

33-04-1155-54

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

7K 9-29-76

RECEIVED

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

Philadelphia Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Larkin

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Izard

CODE
065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES, RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES, UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United Methodist Church, Batesville District

STREET & NUMBER

960 Water Street

CITY, TOWN

Batesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Izard County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Melbourne

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Philadelphia Methodist Church in Izard County, Arkansas, was constructed in 1858. It is a one-storey frame structure of simple rectangular plan set on a foundation of native stone. The building features paired entries on the west elevation and an unusual window bay on the east elevation.

The symmetrical building has a medium pitch gable roof covered with sheets of tin. A narrow boxed cornice lies along the north and south elevations while the east and west elevations feature a similar flat cornice. The church is sheathed in clapboard and encircled with a wide plank baseboard just above the stone foundation.

Both the north and south elevations feature four tall symmetrical windows which are double-hung and have nine lites in each sash. The west elevation is marked by paired entry doors which were originally used as separate entrances for men and women. These unusual doorways feature long narrow paneled doors. Above each doorway is a square transom with four large lites. Each entry has its own cast-stone steps.

The most unusual feature of the building is located on the east elevation. This feature is a three-sided bay which rises above its own stone foundation and is topped by a composition hip roof. As the rest of the building, the bay is sheathed in clapboard. Located on the northeast and southeast sides of the bay are double-hung, four-over-four-lite windows.

The interior of the bay features an ogee arch, which is an unusual style for such a simple structure. Projecting from the bay is a small, wooden platform with a square pulpit set between square posts and a narrow railing. Built into the recess of the bay is a three-sided bench. Four steps on either side of the platform curve at right angles. Directly in front of the bay platform is another platform raised slightly from the floor and now used as a pulpit.

Interior walls and ceiling are sheathed in flushboard. There are three sections of pews, all planed by slave labor. The wide center section of pews is separated by a centered row of tall posts where the kerosene lamps used for illumination used to rest. This row of posts also serves to separate the women's and men's sides of the church.

Alterations to Philadelphia Methodist Church have been minimal. In 1917, during a restoration of the building, the tin roof was put on, windows were replaced and the interior painted. In the early 1950's the lower level platform and pulpit were added.

The basically original condition of the church combines with the unusual bay to make Philadelphia Methodist Church an architecturally significant historical structure. Resting on its original site and in fair condition, Philadelphia Methodist Church has recently been housing a local worship service again.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> ART <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> LAW <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
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SPECIFIC DATES 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Church buildings were once the center of pioneer life in rural communities. Rich in history, the Philadelphia Methodist Church, located near Larkin, Arkansas, was constructed in 1858. It is believed to be the oldest church building in Izard County. It is one of the few remaining antebellum church buildings still standing in the state and is a source of many memories to the descendants of those who founded the church.

Architecturally, the building is significant in its authenticity. It is a one-storey frame structure of simple rectangular plan set upon a foundation of native stone. An unusual bay on the east elevation sets the building apart from many other rural church buildings of the time. The three-sided bay rises from its own stone foundation and is topped by a composition hip roof. As the rest of the building, the bay is sheathed in clapboard. Located on the northeast and southeast sides of the bay are double-hung four-over-four-lite windows.

The interior of the bay features an ogee arch, which is an unusual style in a structure of this kind. Projecting from the bay is a small, wooden platform with a pulpit set between square posts and a narrow railing. Built into the recess of the bay is a three-sided bench, said to have been used by visiting ministers. In the early days of the church it was common to hold two-to-three-week revivals with five or more ministers.

In 1857 the Philadelphia community, now known as Larkin, had become quite populous. Church services were held in homes in the neighborhood. In July, 1857, it was decided that a church building was needed. A committee composed of William Criswell, Henry Williams and James D. Watkins was selected to secure means to build a meeting place for the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

According to a committee report of July 31, 1857, the church was to be built near a spring upon land deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church South by B. F. Dryden and W. S. Vannatti. The committee was to take subscriptions, receive contributions, let out contracts and superintend the construction of the building. The church was designed to be a frame structure, fifty feet long and thirty-one feet wide.

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South held on September 12, 1857, the committee was confirmed and instructed

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

by the Conference to proceed with the work. The church was to be built in the fall of 1857, but an illness of almost epidemic proportions fell upon the community and temporarily paralyzed the construction.

On April 15, 1858, the actual construction of Philadelphia Methodist Church began with Samuel L. Wicks as chief carpenter. By January of 1859 the building was complete except for the painting. The Philadelphia Methodist Church was constructed at a total cost of \$734.04.

The church building was used by all denominations, mainly Methodist and Baptist. When the North Arkansas Academy burned in 1887, the building was used to hold classes.

In 1916, Reverend J. W. Black, pastor, and four committeemen laid plans for restoration of the church building. A new roof was put on, the inside and outside walls were painted and the windows were replaced. On Sunday, July 1, 1917, soon after completion of the restoration, a large reunion of early settlers was held at the church. As was often common in rural communities, the reunion included an accounting of the history of the area, particularly of the church building.

From 1917 until the centennial celebration in 1956, annual reunions were held at Philadelphia Methodist Church. The last pastor of the church was Mrs. D. G. Hindman whose husband was pastor of the nearby Melbourne Methodist Church. They often held joint services at the Philadelphia Methodist Church building. The Hindmans made the last change to the interior of the building. As they were both short of stature, they felt dwarfed by the high pulpit. They had the lower platform and pulpit added to bring them closer to the congregation. Throughout the history of the church, pastors had complained that the high pulpit caused an echo which reverberated through the structure. Thus, the unusual second pulpit and platform had been a long-desired addition.

Since 1956 the building has been used for reunions, funerals, revivals and a few meetings of the Izard County Historical Society. Recently local church services have been held in the building.

Philadelphia Methodist Church stands as a monument to the settlers of the area and their lifestyle. The church building is an outstanding example of the small rural church in Arkansas in the nineteenth century. Adjacent to a well-cared-for cemetery, Philadelphia Methodist Church stands as the most historically significant structure in the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Batesville Guard and Evening Record, July 27, 1967.
Batesville Guard and Evening Record, July 16, 1967.
Melbourne Times, June 27, 1917.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0	3, 9, 9, 6, 6, 5, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-9-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

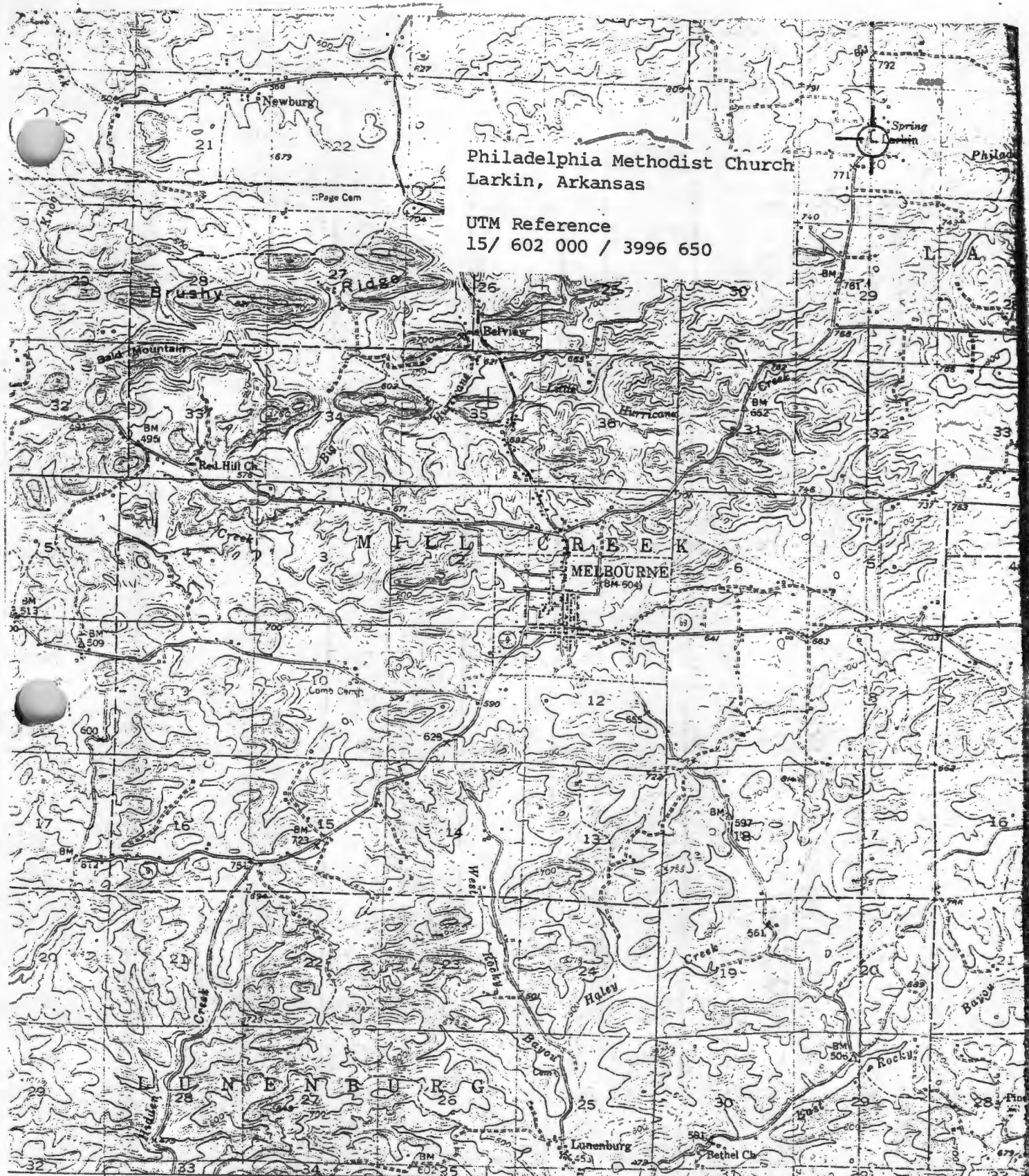
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

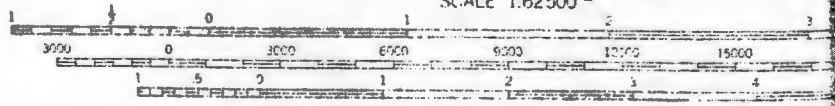
Philadelphia Methodist Church
Larkin, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15/ 602 000 / 3996 650



2010 000 FEET R 9 W. (GUION 1:24 000) 7195 IV NW 597 55' 598 599' 600 601 602 603

SCALE 1:62500



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Published by the Geological Survey
and USGS
Survey methods
1950-1951
Orthometric datum
in brown
Mercator grid ticks,

UTM GRID AND 1951 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRG
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Philadelphia Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Larkin

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Izard

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62,500

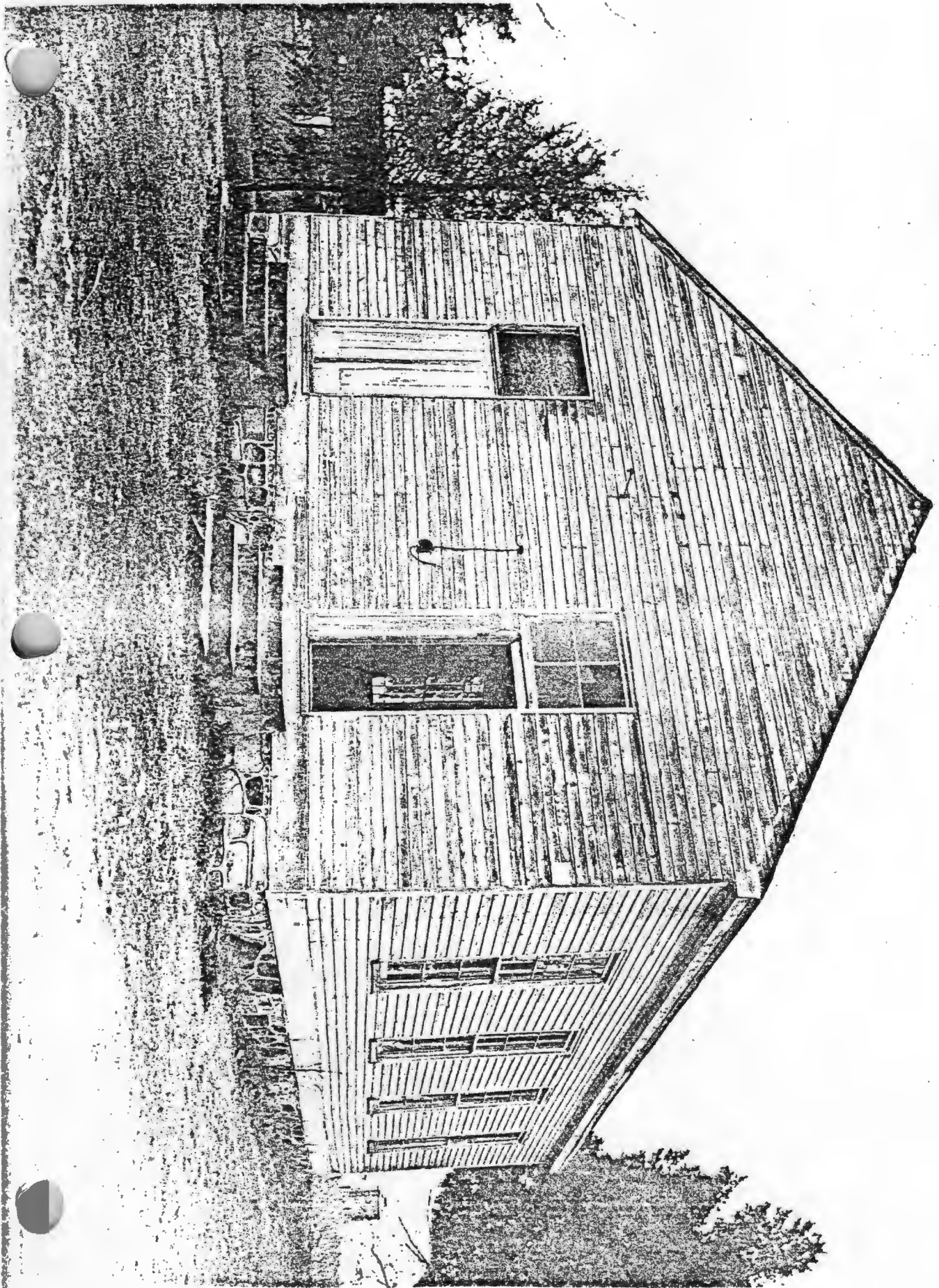
DATE 1951

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

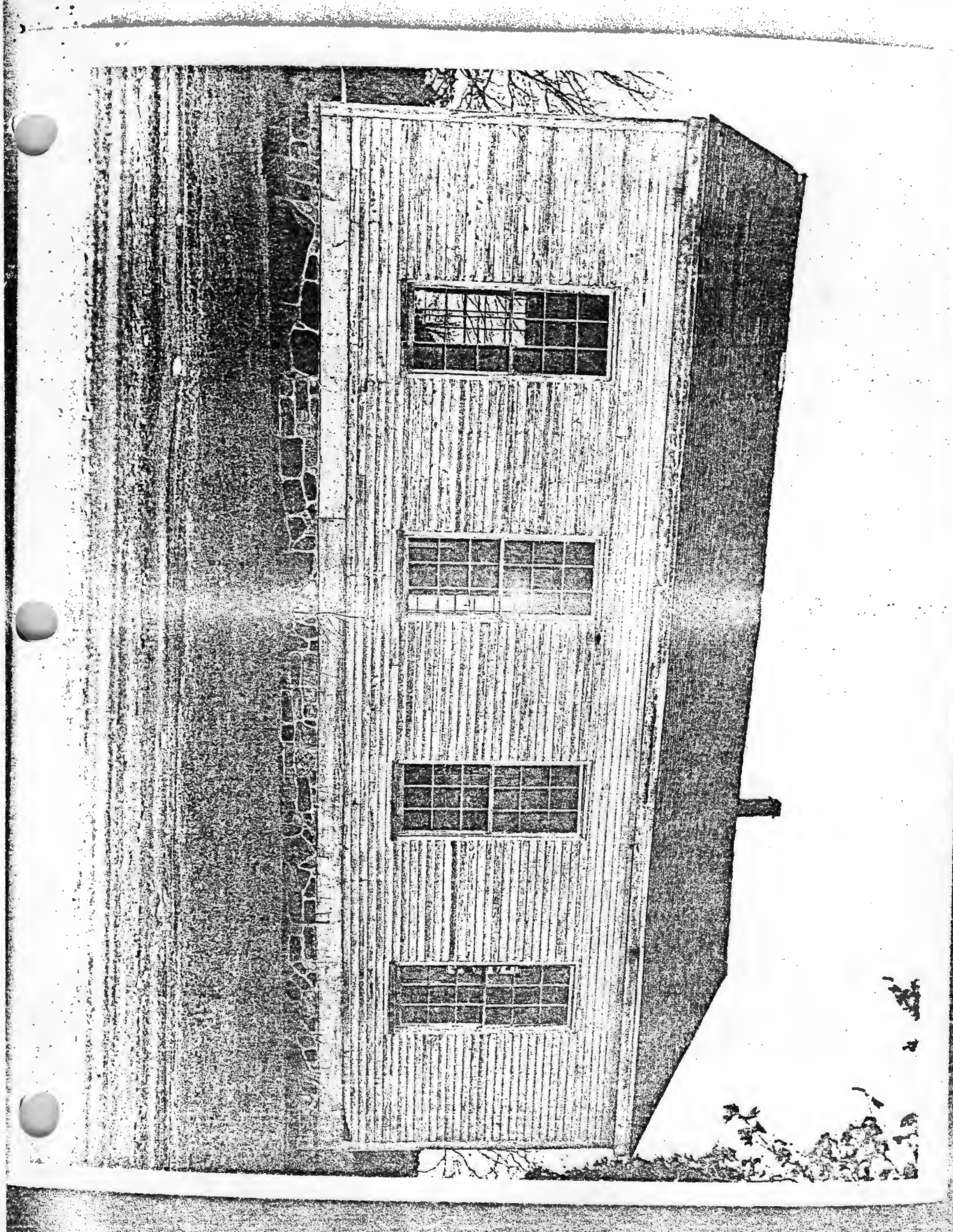
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 3464-75



1. Philadelphia Methodist Church
Izard County, Arkansas
West elevation, viewed from the west

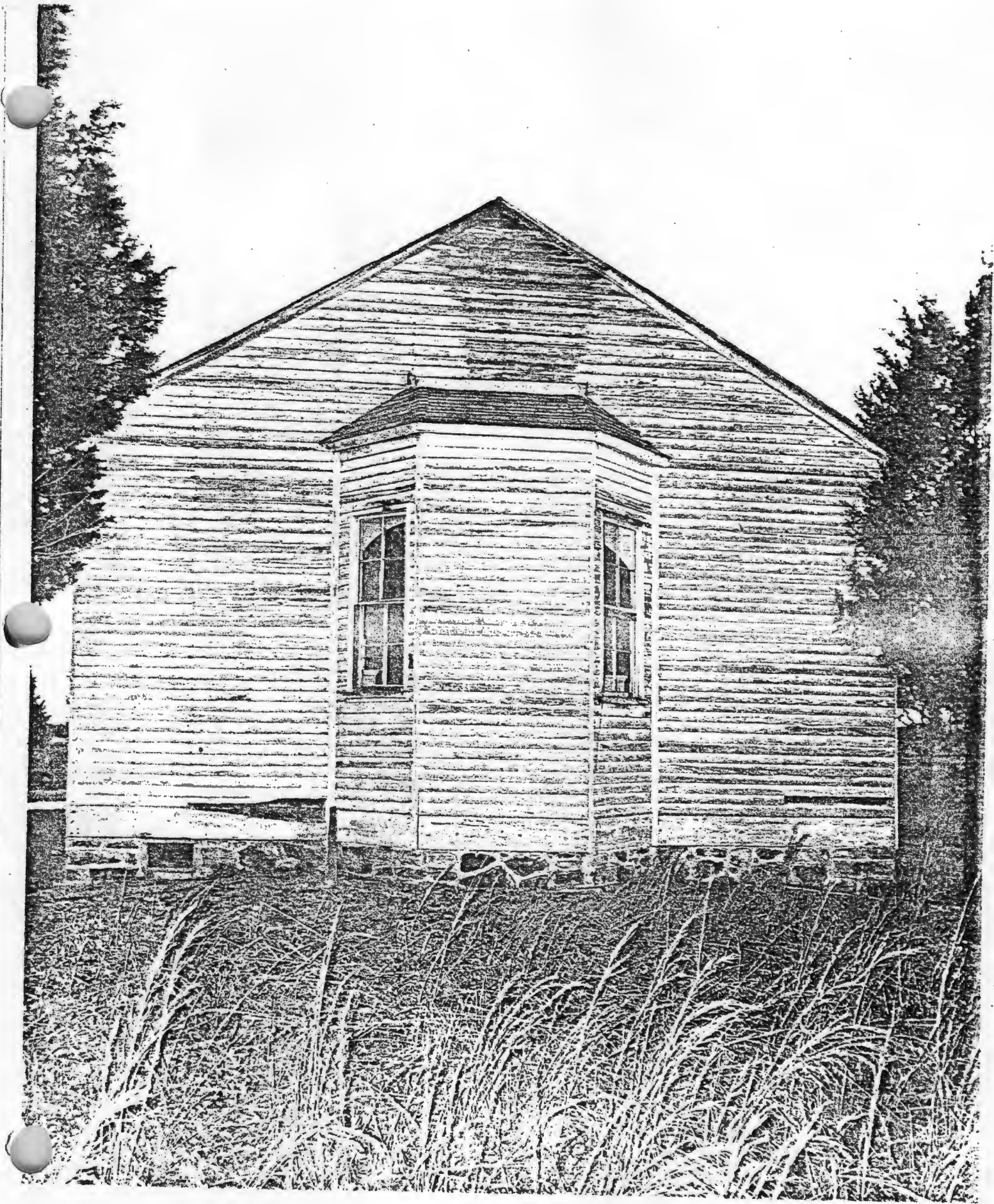
- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) West elevation, viewed from the west
- 7) 1



2. Philadelphia Methodist Church
IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH,

- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) South elevation, viewed from the south
- 7) 2

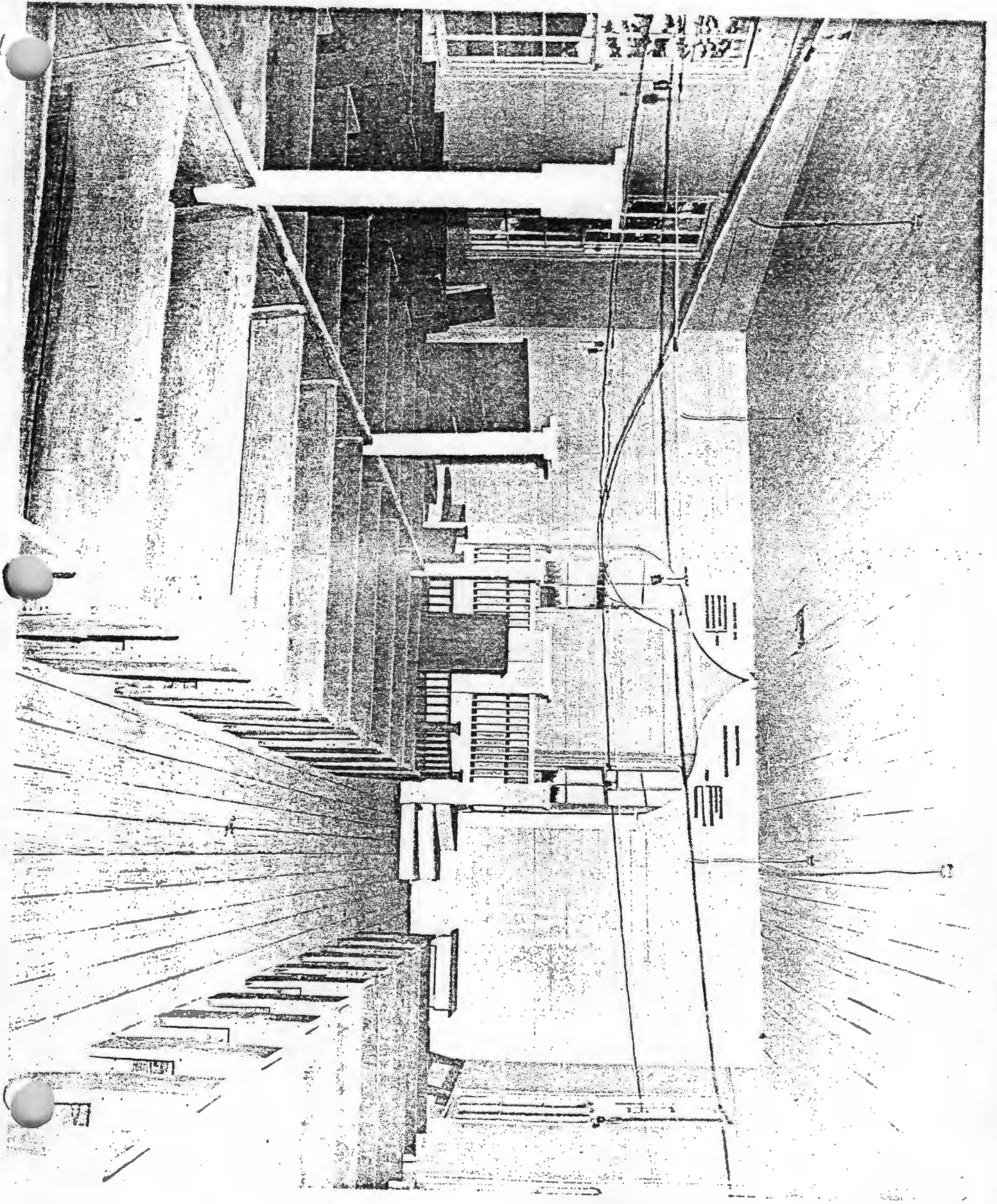


2. PHILADELPHIA METHODIST CHURCH

424 1/2 N. MAIN ST. LARKIN, ARKANSAS

BAY ON EAST ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
 - 2) Larkin, Arkansas
 - 3) Bob Dunn
 - 4) January, 1976
 - 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
 - 6) Bay on east elevation, viewed from the east.
 - 7). 3
-



4. Philadelphia Methodist Church
Iron Co (County), Arkansas
Interior, facing east

- 1) Philadelphia Methodist Church
- 2) Larkin, Arkansas
- 3) Bob Dunn
- 4) January, 1976
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Interior, facing east
- 7) 4