

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Harmony Presbyterian Church

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: Located approximately eight miles north of Clarksville on
the north side of State Highway 103

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Harmony

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Johnson code: AR 071 zip code: 72830

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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> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 10-24-94
Signature of certifying official 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 _____
- _____ 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: RELIGION _____ Sub: Religious facility _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Gothic Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Stone</u>	other	<u>Stained glass</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1915-17

Significant Dates: 1915-17

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Chandler, Tip/Chandler, Ed/Chandler, Joe

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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:

- X 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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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>449300</u>	<u>3934050</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of the associated access road with a roughly perpendicular line running parallel with the church's eastern elevation and located approximately 25 feet to the east thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the church's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the church's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the church's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/17/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located approximately eight miles north of Clarksville on the north side of State Highway 103, the Harmony Presbyterian Church is a single-storey, stone masonry church building designed in a simplified rendering of the Gothic Revival. The hipped belfry is echoed by the hipped roof over the sanctuary, and the walls are fenestrated with stained glass windows set into openings capped with simple, triangular heads. The rough stone masonry adds the only additional detail.

Elaboration

The Harmony Presbyterian Church is a single-storey, stone masonry church building designed in a simplified rendering of the Gothic Revival. Its rectangular plan is augmented only by an uncovered stoop flanking the central front staircase and the addition of both a handicapped access ramp around its eastern and northern elevations, and a small hipped roof section at the northwest corner that houses the bathrooms. A single exterior stone chimney -- finished with brick above the roofline -- rises from the center of the northern or rear elevation. The hipped, asphalt shingle roof and cut stone walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation. The building includes a full basement.

The southern or front elevation is composed of the two triangular-headed stained-glass windows flanking the central double-leaf entrance with its triangular stained-glass transom window. The multi-pane stained-glass windows are actually set into a double-hung sash configuration, and the colors of purple and light green predominate, as they do in all the stained-glass windows. The same stained-glass fills the central entrance transom and the windows of the doors themselves. The elevation is dominated overall by the tall belfry with its own hipped roof; it has been recently sheathed with artificial siding (however, it is the only artificial siding to be found on the entire structure). The raised basement is sheathed in a cut stone of rougher finish than that laid above the projecting water table. The entrance staircase is also constructed of cut stone.

The eastern and western elevations are virtually identical. Each is fenestrated with five triangular-headed stained-glass windows on the main floor and five more horizontal rectangular windows lighting the basement directly below. The only exceptions are both found on the western elevation: the single-leaf door that accesses the basement from the northernmost window bay and the side wall of the low, hipped roof bathroom addition that is flush with the original wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The northern or rear elevation is symmetrically-fenestrated with two single stained-glass windows flanking the central chimney. The low, hipped roof addition is placed directly below the western window, and the single-leaf rear entrance (now doubling as the handicapped entrance) is placed next to the eastern wall. The modern handicapped entrance ramp and accompanying concrete block wall -- wrapping around the eastern and northern elevations -- complete this view.

Significant exterior details are largely limited to the aforementioned stained-glass windows and the rough, ashlar finish on the cut stone throughout.

The interior is relatively simple, though largely original, the only changes being the installation of more modern pews, the updating of the altar rail at the front of the sanctuary, and the partial enclosure of a small room at the rear of the sanctuary to form a Sunday School. The original stained wood trim surrounds the windows and doors, the original panelled wood survives on the balcony and around the sides of the altar rail, and the narrow, beaded board ceiling remains visible in both the sanctuary and the entrance hall. The full basement below is used for various church-related functions and is fully furnished, though largely unfinished in any formal sense.

The alterations to the building have been slight and largely due to matters of necessity. The obvious need for bathrooms required their addition onto the rear of the building in 1960, though the work there was sensitively done. The only severe alteration was the addition of artificial siding on the belfry at the front of the church.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criterion C, local significance
(Criteria Consideration A)

Constructed between the years 1915 and 1917, the Harmony Presbyterian Church is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of both its status as the best example of a church building designed in this combination of the native Ozark Mountain stone masonry tradition and the nationally-popular Gothic Revival. Though its triangular window heads and central, hipped belfry clearly reflect the influence of the Gothic Revival style, the rough-cut stone masonry and the heavy, thick walls all borrow from local building practices indigenous to this region for years prior to the construction of this building.

Elaboration

The small community of Harmony -- located in central Johnson County -- was founded in 1831 by Abraham Laster and twelve other families, all of whom emigrated from Wilson County, Tennessee. Built around Horsehead Creek, the community grew to considerable size for such a rural community by the early twentieth century, when it could boast of several small stores, a cotton gin, a wood frame school building, and this handsome Gothic Revival church building.

Abraham Laster, who led this group from Tennessee, continued to serve as their local leader thereafter. He was named a delegate to select the county seat, and has been given credit for both its location at the present site of Clarksville and the selection of the name, as he made an agreement with another delegate, Lorenza Clark, to name the county seat after the latter if he would vote for the location that Laster favored. Eventually Laster donated the land for the church and school in Harmony, as well as that for the Masonic Lodge; furthermore, both historic cemeteries associated with the early settlement of Harmony are located upon land originally owned by Laster.

The local residents first requested permission to organize a church for their fledgling settlement in 1844; the initial membership numbered about 45 (by 1895 it had grown to 162). The congregation originally met in three log school houses until 1858, when Abraham Laster deeded the two acres on which this building currently sits for a church and school. A frame building was succeeded by a building of box construction, and another church was constructed in 1873 that served the congregation until the completion of the present building in 1917.

Though the construction of the existing building was supervised by the contractor Tip Chandler

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

and his sons, Edward and Joe, local residents donated most of the labor. Constructed of locally-quarried sandstone, the Harmony Presbyterian Church is significant not only by virtue of its status as the oldest and most intact structure of any kind in the historic community of Harmony, but also as an outstanding example in the county of a Gothic Revival design with traditional influences. Of particular note are the triangular-headed windows and door entrances, which probably reveal the local stone masons lack of experience with constructing more architecturally-sophisticated solutions to the problem of adapting a rigid material like stone to pointed arches. However, the ashlar-faced cut stone is also typical of traditional construction of the Ozark Mountain region, and the stained-glass lends a note of elegance that finishes out the design. For these reasons the Harmony Presbyterian Church is locally eligible under Criterion C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

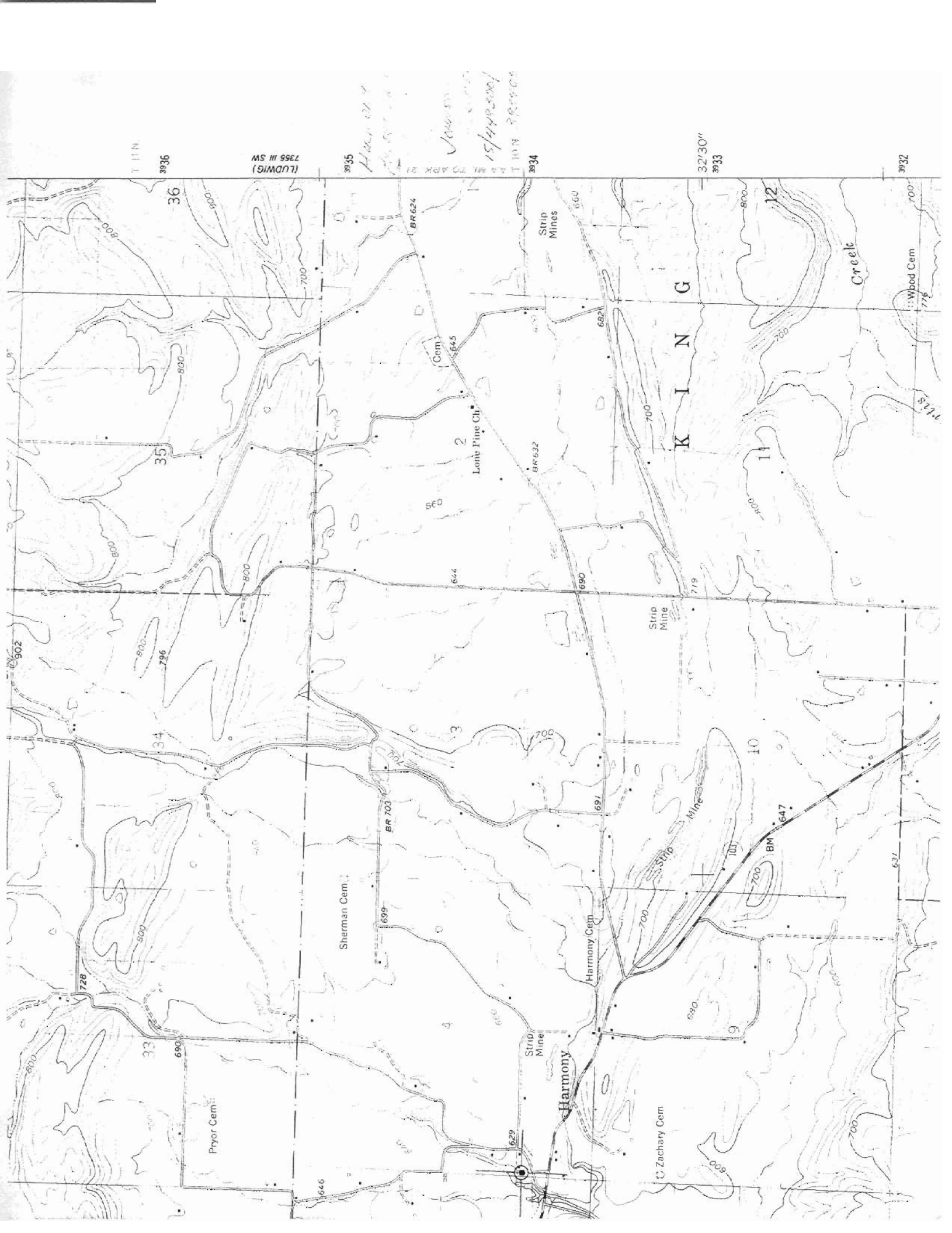
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Langford, Ella Molloy, *Johnson County, Arkansas: The First Hundred Years*, (Clarksville, Arkansas: 1921).

Information provided by Maribeth Laster, Harmony, Arkansas (includes history of Harmony community written by James Monroe Laster in 1914).



T 11 N

3936

(LUDWIG)
7356 III SW

3935

Harmony
New Survey
15/4/1900
4.4 MI. TO APR 21

3934

32' 30"
3933

3932

36

35

34

33

2

3

4

K
I
N
G

12

11

10

9

Creole
Creek

Wood Cem

Harmony

Strip Mine

Harmony Cem

Zachary Cem

Sherman Cem

Pryor Cem

Strip Mines

Strip Mine

Strip Mine

Cem

Long Pine Cl

BR 703

BR 624

BR 632

BM 647

629

691

690

682

660

728

796

808

800

646

699

644

645

600

650

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800

637

631

700

700

