

60-316-4100-74

NR 9-28-77

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 Walnut Grove Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Walnut Grove Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Little Rock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE
Arkansas

VICINITY OF
CODE
05

COUNTY
Pulaski

CODE
039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME United Methodist Church, Dr. Ed Dunlap, District Superintendent

STREET & NUMBER
715 Center

CITY, TOWN
Little Rock

STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Markham and Spring

CITY, TOWN
Little Rock

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

Walnut Grove Methodist Church, located on Walnut Grove Road (a short connecting road between Kanis and Burlingame Roads) about twelve miles west of Little Rock, is the oldest original Methodist Church building in Pulaski County.

The congregation began as a loosely structured Methodist Society that met for - no telling how long - in the old White Oak Grove Public School House nearby. A Quarterly Conference of Methodist Churches officially chartered the Walnut Grove Methodist Church on March 8, 1885, but the Church continued to meet at the White Oak School building.

The first pastor was the Reverend W. W. Mills, the secretary was Mrs. Paralee Bland White, the Presiding Elder was either the Reverend A. W. Winfield or the Reverend Andrew Hunter, and Charles Galloway was Bishop of Arkansas Methodism.

The property, consisting of one acre of land located on the west bank of Fletcher Creek, was deeded to the first trustees - Josiah Anderson White, James Motes, and Thomas Bland - by Moses and Rebecca Bland. The secretary, Paralee Bland, was the daughter of the Moses Blands.

Shortly afterward, the present building was erected and has remained unaltered except for the addition in the 1950's of two small classrooms at the rear of the one-room church.

After a period of high water, the bank of the creek eroded toward the church, making it necessary to ease the building over several feet from the creek, but it sets on the original foundation of field stone.

From the beginning it has been known far and wide as the Walnut Grove Church. The building, an original one-room rural house of worship, faces west. The exterior is of slightly rough-sawn clapboard that has always been painted white. It is representative of the typical, rural public building of this area constructed near the turn of the century. The original roof was hand-river wood shingles, but has been replaced with composition shingles.

The front double doors, located in the facade of the center west wall, provide the only entrance into the sanctuary. They are paneled, with beveled upper and lower insets. Above them is a top pointed louvre that gives attic circulation.

The ten windows - five on each side of the building - are long-paned ones with the lower sash for raising to air out the building.

The front steps, made of heavy planks, are three treads and three risers high.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The interior is walled and ceiled, entirely with wood planks and have been painted white. A wall ladder provides access to the attic.

The old pews are the real hallmark of the authenticity of this landmark. They are made of wide pine planks, one each for the seat and back, and are put together with square nails, and neatly finished with plain smooth molding sawed by a local saw mill. They remain in the natural, never having been stained, painted or varnished. All told, they provide seating for about 80 or 90 persons.

The floors are of old, four-inch, planed plank flooring.

There is an old brick flue for a wood-burning stove against the inside west wall.

The chancel is a simple homemade country style, the top railing being a wood beam, with vertical rungs attached to it. A lower beam secured to the floor of a ten-inch high platform, extends forward a bit to provide a kneeling altar.

The pulpit in the center of the platform, is made from the wooden parts of the original church organ.

Several lovely church appurtenances, or furnishings, the old wall reflector-backed kerosene lamps, the central hanging oil lamp, and an antique secretary used for keeping records and literature, have been preserved, though vandalism has caused some destruction.

Most of the records of the church, which includes the names of ministers, presiding elders, bishops, members and financial and other data, from the beginning, are in good condition.

An old black walnut tree, about as old as the church, stands in the yard, as well as numerous redbud and dogwood trees. Many wild flowers such as oristata iris, deer tongue, Indian pinks grew along the creek bank.

The creek itself, continues to flow the year around, and is the water source of several swimming holes and clubs along the country side.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

These were the days of the early circuit riders, and since none of the small rural churches could support a minister by itself, several churches were ministered to by one pastor, having one Sunday morning worship service each month, and a summer revival each year. Sunday school was an every Sunday event, held by the members themselves. Community singing, an occasional funeral service, prayer meeting and Bible study classes have been the orders of the day from time to time. An evening vesper service is held every third Sunday evening at 6:00, at this time.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 1880 to 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

The people themselves

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During this bicentennial year, when authentic history is so much in our thinking, the Methodist denomination is restoring hundreds of its historic edifices in America, not for those values alone, but for continued community and church use. The aesthetic and nostalgic are also values to be cherished and preserved.

Walnut Grove is in the process of a face-lifting, being completely restored to its original appearance with as many of its original furnishings as possible. Since the denomination is connectional in its origin and policy, others are providing some money, skill and manpower to bring this about. First Methodist Church of downtown Little Rock is at present financing and working with some of the local people to complete this effort during this historic year.

The state of preservation of this authentic place of worship, in a completely rural setting, is excellent.

Walnut Grove Methodist Church has stood on this plot alongside Fletcher Creek for nearly a century, as a sentinel of the Christian faith, and has been open to all people at all times for community and religious purposes.

Many descendants of these early families living in Arkansas and elsewhere, as well as local residents, are interested in preserving this historic landmark, believing as they do, in its authentic worthiness.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arkansas Gazette, February 3, 1968.
- Henker, Fred O., "Ferndale - Western Pulaski County."
- Pulaski County Historical Review, Vol. XXI, March, 1973
- Newport Independent, March 31, 1976.
- Walnut Grove Church Records, 1888-1950.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 5	5 4 4 7 0 0 0	3 8 4 7 0 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sarah Galloway

ORGANIZATION

Methodist Church

DATE

9-20-76

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 260

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

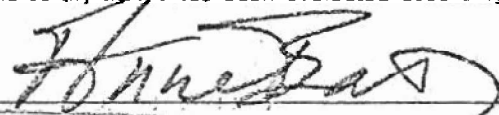
NATIONAL

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

FOP NPS USE ONLY

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

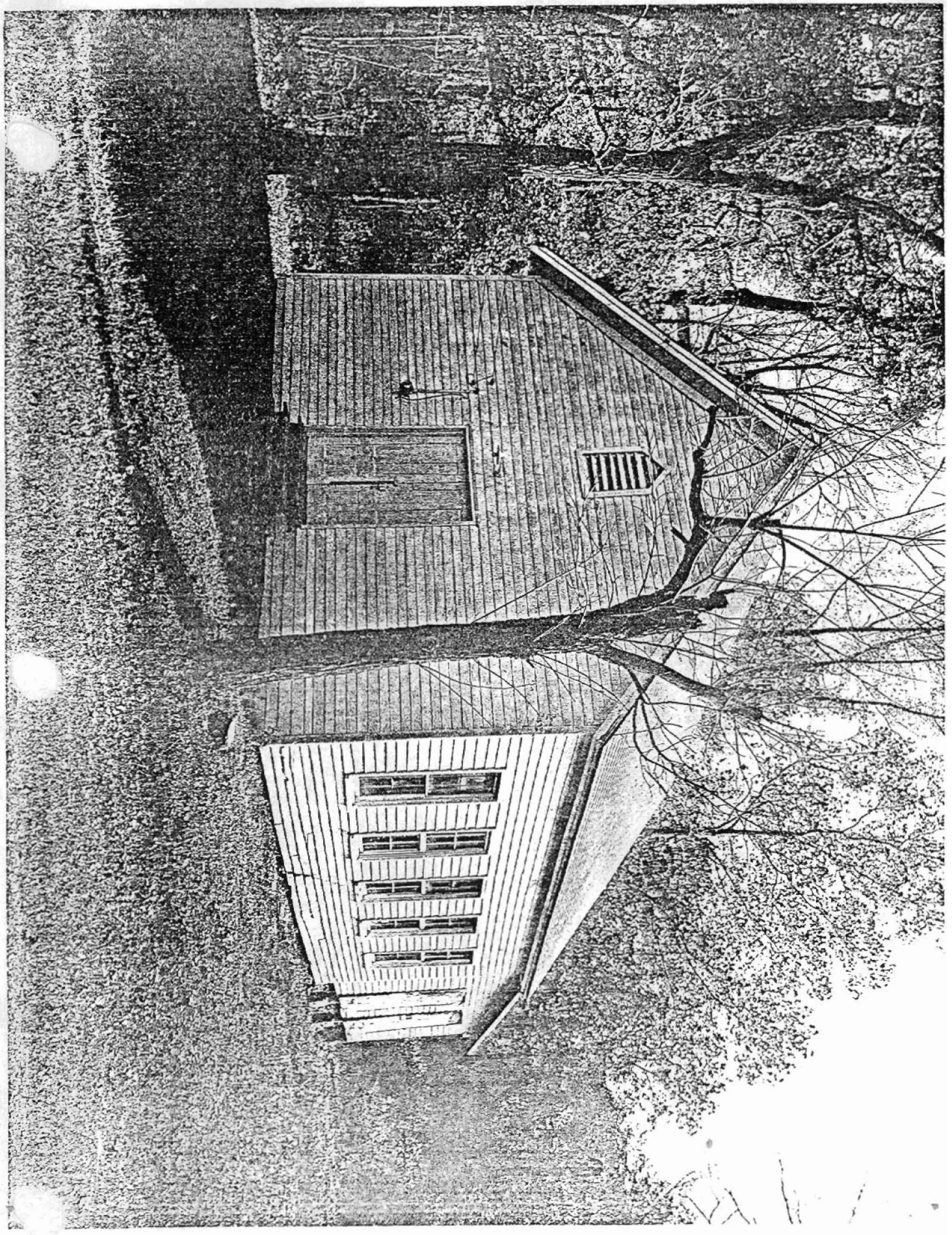
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
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1 NAME

HISTORIC Walnut Grove Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Ferndale

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

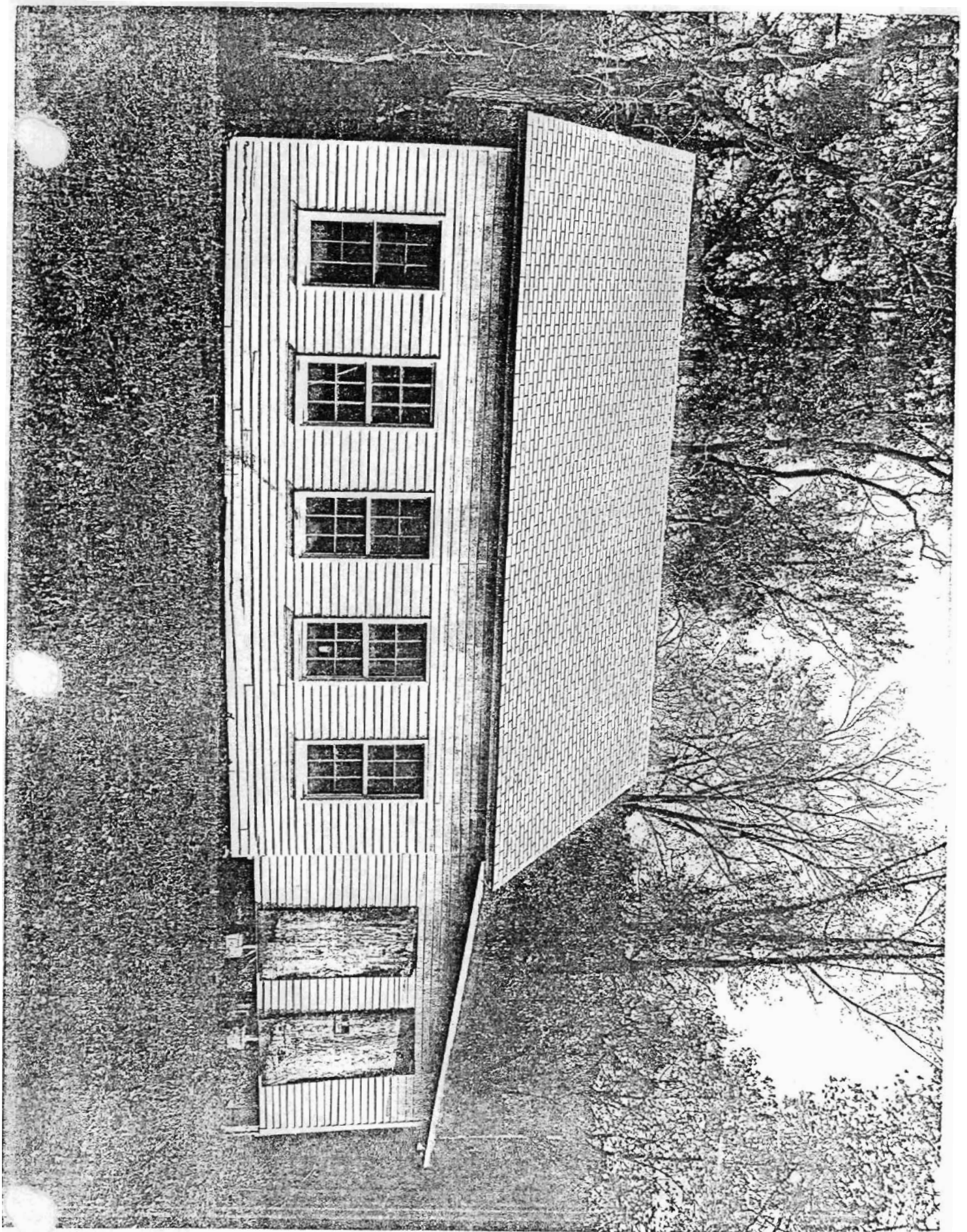
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

view of west elevation

PHOTO NO

1



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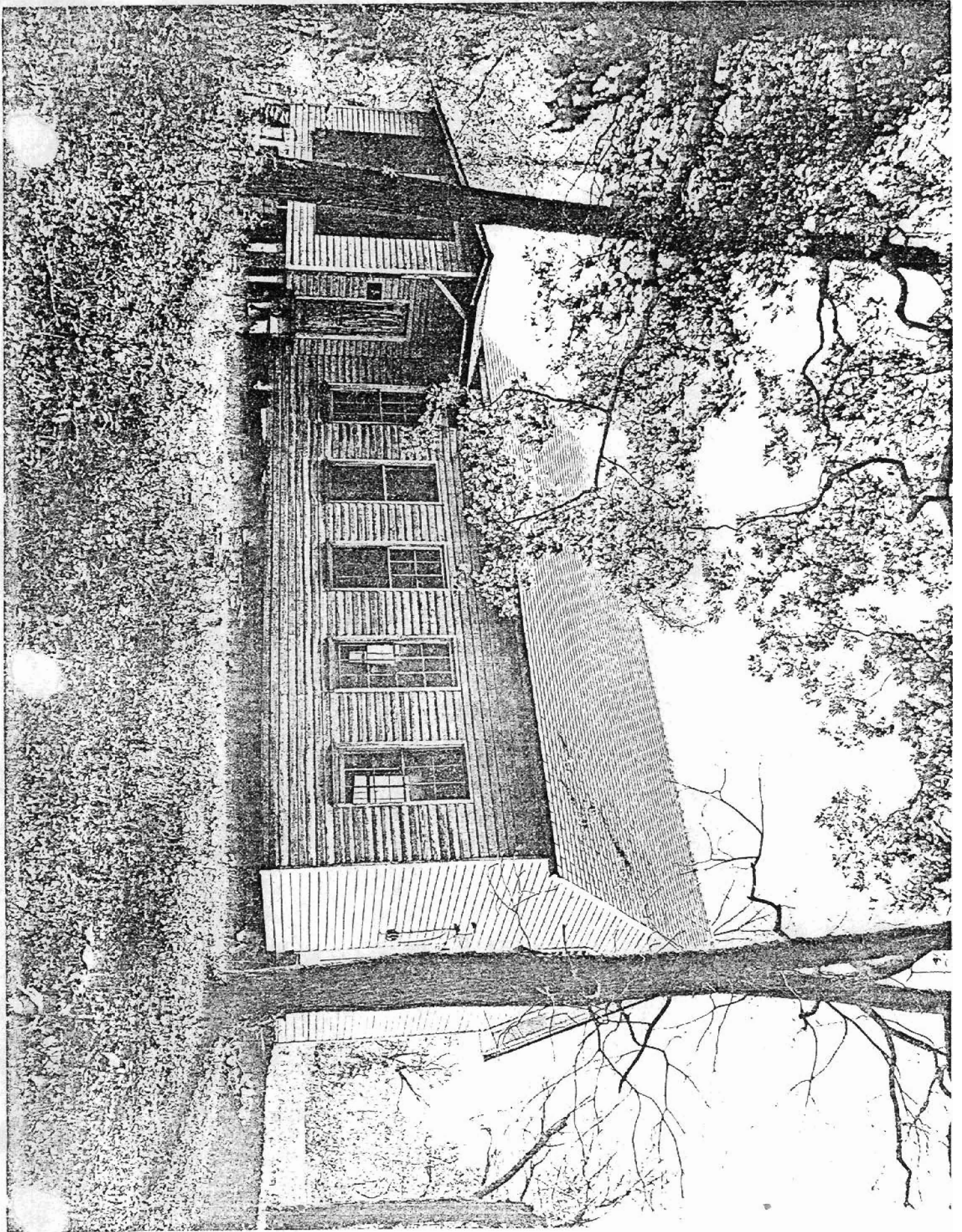
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

view of south elevation

PHOTO NO.

3



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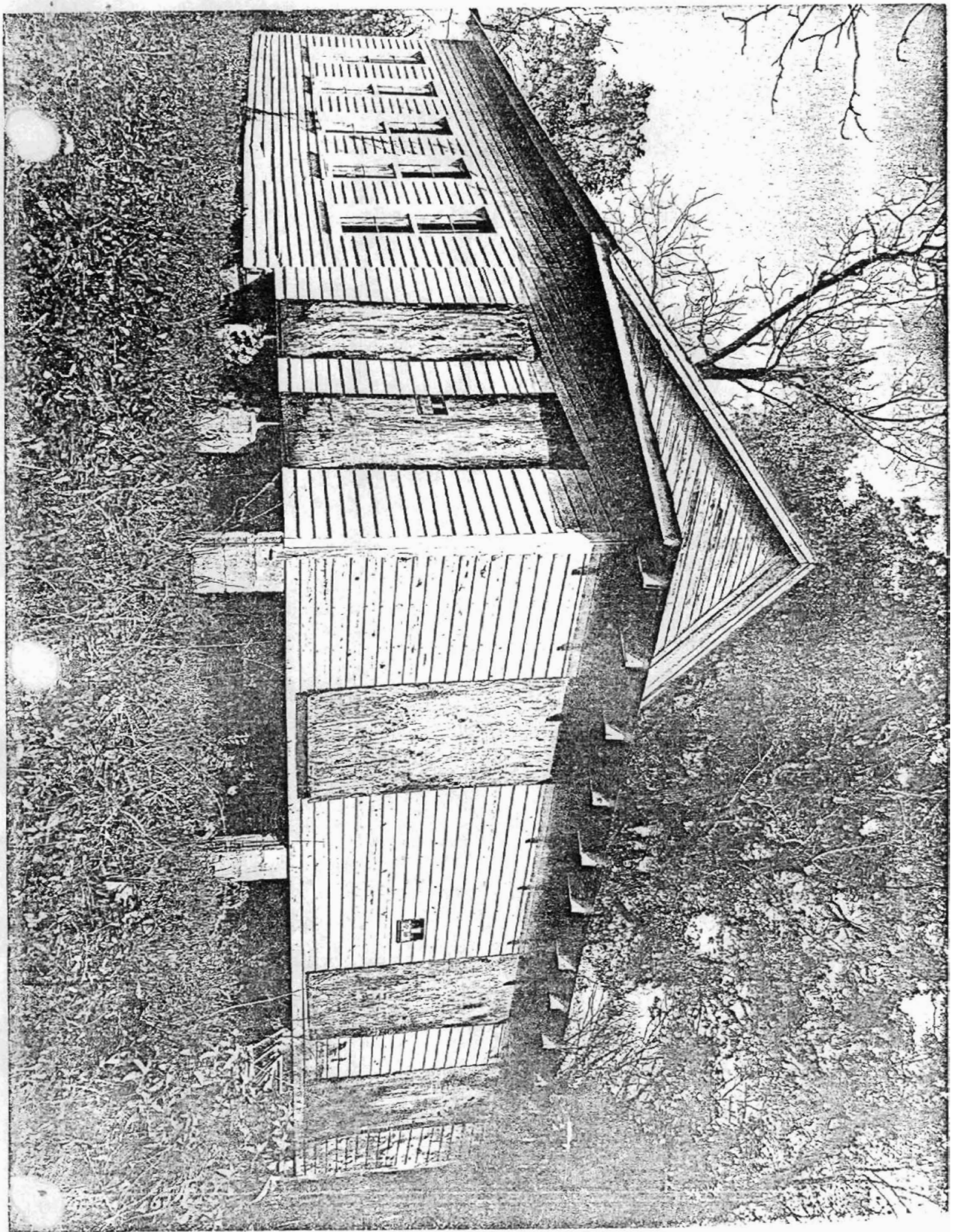
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

view of north elevation

PHOTO NO.

4



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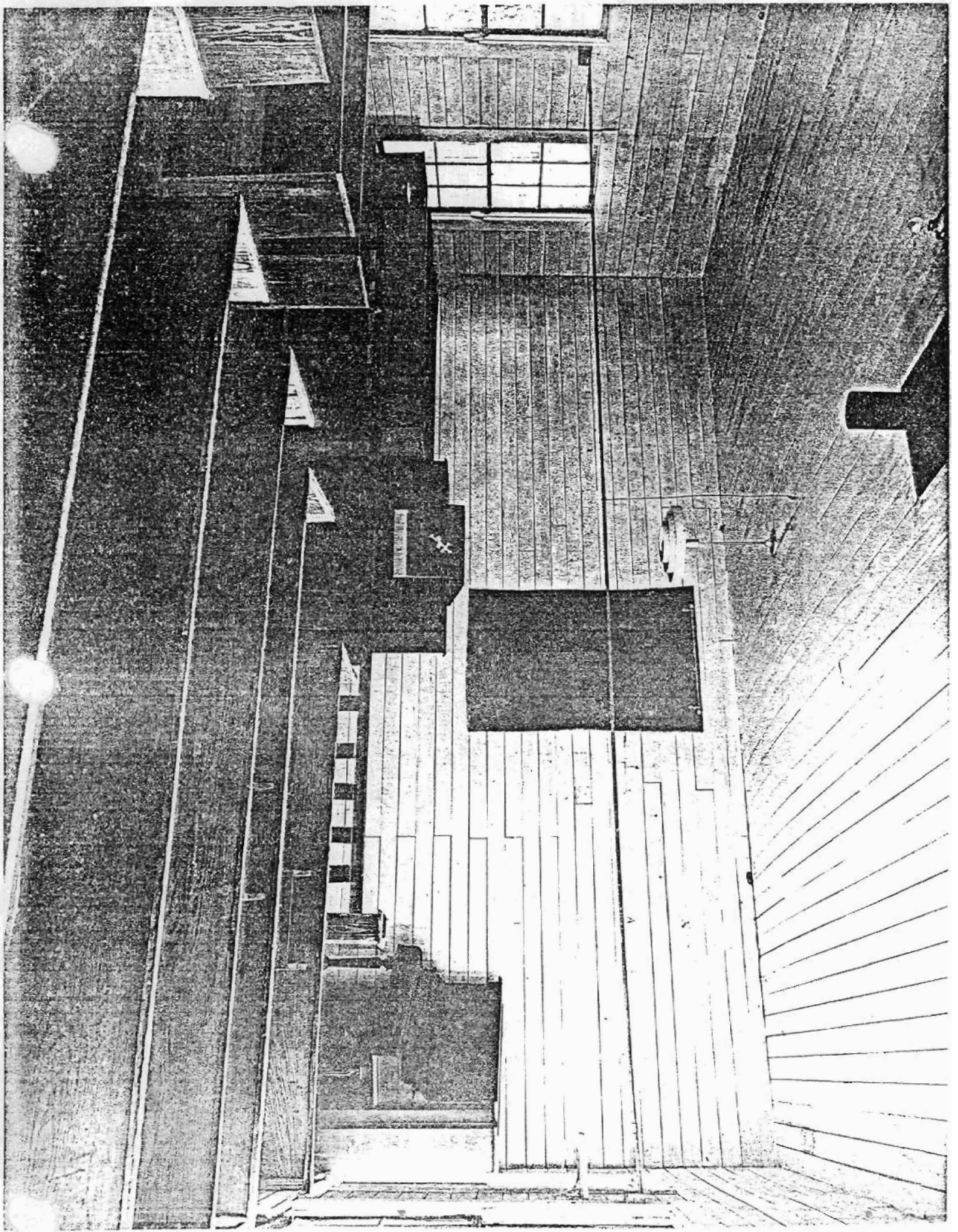
DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.
2



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DATE OF PHOTO 1976

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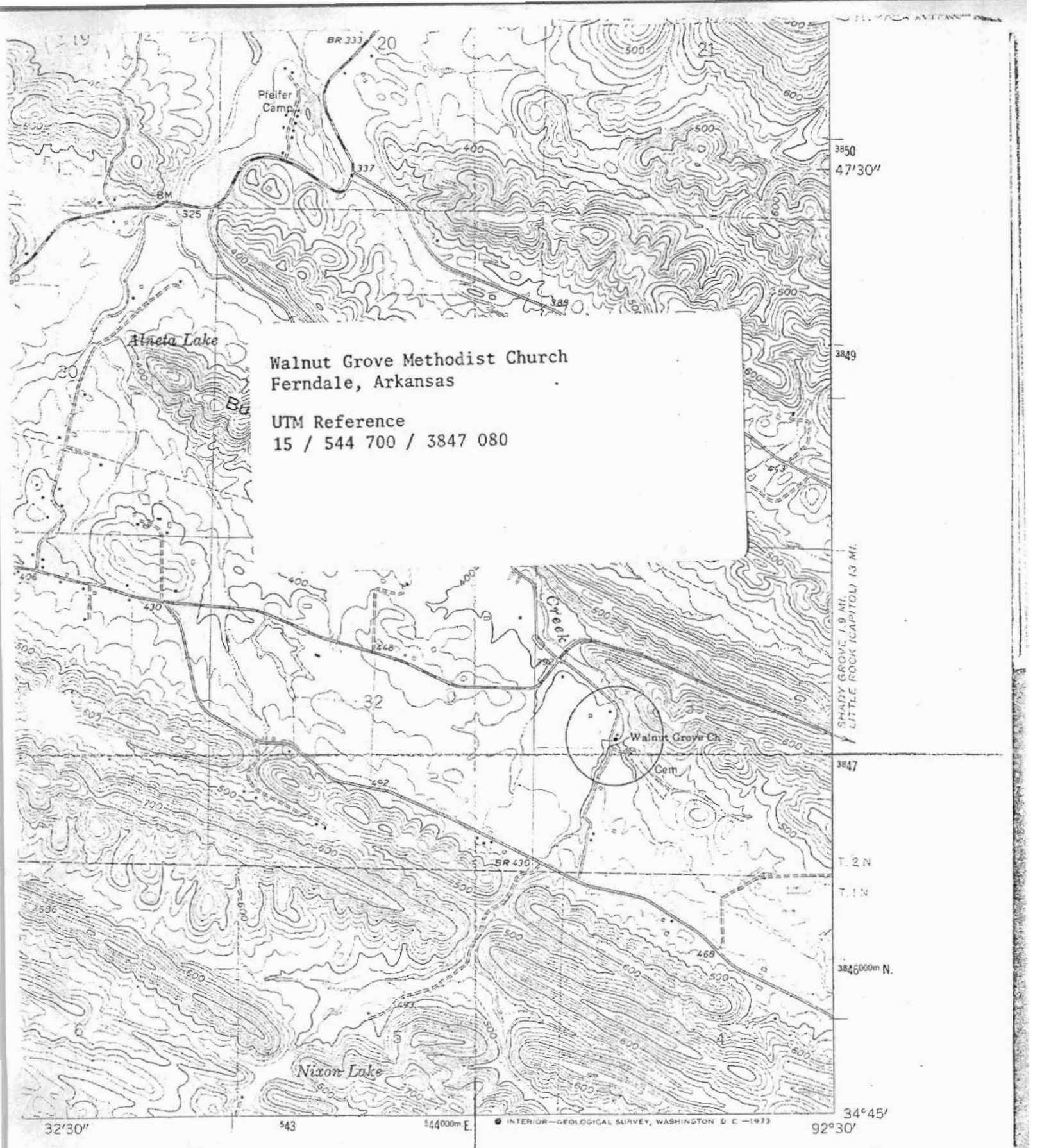
4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.


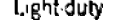
5

INT: 2983-75



Walnut Grove Methodist Church
 Ferndale, Arkansas

UTM Reference
 15 / 544 700 / 3847 080

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy duty  Light duty 

CALEXANDER
 7555 111 N

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D C —1973

3850
 47'30"

3849

SHADY GROVE 1.9 MI.
 LITTLE ROCK (CAPITOL) 13 MI.

3847

T. 2 N

T. 1 N

3846000m N.

34°45'

92°30'

32'30"

543

544000m E

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Walnut Grove Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Ferndale _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Pulaski STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1963

4 REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
 2. NORTH ARROW
 3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 2986-75