

NR 9-20-06

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 Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery

other names/site number NE0002

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of the Intersection of Nevada CR 23 and CR 260  not for publication

city or town Prescott  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Nevada code 099 zip code 71857

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)

Debbie Matthews

8/4/06

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
	1	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	0	objects
	2	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)

FUNERARY/cemetery

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof OTHER/Composition shingle

other STONE/Granite, Marble

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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ART/funerary art

Period of Significance

1864-1956

Significant Dates

1864-1956

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Arkansas History

Commission, Hempstead County Courthouse, Nevada County Courthouse

Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery  
Name of Property

Nevada County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 3 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 466053 3737454  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

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 Written by Peggy S. Lloyd/S.A.R.A. Archival Manager; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date April 18, 2006  
street & number 323 Center Street, 1600 Tower Building telephone 501.324.9874  
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 Ralph McKinnon, President, Moscow Cemetery Association  
street & number 1396 Nevada 23 telephone 870-887-6120  
city or town Prescott state AR zip code 71857

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery are located at the junction of County Roads 23 and 260 just outside the city limits of Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas, and are on or near the old road from Camden, Arkansas, to Washington, Arkansas, via Prairie D'Ane. The church and cemetery are all that remains of the scattered antebellum village of Moscow, an early trade center in sparsely populated Missouri Township, historically located in Hempstead County and now in present-day Nevada County. The exact date of the origin of the Methodist congregation is unknown, but Methodist historians place it at about 1852 or possibly as early as 1842. The first marked burial in the cemetery dates to 1864, although the deed to the grounds was not issued until July 3, 1868. It is logical that the land conveyed by Jacob Lavender to the trustees of the Moscow Methodist Church had been in use for burial, and perhaps religious, purposes well before the transaction was formalized and recorded.

### ELABORATION

#### *THE MOSCOW CEMETERY*

Moscow Methodist Cemetery is only a few yards away from the church and to the north of the building. It contains the graves of some of the earliest families who settled in the vicinity as well as more recent burials. Though the church is inactive, the cemetery still has a burial from time to time.

The monuments in the cemetery reflect these different eras. They run the gamut from fieldstones that mark unidentified graves, homemade stones, typical 19<sup>th</sup> century commercially-made tombstones, ironwork and modern commercial monuments. It is clear, too, that many graves are unmarked. Oral history maintains that Moscow Methodist Cemetery had many wooden markers at one time and that they were destroyed by a fire that swept through the area. Stones have also been lost to neglect, careless mowing, vandalism and theft. Depressions in the ground in the wooded area on the north side of the cemetery are indicative of unmarked graves.

The trees and wild grapevines in this part of the cemetery are large and attest to years of neglect in this area of the cemetery. Other historic ornamental plants are present and well-established: large yucca, nandina, iris, daffodils, and crepe myrtle in addition to the ubiquitous privet hedge.

The cemetery also has an African-American component. Oral history points to African-American burials at Moscow Methodist Cemetery, but the graves did not appear to be marked. An article in the *Nevada News* dated September 8, 1910, confirms that African-Americans were indeed buried at the cemetery. Disturbed by the poor condition of the cemetery, the Moscow Cemetery Association passed a resolution in 1910 to make changes they deemed necessary. They noted in the newspaper announcement:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The Cemetery has been so long neglected that it is now in a disgraceful condition and all action taken is for the purpose of remedying as much as possible our mistakes and failures heretofore.

They proposed a \$2 fee for burials though they did set aside some ground for free burials; they asked that permission be sought before burying; and, lastly, they stated "that the burial of colored people be prohibited from this date." Craven Cemetery, an African-American cemetery, was established not too far from the Moscow settlement shortly thereafter and may have been founded in response to this edict. The Association also planned to purchase more ground for the cemetery which would be platted into lots and sold. Apparently, this was never done, or the paperwork was never recorded. This expulsion of Blacks from the Moscow Methodist Cemetery was indicative of the growing tensions in the racial climate of the era.

The concerns of the Moscow Cemetery Association in 1910 seemed to indicate a cemetery crowded to the bursting point. Today it is difficult to determine how many graves are in Moscow Methodist Cemetery. There are about 300 marked graves at Moscow. Approximately 20 have stones that cannot be read or were noted in prior surveys but cannot be located now. Heavy brush and plant debris in peripheral wooded areas have not permitted careful study of possible grave depressions in that area. One grave in 1864 antedates Jacob Lavender's sale of the property to the church trustees in 1868. From the counts of the marked graves, the cemetery seemed to have had its heyday in the 1880s, 1890s and the first decade of the twentieth century. Burials have diminished since the 1920s as the rural church itself declined.

### Breakdown of Burials by Decade

There are 254 marked graves in the cemetery, 209 of which are historic and marked, accounting for 82% of the burials. Death notices from the *Nevada County Picayune* in the 1880s and early 1890s that mention burial at Moscow Methodist Cemetery point to more unmarked graves, which are not included in the above-mentioned total. Including those 20 unknown/unmarked graves, the total number of historic burials is 229, or 83%. The African-American component had all unmarked graves, or markers that have not survived.

### *Historic Burials*

1860 to 1869—2  
1870 to 1879—24  
1880 to 1889—37  
1890 to 1899—34  
1900 to 1909—39  
1910 to 1919—23  
1920 to 1929—24  
1930 to 1939—14

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

1940 to 1949—11  
1950 to 1956—1

Non-historic burials account for 18% of the marked burials, or 45 burials.

### *Non-Historic Burials*

1957 to 1959—4  
1960 to 1969—16  
1970 to 1979—13  
1980 to 1989—8  
1990 to 1999—2  
2000 to 2006—2  
Unknown—20

Very few burials occur in the Moscow Methodist Cemetery, as is evident in the small number of burials that have taken place during the current decade. As such, the historic to non-historic burial ratio is expected to change ever-so-slightly as to not impact the cemetery's National Register listing.

### Landscape Design

Moscow Methodist Cemetery is a country cemetery with little evidence of any plan in its design. It is reasonably well-kept now, but evidence of some of the concerns of the Moscow Cemetery Association in 1910 remain today. Gravel drives are in front of the church and an old road bed angles in front of the front tier of monuments facing Nevada County Road 23. The cemetery has no obvious paths or drives marking off definite plots or blocks. With the exception of the front tier, the arrangement of the graves is largely haphazard. Some family plots are surrounded with concrete coping, but they are in the minority. Several graves are surrounded by iron fencing with gates. This fencing was sturdy and meant to last, but some has been cast into the woods on the perimeter of the cemetery, possibly for the convenience of mowers. Attempts are underway to reclaim areas that have been engulfed by privet hedge and undergrowth. Historic photos from the 1920s show carefully tended family plots with many flowers. Some family plots were swept clean of grass according to the custom of the day and fenced with wooden posts and chicken wire to protect the site. Historic photos from the 1920s show evidence of efforts to decorate and protect family plots.

### Grave Markers and Monuments

Moscow Methodist Cemetery contains a wide variety of grave markers and monuments from simple fieldstones to impressive commercially produced modern monuments. The markers almost uniformly face

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

east. Most are upright or were meant to stand upright. Some marble 19<sup>th</sup> century markers have fallen and lie flat on the ground. The surviving markers at Moscow point toward a community of moderate means with none of the elaborate statuary or cradling found in cemeteries of the same period in the bigger towns.

Typical decorative motifs are urns, doves, lambs, willow tree imagery, open Bibles and so on. The cemetery contains some obelisks and motifs connected with the Masons and the Woodmen of the World. Doubtless, many markers have been lost to theft, carelessness and neglect. Others are broken and in need of repair and preservation. The white marbles of the nineteenth century are greatly in need of cleaning, repairing and resetting. Some repairs that have been attempted have been crudely done. The African-American component appears to be in unmarked graves. The 1910 expulsion date of African-Americans from Moscow is too early for them to have benefited from the Black benevolent societies that became popular very shortly thereafter and remained active until the onset of the Great Depression.

### CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

#### *THE MOSCOW CHURCH BUILDING*

Today the Moscow Methodist Church is a simple single-story frame structure in the Craftsman tradition. It sits on a wood pier and beam foundation. Some have concrete footing. It has a single front entrance with concrete steps. The gabled roof has a low pitch with exposed rafters, and the brackets under the eaves over the facade and the vent above the entrance are both decorative and functional. The roof is new composition shingle that replaced an old composition shingle roof in late 2003 or early 2004. There are three windows along either side of the church.

Oral history prevalent in the Prescott area holds that the church was damaged by a windstorm and that the congregation rebuilt it using materials salvaged from the original church. However, Mildred Bryson Lang, who is now in her 90s and has long been associated with Moscow, states this version is not true. She contends that the church was repaired by the congregation simply because it was badly in need of repair by 1931. She believes that Mr. G. W. Shaffer (or Schafer), who joined the Moscow Methodist Church on September 23, 1928, led the congregation in the effort. A native of Illinois who had moved into the area, Shaffer was a carpenter. A historic photo taken by S. T. Baugh at that time shows a building similar to the current structure, though there are a few marked differences between the two. Presumably, the original church was built about the time that Jacob Lavender sold the property to the trustees of the Moscow Methodist Church in 1868.

The original Moscow Church appeared larger and taller, though it was a single-story frame structure. The roof had a higher pitch and seems to have had wooden shingles. The rafters of the roof were not exposed but enclosed in fascia board. The gable had vertical weatherboards, a vent in the center of the gable that was



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

both decorative and functional and a band of decorative woodwork in a herringbone pattern with dentils. The façade of the building had horizontal novelty board with four-panel doors for the traditional separate entrances for men and women. There were four windows on either side of the original church while the current church has three on either side. A brick chimney was visible at the rear for heating, and lighting was from lanterns. Electricity and butane replaced these older methods. The original lanterns and church furnishings disappeared—possibly lost to thieves, but some original pews remain in the church. The church is again in poor repair, but efforts are underway to improve its condition.

When Jacob Lavender and his wife sold land to the Moscow Methodist Church in 1868, the description in the deed in Book A, page 324, in Nevada County Deed Records was erroneous. Apparently, this was not noticed for many years. Finally, in 1919, the church trustees and other local landowners filed correction deeds (See Deed Book 83, p. 311; Deed Book 86, pp. 28 and 29; and Deed Book 87, p. 137) to clarify the property descriptions in the area. The corrected description put the Moscow Methodist Church “in the North half of the Northwest Quarter of Section Twenty-two, Township Eleven South, Range Twenty-two West to wit: ‘Commencing at a stone planted on the section line fifteen (15) chains and forty-four (44) links south of the northwest corner of Section Twenty-two (22) Township Eleven (11) South Range Twenty-two West, running east eight (8) chains thence south five and one half (5½) chains, thence west six and one half (6½) chains, thence south two and one half (2½) chains, thence west one and one half (1½) chains to the section line, thence north with the section line, eight (8) chains to the commencing point.’” This was a tract of approximately three acres and had already been used for the church and grounds for some fifty years.

### INTEGRITY

Moscow Methodist Cemetery is the final resting place for the earliest settlers of the now-defunct Moscow settlement—men and women who were also some of the earliest settlers in Nevada County. The cemetery and the Moscow Methodist Church are both significant to the history of Nevada County, and serve as the only extant resources in Moscow, and as such, retain integrity of location. Persons interred at Moscow Methodist Cemetery include the founders of the Moscow settlement, politicians, judges, prominent businessmen, prominent physicians, teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, military servicemen, and other early members of the community, and as such, retain integrity of association, feeling and setting. Moscow Methodist Cemetery has experienced several acts of vandalism over the years and there has been some further deterioration of the markers and monuments due to erosion caused by weather and time; however, there is a revived effort to maintain, preserve and care for the cemetery—its landscape and grave markers—and there is also an active effort underway to preserve and care for the church. Moscow Methodist Cemetery continues to exhibit good examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century workmanship in funerary art, architecture and landscape design, and continues to retain integrity of materials, design and workmanship.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Moscow Church and Cemetery are the only extant properties to remind us of the village of Moscow, an area of early settlement and predecessor to the railroad town of Prescott. The cemetery, with its 254 marked graves and 20 unmarked graves, is the main property of this nomination, with the 1931 church building serving as a contributing structure to the nomination. Of the 254 marked burials, 209 are historic and marked, accounting for 82% of the burials. If one takes into consideration the 20 unmarked burials that are believed to be historic, the contributing ratio is 83%. Of the known, marked burials, 18% are non-historic (or 45 burials in total) and have occurred after 1956. The men and women buried in Moscow Methodist Cemetery are some of the earliest settlers and early businessmen of Nevada County, Moscow, and the town of Prescott, which is just a stone's throw from the location of the church and cemetery.

Vandalism to the cemetery and the monuments and markers within its boundaries has occurred over the years, with stone damage also being attributed to weathering and the elements, as well as ground maintenance machinery, such as lawnmowers or weed eaters. There are many old monuments in the cemetery that are in dire need of restoration and conservation, and it is important to the history of Nevada County that the church and cemetery be preserved and recognized as an important part of the history of the area. Although the cemetery grounds and the church building itself have been neglected in the past, recent years have seen an increase in attention to and care of these last two remaining resources of the Moscow settlement. The early workmanship of the cemetery is still evident in the design of the grave markers and monuments.

In regards to the contributing Moscow Methodist Church, this building was rebuilt from materials of the former building which stood where the current building presently stands. Though smaller in scale than the original structure, the present building shares a few of the original design elements as its predecessor, and is a good example of a rural church built in the Craftsman style. The small church is a standing testament to the history of the Methodist community's rise, struggle, and re-emergence as a significant entity not only in rural Arkansas, but in the State of Arkansas as well.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A** for their association with early settlement in the Moscow and Prescott vicinity, and Nevada County, and also under **Criterion C** as a good example of funerary art. The nomination is also being submitted with **Criteria Consideration D** for cemeteries.

### ELABORATION

#### *Town and County History*

Missouri Township in Hempstead County, Arkansas, began to receive a few settlers as early as 1810 or 1812. Stephen Vaughn and his wife Polly settled along the Little Missouri River in that period. In 1816, Jacob Whiteside, originally of Stewart County, Tennessee, came with a group of men to scout out the land. The following year they returned with their families. Whiteside, a Methodist preacher, was one of the earliest members of the church at Moscow. The scattered antebellum community developed along the road between Camden and Washington, Arkansas. It witnessed the passage of the Union Army under General Frederick Steele in the spring of 1864. In 1871, the new county of Nevada was formed from parts of Hempstead, Ouachita and Columbia Counties with the county seat at Mount Moriah. The county seat subsequently moved to Rosston where it remained until 1877. In 1873, the Cairo and Fulton railroad was built through the county. In early August 1873, the town that was to be known as Prescott was laid out on either side of the railroad. By October 1874 it was incorporated, and in 1877 it became the county seat. It has remained the major town in Nevada County to this day. Moscow, then a scattered village, on the outskirts of the rapidly growing railroad town quickly dwindled and then disappeared but for the church and cemetery that still today bears its name.

Many of the earliest families in this area of Nevada County were associated with the Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery. Though Prescott quickly superseded Moscow, many old families retained their ties to that early community by membership in the church and/or by choosing to be buried in the Moscow Methodist Cemetery. It also became the final resting place for some of Prescott's earliest citizens. They were buried in the existing Moscow Methodist Cemetery in that brief period between the founding of Prescott in 1873 and the establishment of Prescott's own De Ann Cemetery (NR listed 06/01/2005) in 1880. The Moscow Methodist Church and cemetery have survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a reminder of an early and little documented area of settlement in southwest Arkansas, of one of the most significant events in southwest Arkansas during the Red River Campaign of 1864, of a fleeting era of a handful of years as the new railroad towns of the region took root in the 1870s and early 1880s and of the political life of one of the most unique

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

towns and counties—Prescott and Nevada—in Arkansas' political history of the post-Reconstruction era. Unfortunately, the African-American presence at Moscow seems likely to remain anonymous, save for the few mentions of the Cemetery Association's efforts to prevent African-Americans from burying in the cemetery.

### *Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery History*

The Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery stand at the junction of County Roads 23 and 260 just outside the city limits of Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas, and are on or near the old road from Camden to Washington via Prairie D'Ane. The church and cemetery are all that remains of the scattered antebellum village of Moscow, an early trade center in sparsely populated Missouri Township, then in Hempstead County and now in Nevada County. The date of the origin of the congregation has been lost, but Methodist historians place it at about 1852 or possibly as early as 1842. The first marked burial in the cemetery dates to 1864, although the deed to the grounds was not issued until July 3, 1868. It is logical that the land conveyed by Jacob Lavender to the trustees of the Moscow Methodist Church had been in use for burial and perhaps religious purposes well before the transaction was formalized and recorded.

Prior to the Civil War, Moscow was mostly a community of farmers, some of whom were small slaveholders. Some larger holdings of lands and slaves in the vicinity belonged to a more affluent planter class in Spring Hill, Arkansas, and Washington, Arkansas, the former county seat of Hempstead County, Arkansas. The Moscow community had a Masonic Lodge erected in the winter of 1847. It was a two-story hewn log structure that housed the Robert Burns store on the lower floor. A post office known as Moscow existed in Township 11 South, Range 22 West, from 1858 to 1867. Its exact location is not known today.

During the Civil War from April 9-13, 1864, Moscow was near the action at the Prairie D'Ane Battle between General Frederick Steele's Union column of some 13,500 men and the command of General Sterling Price and his Confederate forces during the Camden Expedition. After the engagement at Prairie D'Ane, the Confederate forces massed to defend the road to Washington, Arkansas, then the Confederate state capital. The Union forces, however, were running short of supplies for both men and animals. General Steele saw an opportunity and ordered his forces to slip away toward Camden. When the Confederate forces realized they had been duped, they gave chase, and there was a rear guard action somewhere in the vicinity of Moscow.

In the period after the Civil War, Steve Cantley, Daniel O'Leary and Robert Burns operated stores in Moscow. Other businesses were a blacksmith shop operated by George Gilbert and a tannery run by Anders Monson, a Swedish immigrant who sold books and also gave violin lessons. Three-quarters of a mile due west of Moscow, S. S. Brooks, a Confederate veteran, had a store, a saloon and a blacksmith shop. With the coming of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad in 1873, these Moscow merchants and businessmen quickly located

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

in the new railroad town of Prescott. Burns, who had come to the area from Little Rock, established the first store in Prescott. For a short time, the early citizens of Prescott used the Moscow Methodist Cemetery as a community burying ground. It was already established and not far from the new town. In 1880, the City of Prescott established the De Ann Cemetery on the western outskirts of Prescott, and soon thereafter, it became the place to bury the dead for the citizens of the new town. As Prescott grew and established its own cemetery and churches, Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery served a largely rural community of farmers. Its cemetery was not exclusively for the Methodist congregation of Moscow but served as a community burial ground.

Moscow Methodist Church was listed in the minutes of the Little Rock Conference of the Methodist Church until the 1870s. At some point in this period the congregation broke away from the Methodist Episcopal Church South and became Methodist Protestant. It would remain so until some time in early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The re-unification of the Methodist Protestant, Methodist Episcopal Church and Methodist Episcopal Church South took place in 1939.

The Methodist Protestant schism within the Methodist Church began under the leadership of Rev. Nicholas Sneath, a reformer who objected to the power of the bishops in the Methodist Church in the early national period. The founders of the Methodist Protestant Church were expelled from the Methodist Church at Baltimore, Maryland, in January 1828. By 1830, several dissident groups had formed their own church and advocated a greater role for the laity. The movement found its way to northwest Arkansas in the years before the Civil War and seems to have enjoyed considerable growth in southern Arkansas in the years after the war. The anti-authoritarian emphasis of the Methodist Protestants may have fitted in well in Prescott and Nevada County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. With farmers struggling through a long-wave depression from the 1870s-1890s, Nevada County was a hotbed of dissident politics unique in Arkansas with Greenbackers, Wheelers, Union Labor, Populists, Republicans and Socialists opposing the conservative Democrats in the period after Reconstruction and into the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Prohibition Party is also known to have been headquartered in the area at the Moscow Church on the edge of Prescott.

Several attempts were made to re-unite the various branches of Methodism in the late 1860s and 1870s and again in the 1890s with no positive results. At the turn of the century, there was a growing emphasis on the fraternity of the various branches, and, by the 1920s and early 1930s, the re-unification climate had changed with many Methodist Protestants becoming an active party to re-unite. The Methodist Protestant churches tended to be small, scattered and rural with poorly paid pastors. Moscow seems to have been fairly typical. By 1919, when the church trustees were filing correction deeds to correct the legal description of the property, they were again styling themselves as "Moscow Methodist Episcopal Church South."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

In April 1931, S. T. Baugh, the young Extension Secretary of the Methodist Church who would later pastor the First Methodist Church in Prescott in the 1940s, made a tour of eight churches and seven abandoned churches on the Prescott Circuit in order to report to the District Commission on the Rural Church. At Moscow, he reported that there were 18 members; that the activities of the church were minimal; and there had been no Sunday School in six months. His report continued, noting there was no Epworth League for the young people of the church, a group that only numbered six; the women of the church were not organized; and that the condition of the building was poor: doorsteps needed repair, broken windows needed replacing, the roof needed recovering and paint was needed both inside and outside. The grounds also needed beautification. The report ended with the final notation that there was preaching only on the third Sunday of the month at 3 in the afternoon. Apparently, these conditions lingered for years.

An oral tradition maintains that the members tore down the old church and, using the salvaged materials, rebuilt a smaller Moscow Methodist Church sometime in the 1930s or very early 1940s. The new church building was somewhat smaller than the original, but it managed to continue to serve the congregation for several more decades. In time, however, the old membership dwindled, died out, moved away, joined the Prescott Methodist Church or moved their memberships to other churches such as the Nazarenes, Assembly of God, Campbellites or Jehovah's Witnesses.

Services at Moscow ceased in 1989, and it became one of the many abandoned rural churches in Arkansas, a meeting place for local teen-agers seeking to avoid the eyes of the local police and an easy target for vandals. Local people considered trying to preserve the historic old church, but no one took specific action.

In December 2003, the Trustees of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church quit-claimed to private individuals their interest in the church building and grounds. A public outcry in Prescott and the threat of litigation resulted in the church and its cemetery being conveyed to Mildred Bryson Lang, a descendant of an old Moscow family, as Trustee, and to the Moscow Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association has raised the money to build a chain link fence around the grounds. Vandalism has diminished. The grounds are well-kept, and work is underway to clear additional gravesites of brush and to repair the church.

### Biographical Sketches of Selected Persons Buried in Moscow Cemetery

#### *S. S. Brooks (1825-1908)*

A native of Alabama, Samuel S. Brooks owned a store, saloon and blacksmith shop three-quarters of a mile west of the village of Moscow in the 1860s and 1870s. During the Civil War, he served in Co. H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Arkansas Mounted Rifles, CSA. On September 7, 1870, he married Anna E. Frazer and they had at least two

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

children. In 1889-1890, he served as county coroner. When the Farmers Alliance Warehouse was formed in the 1890s, he served as president.

### *Stephen Cantley (1846-1886)*

Stephen Cantley was the son of William and Electa Cantley, settlers who patented land near Serepta Springs as early as 1845. Stephen Cantley served in the Civil War in Norman's Company, McNeal's Regiment, Dockery's Brigade. After the war, he operated a store at Moscow for Joe Levi, a Jewish merchant at Camden. Following his marriage to Martha McMillian on January 29, 1873, he moved to Camden. In 1875, he came to Prescott and opened the second mercantile store in town in association with Capt John Norman. At the time of his death in 1886, he left a widow and five children. The Cantleys were long associated with the Moscow church and community.

### *Otis Jackson Cantley (1878-1922)*

Born to Stephen and Mattie Cantley, Otis served as Prescott's town marshal from 1902-1907.

### *Thomas J. Caulder (1830-1906)*

Born in Hardin County, Tennessee, T. J. Caulder was the son of Robert Caulder, a Scottish immigrant raised in Charleston, South Carolina, and his Alabama-born wife Narcissa Walker. T. J. Caulder grew up in Tennessee and Tishomingo County, Mississippi. The family came to Bradley County, Arkansas, in 1847 and were in Calhoun County, Arkansas, by 1852. Caulder began farming as a young man and patented land in Calhoun County on the brink of the Civil War. He joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry and served with that regiment until August 1862 when a minie ball wound to his right thigh necessitated his return home. Later, he joined Col. Thompson's Independent Cavalry and remained with them until the end of the war. He came to Nevada County from Ouachita County in 1875 and began to farm and manufacture bricks. In 1886, he went into the milling business. He married Elizabeth Lafferty, a native of Texas, in Bradley County in 1850. They became the parents of nine children. Caulder was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church South and a political dissident. He was a member of the Alliance and voted the Union Labor ticket. His wife *Elizabeth Jane (1834-1904)* is buried next to him. Both he and his wife were members of the Moscow Church

### *Agnes L. Cottingham (?-1869)*

Little is known of Agnes Cottingham, but she has one of the oldest markers in the cemetery. The Cottinghams are an old family in the region and were settled in Missouri Township, Ouachita County—now Nevada County, Arkansas, prior to the Civil War. She may be the 63 year old Mrs. Cottingham listed in the 1860 Ouachita County census. A native of North Carolina, she was a farmer and, presumably, a widow. Other younger Cottinghams lived nearby at that time.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

### *John A. Crossland (c. 1830-1884)*

A native of Georgia, J. A. Crossland was in Alabama by 1850 and by the eve of the Civil War had acquired patents to 240 acres of land in east central Alabama, now Elmore and Talapoosa Counties, where he was a prosperous farmer. He served in Co. B, 47<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, a regiment that saw a great deal of action in Virginia and Tennessee, surrendering with Lee at Appomattox. Crossland entered the Confederate Army as a sergeant and left a first sergeant. Crossland remained in Elmore County near Wetumpka, Alabama, through 1870, but sometime in the early 1870s he had moved his family to Union Township in eastern Nevada County. By 1875, he was a justice of the peace in Union Township and by the early 1880s, he was in Missouri Township near Prescott where he buried his first wife at Moscow. On April 6, 1882, at the age of 52, he married a widow, Minerva Mann, 48, also of Missouri Township. He is buried at Moscow with his first wife *Sarah Ann (c. 1830-c. 1881)* and other family members.

### *Sarah Ann Lowdermilk Cummins (1833-1914)*

Born in Harris County, Georgia, on November 7, 1833, Sarah Ann was one of seven children of Elliott Lowdermilk and his wife Jane Johnson, both natives of North Carolina. The family next moved to Pickens County, Alabama, and then to Missouri Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, in 1859. On August 17, 1854, Sarah married David Cummins in Alabama. Apparently, they accompanied her family to Hempstead County, for they appeared in the 1860 census with their three-year-old son. Her husband joined Co. F, 24<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry on June 21, 1862, at Washington, Arkansas. He survived the war but died on February 10, 1868, leaving her a widow with four children. She farmed and raised her children, never re-marrying. She died on October 3, 1914.

### *John D. Davis (c. 1816-1891)*

John Dionysius Davis was born in Tennessee. His father Andrew Davis was a native of North Carolina and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His mother Mary Orton Davis came from South Carolina. The father worked as a farmer and harness maker. After growing up in Tennessee, John D. Davis went to Mississippi at the age of 20 to work as an overseer in Monroe County. He himself farmed in Monroe and Tippah Counties until 1855. He married Margaret Caroline Miller, a native of Georgia, in Tippah County, Mississippi, in 1847. In 1855, he moved his family to Columbia County, Arkansas, and then to Nevada County, Arkansas, in 1870. Over time, he acquired a 400-acre farm in Nevada County. Davis served as a justice of the peace and was prominent in his community. Davis was also instrumental in getting his younger sons in the sawmill business in Nevada County before they moved back to Columbia County along the Cotton Belt Railroad. His sons John Melville Davis (1852-1937), James Miller Davis (1854-1922), Virgil Montrey Davis (1857-1935) and Robert Wesley Davis (1865-1934) were early lumbermen in the region. They operated Davis Brothers Lumber Company near Waldo, Arkansas, at Lumber from the 1880s to the turn of the century. In 1901, they moved their company to Louisiana and established a company town at Ansley, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, where they operated for many years. John D. Davis died suddenly and without warning, found



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

dead at his stable door in October 1891, an apparent victim of "apoplexy" or stroke. He is buried with his wife *Margaret C. Davis (1825-1900)*.

### *Rev. Matthew Hunter Fielding (1819-1889)*

A native of Tennessee, Matthew Fielding was a prominent Methodist minister who served in the Moscow/Prescott area. In 1870, he was living near Thomasville, Georgia, with his family and working as a poor farm laborer. The family may have come to Nevada County after the construction of the railroad in 1873. Fielding homesteaded 80 acres of land northeast of Prescott in 1882, seven years before the end of his life. He married a number of couples buried at Moscow. His wife *Mary Elizabeth Fielding (1829-1901)* is buried beside him.

### *Arasmus D. Frazier (1840-1918)*

A native of Kentucky, A. D. Frazier was living in Missouri at the outbreak of the Civil War. He served as a private in Co. I of Gordon's Missouri Cavalry from 1863-65. By 1880, he was farming in Missouri Township near Prescott with his wife Lucy and their children. Frazier managed the County Farm which was near Moscow. In 1910, he and his wife were caring for five persons who were Poor Farm residents. The county paid Frazier \$225 per quarter to manage the Nevada County Poor Farm. In 1916, he applied for a Civil War pension which he drew until his death due to "cancer of the head" on Oct. 21, 1918. His wife died on February 27, 1931, at the home of her daughter in Kansas City, Missouri. Her obituary states she was buried at Mt. Moriah, Arkansas, but it seems more likely that *Lucy A. Frazier (1852-1931)* was buried in an unmarked grave at Moscow beside her husband and other relatives.

### *Andrew J. Harrison (1815-1870)*

A. J. Harrison, a native of Missouri, was a reasonably well-off farmer living with his wife and children in Carouse Township, then Ouachita County, Arkansas, and now Nevada County, in 1860. They had come to Arkansas from Mississippi sometime after 1850. After the war, he attempted to homestead more land, but death overtook him in 1870. His heirs received a patent to an 80-acre tract in 1876, one of the early Homestead patents in Nevada County.

### *Mary Barger Harrison (1824-1864)*

Mary Harrison's grave is one of the oldest marked graves at Moscow. The wife of A. J. Harrison, she was a native of Tennessee, had lived in Mississippi and Arkansas before her death in 1864. Other Bargers were nearby and were probably members of her family. The Harrisons and Bargers were farmers of moderate means.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

### *Dr. G. D. Hodge (1821-1877)*

Born in Tennessee, George D. Hodge was a graduate of the Transylvania School of Medicine at Lexington, Kentucky, and became a well-respected physician. After marrying Susan E. Sorrells, a native of Mississippi, they came to Dallas County, Arkansas, in 1846. In 1860, he was a slaveholder with five slaves and residing with his family in Holly Springs Township. He remained in Dallas County until 1876. He then moved to early Prescott where he established his medical office on West Main Street. He died on February 4, 1877. A Methodist, a Mason, and a Democrat, he was a member of the Old South elite that was attracted to the new railroad town.

### *John Jones (1845-1895)*

Born on February 7, 1845, in Franklin County, Alabama, John Jones was the son of John Jones and his wife Delpha Catherine Parham, both natives of Alabama. His father died one month before his birth, and his mother later remarried. Jones remained with his mother until August 1862 when he joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Cavalry and served until the end of the war. He fought in the Georgia campaign and was wounded in the right shoulder at Wyatt, Mississippi. After the war, he came to Hempstead County, Arkansas. He married Alta Myra Norman, daughter of Captain William Norman, on January 13, 1870. Jones owned a 340-acre farm, dealt in stock and was a Prescott merchant in the 1880s. He died on May 1, 1895. His wife *Alta Myra Jones (1853-1934)* is buried beside him.

### *Samuel Sorrels Langley, Jr. (1865-1948)*

Born on December 24, 1865, in Clark County, S. S. Langley, Jr., was one of fourteen children of S. S. Langley, Sr., and his wife Mary Browning. Raised on a farm, he was educated in the Clark County public schools, at the Oran Academy in Bingen, Arkansas, and at the E. B. Kinsworthy School in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Eventually, he became a teacher and taught in the public schools of Pike, Hempstead, Nevada and Ouachita Counties. In 1889, he attended Southern Normal School at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and also pursued a course in a business college there. While teaching in Prescott, he met Mattie Munn, daughter of S. D. Munn and his wife Tirzah Norman, and married her on October 29, 1890. Langley also studied law in the office of J. O. A. Bush of Prescott and was admitted to the Arkansas Bar. He was licensed to practice law at Prescott on June 5, 1905, and opened an office in Murfreesboro where he remained until he was appointed United States District Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas in 1921. While in this position, he lived at Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas. When he retired, he and his wife returned to Prescott. After the death of his first wife in 1937, he re-married. He died on May 23, 1948, and was buried beside his first wife

### *Mattie E. Munn Langley (1870-1937)*

### *Thomas J. Lavender (1849-1902)*

Born on August 9, 1849, in Arkansas, T. J. Lavender was the son of Jacob Lavender, a native of North Carolina, and his wife Anna, a native of Illinois. He grew up on his father's farm in then Hempstead County,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

now Nevada County, Arkansas. At age 18, he married Rebecca F. Mayes, the 18 year old daughter of a neighboring farmer, J. J. Mayes, on October 20, 1867. He died on December 30, 1902, and was buried in the cemetery his father had conveyed to the Moscow Church. His wife *Rebecca F. Lavender (1849-1929)* is buried beside him.

### *Thadeus R. Livingston (1826-1885)*

Born in South Carolina on November 17, 1826, Thadeus Livingston moved with his family to Mississippi where he married Mary Caroline Smith in Tippah County, Mississippi, in September 1849. He moved his family to Carouse Township, Ouachita County, now Nevada County, Arkansas, in 1856 where he farmed. Livingston enlisted in the Confederate Army at Moscow on Dec. 15, 1862, serving in Co. H, Crawford's Regiment, Arkansas Cavalry, from 1863-65. Other records put his service in Co. B, 4<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry. For a time, he served as a nurse at Loring's Division Hospital in Lauderdale, Mississippi. He served as a trustee of the Moscow Church. His wife *Mary C. Livingston (1828-1921)* was born near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and is buried beside her husband at Moscow, although her grave is not marked. She died in Prescott at the home of her daughter Margaret, wife of the well-known Methodist minister Rev. J. A. Sage, on July 14, 1921.

### *James J. Mayes (1818-?)*

Born on June 26, 1818, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, J. J. Mays was the only child of James and Sarah Mayes, natives of South Carolina and Georgia. After the deaths of his parents, he lived with an uncle on a farm in Georgia until he was 18 and received little education. In 1841, he married Sarah J. Young, the daughter of John T. and Mary Booker Young, and they became the parents of 13 children. They moved from Georgia to Alabama in 1856. In 1857, they moved to Columbia County, Arkansas, and in 1858 to what is now Nevada County. He joined the Confederate Army in 1864 late in the war and served under a Captain Polk. He established a successful farm and fruit orchard near Boughton, Arkansas, where he homesteaded 80 acres in 1882. The date of his death is unknown.

### *Christena Medlock (1810-1877)*

Born in North Carolina, Christena (Christiana) Barger (Bargar) married John P. Steele in Henderson County, Tennessee, circa 1830, where they continued to reside until 1838. They then moved to Mississippi where they remained for 10 years before coming to Arkansas and settling in Ouachita County. The family belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Steele's Chapel, the first Methodist Church in their part of Ouachita County, was founded in their home. Christena lost her husband in 1850. She then married Hiram Medlock in 1856, and they moved to Pike County in 1858 where her second husband died in the same year. In 1859, she moved to Missouri Township, Hempstead County, now Nevada County, Arkansas. Her daughter Sarah, the wife of J. T. W. Gill—a prominent farmer—lived in the area and was one of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

founding members of the Moscow Church. The family relocated to Texas during the Civil War. But for that period, Christena Medlock remained in the area until her death on November 25, 1877.

### *Mordachi Jacob Moore (1835-1881)*

Born in Georgia on April 25, 1835, M. J. Moore was the son of John Usra and Elizabeth Moore. The family moved from near Mobile, Alabama, to near Warren in Bradley County, Arkansas, in the 1850s. By 1860, M. J. Moore had acquired land in Bradley County for farming, had married Julia Calloway and started a family. In 1861, M. J. Moore moved to Boone County, Arkansas, near Harrison where his parents had relocated. Moore seemed to have served in Confederate Army, but the details are sketchy. His widow applied for a pension in 1901 with the claim that her husband served in Co. B of an unnamed regiment of Arkansas Infantry from 1862-64. Whether she was able to prove her claim is not clear. Sometime in the late 1860s or early 1870s, the family moved to Nevada County. M. J. Moore lived and farmed in the vicinity of Moscow where his children married into the community. Moore died on November 8, 1881.

### *Emily McLelland McLain (c. 1821-?)*

Emily McLelland was born about 1821. Her mother, Hulda Grayson, had come from Kentucky about 1812. Her father was a McLelland who had come to then Hempstead County, Arkansas, about 1814. He was a farmer and hunter, and died in 1836. On April 13, 1841, 20 year old Emily McLelland married Matthew McLain at her mother's house. Like her mother, Emily outlived her husband by several years. On March 10, 1883, she received a land patent on 80 acres of land east of Cox's Creek and north of the Redland Community. Three years later, on April 10, 1886, she received a patent on an adjacent 80-acre tract, the maximum allowed to her under the Homestead Act of 1862. She farmed for a living. The date of her death is not known, but she was interred at Moscow with her husband.

### *C. L. McKenzie (1823-1900)*

Born in Moore County, North Carolina, on August 9, 1823, Colin L. McKenzie was the oldest son of Kenneth McKenzie and his wife Elizabeth Fry. The family moved to Henderson County and then McNairy County, Tennessee, where C. L. McKenzie worked first as a wagoner and then as a blacksmith. He went to Red River County, Texas, in 1859, and came to Ouachita County, Arkansas, in 1861. In Ouachita County, he operated a water saw, grist mill and cotton gin and farmed. He was also a small slaveholder before the Civil War. McKenzie came to Nevada County in 1876 where he farmed and operated a mill and cotton gin for a period of time. He married Margaret Jones of Montezuma, Tennessee, in 1851, and they had five children. His first wife died in Ouachita County in 1864. In December 1865, he married Mary L. Umpstead with whom he had seven children. McKenzie was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and a Mason. In the last decade of his life, he continued farming and doing blacksmith work for himself and his neighbors.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

### *William Norman (1818-1882)*

Born on March 23, 1818, in Franklin County, Tennessee, William Norman was one of eight children of John Norman and his first wife Nancy Elizabeth Colquitt. William married Martha Hamilton, his first wife, in Franklin County, Alabama, in the 1830s. By 1860, they were farming in Carouse Township, Hempstead County, Arkansas, and had purchased land in the vicinity of Moscow. During the Civil War, Norman served with the rank of captain in the Home Guards in his area. After the war, he was an early Prescott merchant and served as a Prescott alderman in 1881. His first wife died on July 30, 1881. On April 5, 1882, he married his second wife, Mrs. E. F. Norris—a widow. He died a few months later on June 28, 1882, and is buried beside his first wife *Martha Norman (1822-1881)* with whom he had nine children. He was a Mason.

### *John Montgomery Norman (1836-1881)*

Born on December 25, 1838, in Franklin County, Alabama, J. M. Norman was the son of William Norman and his wife Martha Hamilton. He came to Hempstead County, Arkansas, as a young man in the 1850s and married Nancy Adeline McDonald on October 3, 1860, in then Hempstead County. On March 1, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company B, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Arkansas Infantry at Washington, Arkansas. He was appointed 4<sup>th</sup> corporal on May 13, 1862. He served at Corinth, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and in other minor engagements. His regiment was one of General Pemberton's front line units during the siege at Vicksburg and experienced hand-to-hand combat and trench warfare. At the Confederate surrender on July 4, 1863, the Arkansas soldiers were taken to New Delhi, Louisiana, where they were paroled by General U. S. Grant. Despite the parole, he and other men rejoined the Confederate Army and served in Texas until the conclusion of the war. J. M. Norman worked as a teacher in subscription schools, farmed and had business interests. He owned a mercantile business in Prescott in partnership with a Mr. Brashers, had two farms in Hempstead and Nevada Counties and operated a cotton gin. After a week's illness, he died at the age of 44 of typhoid fever on October 11, 1881, leaving his wife with eight children ranging in age from 20 to less than three months.

### *Nancy A. Norman (1841-1918)*

Born on August 22, 1841, in then Hempstead County, Arkansas, Nancy Adeline McDonald was the oldest child of William Coleman McDonald and his wife Mariah H. Wilson. Her father was a farmer, but owned no land. She married John M. Norman in 1860. When he died in October 1881 leaving her with eight children, she remarried twice. On December 20, 1882, she married Green B. Terry of Prescott, and on November 5, 1888, she married E. Wage of Missouri Township. Apparently, both marriages were short-lived and ended in divorce. She raised her children and remained on the Norman family farm until shortly before her death at the home of her son E. E. Norman, a prosperous merchant in Emmet, Arkansas, on February 2, 1918. She was buried at Moscow beside her first husband.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

### *Daniel O'Leary (c. 1833-1884)*

A native of Yorkville, South Carolina, Daniel O'Leary was a grocer and dealer in dry goods in early Prescott. He was still in South Carolina in 1860 and probably served in the Civil War in the Confederate Army. By 1870, he and his wife, Annie, were in Beech Creek Township, which was located near Arkadelphia in Clark County, Arkansas. Apparently, they were attracted to the new railroad town of Prescott and moved there after the coming of the railroad in 1873. In 1876, O'Leary was a Justice of the Peace in Prescott. In 1877, he served as City Recorder, and then as Mayor of Prescott from September 7, 1878, to April 1, 1879. At some point, his wife died and was buried at Moscow, leaving O'Leary to raise their children. On Christmas Day 1884, J. A. Pagan, who seems to have been an old neighbor of O'Leary from South Carolina, shot and killed O'Leary in Patrick Cassidy's saloon in Prescott. The coroner's jury refused to indict Pagan, and he was not prosecuted for O'Leary's death. O'Leary was buried beside his wife *Annie O'Leary (1840-?)* at Moscow. The O'Learys have no markers, but their presence at Moscow is confirmed by newspaper accounts.

### *M. S. Polk (1846-1910)*

Mariman or Merriman S. Polk was born in Indiana to parents from Virginia and North Carolina. During the Civil War, he served as a private in Co. H., 140 Indiana Infantry. He and his wife Hana lived in Indiana and Illinois before moving to Nevada County in the 1870s. Polk farmed and was an active member of the Moscow Methodist Church. In 1896, he applied for and received a pension for his service in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the death of his first wife on December 22, 1907, he married 49 year old Martha Stanley of Prescott on October 28, 1908. He died on November 9, 1910, of Bright's disease. He is buried beside his first wife *Hana Polk (1852-1907)*.

### *Benjamin F. Steel (1846-1932)*

Born near Oxford, Mississippi, on March 15, 1846, B. F. Steele was the son of J. P. Steele and his wife Christiana Barger. The family came to Ouachita County, Arkansas, in 1848, and were noted as living in Columbia and Hempstead Counties after that year. Steele enlisted in Monroe's Regiment, Co. D, Arkansas Cavalry, in September 1863, and saw action at Pine Bluff, Poison Springs and Mark's Mill, Arkansas. Because of exposure and resulting illness, he left his regiment in 1865 and stayed with a relative until he recovered, ultimately joining his family who had relocated to Texas. After the war, he returned to Ouachita County where he farmed and went to school. In 1872, he came to Hempstead County (now Nevada) where he purchased land and eventually acquired a 420-acre farm. On September 19, 1869, he married Mary C. Cross, a native of Ouachita County. After her death on June 22, 1880, he married his second wife, Lucinda A. Davis, on December 15, 1880. She is the daughter of John D. and Martha Davis of Moscow. They became the parents of seven children. Steele was an active member of the Moscow Church and a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He died on August 19, 1932, at his home near Moscow. He is buried beside his second wife *Lucinda Davis Steel (1848-1928)*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

### *Edward Allen Warren, Sr. (1818-1875)*

Born near Eutaw in Green County, Alabama, on May 2, 1818, E. A. Warren, Sr., studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1843. He began his law practice in Clinton, Mississippi, and was a member of the Mississippi State House of Representatives in 1845 and 1846, before moving to Arkansas in 1847, and settling at Camden, Ouachita County. He practiced law in Camden and was elected a member of the State House of Representatives in 1848 and 1849, serving as speaker in 1849. He served as a judge of the Circuit Court of the Sixth District of Arkansas. He was elected as a Democrat to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1853-1855) and the 35<sup>th</sup> Congress (1857-1859). In 1860, he was again living in Camden with his wife and family and practicing law. His wife died on the eve of the Civil War. After the war, he and his son, E. A. Warren, Jr., were attracted to the new county of Nevada and the new railroad town of Prescott early in hopes of recouping their flagging fortunes. E. A. Warren, Sr., died on June 29, 1875. He was lauded in the state papers as an able man and fine orator, and is probably the single most prominent man buried at Moscow. He was a Mason. E. A. Warren, Sr., is buried beside his daughter-in-law *Kate Stuart Warren (1841?-1877)*, the first wife of his son.

### *Phoebe Whiteside (1795?-1875)*

Born in North Carolina (some sources give Kentucky as her place of birth) in the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Phoebe Muckeley married William Whiteside circa 1814 in Stewart County, Tennessee. Her husband and four other men from Tennessee journeyed by flatboat down the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and then up the Ouachita and Little Missouri Rivers to Stephen Vaughn's place in present-day Nevada County in the fall of 1816 to explore the country. They returned with their families the following year and were among the first permanent settlers in the area. William Whiteside patented two tracts of land in the vicinity of Moscow in 1837 and 1839. Details on the lives of these early settlers are scant. William Whiteside probably died in 1865. His place of burial is not known, but he may be buried in an unmarked grave beside his wife. Phoebe Whiteside died on July 28, 1875, at the age of eighty.

### *John Fletcher Whiteside (1817-1886)*

A native of Illinois, J. F. Whiteside was an early settler in then Hempstead County, Arkansas. He was likely the son of Jacob Whiteside, a native of North Carolina and a Methodist lay minister, and his wife Elizabeth, a native of Delaware. At the age of 24, J. F. Whiteside married 17 year old Martha E. Bolls, a native of Mississippi, on March 3, 1842. By 1850, he was farming in Caruse Township, then Hempstead County. In his household were his wife, their four young children and three of his wife's siblings. By 1860, Whiteside and his wife had six children and \$1500 in personal property but no land. He received a patent on land southwest of Moscow in 1860. By 1880, his home was in Missouri Township, Nevada County, Arkansas. He died at his home on August 18, 1886.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

### *Jacob J. Whiteside (1820?-?)*

A native of Illinois, J. J. Whiteside was an early settler in then Hempstead County, Arkansas. He was likely a brother to John F. Whiteside above. J. J. Whiteside appeared on the tax rolls of Hempstead County as early as 1848 and 1849. In 1850, he was head of the household that included his elderly parents and a younger sister, and he was farming in Caruse Township of then Hempstead County. On February 2, 1854, at the age of 32, he married Cassandra H. Cantley, age 18, and a member of a family strongly associated with Moscow. By 1860, they had two small girls. During the Civil War, J. J. Whiteside joined Co. B of the 20<sup>th</sup> Arkansas Infantry. Organized in the spring of 1862, this unit served east of the Mississippi, was captured at Vicksburg, and also participated in the battles of Marks' Mills and Jenkins' Ferry before disbanding in 1864. Somewhat older than many of the men, Whiteside entered as a First Lieutenant and left with the same rank. By 1880, Whiteside was a widower living with his two sons near Moscow. The date of his death is not known. It is likely that his wife is buried near him in an unmarked grave.

### *John B. Williams (1823-1913)*

Born in England, John B. Williams came to the United States in 1828. Not much is known of his early life. He lived in the Midwest in Wisconsin and Illinois. He and his family were in early Prescott where he was engaged in the lumber business and owned a large quantity of land. He built a two-story home on the Prescott to Emmet highway that was a landmark for years. At the time of his death on August 12, 1913, he was living with his son John E. Williams and his family at Highland, Arkansas. He was buried at Moscow beside his wife *Anna Williams (1822-1900)* and other family members.

### *John Yerby (1796-1873)*

Born on January 26, 1796, John Yerby was a native of Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, and probably came to Nevada County from Alabama as the railroad was building through the area in the early 1870s. Little is known about him, but he is one of the older graves at Moscow and was born in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is known from a family Bible that he was connected to the Smith family and the Rogers family, several of whom are buried at Moscow. He died on August 1, 1873.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An important record of the now non-existent settlement's past, the Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery is the final resting place for the early settlers of the Moscow settlement, Town of Prescott, and Nevada County. Buried in the Moscow Methodist Cemetery are many of the original town founders, landowners and business people—early merchants, newspaper men, and politicians—as well as many of their mothers, fathers, siblings and descendants. Many of the people buried in this cemetery assisted with the incorporation and development of the Town of Prescott, and contributed greatly to the settlement pattern of Nevada County, and several descendants of these families are still living in Nevada County today. The Moscow



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

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Methodist Church and Cemetery, located in the Prescott vicinity, Nevada County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the early settlement of Nevada County and Prescott. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of funerary architecture through monuments which illustrate artworks that are representative of the stylistic type and period from the date of the first marked burial in 1864 to 1956. It is eligible for inclusion under **Criteria Consideration D** as a cemetery.

Contributing to the nomination is the Moscow Methodist Church. The only extant structure associated with the Moscow settlement, the church is a tangible reminder of the beginnings of both Prescott and Nevada County, and its history is a testament to the rise and struggle, and eventual re-emergence of the Methodist community in rural Arkansas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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*Nevada News*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

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### *Resource Persons*

Mildred Bryson Lang, Trustee of Moscow Church and Cemetery, 420 S. Greening, Hope, AR 71801. Conversations with the author about Moscow Church and Cemetery from December 2003-April 2006, Prescott and Hope, AR.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The corrected legal description for the Moscow Church is as follows:

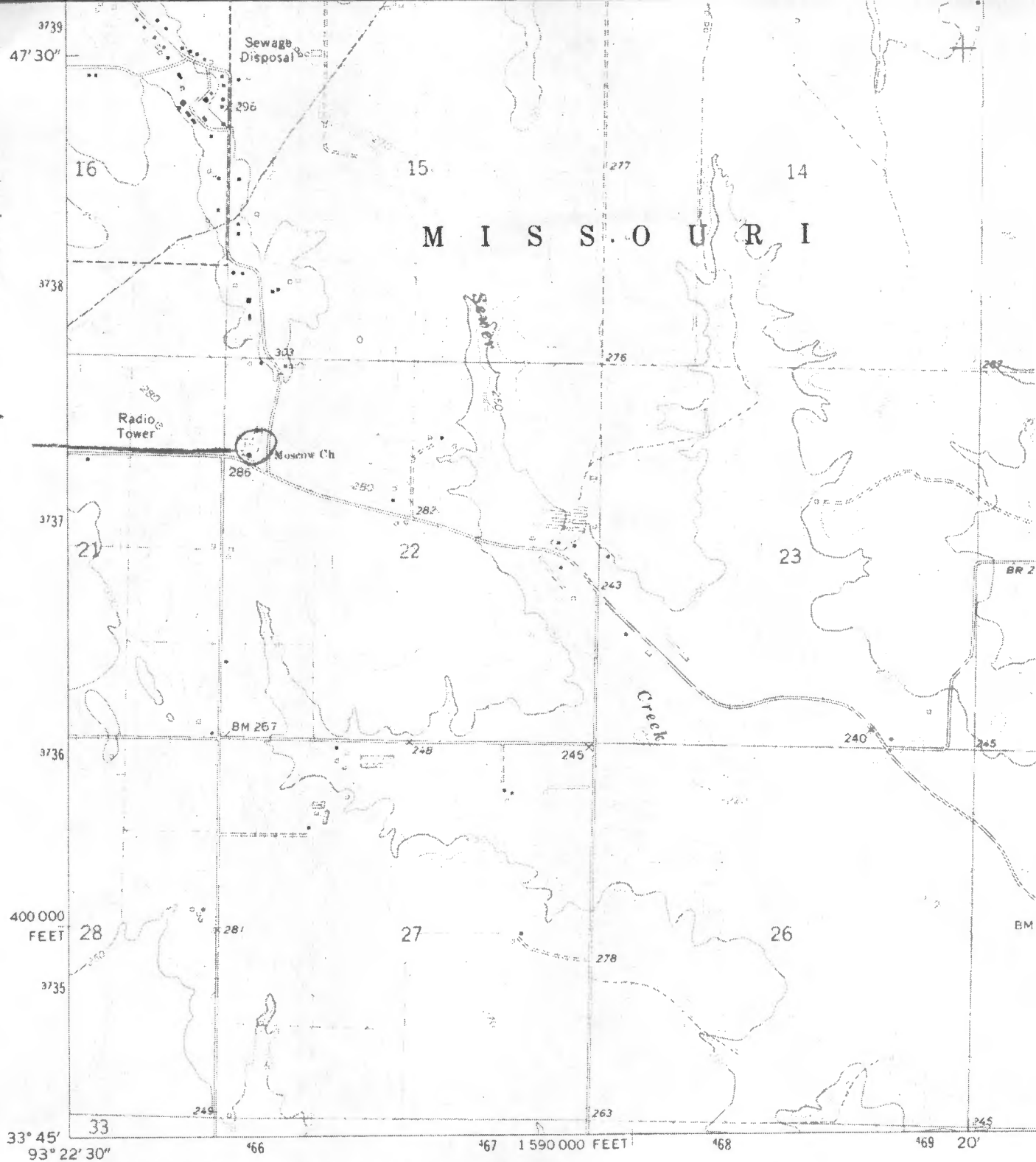
“in the North half of the Northwest Quarter of Section Twenty-two, Township Eleven South, Range Twenty-two West to wit: ‘Commencing at a stone planted on the section line fifteen (15) chains and forty-four (44) links south of the northwest corner of Section Twenty-two (22) Township Eleven (11) South Range Twenty-two West, running east eight (8) chains thence south five and one half (5½) chains, thence west six and one half (6½) chains, thence south two and one half (2½) chains, thence west one and one half (1½) chains to the section line, thence north with the section line, eight (8) chains to the commencing point.’”

This was a tract of approximately three acres and had already been used for the church and grounds for some 50 years at the time the corrected legal description was recorded.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above verbal boundary description includes all land historically associated with the Moscow Methodist Church and Cemetery, Prescott vicinity, Nevada County, Arkansas.

Moscow Meadows - O'Neill Community  
Present vicinity, Nevada Co, Arkansas  
UTM: 15 / 460053 / 3737454



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

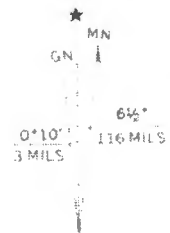
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

FOR









