

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 any 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 Shiloh Methodist Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Blackstock Road not for publication  
city or town Inman vicinity X  
state South Carolina code SC county Spartanburg code 083 zip code 29349

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally X statewide    locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Mary W. Edmonds Date 12/17/04  
Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
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 commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

|  | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <u>X</u> entered in the National Register    |                         | <u>2/2/05</u>  |
| <u>  </u> See continuation sheet.            |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> determined eligible for the        |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> National Register                  |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> See continuation sheet.            |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> determined not eligible for the    |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> National Register                  |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> removed from the National Register |                         |                |
| <u>  </u> other (explain):                   |                         |                |

Shiloh Methodist Church  
Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing

Noncontributing

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| <u>1</u> |          |
| <u>1</u> |          |
|          |          |
| <u>2</u> | <u>0</u> |

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register 0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion  
Funerary

Subcategory: Religious Facility  
Cemetery

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Religion  
Funerary

Subcategory: Religious Facility  
Cemetery

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| foundation | <u>Rock</u>         |
| walls      | <u>Weatherboard</u> |
| roof       | <u>Asphalt</u>      |
| other      |                     |

### Narrative Description

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

Shiloh Methodist Church  
Name of Property

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County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☒ 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.  
☒ 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

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

- ☒ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  
☐ b removed from its original location.  
☐ c a birthplace or a 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Religion

### Period of Significance

ca. 1825-1915

### Significant Dates

ca. 1825-1830, 1915

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☒ Other  
Name of repository:  
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History,  
Columbia

Shiloh Methodist Church  
Name of Property

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 3 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

1 17 401002 3876401

3 17 401199 3876239

2 17 401189 3876376

4 17 400983 3876239

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 Floride M. Calvert, with the assistance of the Friends of Shiloh Committee and the SHPO Staff  
organization Friends of Shiloh Committee, Inman United Methodist Church date 27 August 2004  
street & number 27 Bishop Street, P.O. Box 726 telephone (864) 472-7979  
city or town Inman state S.C. zip code 29349

## 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Inman United Methodist Church  
street & number 27 Bishop Street telephone (864) 472-6123  
city or town Inman state S.C. zip code 29349

**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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Shiloh Methodist Church  
Name of Property  
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Located within a remarkably intact rural setting, Shiloh Methodist Church is a simple, unadorned, one-room, rectangular building constructed in a common or vernacular meeting house form and clad in whitewashed, horizontally-applied drop or German siding. The rear of the building features a small, three-sided polygonal bay, which is centered on the building, provides additional interior space at the chancel area, and imitates the apse on churches of antiquity. The building sits upon its original foundation of undressed, mortared, stacked, random stone, some of which measure over 54" wide. The gable-front roof is steeply pitched, and was originally covered with wood shakes that have since been overlain with asphalt shingles. The original rough-hewn roof rafters, some of which still have bark on them, are intact. Exposed rafter extensions at the eaves are carved or fashioned to have a bird's mouth shape, the only architectural ornamentation on the building. Purlins on each gable end are exposed as well.

The three-bay wide façade consists of a central double-leaf entrance with flanking windows. The eight windows are actually cased openings with no sashes and are protected by single-leaf battened shutters, composed of five vertically-arranged boards fastened together by an upper and lower horizontally applied rails or battens on the interior. Shutter hardware appears to be non-original steel strap hinges with hook and screw eye locking. Doors are constructed of multiple vertically-arranged boards with three, interior, applied, horizontal rails, similar to the shutters. The front door is a four-foot, six inch wide double-leaf door, and the side door is single. There are reports that a left side door existed, but was closed off at some point in the past. Steps leading up to the doors are poured concrete and are not original.

The interior walls are whitewashed, 11¼" wide, horizontal boards. The existing whitewashed, board and batten ceiling is not original and is reported to have been installed to prevent birds from nesting in the rafters. The original ceiling was apparently replaced in more recent years. The existing floor material is unfinished, narrow board, tongue-and-groove pine, which is not original. A pair of 7¼" x 7¼" trimmed wood posts occur 48" apart in the center of the building, and apparently help support the ceiling joists and roof structure. A short vertical, steel strap is visible at the exterior of the wall eave top plate in the same location as the posts, which would seem to indicate some sort of horizontal tie bar spanning across the building here.

The building has never been wired for electricity or electrical lighting. Candles were used to light the interior space and were placed on simple, wall-mounted, wooden candleholders; these are still in place, and at least some are original. The original, eleven foot-long, unfinished pews are still in the building and are of two different designs. Most pews are constructed with backs and seats created from up to fifteen-inch wide pine planks, fastened to solid wood end panels by wedged, mortise and tenon joints. A six-inch high, raised chancel platform with rounded corners occurs at the front of the church, along with a twenty-eight inch high picket altar or communion rail. A crude, built-in pulpit is located at center and leading edge of an additional six inch high platform that forms a hexagon plan shape within the three-sided polygonal bay or apse. The polygonal bay creates, on the interior of the building, a ten-foot wide niche with canted wall and ceiling planes.

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Shiloh Methodist Church  
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The church cemetery occupies the back portion of the three-acre lot. The grave markers in the cemetery, dating from 1816 to 2004, are a mixture of granite headstones, still in good condition, old markers with barely-legible lettering, and some with unreadable letters even by tracing the stones; many graves are marked by plain field stones. The Friends of Shiloh Committee, with the assistance of a land surveyor, determined by using a probe that remains are present in many of the spots marked by field stones. These graves are now also marked with plain granite stones.

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Shiloh Methodist Church, built between 1825 and 1830, is significant as a particularly intact example of the vernacular meeting house form of ecclesiastical architecture common in rural churches in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It is the earliest surviving church sanctuary in Spartanburg County and one of the earliest in the South Carolina upcountry. Its congregation, founded shortly after the American Revolution, is the "mother church" of several Methodist churches in the area and churches of other denominations as well. The church's simplicity of form and materials, as well as its strikingly rural and pastoral setting, has been preserved for more than 175 years.

Tradition has it that prior to construction of its first permanent church the congregation met as a group as early as 1786 in a nearby brush arbor and later in camp meetings. The first preachers at the camp meetings were Revs. John Mason and Thomas Davis, assigned to the Broad River Circuit (including current Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Greenville, Newberry, Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties in 1787.

Shiloh was part of the Broad River Circuit 1785-1802, the Saluda Circuit 1802-1805, and the Enoree Circuit 1805-1833. The original sanctuary built on this site was of hand-hewn logs. After this building burned, the present sanctuary was constructed to replace it.

The three-acre site, which the deed describes as "Shiloh meeting house on Lawson Fork," was donated to the congregation through its trustees by Adam Gramling, Jr., in 1836. Trustees during the 1830s, soon after this church was built, included William Blackburn, William Brooks, Enoch Duncan, Walter Farrow, Adam Gramling Sr., John Gramling, Ruben Gramling, Hosea Kennedy, and Asa Waldrop.

Shiloh Methodist Church was a circuit church for most of its existence, dependent on a minister traveling a circuit to preach at several churches. About 1915, the last fourteen members of the congregation transferred their membership to Inman Methodist Church, now Inman United Methodist Church, which owns the historic church and cemetery.

Though Shiloh Methodist Church has been inactive since 1915, "Homecoming" services are held each year on the third Sunday of May and Watchnight services are held each year.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spartanburg County Deed Book 5, Page 363, Spartanburg County Register of Mesne Conveyance, Spartanburg, S.C.; Samuel M. Green, *An Historical Outline of Greenville Circuit, S.C. Conference M.E. Ch., South... at the Request of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Conference, 1884* (Greenville, S.C.: Hoyt & Keys, Book and Job Printers, 1884); A.M. Chreitzberg, *Early Methodism in the Carolinas* (Nashville: Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1897), p. 203; Spartanburg Unit of the Writers' Program of the Works Project Administration, *A History of Spartanburg County* (Spartanburg, S.C.: Band & White, 1940), p. 87; Jimmie Lou Bishop Brown, *The Early History of Inman, South Carolina* (Greenwood, S.C.: Bagpipe Press, 1983), pp. 146-48; James Walton Lawrence, Sr., *Hogback Country* (Landrum, S.C.: The News Leader, 1982), p. 132; Anonymous, "History of Shiloh Methodist Church," unpublished typescript, undated but ca. 1967, Shiloh Methodist Church Files, Inman United Methodist Church, Inman, S.C.; JoAnne Perry, Interview with Asbury Franklin ("Bub") Blackwell (1906-1993), Inman vicinity, 1992; cassette recordings in the Shiloh Methodist Church Files, Inman United Methodist Church, Inman, S.C.

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REFERENCES

- Anonymous. "History of Shiloh Methodist Church." Unpublished typescript, undated but after 1967. Shiloh Methodist Church Files, Inman United Methodist Church, Inman, S.C.
- Brown, Jimmie Lou Bishop. *The Early History of Inman, South Carolina*. Greenwood, S.C.: Bagpipe Press, 1983.
- Chreitzberg, A.M. *Early Methodism in the Carolinas. Prepared at the Request of the South Carolina Conference*. Nashville: Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1897.
- Green, Samuel M. *An Historical Outline of Greenville Circuit, S.C. Conference, M.E. Ch., South, by Rev. Samuel M. Green, at the Request of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Conference, 1884*. Greenville, S.C.: Hoyt & Keys, Book and Job Printers, 1884.
- Lawrence, James Walton, Sr. *Hogback Country*. Landrum, S.C.: The News Leader, 1982.
- Perry, JoAnne. Interview with Asbury Franklin ("Bub") Blackwell (1906-1993), Inman vicinity, 1992; cassette recordings in the Shiloh Methodist Church file, Inman United Methodist Church, Inman, S.C.
- Spartanburg Unit of the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration. *A History of Spartanburg County*. American Guide Series (Illustrated). Spartanburg, S.C.: Band & White, 1940.



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Name of Property  
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying plat marked "Property of Shiloh Methodist Church," dated October 22, 1958, and drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is the three-acre parcel owned by the Inman United Methodist Church and historically associated with Shiloh Methodist Church, including the historic sanctuary and cemetery.

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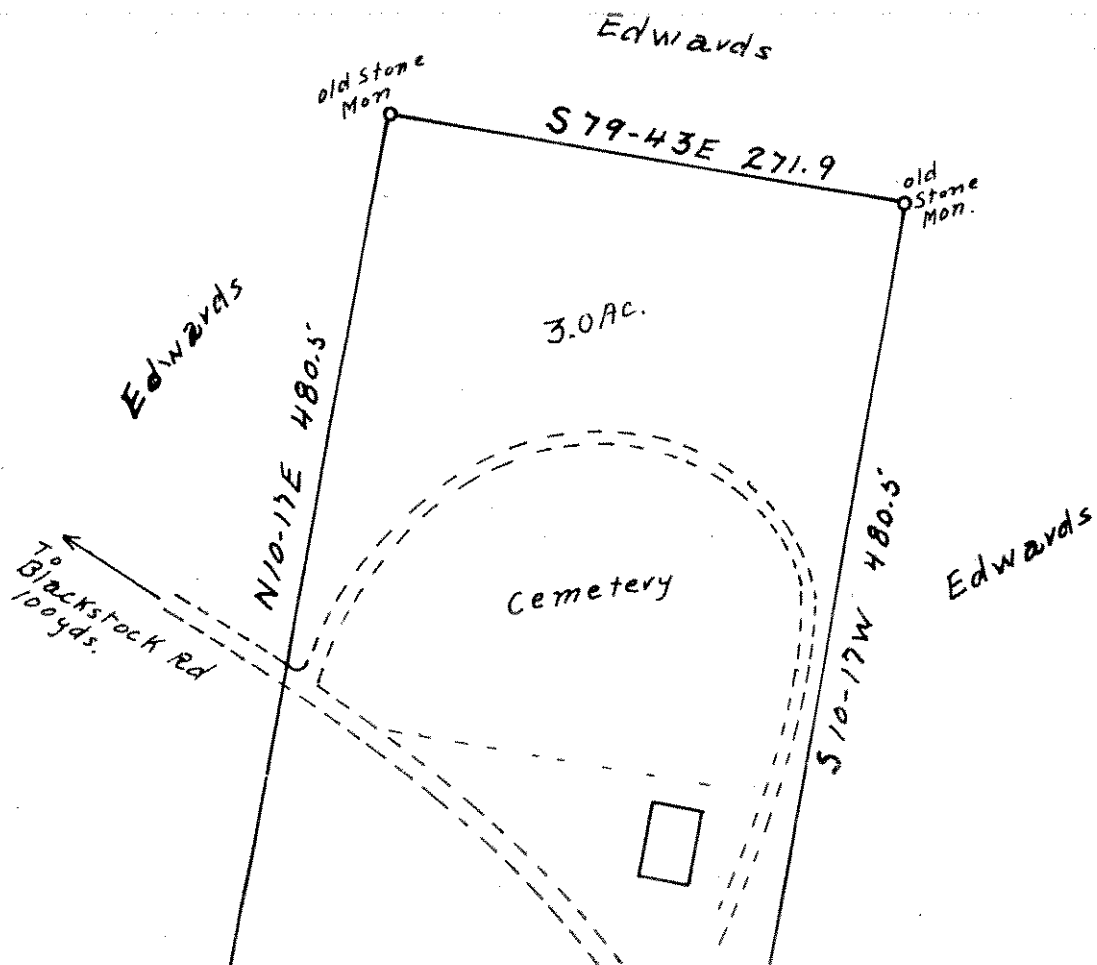
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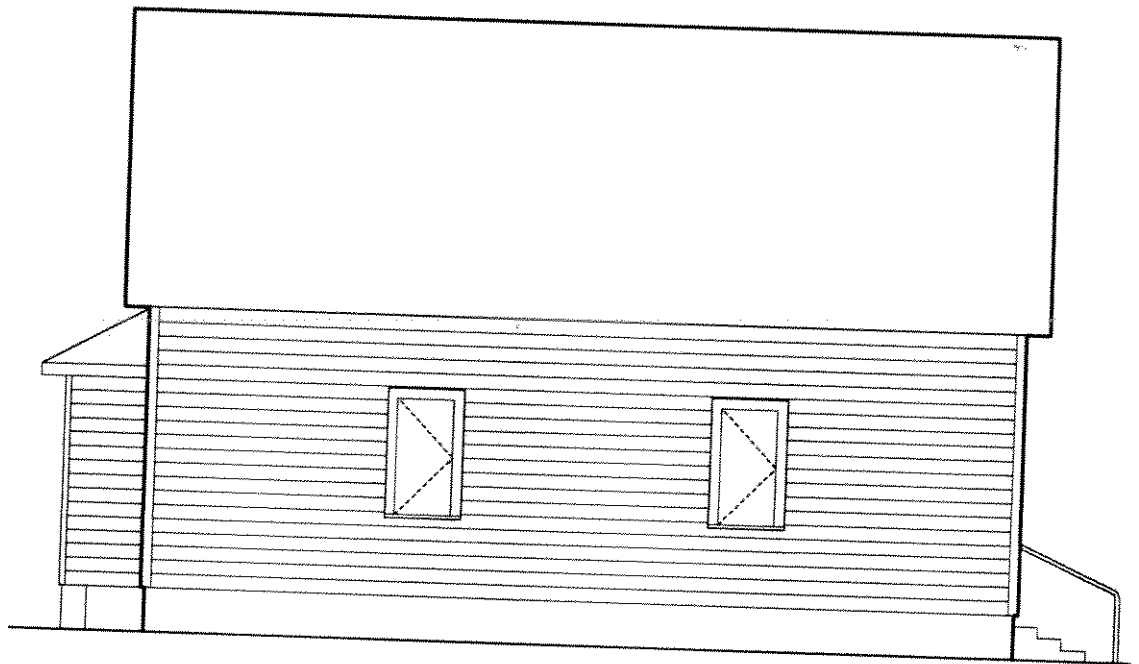
Name of Property: Shiloh Methodist Church  
Location of Property: Blackstock Road, Inman vicinity  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Rick Ritz  
Date of Photographs: August 25, 2004  
Location of Original  
Negatives: Inman United Methodist Church, Inman, S.C.

1. Facade
2. Facade and South Carolina Historical Marker
3. Setting, view from Blackstock Road
4. West entrance
5. Rear elevation, with cemetery in foreground
6. Rock foundation
7. Interior view from front door
8. Altar
9. Altar pew and bench
10. Pews
11. Side view of pews
12. Candle holders
13. Cemetery

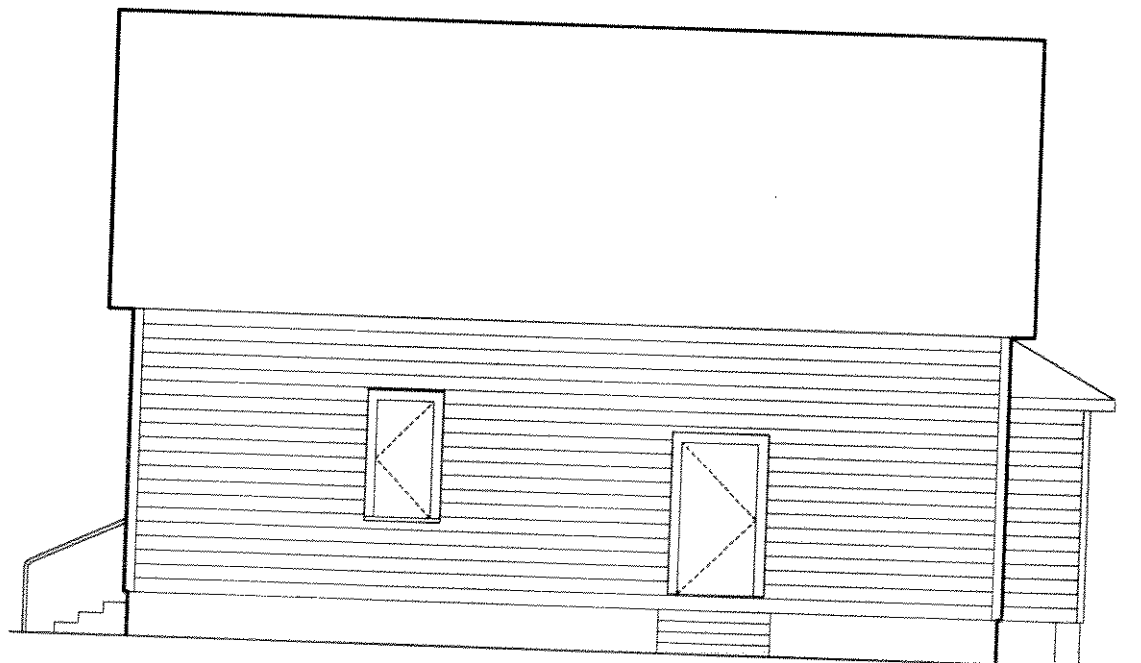
See Deed Book 5B P108





**WEST ELEVATION**

SCALE:  $1/8" = 1'-0"$

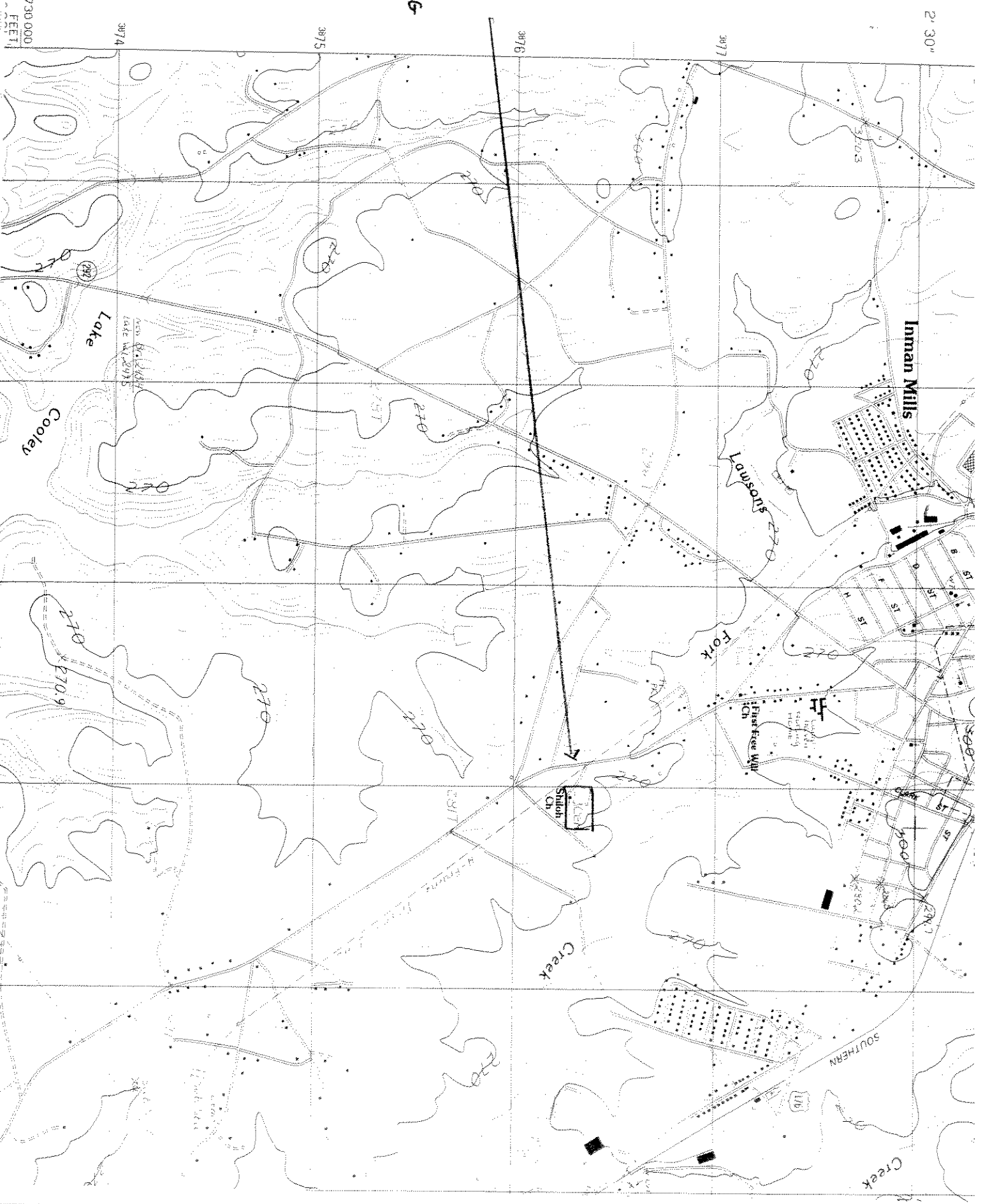


**EAST ELEVATION**

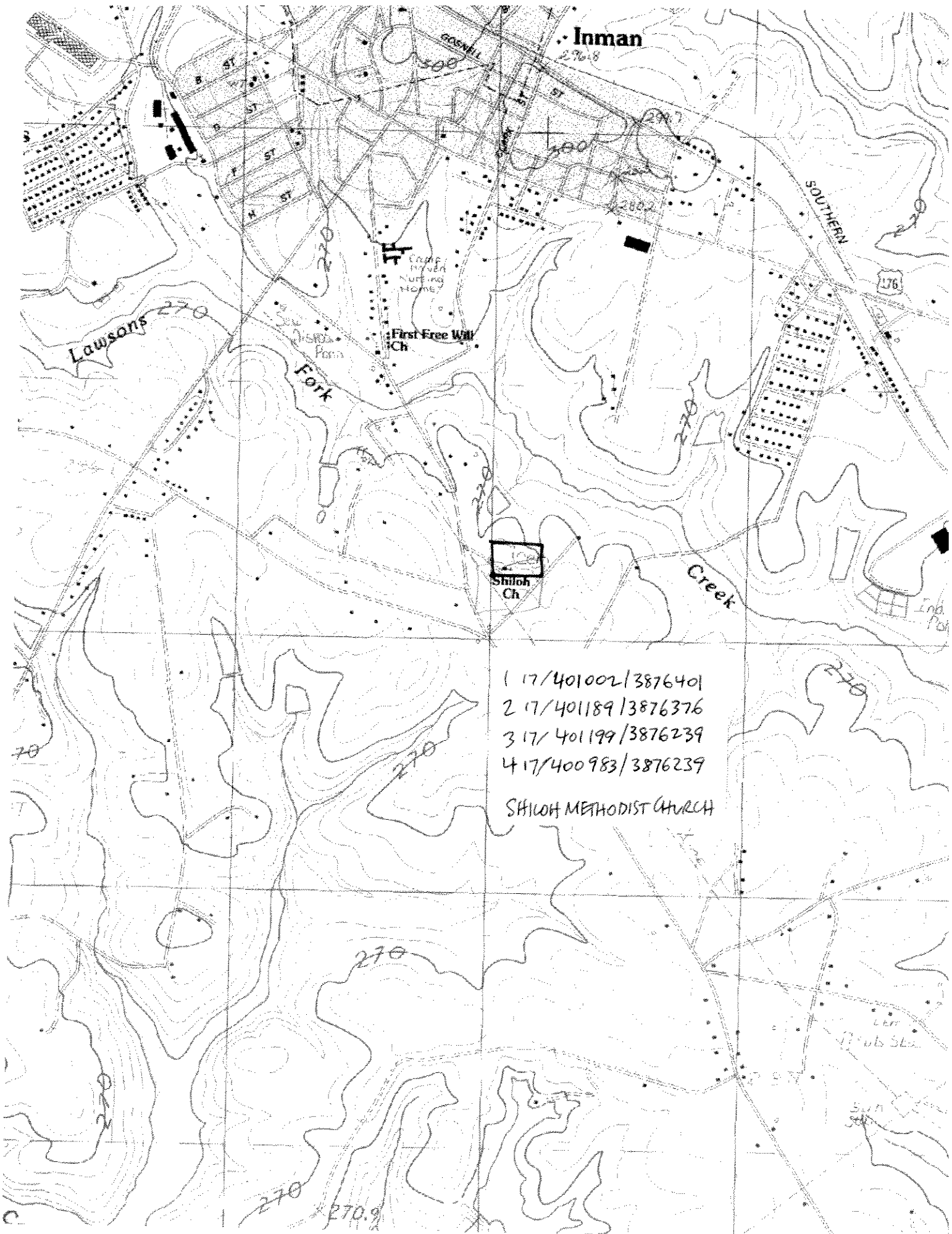
SCALE:  $1/8" = 1'-0"$

**SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH**  
**BLACKSTOCK ROAD, INMAN SOUTH CAROLINA**  
 drawn by Douglas R. Hurlbert, Architect September 20, 2000

SHILOH  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
SPARTANBURG  
Co., S.C.



730,000  
FEET



- 1 17/401002/3876401
- 2 17/401189/3876376
- 3 17/401199/3876239
- 4 17/400983/3876239

SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH