

NR listed 1/03/91

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Carolina Methodist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number County Road #10

not for publication n/a

city, town Rosston

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Nevada

code AR 099

zip code 71858

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

name of related multiple property listing:
n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Carlynn A. Boyd
Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

11-16-90
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/weatherboard

roof Metal/Steel

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

licable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1871

Significant Dates
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 15 484350 3716730
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of County Road #10 with a line running along the eastern elevation of the church, proceed northerly along said line to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with the northern edge of County Road #10; thence proceed easterly to the point of See continuation sheet beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Screeton, National Register Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date November 14, 1990

street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 324-9346

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Carolina Methodist Church is a single-story, wood frame ecclesiastical structure designed in a rectangular plan. Built in 1871, the church is located in remote Nevada County, Arkansas, just off State Highway 4 near Rosston. It is covered with a gable roof and supported by stone and concrete piers.

Elaboration

The Carolina Methodist Church is a single-story, wood frame ecclesiastical structure designed in a rectangular plan. Built in 1871, the church is located in remote Nevada County, Arkansas, just off State Highway 4 near Rosston.

Built with no chimneys, the church rests on a stone and concrete pier foundation, the latter of which was placed under the structure during a renovation project in late 1977. The gable roof is covered with composite shingles and the walls of the building are faced with weatherboard. The East elevation contains three double-hung sash windows and a pegged door at the north end, with the West elevation being a mirror image. The South elevation has double-leaf doors symmetrically placed with the end gable, with corresponding double-hung windows in the opposite end gable.

The interior of the building is simple and typical of the architectural style, featuring flush plank walls. The doors and windows are of wood peg construction and the pews are each made from one continuous plank of knot-free pine timbers. The pulpit and mourners bench is also constructed from wood found on the property.

The only alterations to the structure are the removal of the bottom sash portion from the double-hung windows to guard against deterioration and vandalism. Otherwise, the building is intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Carolina Methodist Church, a one-story wood frame rectangular ecclesiastical building, is an excellent example of early vernacular Greek Revival style architecture common in early 19th century America and is the best example of this style in the Rosston vicinity.

Elaboration

The Carolina Methodist Church is a single-story wood frame ecclesiastical building. Constructed in 1871, the structure is located in a remote wooded area of Nevada County approximately five miles from Rosston, Arkansas, off State Highway 4.

Built on a rectangular plan with no chimneys, the structure rests on concrete piers placed during a renovation effort in 1977, along with one original stone pier. The gable roof consists of composite shingles and the building is faced with weatherboard. Entrances are found at the north end of the east and west elevations, with three double-hung sash windows placed to the south. This symmetrical plan parallels the gable roof, as do the divided pews found inside the structure. The south elevation features double-leaf doors symmetrically placed under the end gable. The north elevation has two double-hung sash windows under the end gable mirroring door placement on the south.

The Carolina community was settled in 1855 and local history supports that the congregation was established in 1856. However, the land where the church now sits was purchased from the John W. Shell and W.C. Hatley families in 1871 by the board of trustees of the congregation for the sum of twenty-five cents. The original deed on file with the Nevada County, Arkansas, Circuit Clerk's office bears a date of January 15, 1870. The deed includes a reversion clause requiring a structure for the purposes of worship be erected on the property or the land would revert to the original owners or their heirs. There was, however, no revision clause for the condition of abandonment. (Abandonment is defined by the Little Rock Conference of the United Methodist Church as any church congregation or building that "has no pastor assigned and no apportionments levied.") This deed is the best supporting evidence for the construction date of 1871.

The benches in the church are original, each constructed from one continuous piece of knot-free virgin pine timbers. The cap molds on each are hand hewn. The pew divider in the center of the church parallels the side walls and consists of two pieces of pine measuring 32 inches in height. The doors and windows are of peg construction, and were repaired with this technique during a partial renovation and preservation project in 1977. Reverend Dale and Helen McKinney held services every fifth Sunday that year for the purpose of raising funds for restoration.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

8

2

Section number _____ Page _____

The Carolina Church served as the center of activity for the community of the same name from 1871-1977 when regular services were discontinued due to its remote location and lack of interest. However, community, church, school, and family reunions have been held in the building since that time and the building has also been used as a voting precinct.

Inside the church opposite the pulpit are visible markings where the black balcony was located. According to John Teeter, an active member of the Nevada County Historical Society who attended some services there as a child, the balcony contained only one bench. This was used on a first-come, first-served basis, but there was ample standing room.

During the time regular services were conducted, the building housed an organ and piano. The choir, consisting of six to eight regular members, sat in a special section of pews to the immediate right of the minister as he faced the congregation.

Directly in front of the pulpit was the mourners bench. The bench remained in this location until a funeral took place, at which time it was moved to the side of the pulpit for family members and close friends, and the casket was placed between the pulpit and congregation. It was also common practice of the Carolina congregation to seat men and women separately during services, a practice brought by the original settlers from the Carolinas.

In April, 1931, the only existing written assessment of the church building and congregation was done by S.T. Baugh, Extension Secretary of the Prescott Circuit, Prescott District of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Written to the District Commission on the Rural Church, the report addressed Baugh's concerns of all small churches in the district. Regarding the Carolina church, it was reported that there were 50 active members at time, (90 percent of which owned their own homes) and services were held the first Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. by Reverend E.D. Hanna, circuit pastor. There had been no active Sunday School program in more than three years, and although there were approximately 10 young people in the church at that time, there was no Epworth League, the predecessor to the United Methodist Youth program of today. Baugh was also concerned by the lack of organization among the women of the church, and recommended initiating the Women's Missionary Society in the circuit, with circles working in each church.

Concerning the building itself, Baugh commented on the need to repaint inside and outside, recovering the outside walls, and replacing broken window glass. He stressed the need for a church to have a "clean appearance" as church buildings "are the focal point, the most important building in a community." He also suggested the consolidation of Carolina and Caney churches due to small enrollments and proximity to one another.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Local historians have surmised through oral interpretation that services lasted from 2 1/2 to 4 hours. It was not uncommon for children to be placed on pallets to nap. A freshwater spring adjacent to the church provided a respite on warm days, and served as a source to replenish horses and mules as they were unharnessed.

The church cemetery was located approximately one mile east of the church building. The cemetery was begun in this location when the congregation was started, and was not moved when the land for the church was purchased one mile away. Descendants of the first families and members of the local historical society continue to maintain the cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

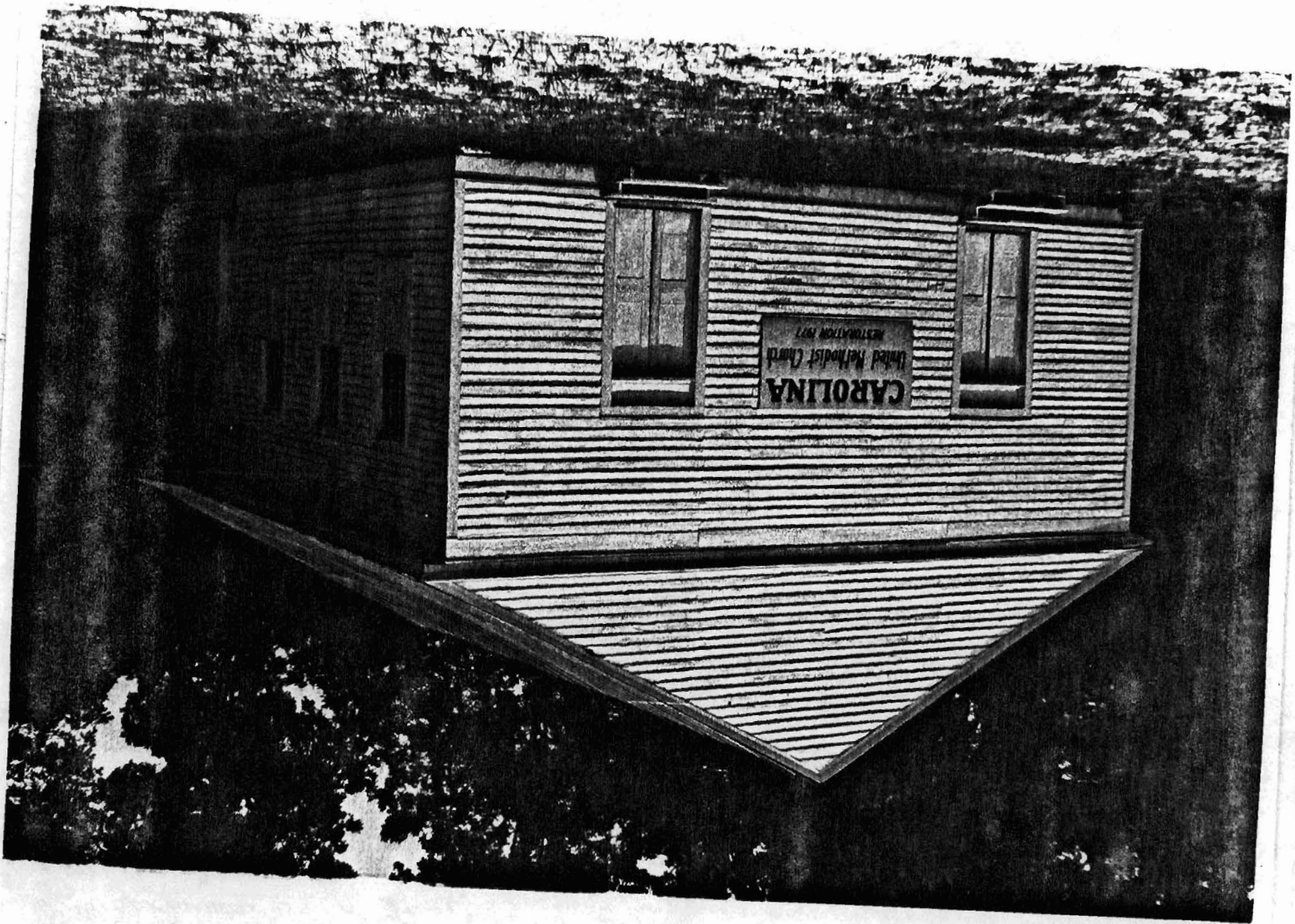
Bibliography

Hempstead, Fay. *Historical Review of Arkansas*. The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1911. Vol.I, pp. 416-423.

Herndon, Dallas T., *Centennial History of Arkansas*. The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago, 1922; pp. 784, 785, 905 and 943.

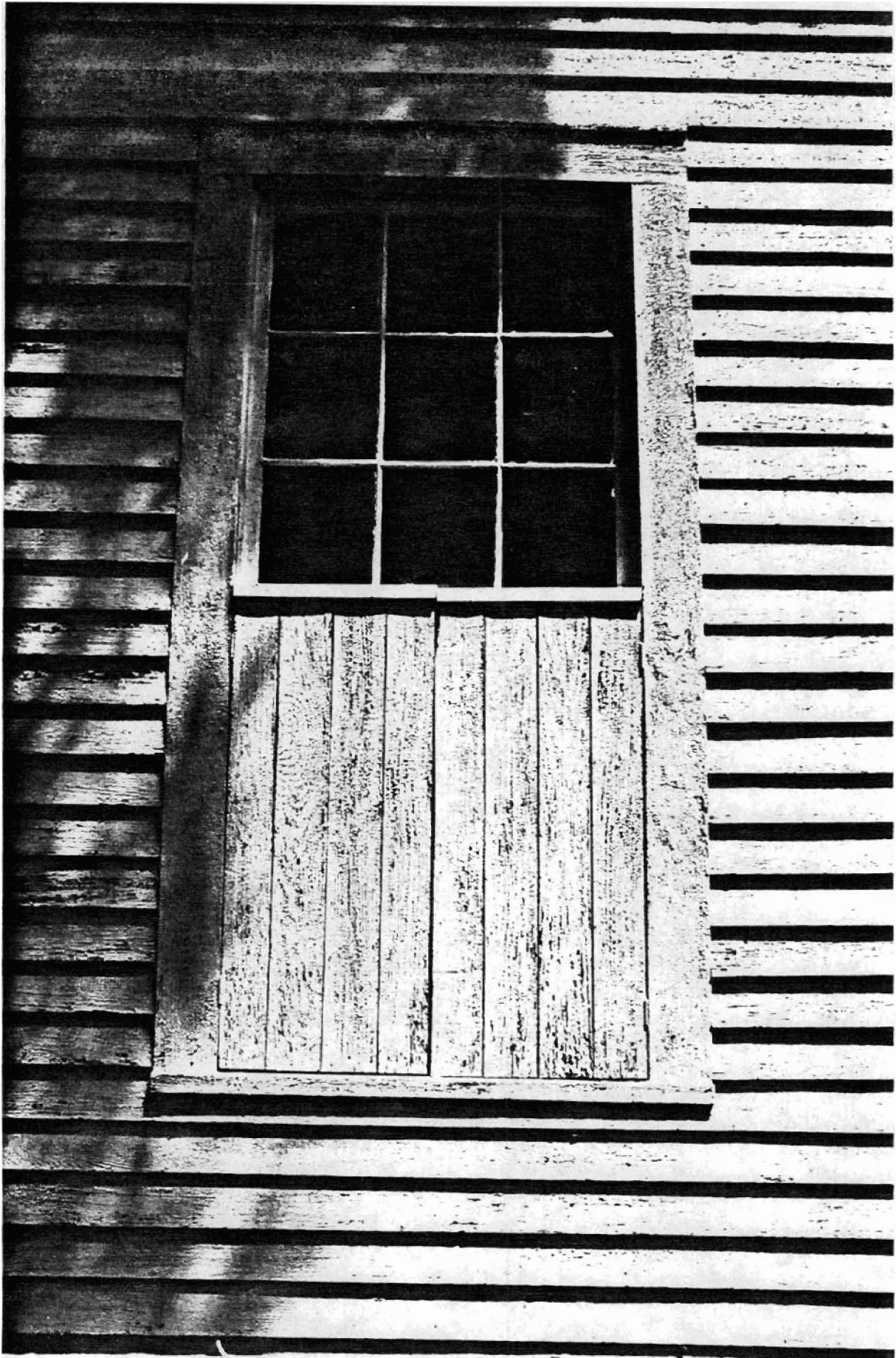
Nevada County Historical Society Oral History Program. "*The Methodist Churches of Nevada County*," an interview of Helen McKinney by Phena Fincher, October 4, 1984.

Nevada County Sectional Plat Sheet; Nevada County Clerk's Office, Prescott, Arkansas.

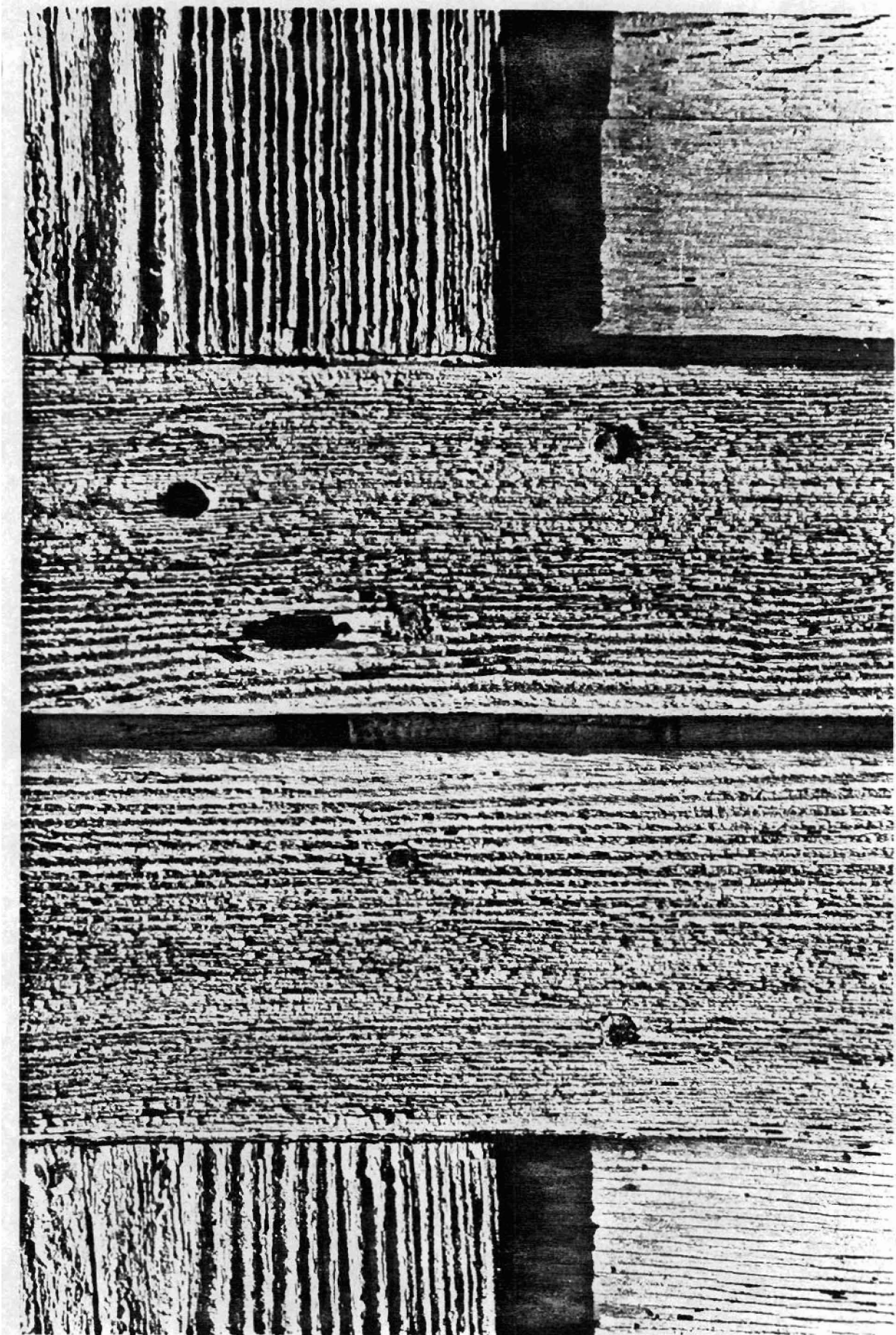


CAROLINA
United Methodist Church
RESTORATION 1977

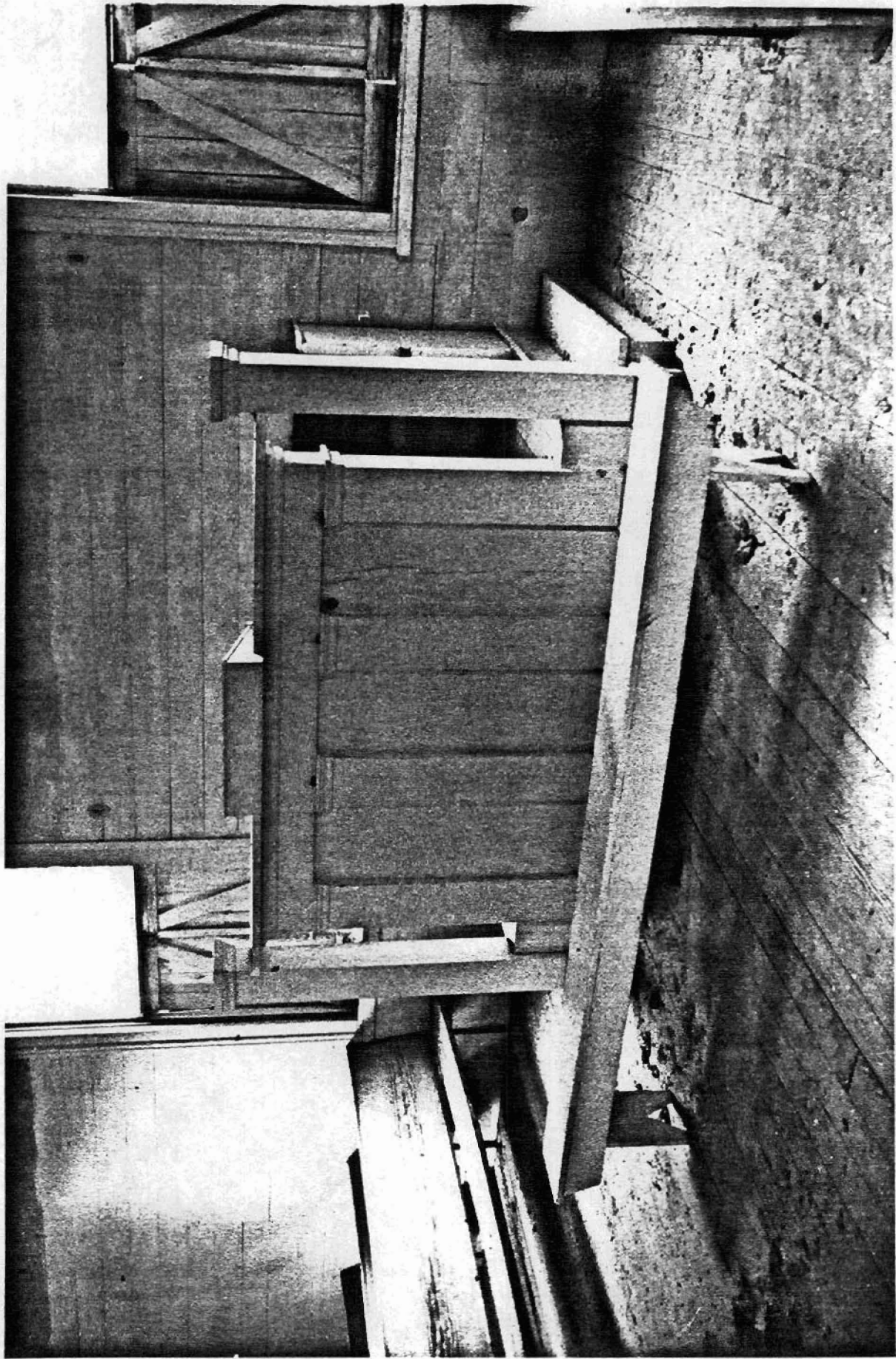


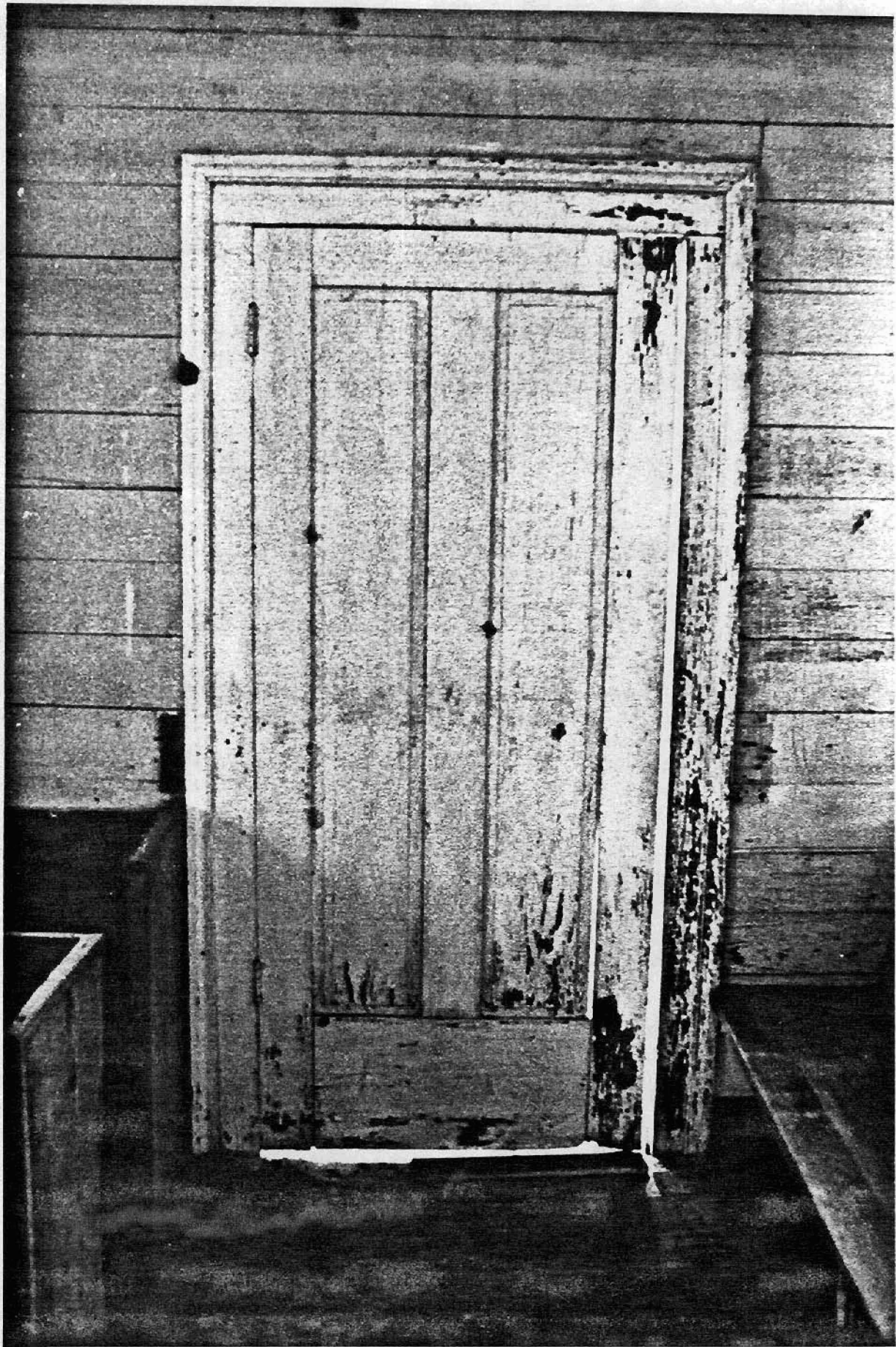












Carolina Methodist Church
Rosston vic., Arkansas
Nevada County
15/484350/3716730
Waterloo Quadrangle
1:24000

WATERLOO QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—NEVADA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 CHIDESTER 15' QUADRANGLE

CHIDESTER
751 (11 NE)



NW
CITY)