

NR Listed: 10-04-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Wabaseka Methodist Episcopal Church, South
other names/site number Wabaseka United Methodist Church (Current Name)

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 79 not for publication
city or town Wabaseka vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Jefferson code 069 zip code 72175

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.)

Cecilia Matthews 8/13/02
Signature of certifying official/Title 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)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS: 1925 Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

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.

- 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.
[X] 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:

- [X] 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

1925

Significant Dates

1925

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.)

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):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
[X] Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Wabbaseka Methodist Episcopal Church South, presently known as Wabbaseka United Methodist Church, located on U. S. Highway 79 in Wabbaseka, Arkansas, is a single story with basement, brick masonry church building designed in the 20th Century Classical Revival Style. The form of the front (south elevation) of the church differs from the remainder of the building in that it presents a parapet wall above the entablature, concealing the gabled shingled roof behind it, which caps the entire church. Wing walls set back from the front of the church building terminate the parapet with the hipped roof visible from that point rearward; roof terminations at the rear are hipped. There is an addition at the rear of the original building that, although visually compatible does not attempt to be imitative of a particular style. The basement was originally fenestrated by four-over-four double-hung windows, but in an attempt to protect the basement from flooding, the lower four panes were removed from all but three basement windows.

ELABORATION

Wabbaseka Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Wabbaseka United Methodist Church), in Wabbaseka, Arkansas is a single story with basement, brick masonry church building designed in the Classical Revival style. The "T" shaped building is capped by a gray composition shingled roof, which is concealed at the front by a parapet wall. The parapet is capped at the top with what appears to be a plastered masonry coping.

South Elevation (Facade)

The church vestibule fronts on U. S. Highway 79, and is entered through a pair of wood doors at the top of a raised foundation expressed by the application of a plaster base over the masonry. A glazed keyed round masonry arch sits atop the doors. A pair of Tuscan pilasters supports an applied plaster entablature and pediment frames the inset entrance. Narrow stained glass windows flank the inset entrance on both the east and west. A dated concrete cornerstone is located just above the plaster base on the eastern corner of the front of the building.

East Elevation

The parapet at the front of the building continues on the south end of this side, but terminates as a wing wall perpendicular to this face of the building. The south end of the elevation contains one one-over-one stained glass double-hung window serving the vestibule. Three more stained glass one-over-one windows are located to serve the sanctuary which is raised several risers above the level of the vestibule.

The building then projects east with a hipped roof covered wing fenestrated on the south facing side by an eight-over-eight double hung window. Two additional windows serve the east side of the projection with a final eight-over-eight window facing north. A final fenestration in the form of an eight-over-eight window is located on the main body of the building near the back. A total of eight four-pane stationary windows provide light to the building's basement.

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North Elevation

The back of the building faces north and is fenestrated by four windows on the main elevation of the building. The two middle windows are two-over-two stained glass double hung windows while the eastern and westernmost windows are each of eight-over-eight pane configurations. Three of the four basement windows located on the elevation are original and feature a four-over-four pane configuration. The other basement window has been removed and replaced with plywood.

West Elevation

The west elevation mirrors the east elevation with the exception of a small addition that has been added to the building on the northwest corner of the building. The addition is constructed with concrete blocks with a single leaf door located on its east facing side. Moving from the back of the building, the church is fenestrated by an eight-over-eight double-hung window. A wing projects west from the building and features four windows. The north-facing wall of the wing had its window removed when the addition was completed and is now infilled with plywood. The other three openings retain original eight-over-eight double-hung windows. Returning to the main body of the church, the building is fenestrated by three fairly large stained glass windows. A final one-over-one stained glass double-hung window provides sunlight to the vestibule on the south corner of the elevation. Seven four-pane windows are located at ground level to light the basement.

Interior

The interior of the church is comprised of the original plaster walls, woodwork and a pressed tin ceiling. The pews of the church are also original to the building. Stained glass replaced the original windowpanes, but the actual window frame is still intact. A curved plaster altar, capped with a communion rail precedes the pulpit. A raised choir loft with flanking anterooms completes the nave. The additional room on each side of the building serves as a Sunday School Room. The basement of the building has additional Sunday School rooms, a kitchen and an open area for fellowship. Plaster walls and a pressed tin ceiling can be found in the basement.

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Summary

The Wabbaseka Methodist Episcopal Church, South is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of 20th Century Classical Revival architecture in Wabbaseka, Jefferson County, Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A**, religious properties that achieve significance through their design and not for religious merit.

Elaboration

Soon after the close of the Civil War, Mr. John Jones came to the area known today as Wabbaseka, Arkansas. Mr. Jones was from Alabama and he settled on the Wabbaseka Bayou. Mr. Jones had one child, Lucy, who married her cousin Capt. N.T. Roberts and at her death, Capt. Roberts inherited all the land on which Wabbaseka is now built.

The first known religious service to be held was a protracted meeting held in the old Furr schoolhouse located about one mile south of the present-day town. The preacher for the occasion was a bright lawyer named Charles Brinkley who had become a Methodist minister. Rev. Brinkley resided in nearby DeWitt. Some time later, another Methodist minister, Dr. Withers held a meeting under a brush arbor near the same school building.

The congregation of the present day Wabbaseka United Methodist Church was originally formed in 1870 at Flat Bayou, because of the prohibition of building a church within three miles of a community or town that sold whiskey. The church was officially named Flat Bayou Methodist Episcopal Church, South but was referred to by locals as the Flat Bayou Church.

The Cotton Belt Railway (presently the Union Pacific Railroad) completed a bridge across the Arkansas River at Rob Roy, Arkansas in June 1883. That was the beginning of train service through Wabbaseka. Capt. Roberts and his brother Mr. Charles Roberts had donated a large amount of land to the railroad and they organized a train station in Wabbaseka. The depot was originally housed in a railroad boxcar. Because of the railroad, the town began to grow and soon there were several cabins and two small stores but no church or school was built until later.

In 1888 Mr. Isom C. O'Neal built a large frame store building and put in a complete of general merchandise. Gradually other settlers arrived in Wabbaseka and a need for a church and school became priority. Capt. Roberts donated an acre of land for a church site and other citizens contributed money. In the summer of 1891 a small but substantial frame building was erected and a church was organized. The first minister for whom any records exist was Rev. G.W. Mathews, who was from Virginia. Services were held once a month in the beginning. Squire R. J. Watkins organized a Sunday School but it struggled for a while and eventually was closed.

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In 1909, Mrs. O'Neal and Miss Willie K. Hocker, designer of the Arkansas State Flag, decided to revive the Sunday School program for the church. They canvassed the entire town and invited everyone to come. Many of the invited showed up and the Sunday School was revived with Capt John Weedon being appointed superintendent and Mr. W.H. Townsend, a local business man was elected secretary. The Sunday School program never again lapsed and is still meeting although the present day membership is considerably smaller.

In 1925 the present building (Wabaseka United Methodist Church) was built on the same plot of land in Wabaseka that was donated by Captain Nathaniel Terry Roberts. The new church was re-named Wabaseka M.E. Church, South. In 1939 The Methodist Protestant Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South merged to form The Methodist Church.

Wabaseka M.E. Church, South was party to this merger and became the Wabaseka Methodist Church until another merger took place in 1968 creating The United Methodist Church of which Wabaseka Methodist became a member and remains so to this day. The congregation of the Wabaseka United Methodist Church still meets in that same building erected in 1925. The cornerstone of the building reads "Wabaseka M.E. Church, South".

The church's most renowned member was Miss. Willie K. Hocker who was the designer of the state flag for the State of Arkansas. Miss Hocker lived directly behind the site of the present church and was an active member and Sunday School teacher in the church. A photograph of Miss Hocker with a brief biography and statement of her accomplishments hangs next to an Arkansas State Flag to greet worshipers as they enter the building.

Statement of Significance

The Wabaseka Methodist Episcopal Church, South is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of 20th Century Classical Revival architecture in its area of Wabaseka, Jefferson County, Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A**: religious properties.

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Bibliography

Letter from Mrs. L.G. Garrett to Rev. Bauthle (this is a handwritten document and hard to tell the exact spelling of the recipient's name)

"A Brief History of the Wabbaseka Sunday School" - Mrs. W.W. West and Miss Willie K. Hocker

"History of the Methodist Church in the Altheimer Area", 1991, Joe Simpson

"Willie K. Hocker's History of the Wabbaseka Methodist Church's Sunday School" Edited by James W. Leslie - Jefferson County Historical Quarterly, Vol. 12 - No. 1, 1985.

"History of the Wabbaseka Methodist Church" - Misc. Notes compiled from church records with various dates and names. This is a handwritten document and it is not possible to tell who transcribed it from the original records.

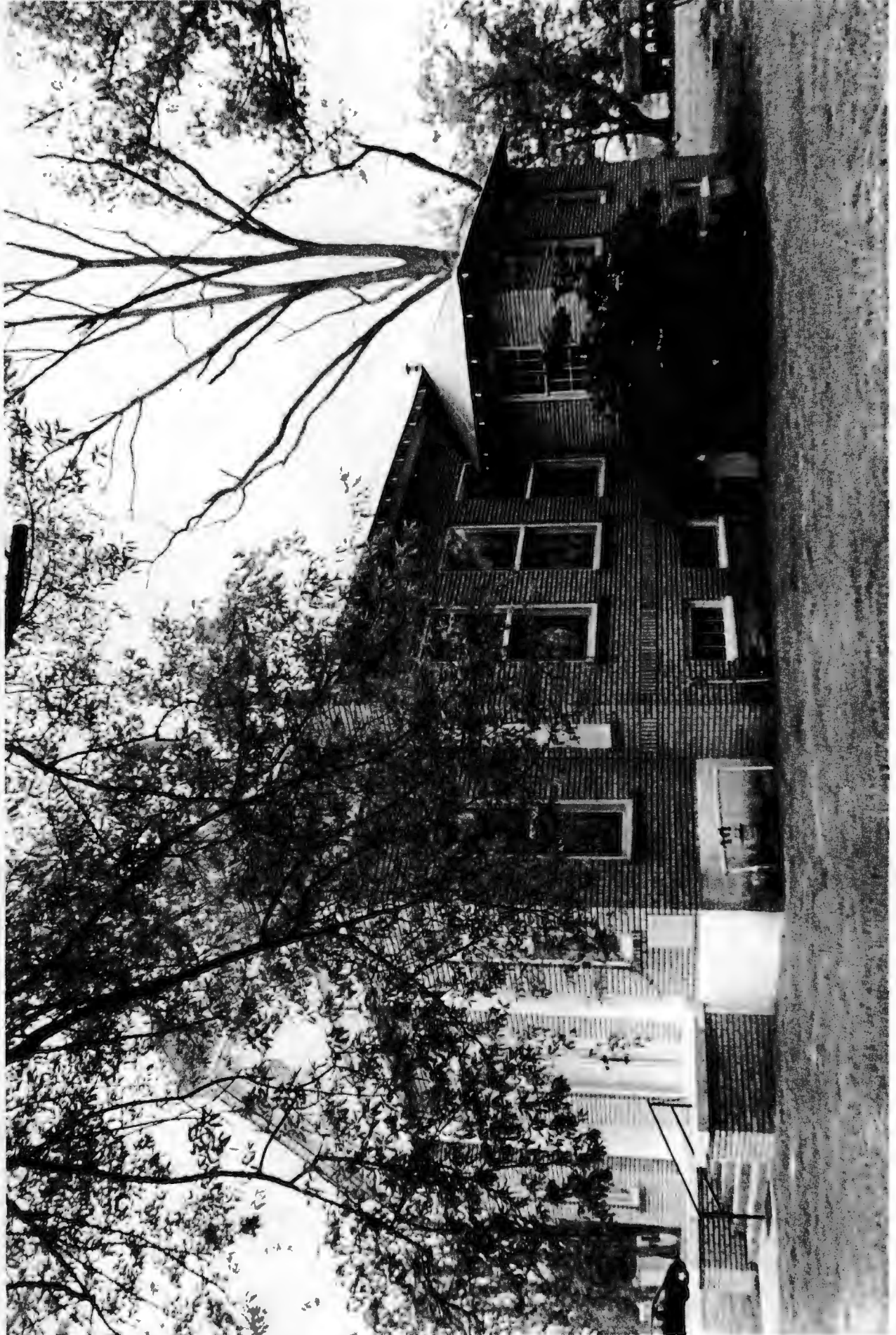
"History 2000 The Arkansas Area United Methodist Church" - Memo to local church historians, chairpersons of Administrative Board and Pastors from the Arkansas Area office of the United Methodist Church.

Misc. Deed and Property Records recorded in Jefferson County Court House

Tom Hedgepeth, Architect- Technical advice



1. Wabbinseha Methodist Episcopal Church, South
2. Jefferson Co., N.R.
3. Joe Cotton
4. April 2002
5. AHP
6. South elevation, looking north
7. #1



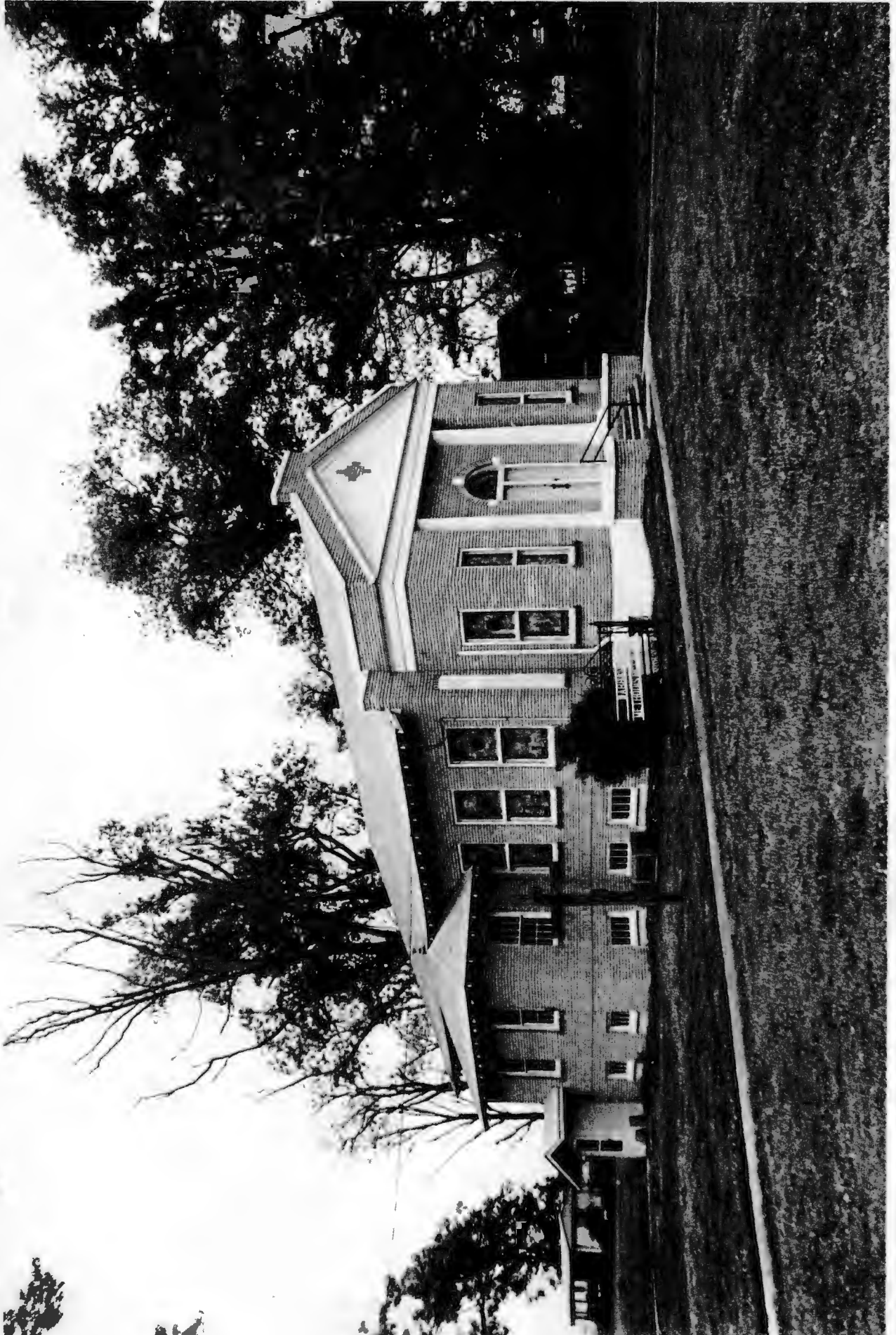
1. Wabbeok - Methodist Episcopal Church, South
 2. Jefferson Co., AR
 3. 2000 Cath. ch.
 4. April 2000
 5. APP
- (East elevation, looking northwest)
- 5 #2



1. Alabama Methodist Episcopal Church, South
2. Jefferson Co., AR
3. Zoe Cochran
4. April 2002
5. ARRP
6. North plantation - Lakeview South
7. #13



1. Wagoner Methodist Episcopal Church, South
2. Jefferson Co., AR
3. Joe Conner
4. Apr. 1902
5. AHPP
6. West elevation. Looking east.
7. #44



1. 1000-1200 Methodist Episcopal Church, Spauld.
2. 1200-1300 St. Paul's Church, Spauld.
3. 1300-1400 St. Paul's Church, Spauld.
4. April 2000
5. A.M.P.P.
6. South west corner looking north east
7. #15

Wabbaseka Methodist Episcopal Church South
Wabbaseka, Jefferson Co., AR
UTM: 15K105603802527

