

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-22

Owner Reverend Nolan Brown

Property Name Sardis Methodist Church

Address 203 Highland Drive

Location Sparkman

Fordyce, AR 71742

Significant Date/s ca. 1895

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Built circa 1895, Sardis Methodist Church is located just north of the Pine Grove community. The one-story wood frame church is clad in weatherboards and rests on brick piers. Although basically square, the church has a cross gabled roof giving the impression that the building is a cross in plan. The north, south, and east gable facades, have two symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung windows. Each window is capped by a triangular arch. A diamond shaped panel is set within and mirrors the arch. Centered above each pair of windows in the gable is a round window. The southeast corner of the church has a small rectangular addition of compatible materials. An entry belltower capped with a hexagonal spire which flows into a pyramid roof is located in the southwest corner. Supporting this roof are four large columns which create an open area where the bell is housed. The west face of the tower contains the main entry of two six panelled doors under a two light transom. Covering the entry is a shed roofed porch supported by three square posts which wraps around the south side of the tower. Connecting the posts is a simple balustrade of square balusters. An early photograph of the church and congregation shows that the tower, then covered by wood shingles instead of asphalt, and the porch are in their original form.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sardis Methodist Church stands out distinctively among the rural churches of Dallas County. Constructed in about 1895, this one-story wood frame church has a cross gabled roof which gives an illusion that the building is a cross in plan. Sardis is one of two good examples of this type. It, however, unlike its counterpart, Princeton Methodist Church, illustrates the strong vernacular influences. This is especially evidenced in the treatment of the bell tower and its configuration. With its thoroughly rural setting, Sardis Methodist Church is a truly outstanding example of the vernacular interpretation of a popular church plan.

Acreage: less than 1

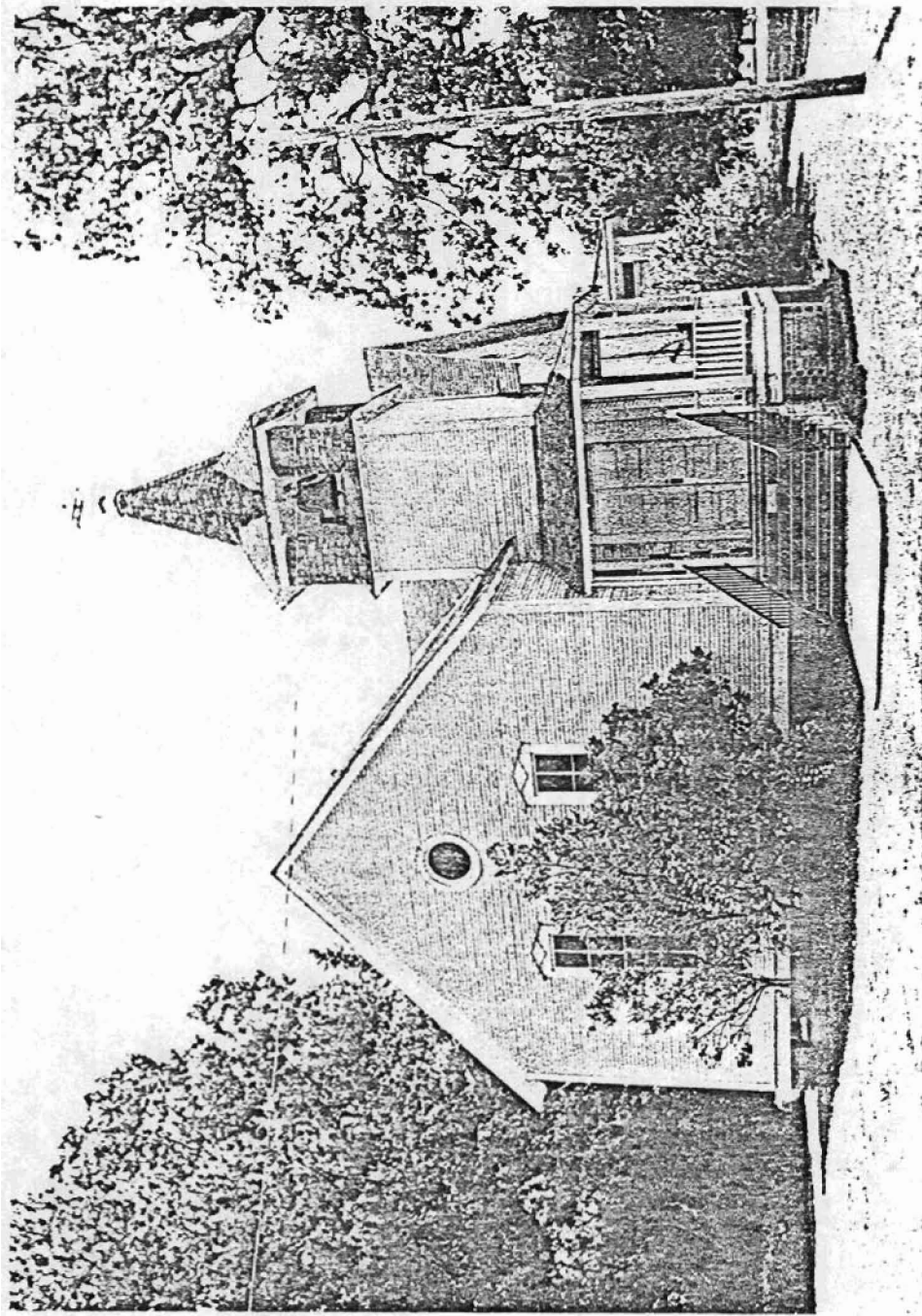
Quadrangle Name: Sparkman

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 521340/3750330

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, T9S R16W, is bounded on the south and east by the cemetery, on the west by a county road and on the north by a line running parallel to and 100' from the north facade of the church.



DA-22
Sardis Methodist Church
Don Brown, photographer
May 18, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the West



DA-22
Sardis Methodist Church
Don Brown, photographer
May 18, 1982
Negative filed at the AHPP
View from the South