

NRListed-9-25-03

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 Son's Chapel  
other names/site number WA0909

2. Location

street & number 5480 East Mission (Hwy. 45 East)  not for publication  
city or town Fayetteville  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Washington code 143 zip code 72703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, 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.)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Son's Chapel  
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas  
County and State

**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
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	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**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility  
SOCIAL: meeting hall

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STONE  
roof ASPHALT  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Son's Chapel  
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Eligible 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:

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)

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

#### Period of Significance

1933-1953

#### Significant Dates

1933-1937 (constructed)

#### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown / Thayer Shelton contributed to interior

#### 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:

Fayetteville Public Library

Son's Chapel  
Name of Property

Washington County, AR  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Area of Property 2.09± acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 402590 3995557  
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 Edited by Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 10 March 2003  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Son's Chapel Rural Builders, Inc.  
street & number 2901 N. Tobin Lane telephone 479-443-1338  
city or town Fayetteville state Arkansas zip code 72703

**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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Son's Chapel is located at 5480 East Mission (Arkansas Highway 45 East), approximately 3 miles east of Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. Constructed between 1933 and 1937, the structure is a 1 ¼ story native fieldstone, gabled structure reflecting both Gothic and Romanesque influences. The structure sits on 2.09± acres at the Son's Chapel community and, other than a crude privy, is the only structure on the property. The property is demarcated on the west, north, and east boundaries by large pine and cedar trees. An old, unused well is located on the west side of the building. Since its completion, this structure and its interior has virtually been maintained in its original state and provides a pristine example of fieldstone masonry.

### ELABORATION

Son's Chapel is a two story gabled structure constructed of native fieldstone with an asphalt shingle gabled roof, built between 1933 and 1937. The rectangular structural design features the main entrance on the south elevation. An attached modified, castellated tower structure, also of the same native fieldstone, anchors the very southeast corner of the building. The south face of the tower features a Roman archway that frames the recessed gothic-style entrance doors.

Son's Chapel is located within the Son's Chapel community. The community has maintained much of its rural characteristic although it is located just outside of the Fayetteville city limits. The area has become a much desired location for families wanting to locate near the town and still have the benefits of a more rural setting. The nearest commercial areas are at the intersection of Highways 45 and 265 to the west, and the small town of Goshen approximately 4 miles to the east. Directly south and across Highway 45 is the Son's Chapel cemetery which dates to the early 1800's. Although relocated several years ago, the Son's Chapel community schoolhouse once stood on the property. A non-historic privy is located just northeast of the chapel, but is not contributing to this nomination.

#### South Elevation

The main façade of this building faces south and is defined by the castellated tower structure and the Romanesque arches over the main entrance and windows. A native stone walkway leads to the original front entrance, which features arched double wooden doors located on the castellated tower. Wedge-shaped native stones construct a Romanesque arch framing the doors. Two large fanlight windows are also found along the southern elevation. The larger window is composed of two 16-paned, mullioned windows. The "fan" atop the windows includes a memorial stained glass designed and created by local artisan Grace Babcock that was installed in 1990. The smaller window, a single 16-paned, mullioned window also features a similar memorial stain-glass design. Most, if not all, window panes are original. Each window is recessed in a Romanesque arch with a native rock bay complete with native stone sills. All arch features are highlighted with wedge-shaped rocks arranged in a semicircular Romanesque arch design. A small, nine-square vent located in the gable end is made of rock and provides attic ventilation.

#### East Elevation

The east elevation includes the east and north face of the castellated tower. Four rectangular nine-over-nine double hung windows fenestrate the east elevation. Two nine paned windows located along the foundation of the east elevation provide light to the basement area. An interior metal chimney is located between the first and second window.

#### North Elevation

The north elevation is dominated by the native stone chimney. The chimney is centrally placed in the gable roof. The large fireplace box is located in the basement. Two nine-over-nine double hung windows are symmetrically placed on each side of the chimney. A concrete walkway with an iron handrail leads visitors along the north elevation to a shed roof porch located on the west elevation.

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### West Elevation

The west elevation is fenestrated with four nine-over-nine double hung windows. Below and off center the upper story windows are four nine-over-nine double hung windows, which provide light to the basement area. A small rock retaining wall runs perpendicular to the west elevation and abuts the west elevation. At the northwest corner of the west elevation is the entrance to the basement area which is sheltered by a wood framed shed roof porch that was constructed within the past 30 years. Two interior metal chimneys are located along the west elevation.

### Interior

The chapel's sanctuary features a central aisle that leads to the altar. Two aisles run along the walls. The floor is made from pine, and the pews were handmade. The interior walls are covered with beaverboard. The large altar area is elevated and doubles as a stage. A doorway located at the front of the sanctuary opens up to stairs leading down to the basement

A full, finished basement is located under the chapel's sanctuary. Here the chapel's supporting system of large oak beams and posts are fully visible. For many years the basement floor remained dirt. At an unknown date, concrete was laid. Now, the Son's Chapel Rural Builders Association, Inc., holds all its monthly meetings and weekly quilting sessions there. The walls are of the same native fieldstone. A full kitchen is located on the southern end of the room. On the northwest corner of the room is a half-bath. A small stairway at the northeast corner of the room leads up to the sanctuary. The large rock mantle and firebox dominate the north wall.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Located at 5480 East Mission (Arkansas Highway 45 East), approximately 3 miles east of Fayetteville, Washington County, is Son's Chapel. Constructed between 1933 and 1937 to serve the community of Son's Chapel, the freestone masonry native stone rustic structure displays Romanesque and Gothic style influences. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as a unique example of a rustic chapel containing Romanesque and Gothic styles details. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with religious life in Son's Chapel. In addition, it is being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

### ELABORATION

Son's Chapel sits on land that was once part of the original 160-acre tract of Indian lands granted under the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek (August 23, 1842). By 1848, 40 acres of this tract was patented to early settler Michael Son and his wife Nancy. Michael Son had settled on the land the year before. The Sons conveyed property for a church and, in time, a cemetery. The area became known as "Son's Chapel". The original church was located south of the existing structure on the site of the Son's Chapel cemetery.

The construction of Son's Chapel was merely a dream of local community women who, on October 19, 1922, organized for the purpose of erecting a new community building. At that time the community schoolhouse had housed all community functions but, as the community grew, became too small to accommodate community needs. This group of women became known as the Son's Chapel Rural Builders Association, Inc.

Fundraising began immediately. The first project was serving lunches to the crowds gathered at cattle auctions held at the various community farms which netted \$200. Through the years, their "nest egg" grew through such fundraisers until they raised \$1,400 ten years later.

The group of women began to look for a building site. A building committee was formed to locate suitable land. On June 3, 1933, W. R. and Grace Reed Porter, who owned a portion of the original Michael Son land, donated the land on which to erect the new building.

It was decided that the building's dimensions would be 36 feet by 50 feet with a basement of the same size for community social activities and a sanctuary upstairs for religious events. Excavation began in 1933 and the men of the community volunteered to donate their labor and that of their horses and mules. One unknown carpenter and one unknown stonemason were hired for the project. Each day, the women coordinated the volunteer laborers. Within 77 days of team work, 260 days of labor, and 330 days laying approximately 8,167 feet of stone, the structure took shape.

Meanwhile, fundraising continued and many donations were made of supplies and furnishings. Sometime between 1936 and 1937, the outer stone walls, roof, and windows were in place. However, the interior was not furnished. With the building funds running very low, the women decided to organize a drama club and hold a series of plays. With proceeds from the plays, lumber was purchased with which to make benches.

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Completion of the interior began in 1937 with the design assistance of Thayer Shelton, prominent Fayetteville architect. On May 26, 1940, Son's Chapel was dedicated as a community Protestant church. Through the years, church services became less frequent. Only a community Sunday school continued to meet there until a few years ago. Now the structure is used for community functions, weddings, and funerals. The Son's Chapel Rural Builders Association, Inc., meets weekly in the chapel to quilt and each month to hold a business meeting to make decisions and plan activities in order to support and maintain the structure. This group continues to preserve and maintain the property as a symbol and tribute to the perseverance, dedication, and spirit of the Son's Chapel community.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located at 5480 East Mission (Arkansas Highway 45 East), approximately 3 miles east of Fayetteville, Washington County, is Son's Chapel. Constructed between 1933 and 1937 to serve the community of Son's Chapel, the freestone masonry native stone rustic structure displays Romanesque and Gothic style influences. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as a unique example of a rustic chapel containing Romanesque and Gothic styles details. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with religious life in Son's Chapel. In addition, it is being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.



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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baumgart, Fritz Erwin. *History of Architectural Styles*. New York; Praeger Publishers, 1970.

"'Community Dream' Description Given Son's Chapel Church," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 24 May 1940.

Crouch, JoEllen. "Son's Chapel 1922-1940: A Living Monument to Courageous Women and a Caring Community," 1987.

Glossary of Masonry Terminology taken from [www.masonconf.com](http://www.masonconf.com).

"Rural Builders to note 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 14 October 1971.

Boop, B. O. "And Then There Was Son's Chapel," 18 April 1976.

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the SE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 33, Township 17 North, Range 29 West, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of said 40 acre tract, said point being an existing iron; thence North 00°05'29" East along the West line of said 40 acre tract 274.55 feet to a set iron on the North right-of-way line of Arkansas Highway #45 for the true point of beginning; Thence North 00°05'29" East 327.72 feet to an existing stone monument; Thence leaving the West line of said 40 acre tract North 89°31'59" East 366.00 feet to an existing iron; Thence South 00°05'29" West 170.12 feet to an existing iron on the North right-of-way line of said Highway #45; Thence South 66°19'28" West along said right-of-way 399.90 feet to the point of beginning, containing 2.09 acres, more or less.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the structure and sites associated with the Son's Chapel that retains its historic integrity.