

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property AMBROSE CHAPEL

historic name: Ambrose Chapel
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Winchester Grade Road not for publication: N/A
city/town: Stotlers Crossroads vicinity: X
state: WV county: Morgan code: 065 zip code: 25411

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.

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of Certifying Official

10/8/98
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Date

Ambrose Chapel
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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
_____ 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): _____	_____	_____

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 in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____ 1 _____		buildings
_____ 1 _____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
_____ 2 _____	_____ 0 _____	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

RELIGION: Church and Cemetery

Current Functions

Vacant: Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Vernacular

Materials

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Wood
Roof: Metal

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheets.)

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.)

 x **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.

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

☐ **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.

Areas of Significance

Military

Architecture

RELIGION

Period of Significance

~~1850-1920~~

1839

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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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):

☐ 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 737975 4378870
Zone Easting Northing

Stotlers Crossroads Quad Map

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Ambrose Chapel
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Brent Sherrard, with Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: June 26, 1998

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Phone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

Name: Brent and Sonjia Sherrard

Street & Number: 702 B Thomas Lane

Telephone: 304/262-4338

City or Town: Martinsburg

State: WV

Zip: 25401

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ambrose Chapel
Name of Property

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Ambrose Chapel sits on a hill surrounded by approximately 400 acres of pastures and woodland. The church is bordered on three sides by large pastures and on the fourth side by the Winchester Grade Road. The property is enclosed by wire and wood fences which mark the property boundaries and protect the grounds from grazing cattle.

Within the church grounds are numerous trees. The most striking is a large oak tree which sits at the highest point on the property. The estimated age of the tree is over 200 years. Numerous other hardwoods are located within the boundaries. Several cedar trees are located among the tombstones, with one tree being over 40 feet in height. Late 19th century plantings such as Yucca plants are located on the grounds along with roses, crape myrtle, and lillies.

Church 1851 Contributing Building

1 ½ story rectangular church with hewn log framing, stone foundation, and metal roof. The southeast entrance is 2 bays with wood siding. The west and east sides of the church are identical with three 6/6 double-hung sash windows and wood siding. The rear, or northwest facade, of the church has two 6/6 double-hung sash original windows, wood siding, and a small 10' x 30" sign reading "Ambrose Chapel." Original shutters exist for the church, but are currently stored inside the building.

The interior of the church has wood plank flooring, the lower 1/3 of the walls are wood paneled while the upper 2/3 of the walls are plaster with traces of paper. The ceiling is tongue and groove pine. The wooden pulpit is centered between the two windows on the northwest facade and is surrounded by a wooden railing. Twenty-two original pews still exist within the church. Wooden light boxes were added above the windows along the west and east walls, but plans call for these to be removed. An original ladder is on the southeast wall for the entrance to the attic. A wooden cross hangs on the northwest wall above the pulpit.

Cemetery Contributing Site

The cemetery is located on approximately one acre of ground. Documentation has over 101 names, with some burials going unmarked or the stone being illegible. Dates of burials range from the mid-19th century to roughly 1920. While some stones are old creek stones that can no longer be read, others are sandstone or marble. Carved designs and symbols include roses, willows, hands pointing up, hands shaking with one finger pointing, doves with branches and gates of heaven.

Ambrose Chapel is a small country church and cemetery dating to the mid-19th century. The building reflects its original construction and materials.

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Ambrose Chapel Morgan County, WV
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The land for the free meeting house and cemetery was donated in the 1790s, when the church was started by the United Brethren in Christ. The church and cemetery are significant under Criteria A for Military, and Criteria C for Architecture. Ambrose Chapel was used as a parish church during the period of 1851 to 1920.

In 1772, William Henry Ambrose left Frederick County, Maryland, and purchased approximately 400 acres near the forks of Sleepy Creek in what was then Berkeley County, Virginia (now Morgan County, WV). William Henry and his son William Hanby were both early preachers of the United Brethren in Christ Church. They were two of the first 100 licensed or ordained preachers of the United Brethren in Christ faith. In 1789, the first formal conference was founded becoming the first church born on American soil.

In the 1790s William Henry Ambrose divided his land among his children and set aside one acre for a "Free Meeting House" and cemetery. Builders of the church were members of the United Brethren faith, but the church was free for use by all who preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. Circuit riders from the Albrights, United Brethren in Christ, and Methodists preached at Ambrose Chapel one of the early rural churches in the area.

During the early to mid-1800s Ambrose Chapel became strictly a Methodist Church. In 1845, Mathias Ambrose, jr., grandson of William Henry Ambrose, and Issac Michael in partnership purchased the original 400 acres previously owned by William Henry Ambrose (deceased), and then divided it. With this division Issac Michael deeded another small parcel of land, adjacent to the original acre, to the Methodist Episcopal Church and trustees.

In 1851, a new church was erected at a cost of \$287.30 in cash and generous donations of materials and labor. The church has a two door facade, which is different from other churches in Morgan county. However, this style was popular in both Methodist, and United Brethren denominations and may be similar to the previous church. The interior has plaster walls and a tongue and groove pine ceiling. There is a circular chandelier in the center of the room with a star in its center.

Burials in the cemetery date from roughly 1839 to 1950s. Among the cemetery are the names of many of the early trustees, and church members including the Ambrose family. While some of the stones appear to be creek stones and are hard to read; some have very fine workmanship. These headstones are sandstone and marble and have designs often in reset circles, of roses, doves, heavenly gates, willows, and a variety of hands shaking (which symbolize devotion), and hands pointing the way to heaven. The cemetery is laid out in rows with the bodies laid out behind the stones. Many plots do have small plain foot stones.

The church was used during the Civil War as a military hospital for Confederate soldiers. As cited in WARM SPRING ECHOS, and other books for the Bath Campaign, Stonewall Jackson marched his troops past the chapel while on the move from Winchester to Berkeley Springs and used the church as a military hospital for the wounded. Skirmishes had occurred nearby in and around Berkeley Springs and Hancock, Maryland, near New Years 1862. On his way to Romney,

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Stonewall Jackson's men marched from Berkeley Springs to Unger's Store at a nearby crossroads where they camped for a time.

Summary:

Ambrose Chapel is a rural county church in Morgan County which has been unchanged over time. The frame building construction represents the period of the 1850s. The building served the community as a short term military hospital during the Civil War during local fighting. The cemetery was established by the 1830s, and served the community.

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Bibliography

Ambrose, Cecil. AMBROSE FAMILY HISTORY. 9 Vols. Berkeley Springs, WV: 1980.

Baylor, George. BULL RUN TO BULL RUN. Published by George Baylor, 1900, pp 31-34.

Berkeley County Records, Deed Book 1

Casler, John O. FOUR YEARS IN THE STONEWALL BRIGADE. Morningside Bookshop, 1971, pp. 62-64.

Douglas, Henry Kyd. I RODE WITH STONEWALL. The University of North Carolina Press, 1940. Pp. 20-25.

Morgan County Records
Deed Book 4, page 166
Deed Book 5, page 262

Morgan County Historical Society. GRAVEYARD HISTORY OF MORGAN COUNTY. Vol. 1, Berkeley Springs, WV: 1980

Morgan County Tax Plat Book

Newbraugh, Frederick T. WARM SPRINGS ECHOES. 3 Vols. Berkeley Springs, WV: Morgan Messenger, 1975.

Robertson, James I. Jr. THE STONEWALL BRIGADE. Louisiana State University Press, pp. 31-34.

Interview with Margie Ours, (daughter of Cecil Ambrose), by Brent and Sonjia Sherrard, Berkeley Springs, WV. 1995-1998.

"Plan Restoration Ambrose Chapel in Morgan County." MARTINSBURG JOURNAL. 5 August 1953, p. 12.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Original acre deeded by William Henry Ambrose in 1790s. Outlined on accompanying tax map.

Additional half acre parcel deeded in 1851:

Beginning at a stone set in the north line of an acre of land reserved in a deed from Mathias Ambrose to Isaac Michael, for a free Meeting House and Grave Yard; thence leaving it N 28 W 40 feet to a stone; thence S 08 E 30 feet to a stone; thence S 28 E 40 feet to a stone in said line; thence with line N 08 W 30 feet to the beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The original boundary for the church and part of the cemetery was deeded by the owner in the 1790s. The original deed was lost during local fighting the Civil War. The property is outlined on accompanying tax parcel map. The additional parcel of 1851. is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Morgan County, WV, in Deed Book 5, page 252.

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Name Ambrose Chapel
Address Winchester Grade Road
Town Stotlers Crossroads, WV
County Morgan County

Photographer: Brent Sherrard

Date: May 1998

Negatives: Brent Sherrard

Photo 1 Front facade of church, and east elevation
Camera facing

Photo 2 Rear and west elevation
Camera facing

Photo 3 Overview of site, church and cemetery
Camera facing

Photo 4 Overview of site, church and cemetery
Camera facing

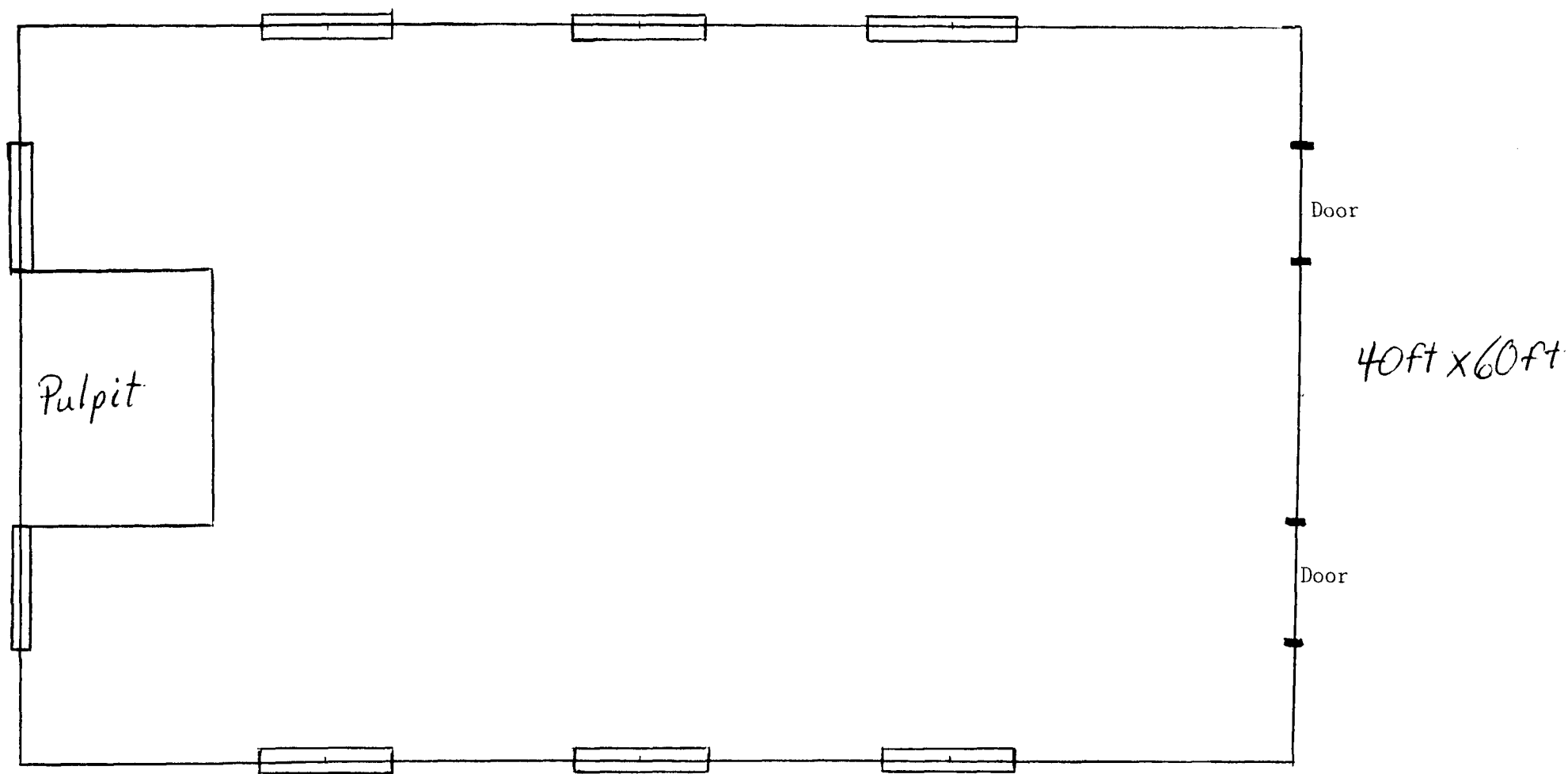
Photo 5 Overview of cemetery
Camera facing

Photo 6 View to south of property
Camera facing south

Photo 7 Interior of church, altar and pulpit
Camera facing

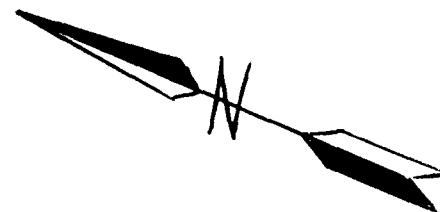
Photo 8 Interior of church, rear doors
Camera facing

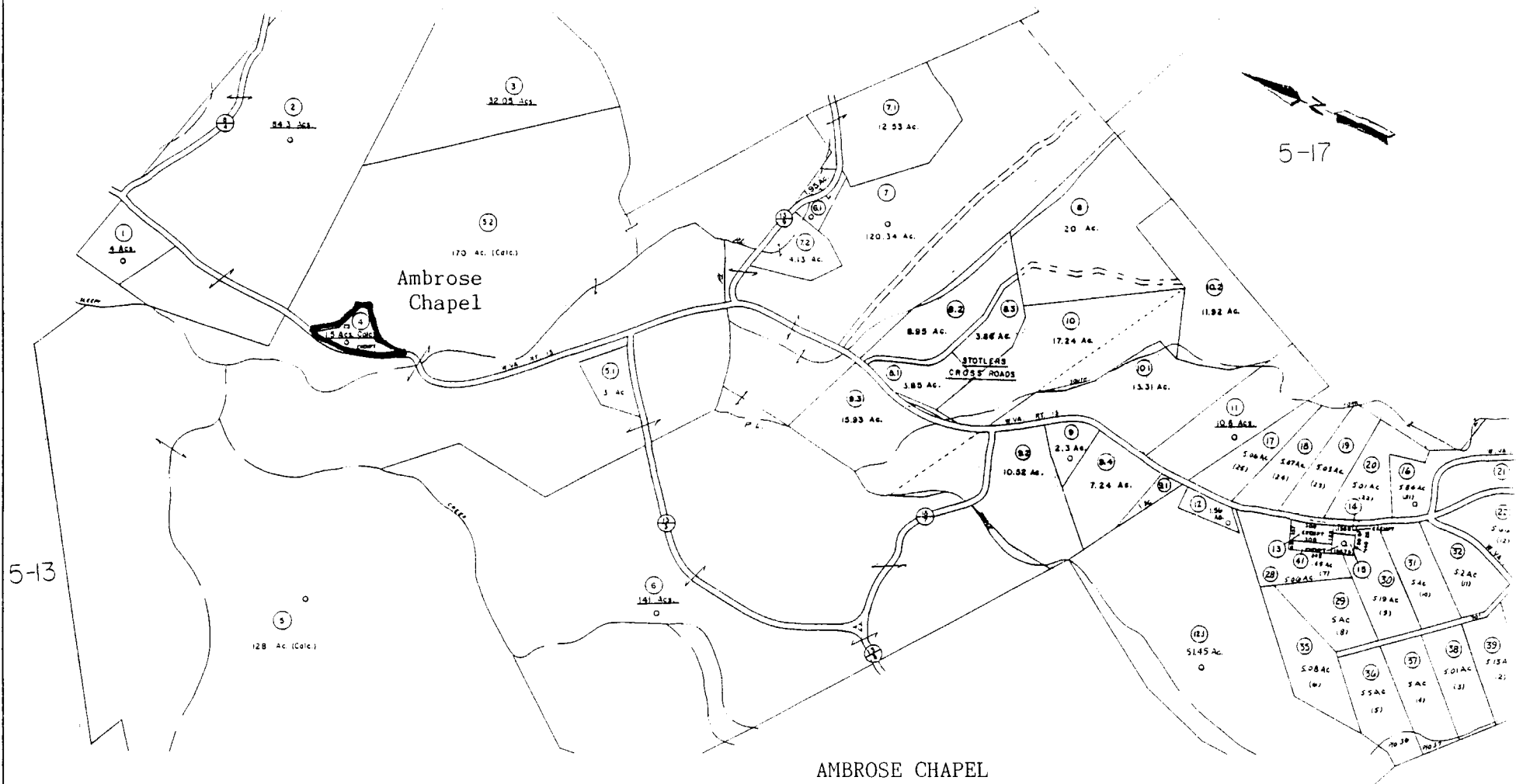
Photos 9 to 13 Variety of stones in cemetery



Floorplan

AMBROSE CHAPEL
Winchester Grade Road
Morgan County, WV



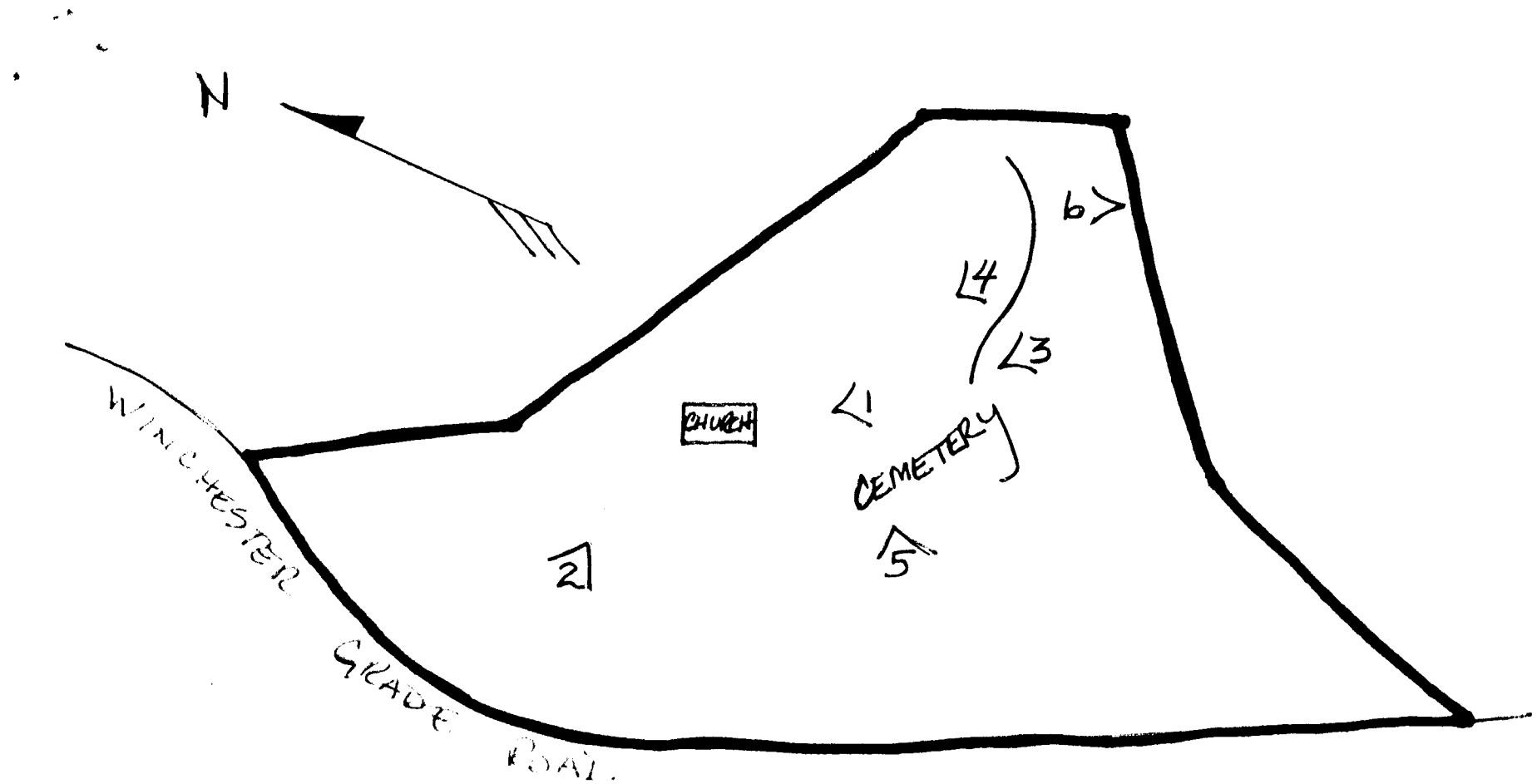


AMBROSE CHAPEL
Winchester Grade Road
Morgan County, WV

Morgan County Tax Map

AMBROSE CHAPEL
Winchester Grade Road
Morgan County, WV

Site Plan and Photo Map

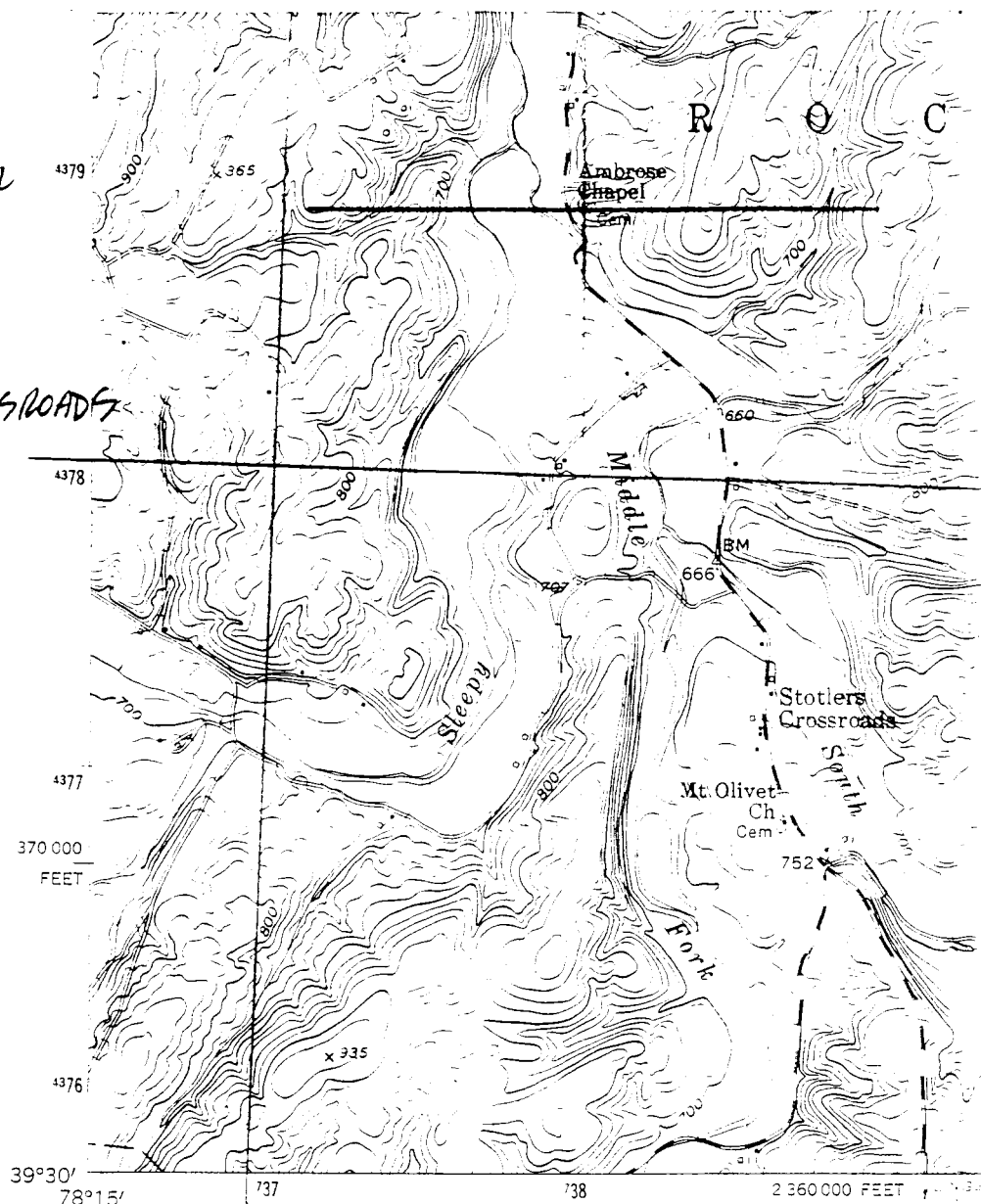


AMBROSE CHAPEL

17 737975

4378 870

STOTLERS CROSSROADS



(RIDGE)
5362 IV NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1958

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on West Virginia coordinate system,
north zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

6 1/2
116 MILS.

UTM GRID AND 1955
DECLINATION AT

