

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 6/01/05

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 Union Church and School

other names/site number Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Site #LO0108

2. Location

street & number 2158 Union Road

not for publication

city or town Paris

vicinity

state Arkansas

code

AR

county

Logan

code

083

zip code

72855

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.)

Catherine Matthews

3/18/05

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

Union Church and School

Name of Property

Logan County, Arkansas

County and State

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof METAL

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.
- 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:

- 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)

Education
Religion
Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1895-1955

Significant Dates

c.1895-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

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
- 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

Name of repository:

Union Church and School
Name of Property

Logan County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>439574</u>	<u>3909117</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date February 23, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

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

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SUMMARY

Located at 2158 Union Road, approximately five miles northeast from Paris in Logan County, is the Union Church and School. The two-room school building was the home of Union School District #30. The frame building is built in the Plain-Traditional style. The L-shaped school building rests on a continuous fieldstone foundation and is topped with a gable roof covered in sheet metal. No major changes have occurred to the building since the wood shingle roof and bell tower were removed in the early 1940s.

ELABORATION

The Union Church and School, which was built c.1895 and in c.1922, is located on Union Road in the community of Union, Logan County. The building served as the Union School from its construction until 1948. In addition, it served as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church from the time of its construction until 1958.

The two-room, wood-frame, L-shaped building rests on a continuous fieldstone foundation. The walls are covered in weatherboard and the gable roof is covered in sheet metal. The building's two chimneys have been cut off at the roofline, and new, four-over-four, wood-frame windows matching the original windows have been installed in 2004-2005.

Front/North Elevation

The front façade of the building is divided into two sections. The right section of the façade is comprised of the original c.1895 building. The center of the façade contains a set of two wood-panel doors approached by four concrete steps. Each of the front corners of this portion of the façade have been cut diagonally, and each diagonal wall has a window opening with four-over-four, wood-frame window matching the original windows. A frieze spans this portion of the façade below the gable peak, and the gable peak is devoid of fenestration.

The left portion of the front façade is comprised of the c.1922 addition to the original building. The right side of the façade has two window openings with four-over-four, wood-frame windows and a doorway with a wood-panel door is towards the left of the façade. The door is approached by a single stone step.

Side/East Elevation

The east side of the c. 1922 addition has no fenestration while the east side of the c. 1895 portion of the building has two window openings with four-over-four, wood-frame windows.

Rear/South Elevation

The south side of the c. 1922 addition has three evenly-spaced window openings with four-over-four, wood-frame windows across that portion of the façade. The south side of the c. 1895 portion of the building has two window openings with four-over-four, wood-frame windows. A frieze spans this portion of the façade below the gable peak, and the gable peak is devoid of fenestration.

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Side/West Elevation

The west elevation is fenestrated by five evenly spaced window openings with four-over-four, wood-frame windows.

Interior

The interior of the building remains virtually unaltered from the time that it was constructed. The building retains its two-room plan, along with its original interior finishes. The walls are covered with horizontal boards on the top portion and vertical wainscoting on the bottom. The ceilings remain covered with bead-board. In addition, a portion of the original stage remains at the south end of the original section of the building.

Integrity

Overall, the Union Church and School retains good integrity, retaining the majority of the original interior and exterior finishes. However, the integrity of the building has been compromised slightly by the loss of the bell tower. Although the original windows had deteriorated and were missing for several years, a grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program allowed for the fabrication and installation of new windows to match the originals in 2004-2005. The installation of the windows that match the original windows gives the building sufficient integrity to be listed on the National Register. The location of the building remains rural, as it was when it was built, and allows the setting to reflect its period of significance.

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SUMMARY

The Union Church and School was built c.1895 and was used as a school from the time of its construction until 1948. In addition, the building was used by the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation for its services from the time that the building was constructed until 1958. As a result, the building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with education and religious life in the Union community. The building is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of the Plain Traditional style in the Union community.

ELABORATION

The Union Church and School was built on a one-acre site that was originally deeded to Samuel Martin McKinney in 1880 by the United States government. (Three additional acres were later donated by the Ezell family.) McKinney was ordained as a Cumberland Presbyterian minister on February 26, 1894, at Paris. He was a very well known preacher who held many revivals and performed many marriages in the area.

It is thought that the original one-room building was built between 1895 and 1900. It was a simple structure, 24 feet by 48 feet with five windows on the east and west sides, two windows on the south side, and two doors in the front on the north side. The building had a wood shingle roof. The school was used to teach the 1st through 8th grades.

Between 1920 and 1922 the one-room school received new siding all around and two new corner doors replaced the two center doors. New trim was added to the front corners to modernize the building. The following year, a second room measuring 20 feet by 36 feet was added to the school and a chimney was added to each room. A new wood-shingle roof and a bell tower completed the new renovations. A window on the east side was removed to allow for a double door to join the two rooms. Two other east windows were boarded up to finish the addition. Inside, a stage and new wainscoting were installed to improve the building.

The building has been used for many community activities over the years. It served not only as a school and church with revivals and singing conventions, it also served as a community place to socialize. On Saturday nights, plays were performed and people came from miles away to enjoy the performances. Before movie theaters were popular, a couple brought movies and a screen to show some of the earliest movies.

On April 28, 1945, residents of Union District #30 asked that part of their land be annexed to Lone Star District #5 because Union had consolidated with Paris School District #7. The County Board of Education passed the motion because the board deemed it best for the inhabitants of the territory affected. However, the school continued to be open from 1945 until 1948 for the children who could not walk to catch the Paris bus

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or attend Lone Star School. Student numbers fell sharply from 63 students in 1932 to 38 students in 1945, 24 students in 1947, and only 10 students in 1948. At the meeting of the County Board of Education of Logan County at Paris on May 18, 1948, the petition to dissolve Union School District #30 and annex the territory to Paris School District #7 was granted.

On May 1, 1948, a deed was recorded that showed the two school boards agreed that the building was to be given to the Union Community for use as a church, since it had been used for church services for many years. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church continued to meet at Union until 1958 when they relocated to Paris. While the church owned the building, the congregation carried out some alterations to the building. The two original corner doors were converted to windows and double front doors were installed. Since the original school bell had been stolen from the bell tower, the bell tower was removed and a new sheet metal roof was installed. In addition, the two chimneys were lowered, and the stage inside the building was also lowered.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church retained ownership of the building until April 9, 1977, when the Porter Presbytery sold the building to the Union Community for \$1.00. The building was to be used by the community as a community building and Otis Brown, Bobby Maddox, and Russell Featherston were appointed trustees. Today, the Union Church and School is vacant and somewhat deteriorated. However, it is the desire of the people in the community to restore the building, and use it again.

The Union Church and School was listed on the Arkansas Register of Historic Places on April 7, 2004. However, the loss of the original windows precluded the building from listing on the National Register. As a result of a grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, new windows matching the original windows were installed in the building in 2004-2005 greatly helping the building's integrity, and making it eligible for listing on the National Register.

For over fifty years the Union Church and School was an important part of the educational and religious life of the Union Community, and the building represents a good example of the Plain Traditional architectural style. Although the building is currently not used, it remains an important part of the community, as evidenced by the desire and efforts of the residents to restore it.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Union Church and School was built c.1895 and was used as a school from the time of its construction until 1948. In addition, the building was used by the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation for its services from the time that the building was constructed until 1958. As a result, the building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with education and religious life in the Union Community. The building is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of the Plain Traditional style in the Union Community.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carter, Joe and June Carter. *Logan County Historical Society: Wagon Wheels*. "Union Church and School," Fall/Winter 2001, Volume 21, No. 2.

Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas. Chicago and Nashville: The Southern Publishing Co., 1891.

Logan County, Arkansas, Marriage Records – The First Fifty Years (1877-1924). Transcribed by Bill Hanks. Published by Bobbie Jones McLane, Arkansas Ancestors, 222 McMahan Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71913-6243.

Logan County Board of Education Meeting Minutes for April 28, 1945, and May 18, 1948.

Personal interviews with Linda Hamilton:

- Lucille Featherston Smith (granddaughter of Rev. Samuel Martin McKinney), July 2003.
- Mildred McKinney Timmons (granddaughter of Rev. Samuel Martin McKinney), July 2003.
- Virginia Askins Morris (former Union Schoolhouse student).
- Caroline Askins Moore (former Union Schoolhouse student).
- Irene Askins Vaughan (former Union Schoolhouse student).
- Gail Blackwell Grist (former Union Schoolhouse student).
- Bob Maddox (former Union Schoolhouse student).
- Russell Featherston (former Union Schoolhouse student).

Rural Schools of Logan County, compiled by Logan County Clerk Roosevelt Robberson.

Union Church and School

Name of Property

Logan County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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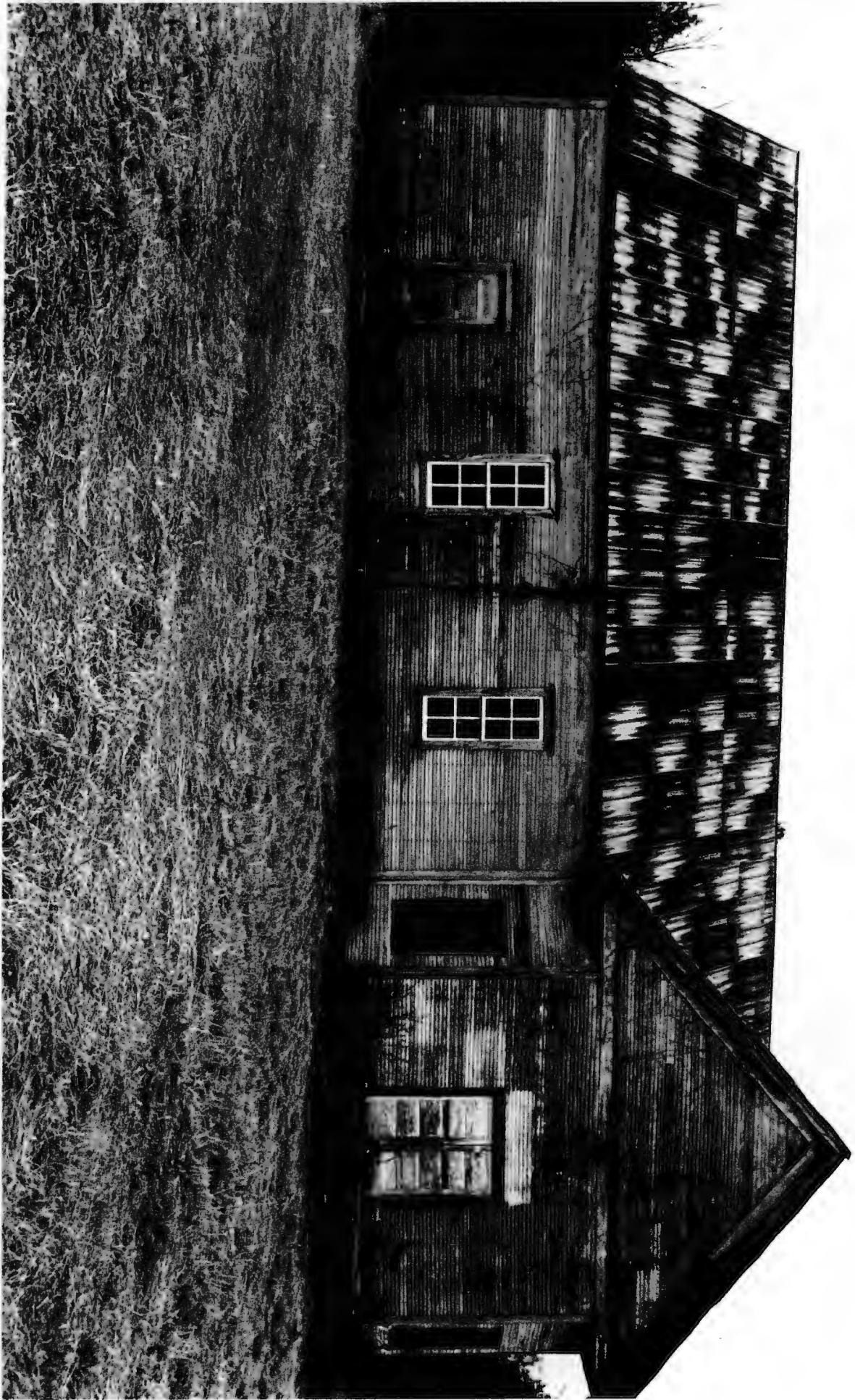
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

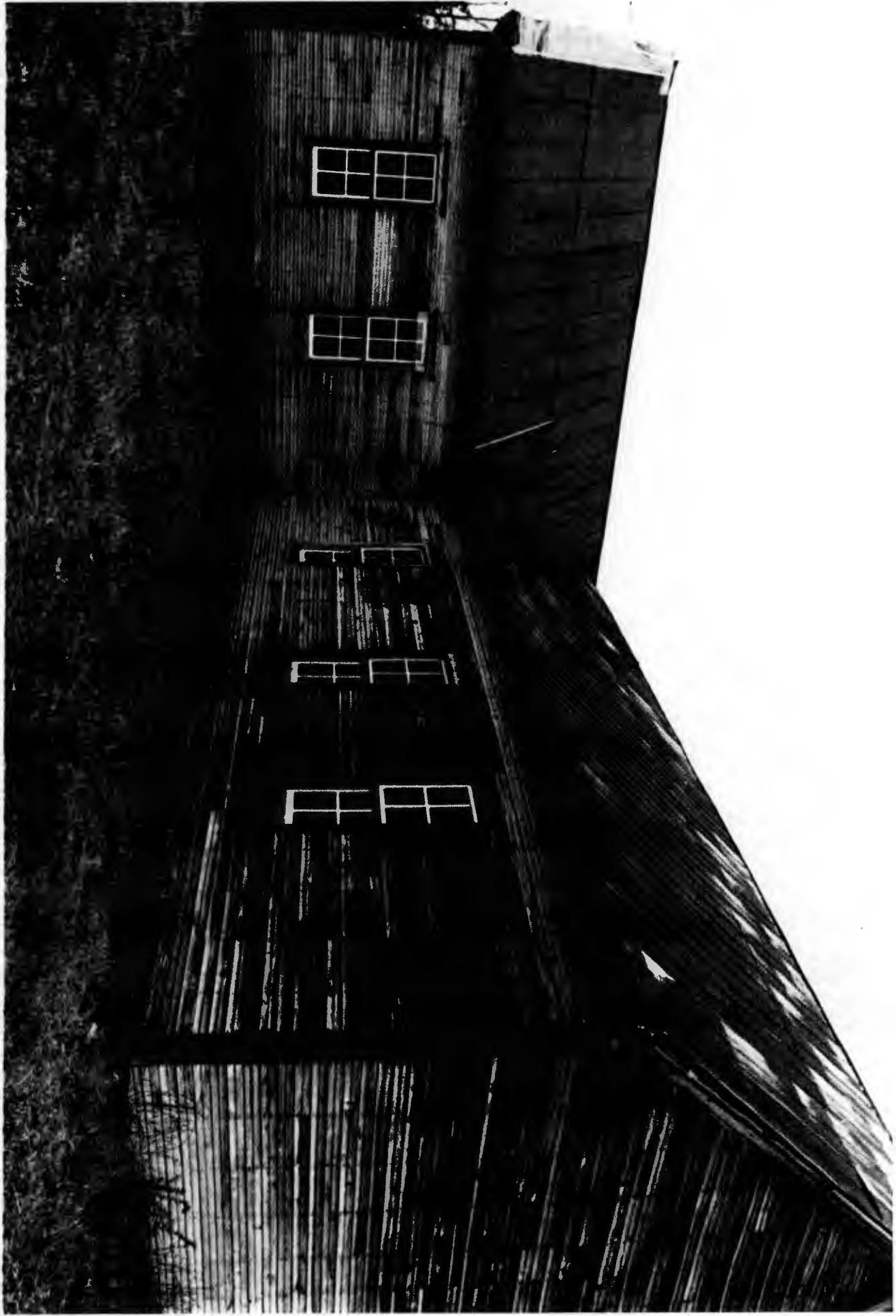
The Union Church and School is located in the northeast part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33, Township 8 North, Range 25 West.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

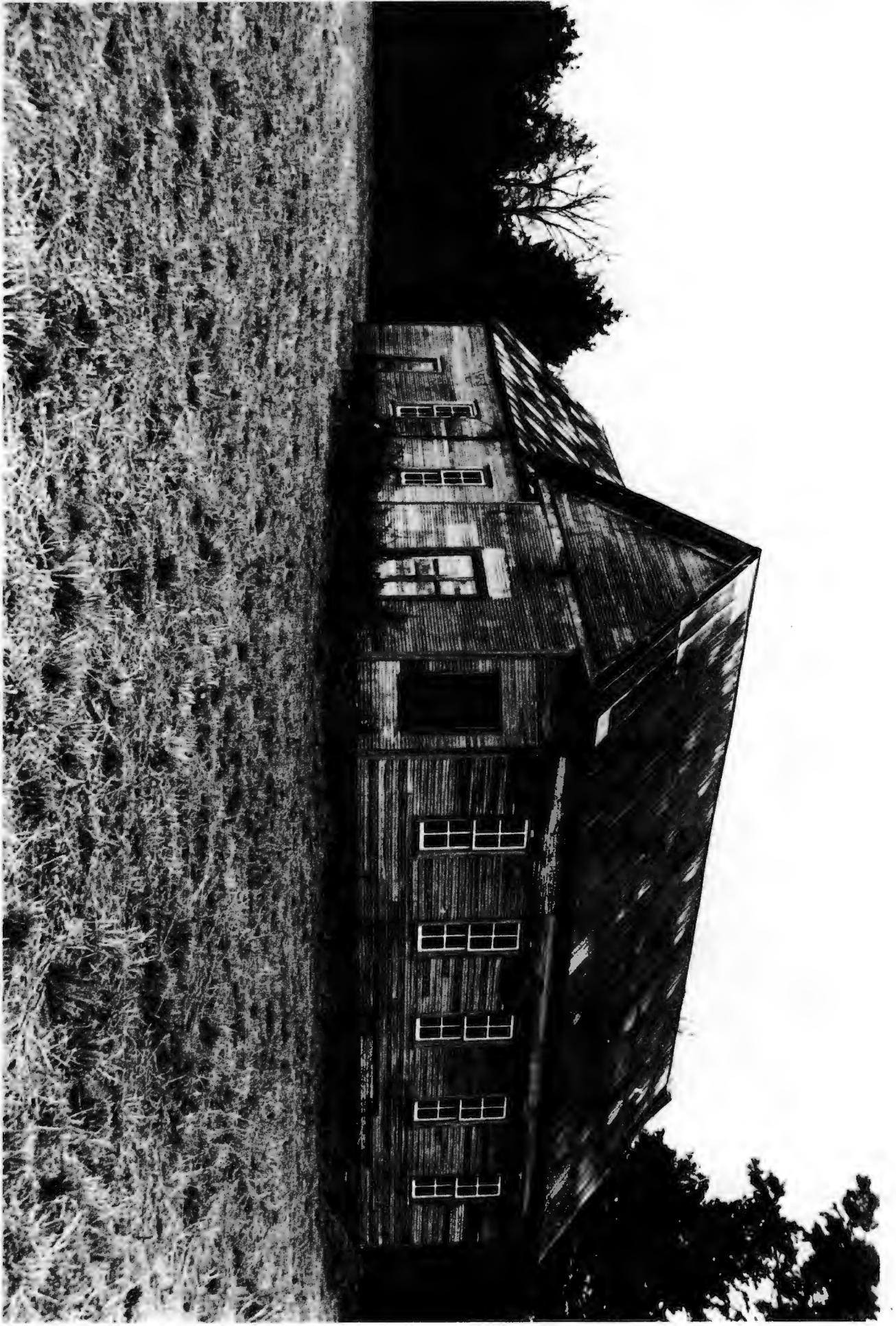
This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the Union Church and School.

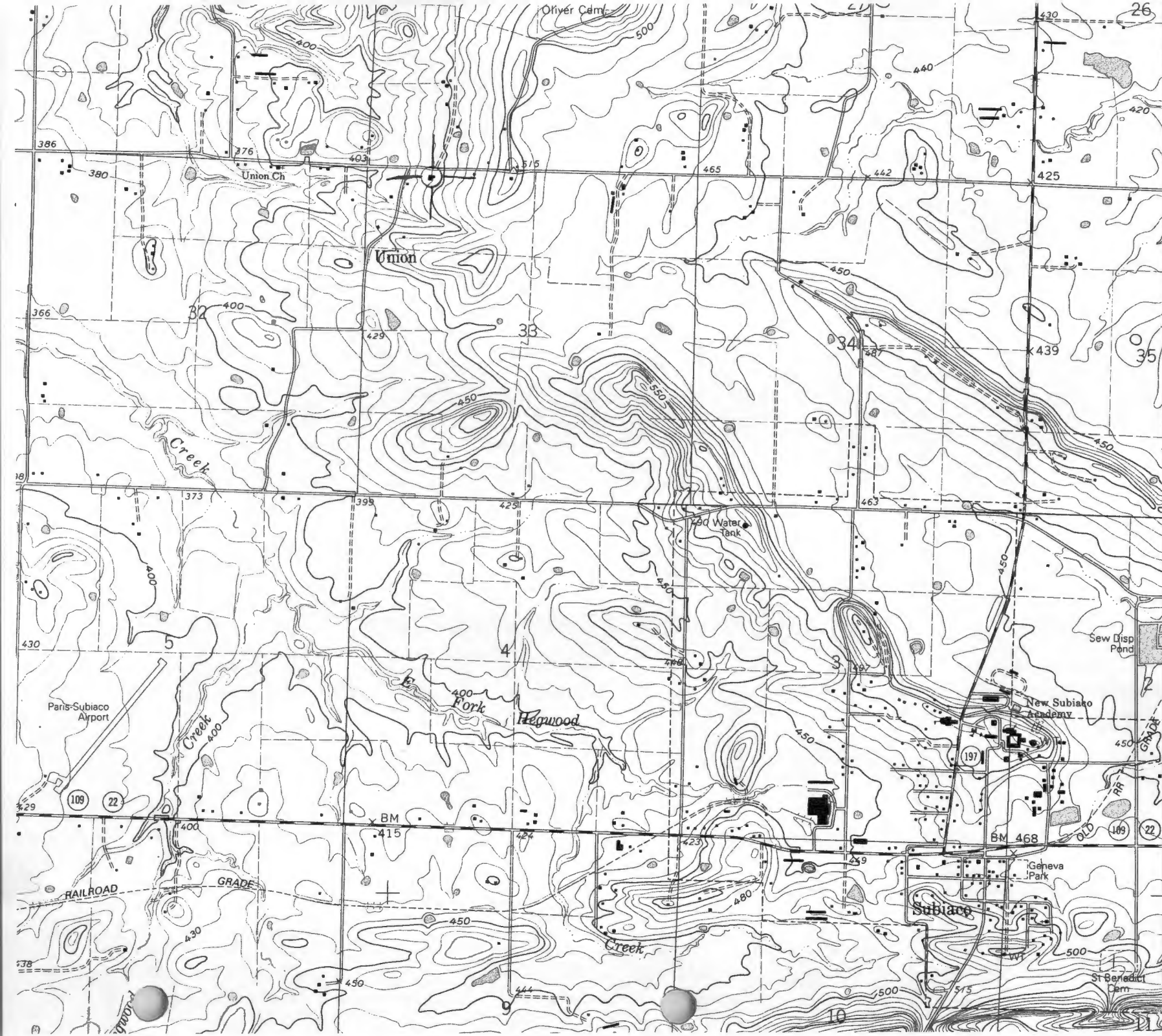












UNION CHURCH AND
3909 SCHOOL
PARIS VIL., LOGAN
COUNTY

UTM:
15/439574/3909117

3908
(SCRANTON)
72541 SE

T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.

3907

MIDWAY 5.7 MI.
DARDANELLE 29 MI.

17'30"

3905