

RECEIVED
CW0114
DATE ENTERED

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
Mount Olive United Methodist Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Lafayette and Knox Streets
CITY, TOWN
Van Buren
STATE
Arkansas

VICINITY OF
Third
COUNTY
Crawford
CODE
05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Third
CODE
033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Minister & Trustees, Mt. Olive United Methodist Church (Rev. Robert E. Felder)
STREET & NUMBER
Post Office Box 1136
CITY, TOWN
Fort Smith
STATE
Arkansas

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Circuit Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
Crawford County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Van Buren
STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

FOR

US

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Olive United Methodist Church is a simple, Gothic-style, brick structure. Completed in 1889, the building cost \$900 to construct. The structure is rectangular in shape with a cast-stone foundation.

Set into the southeast corner of the building is a hipped-roof bell tower. The Gothic entry on the east elevation of this tower is set into a slightly recessed panel. Over these double-entry doors is a horizontal pane of glass divided into two equal sections which form a base for the Gothic-shaped transom. The transom is marked by a center pane in a diamond shape flanked by a divided Gothic-shaped pane on each side. Above the entry is a circular window with a centered triangular pattern. Buttresses mark the three corners of the bell tower. The south elevation of the bell tower features a circular window with triangular pattern over a narrow double-hung, Gothic-shaped window.

The facade of Mount Olive United Methodist Church is marked by a large Gothic window. This window features three, tall, double-hung windows with irregular-sized rectangular panes. The upper one-third of the window is marked by a variety of stained glass panels in diamond and triangular shapes.

The north and south elevations of the church feature three windows each. These windows are of stained glass with Gothic-style pointed heads over double-hung sash. The lower sash has six panes while the upper sash features three rectangular panes over which are three arched panes with three diamond-shaped panes in the point of the arch.

All corners of the building are marked by buttresses, those on the southwest and northwest corners being smaller and simpler in design. A band of cast stone extends around the structure at the ground level.

On the west elevation of the church is a gabled projection which contains the apse. A circular stained glass window with a cross in its design forms the focal point of the apse. Tall slender Gothic-shaped windows are found on the north and south elevations of the apse.

The interior of Mount Olive United Methodist Church appears much the same as in 1889. The original ceiling of narrow-plank wood and the wide-plank pine floors remain.

The chancel features a small railing with delicately turned posts. The three rows of hardwood pews in the structure remain in excellent condition.

The focal point of the interior of the church is the apse. It is marked by a circular window with a cross design in the stained glass. Tall, slender, Gothic-shaped windows on the north and south walls of the apse illuminate the area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

Mount Olive United Methodist Church remains basically in original condition. An extensive restoration was undertaken in the fall of 1975 which included the replacement of stained glass in the windows and a new foundation.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren rests on a corner lot, surrounded by a rock wall. Its age, excellent condition, simple Gothic touches and importance to the black community combine to make Mount Olive United Methodist Church an important historical landmark.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1889, Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas, is a significant historic structure in its representation of black cultural development in Crawford County. Located in a city of historical significance in itself, the church stands out as one of the more important landmarks in Van Buren. In addition to its continual use as a religious institution and its representation of black history, the simple Gothic-style architecture of Mount Olive United Methodist Church further enhances the significance of the structure.

Since the beginnings of Methodism in the United States there has been participation in its membership by blacks. In 1829 the South Carolina Methodist Conference officially organized a system of missionaries to the slave population. From this a system of Methodist missions for blacks sprang up all over the South. It is generally accepted that Mount Olive United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas, is the oldest black congregation of the United Methodist Church west of the Mississippi River.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church was organized in 1869 by J. G. Pollard. At its origins the church consisted of thirty-eight members who were newly emancipated slaves. They met in a frame building on Main Street in Van Buren. By 1889 the congregation had grown enough to warrant construction of a new and larger structure. The present structure was constructed at the cost of \$900 by the members of the church, many of whom were former slaves. The church building was completed in 1889.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church was the location of the first annual session of the Little Rock Conference of Methodists in February, 1897, and hosted the Conference four more times.

It was an active and prestigious church which maintained a strong congregation up until the 1950's when black people began moving away from the area. However, the small congregation at present is made up of the people who have recognized the historical importance of the church enough to instigate the renovation of the building.

Mount Olive United Methodist Church is probably the most significant structure associated with black history in the City of Van Buren. As representative of a segment of black history, the structure stands as an important local landmark.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olive United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO November, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

 IDENTIFICATION

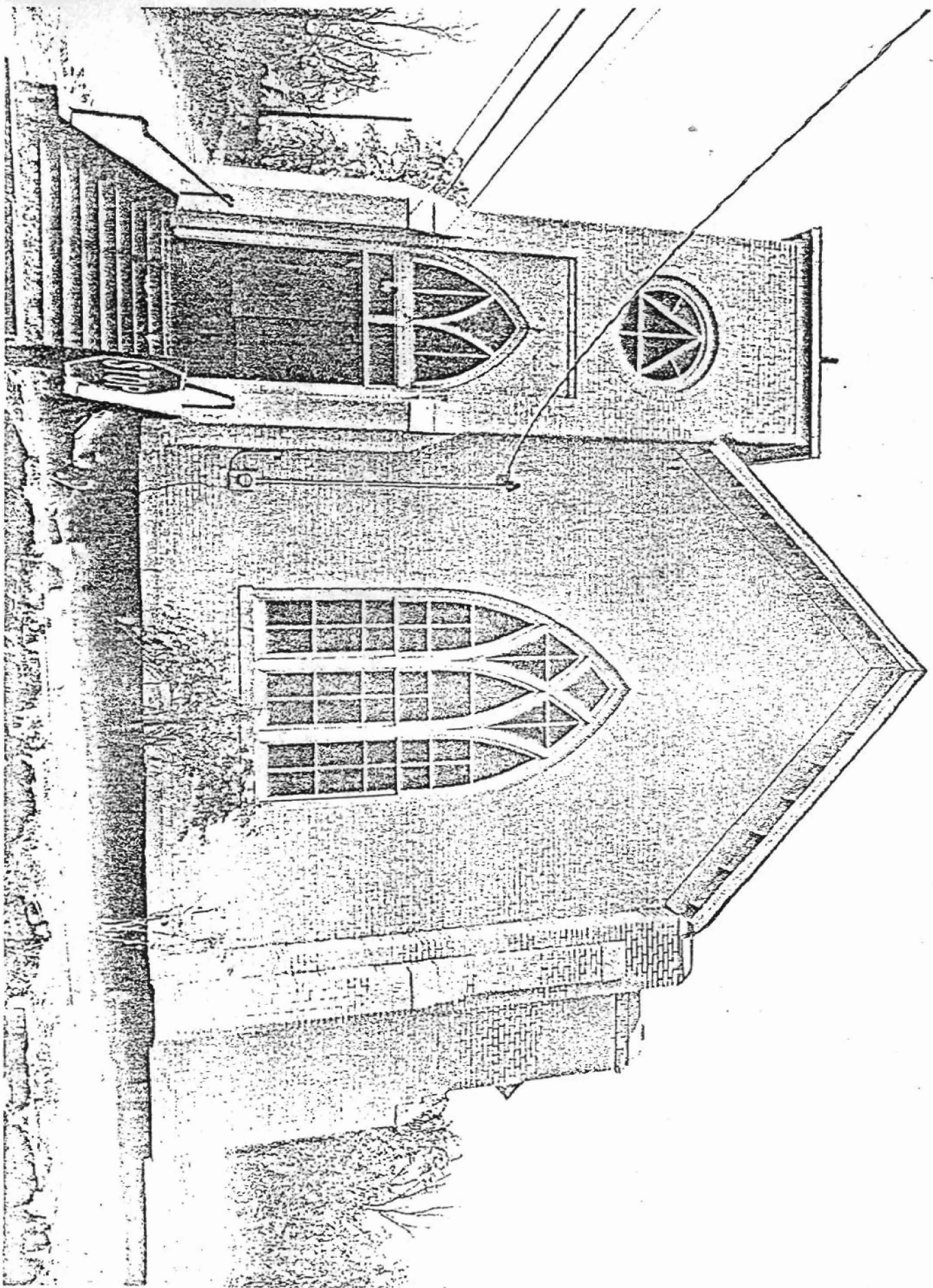
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Facade, viewed from the east

1

INT: 2983-75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE 1

Jewell, Horace. History of Methodism in Arkansas. Little Rock, Press
Printing Company, 1892.

Mallalieu Message, September, 1975.

Southwest Times Record, November 30, 1975.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Mount Olive United Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1947 (photorevised 1971)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

INT: 3464-75

CITY, TOWN

STATE

