

NR 1-21 88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church

and or common (same as above)

2. Location

street & number Highway 81

N/A not for publication

city, town Relfs Bluff

vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Lincoln

code 079

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- N/A being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, c/o Mrs. Connie Knox Rupe

street & number Route 2

city, town Star City

vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office

street & number Drew County Courthouse

city, town Monticello

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

The Mount Zion Presbyterian Church is a one-story gable-roofed building, rectangular in plan. Constructed in 1925, it is of Craftsman design with distinctive neoclassical detailing.

ELABORATION

The Mount Zion Presbyterian Church is sited at the top of a hill along Arkansas Highway 81, with a tree-shaded lot and cemetery to its north. The principal (west) facade's gable-oriented high-pitched roof has overhanging eaves supported by brackets. A recessed entry which leads to double doors is supported by Tuscan columns, two free-standing flanked by two engaged. Carpentry work in the weatherboard siding above the entry forms a simple arch motif with plain detailing. The entry is flanked by narrow pairs of six-over-six double-hung windows with keystones above. The side (north and south) elevations of the church are identical. A slightly-projecting bay pierces the center of each elevation, with gable roof and a trio of double-hung windows, the center of which is twelve-over-twelve and the flanking each nine-over-nine. On each side of the bay is a pair of nine-over-nine windows, and a single nine-over-nine window at the end of each elevation completes the fenestration pattern. The roof has wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters.

The rear (east) elevation possesses little detail except the brackets under wide eaves. Two five-panel doors, one on each side of the elevation, are no longer used and steps which once led to them have been removed.

The building is sheathed in weatherboard and has a brick foundation. The metal roof is pierced at the northwest and southeast by brick chimney flues.

The interior of the Mount Zion Presbyterian Church reflects its rectangular design. Wooden pews contemporary to the building's construction date flank a center aisle which leads to the wide-arched altar. Original beaded-board wainscoting remains, as do globe light fixtures. Plaster walls have been covered with pressed-wood panelling and original ceiling has been covered with asbestos tiles, although original height and gambrel shape of ceiling remain.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1925

Builder/Architect Charlie Blakely

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Mount Zion Presbyterian Church is a significant building architecturally. A twentieth-century interpretation of the traditional country church, its Craftsman style and neoclassical detailing make it an unusual example of its type.

ELABORATION

The Mount Zion Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1925 for a congregation which had been formed by early settlers of the area in 1859. The carpenter was Charlie Blakely of the nearby Rock Springs community, and most of the actual construction of the building was done by church members. The brackets and exposed rafters typical of Craftsman design, while common to residences of the period, are unusual in a religious building. The columned entryway, along with its arched detailing and keystones above the windows, probably indicate Mr. Blakely's interest in classical architecture, and are instrumental to the significance of the building.

Descendants of the settlers who founded Mount Zion Presbyterian Church still attend services there, although little remains of the original communities it serviced, Relfs Bluff, Montongo, and Plantersville. Its significance lies in its distinctive design detailing, however, and it is being nominated under Criterion C for that reason.

9. Major Bibliographical References

A History of Lincoln County, 1983.

Star City Ledger, 9/24/59.

Mt. Zion Church records, 1859-1888.

Personal interviews with Connie Knox Rupe and Josephine Starling Handly

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Reifs Bluff, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 607525 37395110
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification From the intersection of Arkansas State Highway #81 and the county road at the boundary of Drew and Lincoln counties (11.8 miles north of Monticello), proceed north 100 feet to the point of beginning at the southwest corner of the property. Next proceed north 70 feet, thence proceed east 80 feet, thence proceed south

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date July 1987

street & number 225 East Markham telephone 371-2763

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 William M. Hall

title William M. Hall, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-18-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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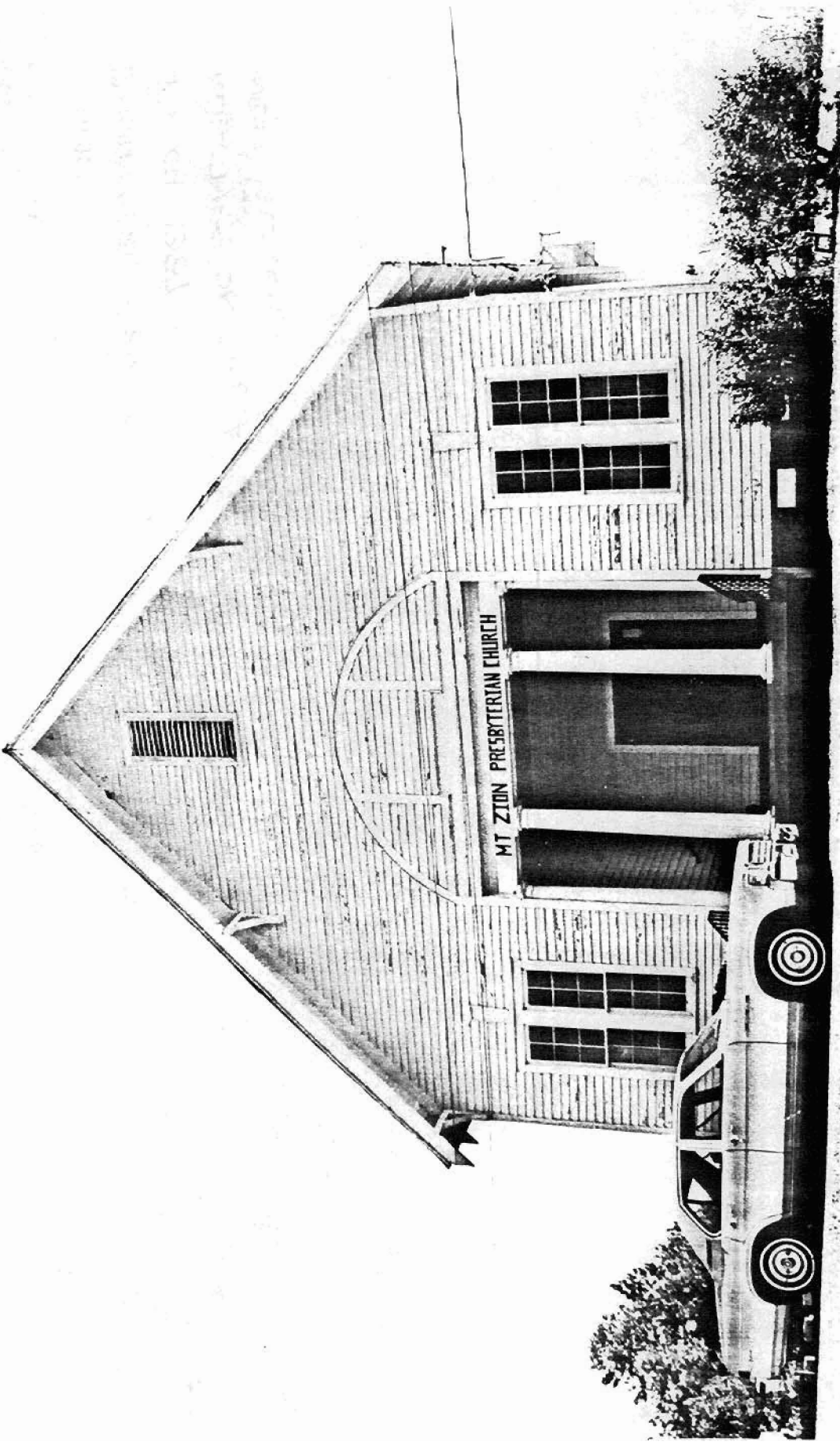
Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

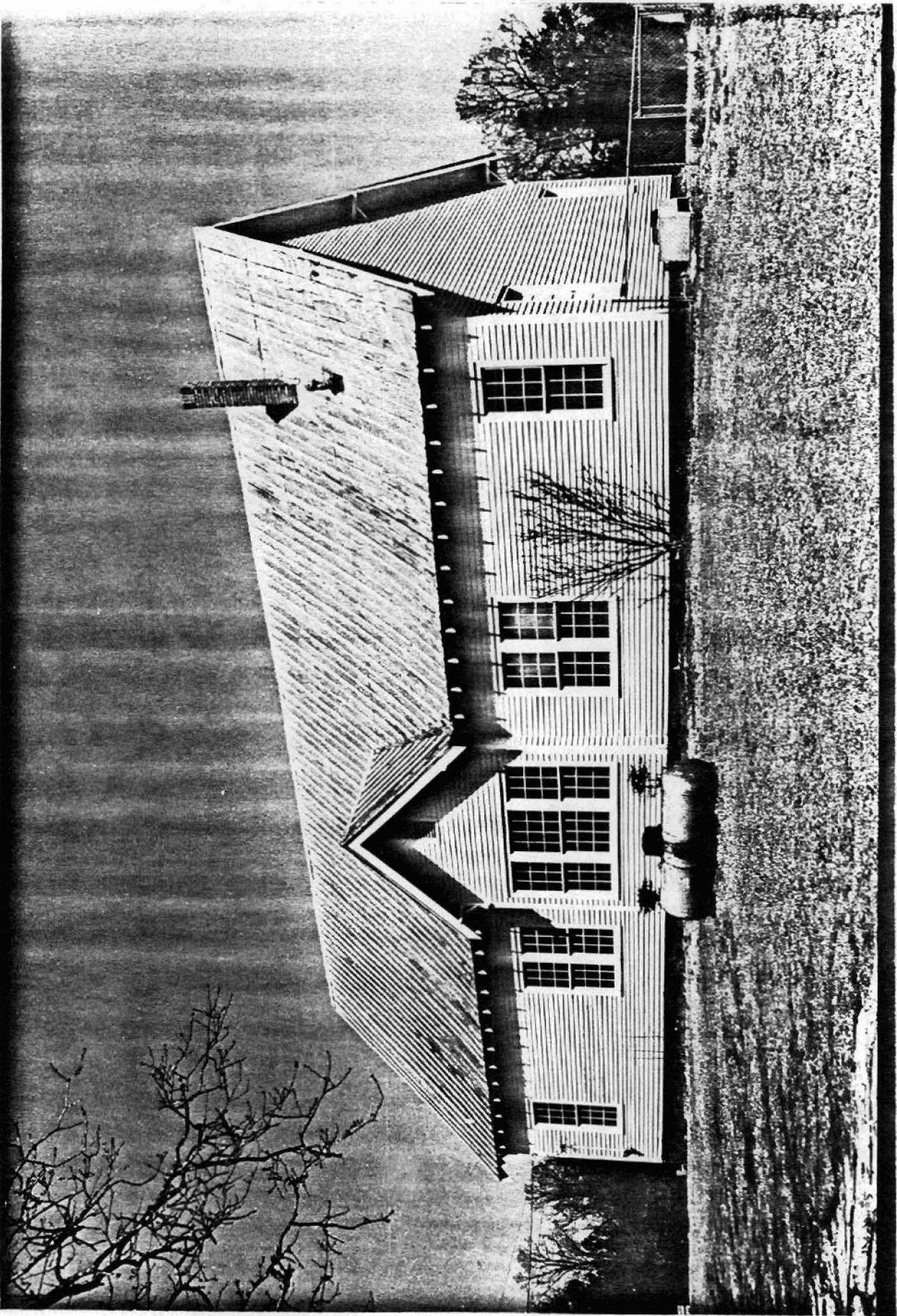
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CONT.

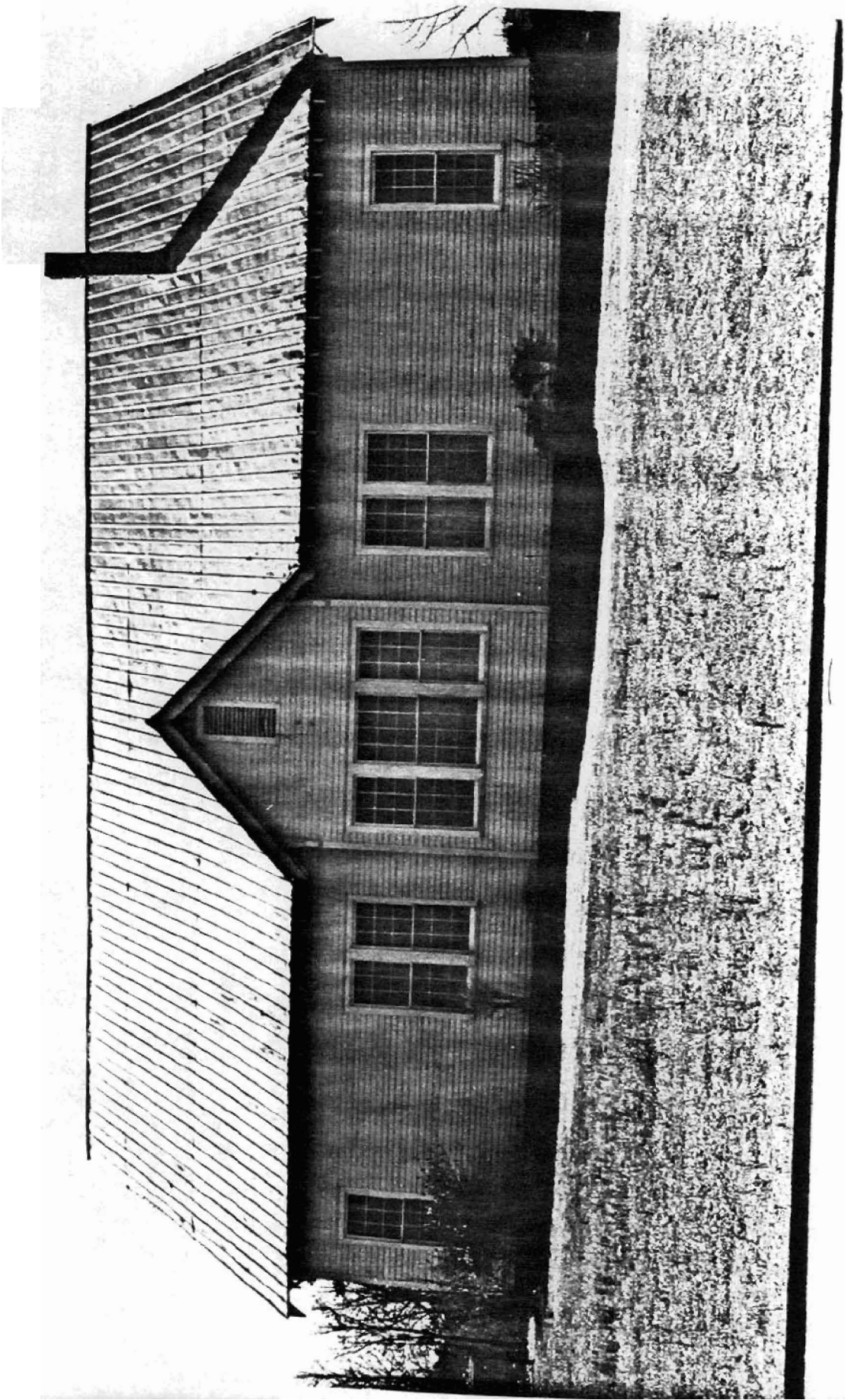
70 feet, and thence proceed west 80 feet to the point of origin.



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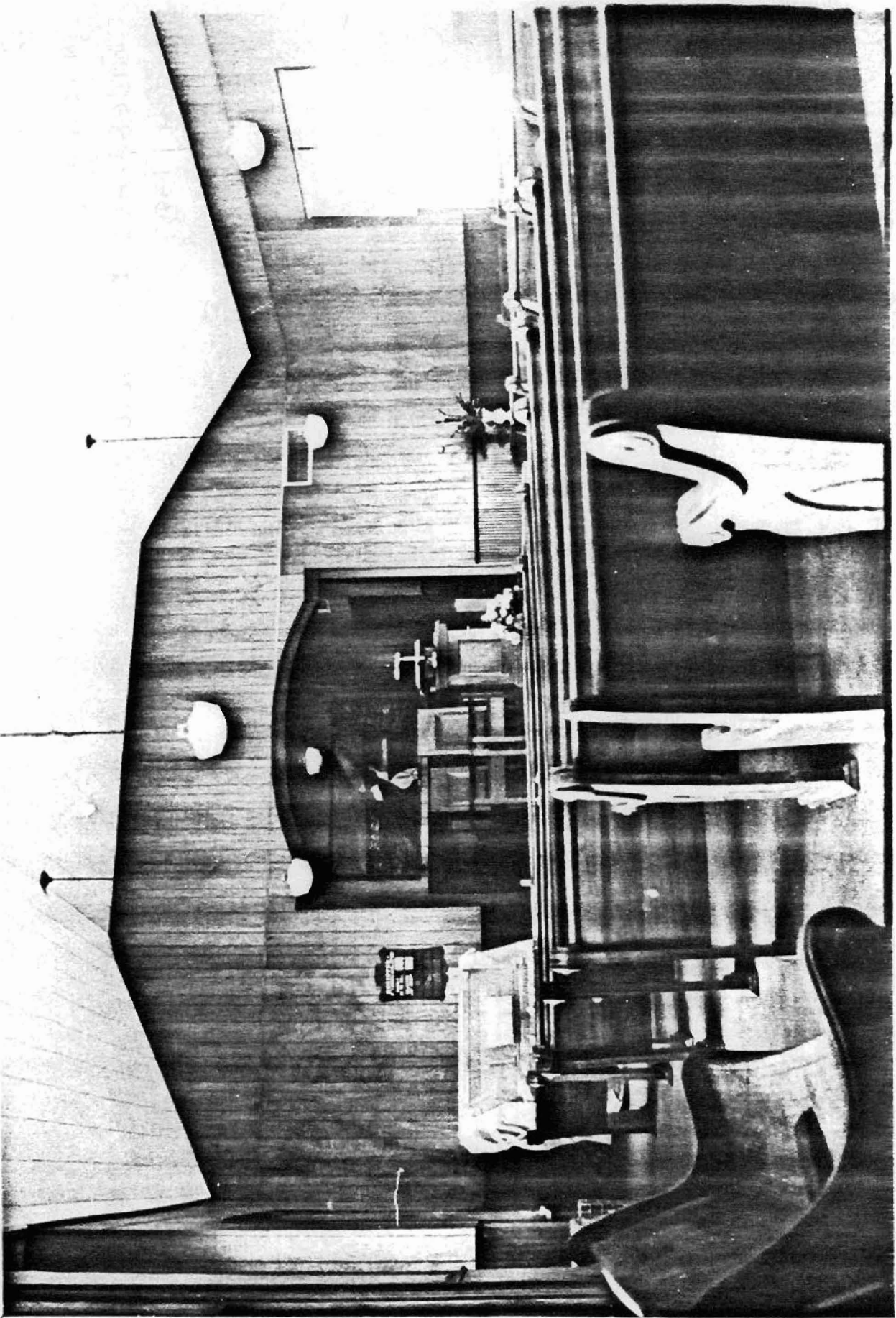


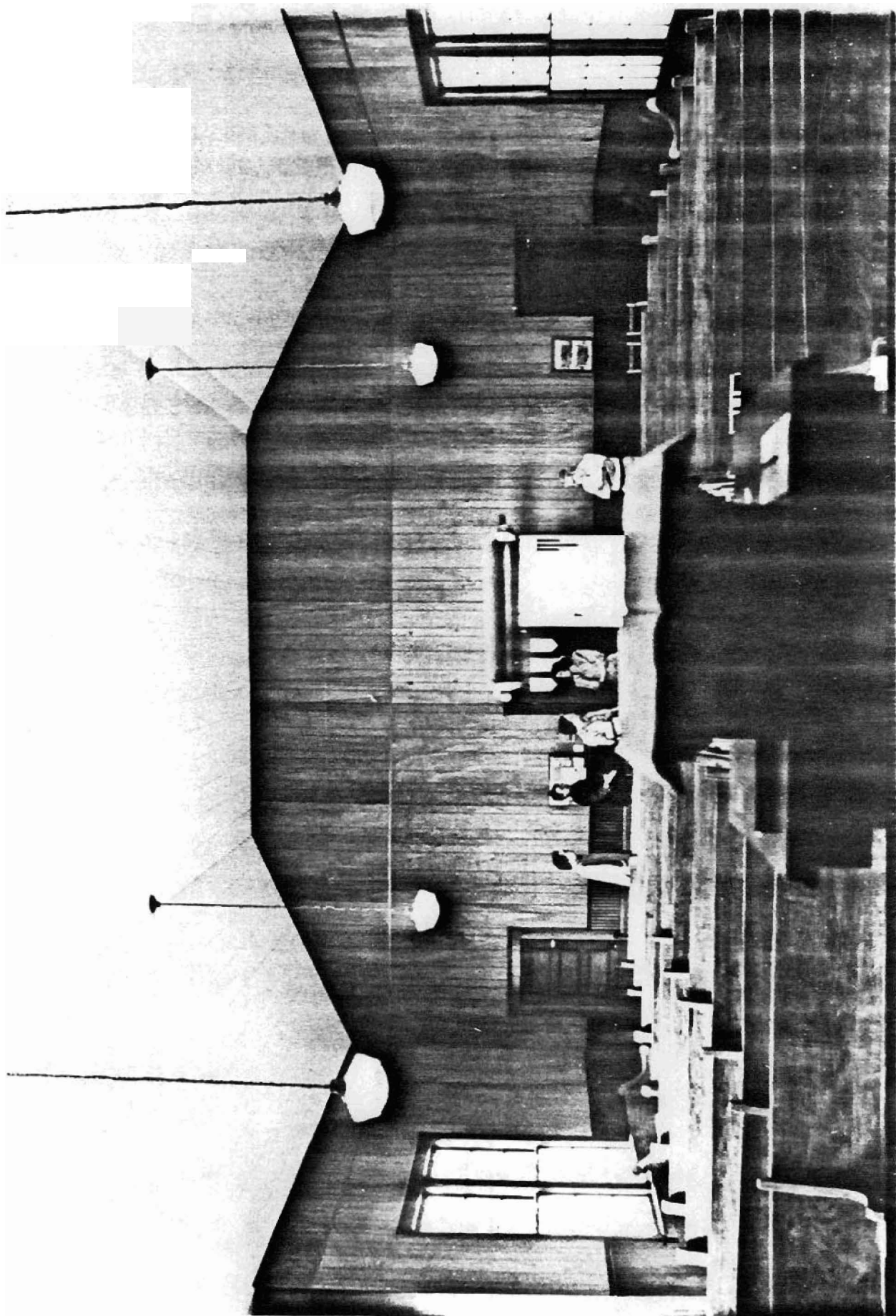
MT. ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



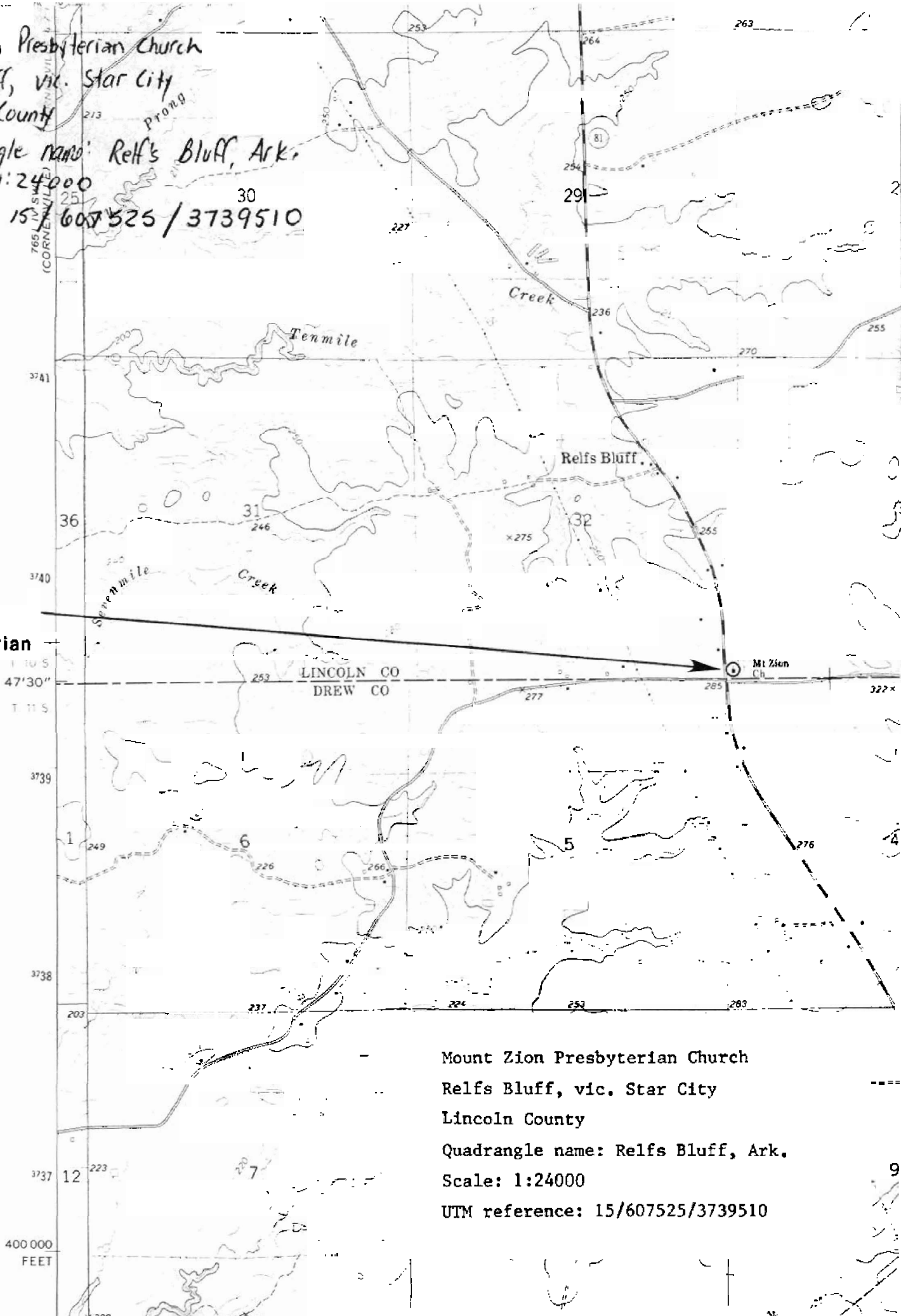








Mount Zion Presbyterian Church
Relfs Bluff, vic. Star City
Lincoln County
Quadrangle name: Relfs Bluff, Ark.
Scale: 1:24000
UTM: 15/607525/3739510



Mt. Zion
Presbyterian
Church

Mount Zion Presbyterian Church
Relfs Bluff, vic. Star City
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400 000
FEET