

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR Listed: 5-29-03

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church

other names/site number HE0360

2. Location

street & number County Road 16

not for publication

city or town Blevins

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Hempstead code 057 zip code 71801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets   
and does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Cathie Marcus  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/4/03  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Plain/Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete block

walls Weatherboard

roof Composition shingles

other Cut stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/black

RELIGION

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

1942

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tony Hill

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, National Register, National Historic Landmark, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Appx. 2 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 443474 3743554  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edited by Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 18 February 2003  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
street & number County Road 16 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Blevins state AR zip code 71801

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1942, the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church is a Plain-Traditional style one-story wood frame building, with Craftsman influences, located approximately three miles southwest of the small community of Blevins, Arkansas. The rectangular shaped building with weatherboard walls rests upon concrete block piers and is topped with a jerkin-head roof that is covered with composition shingles and a hip roofed steeple on the front left of the church's roof. Perpendicular and west to the church rests a Plain-Traditional style one-story wood frame Sunday school. This weatherboard and stucco building rests upon cast concrete piers and is topped with a gable roof that is covered with composition shingles. A cut stone well lies southeast of the church. The Sunday school building and well were constructed shortly after the church was built. A cemetery is located adjacent to the church, but due to the mixing of historic graves with non-historic graves, it is ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and is not included in this nomination.

### ELABORATION

#### Church Building

Located approximately three miles southwest of Blevins, Arkansas, located in northeast Hempstead County, the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church is an excellent example of Plain-Traditional architecture with Craftsman influences. Constructed in 1942, the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church was constructed from the wood of an earlier African-American church that was constructed circa 1870 in the now non-existent J.K. Jones (a.k.a. Jack E. Jones) Community. The one-story wood frame building sits upon concrete block piers and is topped with a jerkin-head roof covered with composition shingles and a hip roofed steeple on the front left of the roof. The original windows remain intact.

#### South Elevation

The façade of the building faces south and is defined by the centrally located original wooden double doors. Poured concrete steps lead patrons up the doors. The building is fenestrated with two nine-over-nine windows, one on either side of the double doors. The walls are covered with weatherboard and asphalt shingles are found in the gable end. An air vent is located above the doors in the gable end. A cornerstone is located at the southeast edge of the façade. It is the cornerstone from the church in the J.K. Jones Community.

#### East Elevation

The east elevation is fenestrated with four nine-over-nine windows, a single wood door, and one four-over-four window located on the shed addition. Two different width weatherboards cover the east elevation. Cast concrete steps lead up to the single wood door. A brick chimney is centrally located in the eastern interior of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

#### North Elevation

The back of the building includes a shed addition fenestrated with two four-over-four windows. Asphalt shingles are found in the gable end.

#### West Elevation

The west elevation, going north to south, is fenestrated with one four-over-four window located on the shed addition, one single wood door, four nine-over-nine windows, and one four-over-four window located under the steeple. Cast concrete steps lead up to the single wood door. All four sides of the steeple include air vents.

#### Sunday School Building

West and laying perpendicular to the church rests a Plain-Traditional style one-story wood frame Sunday school building. This weatherboard and stucco building rests upon cast concrete piers and is topped with a gable roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. The structure was built shortly after the church was constructed.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### East Elevation

The façade of the building faces east and is defined by a centrally located metal screened door. Cast concrete steps and a metal rail lead up to the door.

### North Elevation

The north elevation is fenestrated with two four-over-four windows.

### West Elevation

The west elevation includes a stucco gable addition and a small wooden shed. One six-over-six window is centrally located on the west elevation.

### South Elevation

The south elevation, moving west to east, is fenestrated with one small four-over-four window, and two larger four-over-four windows.

### Integrity

Since the construction of the church in 1942, the building has undergone few alterations. The gable ends were covered with asphalt shingles, and a shed addition was added to the rear of the church. A stucco gable addition was added to the Sunday school building sometime after its construction. Besides that, the buildings retain all aspects of integrity. The rural setting of the area remains much the same as it did when the building was constructed.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, located three miles southwest of Blevins, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with local significance as to its association with the J.K. Jones (a.k.a. Jack E. Jones) community and the Arkansas war effort in the 1940s. The church is also being nominated under **Criteria Considerations A and B** for it being a religious property and removed from its original location. There is a cemetery located adjacent to the church, but is not included in the nomination.

### ELABORATION

By the late 1800s, small settlements had developed throughout the gentle rolling hills of Hempstead County. The population was sparse in comparison to the nearby towns of Hope, Blevins, and Washington. In 1866, under the leadership of Rev. Landon Moore, pastor to the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church, the Oak Grove Colored Baptist Church was established under a group of trees in the hamlet of a small community that eventually became known as the J.K. Jones Community. Sometime between 1866 and 1870, church members constructed a wood frame building for worship.

The J.K. Jones Community was named after James Kimbrough Jones, an Arkansas Legislator, a United States Representative, and United States Senator. Jones was a plantation and slave owner who fought with the Confederate Army. However, his views concerning labor and education seem paradoxical in that he believed labor should be organized for the protection of the worker and that educational opportunities should be afforded to all children regardless of class or race.

In 1874, J.K. Jones was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Washington, Arkansas, with his law partner, Daniel Webster Jones, the twentieth governor of Arkansas. J.K. Jones served as a state senator from 1873 to 1879. He was the chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1896 and 1900. J.K. Jones served as a US Representative from 1881 to 1885. He then served as a US Senator from 1885 to 1903. In 1904, Jones served as the president of the Arkansas History Association, and supported the establishment of the Arkansas History Commission. Jones treated everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of race or social status. B.F. Adair, the only African American in the Arkansas Legislature in the 1880s, seconded the nomination of Jones for US senator.

The Oak Grove Colored Baptist Church served its membership up until the early 1940s. Life changed dramatically for the residents of the J.K. Jones Community due to World War II and the Southwestern Proving Ground. The Southwestern Proving Ground was a War Department project that tested both artillery shells and air bombs within its boundaries of 50,098 acres. People and communities living in that area were forced to relocate in the early 1940s.

The pastor of the Oak Grove Colored Baptist Church, Rev. Marshea Williams, had the church dismantled. On 20 May 1942, G.D. and Eunice Royston sold to the church the following land for \$150: commence on the North side of the Washington and Blevins WPA road at the point where the same crosses the east line of the SE 1/3 of Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 24 West, and run thence South 18 1/2 degrees West 600 feet along the North side of said Road to a stake; thence run North parallel with the East line of the SE 1/3 of the SW 1/4 of Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 24 West, 150 feet to a stake; thence run North 18 1/2 degrees East 600 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2 acres of land, more or less.

In 1942, the Oak Grove Colored Baptist Church constructed the current Plain-Traditional wood frame building from the lumber of original church. Tony Hill and local men were hired as carpenters. The new church building also received a new name, the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church remains active as a religious and social facility for its members.

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, located three miles southwest of Blevins, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with local significance as to its association with the J.K. Jones (a.k.a. Jack E. Jones) community and the Arkansas war effort in the 1940s. The church is also being nominated under **Criteria Considerations A and B** for it being a religious property and removed from its original location.



Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Bibliography

Church history by Rev. Matthew Davis, Amilee Smith, and Jodie Duffie.

Medearis, Mary. *Washington, Arkansas: History on the Southwest Trail.*

Newberry, Farrar. *James K. Jones: The Plumed Knight of Arkansas.*

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

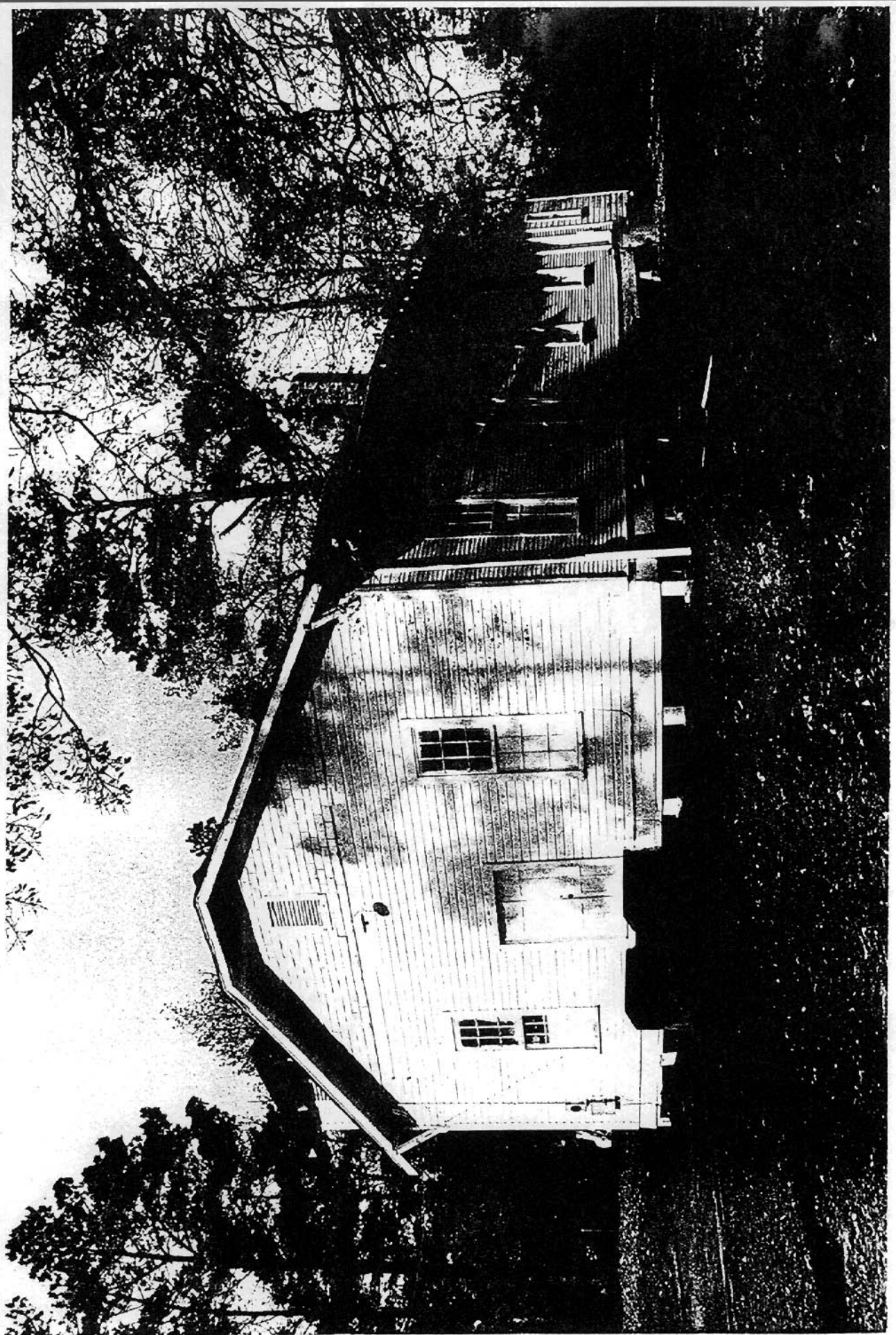
Section number 10 Page 1

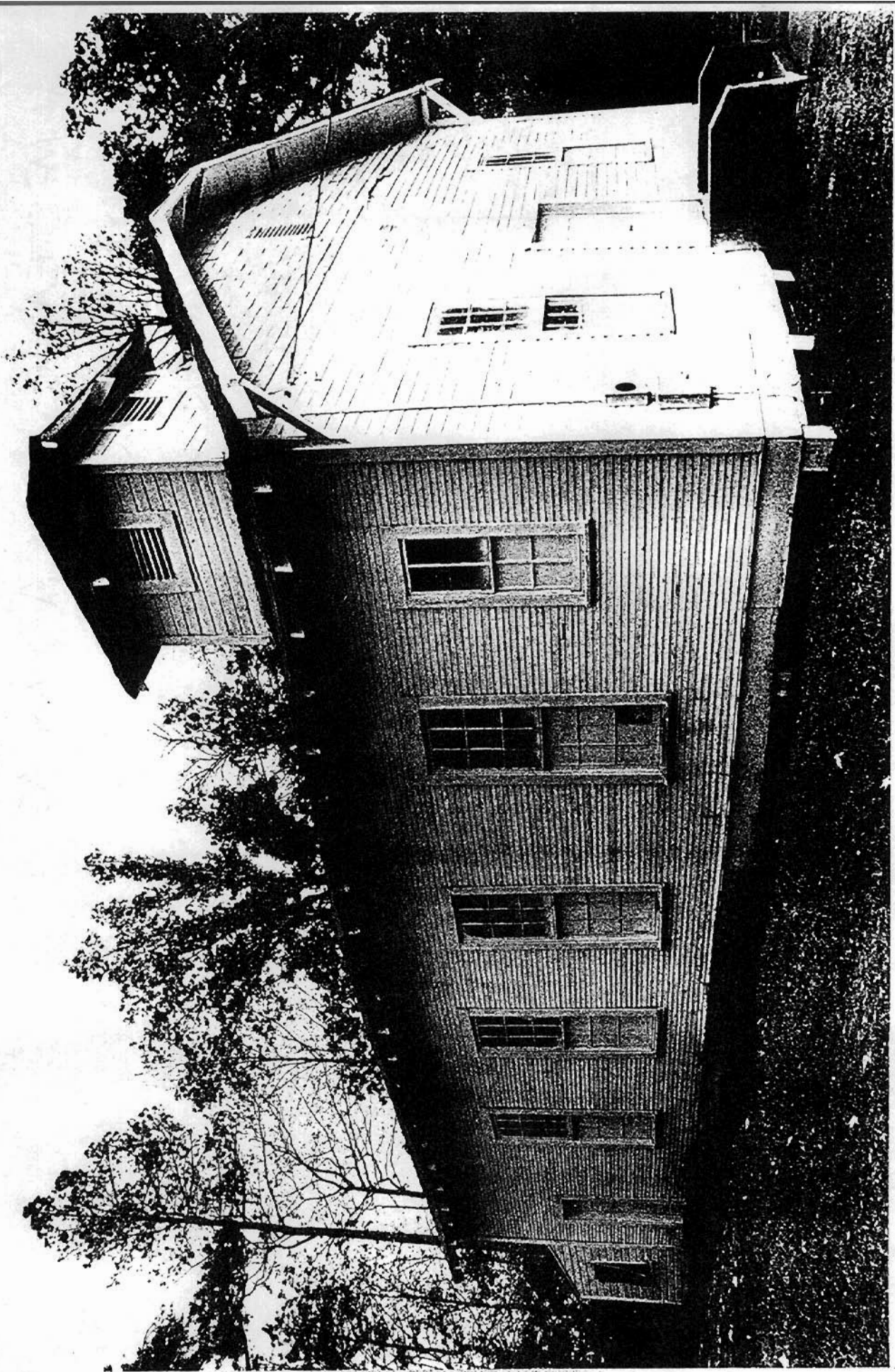
### Verbal Boundary Description

Commence on the North side of the Washington and Blevins WPA road at the point where the same crosses the east line of the SE 1/3 of Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 24 West, and run thence South 18 1/2 degrees West 600 feet along the North side of said Road to a stake; thence run North parallel with the East line of the SE 1/3 of the SW 1/4 of Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 24 West, 150 feet to a stake; thence run North 18 1/2 degrees East 600 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2 acres of land, more or less.

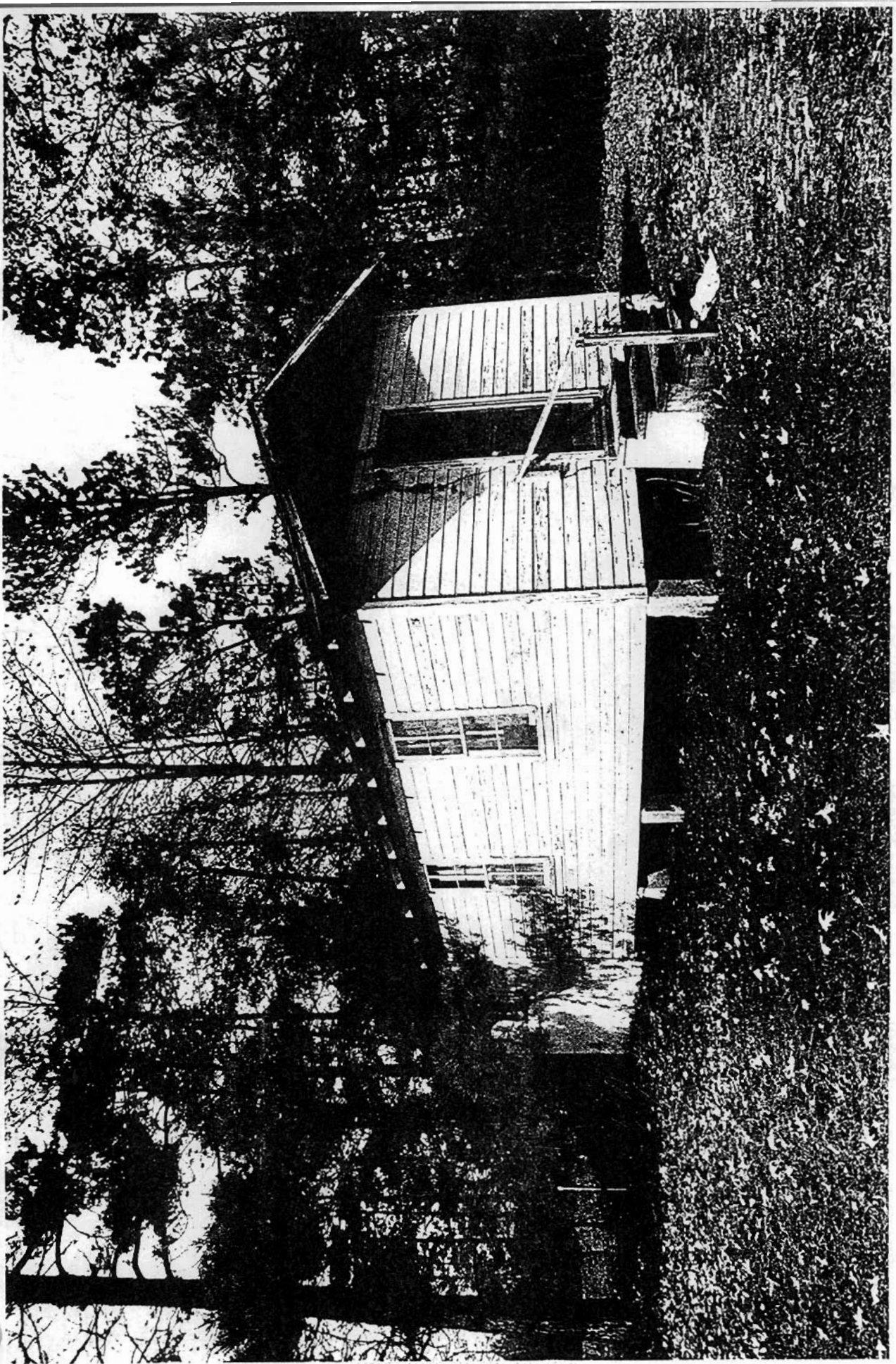
### Verbal Boundary Justification

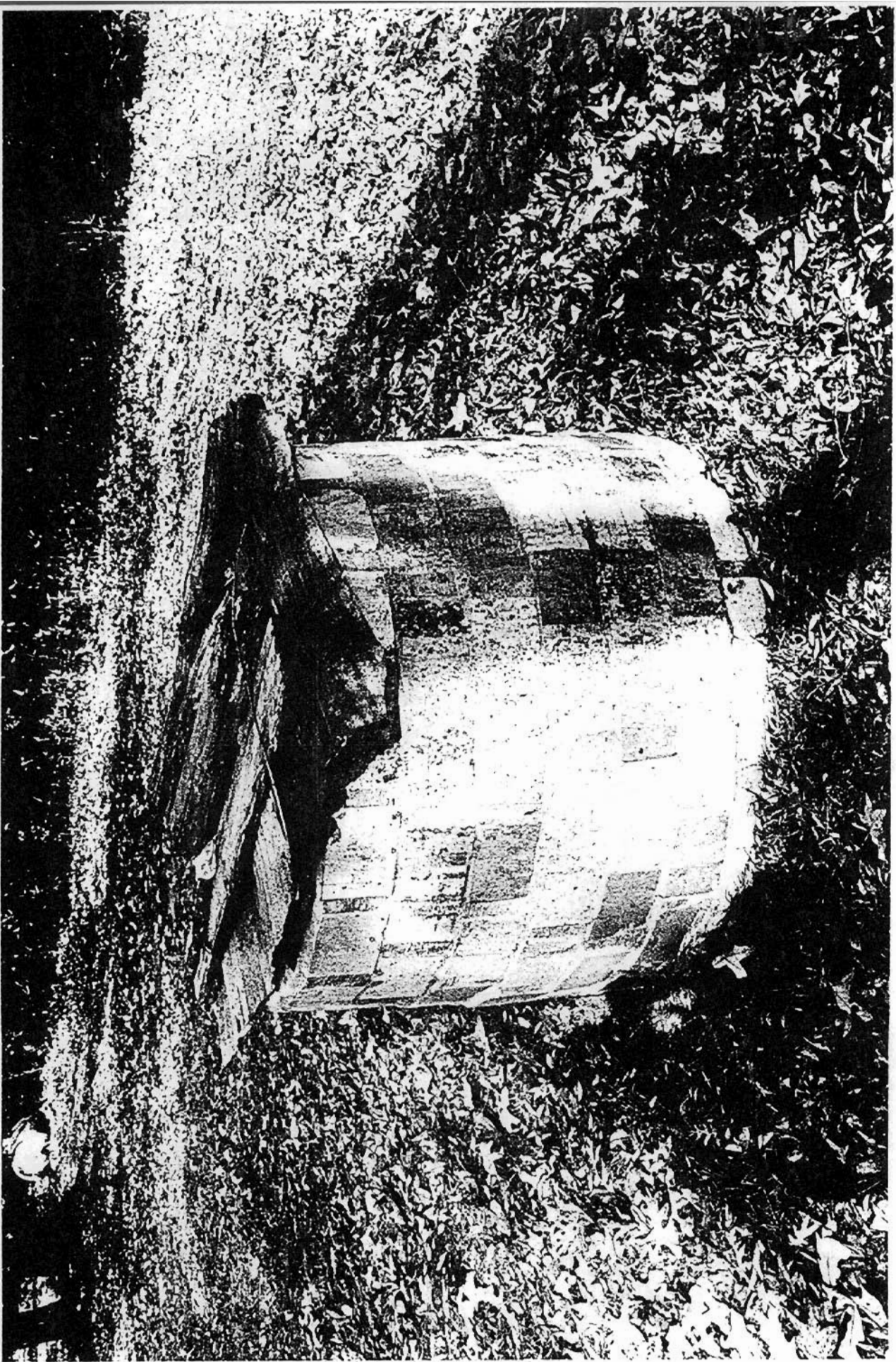
This boundary contains all of the structures and sites associated with the Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church that retains its historic integrity.



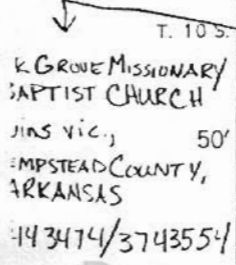


PHOTOGRAPH BY J. W. BROWN





K GROVE MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
JMS VIC.,  
EMPSTEAD COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS  
143414/374354



T. 10 S.  
50'  
WASHINGTON 5.9 MI.  
T. 11 S.

7251 (SW)  
(WASHINGTON)

