

NR LISTED

JUN 04 1997

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Other Name/Site Number: DR 0082

2. Location

Street & Number: W. Railroad St.; N. of Arkansas Hwy. 277

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Tillar

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Drew Code: AR 043 Zip Code: 71670

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew

County and State

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Catherine A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

4-17-97  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

**5. National Park Service Certification**

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Religion Sub: Religious Facility

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt, Metal  
walls Brick other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining exterior element of this high style structure is a hemispherical dome positioned in the center of a flat roof with parapets. Interior features include an elaborate pulpit surround and original doors and hardware throughout. A modern-era classroom building is located adjacent to the south elevation of the church and is noncontributing to the nomination. Located on W. Railroad Street in the small town of Tillar, the nominated property is virtually unaltered and in excellent condition.

Elaboration

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining element of this high style structure is the central hemispherical dome. The circular base of the dome is completely fenestrated by wood pivot windows each consisting of sixteen triangular-panes. Above this window band is a projecting cornice ring, which forms the base for the ribbed metal roof that is capped with an encircled cross finial. Resting upon a continuous concrete

oundation, the masonry walls support two levels of nearly flat roofs which are hidden behind parapets. There are no visible chimneys.

The front, or northeastern, elevation consists of a wide projecting central section with clerestory flanked by two one-story arched-entrance bays. The central section is dominated by a large semi-circular arched, eight-part, stained-glass window. The window is outlined by simulated pilasters of horizontal banded brick with corbelled capitals. The window arch fills the open space of a pediment formed by a projecting boxed cornice with dentil course and returns. This projecting cornice extends around the entire church. There is a single rectangular stained-glass window to either side of the central window. Above these windows in the clerestory are two multiple-paned oculus windows.

The double-leaf entrances are each composed of two three-quarter-glazed wood doors with a multiple, triangular-paned transom within the overhead semi-circular arch. The entrance sections are capped by a flat roof with parapet, lending a "tower" appearance despite being lower in height than the one-and-a-half-story central section.

The central section of the northwestern side elevation is nearly identical to that of the front elevation with the exception of the two windows flanking the central pediment. Here, the windows are wider with a semi-circular arched transom. The entrance tower section to the viewed left contains a pair of narrower semi-circular arched, stained-glass, windows (the arch is integral with the upper window sash). The single-story section to the viewed right of this elevation is punctuated by a single one-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The rear, or southwestern, elevation is relatively simple in composition compared to the other three elevations. The single-story section that extends across all but one window's width of the rear elevation is entered through a central single-leaf door with flanking one-over-one, double-hung windows. Above this section are three multiple-pane oculus windows in the clerestory. The end, or southeastern, side of the single-story section contains another one-over-one, double-hung windows. As previously mentioned, at the extreme viewed right of the southwestern elevation is a portion of the central one-and-a-half-story block that is fenestrated with a one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass window with transom.

An unusual five-side, single-story bay projects from the southeastern elevation of the church. A total of six one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass windows with transoms are utilized for this bay. Again, two multiple-paned oculus windows are found on the clerestory of this elevation. The entrance tower section is fenestrated by a pair of arched stained-glass windows like those on the opposite elevation.

The interior is virtually unaltered and features an original staircase with a panelled newelpost leading to a choir loft at the front of the building. The pulpit area is positioned to the rear of the building and is denoted by an imposing door surround directly behind the altar. This door surround

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

features square pilasters supporting a classical entablature that is embellished with dentil molding and scroll brackets. A five-sided bay section on the south side of the sanctuary features three roll-up wood doors and can be closed for use as a classroom or opened for additional seating. Another pair of roll-up doors is located underneath the choir loft.

Original doors and hardware remain throughout the church, and the only apparent alteration to the interior is the presence of a nonhistoric dropped ceiling in the five-sided bay area.

A modern-era classroom building is adjacent to the church on the southern elevation and is considered noncontributing to the nomination.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1913

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Monk and Ritchie  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

School met every Sunday.

Those who left a written record about the church differ as to the donor of the land on which the church was built. One source says that Mr. Anna Hughes, grandmother of John Cheairs, gave the land. Another says that the Tillar family donated the plot of ground on which the first church was built. The deeds show that the land was deeded by J. T. W. Tillar, Anna E. Whiting, and A. E. Hughes. Therefore, the legend of the donors is correct on either count.

The first church was a simple frame structure about sixty feet long. It was used until the present buff brick structure was completed in 1913. The brick structure has been used continuously since that date. The builders were Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The original cost of the building was said to have been \$8,500, of which Mrs. Frank Tillar gave \$8,000. The building was named Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South as a tribute to the donor and her husband.

As this was the first denomination to complete a sanctuary, both the Baptists and Presbyterians were invited to hold their services in that original frame building. The practice of sharing continued in later years when Methodists held church services for the entire community on the first and third Sundays of each month (they being the only denomination with a resident minister), and joined the Presbyterians for worship services in their sanctuary on the second Sunday of the month and the Baptists for worship services on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The stained glass windows in the church memorialize some of the original twenty-one members and some of the more recent dedicated church members.

The first parsonage was built in Tillar in 1907. Before that date, the minister of the church lived in Selma and preached to that congregation (and also Mount Tabor, Winchester, and Newton's Chapel) along with the Tillar group.

Between the time the church was organized in 1881 until the new church was constructed in 1913, 209 members were received into the congregation by vows and letter. Death and withdrawals depleted the church so that the membership was down to 106 when the new church was opened.

#### Architectural Significance

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church, especially when considering the relatively small physical size of the church and its setting in a small town. By virtue of being the best example of this style in Tillar, and perhaps all of Drew County, the Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Church, South is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co.

County and State

### Summary

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church.

### Historical Background

The town of Tillar came into being as a result of the railroad line that was built along the banks of Crooked Bayou, from Varner to Trippe, after the original track was abandoned because the annual water overflow disrupted service. The new right-of-way followed an early Native American trail which ran through the northeast corner of Drew County and brought two new Drew County towns into being - Winchester and Tillar.

The first evidence of the beginning of a town was a store opened c. 1876 by two Selma merchants, Chesley C. Clayton and Z. T. Prewitt, Sr. (Selma was an unincorporated village seven miles to the west of the eventual site of Tillar.) The decision to open the store was undoubtedly prompted by the presence of the railroad crew, with pockets full of money, who were working on the new line in the area.

With the rail line completed, other Selma merchants followed their lead and opened stores at what was then known as Tillar Station.

The town received its name in 1879, the year the depot was constructed and the post office was established. The town was named for Major Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar who built the depot and was repaid by the railroad company in free freight coupons. The population of the town was recorded as 200 when the application was made for the post office.

As an interesting aside, the man for whom the town was named never lived in Tillar. He, with Dr. A. C. Stanley, owned some ten thousand acres of land in the Tillar-Selma area, but he continued to live in Selma until he moved to Little Rock in 1880. His son, Frank, did move to Tillar and operated the family interests known as Tillar Mercantile Co.

The first few years of the town saw few people becoming residents. The town remained a "commuter's" town for Selma merchants who made the seven to eight mile trip by horseback or buggy every day that weather permitted. Most of the men had bachelor quarters in the back of their stores where they would sleep during periods of bad weather.

By August of 1881, enough people had moved to Tillar from Selma to make them feel the need for a Methodist Church in the new town. The organizational meeting was held under an oak tree on the lawn of the Frank Tillar home.

The new congregation continued to meet under the oak tree until cool weather forced them to meet in member's homes. A church had been completed by 1882 and then services were held in the new structure. At the beginning, from about 1881 to 1897, church services were held only one a month but Sunday

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew

County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Burns, Louise. "Tillar Was Once a Booming Community." *The Advance Monticellonian*, July 1, 1976.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Little Rock: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1922.

Interviews by Jayne Ladd on local history with  
T. A. Prewitt, Sr. (son of original settler)  
Bertha T. Tillar (Mrs. J. S.)  
Caroline Strider Prewitt (Mrs. J. R., Sr.)

Minutes of the Desha-Drew School Board

National Archives, Washington, D. C.

Official Records: City of Tillar

Official Records: Drew County, Arkansas

Official Records: Tillar Methodist Church

Official Records: Tillar Presbyterian Church

Scrapbook of Tillar Baptist Church kept by Sybella (Mrs. B. C.) Prewitt

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*.  
Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

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:

X State historic preservation office

- Other state agency

- Federal agency

- Local government

- University

- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_



Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>643290</u>	<u>3730910</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point created by the intersection of a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the northern elevation of the church and the western curb of W. Railroad Street, proceed west along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the western elevation of the church; then proceed south along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the south elevation of the classroom building; then proceed east along this line to its intersection with the western curb of the street; then proceed north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic church, the nonhistoric classroom building, and surrounding property that is historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Jayne Ladd, Tillar Methodist Church Historian  
Patrick Zollner, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 24, 1997

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

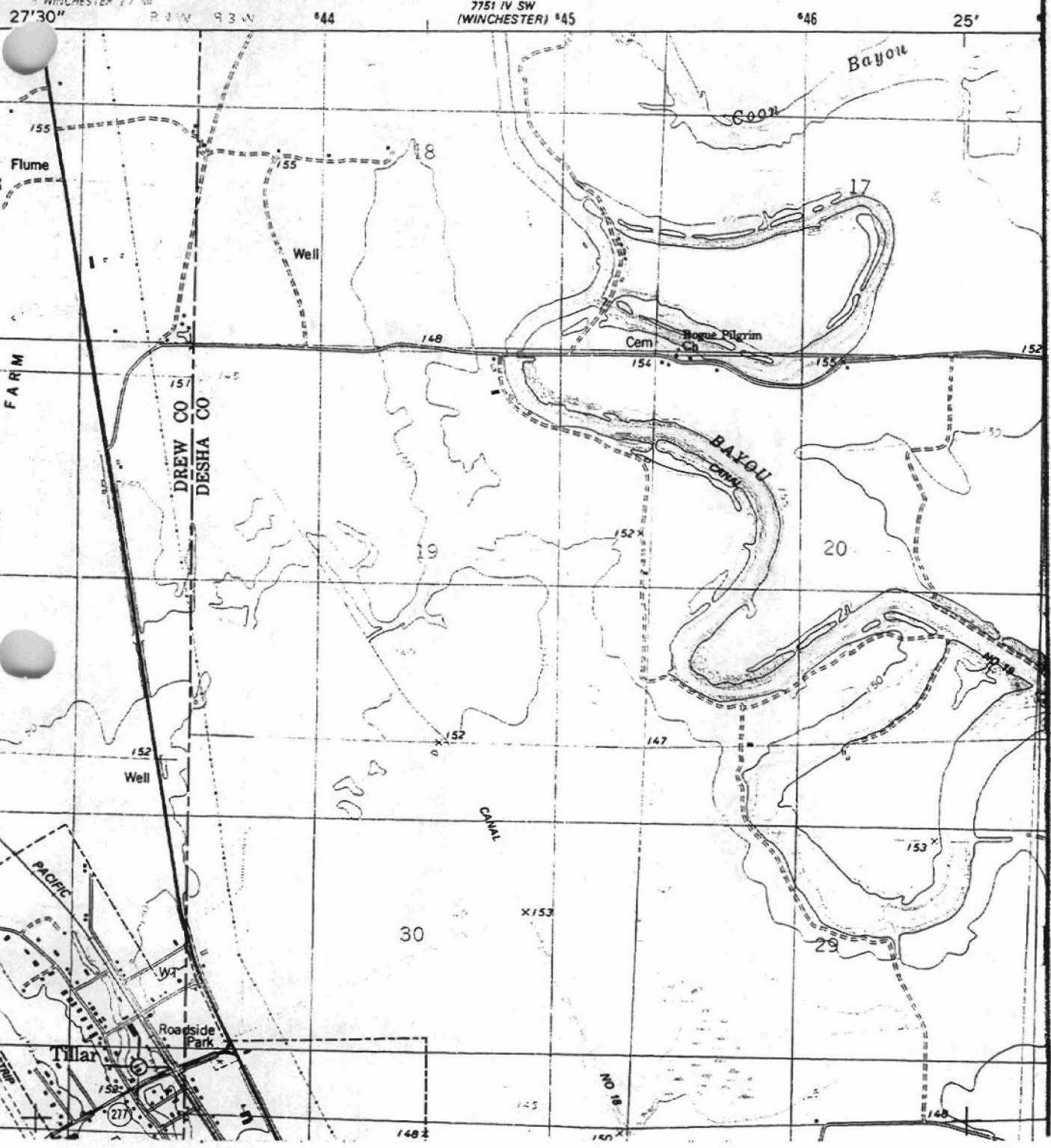
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

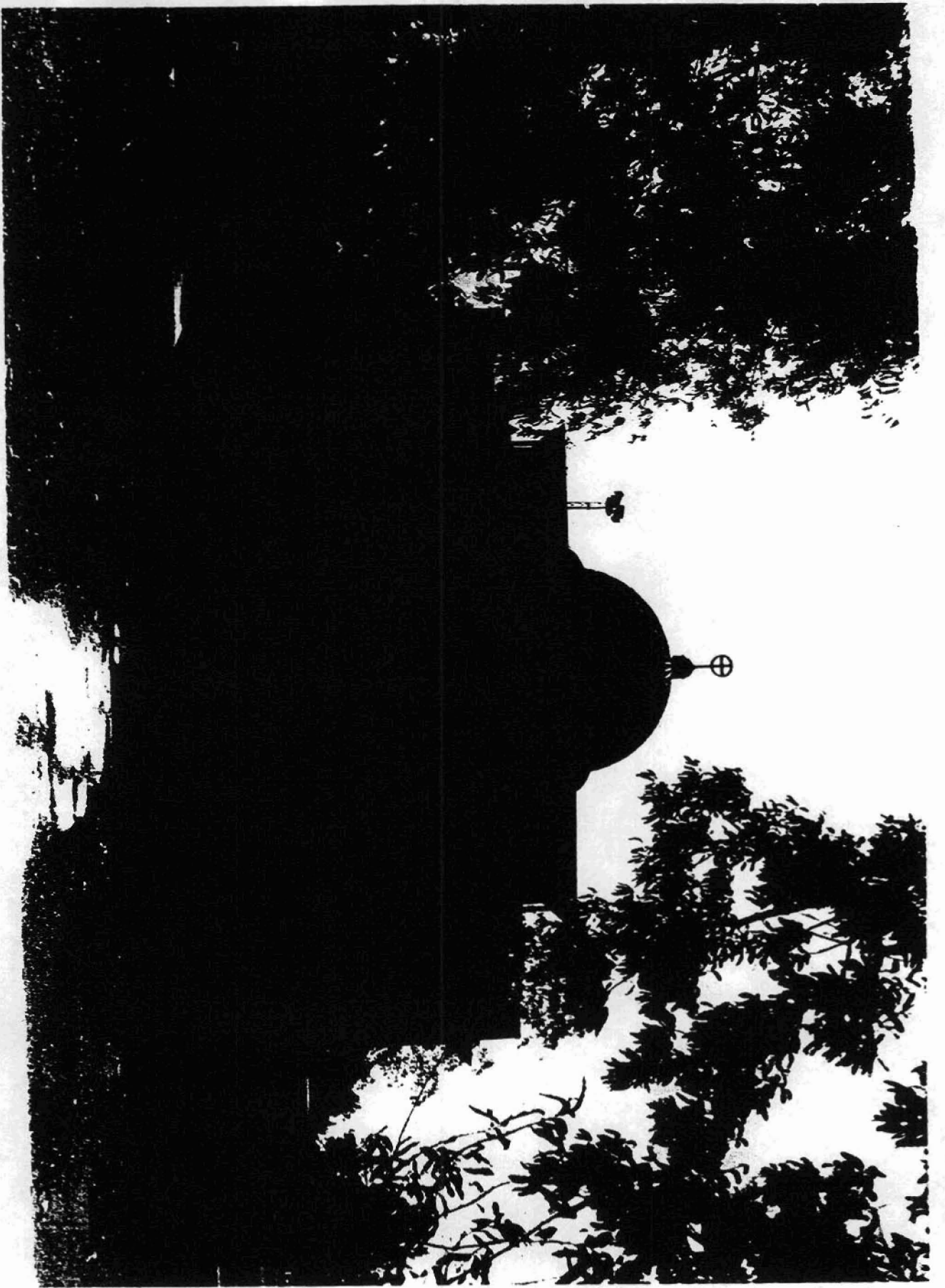
Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist = proper - March 30, 1944

Drew Co. Arkansas

LTN: 15/643290/3730910

DUMAS TO NW  
WINCHESTER 27 10





Book Copy

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUN 04 1997

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South

Other Name/Site Number: DR 0082

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: W. Railroad St.; N. of Arkansas Hwy. 277

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Tillar

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Drew Code: AR 043 Zip Code: 71670

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> structures
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

=====

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria.        See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

4-17-97  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

**5. National Park Service Certification**

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

=====

**6. Function or Use**

=====

Historic: Religion Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Religion Sub: Religious Facility

=====

**7. Description**

=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt, Metal  
walls Brick other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining exterior element of this high style structure is a hemispherical dome positioned in the center of a flat roof with parapets. Interior features include an elaborate pulpit surround and original doors and hardware throughout. A modern-era classroom building is located adjacent to the south elevation of the church and is noncontributing to the nomination. Located on W. Railroad Street in the small town of Tillar, the nominated property is virtually unaltered and in excellent condition.

**Elaboration**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story, irregular-plan, buff-brick Classical Revival-style building that was constructed in 1913 by Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The most defining element of this high style structure is the central hemispherical dome. The circular base of the dome is completely fenestrated by wood pivot windows each consisting of sixteen triangular-panes. Above this window band is a projecting cornice ring, which forms the base for the ribbed metal roof that is capped with an encircled cross finial. Resting upon a continuous concrete

Tillar Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas  
County and State

foundation, the masonry walls support two levels of nearly flat roofs which are hidden behind parapets. There are no visible chimneys.

The front, or northeastern, elevation consists of a wide projecting central section with clerestory flanked by two one-story arched-entrance bays. The central section is dominated by a large semi-circular arched, eight-part, stained-glass window. The window is outlined by simulated pilasters of horizontal banded brick with corbelled capitals. The window arch fills the open space of a pediment formed by a projecting boxed cornice with dentil course and returns. This projecting cornice extends around the entire church. There is a single rectangular stained-glass window to either side of the central window. Above these windows in the clerestory are two multiple-paned oculus windows.

The double-leaf entrances are each composed of two three-quarter-glazed wood doors with a multiple, triangular-paned transom within the overhead semi-circular arch. The entrance sections are capped by a flat roof with parapet, lending a "tower" appearance despite being lower in height than the one-and-a-half-story central section.

The central section of the northwestern side elevation is nearly identical to that of the front elevation with the exception of the two windows flanking the central pediment. Here, the windows are wider with a semi-circular arched transom. The entrance tower section to the viewed left contains a pair of narrower semi-circular arched, stained-glass, windows (the arch is integral with the upper window sash). The single-story section to the viewed right of this elevation is punctuated by a single one-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The rear, or southwestern, elevation is relatively simple in composition compared to the other three elevations. The single-story section that extends across all but one window's width of the rear elevation is entered through a central single-leaf door with flanking one-over-one, double-hung windows. Above this section are three multiple-pane oculus windows in the clerestory. The end, or southeastern, side of the single-story section contains another one-over-one, double-hung windows. As previously mentioned, at the extreme viewed right of the southwestern elevation is a portion of the central one-and-a-half-story block that is fenestrated with a one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass window with transom.

An unusual five-side, single-story bay projects from the southeastern elevation of the church. A total of six one-over-one, double-hung stained-glass windows with transoms are utilized for this bay. Again, two multiple-paned oculus windows are found on the clerestory of this elevation. The entrance tower section is fenestrated by a pair of arched stained-glass windows like those on the opposite elevation.

The interior is virtually unaltered and features an original staircase with a panelled newelpost leading to a choir loft at the front of the building. The pulpit area is positioned to the rear of the building and is denoted by an imposing door surround directly behind the altar. This door surround

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

features square pilasters supporting a classical entablature that is embellished with dentil molding and scroll brackets. A five-sided bay section on the south side of the sanctuary features three roll-up wood doors and can be closed for use as a classroom or opened for additional seating. Another pair of roll-up doors is located underneath the choir loft.

Original doors and hardware remain throughout the church, and the only apparent alteration to the interior is the presence of a nonhistoric dropped ceiling in the five-sided bay area.

A modern-era classroom building is adjacent to the church on the southern elevation and is considered noncontributing to the nomination.

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1913

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Monk and Ritchie  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:



### Summary

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church.

### Historical Background

The town of Tillar came into being as a result of the railroad line that was built along the banks of Crooked Bayou, from Varner to Trippe, after the original track was abandoned because the annual water overflow disrupted service. The new right-of-way followed an early Native American trail which ran through the northeast corner of Drew County and brought two new Drew County towns into being - Winchester and Tillar.

The first evidence of the beginning of a town was a store opened c. 1876 by two Selma merchants, Chesley C. Clayton and Z. T. Prewitt, Sr. (Selma was an unincorporated village seven miles to the west of the eventual site of Tillar.) The decision to open the store was undoubtedly prompted by the presence of the railroad crew, with pockets full of money, who were working on the new line in the area.

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The town received its name in 1879, the year the depot was constructed and the post office was established. The town was named for Major Joshua Thomas Westbrook Tillar who built the depot and was repaid by the railroad company in free freight coupons. The population of the town was recorded as 200 when the application was made for the post office.

As an interesting aside, the man for whom the town was named never lived in Tillar. He, with Dr. A. C. Stanley, owned some ten thousand acres of land in the Tillar-Selma area, but he continued to live in Selma until he moved to Little Rock in 1880. His son, Frank, did move to Tillar and operated the family interests known as Tillar Mercantile Co.

The first few years of the town saw few people becoming residents. The town remained a "commuter's" town for Selma merchants who made the seven to eight mile trip by horseback or buggy every day that weather permitted. Most of the men had bachelor quarters in the back of their stores where they would sleep during periods of bad weather.

By August of 1881, enough people had moved to Tillar from Selma to make them feel the need for a Methodist Church in the new town. The organizational meeting was held under an oak tree on the lawn of the Frank Tillar home.

The new congregation continued to meet under the oak tree until cool weather forced them to meet in member's homes. A church had been completed by 1882 and then services were held in the new structure. At the beginning, from about 1881 to 1897, church services were held only one a month but Sunday

School met every Sunday.

Those who left a written record about the church differ as to the donor of the land on which the church was built. One source says that Mr. Anna Hughes, grandmother of John Cheairs, gave the land. Another says that the Tillar family donated the plot of ground on which the first church was built. The deeds show that the land was deeded by J. T. W. Tillar, Anna E. Whiting, and A. E. Hughes. Therefore, the legend of the donors is correct on either count.

The first church was a simple frame structure about sixty feet long. It was used until the present buff brick structure was completed in 1913. The brick structure has been used continuously since that date. The builders were Monk and Ritchie of Pine Bluff. The original cost of the building was said to have been \$8,500, of which Mrs. Frank Tillar gave \$8,000. The building was named Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South as a tribute to the donor and her husband.

As this was the first denomination to complete a sanctuary, both the Baptists and Presbyterians were invited to hold their serviced in that original frame building. The practice of sharing continued in later years when Methodists held church services for the entire community on the first and third Sundays of each month (they being the only denomination with a resident minister), and joined the Presbyterians for worship services in their sanctuary on the second Sunday of the month and the Baptists for worship services on the fourth Sunday of the month.

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Between the time the church was organized in 1881 until the new church was constructed in 1913, 209 members were received into the congregation by vows and letter. Death and withdrawals depleted the church so that the membership was down to 106 when the new church was opened.

### **Architectural Significance**

The Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South is an outstanding example of a masonry Classical Revival-style church, especially when considering the relatively small physical size of the church and its setting in a small town. By virtue of being the best example of this style in Tillar, and perhaps all of Drew County, the Frank Tillar Memorial Methodist Church, South is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Burns, Louise. "Tillar Was Once a Booming Community." *The Advance Monticellonian*, July 1, 1976.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Little Rock: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1922.

Interviews by Jayne Ladd on local history with  
T. A. Prewitt, Sr. (son of original settler)  
Bertha T. Tillar (Mrs. J. S.)  
Caroline Strider Prewitt (Mrs. J. R., Sr.)

Minutes of the Desha-Drew School Board

National Archives, Washington, D. C.  
Official Records: City of Tillar  
Official Records: Drew County, Arkansas  
Official Records: Tillar Methodist Church  
Official Records: Tillar Presbyterian Church  
Scrapbook of Tillar Baptist Church kept by Sybella (Mrs. B. C.) Prewitt

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*.  
Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Tillar Methodist Church

Name of Property

Drew Co., Arkansas

County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>643290</u>	<u>3730910</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at a point created by the intersection of a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the northern elevation of the church and the western curb of W. Railroad Street, proceed west along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the western elevation of the church; then proceed south along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the south elevation of the classroom building; then proceed east along this line to its intersection with the western curb of the street; then proceed north to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

This boundary includes the historic church, the nonhistoric classroom building, and surrounding property that is historically associated with this resource.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Jayne Ladd, Tillar Methodist Church Historian  
Patrick Zollner, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 24, 1997

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201