

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 18 1999

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Jumbo Church of Christ

Other Name/Site Number: IZ0102

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2. Location

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Street & Number: Located approximately four (4) miles northwest of the intersection of the Sylamore Road (Arkansas Hwy. #9) and the Jumbo Road.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Melbourne

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Izard Code: AR 065 Zip Code: 72556

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | Total |

Jumbo Church of Christ
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathy A. State
Signature of certifying official

1-7-99
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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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 _____

Jumbo Church of Christ
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
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_____ removed from the National Register _____

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Social Sub: Meeting Hall

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Sandstone roof Metal
walls Wood other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located approximately four (4) miles northwest of the intersection of the Sylamore Road (Arkansas Highway #9) and the Jumbo Road, the Jumbo Church of Christ was built c. 1927-28 by the local residents. This vernacular one-room church building of plain/traditional styling rests on unmortared sandstone piers and wooden supports resting on rock. (At some point the church building was underpinned with corrugated sheet metal to prevent animal intrusion. Recently, when the building was restored, galvanized metal panels were substituted for the corrugated sheet metal.) The church has a gable roof covered in corrugated sheet metal and a boxed cornice. The windows are wooden, double hung, and have a four-over-four pane arrangement. The church is of box construction with the joints between the wall boards covered with 1 X 4 wood battens. The gable ends are sheathed in weatherboard. The interior walls are papered. The ceiling is finished with tongue-and-groove bead board, and the flooring is horizontal flush wooden planking.

Adjacent to the Jumbo Church of Christ is a privy. Although newly constructed, the privy is in the approximate location of the original. The privy does not contribute to this nomination.

Elaboration

Built c. 1927-28, the Jumbo Church of Christ is a rural one-room church located approximately four (4) miles northwest of the intersection of the Sylamore Road (Arkansas Highway #9) and the Jumbo Road on the outskirts of the town of Melbourne. This vernacular church of plain/traditional styling retains a high degree of its original materials and integrity. This simple building is of box construction with the joints between the wall boards covered with 1 X 4 wood battens, the gable ends are sheathed in weatherboard. It has a moderately pitched gable roof covered in corrugated sheet metal and a plain box cornice. The original wooden double-hung windows remain intact with their four-over-four pane arrangement. The Jumbo Church of Christ rests on unmortared sandstone piers and wooden supports resting on rock. At some point the church building was underpinned with corrugated sheet metal to prevent animal intrusion. Recently, when the building was restored galvanized metal panels were substituted for the corrugated sheet metal.

The front, or northwestern, elevation is extremely plain, containing only the double entry doors. These four-panel doors are original to the church, retaining the original hinges, lock, and china doorknob. Simple 1 X 6" boards form the trim surrounding the entry. The board and batten siding on the body of the church and the horizontal weatherboard in the gables provide visual texture to this otherwise plain elevation. The wooden steps and railings are not original, but probably very similar in design.

Both side (the southwestern and northeastern) elevations of the Jumbo Church of Christ are fenestrated by three symmetrically placed, four-over-four, double-hung wood-framed windows with plain 1 X 6" trim. The rear, or southeastern, elevation contains a single-leaf rear door (the door is not original although the opening is) and a single wood-frame double-hung four-over-four window. Once again, the board and batten siding on the body of the church and the horizontal weatherboard in the gable combine to visually relieve an otherwise bland elevation.

The simple charm of the plain/traditional design of the church extends to the interior as well. The box frame walls have been papered--as they were historically--to help reduce air infiltration. The floor is 1 X 6" boards butted together. The ceiling is tongue-and-groove beaded board. Simple 1 X 6" boards frame the windows and doors. A flue is centered on the ceiling,

giving evidence of the wood burning stove that once was used to heat the space. At the back of the church is a small raised platform, or stage, where a table serving as the pulpit is located. To one side is a small wooden deacon's bench. The original wooden pews for the congregation remain in the building. Although the church has been wired for electricity, kerosene lamps standing on bracket shelves attached to the walls provide additional lighting. (Though not original, these shelves are situated in the original locations. However, some of the kerosene lamps are original to the church.) The original blackboard on which Bible quotes, sermon topics, and community messages were written still hangs behind the stage.

The interior and exterior of this church have had few modern additions except for the rear door, the installation of the galvanized metal panels used as underpinning that replace the original corrugated sheet metal underpinning, and the building having been wired for electricity.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1927-28

Significant Dates: c. 1927-28

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Jumbo Church of Christ is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a rural, one-room plain/traditional style church built c. 1927-28. The interior and exterior of this church have few alterations, except for the rear door, the galvanized metal panels used for underpinning, and having been wired for electricity.

Elaboration

The community of Jumbo was founded relatively late in the early history of Izard County, being officially recognized on April 21, 1891, when a post office was established. The original community was located on Mill Creek, five (5) miles west of its present location and boasted a post office, water-powered grist mill, and several houses. Supposedly, the community was to be named after one of its founders, Jimbo Smith; however, the United States Postal Service misread the name and the community was christened Jumbo. This area of Izard County primarily consisted of small subsistence farms, although some cotton and corn was grown for sale.

Some thirty years after its founding, the community moved to its present location closer to the town of Melbourne. Local lore agrees that the reason for the move was because the original site was wiped out in a flood. Whatever the reason, by 1927 the new town of Jumbo was thriving. It had the post office, a new grist mill, cotton gin, general store, blacksmith shop, saw mill, several residences, and in 1927-28, the Jumbo Church of Christ was built. The building of the church was a true community affair--the land for the church was donated by the Hardrick family, the lumber for the construction was donated by the Campbell family, and other local families (Hunt, Smith, Freeman, Hays, Kizer, Field, Estes, Moore, Sipes, Jeffery, Sartin, Cooper, Cockrom, Musgrove, Watson, Lane, Collins, Bailey, Melton, Copeland, Vest) helped with the construction. Like many churches in other small rural communities, the Jumbo Church of Christ served not only for religious purposes, but was the community meeting hall, school, music school, and voting place.

The community of Jumbo thrived until 1949, when the small rural schools and voting places in the area were consolidated to Melbourne. Thereafter, a slow decline set in with residents moving into Melbourne or away from the area altogether. By the

1960s very few people still resided in Jumbo. The mills, gin, store, and blacksmith shop were closed and only intermittent services were held in the church. By 1984 the church had been abandoned and the property reverted back to the original family. From 1984 until 1997 the building sat vacant and unused until being restored by a former resident of the community.

The Jumbo Church of Christ is important in that it is an excellent example of a rural, one-room, vernacular church, surviving in virtually pristine condition. It is also significant because it is one of the last remnants of the once thriving and now defunct town of Jumbo, which, like numerous other small rural communities slowly died when they were eclipsed by larger neighboring towns.

The Jumbo Church of Christ is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a rural, one-room, vernacular church built in 1927-28. The church is in near-original condition and retains almost all of its original features. Examples include: four-over-four windows, 1 X 6" board flooring, tongue-and-groove bead board ceiling, box construction, sandstone piers, four-panel front doors, exterior weatherboard, box cornice, pews, stage, and blackboard. The Jumbo Church of Christ survives as an excellent example of a rural, one-room, vernacular church--a building type that is becoming increasingly rare.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Shannon, Karr. A History of Izard County. Published by Democrat Printing and Lithographing Co., Little Rock, AR 1947. p. 69.

Ross, Lora Smith Cooper. J. J. Vest and Some of His Kinfolks.

Marthaler, Archie Floyd. Love to All. August 8, 1954.

Interview with Mrs. Eutha Mae Vest, April 1997 and September 1998.

Interview with Mr. Guy Campbell, September 1998.

Interview with Mr. Lloyd Jeffery, September 1998.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Jumbo Church of Christ
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: less than one acre

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|-----------------|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| UTM References: | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| | A | <u>15</u> | <u>592080</u> | <u>3990830</u> | B | _____ |
| | C | _____ | _____ | _____ | D | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning 9 5/11 rods East to the NW corner of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 9 West to a walnut tree for a starting point, thence South 10 rods, thence East 10 rods, thence North 10 rods, thence West 10 rods to the beginning point, containing 11/16 of an acre, said parcel of land being located in the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 9 West. (This land formerly conveyed to the Church of Christ but reverting back to previous grantors due to the abandonment as a place of worship.)

Boundary Justification: This boundary contains all the property historically associated with the Jumbo Church of Christ that retains its historic integrity.

Jumbo Church of Christ
Name of Property

Izard County, Arkansas
County and State

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Randy Jeffery, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

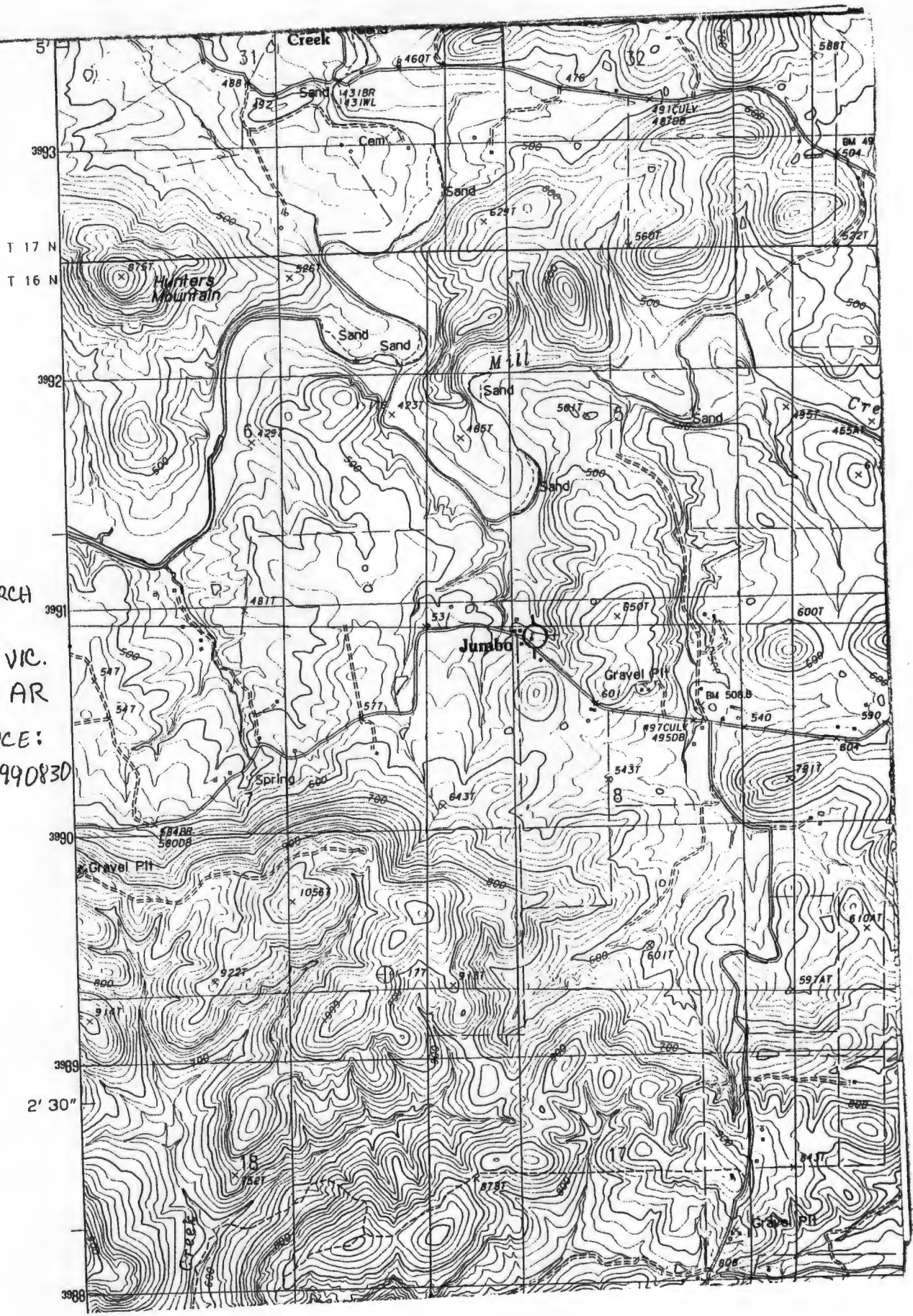
Date: 10/5/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St.

Telephone: (501)324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

JUMBO CHURCH
OF CHRIST
MELBOURNE VIC.
IZARD CO., AR
REFERENCE:
15/592080/3990830







JUMBO
MEETING

