

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Holly Grove Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 310 Second Street  not for publication N/A  
city, town Holly Grove  vicinity N/A  
state Arkansas code AR county Monroe code AR zip code 72069

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Carlynn A. Boyd 3-5-91  
Signature of certifying official 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Greek Revival/Gothic Revival  
Synthesis

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Metal/Steel

roof Metal/Tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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## Summary

The Holly Grove Presbyterian Church is a single story, wood frame ecclesiastical structure. Its southern or main facade is dominated by the gable end of the sanctuary with its corner tower and belfry placed to the southeast. A later though historic Sunday School room addition projects from the eastern elevation near the northern end of the church and a 1940's era choir loft is attached to the northern or rear of the sanctuary.

## Elaboration

The Holly Grove Presbyterian Church is a single story, wood frame ecclesiastical structure built largely of cypress. Its irregular plan consists of a rectangular sanctuary, a square bell tower placed flush with the southern elevation of the sanctuary and projecting from the eastern elevation, a small Sunday School room placed near the northern end of the sanctuary and a choir room placed in the center of the sanctuary's northern elevation. Its gable roofed sanctuary and hipped roof belfry and Sunday School room are all sheathed with decorative pressed tin shingles of various designs; only the northern choir is covered with composition shingles. The walls are sheathed with steel siding that duplicates the dimensions of the weatherboard underneath. Brick piers support the entire structure. A later educational building is sited just to the north of the church and is connected to it by an open, covered walkway.

The southern or front elevation consists of the gable end of the sanctuary and the square bell tower placed at the southeast corner. The gable end is relieved only by two tall, symmetrically-placed stained glass windows on the sanctuary level with an attic vent place directly above. The tower is accessed by a double-leaf door sheltered by a bracketed, shed roof porch on the first story. The tower narrows slightly above the first story and is terminated by a square belfry topped with a pyramidal roof. The northern elevation features the gable roof choir addition placed centrally in the original rear wall of the building with its shed roof side room placed to the east, both of which are blank, and the door placed near the eastern end of the Sunday School room that connects the church with the educational building to the rear. A single tall window is placed to the west of the door.

The eastern elevation features the bell tower to the south, the sanctuary wall in the center and the projecting Sunday School room to the north. The bell tower is relieved only by a central stained-glass oculus on the first floor and the central louvered vent in the belfry above. Three tall stained-glass windows light the sanctuary wall in the center, and three more stained-glass windows light the end of the Sunday School room. The western elevation is lighted by four tall, symmetrically-placed stained-glass windows in the sanctuary wall.

The interior of the church is simply decorated, with the ceiling and walls consisting of

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decorative batten strips and plaster wallboard, all painted white. The wood trim around the stained glass windows, the entrances and the choir loft arch is stained a dark color, as are the doors and wood pews. Six chandeliers light the sanctuary, and the floor is carpeted.

The Holly Grove Presbyterian Church has been altered somewhat since its construction in 1881. The original exterior board-and-batten sheathing was covered with weatherboard c. 1900, around the same time that the original neighboring manse was constructed (this separate building has since been replaced by a modern residence that serves the same purpose). The belfry was originally round and capped with a curved spire; it is likely that it was replaced c. 1919 when the Sunday School room was added toward the rear of the building. The original plaster interior walls were refinished with the decorative batten strips in 1923. The choir loft on the northern elevation was added in the 1940's and is not historic. The stained glass windows were added in 1975 and the steel siding was placed over the weatherboard in 1977. However, given that most of the structural alterations are placed toward the rear of the building and that the other alterations are relatively minor in scale and do not significantly impact the principle exterior elevations of the building, it retains its historic integrity.

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**Summary**

**Criterion C, local significance**

The Holly Grove Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as an unusual vernacular example of an ecclesiastical design that blends the Greek Revival style with the Gothic Revival style. The building's resemblance to its c. 1900 appearance, when the weatherboard was placed over the original board-and-batten, has not been compromised by the addition of steel siding, as the height and profile of the original weatherboard and trim has been duplicated.

**Elaboration**

The first Presbyterian congregation in the vicinity of Holly Grove was established in 1839, when Reverend Jordan B. Lambert emigrated from Tennessee and settled approximately one-and-one-half miles south of the present site of Holly Grove. The first building erected to house the new congregation that formed around Rev. Lambert was erected in 1867 and called the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Probably a wood frame structure, it contained a gallery at the back to allow former slaves to worship also. This structure burned on Christmas Eve of 1871 due to a fire that was started by burning candles on a Christmas tree; however, the adjoining Macedonia Cemetery continued to be used, and remains active today.

In the spring of 1881, Reverend F. Patton of Helena, Arkansas petitioned the Arkansas Synod for permission to erect a new church building on Lot 115 in the town of Holly Grove. Permission was granted and the new church building was erected during the summer and fall of 1881. Oral tradition maintains that the lumber for the building was donated and milled at a local sawmill owned by one of the church elders; legend also has it that the labor was donated by some of the male members of the church (a c. 1901 manse was also erected on the lots to the east of the church, but this was removed in 1962 to make way for a modern brick, ranch-style manse).

The design of the Holly Grove Presbyterian Church is an unusual combination of two diametrically-opposed architectural styles. Though the main, sanctuary section of the structure is clearly Greek Revival in influence, with its Classical gable returns, overall symmetry, and stark, clean lines, the attachment of the square, projecting corner tower to the southeast corner is a clear Gothic Revival reference. As such it reflects the pervasive influence of the associations with Christian ecclesiastical architecture taken on by the Gothic Revival style that spread throughout the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Begun in England by such architects as A.N.W Pugin, various English religious organizations associated with the Anglican (Episcopalian) church soon actively embraced the Gothic Revival as the only proper style for any "true" Christian architecture, to the exclusion of all others.

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Naturally, this notion took somewhat longer to take hold in a country where religious meeting houses had been Classical for well over one hundred years, the Palladian-influenced Georgian and Federal styles of the mid- to late-eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries having been followed by the stoic horizontality and weight of the Greek Revival. However, such trained American architects as Richard Upjohn (the designer of Trinity Church on Wall Street in New York City) and such less erudite, eclectic architects as Minard Lefever designed in this idiom before the Civil War, and the full weight of its influence was certainly felt thereafter. The rise in popularity of the High Victorian Gothic (used primarily for large, public commissions) and the Queen Anne Revival (used primarily for residences) only improved the atmosphere of acceptance for the Gothic Revival.

In Arkansas, however, the appearance in 1881 of this influence, even in as timid a form as seen here, is quite early: such other well-known examples of this style as the Cane Hill Presbyterian Church in Cane Hill, Washington County (NR-listed 11/17/82) were not constructed until 1891, then years later. The appearance of this style in Holly Grove bears testimony to the influence of the arrival of the Arkansas Central Railroad (running between Clarendon and Helena, the original company defaulted on its interest payments and was reorganized in 1877 as the Arkansas Midland Railroad) here in 1872. As was the case in many such Arkansas communities, the railroad served as the link to the fashions and fancies of the outside world, and this was no less true for architecture. Thus the Holly Grove Presbyterian Church survives as both an early and unusual example of this incipient transition in American taste.

The congregation of the Holly Grove Presbyterian Church has remained active throughout the twentieth century, though like many churches in towns that owed much of their prosperity to a railroad that no longer serves the community, the congregation's numbers have dwindled somewhat in the past few decades. However, they have remained loyal to this building and have taken good care of it since it was constructed. It is in excellent physical condition.

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**Bibliography**

Davidson, Mrs. Glenda, *History of Holly Grove Presbyterian Church*, typed manuscript, unpaginated.

Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, (1889), p. 514.

Hull, Clifton E., *Shortline Railroads of Arkansas*, (Norman, Oklahoma; 1969), p. 337.

King, Mrs. Katie, *Correspondence to Arkansas Historic Preservation Program*, 6/25/79.

Stanton, Phoebe B., *The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture*, (Baltimore; 1968), pp. 3-91, passim.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

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

Period of Significance  
1900

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

Significant Person  
N/A

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property Less than one

**UTM References**

A 

1	5
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6	6	5	2	1	0
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4	0	2	1	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 115, 116 and 117, town of Holly Grove, Arkansas

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

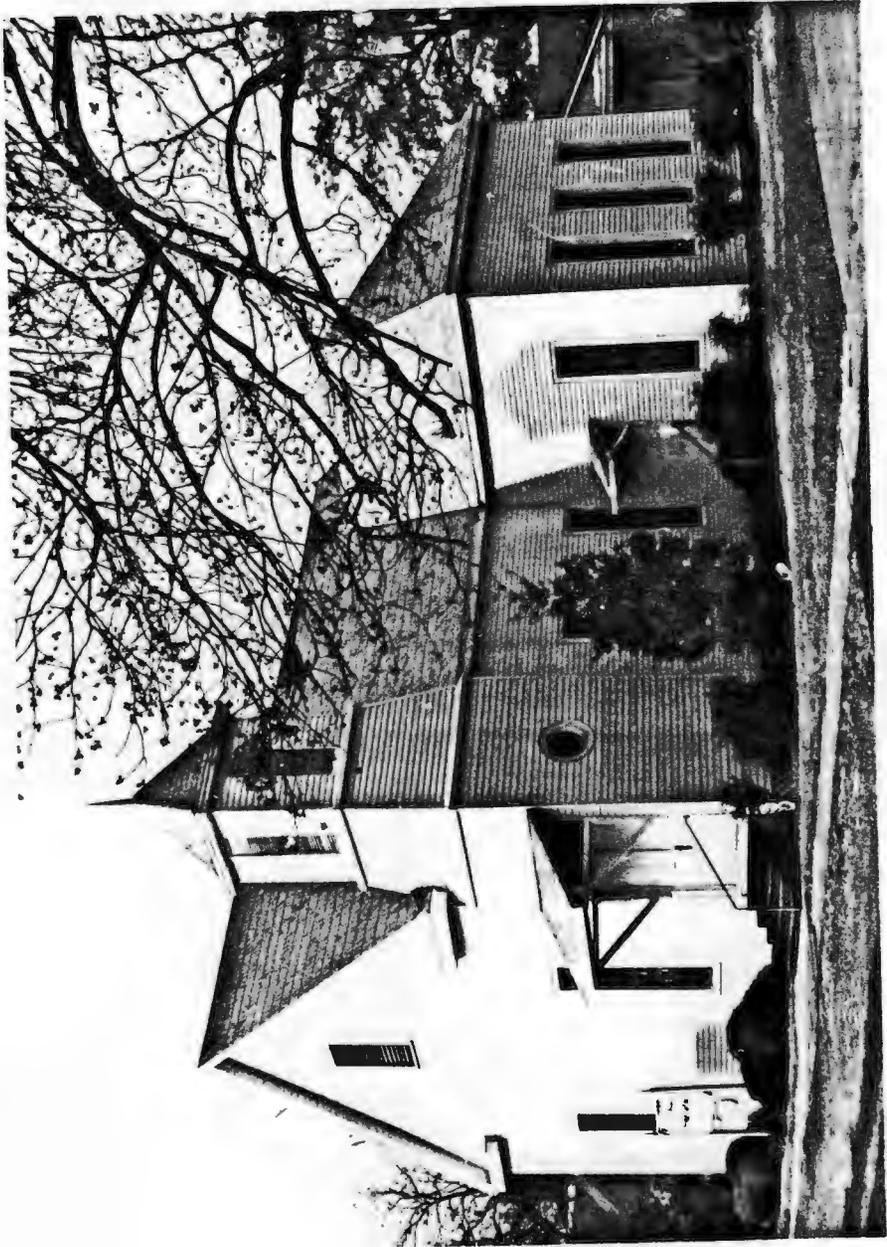
This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ken Story, Architectural Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March 6, 1991  
street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

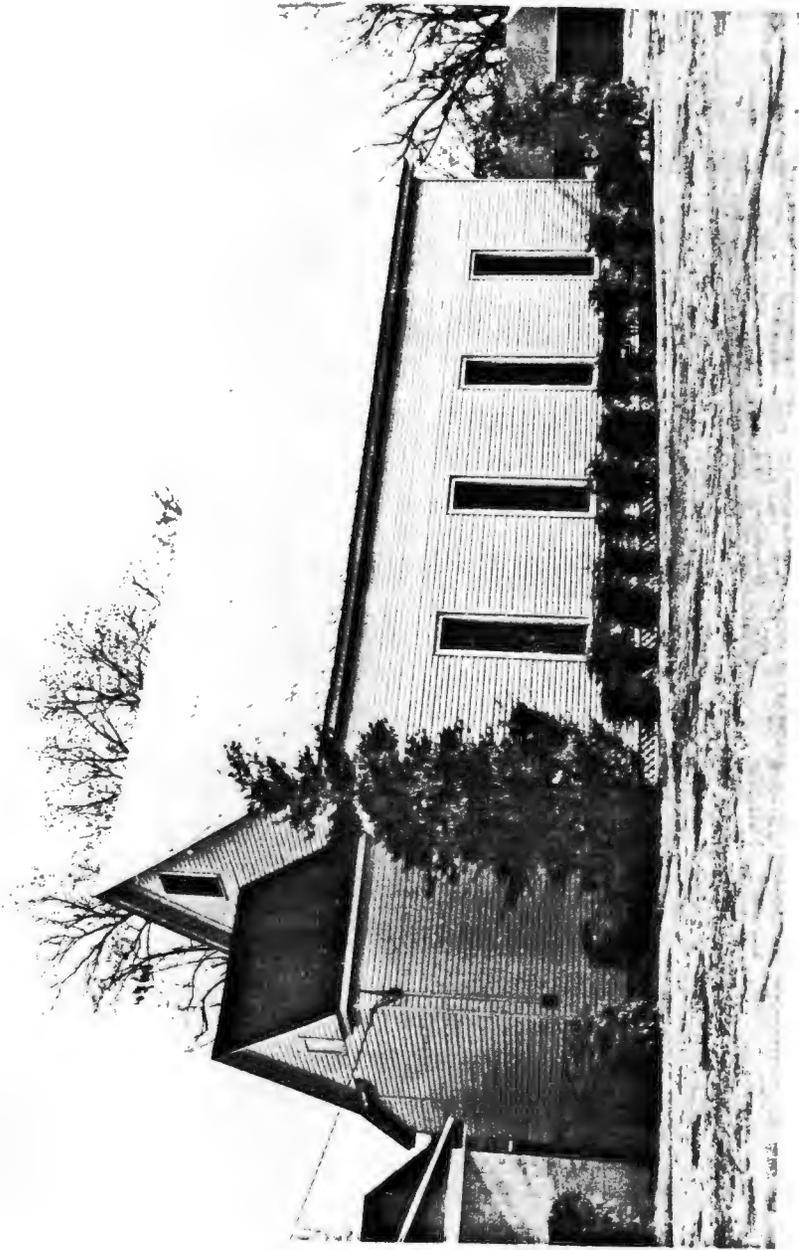




HOLLY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTO GRAPHS BY JOHN NAILL  
SEPTEMBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ARPP  
VIEWS FROM SOUTHWEST



HOLLY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JONN NAILL  
SEPTEMBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AKIP  
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



HOLLY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN WALK  
SEPTEMBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

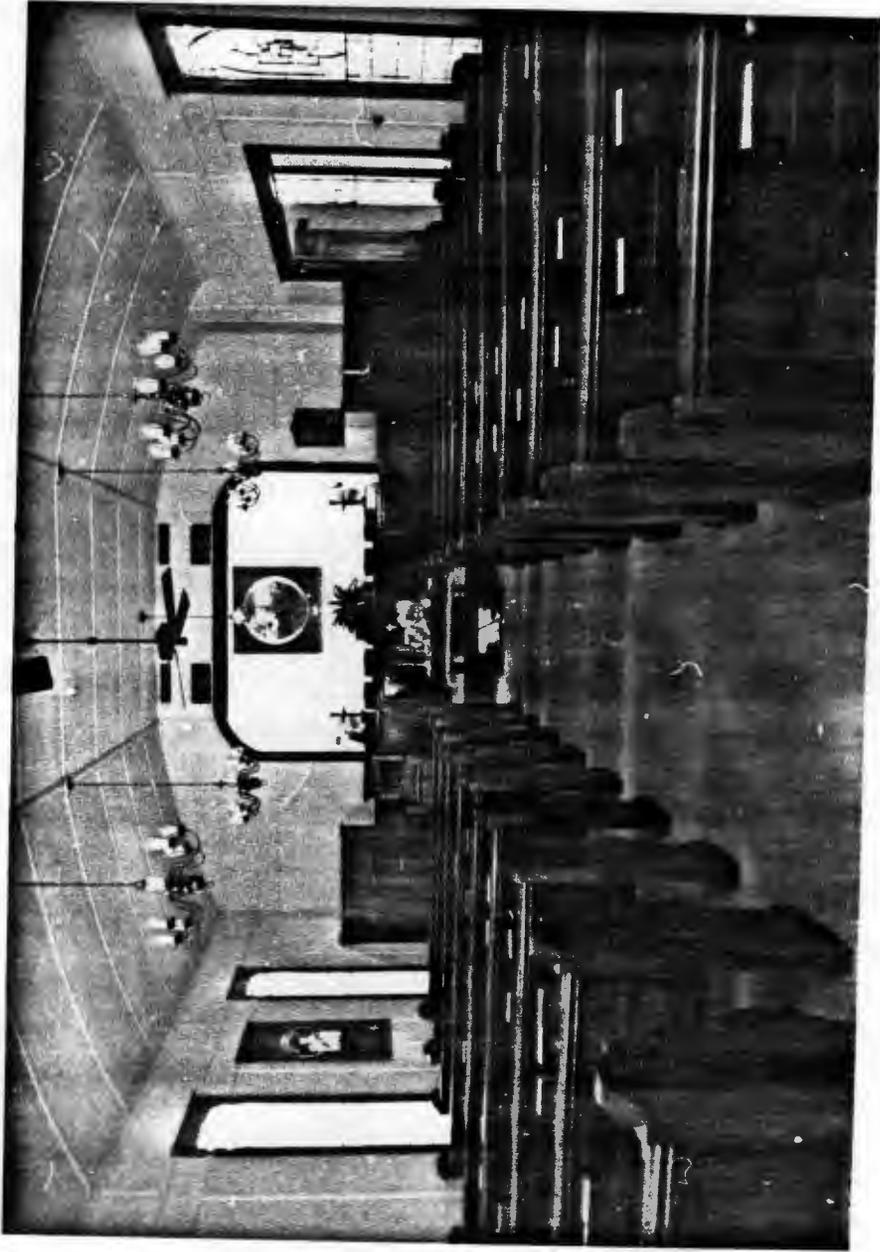
Holly Grove, AR, Presbyterian  
—Church as seen from west side—  
--1989



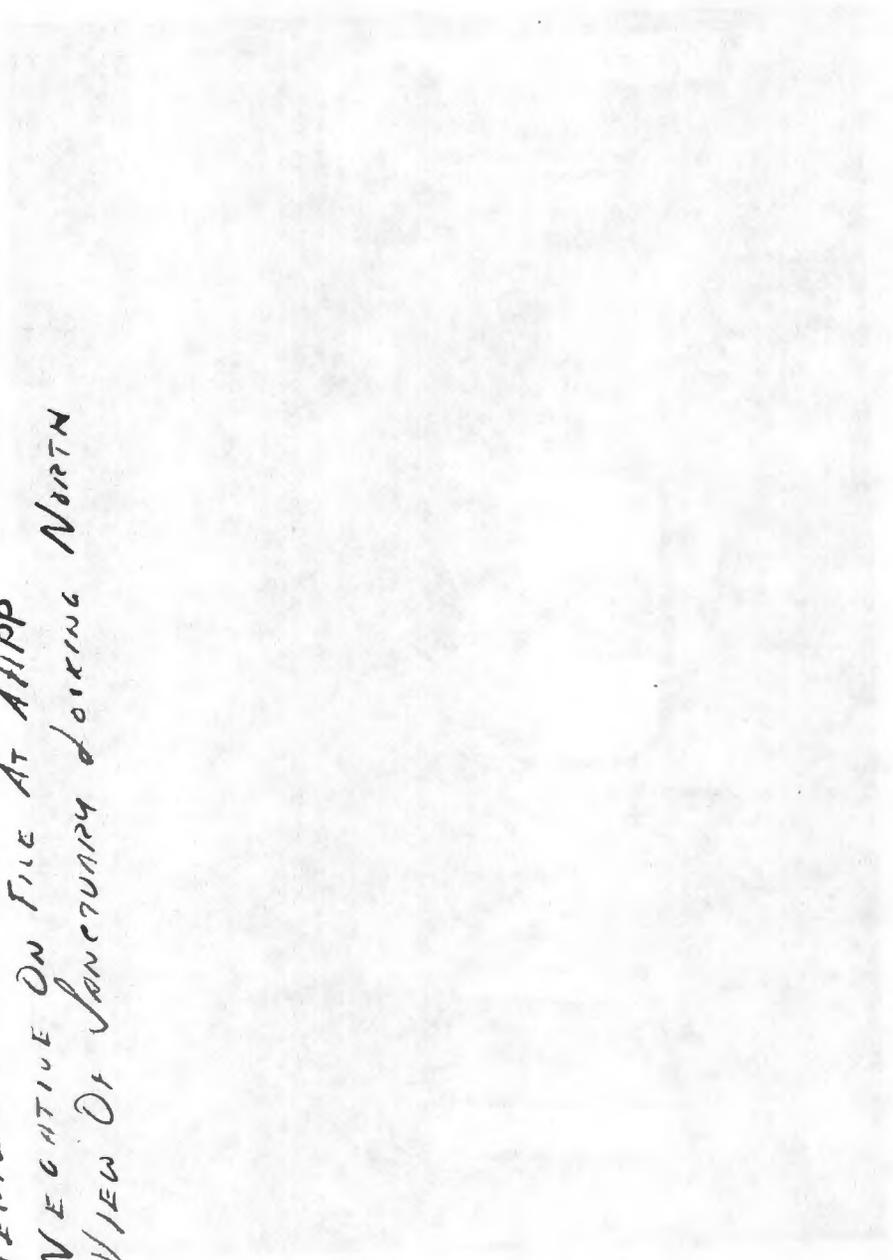
HOLLY GROVE THE SABBATH CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, MISSOURI  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WAIN  
SEPTEMBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE IN ANIPD  
FRONT ENTRANCE DETAIL



HOLLY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN WAIN  
PETERSBURG, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AKIPP  
VIEW OF STRUCTURE LOCATING SCENE



HOLLY GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN MAILL  
SEPTEMBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW OF SANCTUARY LOOKING NORTH



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