

**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

Powhatan Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION** Beginning at a point N70 deg. W 40° from SW Corner of Block  
13 of original survey of Town of Powhatan to include lot 1  
of Block 17 of survey of Town of Powhatan, T 17, R 2 W.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Powhatan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE  
05

COUNTY

Lawrence

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Powhatan Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Powhatan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Lawrence County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Walnut Ridge

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION.

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church Building now known as the Powhatan Methodist Church was built in 1872. It is a one story frame structure with a gable roof. The front door way, which is the only entrance to the building, is located in the center of the east facade and has double doors with a transom. Two double hung sash windows on each side flank the entrance. There are two cloak rooms, one on either side of the foyer and two doors leading from the foyer to the sanctuary. The north and south sides of the building have three windows each. The west side has two windows. All windows are identical to those at the entry. There is a brick flue at the east wall of the sanctuary and a stove which is part of the original furnishings. The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and presently has composition shingles over the original wooden shingles. The exterior is covered with simple wood clapboard having a plain frieze board, simple corner boards faintly resembling pilasters and a simply molded box cornice.

The structure rests on a stone foundation. The concrete and stone front steps have eight treads and eight risers and stone and concrete railings.

The interior contains a flat ceiling which has hooks to hold bronze chandeliers that contained four oil burning lamps each. One of the chandeliers remains and has been converted to electric light. The interior has simple and plain wood floors, walls, and ceiling. There is a simple molding around the interior head, jamb and sill of the windows. The pews and a pump organ are part of the original furnishings.

A housing for a bell has been added to the exterior of the east end of the north wall in recent years.

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HISTORIC Powhatan Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Powhatan

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Lawrence

STATE Arkansas

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

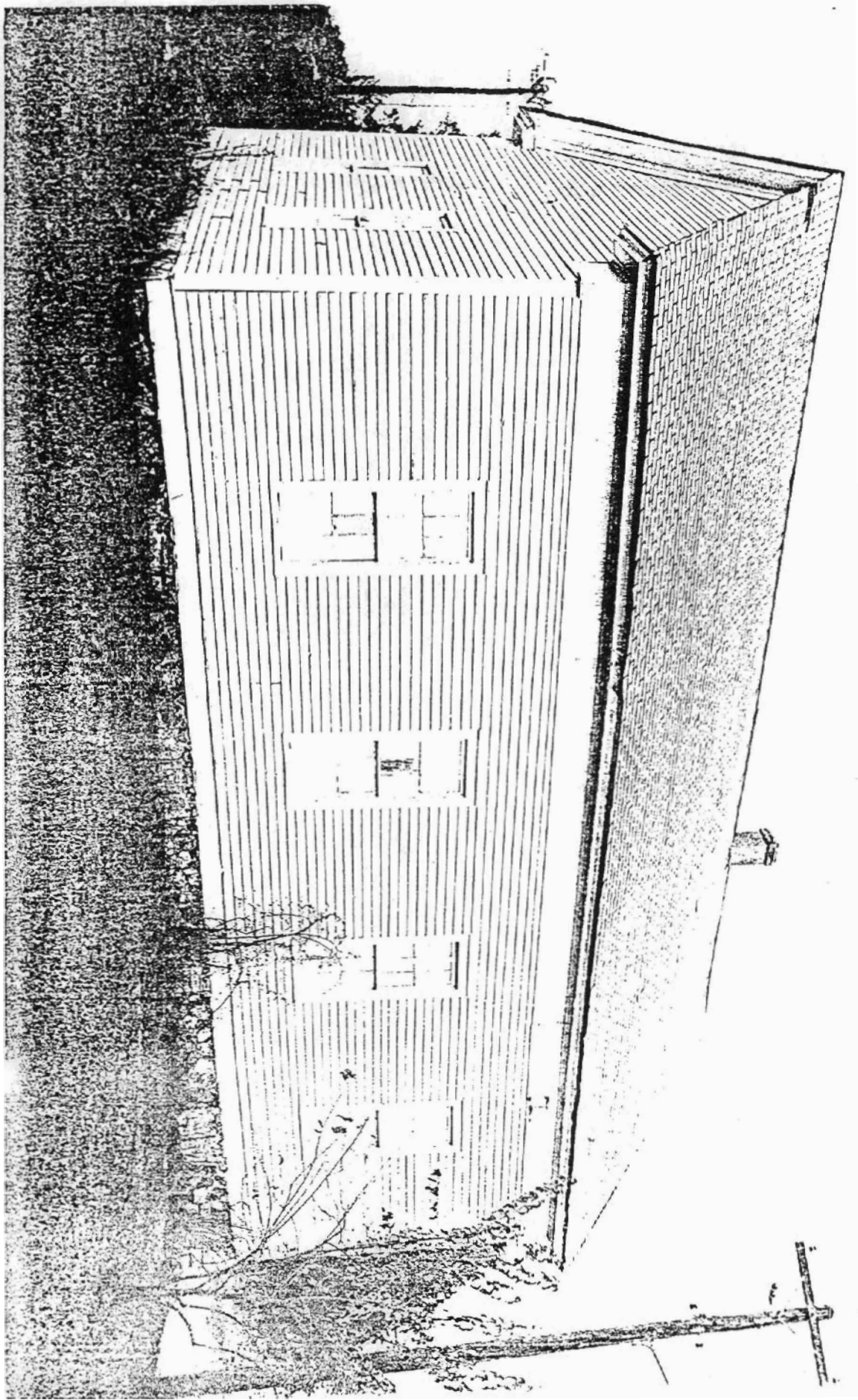
DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
view of east elevation

PHOTO NO.  
3



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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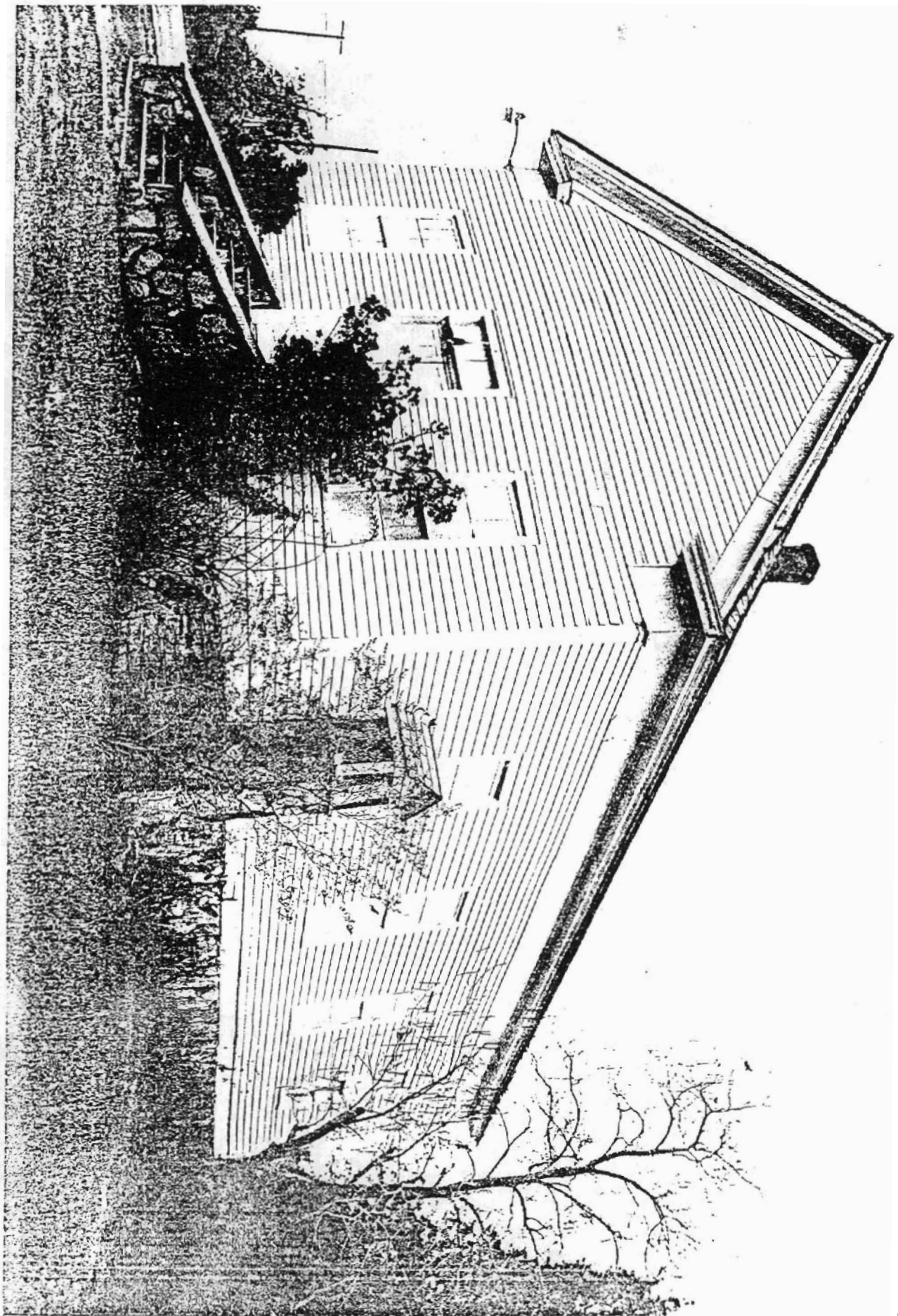
DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
view of north elevation

PHOTO NO.  
2



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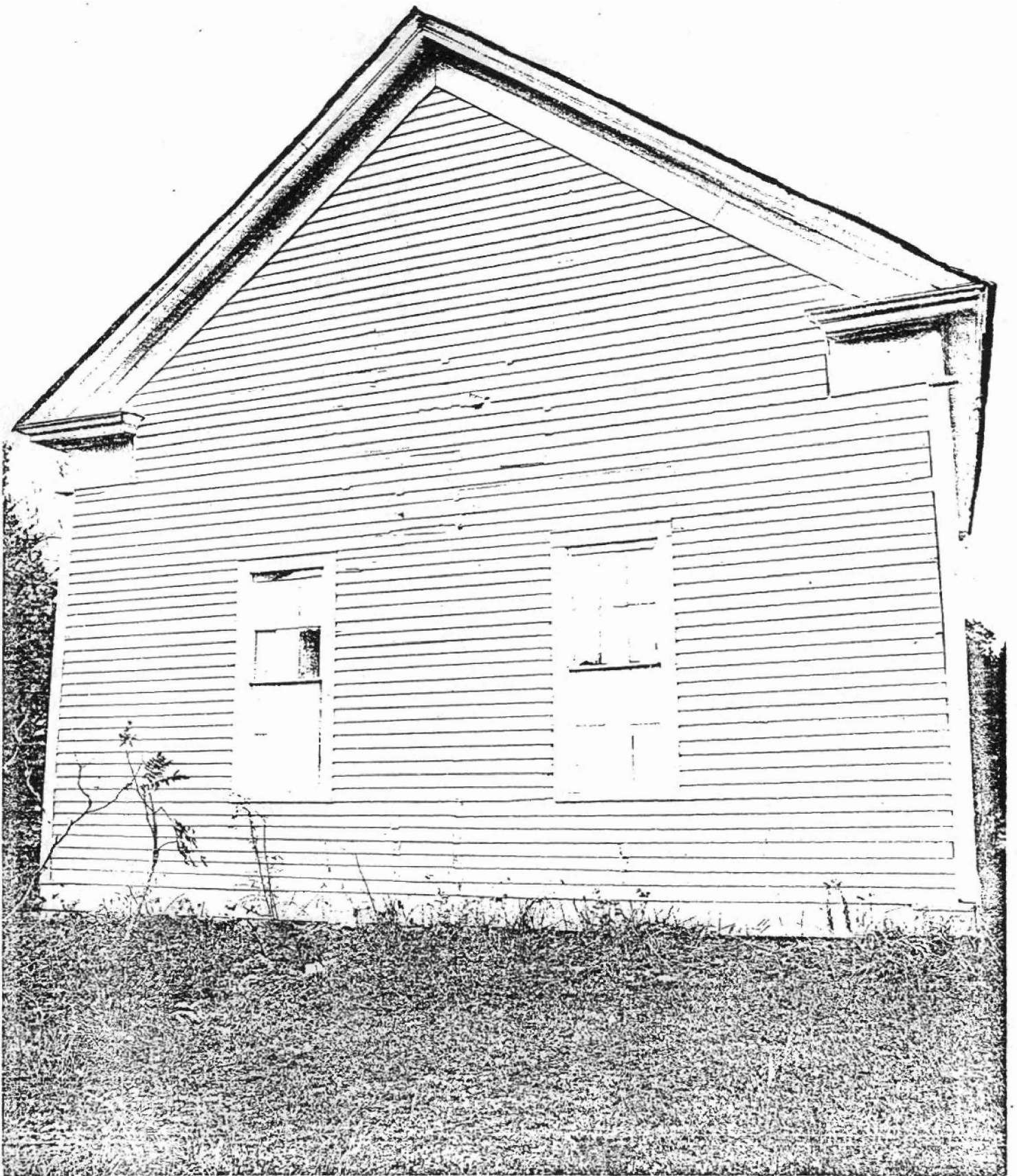
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
view of south elevation

PHOTO NO.  
1

INT: 2983-75





# 10 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Dr. James A., History of Arkansas Methodism, p. 527.

Arkansas Methodist Conference Journals, 1850-1913.

erson, Walter N., Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976.

# 11 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Longitude 36° 04' 55"  
Latitude 91° 07' 12"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Evelyn Flippo, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Powhatan Courthouse Restoration Committee

DATE

October 8, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

878-6387

CITY OR TOWN

Powhatan

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 Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-14-76

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

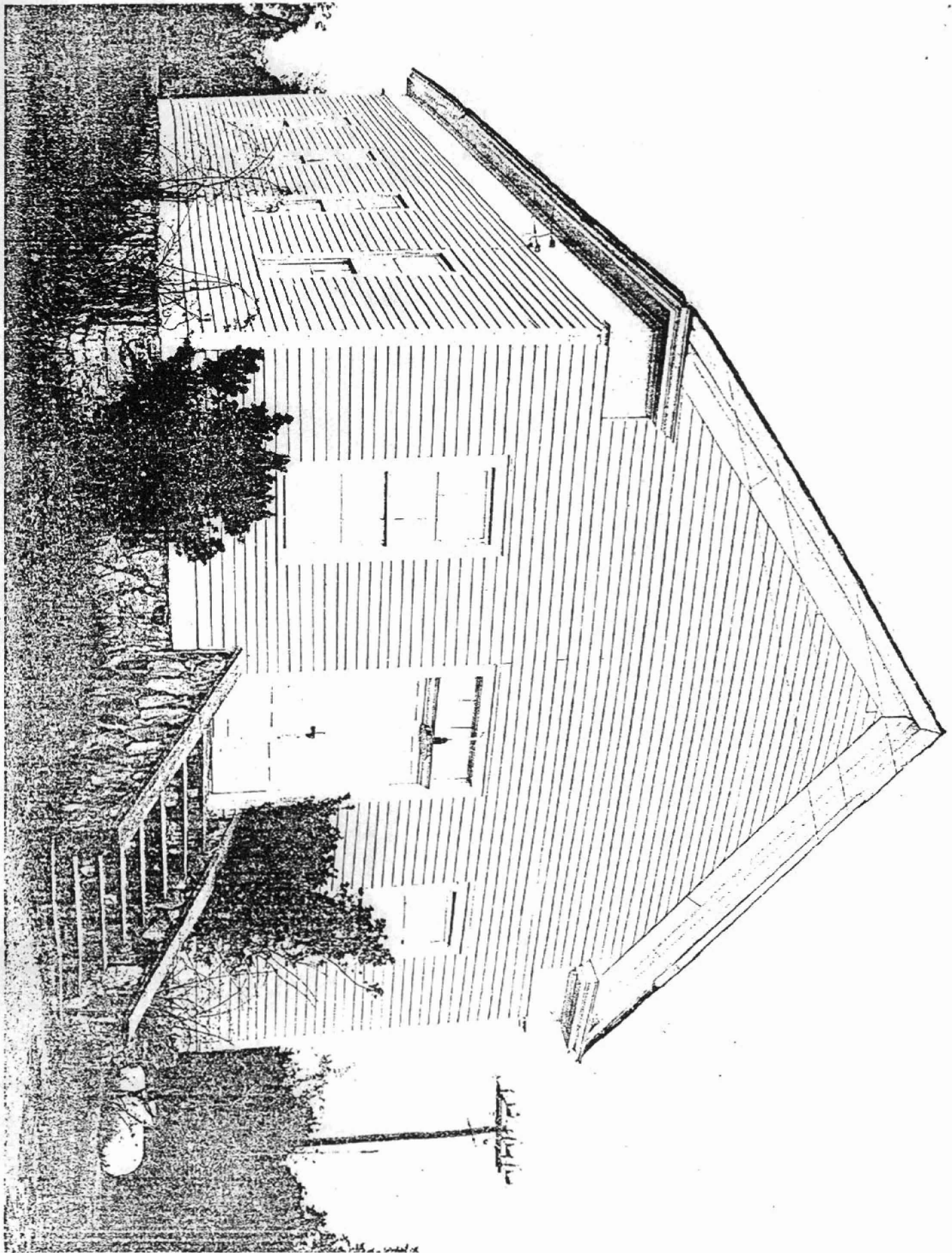
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

EST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
( STORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
—1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
—1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
—1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
☐ 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
—1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest records of the Powhatan Methodist Church appear in the Methodist Conference Journals in the year 1858. In that year Powhatan was a part of the Jacksonport District, Arkansas Conference, with 284 members and 4 local pastors. William R. Foster was the assigned pastor. In 1859 the churches were rearranged on the Powhatan Circuit for they reported 181 white members, 49 "probationers," and 13 "colored" members (as they were called.) From 1860 to 1864 Powhatan was served by pastors F.W. Thacker, J. M. Clayton, Moses C. Morris, and William R. Foster. Records show Powhatan and Pocahontas Station in 1871 with 31 members and T. Robinson as pastor. Tradition has it that the church members met in worship services down on the river front (Black River). No records can be found as to what type of building these worship services are held in. As was the custom in the early days to build a log building that was used for church and school; then perhaps a log building was used for the early Powhatan Methodist Church.

Records from the Arkansas History Commission show the present Powhatan Methodist Church was established in 1872, the year the present building was built. On July 14, 1874, John A. Lindsay and Martha A. Lindsay, his wife; Asa P. Lindsay and Sallie W. Lindsay deeded the present church property for the sum of \$10.00 to Champ P. Stuart, Frances M. Wayland, William P. Rainey, Henry T. Wickershaw, and Charles A. Stuart, as Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Colonel George Thomasburgh, one of the greatest laymen Arkansas Methodism ever produced was Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School at Powhatan around 1890. While living at Powhatan he practiced law and was identified with every phase of Church work, many times serving in the absence of the pastor to conduct a funeral. Colonel Thomasburgh served in prominent positions in the Batesville District Conference and the White River Conference and 1899 assumed the business management of the Arkansas Methodist. Elisha Theodore Wayland, son of Jonathan Wayland (for whom Wayland Springs near Imboden, Arkansas, was named), followed Thomasburgh as Superintendent of the Sunday School and served until 1895.

Powhatan Methodist Church served as the only church in Powhatan up until the mid-1880's. Up till that time citizens of all faiths, "sinners and non-sinners," attended church in the present building. The Church was the focal point of the town. Weddings, baptisms, and funerals of outstanding citizens of Powhatan were held in the church.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The church was the scene of many quarterly church conferences. It served as the setting for the marriages of Clay Sloan and Kitty Matthews and Ethel Maude Matthews and Ashley G. Saffell. The Methodist Missionary Society was an active organization of the church and served the town as well. In 1868 the John P. Morton Company, Louisville, Kentucky, presented the Powhatan Methodist Church a large, beautifully engraved Bible, which is still a part of the antique furnishings of the building.

Church members traveled by foot, in wagon, and on horseback to attend worship services in the Powhatan Methodist Church. A wooden board walk than ran by the northwest side of the church led many people up to wooden steps into the church building. The wooden steps of the building were later replaced by cobblestone steps. Two small cloak rooms on each side of the entrance foyer served to hang cloaks, shoes and hats. Later these cloak rooms served as Sunday School classrooms. Two antique bronze chandeliers held four oil-burning lanterns each that were used to illuminate the sanctuary until electricity became available. A church bell was purchased and used to summon the beginning of the worship services. Except for these later changes the church building appears the same as it did back when it was first constructed.

Early church members included: B.F. Matthews, Colonel George and Margaret Thornsburch, Elisha T. Wayland, E.T. Wayland, F.M. Wayland, Henry T. Wickershaw, George O. and Mary Jung, Charles A. Stuart, Champ T. Stuart, William and Luvenia Matthews, J.R. Wells, Tom Cravens, Ashley and Maude Saffell, Buelah Matthews, Bessie LeMay, Marjorie Rowsey, William R. Wayland, Clay and Kitty Sloan, J. W. Martin, William T. Rainey, Mrs. L.B. Poindexter, Luther and Ida Belle Flippo.

E.T. Wayland, son of Elisha T. Wayland, was appointed Presiding Elder of the Paragould District in 1928 and was able to pastor and hold church conferences in the church of his childhood at Powhatan. As the State of Arkansas' Methodist Church organization changed, the Methodist Church at Powhatan changed its title from Methodist Episcopal Church South to the Powhatan United Methodist Church.

This beautiful old building is located approximately 300 feet from the Powhatan Courthouse, which is already on the National Register of Historic Places, 150 feet from the Powhatan Jail House, 300 feet from the Powhatan School House, which at one time formed the central life of Powhatan, a once thriving, river town. It continues to serve the town of Powhatan and Arkansas Methodism with religious services still held in the building. The church building stands proud as a reminder of the contribution religion played in the rural life of Arkansas and is especially worthy of notice.

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PHOTO NO.

view of west elevation

4

The President, Mississippi River Commission  
 Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Vicksburg, Miss.  
 Additional copies may be procured from  
 20 cents per copy

Five thousand yard grid computed from "GRID SYSTEM FOR PROGRESSIVE MAPS" IN THE U. S. ZONE C. U. S. G. O. S. SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 39  
 Datum is mean gulf level at Biloxi, Mississippi. Elevations differ from mean sea level elevations by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, by small fractions of a foot. Persons interested may secure the marks as determined by the latter U. S. C. & G. S. adjustment, by applying to the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.

Contour interval: 1 foot

