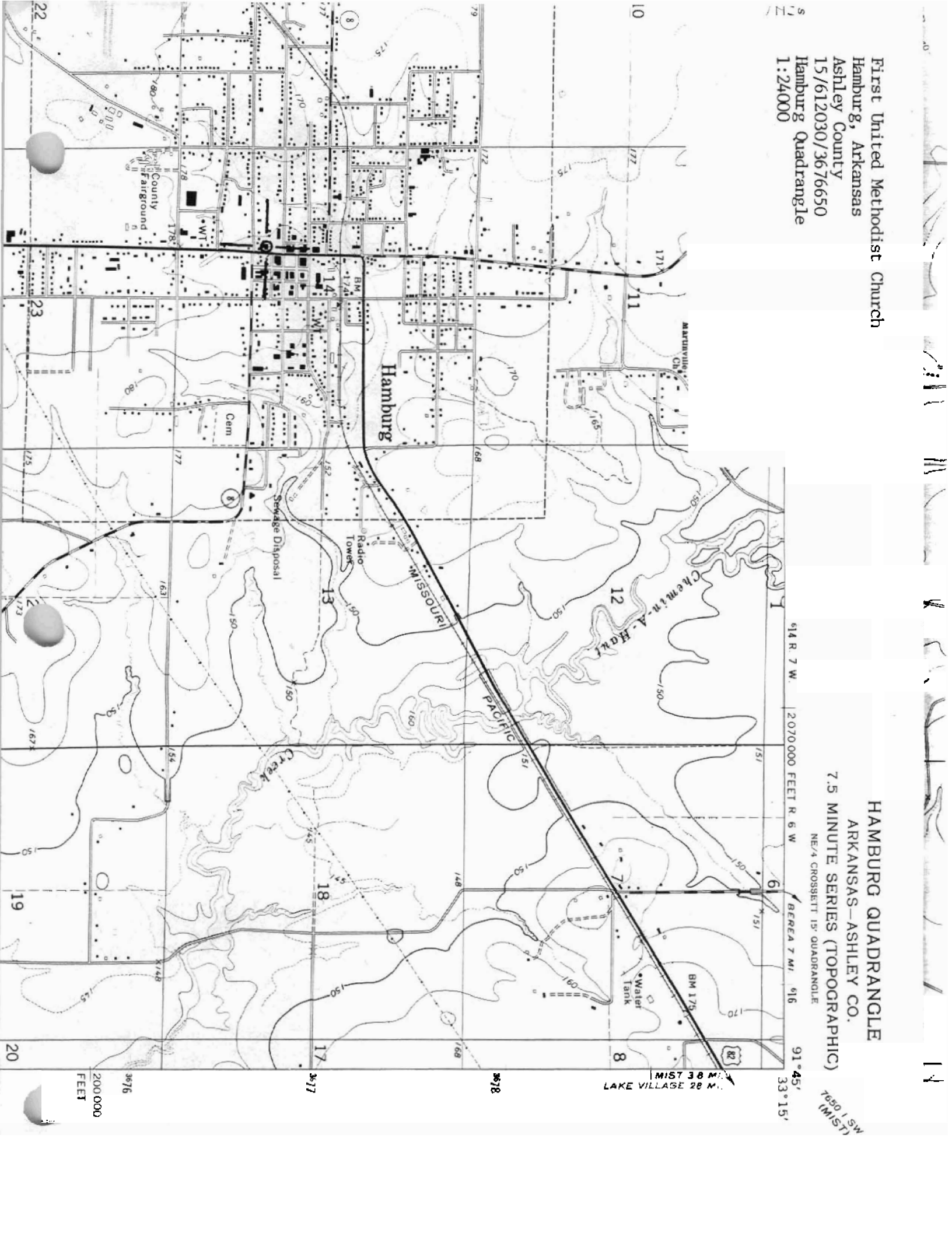


UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



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First United Methodist Church  
 Hamburg, Arkansas  
 Ashley County  
 15/612030/3676650  
 Hamburg Quadrangle  
 1:24000



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