

NR 7/9/87

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 First Presbyterian Church, Dardanelle, Arkansas

and or common

2. Location

street & number Second & Quay Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Dardanelle vicinity of

state Arkansas, 72834 code 05 county Yell code 149

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name congregation, First Presbyterian Church

street & number Second & Quay Streets

city, town Dardanelle vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yell County Courthouse

street & number Union Street (Highway 7)

city, town Dardanelle state Arkansas 72834

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 First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas, was built in 1912 in the Neoclassical style. It is basically rectangular in plan (approximately 40 x 80 feet) with a hipped roof. It is buff brick and trimmed with white masonry. All of the windows are stained-glass. The structure appears to be two stories on the exterior and there is an addition on the rear corner of matching brick that appears to be detached. The church also shares the property with its manse.

ELABORATION

The architectural design of the First Presbyterian Church is Neoclassical, yet eclectic. The facade features a recessed porch with a pediment that is supported by four masonry Tuscan columns. The porch is accessed by six shallow steps. The recessed wall has three round-headed, stained-glass windows, with the one in the center being slightly higher and wider than the others. The porch is flanked by matching towers which are reminiscent of Gothic, rather than Neoclassical, architecture. The towers are squat, barely extending beyond the top of the pediment. Each tower has a double door which opens onto the porch. The left tower space serves as a choir room and the right serves as the main foyer to the sanctuary. Above the foyer is the church bell.

Each elevation of the towers is treated identically: double-hung, round-headed stained-glass windows are placed on the first level with square stained-glass windows directly above. The towers are capped by parapets that are broken by a palladian motif opening. The four corners of each tower are accented by posts with pyramidal tops that give the appearance of a medieval lookout. The corners of the towers, along with the other corners of the church, are trimmed with brick quoins.

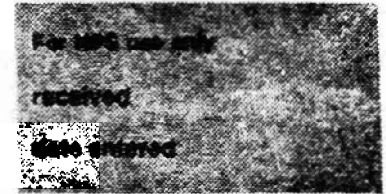
Each of the side elevations has a projecting bay, approximately sixteen feet in width, which is topped by a cross gable roof. The one on the left projects about six feet further than the one on the right. (The left bay also has an exterior door.) Each bay has the same window arrangement as that on the front -- three grouped, round-headed, stained-glass windows, with the emphasis placed on the center fixed window. To each side of the bay projections there is a single round-headed window on the first level with a square window above, identical to the arrangement on the towers. This arrangement continues on two more windows at the rear of each side and on the four windows across the rear elevation. All of the arched windows are trimmed with brick hoodmolds and masonry keystones. The square windows are topped by masonry lintels.

The 1952 addition has matching brick, masonry trim, and translucent glass windows without arches. The juncture was made between the projecting bay and the rear corner so that it nearly appears as separate. The addition has a single door on each side, one of which is an interior door that gives access to the main building. Each exterior door is a simple single wooden door, painted white and reached by steps. Only the front door has a stoop with a gable roof.

All of the interior walls feature dark, panelled wainscotting above which there is off-white plaster, except for about sixteen feet of the rear wall of the sanctuary which has a large, brown door with translucent glass panels that slides up into the wall above it. This feature provides additional space in the sanctuary for special occasions, space used regularly as the church parlor. The interior design of the church is not revealed on the exterior. Laid out in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

the "Akron plan," the square sanctuary has diagonal seating (oak pews with red velour cushions), facing the raised platform and lectern in the rear left corner. The floor slopes toward the platform. The choir loft, located in the larger projecting bay, has a railing that matches the wainscotting and projects into the sanctuary for space enough to include steps up at each end.

The church appears to be two stories on the exterior; however, the space is only utilized as such in the rear portion. The upper level of this area, treated similar to a balcony, houses three small rooms for Sunday School classes, accessible by a triple-flight staircase, and a passage with balustrade fronting two of the three rooms. Below are two rooms of unequal size, altered from the original three. The open area which gives access to these rooms and the sanctuary has the lofty characteristic of a two-story high ceiling.

The interior details of First Presbyterian are distinctive. Each set of the grouped stained-glass windows presents a different scene: behind the choir loft, a scene of Bethlehem with the natal star; in the opposite bay, Christ knocking at a door; in the front, a resurrection angel. The ceiling of the sanctuary is centered with a large square section, decorated with repousse tin squares painted white and centered with brass lighting fixtures with milk glass globes. The center square is edged with constructed dark brown beams, as is the juncture between walls and ceiling. The ceiling slopes from the edge of the center square to the wall. The staircase that is in the church parlor is simply decorated with beveled railings attached to square coffered posts trimmed with quarter-round. The posts are decorated by being alternately square and round lathe-turned.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1912

Builder/Architect Reverend Frank McKenzie

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle has had a colorful past which cannot be ignored; however, its significance is based on its architecture, both the Neoclassical design of the exterior and the "Akron plan" on the interior. The quality of the structure that was built in 1912 is distinctive in this small Arkansas town. There are a few other churches in the vicinity, but none can compare to First Presbyterian in style or age.

ELABORATION

Dardanelle, in Yell County, Arkansas, is a small town of approximately 3,500 people, located on the bank of the Arkansas River. The First Presbyterian Church is located in an area which has both commercial and residential structures. This mixed land use reflects the period in which the church was built -- before zoning was thought of and while the citizens still constituted a walking population. The First Presbyterian Church is located at Second and Quay, one block from Front Street, the historic center of commercial activity in Dardanelle.

One of the most interesting stories associated with the First Presbyterian Church is the way in which the money was raised to have the third, and present, structure built. Besides the expected traditional source of private donations from members, the majority of the money came from other, more unusual sources. Part of the money was a reimbursement by the federal government for the utilization and destruction of the original church during the Civil War. An even larger portion was raised by the women of the church who did manual labor such as picking cotton and peaches -- and in so doing attracted much attention, including that of a philanthropist from New York City who was to become the largest single donor.

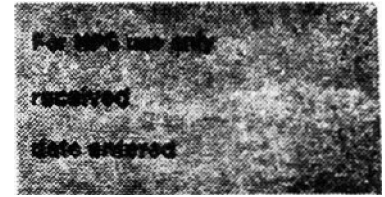
The stories that relate to the actual design of the church are of greater significance. The style is basically Neoclassical, although there are several eclectic details. This is reflective of its "architect" or designer, Reverend Frank McKenzie, who was not an architect at all, but rather a Presbyterian minister. (His brothers were the contractors for the building.) The Reverend McKenzie studied at a seminary in Richmond, Virginia, but also studied ecclesiastical architecture as a hobby. Perhaps this is why the structure that he designed in Dardanelle is representative of the two most popular church styles of the day -- Neoclassical and Gothic.

The interior plan of the First Presbyterian Church also reveals the Reverend McKenzie's knowledge of contemporary church design. It is laid out in the "Akron plan," a floor plan that originated in a church in Akron, Ohio. The plan is unusual in that it is laid out on the diagonal, with the pulpit being in the corner. The seats were originally made like those on a train -- they could be flipped to face the opposite direction.

On one side there is a raised area which could be used as a stage and another area which can be partitioned off (by doors that slide into the wall above) to be used as the church parlor. The "Akron plan" allowed for the maximum use from a minimal amount of space.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

This interior layout, combined with an imposing exterior appearance, make the First Presbyterian Church in Dardanelle the most significant example of turn-of-the-century religious architecture in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Historical Foundation (of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches, inc.)
Montreat, North Carolina 28757.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Dardanelle, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	8	5	9	1	0	3	8	9	7	3	5	5
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 5, Lots 2, 4, 6, 8

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 Evelyn Snyder & AnnieLaura Jagers, members, edited by AHPP staff

organization First Presbyterian Church date

street & number telephone

city or town Dardanelle state Arkansas 72834

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 State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-2-87

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

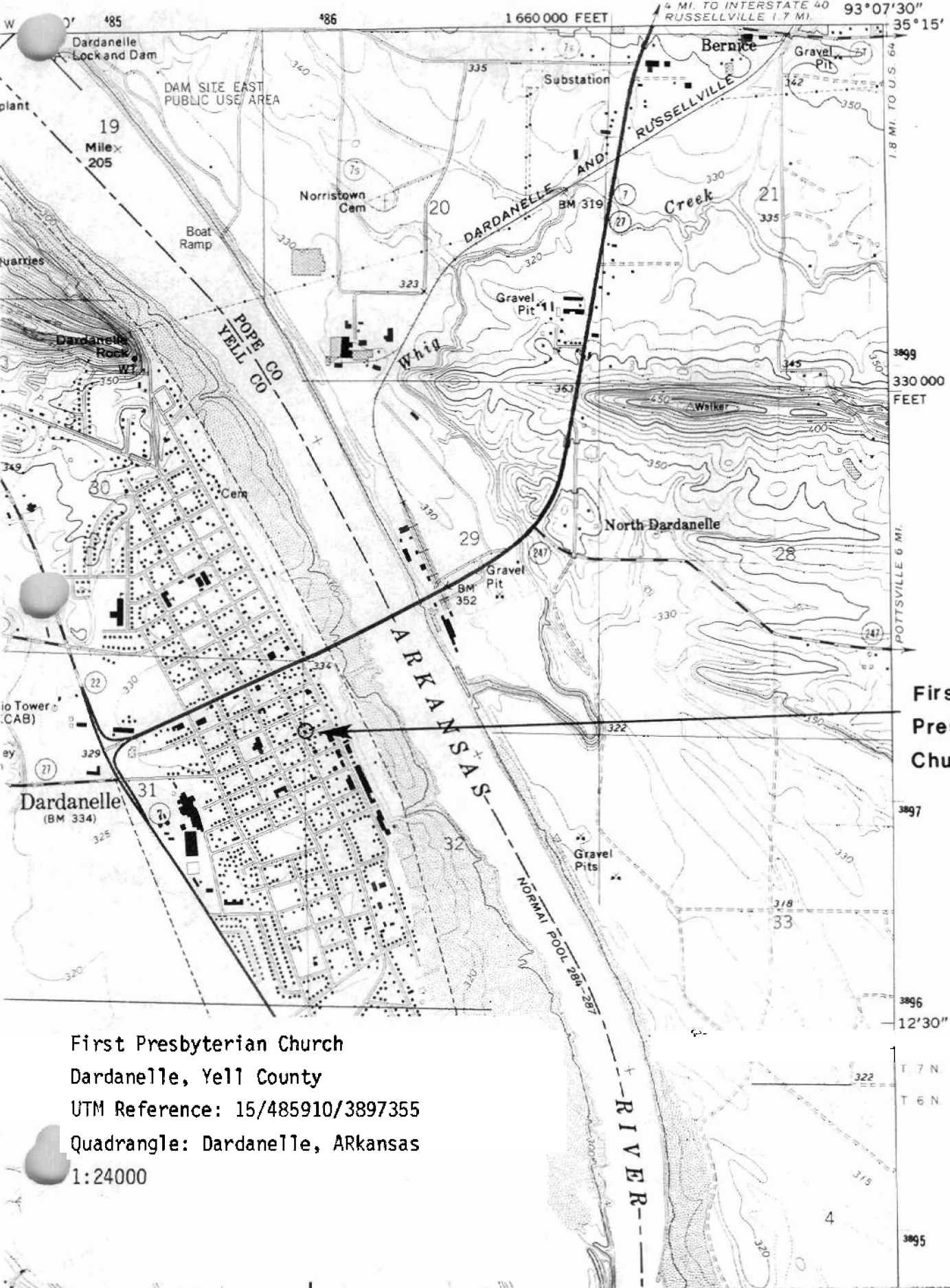
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

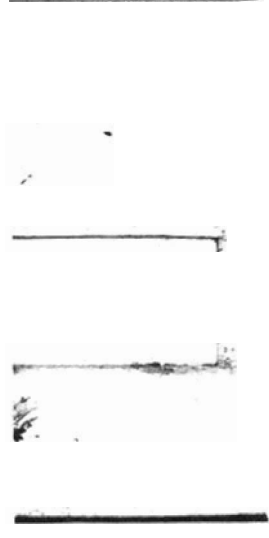
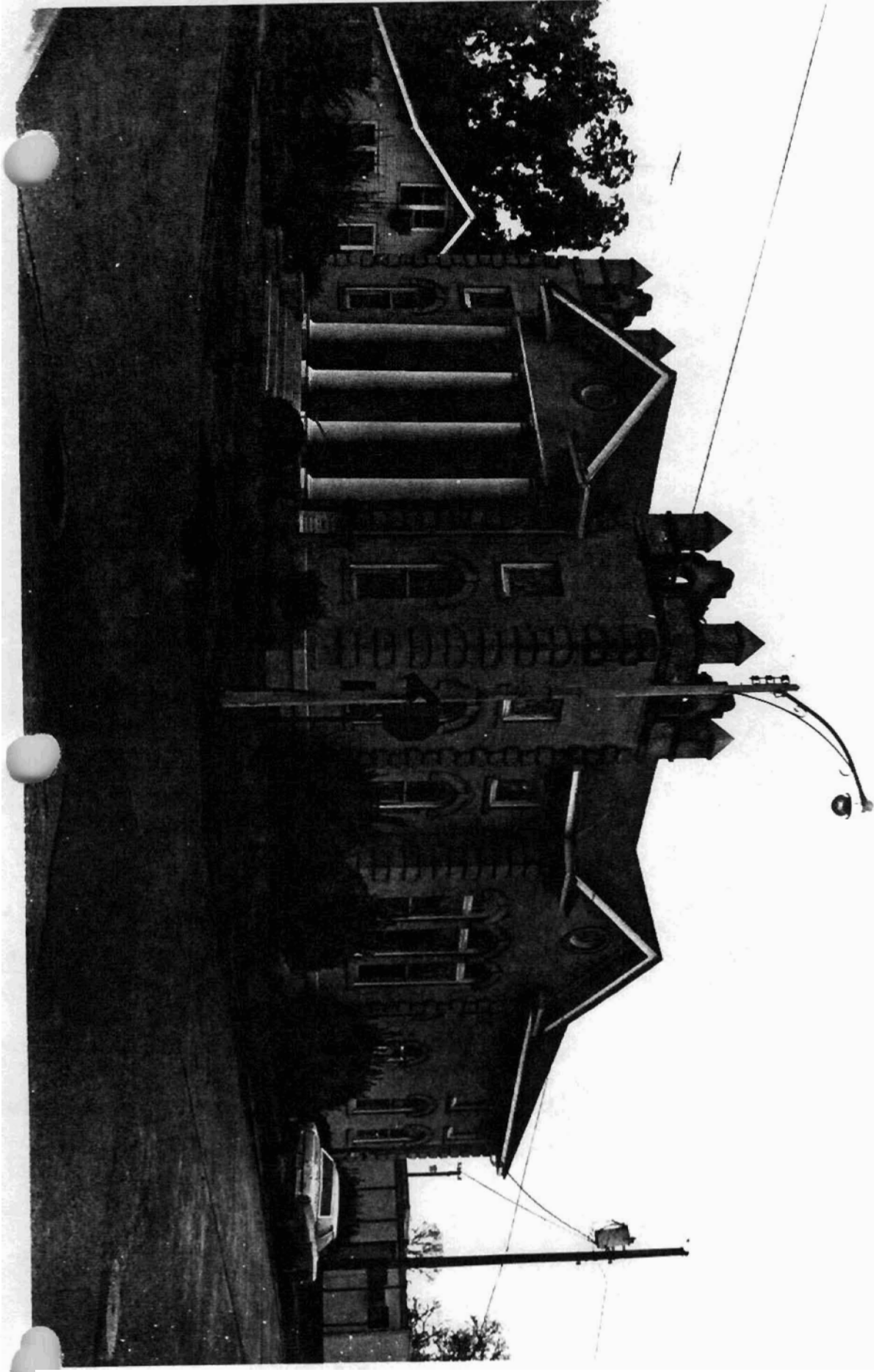
DARDANELLE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

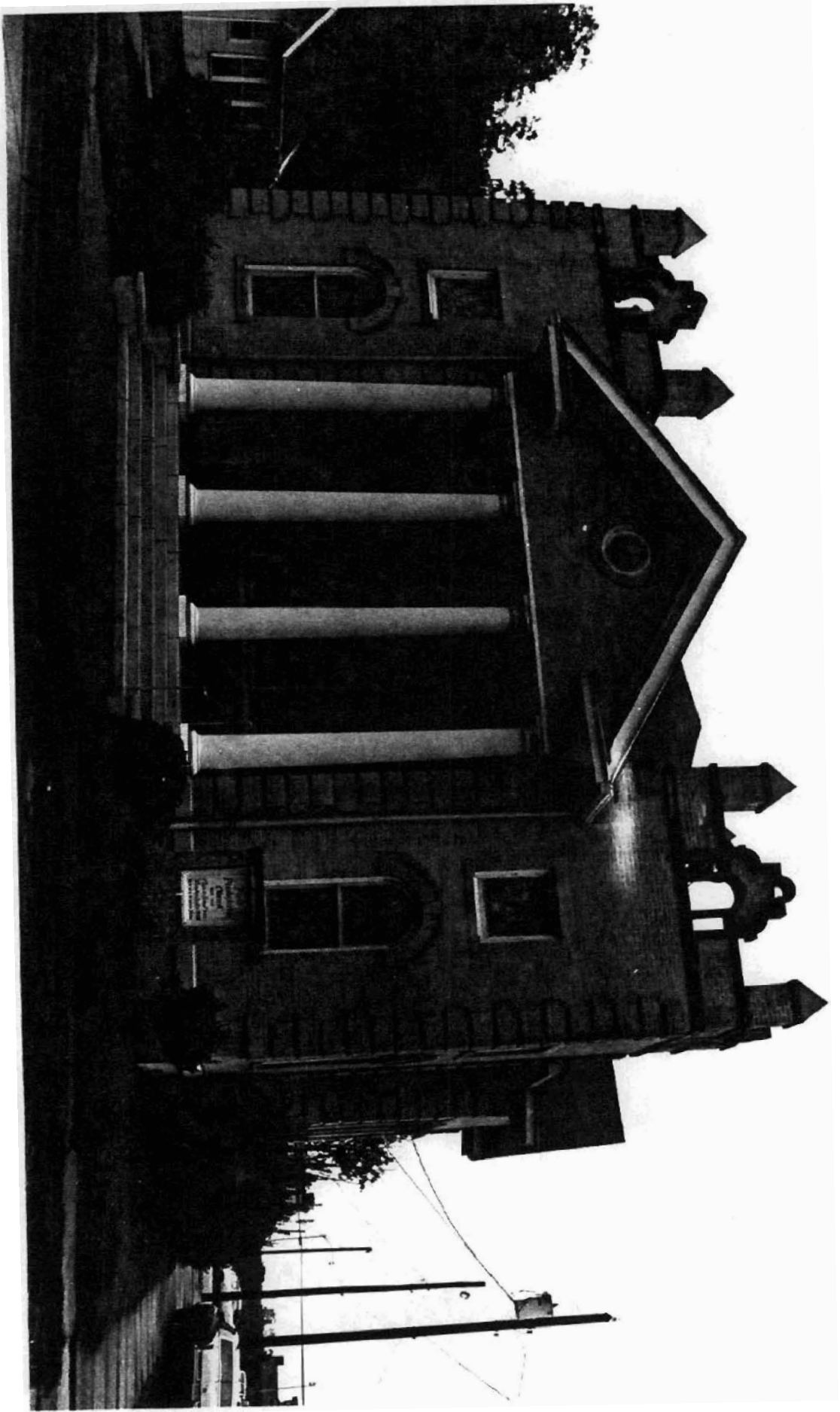
7351 SE
RUSSELLVILLE EAST

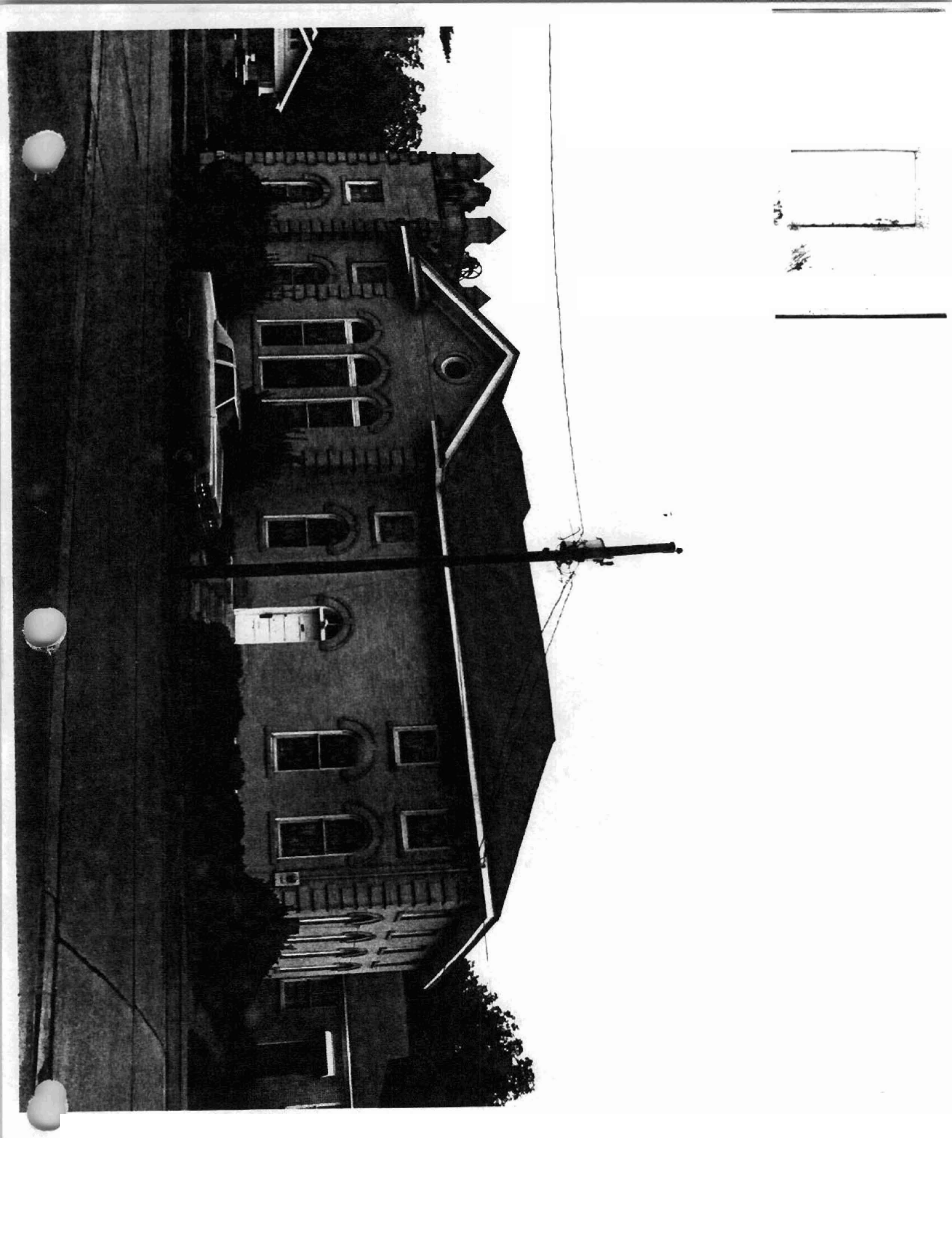


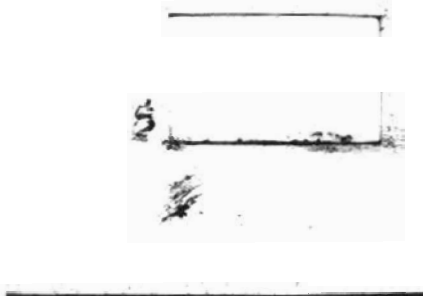
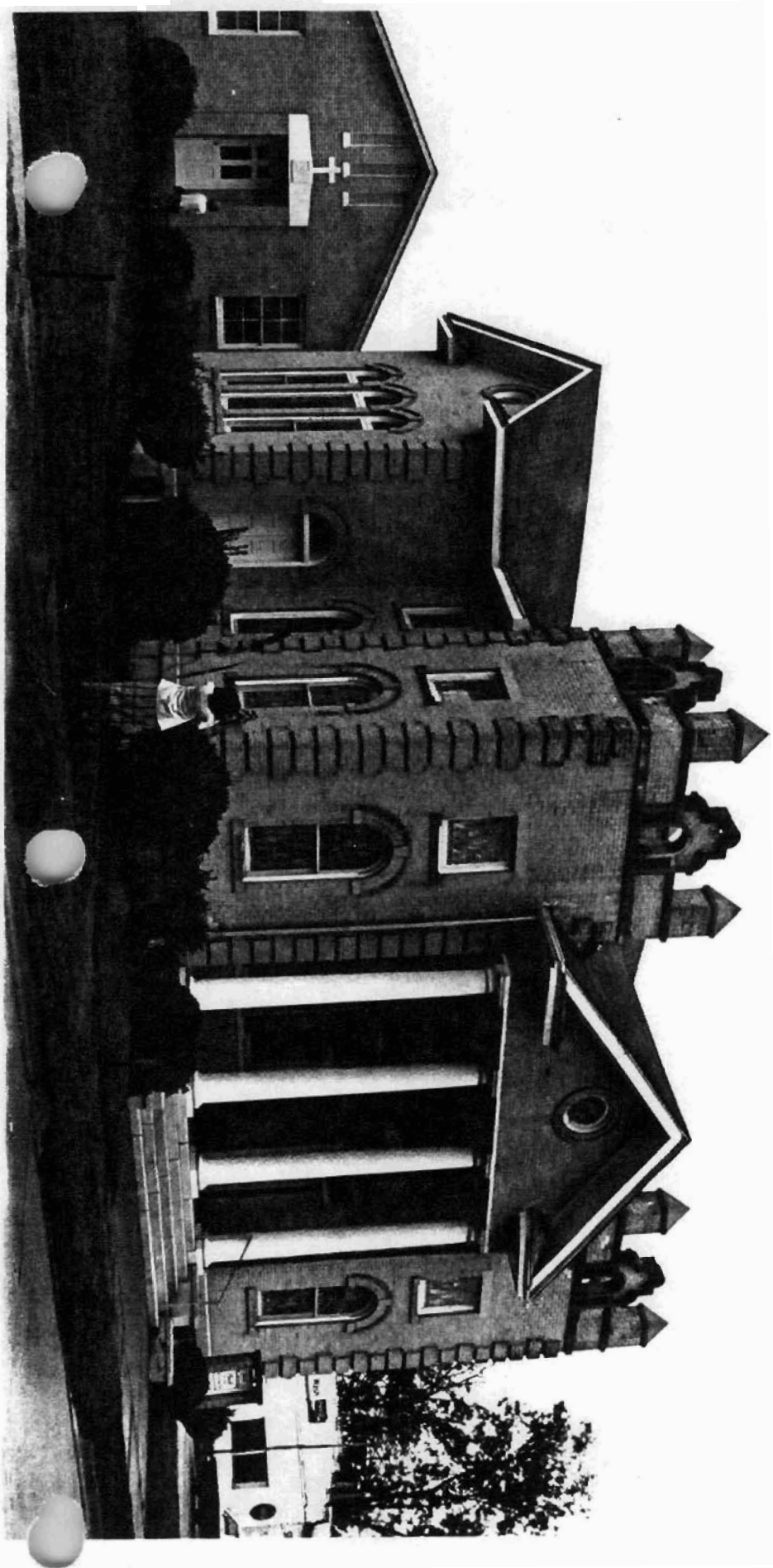
First Presbyterian Church
Dardanelle, Yell County
UTM Reference: 15/485910/3897355
Quadrangle: Dardanelle, Arkansas
1:24000

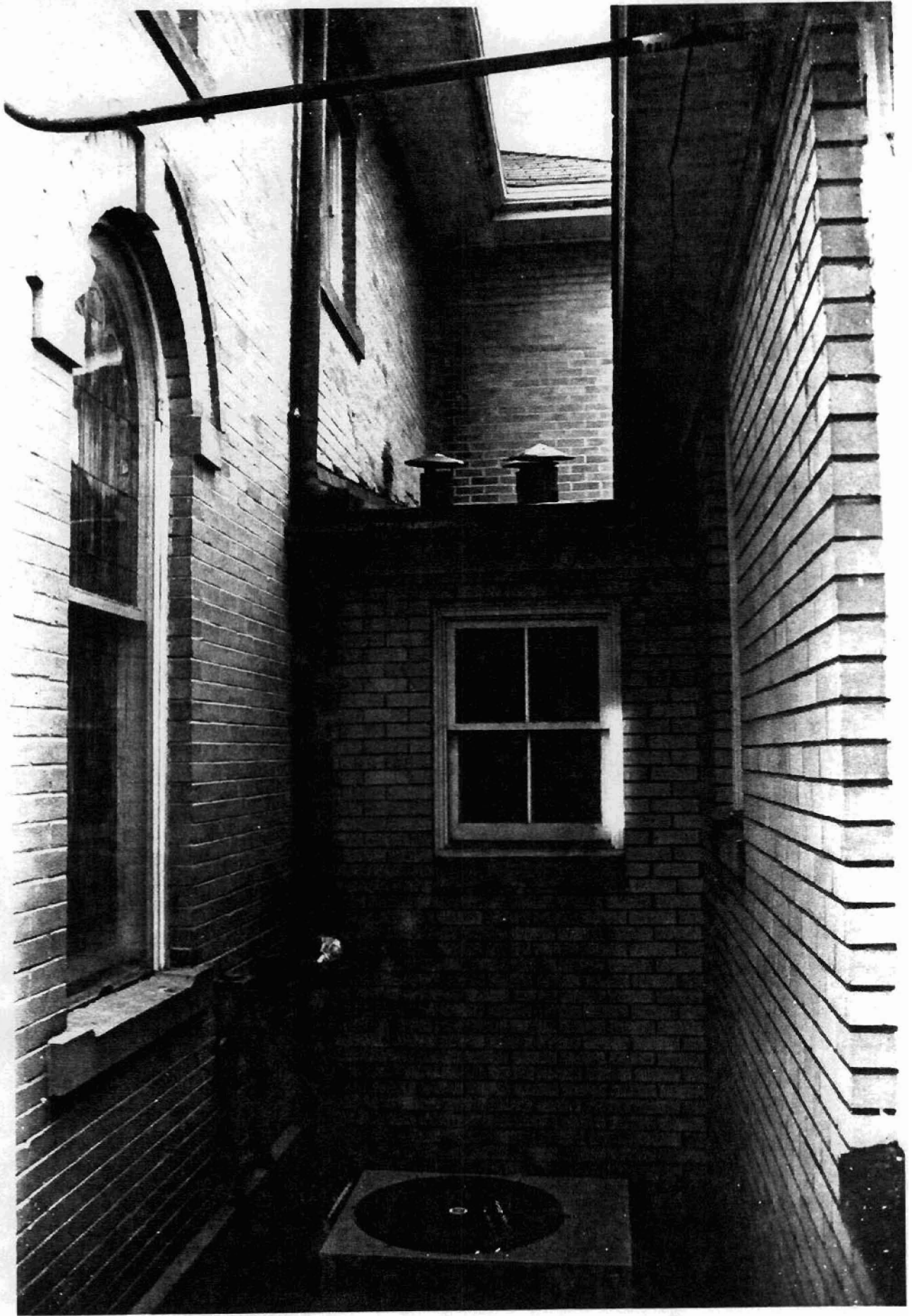
First
Presbyterian
Church

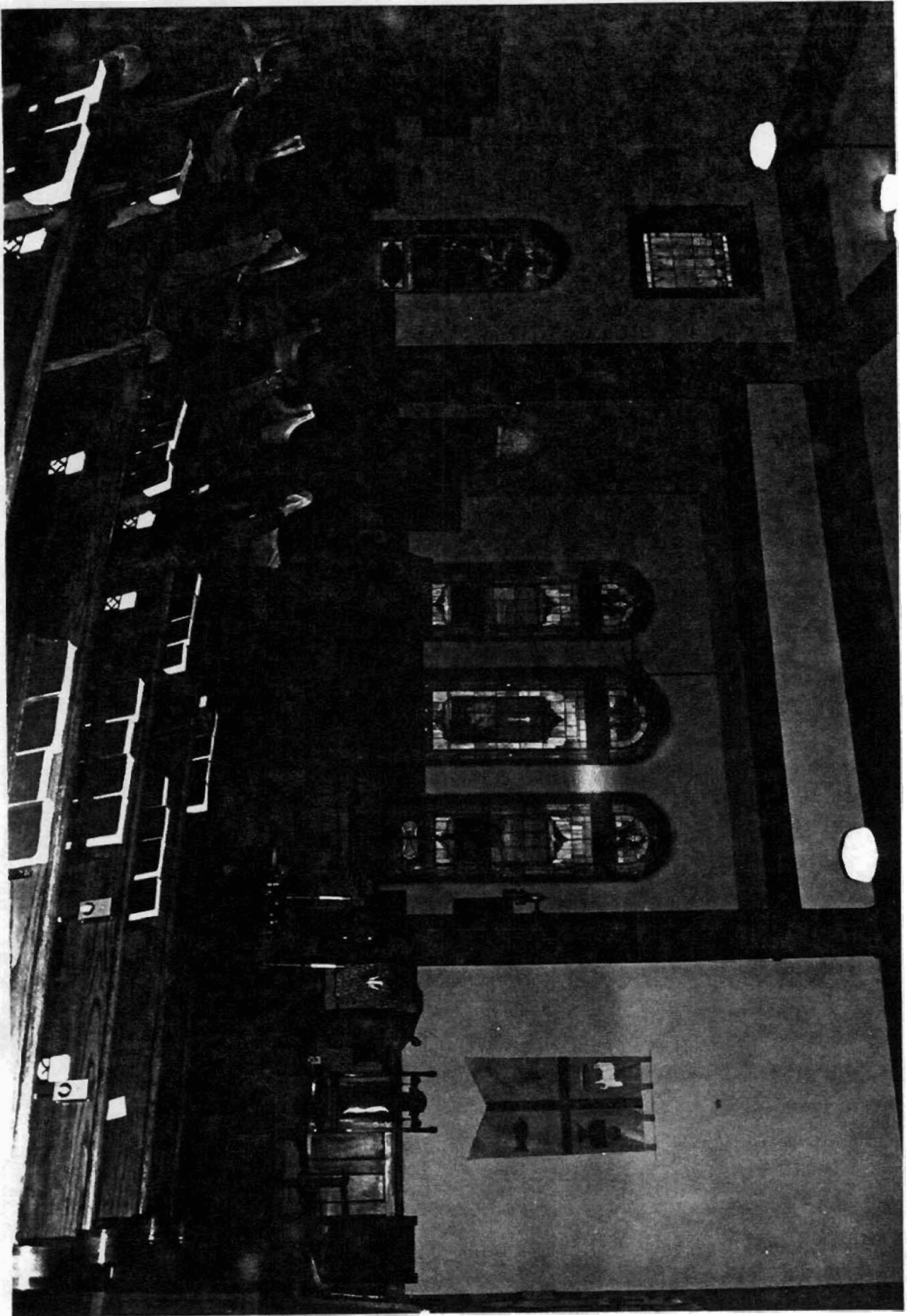












11/10/1971



