

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Set within a fenced off cemetery in a forested area, the Holly Grove Methodist Church is accessible only by a narrow 1.3 mile dirt road. Originally built in 1894 as a simple one-room frame structure, the building was enlarged in 1915 to a cruciform plan with a semioctagonal apse. Hewn timbers give evidence of "cannibalism" in the construction. Two lean-to additions have subsequently been built. These are slated for removal as part of an upcoming restoration effort. The interior is simply detailed with wainscoting below a crude chair rail and balustrades around an elevated choir. Floor boards are original to the 1915 remodeling.

Specific dates 1894, 1915
Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The Holly Grove Methodist Church is significant in the area of architecture because it is the only remaining example in Vernon Parish of the type of simple frame churches which characterized much of rural Louisiana at the turn of the century. It is also the parish's oldest extant church structure. Holly Grove, therefore, is a landmark in the sparse architectural history of this comparatively recently settled parish.

The Holly Grove Methodist Church was established in the 1830's and although it was no the present building, it represents the beginnings of Methodism in the extreme western portion of Louisiana as well as the earliest settlement in what was to become Union parish.

Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey, 1979, Vernon Parish.

"Holly Grove Methodist Church Tells of Rich, Vivid Heritage." Leesville Leader, December 24, 1979.