

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 9/21/07

**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 Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number IZ0006

2. Location

street & number 101 West 1st Street

not for publication

city or town Calico Rock

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Izard code 065 zip code 72519

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
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathy Davis
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/30/07
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 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

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	
	1	0	buildings
	0	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	0	objects
	1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/music facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial
Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheet 1

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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923-24

Significant Dates

1932 - 924 (Construction completed)

1931 (Building formally dedicated)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheet 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

See Continuation Sheet 3

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

Name of repository:

Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Age of Property 0.73 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 577100 3997525
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.)
See Continuation Sheet 4

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet 4

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard C. Fischer/Managing Partner; edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 5/29/07
street & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600 telephone 501.324.9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Charles Francis
street & number HC61, Box 677 telephone 870-373-2693
city or town Calico Rock state AR zip code 72519

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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SUMMARY

Located at 101 West 1st Street, at the northwest corner of Arkansas highways 5 and 56, the Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed from 1923 to 1924 in the Craftsman style with Classical Revival influences.

ELABORATION

Resting upon a continuous cast concrete foundation, the property is sheltered by a front-gabled roof. The narthex is fenestrated by two sets of paired windows, one pair on either side of the narthex, sheltered by a gabled roof. The chancel and both ends of transept are sheltered by a hipped roof.

The front door is approached by a flight of 15 steps, flanked by curved concrete balustrades. A full-front porch supported by brick columns embellishes the south façade, and the church itself is accessed via a set of double-doors topped with an elliptical fanlight set into a basket handle arch. The United Methodist Church logo adorns the gable peak on the front elevation.

Decorative knee braces are seen under the overhanging eaves in the gable ends, while exposed rafter tails peer out from under the eaves along the sides and rear of the building.

The building is faced with tan brick with dark red brick trim. The mortar used on the exterior walls was made from the local red-brown sand taken from Calico Creek, a few hundred yards to the east of the building. The floor plan design consists of two floors, with an undercroft beneath the nave and the transept. The first, or main, floor used to contain the church sanctuary, Sunday school and church meeting rooms, restrooms, and a small parish office in the rear of the building from which the bell in the bell tower could be rung using a rope which descends through the ceiling. This mechanism, along with the original 500 pound cast bell, remain in place and are still functional today.

Front/South Façade

The front-gable roof was re-shingled with architectural asphalt shingles in late March 2007. The original roof was also covered in shingles. The main entrance to the building is approached by a broad, 10-foot wide, natural stone walkway approximately, 80 feet long, which extends from First Street to the base of the flight of 15 steps. Upon ascending these concrete steps, one passes under a broad, front porch that is 15 feet deep and spans nearly the entire front façade of the building. The porch is supported by tan and red brick columns, evenly spaced along the length of the porch. Original Palladian windows, which have stained-glass panes, flank the main entrance on right and left. In addition, an elliptical, multi-pane, green stained-glass fanlight adorns the doorway above the double door entrance. The fanlight matches the top portion of the Palladian windows that flank the doorway, with the exception of the rounded upper portion of the windows.

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Two small multi-paned, wood-framed windows fenestrate the undercroft, centered below the windows above.

Side/East Façade

The east façade is divided into four distinct bays: the side of the porch to the far left; the narthex, fenestrated by a single pair of double windows; the nave, which is fenestrated by three, unevenly-spaced 28-over-28 double-hung, wood-framed windows; and the hipped-roof transept and chancel, fenestrated by a ribbon of four four-over-four double-hung, wood-framed windows. The pair of windows at the narthex, and the transept and chancel windows are topped with square arches, while the three unevenly-spaced windows along the length of the nave are topped with rounded fanlights.

This elevation, as with the other elevations, is faced with tan brick. Red accent brick embellishes the corners and adjoining walls of the building, as well as the roof-wall junctions, window surrounds, and provides the contrasting color of the belt course.

Below the nave is the undercroft. Small multi-paned, wood-framed windows fenestrate the undercroft, centered below the windows above.

Rear/North Façade

The north elevation is the location of the chancel (which houses a small parish office), and both ends of the transept (containing both the Sunday school and meeting rooms). Divided into three bays, the transept ends and chancel are fenestrated by double-hung, four-over-four, wood-framed windows. Both ends of the transept are fenestrated by a ribbon of three windows, surrounded by decorative red brick. The rear of the chancel is fenestrated by a pair of windows, also surrounded by decorative red brick. A belfry rises from the roof, centered above the parish office. A 500-pound bell remains in the belfry, and is operational by a simple pull on a rope that hangs from the office ceiling. Five steps lead into the office on the west side of the chancel.

Side/West Façade

As with the east façade, the west façade is divided into four distinct bays: the side of the porch to the far right; the narthex, fenestrated by a single pair of double windows; the nave, which is fenestrated by three, unevenly spaced 28-over-28 double-hung, wood-framed windows; and the hipped-roof transept and chancel, fenestrated by a ribbon of four four-over-four double-hung, wood-framed windows. The pair of windows at the narthex, and the transept and chancel windows are topped with square arches, while the three unevenly-spaced windows along the length of the nave are topped with rounded fanlights.

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This elevation, as with the other elevations, is faced with tan brick. Red accent brick embellishes the corners and adjoining walls of the building, as well as the roof-wall junctions, window surrounds, and provides the contrasting color of the belt course.

Beneath the nave is the undercroft. Small multi-paned, wood-framed windows fenestrate the undercroft, centered below the windows above. The wheelchair ramp was added in 1991, and is located along side the church, on this elevation.

Interior

The flooring on the main level is all hardwood which, for the most part, has been covered with modern carpeting. The original, beautiful wood flooring is still visible in the nave where the pews are situated. A drop ceiling was installed in the main sanctuary in the late 1960s for the purpose of helping to insulate the large open space. However, the original pressed tin ceiling remains in place above the drop ceiling in the nave. This currently concealed ceiling also exhibits a three-level, stepped construction which rises from approximately 12 to 18 feet in height as each level nears the front of the chancel where the altar was situated. The original pressed tin ceiling remains exposed and visible in the Sunday school and meeting rooms on the main level, behind the chancel.

All of the original, multi-paned, double-hung, wood-framed stained glass windows remain in place throughout the church. There are three windows of the same design on each side of the nave. Each stained glass window is approximately 12 feet tall with yellow/amber colored panes in the rectangular bottom section, and green colored panes in the rounded fanlight. The current condition of the windows is fair, with nearly all original panes intact and in place. Future plans include full restoration of these windows to their original condition.

The nave also contains a sloping floor that slants slightly downward as one nears the chancel. This unique feature is consistent with the stepped design of the ceiling which steps downward toward the altar. The raised dais on which the altar was situated is ringed by a chancel railing, approximately two feet high. Along the top of this railing are numerous holes, approximately one inch in diameter, into which church members would place their empty communion cups once drained during the communion ceremony.

All the Sunday school and meeting rooms on the main level have double-hung, four-over-four, wood-framed windows which are approximately eight feet tall, with many of the original clear lites still in place. These windows allow large amounts of natural light to illuminate these rooms during daylight hours.

The undercroft of the building contains a large fellowship, or dining, hall and accompanying kitchen. There are three additional meeting rooms along the west side of this level, as well as a large storage room near the rear, adjacent to the kitchen. The front-most of the meeting rooms was configured as a sacristy, with 24-hour access for anyone who may have had a need for a prayer or meditation area. There is an additional

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doorway leading to and from the sacristy, which provides access to the front of the dining hall area. Currently, all floors in the undercroft are covered in linoleum tile.

The building originally contained five wood and/or coal burning stoves (three on the main level, two in the undercroft) which provided heat during the cold winter months. The flues have been sealed; however, they remain in place. Similarly, the original chimneys serving these flues also are in place and awaiting restoration. Future plans include the possibility of exposing the repairing the old flues and then installing wood burning stoves where they originally had been positioned. These original stoves were removed in the 1950s and replaced with propane heaters. The current heating and cooling system was installed in the late 1990s. This system is situated in the undercroft in a small room off the dining hall.

The floorplan of the Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church is that of a cruciform.

Alterations

There have been no significant alterations or additions to the building since its completion. Minor alterations include the construction of a parking area and retaining wall in 1972, and the addition of a handicapped access/wheelchair ramp which runs along the west side of the building, which was done in 1991.

INTEGRITY

The Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church retains a very high level of integrity. As no alterations have been made to the exterior of the property—with the exception of the handicap accessibility ramp on the western side of the church—and the church remains in the quiet town of Calico Rock, the environment of which has not changed over the years, the seven elements of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association) remain intact. Although the building has ceased to serve Calico Rock as a church, and the future use of the building as a music hall and museum, the property will continue to serve the community and area as a publicly-accessible building.

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SUMMARY

Constructed in 1924, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Calico Rock, Izard County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**, as a good example of a brick church built in the Craftsman style in the Calico Rock.

ELABORATION

Town and County History

The town of Calico Rock, Arkansas, was named after the topography of the bluffs along the White River, which was taken "from the broad stripes of assorted colors which nature painted on the face of the high, perpendicular cliffs just below the town, giving it the appearance of a huge piece of calico cloth." The area was settled in the 1820s by men and women coming primarily from Tennessee. Calico Rock had its first post office in 1851, when James Jeffery was appointed postmaster. Discontinued in 1852, the post office was not re-established until May 1879, when William M. Aiken was appointed postmaster. Mail was brought from Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, on a weekly basis. Although it is one of the oldest communities in Izard County, Calico Rock did not take on the appearance of a town until the late 1880s.

The White River, over which Calico Rock looks, is a major waterway in Arkansas. Rising in the northwest part of the state, it swings northward into Missouri and back again through northeast and southeast Arkansas, flowing through 600 miles of mountain and plain regions. George Featherstonhaugh, in his book *Excursion Through the Slave States* published in 1844, classified the river as "one of the most important and beautiful rivers in North America."

By the 1870s, there was a flourishing boat business at the mouth of Calico Creek which flows through Calico Rock into the White River. Ferries operated at this point at the same time, although none were officially recognized until Frank Aiken filed for an operator's license in April 1896.

With the arrival of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad, a business section came into existence "with mercantile establishments, cotton and product markets, and everything that goes to make an ideal town, including newspaper and banks." Construction of a railroad, which runs parallel to the river began in 1902. Farmers from out in the country moved to town to work for \$1.25 per day. Those with a team of horses or mules could earn between \$4.00 and \$5.00 per day. Greek and Italian immigrant crews assisted in the construction. J.T. Garner, who was the first to rebuild after a devastating fire, opened a store the same year. During this time Calico Rock grew to serve the railroad construction crews. From this point, Calico Rock became a major trading center for Izard County and portions of Stone County to the south. Buildings replacing those destroyed by the fire were of local stone and brick construction, rather than wood.

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Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church History

In 1903, Methodist and Presbyterian women of Calico Rock began to hold Sunday school in a pavilion in the east part of town. The school grew in numbers and shortly thereafter, the two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian) were well-established in town.

Reverend I.D. McClure was assigned to the Charge, and was the motivator who urged the building of the first church in town. It was a frame structure, built in 1907, on a lot donated by Elbert Benbrook. The Presbyterians worked and donated alongside the Methodists. The ladies grew a cotton crop on acreage made available by the Copp-Whitfield farm, with all proceeds going to equip and furnish this first church.

The land on which the Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church building itself was eventually constructed was originally purchased from Elbert Benbrook, Jr., of Searcy, White County, Arkansas, in 1914, for a total of \$600. An initial payment of \$200 was made, followed by four notes for \$100 each payable in one, two, three, and four years respectively. Interest was set at 8% per annum. The purchasers were listed as R.I. Sharp, R.F. Wood, H.H. Smith, and J.M. Creswell, all trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

In 1922, Reverend L.E. Conklin was assigned to the church and he urged the congregation to replace the 1907 frame structure with, what at that time was, a modern, brick structure. It was at this time that the Presbyterians decided to branch out and build their own church building. The Methodists proceeded to form a building committee to oversee the project which included the following men: H.H. Smith, W.J. Copp, and Joe Matthews. Total dollars budgeted for construction was set at \$7000.

In 1923, this committee along with a few other men from the congregation (Joe S. Sears, Robert L. Hayden, R.I. Sharp, A.D. Matthews, and Dr. E.B. Milburn) gathered their own, and other, donations and erected the present building at a cost of approximately \$10,000. It was situated about 15 yards to the south of the 1907 frame structure, and was built high enough to be out of reach of most flood situations.

Local stories have it that the basement for the new building was dug with a horse-drawn "draw scoop" rig. Mortar for the brickwork was made on site with red-brown sand that is thought to have been taken from the bed of Calico Creek, a few hundred yards from the building site.

The existing brick building was completed in 1924, and was formally dedicated on October 10, 1931, with Reverend Jefferson Sherman, presiding elder, preaching the dedication sermon. Aubrey G. Walton was the local pastor at the time, serving a church membership totaling 150 parishioners. The church women once again raised and sold a cotton crop to outfit the new building.

The new church boasted a full basement, a bell tower with a 500-pound cast bell, and five wood/coal burning stoves (three upstairs and two downstairs). The original flues and chimneys are still present, however not currently in use.

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In August 1924, a time capsule was built and sealed inside the wall of the church. This box was opened after 75 years on August 9, 1999, with much ceremony. The box contained the following items: a Bible; a *Calico Rock Progress* newspaper, dated August 8, 1924; a listing of the church's 150 members and leaders; and a gold nugget with "God" inscribed on it. Two weeks later, following a period of display of the contents, the box was resealed and placed back inside the wall of the church where it remained until April 2007, when it was removed and relocated to the new Methodist Church building.

It should also be noted that the building is in close (100 yards) proximity to the existing Calico Rock Downtown Historic District which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Current plans for the building include an ongoing restoration effort, combined with transformation into a community-focused music hall that will provide a performance venue for local and regional musicians. In addition, a museum of Calico Rock historic memorabilia is being considered for development using space available in the basement of the building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1924, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Calico Rock, Izard County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**, as a good example of a brick church built in the Craftsman style in the Calico Rock. One of the first congregations in Calico Rock, the congregation itself is steeped in history. The planned future use of the building as a musical hall and museum still keeps in mind the original purpose and use of the building—to serve the Calico Rock community.

Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Featherstonhaugh, George William, *Excursion Through the Slave States*, London: J. Murray, 1844.

Karr, Shannon, *A History of Izard County*, Little Rock: Democrat Printing & Lithographing Company, 1974, pp. 61-2.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), and Four (4) of Stoner's Second Addition to Calico Rock, Arkansas (as appears in Warranty Deed dated March 5, 1924).

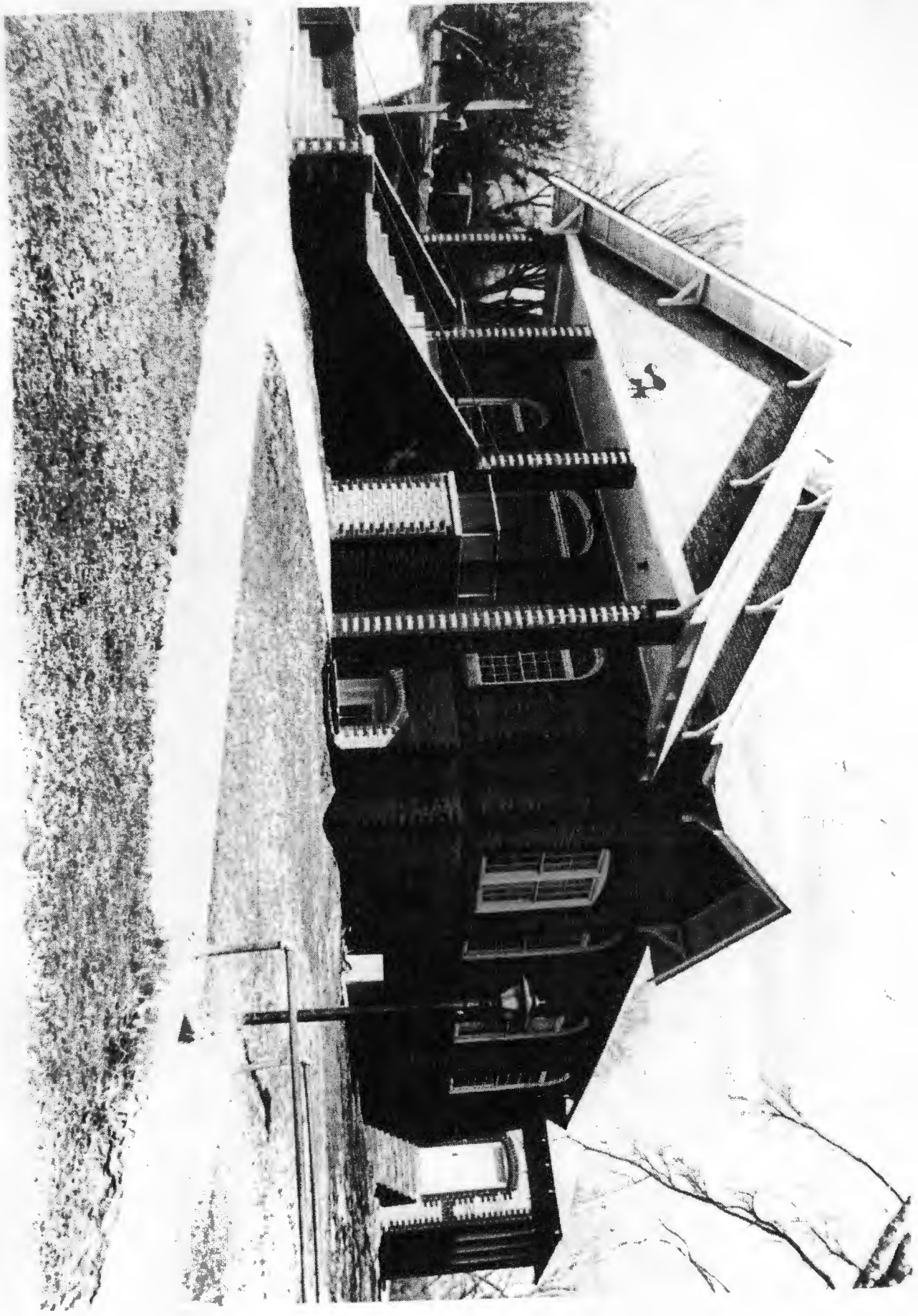
From the deed dated Dec 10, 1914, which outlines the original property:

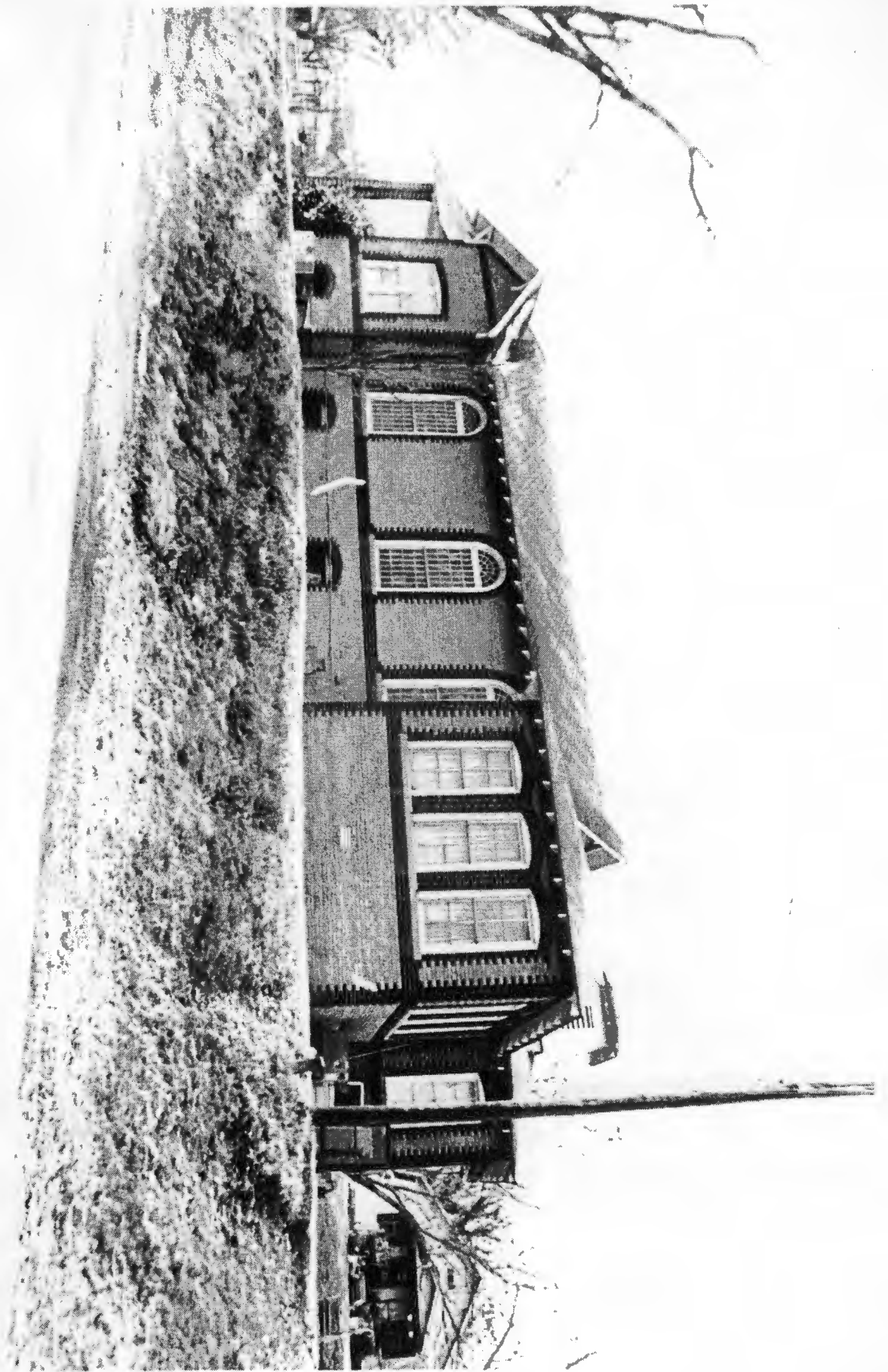
Part of the NE 1/4 of Sec 22, Township 17N, Range 1W, described as follows: To wit: Commencing 60 feet West of the NE corner of said section, thence West with section line 236 feet, then South 6 degrees 56' West to North end of corner of Lot number 7 in block 4 in Stoner Second Addition to the town of Calico Rock, Arkansas, thence East 236 feet to NE corner of Lot number 6 in said block 4, thence North to commencing, containing 5/6 of an acre more or less.

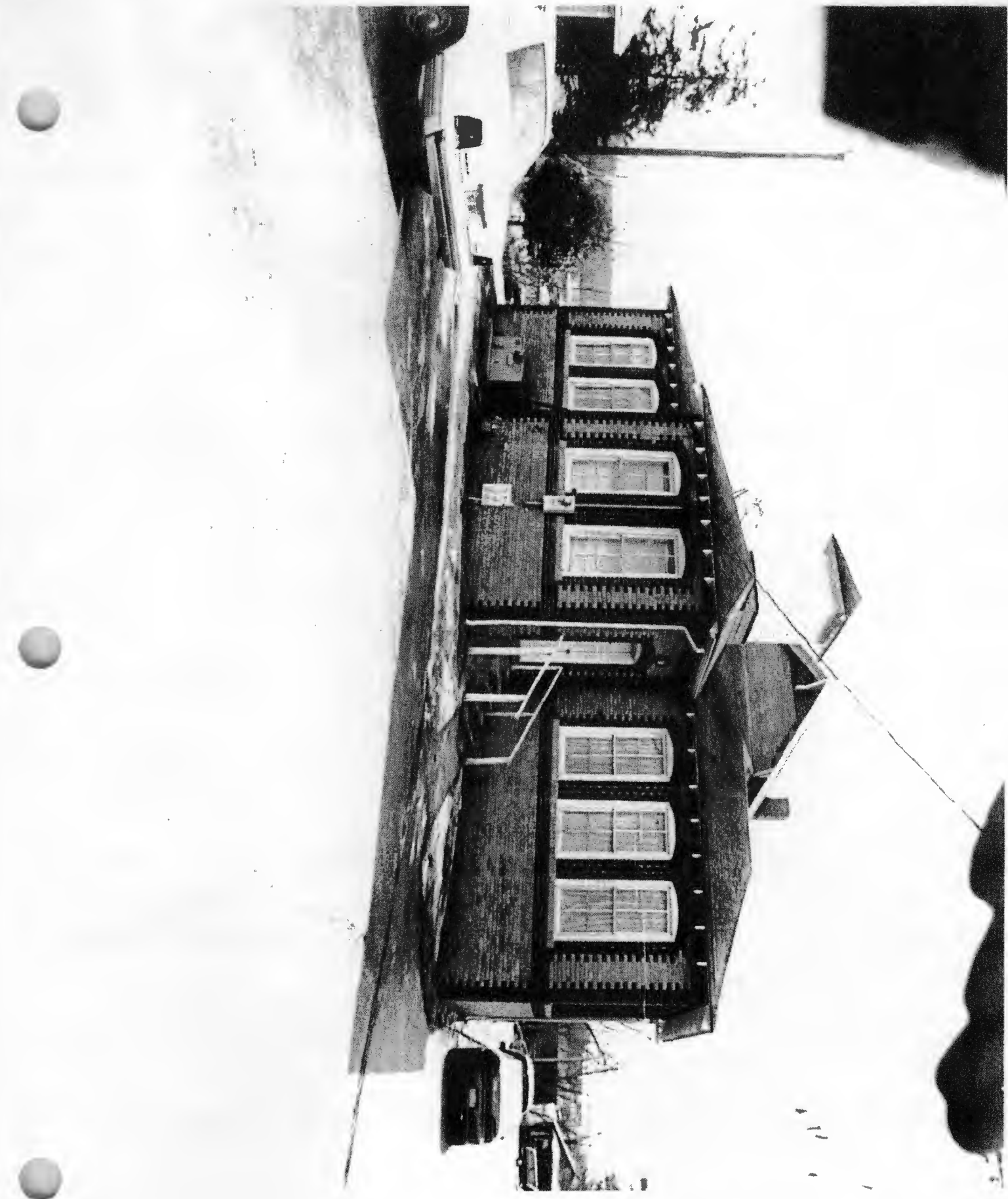
VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above boundary description includes all land historically associated with the Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal Church.

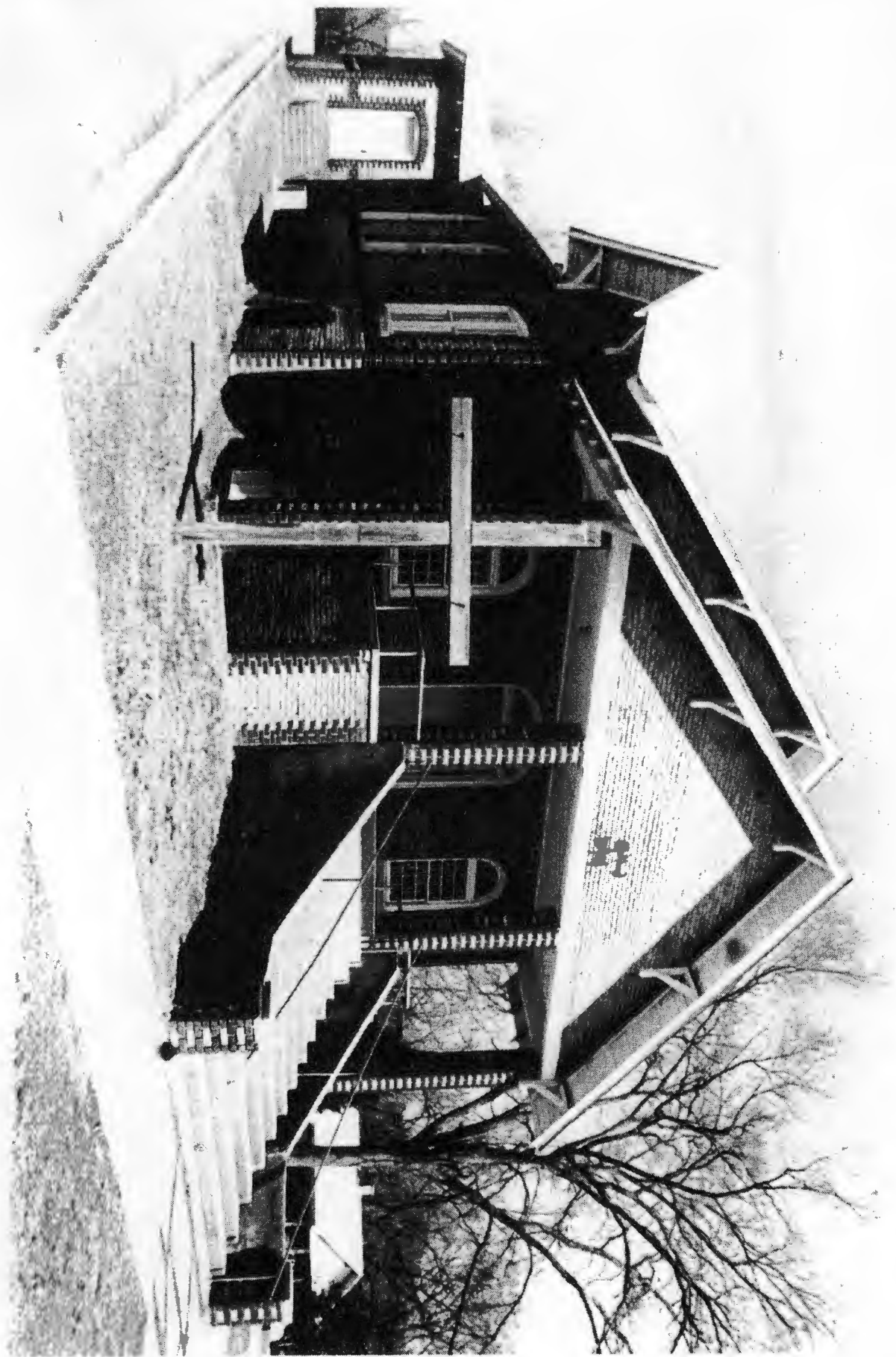












CALICO ROCK QUADRANGLE

ARKANSAS

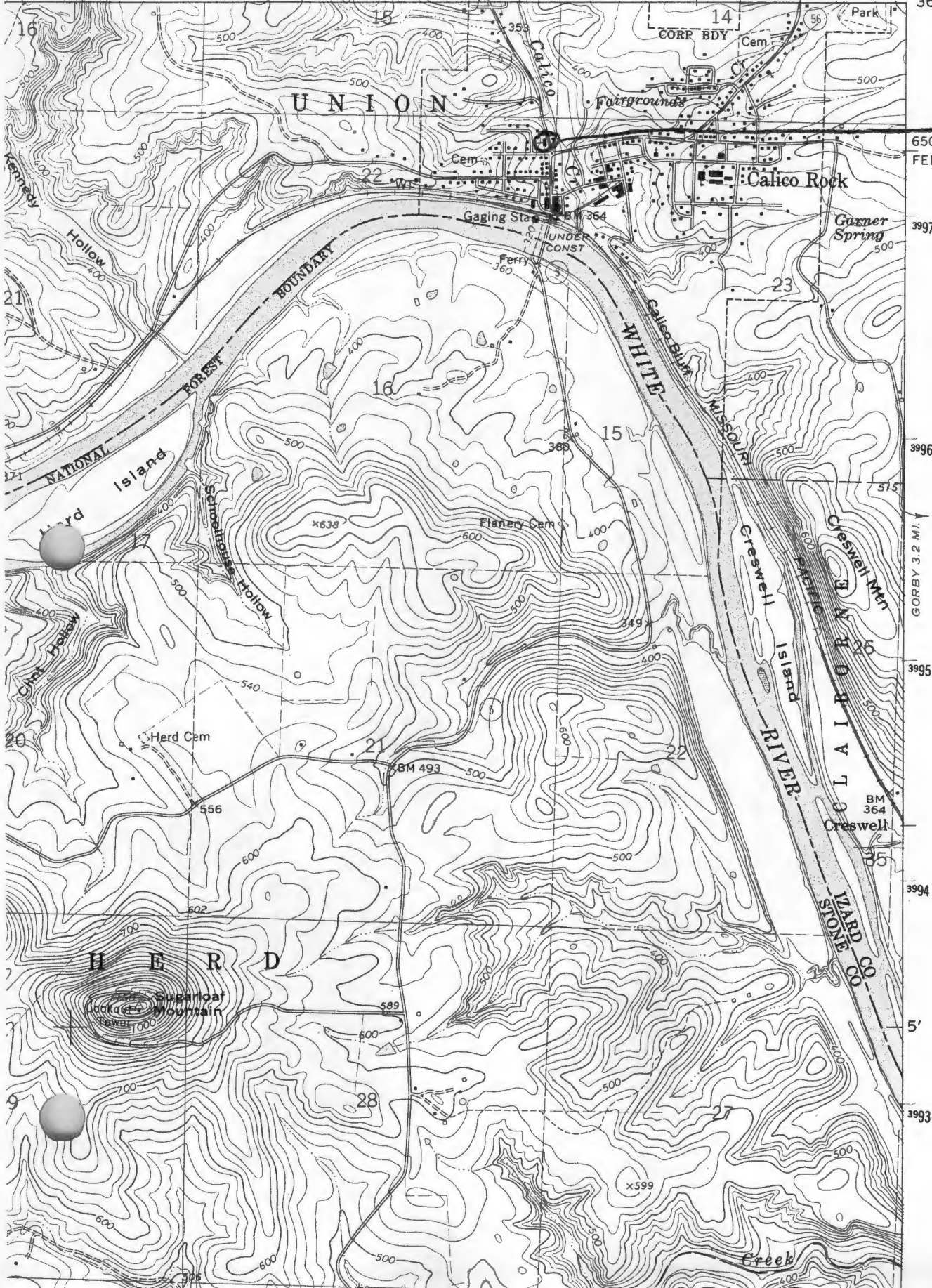
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7556 II NE
(PINEVILLE)

576 MOUNTAIN HOME 27 MI.
NORFOLK 13 MI.

577 1 960 000 FEET 578

ASH FLAT 35 MI.
92°07'30"
36°07'30"



Calico Rock Methodist Episcopal
Church
Calico Rock, Izard County, Arkansas
UTM Reference: 1516771003917626