

NR 6-5-86

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Mount Pleasant Methodist Church

and/or common Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Highway #248

N/A not for publication

city, town Waldron

vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Scott

code 125

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
- private
- both

Public Acquisition

- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Congregation

street & number c/o Mrs. Raymond Lawson, RR 3, Box 255

city, town Waldron

vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Waldron

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY

Sited in the Ouachita Mountains of eastern Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church is located within the floodplain of the Poteau River in an area of gently rolling hills adjacent to Prairie Creek. The Mount Pleasant community Methodist congregation built this simple, unadorned, one story church in 1891. It has a gable roof and is covered with horizontal weatherboards that are broken by symmetrically placed window and door openings. This building is distinguished by a projecting exterior narthax that has a square bell tower piercing its gable roof. This design is not common to the rural nineteenth century church architecture found in this area.

### ELABORATION

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church is a simple, one story, rectangular frame structure that sits on a continuous foundation of cut field stone. It is covered with 1" X 6" weatherboard siding attached with square nails and has a skirtboard with drip molding that encircles the building above the stone foundation. A fairly steep gable roof covered with asphalt shingles is pierced by a bell tower on the front (north) elevation. Each gable has an undecorated frieze under a simple cornice. **Cornerboards decorate** each corner of the building.

The front (north) elevation features a central, ½ front, single bay narthax that projects from the front facade. It has a central double door entrance with a single, double paned transom trimmed with plain molding. This projection is covered with a gable roof and is decorated with simple frieze, cornice, and cornerboards. **A square bell tower** projects from the narthax, pierces the ridge line of the front gable and is capped with a pyramid roof that is accented by a simple finial. **Elongated frame vents are located** below the cornice on three sides. This bell tower contains the original cast iron bell that was first used by the Mount Pleasant Methodist congregation in 1891. **A single** six-over-one double-hung window is symmetrically located on both sides of the narthax. A series of five symmetrically placed six-over-one double-hung windows are located on both the east and west elevations. They are trimmed with simple molding and are covered with aluminum screens.

A full rear shed addition was constructed on the south elevation in 1964. As a result, the original rear windows were filled in and a new door opening was added to obtain access to these new classrooms. This addition has a low pitched shed roof, two-over-two double-hung aluminum windows, single door entrances on both the east and west sides, novelty siding, and cast concrete pier foundations. This addition does not distract from the very simplistic details of the main structure.

Although the original church pews have been replaced, the interior of the building retains much of its original integrity. **A distinctive gambrel ceiling is noted in both the** narthax and the sanctuary. These ceilings, plus the interior walls are covered with flush pine boards that have been painted white.

# 8. 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 type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

Built in the late nineteenth century in rural Scott County, Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was closely allied with the Arkansas Methodist Conference and other Methodist organizations in the state. The Mount Pleasant community developed around the varied business holdings and enterprises of Joseph Self, an early settler and strong supporter of the Methodist congregation. An interesting variation to the stable and somewhat consistent architectural church designs found in nineteenth century rural Arkansas, the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church more than eloquently illustrates its significant role in the Mount Pleasant community as both an important religious institution and social community center.

### ELABORATION

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was constructed in 1891 on property that was donated by prominent Scott County farmer Joseph L. Self and his son, Alvin W. Self, to members of the newly formed Methodist congregation of Mount Pleasant. Joseph Self was originally from rural Georgia. In 1863 he enlisted in the Confederate Army, was attached to Company K of the Thirty-ninth Georgia Regiment Infantry, and became a veteran of the Battle of Vicksburg before the end of the Civil War. He brought his family to the Ouachita Mountain region in 1870 and settled on several hundred acres of land located a few miles east of the county seat of Waldron, in what is now Mount Pleasant Township, Scott County, Arkansas. Undaunted by the booming commercial competition found in Waldron, the Self's immediately started the operation of a series of small family owned businesses on their property. By the 1890's, these businesses consisted of a steam operated cotton gin, a saw and grist mill, a general merchantile store that found relative success catering to the plantation supply market, two other general stores, and a blacksmith shop. This small scale commercial enterprise eventually attracted other families into the immediate area and it started to become locally known as the Mount Pleasant community. Joseph Self was a staunch Methodist and actively supported the construction of this church for his community as well as a school house that was later built on the same property.

As described in the 1935 "Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism", the methodists were well established in Scott County as early as the 1820's. By 1892 they were operating two large circuits in the region. Each circuit contained several dozen churches and covered over several hundred square miles. The Waldron Circuit (containing the Mount Pleasant Church and first established in 1850) and the earlier Fourche La Fave Circuit contained "... 500 members, a number of good church buildings, Sunday Schools and other evidences of church prosperity." The congregations in each circuit were closely tied together by certain by-laws established by the Arkansas Methodist Conference. As an example, a Methodist preacher was allowed to remain at a church for no longer than two years, then was required to start another term at a separate congregation within the circuit.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, James A., Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism, L. B. White Printing Company, 1935 Benton, Arkansas.

Goodspeed Publishing Company, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas, 1891 The Southern Publishing Company, Chicago.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Waldron, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	5	4	0	6	4	7	0	3	8	6	4	7	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Raymond Lawson (edited by M. Swanda, AHPP staff)

organization Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church

date April 23, 1986

street & number Rural Route 3, Box 255

telephone (501) 637-2408

city or town Waldron

state Arkansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Arkansas Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

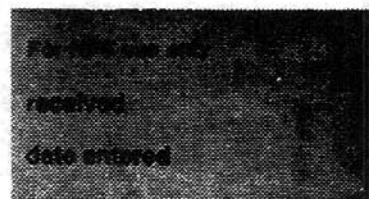
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

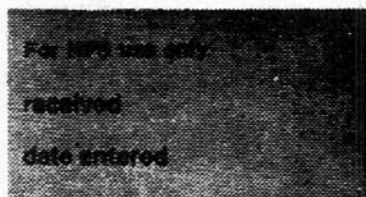
The Mount Pleasant congregation had their church constructed in much the same manner as other rural churches in Arkansas in the late nineteenth century. It was built as a simple one story, rectangular frame structure with a gable roof, weatherboard siding, and plain trim around the symmetrically placed window and door openings. A projecting narthax on the front elevation has a plain square bell tower piercing its gable roof and gives this church a distinctive design not familiar to the region's rural church architecture.

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church has served its small rural community as both a religious institution and a social center continuously for a period of over ninety years. The church still serves a congregation of which some current members are descendants of the original organizers. Arvil Self, at 92, is Joseph Self's grandson and is still an active member.



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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

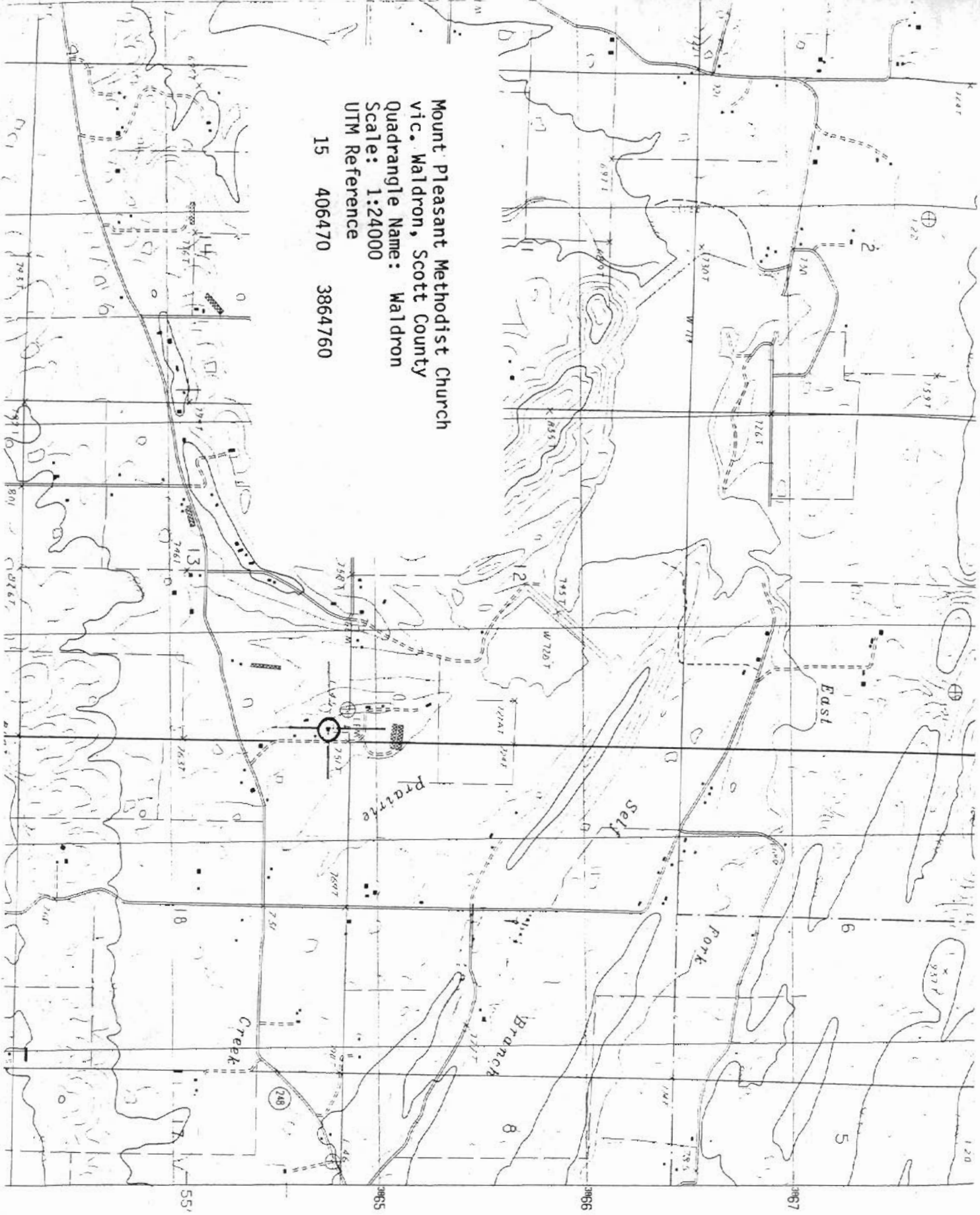
Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8 Tract 3, North of Range 28 west and running due East 60 yards, thence due North 80 yards, thence due West 60 yards, thence due South 80 yards to the place of beginning.



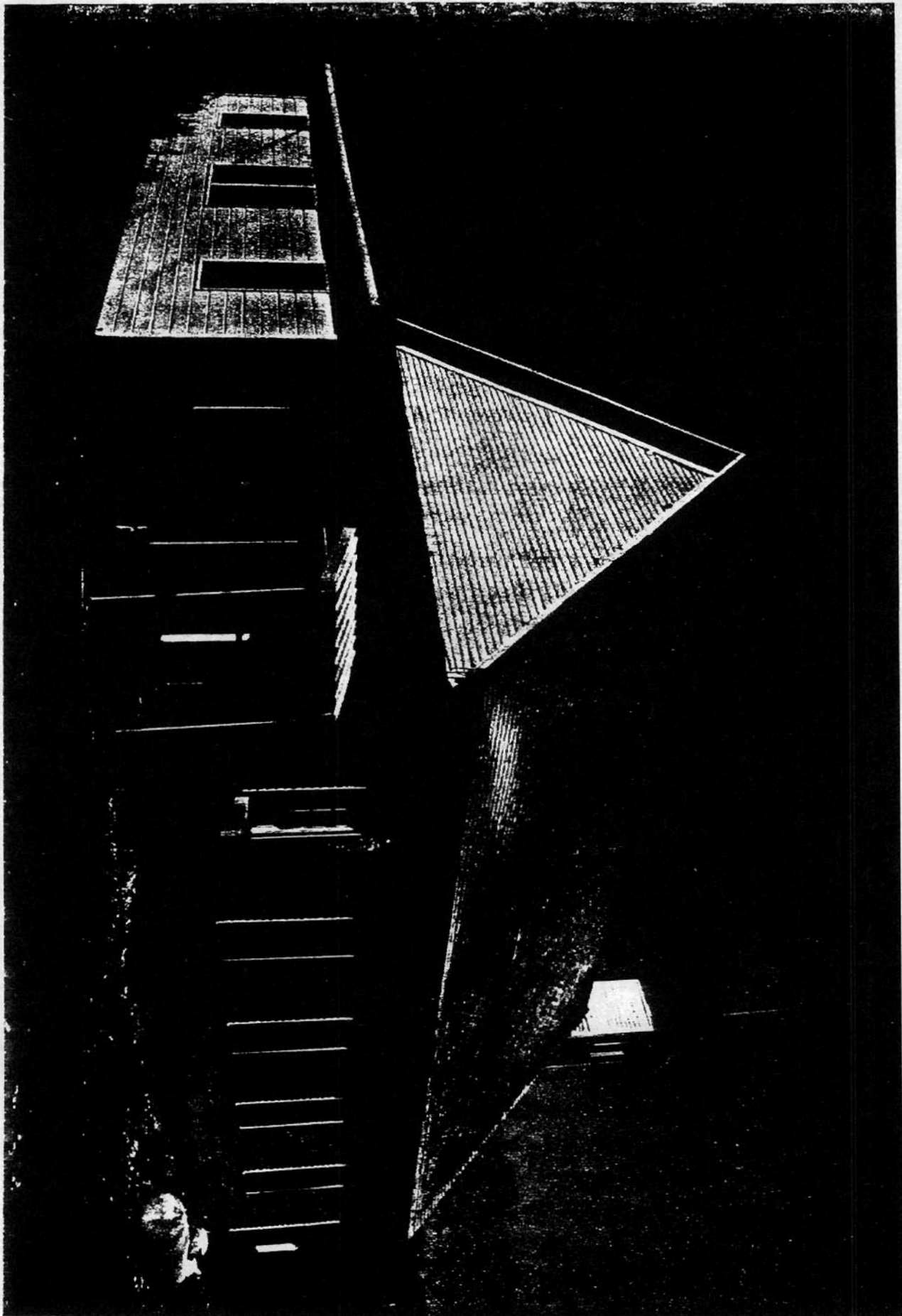




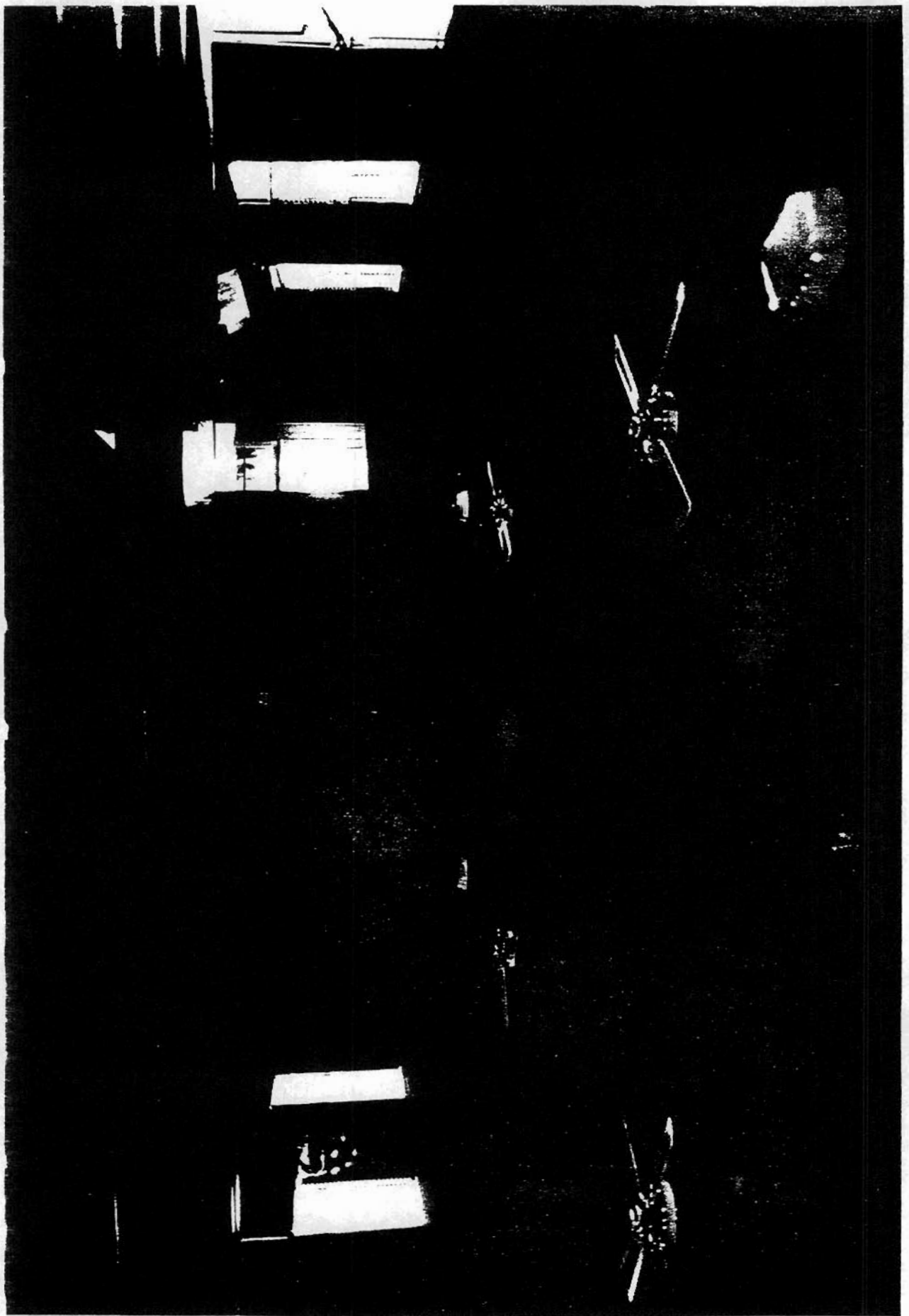
Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. Waldron, Scott County  
Quadrangle Name: Waldron  
Scale: 1:24000  
UTM Reference

15 406470 3864760

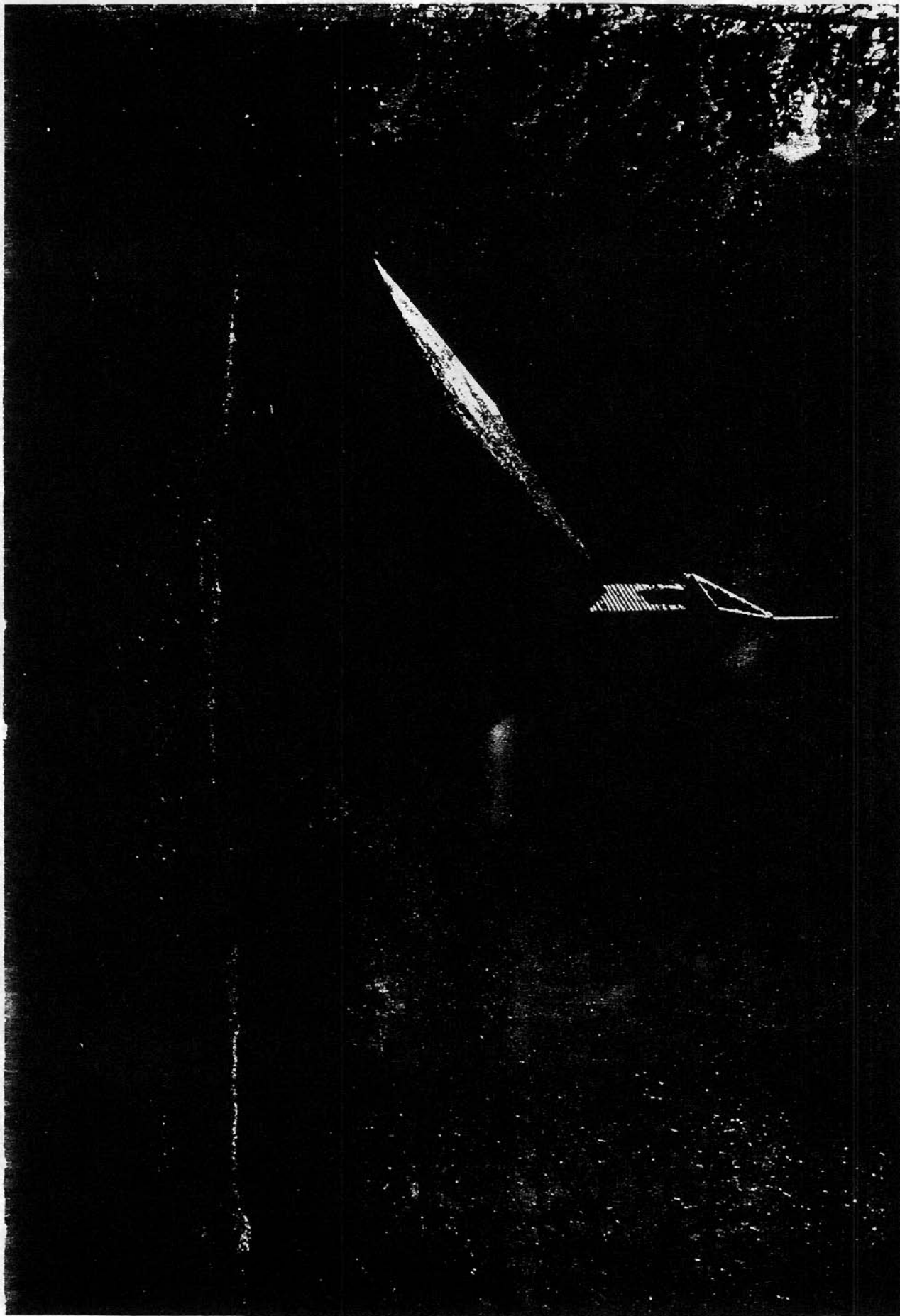




Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. of Waldron, Scott County  
Photographed by D. Brown  
December 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from southeast

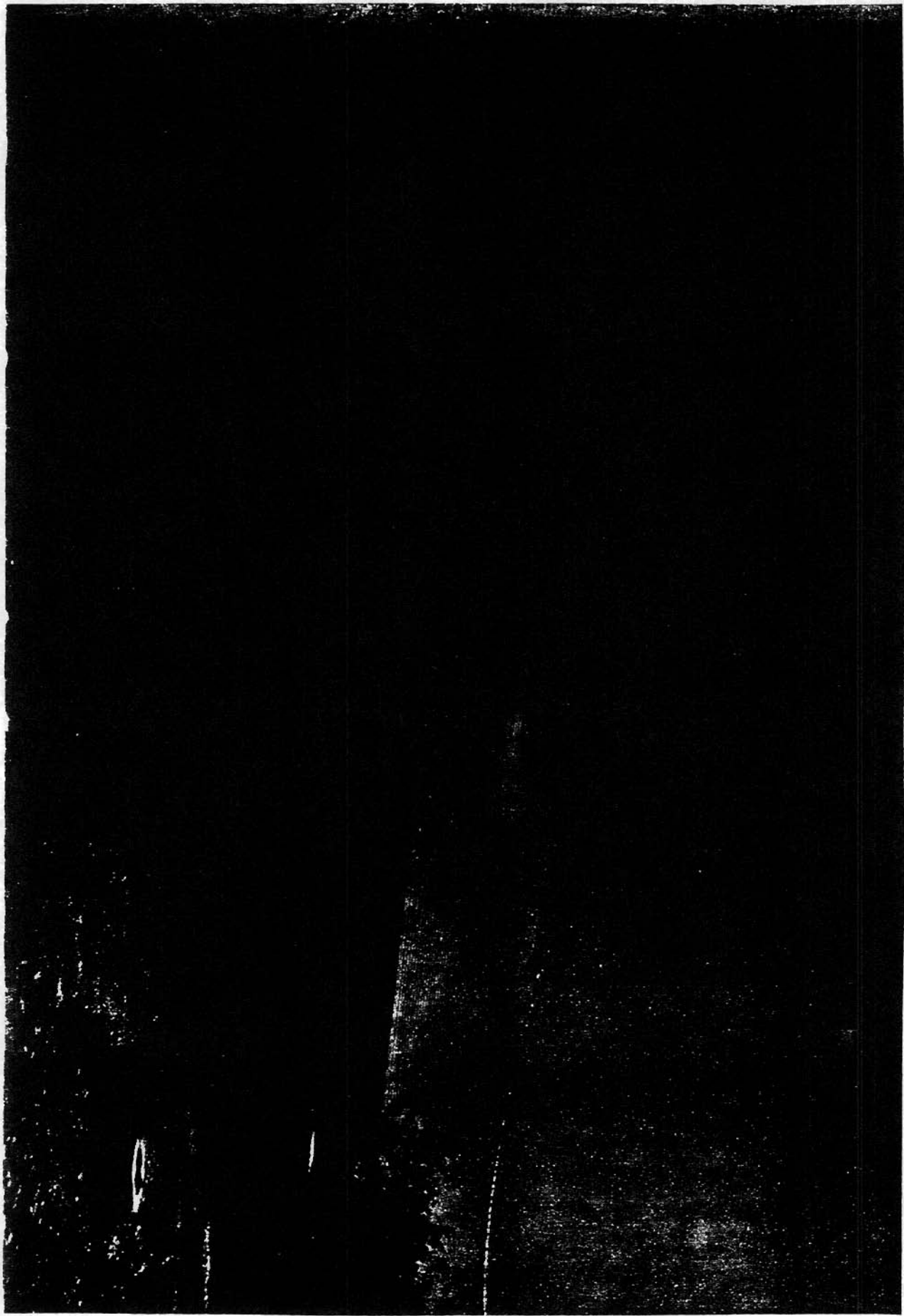


Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. of Waldron, Scott County  
Photographed by D. Brown  
December 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Interior-viewed from narthax



Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. of Waldron, Scott County  
Photographed by D. Brown  
December 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from northeast





Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. of Waldron, Scott County  
Photographed by D. Brown  
December 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Viewed from west



Mount Pleasant Methodist Church  
vic. of Waldron, Scott County  
Photographed by D. Brown  
December 1984  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
Interior-viewed from altar