

NR 10-16-86

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 Augusta Presbyterian Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Third and Walnut Streets not for publication

city, town Augusta N/Avicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Woodruff code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Augusta -- 99 Year Lease -- Augusta Improvement Club (V. Boyles, Chairman)

street & number Mayor's Office or 221 South Third Street

city, town Augusta N/Avicinity of state AR 72006

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk's Office

street & number Woodruff County Courthouse

city, town Augusta 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

The oldest church in Augusta, the Presbyterian Church is essentially rectangular in plan, with a hipped apse. The building, constructed in 1871, is covered by a gable roof. Constructed of load bearing, hand-made bricks shaped from local clay, its walls are twenty-four inches thick. Architecturally, it offers a number of surprisingly refined Gothic Revival details unexpectedly encountered in a small community church in Augusta.

ELABORATION

With the removal in 1986 of an obtrusive 1954 addition, the Augusta Presbyterian Church recovered most of the symmetry which characterized its original design. The facade, or east elevation, features three distinctive bays. The central bay rises to a pointed arch and contains three lancet windows with individual hood molds which repeat their pointed arches. A keystone is set in the hood mold of the central or taller window. A circular window above the lancet windows has been replaced by a square pane, but its archivolt is retained. The bays which flank the central bay follow the steep lines of the gable roof, with a line of dentils along the upper edge of the bay. Each flanking bay originally hosted an entrance with panelled double doors, but the entrance on the north side of the facade has been filled. Both doorways retain their pointed arch frames, repeated in a wooden transom and hood mold with keystone.

The south elevation offers five rectangular bays with rounded corners which house five identical windows which rise to pointed arches emphasized by hood molds and keystones. The elevation retains four windows identical to those on the south elevation, although three are covered by plywood. On the west end of the north elevation, the fifth window had served as a doorway to the addition. Its bay now holds the upper portion of its pointed arch window with hood mold and keystone, but the lower portion of the converted doorway is filled with plywood.

The rear, or west, elevation is distinguished by the hipped-roof apse. A circular window with archivolt similar to the window on the facade rests in the west side of the apse. Small single-pointed arch windows with hood mold and keystones are repeated on the apse's north and south sides.

A towering, steeple-like belfry was shortened in the 1920's and, after a nearly disastrous fire, later removed, along with the stairway to the belfry and an interior balcony. The nave is an undivided single space, with much of the original molded plaster baseboards, cornices, and window facings preserved.

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 checked="" 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 1871 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Hough

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The oldest church in Augusta, the Presbyterian Church reflects the determination of its founding congregation to construct a wilderness meeting house which was both durable and artistic. Conceived in the opening months of the Civil War and constructed in the uncertain years of reconstruction and financial uncertainty, the building also denoted the parishoners' dedication to their solidly-fixed ideals of ecclesiastical architecture.

ELABORATION

In 1820 the Indian and pioneer river ford at Chickasaw Crossing was appropriated by settlers of European descent. The settlement experienced the struggling and languid development shared by most frontier Arkansas communities and, after twenty-seven years of resolute persistence, acquired its first store. In 1848 a merchant from Virginia, Thomas Hough, hired an Independence County surveyor to fix the limits of the precarious town, which was renamed after Hough's sister, Augusta. In October 1861 a number of the citizens of Augusta, then a part of Jackson County, petitioned the annual meeting of the Presbytery of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for their own congregation. The petition was granted and the Reverends S. W. Davis and J. A. Barr and Elder T. A. Krieder were appointed as committee to organize a church. By November the organization was swiftly completed. The congregation included at least two backs among its charter members. Throughout the Civil War and for several years after the congregation met in the local Baptist and Methodist churches on available Sundays and Sunday afternoons. In 1869 Hough, who also served as the church architect, and his wife donated a lot for the construction of a church.

The building, completed in 1871, reflected an architectural and aesthetic style typical of more settled and populous towns, but on a smaller scale. In their first eight years in the ornate building, the congregation struggled with debts compounded by a national financial panic in 1873, but finally resolved in 1879. The Presbyterian congregation included many civic leaders and some occasional worshippers who attained national recognition. The sisters of Reverend Davis, who served as the congregation's first pastor, joined their brother in missionary work in Augusta and founded the town's first school. Carrie Nation visited the church during the local temperance crusade, and a young Woodrow Wilson frequently attended services during the tenure of his brother-in-law as pastor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 648606 3905815
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification
Lots 10 and 11, Block 32, Original Town

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 Virginia Boyles, edited by Steve Mitchell, AHPP Staff

organization Augusta Improvement Club date September 9, 1986

street & number 221 South Third Street telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Augusta state Arkansas 72006

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 *William D. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-11-86

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

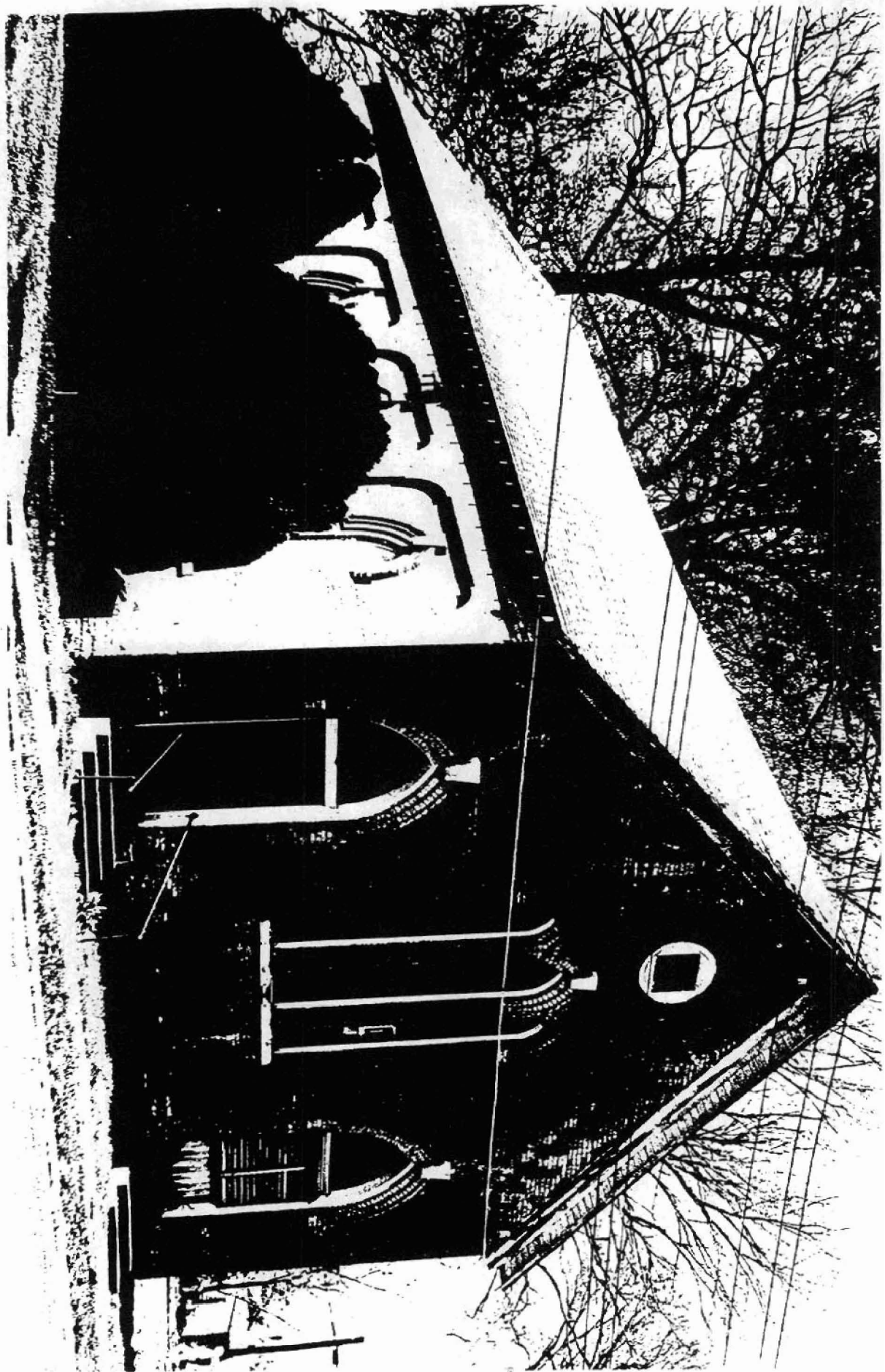
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff County
Photographed by J. Wiedower
March, 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from south



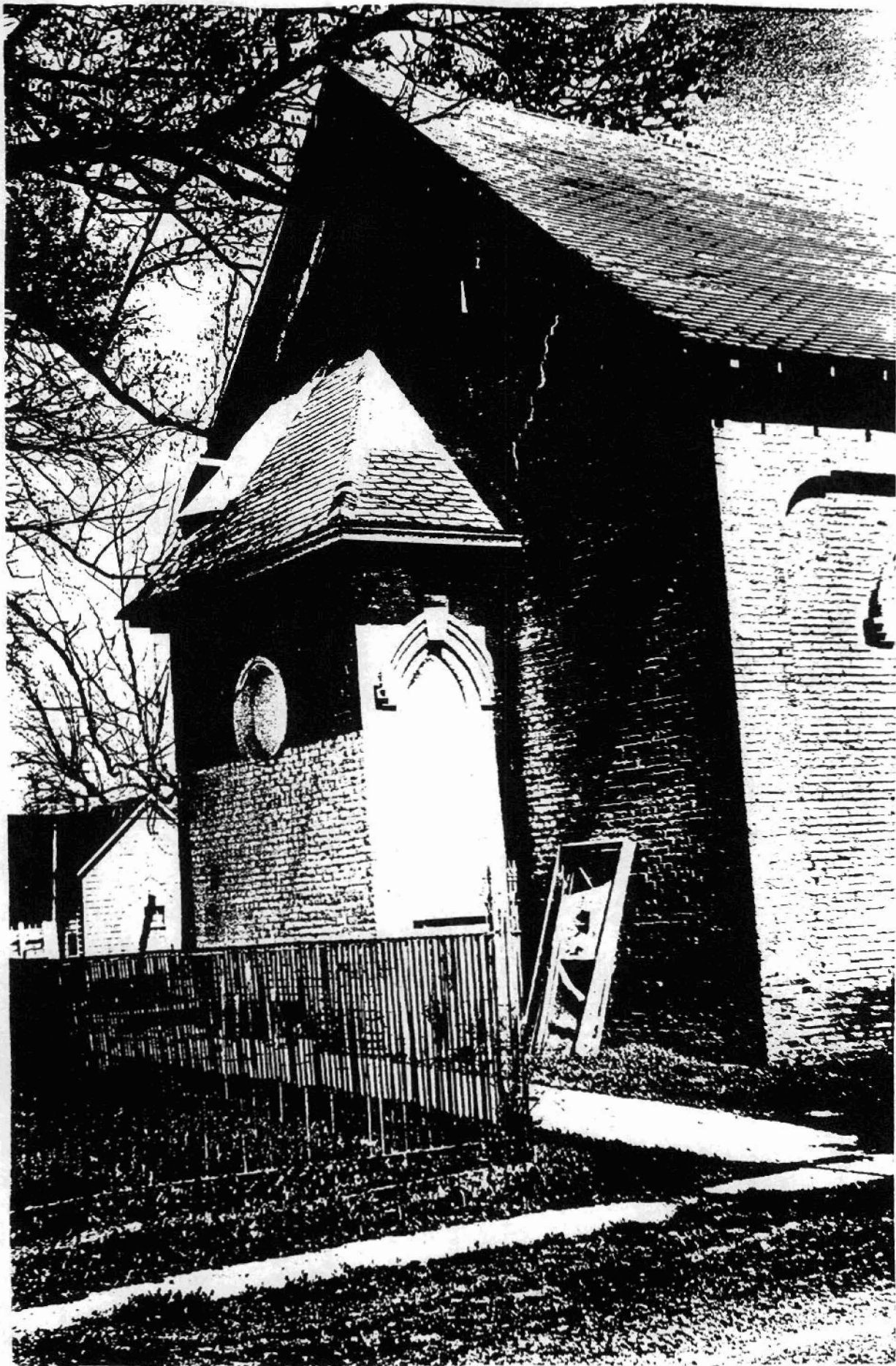
Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff County
Photographed by J. Wiedower
March, 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from southeast



Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff County
Photographed by J. Wiedower
March, 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP
window detail

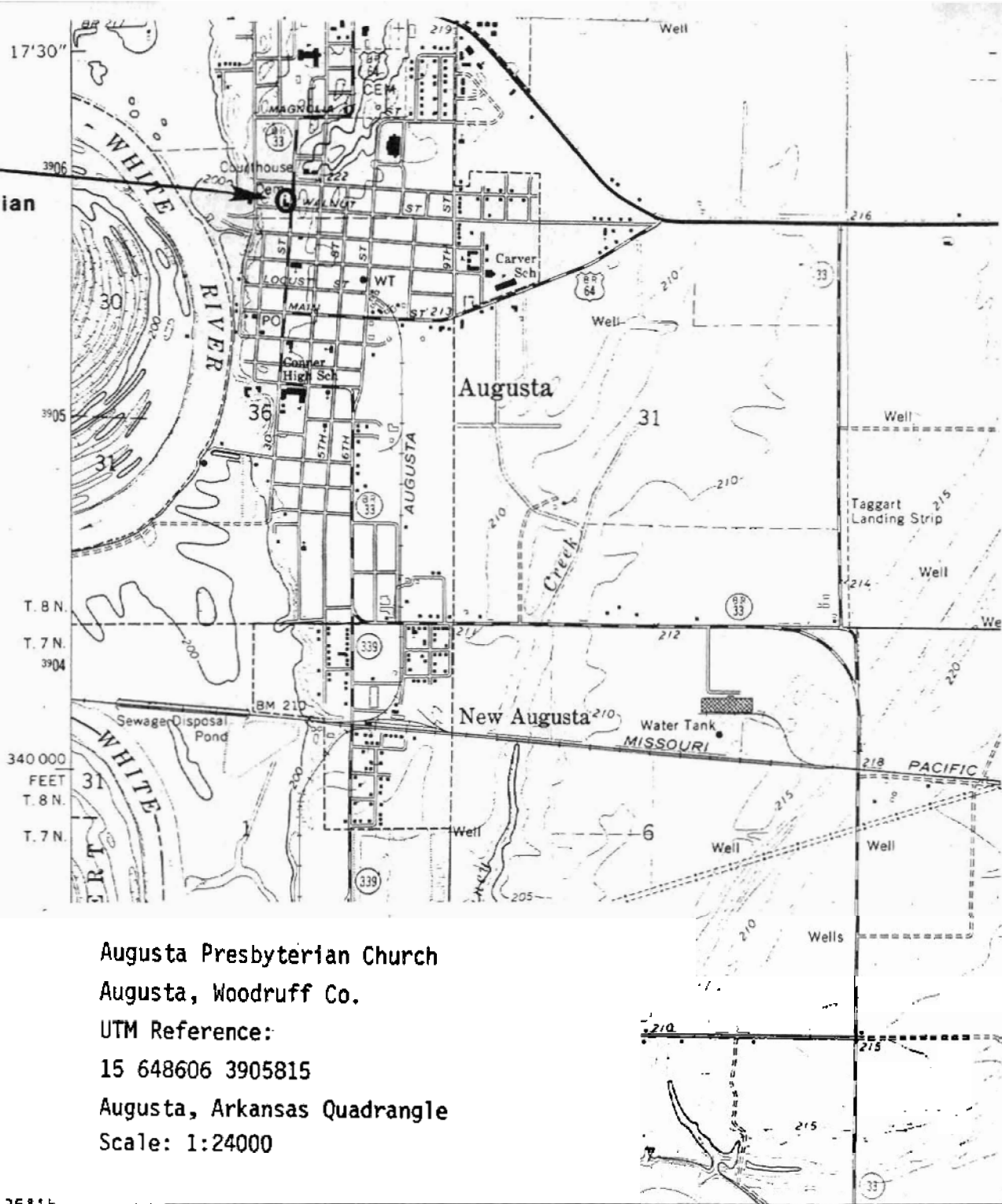


Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff County
Photographed by J. Wiedower
March, 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP
Entrance doors and surround



Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff County
Photographed by J. Wiedower
March, 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP
Viewed from southwest -
 detail of apse

Augusta
Presbyterian
Church



Augusta Presbyterian Church
Augusta, Woodruff Co.
UTM Reference:
15 648606 3905815
Augusta, Arkansas Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24000

35°15'
91°22'30"

R 4 W. | 2 190 000 FEET

R. 3 W.

GREGORY 7 '61
18 MI. TO ARK. 38

21

(GEORGETOWN)
7754 III NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

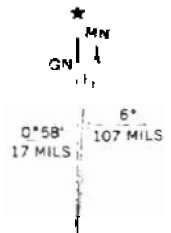
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1966-67 Field checked 1968

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

Red tint indicates area 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 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET