NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Bond's Chapel

2. Location

street & number Missouri Route A, 2½ miles northeast of Hartsburg [n/a] not for publication

city or town Hartsburg [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Boone code 019 zip code 65211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 9 August 1993

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date

[ ] 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
See continuation sheet [ ].

5 Classification

Ownership of Property

[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6 Function or Use

Historic Function

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7 Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: nineteenth century rural church

Materials

foundation concrete
walls weatherboard
roof asphalt
other n/a

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

[ ] **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.

[X] **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

Property is:

[X] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[ ] **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.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
Architecture

Periods of Significance
1883-1884

Significant Dates
n/a

Significant Person(s)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
unknown

9. Major Bibliographic 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:

[X] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[ ] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:_____

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	562160	4284550			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[ ] 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 Bonnie Stepenoff

organization History and Archives Consulting date July 25, 1992

street & number P.O. Box 104403 telephone 314/635-0326

city or town Jefferson City state MO zip code 65110

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 FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FOP.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

SUMMARY: Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, located on Missouri Highway A approximately two and one-half miles northeast of Hartsburg, Boone County, consists of one building of architectural significance, an essentially unaltered example of a late nineteenth century church of design and materials historically common in rural Missouri. This church is the most intact example of this simple vernacular type remaining Boone County. Constructed 1883-1884, Bond's Chapel is a simple rectangular building (measuring 24' x 33'), set on piers composed of creek rock and mortar. Since 1986, owners of the building have shored up the foundation with concrete. A small chancel, projecting from the north wall of the church, is marked in the interior of the building by a simple chancel arch. The only significant exterior alteration, a modest vestibule was added to the facade, or west elevation after 1940 for the purpose of protecting the original central double door, does not detract from the integrity of the building. Bond's Chapel is flanked on three sides by a well-kept cemetery (not nominated).

Evolution of the Property

The form of the church was similar to that of many early log and frame churches, such as the historic Old McKendree Chapel erected in 1818 in southeast Missouri, the cradle of Methodism in the state.[1] In its simple, old-fashioned form and style of construction, Bond's Chapel expressed the desire of the local congregation to cling to its pioneer roots. The use of native materials and the conscious rejection of elaborate ornamentation reflected the values of early Methodism, a religion that traditionally appealed to poor working people.[2]

Like Mckendree Chapel, Bond's Chapel is a small one-story rectangular structure with a front-facing gabled roof. Its foundation consists of heavy piers at each of the four corners of the building. Ornamentation is minimal, simple, and restrained. Decorative details, such as the double front door and transom window remain intact. In the interior, the altar and most of the pews are original, although some of the pews were damaged by wind in the 1940s and subsequently replaced.[3] Some necessary exterior repairs were also undertaken at that time. One significant alteration (1940s or thereafter), the addition of an entrance foyer or vestibule, has not disturbed the original fabric of the building and serves the purpose of protecting the original front doors from the elements.

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[1] Frank C. Tucker, The Methodist Church in Missouri, 1798-1939 (Nashville, Tenn., 1966), 41. See the text of nomination of McKendree Chapel to the National Register of Historic Places, prepared by James M. Denny, on file at the Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo.

[2] For a discussion of the appeal of Methodism to the working class, see E.P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (New York: Vintage Books, 1966), 37-54.

[3] James Allen.

Characteristics of the Building

The decorative front door consists of two leaves, each with four panels, surmounted by a transom and a transom window of four lights. There are no window openings on the front or rear walls of the building. The south wall contains three eight-light single-sash windows surmounted by shallow wooden pediments that add the distinction of classical ornamentation. The north wall contains two windows identical to those on the south wall. The projecting chancel is lighted by two double-hung two-over-two windows, as is the small vestibule projecting from the primary facade. The vestibule addition rests on a poured concrete foundation, while the chancel projection rests on heavy piers of stone composition, now reinforced with concrete. It is likely that the chancel projection was repaired and somewhat modified in the 1940s, when wind damaged the north side of the building.

The interior of the church exhibits a surprising level of preservation. Most of the pews are original, although some were rebuilt or replaced in the 1940s, after the church suffered wind damage. The simple wooden altar is original. An old metal stove and an upright piano, remaining from the days when the church had an active congregation, add a sense of hominess and reality to this inactive, but not abandoned, old Methodist meeting house.

Located at the crest of a hill in southern Boone County, the church faces a county road and is flanked on three sides by the old Bond's Chapel Cemetery. Beyond the cemetery to the east and south is woodland and to the north is pasture land. The surrounding property contains a small utility shed (1945) to the south of the cemetery (not nominated). This pastoral setting adds to the historical character of the church and reinforces its association with the rural heritage of southern Boone County.

SUMMARY: Bond's Chapel in southern Boone County, on Missouri Highway A approximately two and one-half miles northeast of Hartsburg, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed 1883-1884, the simple late nineteenth century rural church has been preserved in nearly pristine condition due to the devoted attention of neighboring families. Common characteristics of the property type represented by this church include wood frame construction, front-facing gabled roof, rectangular floor plan, and extremely modest architectural ornamentation. In form, construction, and details, Bond's Chapel clearly exemplifies a common type of simple religious meeting house constructed by church members in the late nineteenth century to serve a small, close-knit rural congregation. A high degree of integrity in both the building and its setting, on a hilltop surrounded by pasture and woodlands, evokes a strong sense of the rural past.

NARRATIVE: In 1883-1884, when a group of southern Boone County Methodists decided to build this church on land adjacent to an existing cemetery, more than four million people attended Methodist churches in the United States. By this time, many Methodist church buildings had evolved from simple unadorned meeting houses to large and elaborate structures, adorned with stained glass windows, spires, and splendid interior fixtures.[4] But the rural Boone County residents who built Bond's Chapel clung to a tradition that shunned ornament and valued simplicity in church structures. According to local sources, this group of farmers cut and shaped the timbers, dressed the lumber, and mixed the foundation material from creek rock and water. In the pioneer tradition, all work was done by man or horse.[5]

Since the church was built, the nearby town of Hartsburg has appeared, flourished, declined, and finally experienced a kind of renaissance as a trailhead on the linear Katy Trail State Park. The local populace has changed from farm families to commuters, who travel to offices and factories in Jefferson City and Columbia. Bond's Chapel no longer has an active congregation. However, descendants of the original builders continue to maintain the church and the adjacent cemetery as symbols of their heritage.

Architecture

In 1780, a conference of English Methodist leaders ordered:

> Let all preaching-houses be built plain and decent; but nor more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable; otherwise the necessity of raising money will make rich men necessary to us. But if so,

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[4] William Warren Sweet, Methodism in American History (New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1933), 332-334.

[5] James Allen, Secretary, Bond's Chapel Cemetery Association, provided this information.

> we must be dependent upon them, yea, and governed by them. And then farewell to Methodist discipline, if not doctrine too.[6]

Methodist church architecture developed from the ideas of John and Charles Wesley, who originated the Methodist movement within the Church of England in the eighteenth century. In the early years, Methodist chapels or "preaching houses"[7] functioned as a locale for preaching and evangelizing, but did not replace the parish churches. For more than a century, first in England and then in North America, including Missouri, Methodist preachers gave their sermons outdoors or in private homes, barns, inns, old theaters, or any place where people could gather. In England, many of the earliest preaching houses were octagonal in shape, but rectangular buildings predominated in America.[8] Traditionally, Methodism served the poor and working classes, and Methodist churches were consequently simple and unadorned.

In the Gilded Age at the end of the nineteenth century, many American Methodists strayed from the traditions of frugality and simplicity in church buildings and rituals. William Warren Sweet, a historian of American Methodism, wrote that by 1880 in the United States, Methodism embraced a large number of urban middle class congregations. He described the trend toward urbanism, sophistication, luxury, and concern with finances in the following words:

> This is reflected in the rising scale of ministers' salaries, the building of larger and more costly churches, the introduction of pipe organs and paid choirs, while with increasing frequency the complaint was heard that in the local church the business meeting was taking the place of the prayer meeting.[9]

Sweet fretted that the "luxury of urban life" might be "sapping Methodist vitality," and noted the probable connection between this urban trend and the popularity of rural revivalism in the 1880s and 1890s.[10]

Rural Methodist congregations clung to the tradition of plain meeting houses served by circuit preachers throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Bond's Chapel remained an active chapel in the Ashland Circuit

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[6] James F. White, Protestant Worship and Church Architecture (New York: Oxford University Press, 1964), 115-116.

[7] Ibid., 112.

[8] Ibid., 113-114.

[9] Sweet, Methodism, 338.

[10] Ibid., 336-337.

through the 1940s.[11] By the mid- twentieth century, however, many of these plain rural churches fell into disuse as urbanization and improved transportation led to consolidation and the building of larger, more elaborate churches in urban centers. A significant example of this twentieth-century development is the grand and elegant Missouri United Methodist Church, erected in 1930 in Columbia, approximately twenty miles north of the site of Bond's Chapel.[12]

Rural Missourians built a number of simple rectangular wooden churches similar to Bond's Chapel in the Gilded Age. A fair number of these meeting houses survive, though many have been altered. For example, Perrin Methodist Church, constructed in 1879 in Perrin (Clinton County), resembles Bond's Chapel in its front-facing gabled roof, wood construction, rectangular floor plan, and stone foundation. The Methodist Church of Speed (later named Speed Union Church), built in 1880, another gable-end church, also exemplifies wood frame construction, with a stone foundation, and weatherboard siding, but has an L-shaped plan. Sligo Methodist Church, near Sligo in Dent County, is a rectangular frame gable-end church on a brick foundation. This church, erected in 1880, is ornamented with a belfry. Recent alterations to the building include asbestos siding. Harmony Methodist Church, built in 1895, in the vicinity of Bee Ridge (Knox County) closely resembles Bond's Chapel with its rectangular floorplan, stone foundation, wood frame construction, weatherboard, and front-facing gabled roof.

Some rural Methodist congregations continued the tradition of erecting simple wood frame meeting houses into the twentieth century. For instance, the Curry Methodist Church near Crocker in Miller County, erected in 1907-08, closely resembles Bond's Chapel in floor-plan, style, and construction. This congregation apparently became involved in the holiness movement, breaking away from the Methodist Church and affiliating with the Assembly of God. Altered in 1945 and 1970, the church has become the Curry Assembly of God Church.

Bond's Chapel exemplifies a common type of plain rural Methodist church, constructed of wood, with a rectangular floorplan, exhibiting little or no architectural ornamentation, erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Additional examples of this building type (gable-end churches of wood frame construction with simple floorplans and little ornamentation), listed in Missouri's inventory records for other counties, include Pure Air Methodist Church, Pure Air (1887); Ashton Methodist Protestant Church, Clark County (1875), and Montserrat Methodist Episcopal Church South, Clinton (1885).

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[11] The Circuit Rider [Ashland Circuit], newsletter, issues for 1937 and 1938 on file at the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO

[12] Priscilla A. Evans, "Missouri United Methodist Church," nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, April 15, 1980, on file at the Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO.

Rural Methodist churches of this type closely resembled many other Protestant Churches, especially those simple unadorned rural churches erected by congregations imbued with the enthusiasm of the late nineteenth century revival of humble piety and holiness. Small wooden Protestant churches similar to Bond's Chapel abounded in rural Missouri before the turn of the century. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of these rural places of worship survive in a pristine, or nearly pristine, state.

Data retrieved from the computerized Missouri Statewide Cultural Resources Inventory described more than 350 simple gable-end churches in rural areas. Of these, only one, other than Bond's Chapel, is located in Boone County. This comparable church, Red Top Christian Church, in the vicinity of Hallsville, originally resembled Bond's Chapel in many ways. Red Top church was built of wood, with a high front-facing gable, weatherboard siding, and a metal roof. However, this latter church has been drastically altered over the years, with new siding, new doors, new steps, new windows, a new facade, and a remodeled interior. For this reason, the latter church has been deemed ineligible for National Register listing.

Bond's Chapel is eligible for listing, because it retains a high degree of integrity and clearly exemplifies a common type of rural church building of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The Name "Bond's Chapel"

Bond's Chapel took its name from Henry Pope Bond, D.D., an itinerant Methodist preacher, who served as pastor of the congregation in 1884 and 1885.[13] "Brother Bond," as he was called, served the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Church from 1867 until his retirement in 1905. A tireless traveler in the tradition of the old circuit-riding preachers, Bond preached in churches in Fayette, Moberly, Rocheport, New Franklin, Salisbury, St. Charles, and many other Missouri towns. After his formal retirement in 1905, he moved to Texas, where he organized numerous churches in and around El Paso.[14] His hardihood, courage, and pioneer spirit are reflected in the enduring simplicity and dignity of Bond's Chapel.

Historical Background

Methodism entered Missouri when it was a Spanish territory on the western edge of the American frontier. John Clark preached the first Methodist sermon from a boat off the shore of the Mississippi River to a small group of settlers in

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[13] Bond's Chapel, Ashland Circuit, Fayette District, Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, records on file at Central Methodist College Library, Fayette, Mo.

[14] Minutes of the Missouri Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1917-1922, biography, 114-115.

1798. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Clark visited cabins in St. Louis County, laying the groundwork for the establishment of the Methodist Church in Missouri.[15] Hardy circuit riders toured the scattered settlements along the Mississippi River, preaching outdoors and in homes, thoughout the territorial period. The first Methodist meeting houses were erected in 1814 and 1818 in southeast Missouri.[16] Old Mckendree Chapel, which still stands in Cape Girardeau County, is the oldest surviving Methodist building in the state.[17]

By 1820, the Boonslick Circuit, embracing southern Boone County, was vigorous and growing. The Boonslick area, along the Missouri River in central Missouri, became strongly Methodist because of the nature of its settlers. Many came from southern states, and others moved in from earlier settlements along the western banks of the Mississippi River, where Methodism had gained a stronghold. Throughout the nineteenth century, the Boonslick area was highly productive of new circuits (i.e. groups of churches served by the same minister) and influential congregations.[18] Bond's Chapel was organized in the late nineteenth century as part of the Ashland Circuit in a section of the old Boonslick area.

The period between 1880 and 1910 constituted a sort of golden age in the proliferation of small Methodist country churches.[19] A flourishing farm economy, with a growing rural population, resulted in the creation of many new circuits, embracing numerous small congregations that met in rectangular wooden churches similar to Bond's Chapel. Forces were already at work, however, that would turn these simple rural churches into relics of the past. Cities were growing more rapibly than rural areas. Industrialization was well underway. Railroads were linking cities to towns, factories to stores, hinterlands to metropolitan areas, in a way that, within a few decades, would transform society and precipitate a flight of the farming population to urban America.

Within a few miles of Bond's Chapel (2.7 miles to the southwest), the town of Hartsburg rose up as a railroad way station in the 1890s and flourished as a small commercial and agricultural center in the 1920s, only to fade with the Great Depression. During the brief early period of prosperity, the predominantly German settlers of Hartsburg erected an Evangelical Church with a tall spire and a Baptist Church with an ornate bell tower, both of which

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[15] Tucker, 14.

[16] William E. Foley, The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1989), 272-273.

[17] Tucker, 41.

[18] Ibid., 42-43.

[19] Ibid., 190-191.

have survived. Early newspaper accounts also mention a Methodist Church,[20] which has not survived. The comparatively elaborate churches of Hartsburg, with its German heritage, offer an interesting contrast to the simple wooden chapel, erected by farmers of southern lineage, on the hill north of town.

When the railroads declined, and modern highways by-passed the town, Hartsburg retreated into a static and quaint obscurity that persists to the present time. Its historic ambience, however, has made it a popular trailhead on the old Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railraod bed that has been converted to a linear hiking and biking trail. The economic life of its residents and their neighbors in the sourrounding countryside increasingly focussed on the two small cities of Columbia to the north and Jefferson City to the south. By the 1950s, Hartsburg had become a "bedroom" suburb, and subsequently Bond's Chapel became an abandoned rural church, saved from deterioration and final ruin only by the devotion of families who identified it with their Boone County roots.

The founders of the chapel included William Butler, William Sappington, Samuel V. Allen, John H. Sapp, Noah A. Sapp, David Hilburn, and Squire Sappington (who sold the land on which the church was built for the sum of one dollar.)[21] Men and women with these surnames continued to cherish and maintain the church long after its active life had ended. It is their careful attention to the structure that has allowed it to survive with sufficient integrity to make it eligible for listing on the National Register.

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[20] Hartsburg Truth, articles reprinted in Boone County Journal, summer 1982.

[21] Bond's Chapel Records housed at Central Methodist College Library.

Bibliography

Allen, James. "Bond's Chapel Church," Missouri Office of Historic Preservation, Cultural/Historic Inventory Form, July 8, 1985.

Bond's Chapel, Ashland Circuit, Fayette District, Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, records on file at Central Methodist College Library, Fayette, Mo.

Circuit Rider [Ashland Circuit], 1937-1938.

Denny, James M. "McKendree Chapel," nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1985.

Evans, Priscilla A. "Missouri United Methodist Church," nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, April 15, 1980.

Foley, William. E. The Genesis of Missouri: From Wilderness Outpost to Statehood. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989.

Gill, C.O., and Gifford Pinchot. The Country Church: The Decline of its Influence and the Remedy. New York; Macmillan, 1913.

Hartsburg Truth.

Minutes of the Missouri Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1917-1922, 114-115.

Seaton, Richard A., ed., History of the United Methodist Churches of Missouri. Missouri Methodist Historical Society, 1984.

Sweet, William Warren. Methodisim in American History. New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1933.

Thompson, E.P. Making of the English Working Class. New York: Vintage Books, 1966.

Tucker, Frank C. The Methodist Church in Missouri, 1798-1939. Nashville, Tn., 1966.

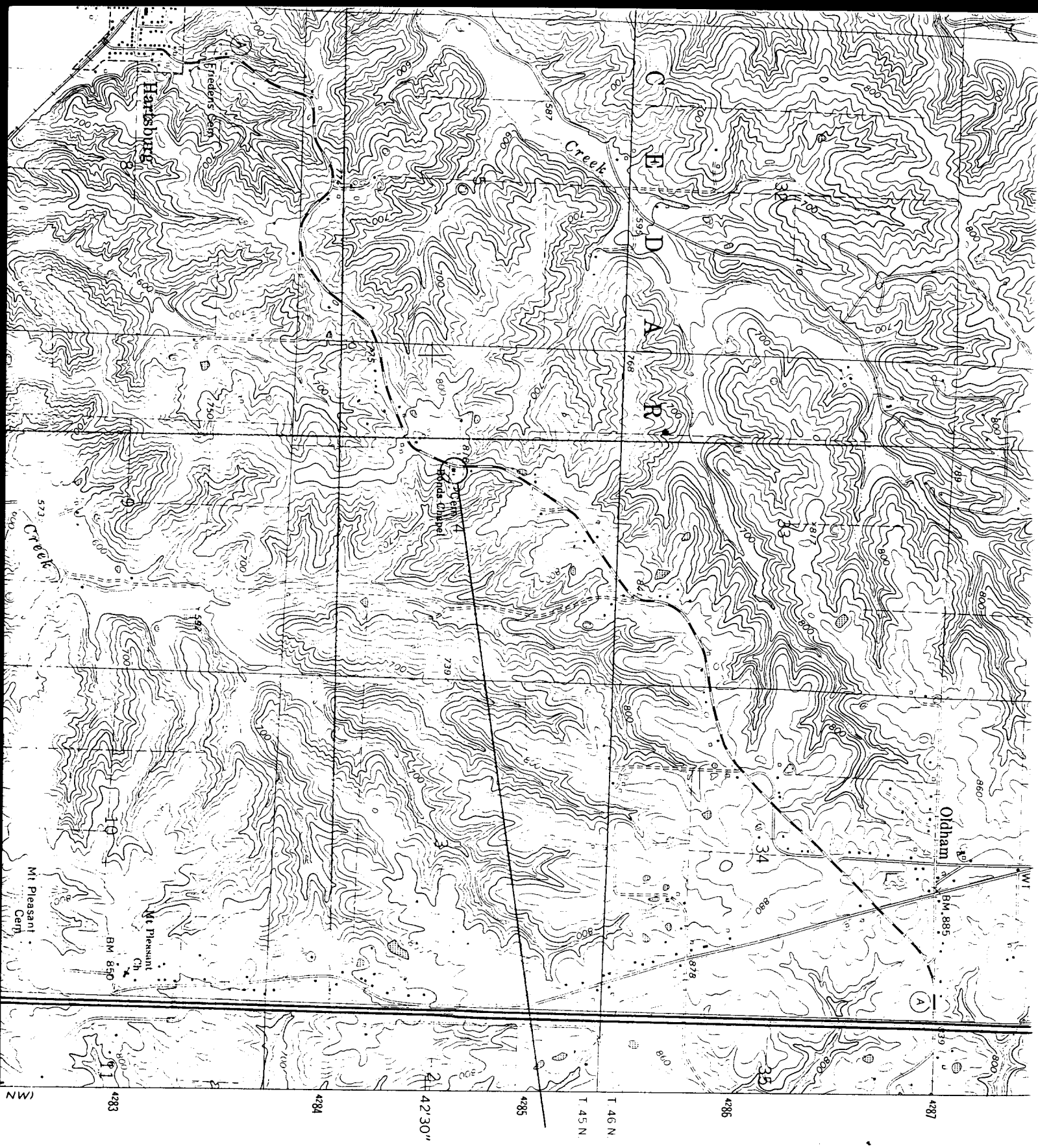
White, James F. Protestant Worship and Church Architecture. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is located in Boone County, on Missouri Route A, 2.7 miles northeast of the town of Hartsburg and 2.3 miles southwest of the intersection of County Route A and Highway 63. The property is located on the east side of County Route A. The property is enclosed by a rectangle described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Route A and the north edge of an unnamed gravel road in section 4, township 45 north, range 12 west, proceed 20 feet east across Route A to the east edge of the highway right-of-way, the point of beginning; then proceed east 84 feet; then proceed south 60 feet; then proceed west 84 feet; then proceed north 60 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to include only the Bond's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church building. The cemetery which encloses the church building on three sides--north, east, and south--is excluded, and Missouri Route A forms the western boundary. The cemetery continues to be used and does not have landscape significance; it has, therefore, been excluded.



Bond's Chapel Methodist + Episcopal Church
MO Hwy. A, Harrisburg vic., Boone County, MO
15/562160/4284550

N

BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
1883

BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
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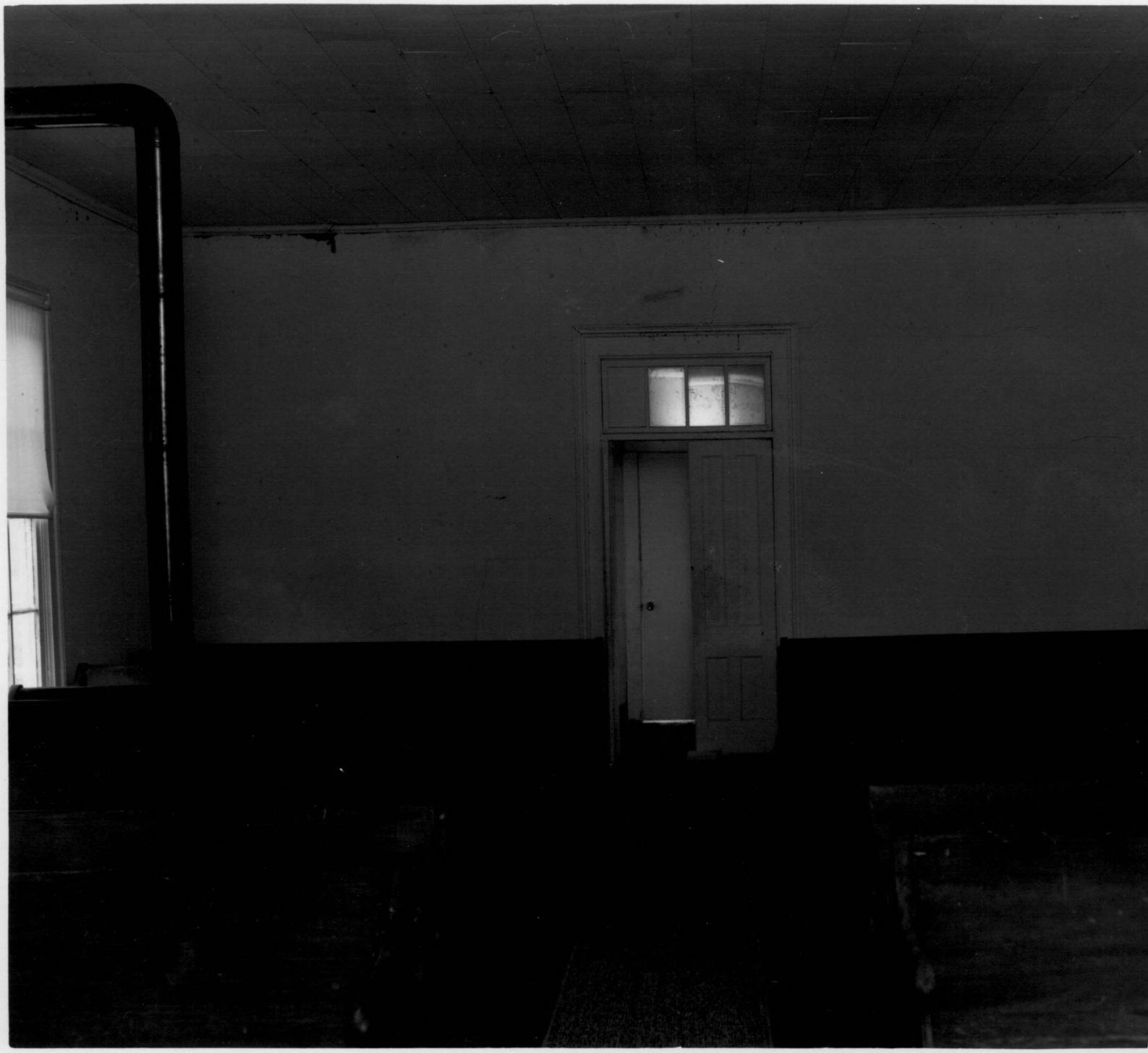

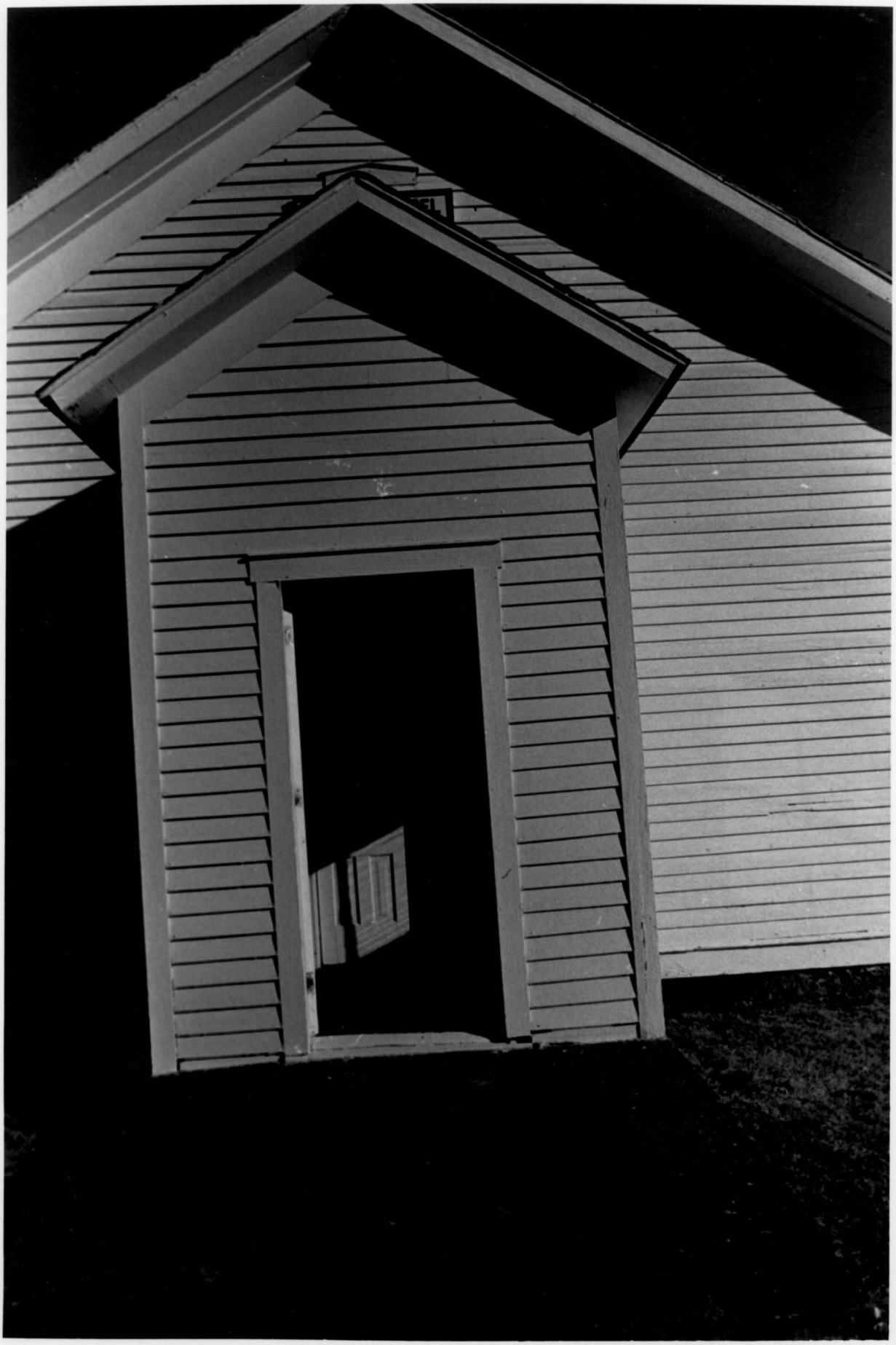

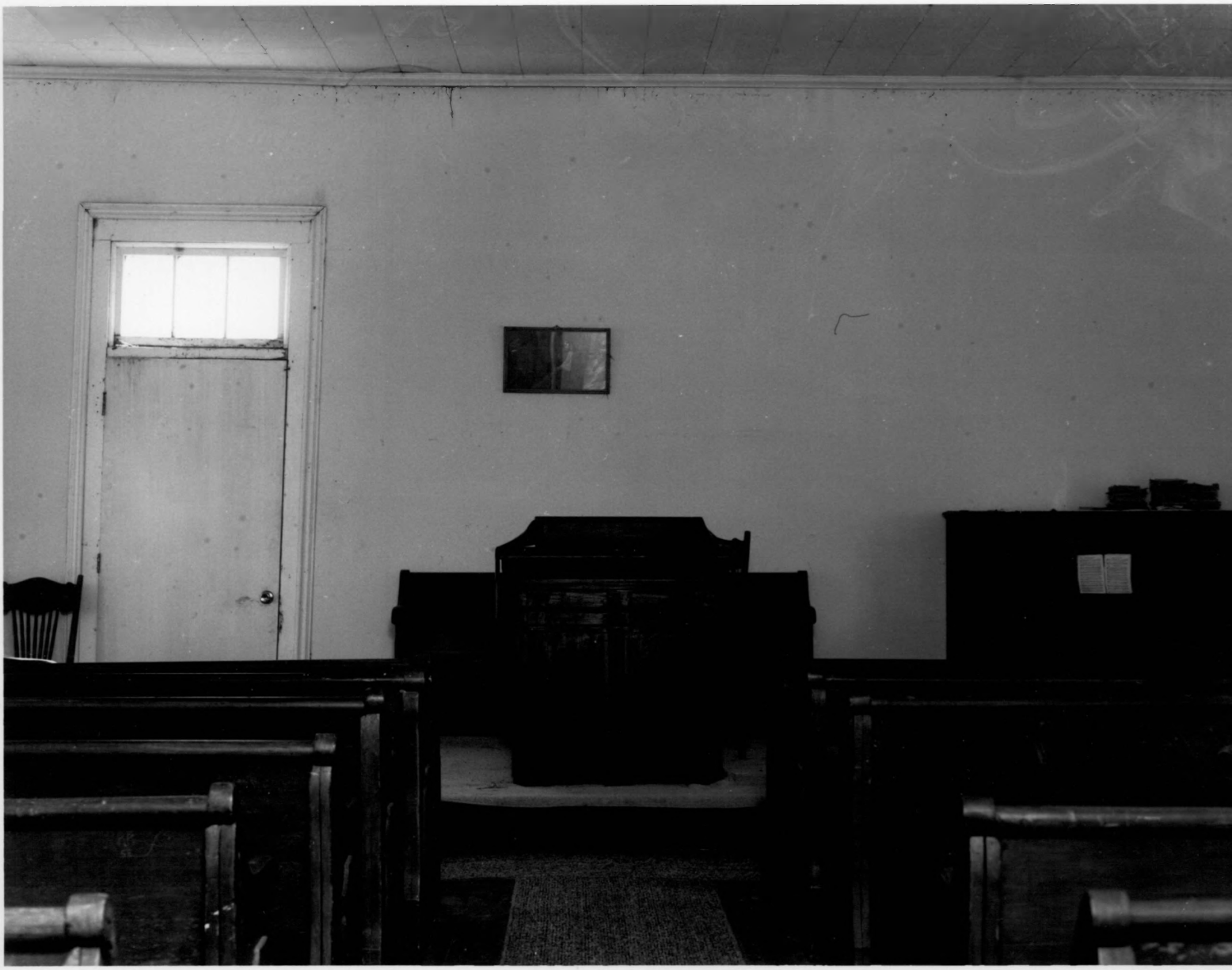

BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
1883

BOND'S CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
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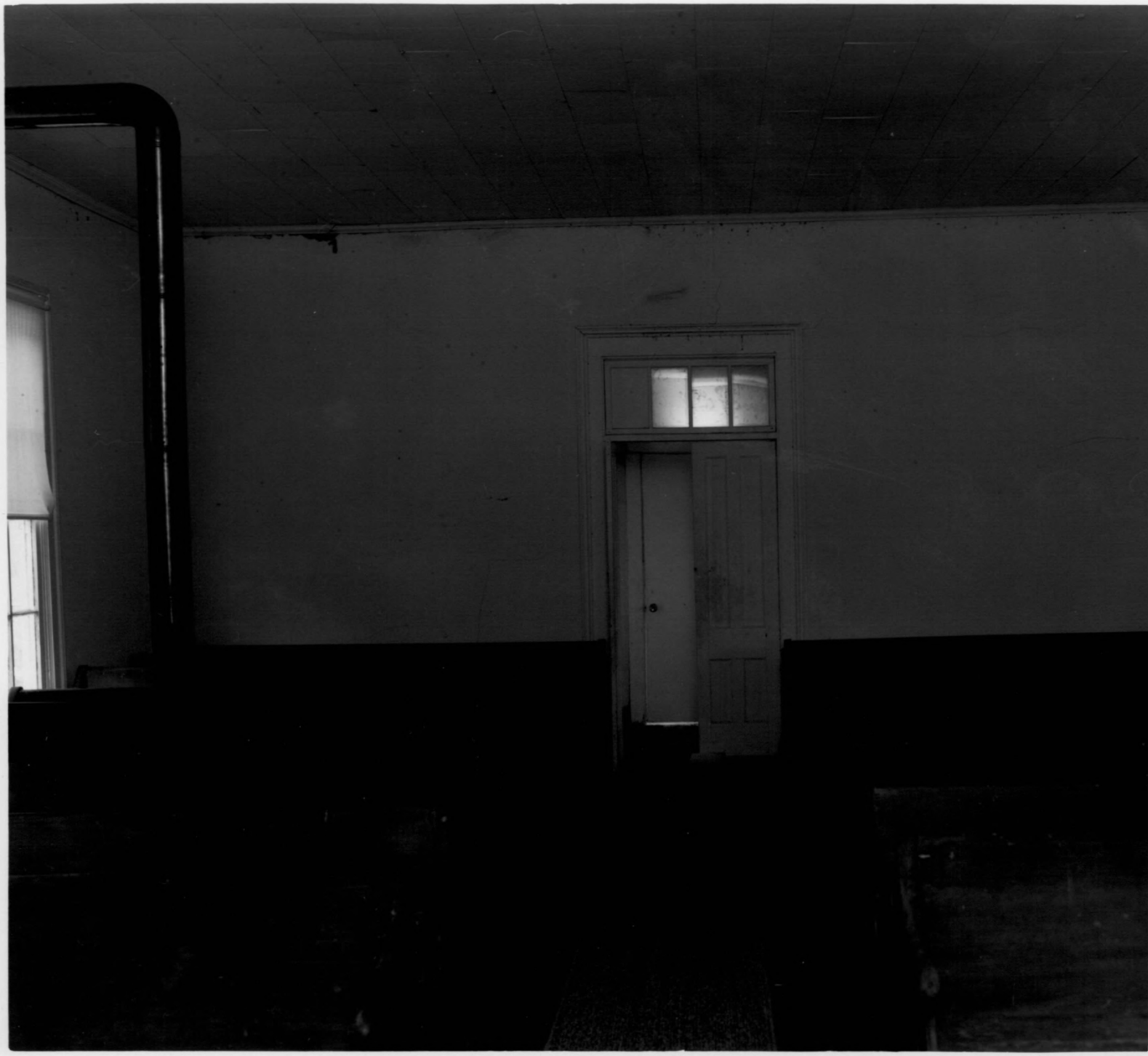
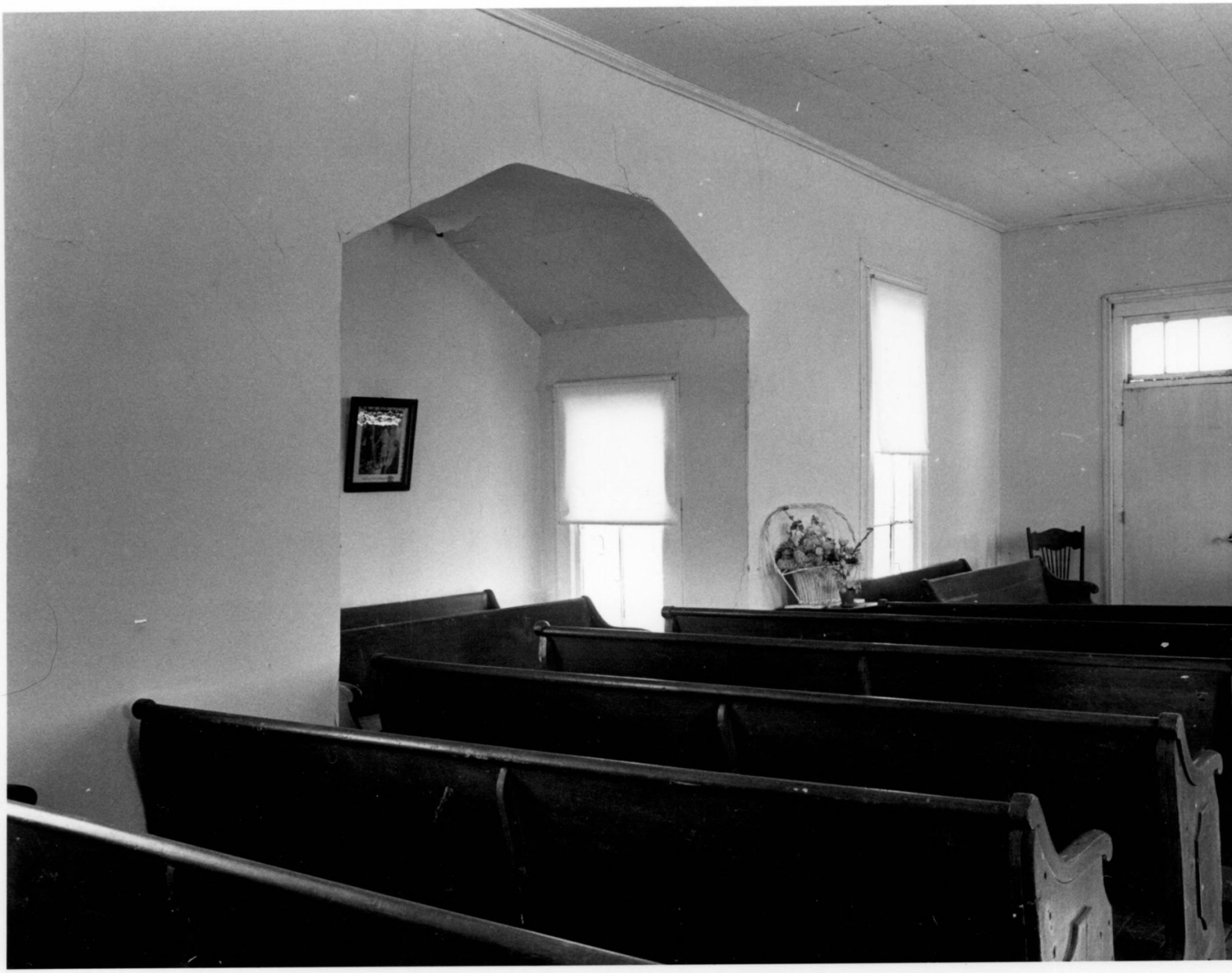
BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
HAYNIE



BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH

BONDS CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH
1840

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