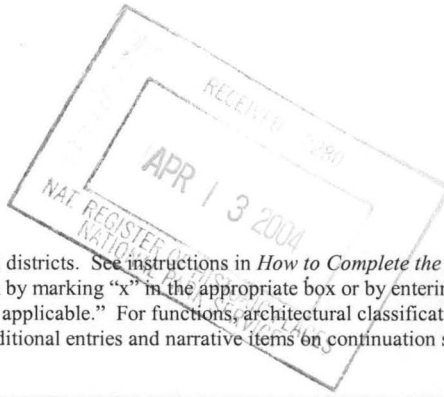


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Site #HS0155

2. Location

street & number 519 West Page Street

not for publication

city or town Malvern

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Hot Spring code 059 zip code 72104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Carol M. ...*

3/11/04

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

*Robert H. Beall*

Date of Action

5/26/04

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

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

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

Contributing                      Noncontributing

1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 519 West Page Street in Malvern, Hot Spring County, Arkansas, was built in 1916 in the late Gothic Revival style. The brick building, which was designed by Alfred W. Woods of Lincoln, Nebraska, has a raised basement level with the main sanctuary level above. A tower is located at the east corner of the building. The building is crowned by a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Many of the church's windows are art glass windows made and installed by the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

### ELABORATION

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is located at 519 West Page Street, four blocks from the main commercial area of Malvern. West Page Street is U.S. 67 leading southwest out of Malvern, meaning that the building occupies a prominent location in the community. The building was begun in 1916, and was designed by the architect Alfred W. Woods, in the late Gothic Revival style.

The building is faced with red brick and built on a raised basement level. The sanctuary level is above the basement level, and contains a balcony. A tower, which rises approximately one story above the balcony level, is located at the eastern corner of the building.

The building is crowned by a cross-gable roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles. The windows in the sanctuary are art glass made and installed by the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri, while the other windows in the building have clear glass.

### Front/Southeast Façade

The front façade of the building is divided into three main sections. The left section consists of a one-bay wide short tower. The ground floor of the section contains an entrance into the basement, with a white metal awning above. The main sanctuary level contains a wood-frame rectangular window with art glass and the balcony level of the sanctuary contains a wood-frame lancet window, also with art glass. The first three levels of the tower also contain brick pilasters at each corner. The top part of the tower consists of a decorative brick rectangular panel, and is crowned by decorative crenellation.

The central section of the façade on the basement level is mostly obscured by the staircase to the main entrance. The staircase consists of two flights that meet in the center before making a 90-degree turn to approach the entrance. On either side, the staircase is flanked by a small rectangular jalousie window with a segmental arch brick lintel above and brick sill below. The main sanctuary level of the central section is dominated by a large arched opening containing the recessed main entrance. The balcony level of the façade has a large circular wood-frame art glass window in the center that is flanked on each side by wood-frame art glass lancet windows. The gable peak of the façade contains two rectangular, louvered attic vents with a cross above.

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The right side of the façade is dominated by the second, taller tower. Like the left side tower, the ground floor of the section contains an entrance into the basement, with a white metal awning above. The main sanctuary level contains a wood-frame rectangular window with art glass and the balcony level of the sanctuary contains a wood-frame lancet window also with art glass. An electric neon sign hangs at the corner of the building at the bottom of the sanctuary level that says "Bethel AME Church." The first three levels of the tower also contain brick pilasters at each corner. The fourth level of the tower contains three lancet-shaped louvered openings. The top part of the tower consists of a decorative brick rectangular panel, and is crowned by decorative crenellation.

### Side/Southwest Façade

The side façade consists of two levels, the basement level and the sanctuary level. The left section of the façade consists of a doorway on the left with a segmental arch brick lintel above followed by a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window, also with a segmental arch brick lintel above. The sanctuary level of the section has three wood-frame lancet windows. The left two have clear glass with the center window being shorter than the others. The right window has art glass.

The next section moving to the right projects slightly from the rest of the façade. On the basement level are two wood-frame, two-over-two, double-hung windows with segmental arch brick lintels above. The sanctuary level has a large wood-frame three-panel wide lancet window with art glass. Above the lancet window is a brick gable with corbelling at the top.

The third section moving to the right is one bay wide and has a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window with a segmental arch brick lintel above on the basement level. The sanctuary level has an art glass wood-frame lancet window.

The last section of the side façade consists of the side of the shorter tower. The basement level of the tower has a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window with a segmental arch brick lintel above. The other levels of the tower are the same as the front façade, consisting of a wood-frame rectangular window with art glass at the sanctuary level, and at the balcony level of the sanctuary a wood-frame lancet window also with art glass. The first three levels of the tower also contain brick pilasters at each corner. The top part of the tower consists of a decorative brick rectangular panel, and is crowned by decorative crenellation.

### Rear/Northwest Façade

The basement level of the rear façade has three windows. The center window is a nine-pane, wood-framed window with a segmental arch brick lintel above and brick sill below. It is flanked on each side by a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window, also with a segmental arch brick lintel above and brick sill below.

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The sanctuary level of the rear façade has four windows across. The center two windows are tall, narrow, wood-frame lancet windows with clear glass that provide light to the sanctuary. They are flanked on each side by wider, wood-frame, two-pane, lancet windows, also with clear glass, that provide light into the rooms flanking the altar area.

The gable peak of the façade contains two rectangular, louvered attic vents.

### Side/Northeast Façade

Like the southwest façade, the northeast façade consists of two levels, the basement level and the sanctuary level. The right section of the façade on the basement level has two, two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung windows with segmental arch brick lintels above. The sanctuary level of the section has three wood-frame lancet windows. The right two have clear glass, and the left window has art glass.

The next section moving to the left projects slightly from the rest of the façade. On the basement level are two wood-frame, two-over-two, double-hung windows with segmental arch brick lintels above. The sanctuary level has a large wood-frame three-panel wide lancet window with art glass. Above the lancet window is a brick gable with corbelling at the top.

The third section moving to the left is one bay wide and has a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window with a segmental arch brick lintel above on the basement level. The sanctuary level has an art glass wood-frame lancet window.

The last section of the side façade consists of the side of the shorter tower. The basement level of the tower has a two-over-two, wood-frame, double-hung window with a segmental arch brick lintel above. The other levels of the tower are the same as the front façade, consisting of a wood-frame rectangular window with art glass at the sanctuary level, and at the balcony level of the sanctuary a wood-frame lancet window also with art glass. The first three levels of the tower also contain brick pilasters at each corner. The fourth level of the tower contains three lancet-shaped louvered openings. The top part of the tower consists of a decorative brick rectangular panel, and is crowned by decorative crenellation.

### Interior

The interior of the building is dominated by the sanctuary on the upper level while the lower level has the secondary spaces. The walls of the interior are plastered and painted, and the original woodwork is still in place throughout the sanctuary, including the pews and altar. In addition, the art glass windows still have the original wood frames. The original Hunter fans, which hang from the ceiling in the sanctuary, are still in place and operable.

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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### **INTEGRITY**

Today, the Bethel A. M. E. Church remains virtually unaltered since it was built. The original design and much of the historic fabric are intact. Although some of the interior furnishings have been removed or restored, the church building remains otherwise as it was when the doors closed about three years ago, and it remains a good example of an early twentieth-century example of the late Gothic Revival style.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture, Ethnic Heritage/Black, Religion

Period of Significance

1916-1954

Significant Dates

1916-1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Alfred W. Woods, Architect (Lincoln, Nebraska)
C. W. Hamans and M. C. Cullins, Builders

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded as St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1884, and has been a pillar in Malvern's African-American community ever since. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the religious life of Malvern's African-American community. The building, which was built in 1916, and designed by the noted church architect, Alfred W. Woods, of Lincoln, Nebraska, is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

### ELABORATION

St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in Malvern, Arkansas in 1884. It was first located on Moore's Hill, now known as Laurel Street, near the Hot Spring County Library. Rev. W. M. Stewart was assigned to organize the church. It would remain known as St. Luke until the congregation relocated to the West Page Street location in 1897.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries, the congregation grew fairly rapidly. In 1890, Rev. G. W. Grainer was assigned as pastor, and in 1897, Rev. A. W. Williams was assigned to St. Luke. Under Rev. Williams' leadership, the congregation decided to relocate the church to the present site at 512 West Page Street. A small frame church was erected at the site and named Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1903, Rev. S. P. Thompson became pastor of the church. A bell for the tower was purchased to call people to worship, and Rev. Thompson's name and the date 1903 were etched on the side. The bell, although silent, still hangs in the tower of the current building. In 1906, Rev. A. W. Williams built the first parsonage for the congregation, and the membership continued to grow under the leadership of Rev. B. G. Dawson who became pastor in 1909.

As the congregation entered the 1910s, it continued to grow under the highly capable pastors. In 1912, Rev. W. J. Baylum was assigned, and he held a highly spiritual revival that added many new memberships to the church. In 1914, Rev. John Wesley Stinson, of Atlanta, Georgia, was assigned to the pastorate of Bethel by the Rt. Rev. W. D. Chappelle, the presiding Bishop of the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.

In November 1915, Rev. Stinson was reassigned to Bethel in order to continue his pastorate. After his reassignment, Rev. Stinson first reorganized the auxiliaries and set the budget for the year. After the budget was established, the membership was then ready to consider building a new church. On the fourth Sunday of December 1915, a rally was held to pay off old debts. The rally enabled the church to pay off the piano and to clear the church of all indebtedness.

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Another rally was held the fourth Sunday of February 1916 following a meeting that was held to vote on the new church. The plan was made to build a two-story brick structure in the English Gothic style. A rally was planned asking each member to pay \$5. At the end of two months, the rally ended with \$500.00 in cash and \$300.00 worth of bricks donated by Brother Dan Bailey and the employees of the brick company. In addition, lumber was donated by the employees of the lumber company.

During the two months of rallies by the membership, Rev. Stinson worked on the design. On March 4, 1916, an Architect, J. A. Lankford, from Jacksonville, Florida was contacted. Lankford came to Malvern with his miniature front elevation and exhibited how the new church would look to the membership on Tuesday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed at this time that Lankford would make the plans and specifications and return them in a few days. Lankford was paid \$50.00, which he charged at this time. Lankford left Malvern and was supposed to send the plans, but from the time he left, the membership never heard from him again until his exhibits appeared at the General Conference in Philadelphia.

In April 1916 another architect, A. W. Woods from Lincoln, Nebraska, took the original plan the church had designed, a two-story English Gothic-style church, and completed the plans. Woods' plans ended up being \$100 cheaper than the original plan. Woods was known for designing churches, and approximately 100 churches were designed by the Woods Architectural Firm in Lincoln, Nebraska, during the time of his practice from 1885 until 1921. The majority of the more than 100 churches are in Minnesota, Montana, Kansas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Illinois, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Arkansas, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, North and South Dakota.

Mr. Woods was also known as "the world's greatest authority on the steel square," by his fellow architects. He was the inventor of the "Key to the Steel Square," having on one side a table of tangents and on the other a framing chart. This key is used in all of the English speaking countries of the world and it has been translated into German. It is the key to anything from framing to roofing that the square user desires to know. He also invented the standard foot decimal scale in 1921. Mr. Woods was associate editor of the *American Carpenter and Builders* from 1905-1920, and also wrote "Square Root Delineator in 1894," "Key to Steel Square in 1902," "Key to Master Steel Square in 1933," "Steel Square's Its Users in 1907 (Joint Authored)," and "Radford's Cyclopedia of Construction in 1909."<sup>1</sup>

During the construction in 1916, Bethel's membership was feeling the anxiety of World War I, and they were also influenced by the influenza epidemic of 1918. However, the congregation pulled together, and continued to work for the completion of the building. Many began helping by giving service in work, or by

<sup>1</sup> *Who's Who in Nebraska*, Nebraska Press Association, 1940, Sara Mullin Baldwin, ed., *Who's Who in Lincoln*, 1928, and *Lincoln Trade Review*, 22 November 1902, p.7.

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giving money they earned from picking cotton, digging potatoes, and doing laundry work. Some of the women worked together and bought bricks at ten cents each. One Sister Maxine Lee went over town and toured the neighborhood selling peanuts for a nickel a glass. Sister Lee sold them everywhere she went. One of the trustees of Bethel, Brother J. J. Tyler, mortgaged his home to help raise funds to build Bethel.

The membership raised money and materials the entire month by having a rally. The rally money was used to pay \$125 for the plan. By the fourth Sunday of April, the congregation had a total of 12,000 bricks and 2,000 feet of No. 1 flooring given by J. H. Jordan and Nat Anthony. R. A. Smith, J. J. Tyler, and H. Pool, members of the church, borrowed from R. P. Johnson, trustee, \$1,000 for twelve months of which the membership raised \$400. After all of this was done, it was explained to the membership that if everyone gave \$1 for six weeks, the congregation could pay for the basement of the new church.

At the same time that the congregation was working with Woods, C. W. Hamans, a contractor from Warren, Arkansas, was contacted. Mr. Hamans looked at the old building and grounds, the materials and plans and gave the membership an explanation of what was to happen when they would commence in building the new church.

The first Sunday in June 1916 the membership was given the date that work was to start on the new church. Some two weeks later, the third Sunday, the last service was held in the old building. While the church was being built, the membership held services in the Masonic Hall. The remains of the cornerstones were preserved and placed together in the east corner of the building. Some thought it was a destruction of a landmark while others viewed it as joy with heavy hearts.

Hamans was contractor and foreman for the construction of the new building, and men worked for \$5 a day. Hamans supervised not only the workers he hired, but also the men of the church who donated their time. J. H. Brandon, Perry Washington, William Wilson, and Joe Matlock were the masons. At this point, 20,000 bricks had been laid. To help with the completion of the building 60,000 bricks were bought from Clark Pressed Brick Company; 100 sacks of cement, 50 barrels of lime, 5 kegs of nails and other necessary materials needed from Cooper Hardware Company; 50 barrels of lime and 75 sacks of cement from Malvern Hardware Company; one car of sand from Southern Sand Company in Little Rock; \$190 of lumber from Arkansas Lumber Company; and \$50 of lumber from Wisconsin Lumber Company.

After two weeks, the corner of the building was set, and it was time to lay the Cornerstone. For this occasion, Bishop Connor, who was then the Supervising Bishop of the Twelfth Episcopal District, Dr. W. M. Byrd, president of Shorter College, and the most prestigious white men of Malvern were in attendance. In addition, on the occasion, \$350 was raised.

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Six weeks had passed since construction began. There were 75 members who paid \$1 a week for the entire six weeks, and the various clubs kept busy as well. A total of \$1,260 was raised. The labor for this period of time alone was \$999.52. The total amount spent so far on this church was \$5,050. On August 26, 1916, the last payment was made on the building to Edward Woods, the carpenter and Elmaurice Miller. The entrance to the basement of the church was also finished.

The West Arkansas Annual Conference was to be held at Bethel Malvern the next conference year in 1917. In light of plans for the annual conference, several months had passed. An effort was needed to get money from the banks and individuals with money to complete the new church. The stressful conditions of World War I made it very difficult to do anything, and the harmony and peace that had sustained the Bethel family was being destroyed. However, in May 1917, it was determined that the building would not be completed in time for the conference that year. Rev. Stinson sternly said, however, that "If I can preach every Sunday in this basement, and my people can worship here in all services, the members of the annual conference are not too good to worship here."

On June 12, 1917, the mortgage note, \$1,000, was due. The church had previously raised \$5,050. One of the church's officers, Pink Bailey, got the membership together and collected \$600 in cash. In the next three days, the membership had what they needed except \$50. Within an hour of the time, the \$50 was paid by Brother Tom Brandon to complete the note, and the mortgage was paid on June 11, 1917, a day ahead of schedule.

In September 1917, 12 barrels of lime and \$50 of plastering cement and the best plasterer in the country, J. C. Cox from Arkadelphia, Arkansas, was hired to plaster the walls of the building and to box the columns. The church was ready for the State of Arkansas Conference that was held in Malvern at a cost locally of \$115. The courthouse was used for free, and \$1000 was raised for education. At the close of this conference, Rev. Stinson was appointed for another year at Bethel.

The winter of 1917-1918 was very severe, and it was hard to keep something over the flat roof to protect the building. In May, the building program began again, and Bethel needed more money. The winter had brought its toll on the membership with no monies being donated, and in addition the banks in the city were not loaning any money.

An autobiography written by Rev. Stinson tells the following episode: "Rev. Stinson had to get the members back in the frame of mind to finish the church. The only thing Rev. Stinson said he could remember was a wealthy white man of this city (Malvern) spoke to him in April 1916 when the building was first started, 'What will your church cost?' Rev. Stinson told him, '16 or 17 thousand dollars.' The white man said, 'Stinson, don't you know Niggers don't need a fine church? Now, you have started on the hardest job of

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your life.' Then the white man added, 'You'll see. These white churches here are all in debt and some of them may never get out. The only folk here that have built churches, white or black, that had good sense were those Apostolic Niggers down here on that swamp.' Rev. Stinson waited for him to finish his statement, then, thanked him and walked away with a stronger determination than ever before to build a church in Malvern."<sup>2</sup>

That summer in 1918, the trustees agreed to borrow \$500 from R. F. Johnson, who was a trustee of the church, to place an order for the frames needed from North St. Louis Planning Mill Company who agreed to make and ship the frames to Malvern. When the members saw those massive frames being hauled through the streets of Malvern, they knew it was time to get back to work. The next two weeks, a rally produced \$500.50 by members agreeing again to pay \$5 and those who could not pay \$5, paid from \$3 to whatever they could afford. A church conference was called to get members to pay \$1 for 10 weeks, and they also agreed to this.

J. H. Brandon, a brick mason, was hired for sixty-two and one-half cents per hour. Mr. Brandon agreed to complete the plans as they were and to continue until the church was finished. They were paid through November 1918.

The mortgage note was once again due. The members paid \$1,000 to the Bank of Malvern after which they borrowed \$1,500 from the same bank to continue working on the church. After rallies, the members paid the workers and the note, which totaled \$1,300. Two weeks later, they raised another \$345.90 for the roofing shingles.

During the winter of 1918-1919, the influenza epidemic and the war closed the doors to the church for weeks. Twelve feet of the front of the church were not completed. In the meantime, the brick mason Brandon took another job, meaning that the work would not be completed. It was sad to announce that the annual conference scheduled for 1918 in Malvern was deferred because of the epidemic by Bishop Connor and re-scheduled for January 1, 1919, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

After the conference in January 1919, Rev. Stinson became ill for about two weeks. When Rev. Stinson was able to continue to supervise work on the church, he went to M. C. Cullins to view the plans. Cullins and the man who worked for him had worked for eighty-seven and one-half cents per hour, but agreed to work for the same rate that the previous mason had worked, sixty-two and one-half cents per hour. Cullins completed the masonry work in three weeks. In March 1919, the bell rang for at least thirty minutes to denote that the brickwork for Bethel African Methodist Church was completed.

<sup>2</sup> Rev. J. W. Stinson, D.D., *A Brief Sketch of My Work in Arkansas*, published by the author, date unknown, p. 41.

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It had been two years since the art glass for the church was selected and it was decided that Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri, would do the work. M. C. Cullins sent a man from Little Rock, Arkansas, to bid on finishing the building, but was outbid by D. G. Allen, a contractor from Malvern, to complete the church.

In order to help pay for the art glass windows, a rally was held in June 1919 that raised \$900. The money also helped to pay for the inscriptions to be placed on the glass. Allen was then notified that he could completely finish the church. September 1919 was the date set to move into the church, but the art glass company failed to produce the glass because of a steel strike. The strike delayed the completion of the glass until October. The glass company sent a glass specialist to install the glass, but the glass was still not there. After two weeks, the glass finally was shipped and installed.

The work on the new building continued until October 18, 1920, when the new building opened its doors at 11 a.m. Trustee R. P. Johnson presented the Rt. Rev. J. M. Connors, presiding bishop of the 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, keys to the building. Bishop Connors proceeded to unlock the doors and the members walked in.

The Honorable G. E. Mattison, mayor of the Malvern and general manager of the Arkansas Land & Lumber Company, who was in attendance, spoke, "This is a great day. Not for the colored people alone, but for the people of Malvern. I have watched with keen interest your progress which has been slow but sure. I express the sentiment of the people of Malvern, when I say that you have crowned yourself with a glory, which we are glad to honor." The manager of the Arkansas and Wisconsin Lumber Companies, A. B. Cook, was also present and spoke and donated \$100 towards the completion of the church. Mayor Mattison also donated \$100 saying, "This is our building if the colored people can't pay for it, we white people will." The next day, Sunday, at the evening services, 300 white people attended. The Saturday and Sunday collections of more than \$1,200 left \$3,500 to be paid on the church. The total cost of the church at this time was \$23,500 of which \$19,500 had been paid.<sup>3</sup>

Rev. Stinson served as pastor of Bethel for a total of five years before his pastorate ended in November 1920. However, his leadership of the congregation was immense, watching over the construction of the new church. By the time he left Bethel, the membership had grown to 300.

The congregation continued to thrive after Rev. Stinson left Bethel. In 1936, the second parsonage was built under the administration of Rev. W. M. Eason. In 1941, Rev. Frank Shaw was assigned to Bethel, and under his leadership, in February 1942, the debt was paid and the mortgage for the building was burned.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 51.

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Throughout its history, Bethel has had many dedicated members, and one of them was Brother Rufus Graham. During the 1940s, Brother Graham always saw to it that all money was paid. When he died, his wife donated the electric neon sign to the church in his honor.

Although the congregation of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has built a new building and no longer uses the building on West Page Street, it remains as an important part of the history of the congregation and of Malvern's African-American community. In addition, the design of Alfred W. Woods remains today an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded as St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1884, and has been a pillar in Malvern's African-American community ever since. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the religious life of Malvern's African-American community. The building, which was built in 1916, and designed by the noted church architect, Alfred W. Woods, of Lincoln, Nebraska, is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the late Gothic Revival style. It is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baldwin, Sara Mullin, ed., *Who's Who in Lincoln*, 1928.

*Lincoln Trade Review*, 22 November 1902

Records of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Stinson, Rev. J. W., D.D., *A Brief Sketch of My Work in Arkansas*, published by the author, date unknown.

*Who's Who in Nebraska*, Nebraska Press Association, 1940.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>516899</u>	<u>3801877</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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 Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date February 6, 2004  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**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 FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
street & number 1220 Carmichael Street, PO Box 262 telephone             
city or town Malvern state AR zip code 72104

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Hot Spring County, Arkansas  
County and State

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot Six (6) in Block Seventy-one (71), Reserved Addition of the City of Malvern, Arkansas, as shown by the recorded plat thereof.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

These are the original boundaries as deeded to the Bethel A. M. E. Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Hot Spring

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/04                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/04                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/27/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000496

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    5/26/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



BETHEL AME CHURCH  
HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR  
WENDY SCOTT  
APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
SOUTHEAST FACADE LOOKING NORTHWEST



BETHEL AME CHURCH

HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
SOUTHWEST FACADE LOOKING EAST



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTHWEST FACADE, LOOKING WEST



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTHEAST FACADE LOOKING SOUTHWEST



BETHEL A.M.E.  
CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF  
RUFUS GRAHAM

*Minister*  
Dr. Willie Grays Wynn  
*Asst. Minister*  
Rev. B. Anderson

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
NEON SIGN DETAIL LOOKING WEST



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

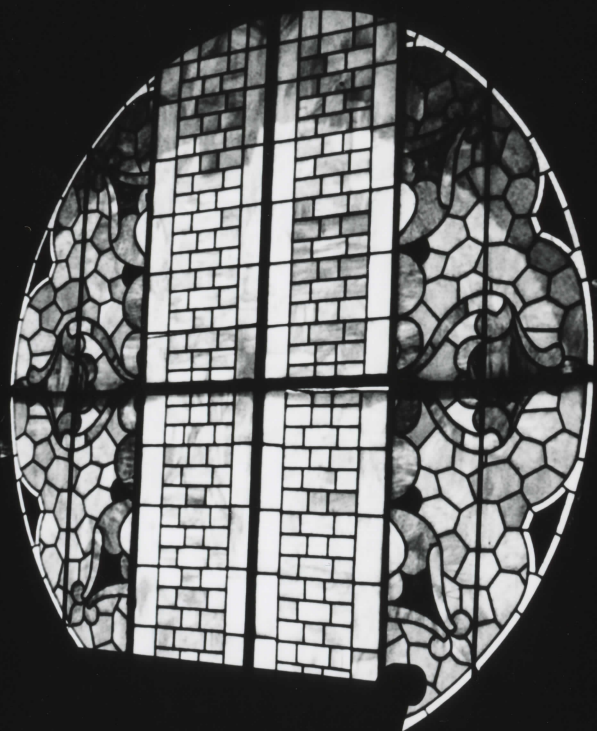
HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

SANCTUARY INTERIOR LOOKING NORTHWEST

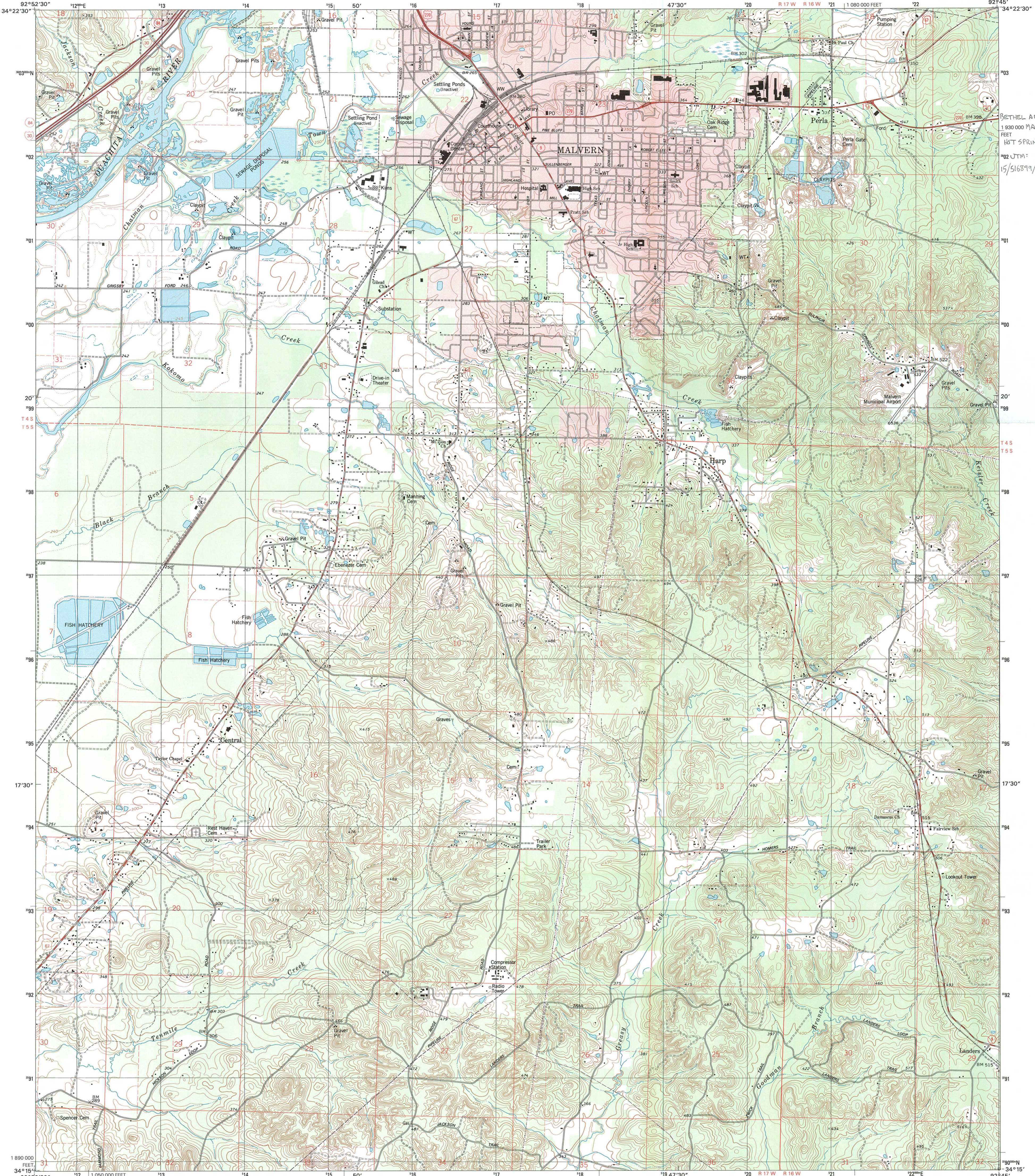


BETHEL AME CHURCH  
HOT SPRING COUNTY, AR

WENDY SCOTT

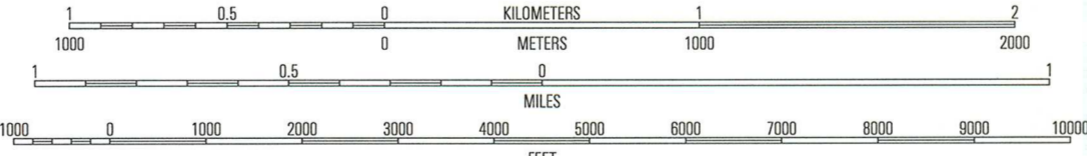
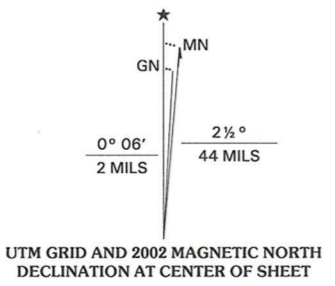
APRIL 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH  
1 930 000 MALVERN,  
FEET  
HOT SPRING COUNTY  
UTM:  
15/516399/3801877

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Arkansas Geological Commission  
Topography compiled 1975. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 2000 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1976. Boundaries current as of 2002  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15 10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software  
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1976



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1989  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

1	2	3	1 Lake Catherine
4	5	6	2 Malvern North
7	8	9	3 Traskwood
			4 Social Hill
			5 Popen
			6 Donaldson
			7 Round Hill
			8 Willow

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MALVERN SOUTH, AR  
2000  
NIMA 7452 IV SE-SERIES V884





# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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April 8, 2004

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church – Malvern, Hot  
Spring County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

