

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY  
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-19

Owner Reverend J. Robert Irbin

Property Name Mt. Zion Methodist Church

Address 1205 Cado

Location near Carthage

Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Significant Date/s c. 1910

250 570 72150  
Rt. 3 Box 124  
Shoemaker 72150  
742-7469

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Mt. Zion Methodist Church, located approximately 2½ miles northeast of Carthage, sits picturesquely on a tree shaded lot next to a county road. The 30' x 45' dimensions of this rectangular weatherboarded structure give it squarer proportions than what is common for rural churches of this form. The expansive front gable facade which is unadorned and penetrated only by two four-panelled doors accentuate the box-like character of the structure. This solid white mass which offers a pleasant contrast to its natural surroundings is intensified by the white tones of the extensive roof sheathed in corrugated sheet metal. Striking in its austerity, the church's simplistic facades are gracefully framed by frieze, corner and skirt boards. The side (north and south) elevations are penetrated by four four-over-four windows. As is common for rural churches of this type, a second entry exists on the west side of the north elevation. All windows and doors have simple surrounds.

The interior of the church exhibits the same outstanding austerity as does the exterior. All walls are covered with beaded pine panelling, laid horizontally. The ceiling, also of beaded panelling, is supported by a central beam composed of five boards layered in decreasing widths on five square posts. At the west end of the structure is a platform on which was constructed a simple pulpit with flanking pedestals. All coverings, including the floor, support members, and furnishings are of unpainted pine. Even the pews which are constructed of pine 2" x 4"'s add to the intense repetition of wood and of horizontal lines as exhibited in the beaded panelling. These features are offset by the vertical lines of the window openings and the gray painted doors.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mt. Zion Methodist Church is an excellent example of a church type which was once quite common in rural Arkansas. While constructed c. 1910, this traditional plan with its double entry in the gable end is one which existed in abundance in Dallas County in the 19th Century. The simple interior of the church, with its beaded walls and ceiling, served quite well the functional liturgy of the early 20th century Methodist Church. While there are numerous Methodist Churches in Dallas County, Mt. Zion is significant in its retention of notable interior fabric.

Acreage: less than 1

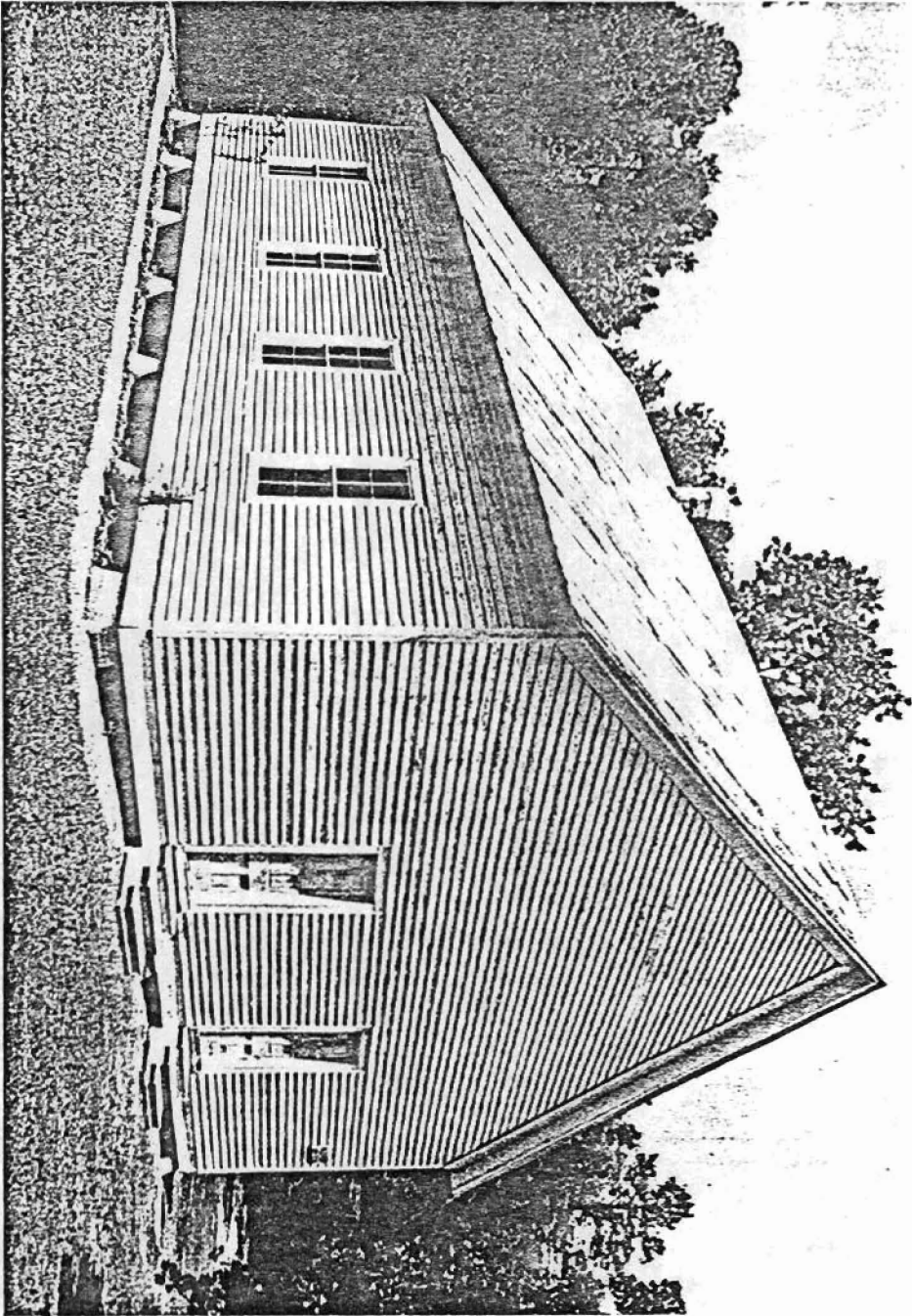
Quadrangle Name: Carthage

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 554200/3774160

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located with the SW¼ of the SW¼ of section 15,



DA-19  
Mount Zion Methodist Church  
Sarah Brown, photographer  
April 28, 1982  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
View from the southeast

Survey Number DA-19  
Property Name Mt. Zion Methodist Church  
page 2

Verbal Boundary Description cont.:

T7S R14W, is bounded on the east by a county toad, on the south by the cemetery and on the north and west by lines running parallel to and 100' from the north and west facades of the church.