

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Christ Episcopal Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number 601 E. Walnut Street

not for publication

city, town Springfield

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county Greene

code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri

street & number 420 W. 14th Street

city, town Kansas City

vicinity of

state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greene County Courthouse

street & number Central at Booneville

city, town Springfield

state Missouri 65802

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Springfield Historic Site,
title Springfield Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 - 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Greene County Courthouse, City Hall

city, town Springfield

state Missouri 65802

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Christ Episcopal Church, located on the northeast corner of Kimbrough and East Walnut Streets in Springfield, Missouri, consists of an 1870 board-and-batten nave and 1927-28 stone chancel, both harmoniously articulated in Early English Gothic style. Connecting to the chancel, a 1927 stone parish hall rises two stories in Collegiate Gothic style. The well-preserved complex survives with only minor alterations; a two-story non-contributing addition of 1958 has negligible impact on the integrity of the complex as it is joined to the rear elevation of the parish hall, and maintains the scale and materials of the hall.

Nave, 1870 (Fig. 1; Photos 1-8; 11): The 30 X 60 feet board-and-batten structure rests on a limestone foundation and extends three bays on the primary (south) elevation and four bays on the side (east and west) elevations. A gabled roof (covered with asphalt shingles) is trimmed with false purlin or rafter ends under the overhanging eaves. The primary facade is centered by a gabled-roof entry vestibule surmounted by a trefoil-armed cross built-up of wooden members; original wood double doors with lancet paneling are flanked by blind pointed arches; a circle window centers the gable. A square tower with Gothic detailing straddles the roof; the corners of the tower are carried upward in Gothic finials (Photo # 3). Tall, slender lancet windows, glazed with stained glass and crowned with drip moldings, pierce all three exposed elevations. Stepped buttresses terminating in gables mark corners of the facade and bays of the side elevations. Trefoil arcading of thin cut-out wood is applied as embellishment between battens under the eaves and gable. A comparison of historic Photos # 4 and 5 with the church nave today (Photos # 1, 2, 3, 11) reveals only slight modification. Small, shallow gabled structures were added to the east wall when air-conditioning was installed (Photo # 11). Although they were carefully designed to be architecturally compatible, plans are underway to remove them and restore the original appearance.

Interior nave walls are white plaster with dark varnished tongue-and-groove wainscoting below window sills. The dark-stained ceiling is constructed of exposed tongue-and-groove decking supported on purlins and X-trusses which are rusticated with hand-chamfering (Photos # 6, 7). The trusses are enriched with turned pendants under the crossings; slender, non-load-bearing struts are carried from the trussing to the side walls to suggest brackets. A finely carved wood eagle is featured on the original lectern (Photo # 8).

Chancel/Transept, 1927-28 (Fig. 1; Photos # 1, 9, 10): A new chancel, designed by St. Louis architects Hoener, Baum & Froese, replaced a smaller wood chancel. Measuring 50 feet front to back by 45 feet laterally (through the transept), it is constructed of brick covered with light gray, rock-faced limestone laid in ashlar. A gray slate, gabled roof covers the structure and

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rises several feet higher than the nave roof. Triple lancet windows pierce the gable-end walls. Smooth-faced limestone caps gables and frames lancets. A small, gabled-roof porch was added on the east wall of the chancel in 1951; it carefully maintains the materials and design features of the chancel. The interior of the chancel is defined by stone pointed arches separating it from the nave, and dividing it into choir and altar spaces. The reredos behind the altar along with other chancel fittings is carved and polished walnut.

Parish Hall, 1927 (Fig. 1; Photo # 11): Rising two stories, the hall is 25 feet wide and 70 feet long. It is joined to the chancel by a corridor articulated on the exterior with a half-timbered effect. Rock-faced gray limestone laid in ashlar covers brick bearing-wall construction. The street-front, gable-end facade features a tall, shallow oriel divided by a stone transom and mullions, and glazed with multiple lights; below, a stone-framed tripart window is flanked by smaller, vertical windows with smooth-stone surrounds. Fenestration on the six-bay side (east) elevation is also transomed with multiple lights. Steel casements are employed in all windows. Gray slate covers the gabled roof. The interior of the hall is utilitarian except for tudor-arched doorways.

In 1958, a two-story, six-bay addition finished in stone was joined to the rear (north) wall of the parish hall. It has been designated non-contributing since it is less than fifty years old.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social/humanitarian
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	theater
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	transportation
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	other (specify)
		invention		

Specific dates 1870; 1927-28 **Builder Architect** Unknown (1870 church); Hoener, Baum & Froese (1927-28 chancel; parish hall)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Christ Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the National Register according to Criterion C and is significant in the following area:
ARCHITECTURE: The church is an exceptionally fine example of Gothic Revival style, expressing precepts of the Anglican/Episcopal ecclesiological revival in an 1870 vernacular board-and-batten nave and 1927 architect-designed stone chancel/transept, both harmoniously related in Early English Gothic styling. The exterior and interior design of the church, as well as the 1927 Collegiate Gothic parish hall, is enhanced by the high quality of materials and workmanship in wood and stone. The well-preserved nave is one of an exceedingly small number of board-and-batten churches surviving statewide, and is the oldest church in Springfield.

Background: The parish of Christ Church was organized in 1860 on the eve of the Civil War, when the town of Springfield, Missouri numbered approximately 2000 inhabitants. Although a Gothic style church was erected in 1866, within three years the congregation found the modest building unsuitable for their current needs, a result, in part, of physical damage to the structure when lightning struck in 1868. The parish purchased a large, "very eligible" corner lot in 1869 for a hefty sum of \$1000, but funds were not immediately available for improving the parcel with a new church. A diocesan report of 1870 reflected the congregation's plight and aspirations:

A Church edifice must be built if we expect to live and grow. The present building is not by any means such as the wants of the community demand. We are unfortunately not keeping pace with the growth of the city ... Our city is growing rapidly ... Strangers are constantly crowding in upon us, seeking homes in this mild healthful climate. In the midst of this rush of business, the question forces itself upon us Churchmen: "Shall we continue to worship God in a building 25 X 25, standing upon leased ground?" (1)

With a membership of only thirty families, the parish earnestly pressed forward with a building campaign, "taxing themselves to the very utmost". The women of the church contributed earnings from needlework, members of the Sunday School raised money for the chancel window, and individual subscriptions were received for several other memorial windows. The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad assisted through the generous donation of shipping lumber

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for the church free of charge from Franklin to Springfield, a savings of \$272. (2) By December 1871, the balance of the \$4000 debt incurred for the new building was paid and the church was reported ready for consecration. (3) Not only had the congregation raised a substantially larger church with a nave measuring 30 X 60 feet, chancel 12 X 15 and vestibule 8 X 10, they had also initiated a new pattern of location in Springfield, the first to build outside the city square in a newly developing neighborhood of upper middle class families. This point was not overlooked by the local press which noted that "the location is very choice indeed, and we are of opinion that the new church will be fully in keeping with the location". (4)

Architecture: Contemporary news accounts also highlighted the church's venerable stylistic lineage, referring to its "Medieval style, with English belfry", and crediting its design as an "imitation of Gothic architecture". (5) However brief, the references nonetheless placed the church in a well-established building tradition of the American Protestant Episcopal Church. Since the mid-19th century, the Episcopal church in the United States had been closely associated with the precepts and practices of the English Gothic Revival. Guided by a reform impulse which sought to purge church liturgy of its "secular" rationalistic character, English and American high churchmen, or Ecclesiologists as they were called, pursued an architectural program designed to enhance the new liturgical requirements. Widely recognized as the "true Christian style", Gothic became the unchallenged stylistic idiom of the movement, and the English medieval parish church was chosen as the model for new 19th century churches.

The Anglican Gothic movement reached Missouri by 1839 when the second building erected for Christ Church, St. Louis, introduced the first use of Gothic in the city's public architecture. An imposing masonry structure, the church was modeled after much-publicized Trinity Church, Boston (1829). (6) A pivotal factor in the decision to build in Gothic was the presence of high churchman Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, who, in 1835, had established headquarters in St. Louis as the first missionary bishop of the American Protestant Episcopal Church. While strongly committed to his missionary calling on the midwest frontier, Kemper maintained close east-coast contacts with upper church clergy which kept him abreast of the architectural progress of Gothic. Following Kemper's departure for Wisconsin in 1844, Gothic Revival Episcopal churches of both wood and masonry construction continued to be erected throughout Missouri, although as late as 1868 the Diocese could boast only nineteen church buildings statewide, nearly one-third of which were located in St. Louis. (7)

The most direct influence on the design of Christ Church, Springfield, in all likelihood emanated from the parish's rector, Irish-born Rev. William Charles,

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(8) whose Wisconsin training brought him into the circle of Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, then Bishop of Wisconsin (1854-70). Rev. Charles graduated in 1861 from Racine College and in 1864 from Nashotah Theological Seminary, Wisconsin institutions founded by Bishop Kemper to better prepare eastern churchmen for the frontier experience. Under Kemper's high church stewardship, both Nashotah and Racine became prominent strongholds of ritualistic observance.(9) Moreover, by the time Rev. Charles took up residence in the rural outposts of Wisconsin, the Bishop had sponsored construction of three small Gothic churches in the 1850s which ushered in proper high church architecture to the state. Located at Racine,(10) Nashotah, and nearby Delafield,(11) all three buildings were designed by New York architect Richard Upjohn, a devout Episcopalian who fully supported high church ritual and was influential nationally as a proponent of liturgically correct architecture. Rev. Charles' years in Wisconsin, thus, were enriched by a fervent environment steeped in canonical liturgy as well as architecture which most surely left a deep and lasting impression.

The significance of the Wisconsin churches for the design of Christ Church, Springfield, lay principally in offering Rev. Charles first hand exemplars of less costly and simplified Gothic Revival churches which exhibited the "correct" essentials of the sanctioned Medieval parish church model. The Delafield and Nashotah churches included features found at Christ Church such as the separately roofed chancel pierced with a tripart lancet window, a chancel arch, a steeply pitched roof with an exposed timber ceiling, stained glass, stepped buttresses, a bell tower, and Early English Gothic (Lancet style) detailing (Photos # 1, 6). However, the vertical board-and-batten siding which covers the Delafield and Springfield churches was a uniquely American contribution to the Gothic Revival and the chief characteristic which distinguished small American Gothic churches from those in England.(12)

Favored by Gothic Revivalists over conventional horizontal clapboarding, board-and-batten siding intensified the vertical soar of churches which carried associative meanings of Christian spirituality. Richard Upjohn, in particular, played a major role in disseminating board and batten through example, and also publication in 1852 of a pattern book with detailed specifications for modest board-and-batten churches. Upjohn's book and similar ones gave impetus to vernacular adaptations across the country, enabling American builders and carpenters to fashion mass-produced dimension lumber into proper church buildings such as the Springfield church, for which no architect or builder is recorded.

A survey of churches in the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri revealed only two other surviving board-and-batten buildings: St. Mary's at Fayette (1850) and St. Paul's, Ironton (1870; NRHP). While information on the eastern

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diocese is not complete, research to date suggests an even smaller number. Records indicate that St. Louis, the state's largest 19th century urban center, and the Diocese's cathedral city, was predisposed to brick or stone churches. However, at least one early frame Episcopal church was constructed in St. Louis, Grace Church (1846; demolished); but it featured horizontal clapboarding. Survey materials at the State Historic Preservation Office corroborate the scarcity of board-and-batten churches of any denomination statewide.

The high-quality materials and craftsmanship displayed in Christ Church's board-and-batten siding as well as in its many other Carpenter Gothic elements are further significant as expressions of a native American tradition of wood architecture. While ornate display is carefully avoided in keeping with stylistic tenets of Early English Gothic, power-sawn trefoil arcading, drip moldings, finials, the vestibule cross, buttresses and other details illustrate the transformation of traditional masonry elements into wood (Photos # 2, 3). The dominant decorative feature of the nave interior is the dark-stained, exposed timber ceiling with hand-chamfered trusses, tongue-and-groove planking and gracefully curved, embossed struts (Photos # 6, 7). A finely carved wood lectern features an imposing eagle (Photo # 8), the medieval symbol of St. John the Evangelist, approved for use by churchly Gothicists.

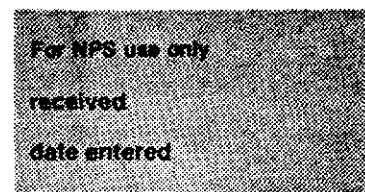
By the second decade of the 20th century, plans were under discussion for replacement of the 1870 wood church with a new, larger stone structure located on the same site. Designs were submitted in 1922 by St. Louis architects Hoener, Baum & Froese for a complex consisting of an Early English Gothic nave/chancel and a Collegiate Gothic parish hall. P.J. Hoener was a St. Louis architect who had come to Springfield in 1919 and had gained commissions for several public buildings including school, hospital, and church designs. In 1922 he returned to St. Louis as president of the new firm, taking the Christ Church job with him. Hoener and his partners were to become well-known architects of more than seventy churches. Partner Ewald Froese was European-born and-educated, and accomplished in Gothic Revival design. In addition, Froese cultivated the related fine arts of painting, sculpture, wood carving, stained glass, and the craft of organ pipes. Froese himself designed chancel fitments and ornament for the firm's numerous church commissions.

Although the 1922 project was abandoned when bids vastly exceeded budget, four years later the building campaign was resurrected, this time as a three-phase undertaking, of which the third and final nave-phase was never realized due to the onset of the Depression. In 1927, the first phase saw completion of a sizable, two-story parish hall articulated with the distinctive shouldered gables, rectangular stone transomed and mullioned windows and tall chimneys

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which are hallmarks of the Collegiate Gothic or Jacobethan styles -- an appropriate choice for expressing the non-ritual, more secular uses of the building (Fig.1; Photo # 11) The design of the primary facade quite successfully related to the entrance facade of the wood church through repetition of gabled ends and the three-bay composition of large openings flanked by smaller ones. Fine-textured gray ashlar limestone faced the brick walls.

A new chancel with shallow transept followed in 1927-28. Measuring 45 X 50 feet it considerably expanded the 12 X 15 feet ground space occupied by the original wood chancel. It was loftier as well, rising several feet above the nave roof (Photos # 1, 5), thus satisfying the Ecclesiological dictate of clearly separating the ceremonial chancel space from the congregational nave, as did the old chancel. In other respects, too, the new chancel met canonical high church objectives and faithfully maintained the Early English Gothic precedent of the 1870 church: triple lancet windows articulated the rear chancel wall and also the transept wall; nave and chancel stone arches demarcated interior spaces; and the choir space was raised three steps above the nave floor. Finely carved and polished walnut with Gothic detailing formed a reredos and other chancel fittings (Photo # 10). On the outside, the sparsely ornamented purity of the Early English Gothic idiom showed to advantage the expanses of fine stone masonry and disciplined proportions of the fenestration.

The parish's decision in 1869 to build in a residential area outside the city-center was fortunate for survival of the Gothic wood church. All of the city's churches which were once contemporaries of the 1870 building have long since been demolished. Although 20th century urbanization has encroached upon Christ Church's 19th century neighborhood, the same Episcopal congregation has continued to worship there for 116 years. The church complex has survived unusually well-preserved, and holds a significant place in Springfield's architectural heritage.

FOOTNOTES

- 1) The Church News, March 1870.
- 2) The Church News, March 1870; October 1870; April 1871.
- 3) The Church News, December 1871.
- 4) The Church News, October 1870.

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5) The Missouri Weekly Patriot, Springfield, 12 May 1870; "Springfield Paper", quoted in Church News October 1870.

6) Lawrence Lowic, The Architectural Heritage of St. Louis, (St. Louis: Washington University Gallery of Art, 1982), pp. 42-45; 62.

7) J. Thomas Scharf, History of St. Louis City and County, (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts & Co., 1883), p. 1715.

8) Bishop Robertson recorded that he had received the Rev. William Charles from the Diocese of Michigan, November 6, 1869, and that he dismissed him to Michigan, January 17, 1873, Archives of the Diocese of Missouri, St. Louis. Rev. Charles was listed as "Rector and Missionary" in the May 1870 parochial report of the Journal of the Diocese of Missouri.

9) Wisconsin State Historical Society, Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960), p. 202.

10) The New York Ecclesiologist (July 1853) reported a "wood church by Mr. Upjohn" in Racine; cited in Phoebe B. Stanton, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968), p. 268 n.

11) Delafield had been Bishop Kemper's place of residence since 1846. For discussion and illustrations of the Nashotah and Delafield churches see William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles, (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1978); and Stanton, The Gothic Revival.

12) Pierson, American Buildings, pp. 432-33.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Springfield, Mo.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	7	4	6	1	0	4	1	1	7	6	8	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ^{1.} Mary M. Stiritz, Arch. Historian

organization _____ date February 12, 1987

street & number 12 Wydown Terrace telephone 314-721-6289

city or town St. Louis state Missouri 63105

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wayne E. Dora
for Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Department of Natural Resources, and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/12/87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

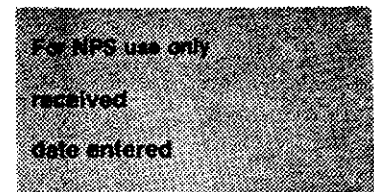
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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Verbal boundary description: Lot 1 of Block 1, Kimbrough's Second Addition to Springfield. Beginning at the northeast corner of Walnut and Kimbrough, thence north 212 feet to the alley, then east along the south side of the alley 97 feet, thence south 212 feet to the north side of Walnut, thence west 97 feet to the point of beginning.

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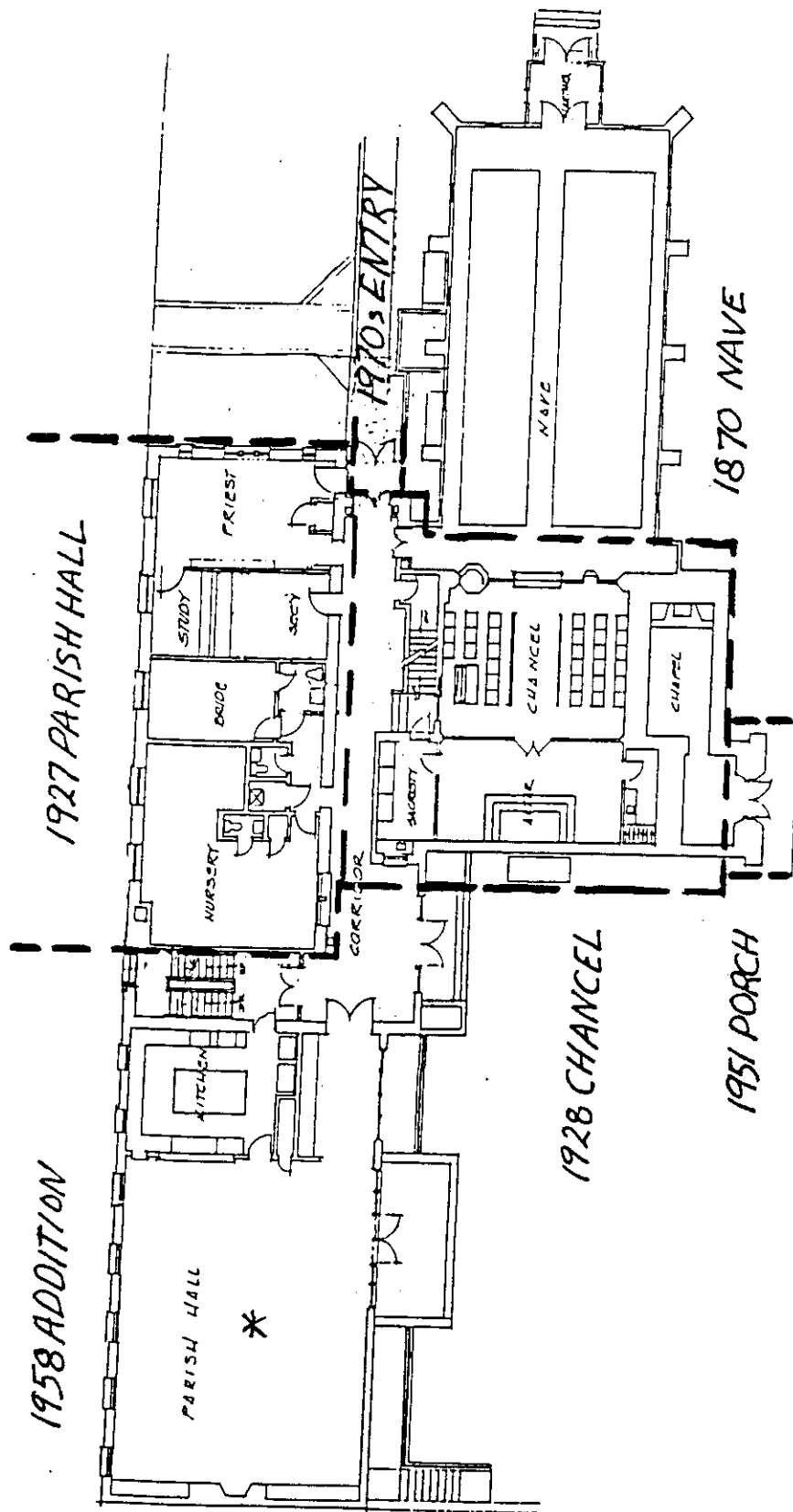
Page 1

2. Dr. Robert B. Flanders
Southwest Missouri State University
Center for Ozark Studies
P. O. Box 70
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Telephone: 417-836-5755
Date: October 15, 1986

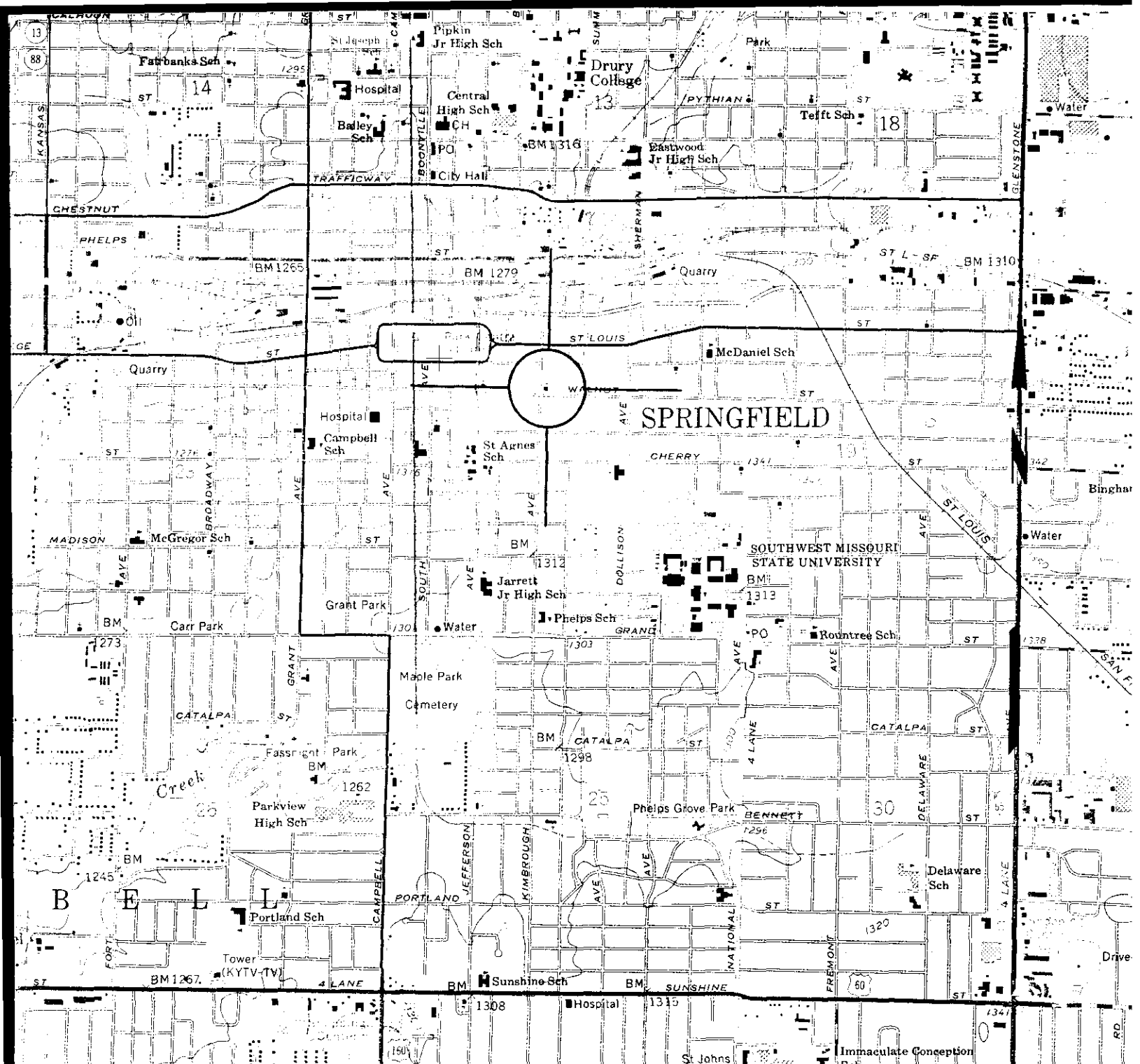
3. Claire F. Blackwell, Director
Historic Preservation Program
Division of Parks, Recreation, and
Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Telephone: 314-751-7857
Date: February 18, 1987

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1986 PLAN

* NON-CONTRIBUTING



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
A. H. H.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 601 E. Walnut
 Springfield, Greene County, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5"
 "Springfield, MO"

Scale: 1:24,000
 Quadrangle: 1960;
 (Photorevised 1970
 & 1975)

U.T.M. Reference

15/474610/4117685



1. View NE.



2. View NE. Upper left: facade of 1927 choir and west transept. Background: Southwestern Bell building.



3. View NE. Center right: 1927 choir and office/education additions.

4. View NNW. Utility structures in wall to be removed in current renovation.





5. View SE. Choir and transept
of 1927. Parish Hall (1958)
Left; 2958 vestibule center.
Foreground: Kimbrough Street.



6. View NW. Nave (1870) choir and
office/education wing (1927),
and parish hall (1958).
Foreground: Walnut Street



7. View N from 1870 nave to 1927 choir

8. View S, from choir showing 1870 nave interior.



9. Baptistry



10. Lectern



11. View NNW.

12. View NNE. Far left background: Shrine Mosque (1922). Right background: rear of Kentwood Arms hotel (1925) and high-rise office building, under construction.





13. View ENE. Center-right background University Plaza Complex (1984).



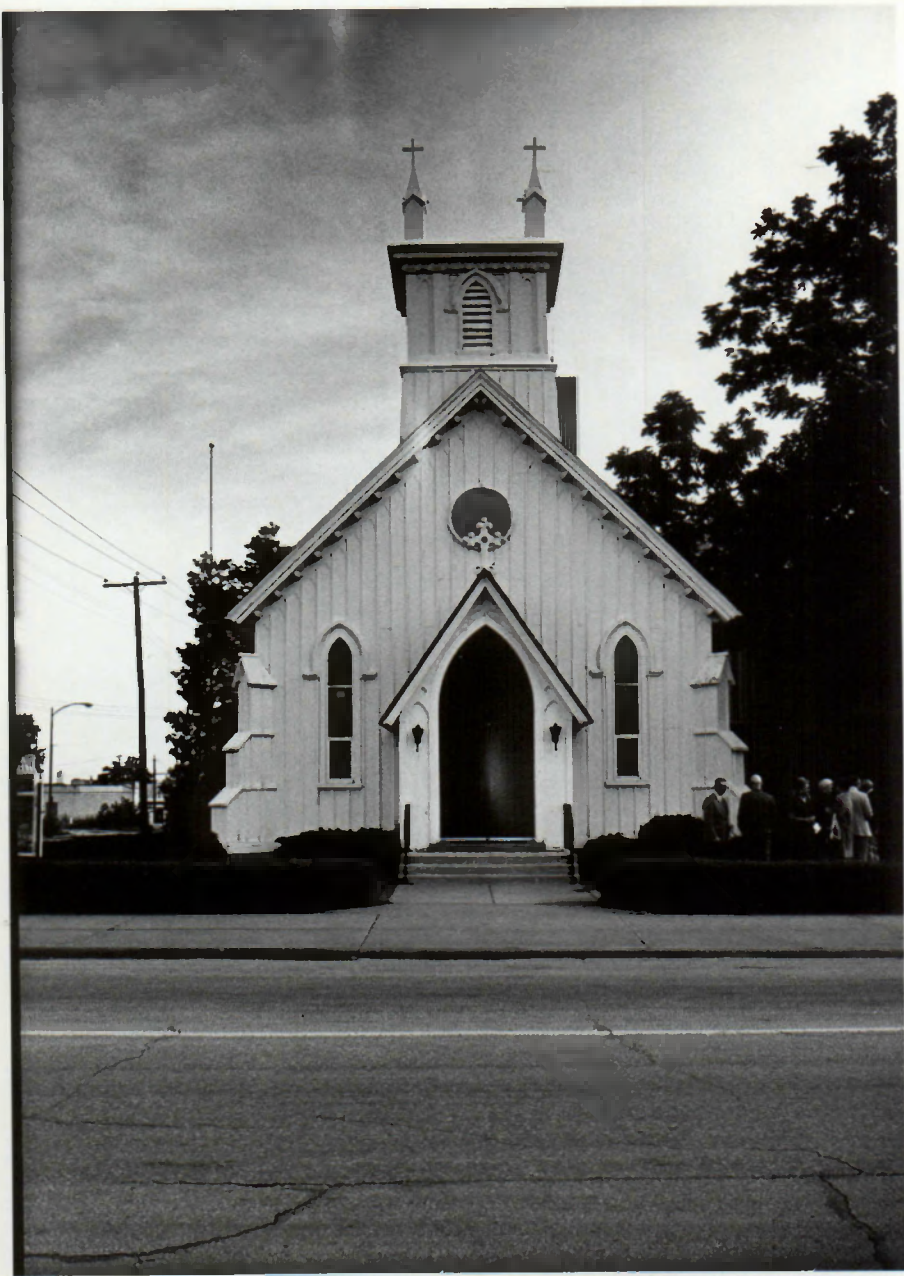
14. Joining of 1870 nave and 1927 transept. Note truncated remains of original Side Porch.

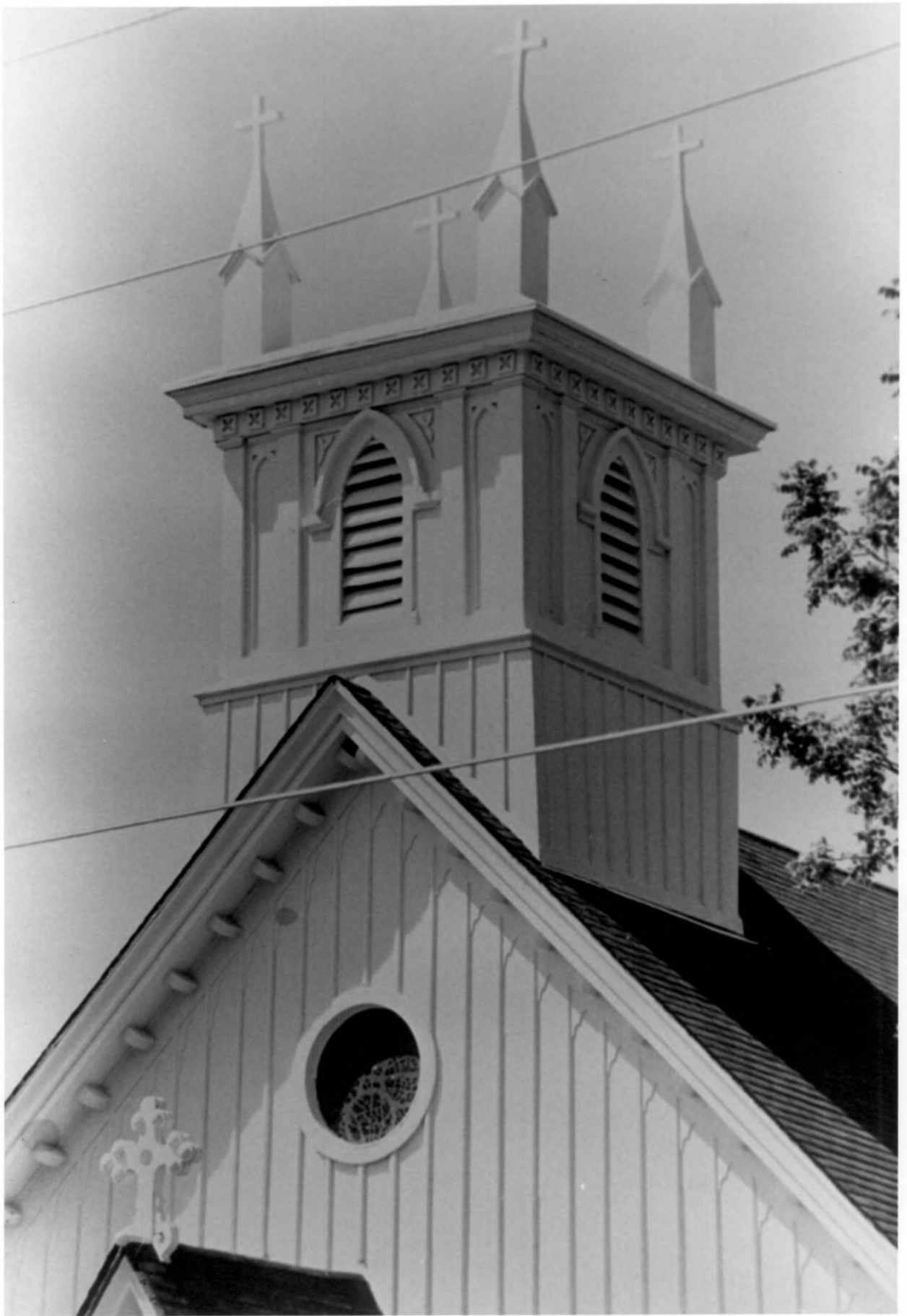


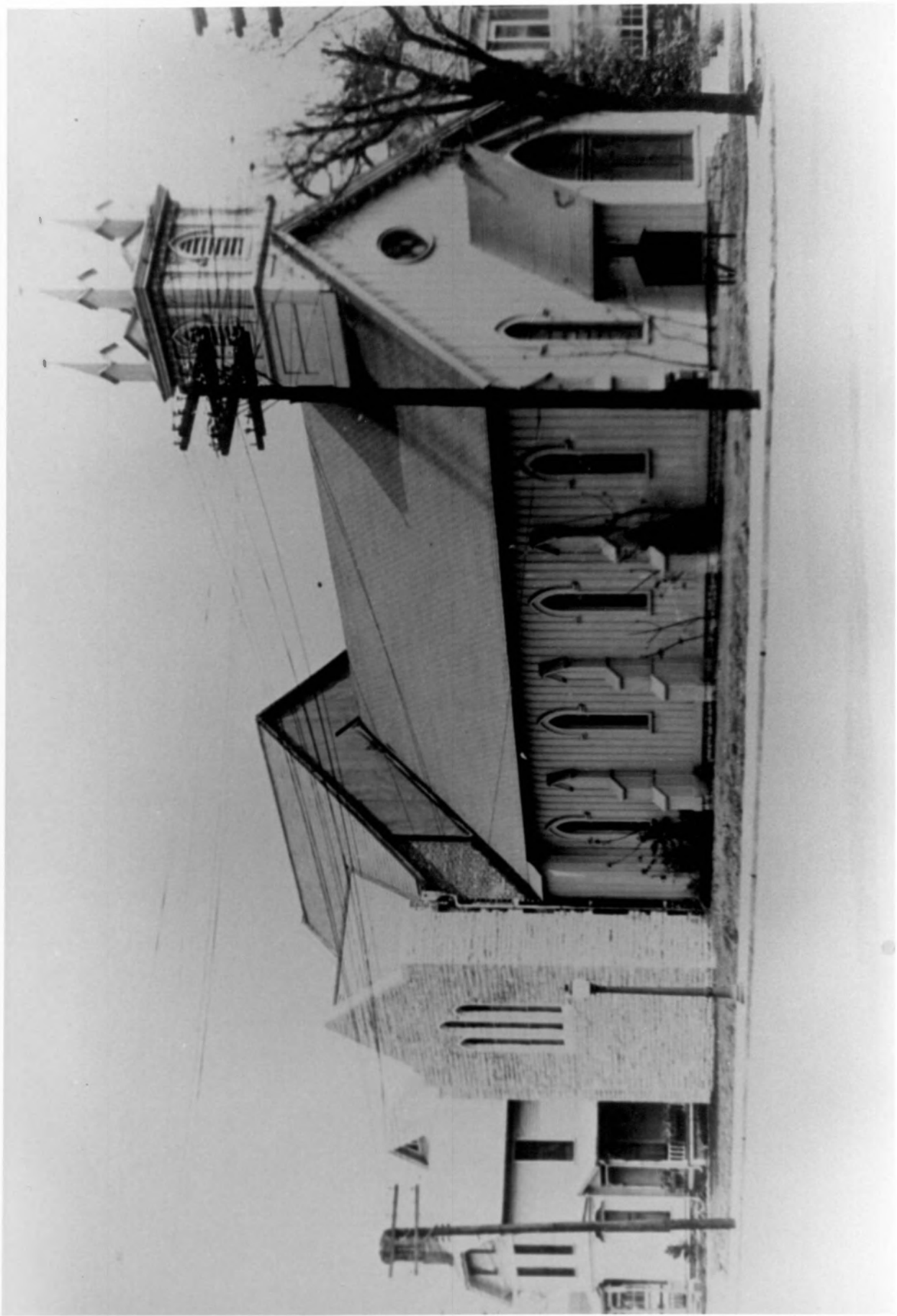
15. Joining of 1927 office/education wing with 1958 Parish Hall (east side, rear).

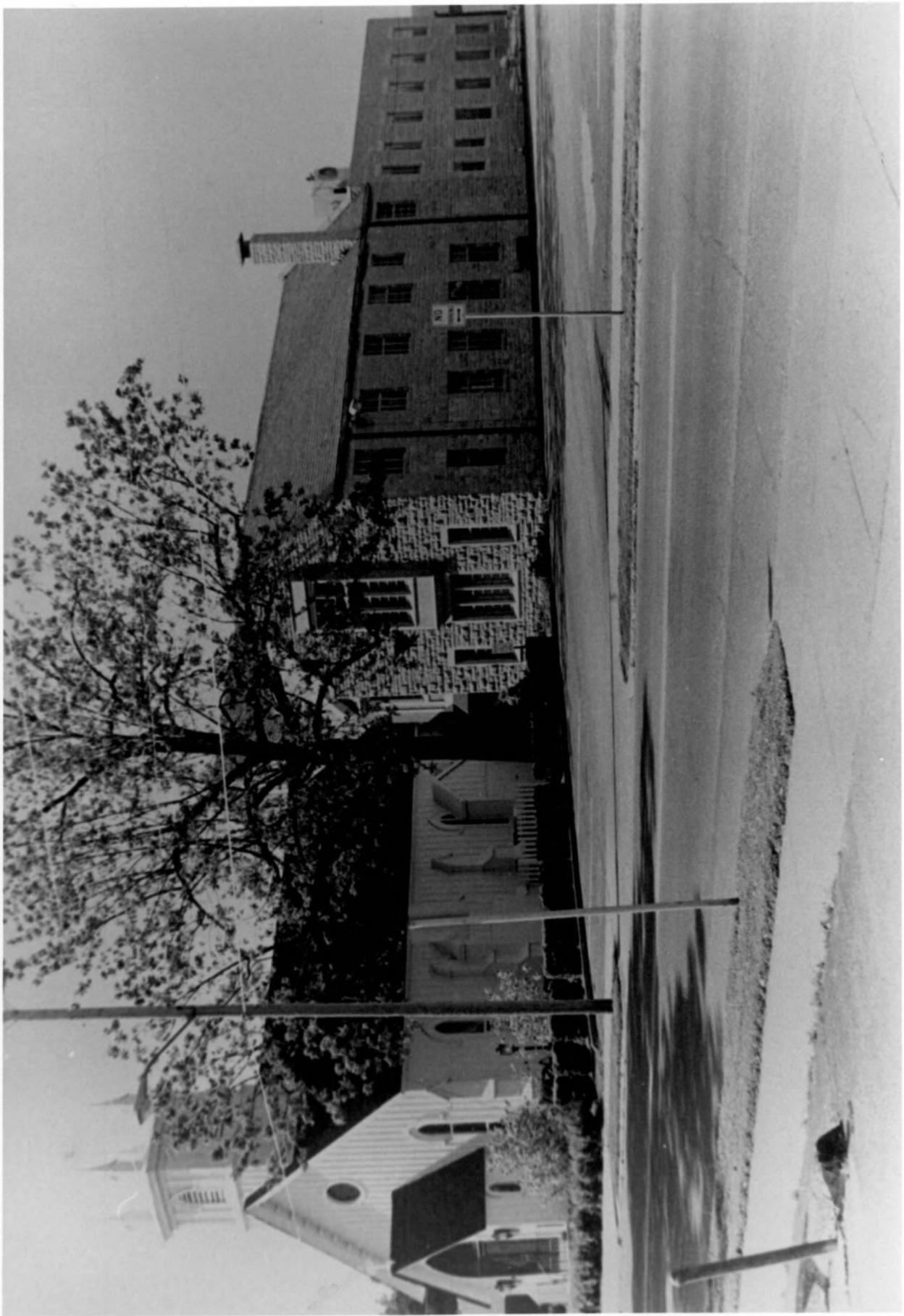
EXTRA
PHOTOS

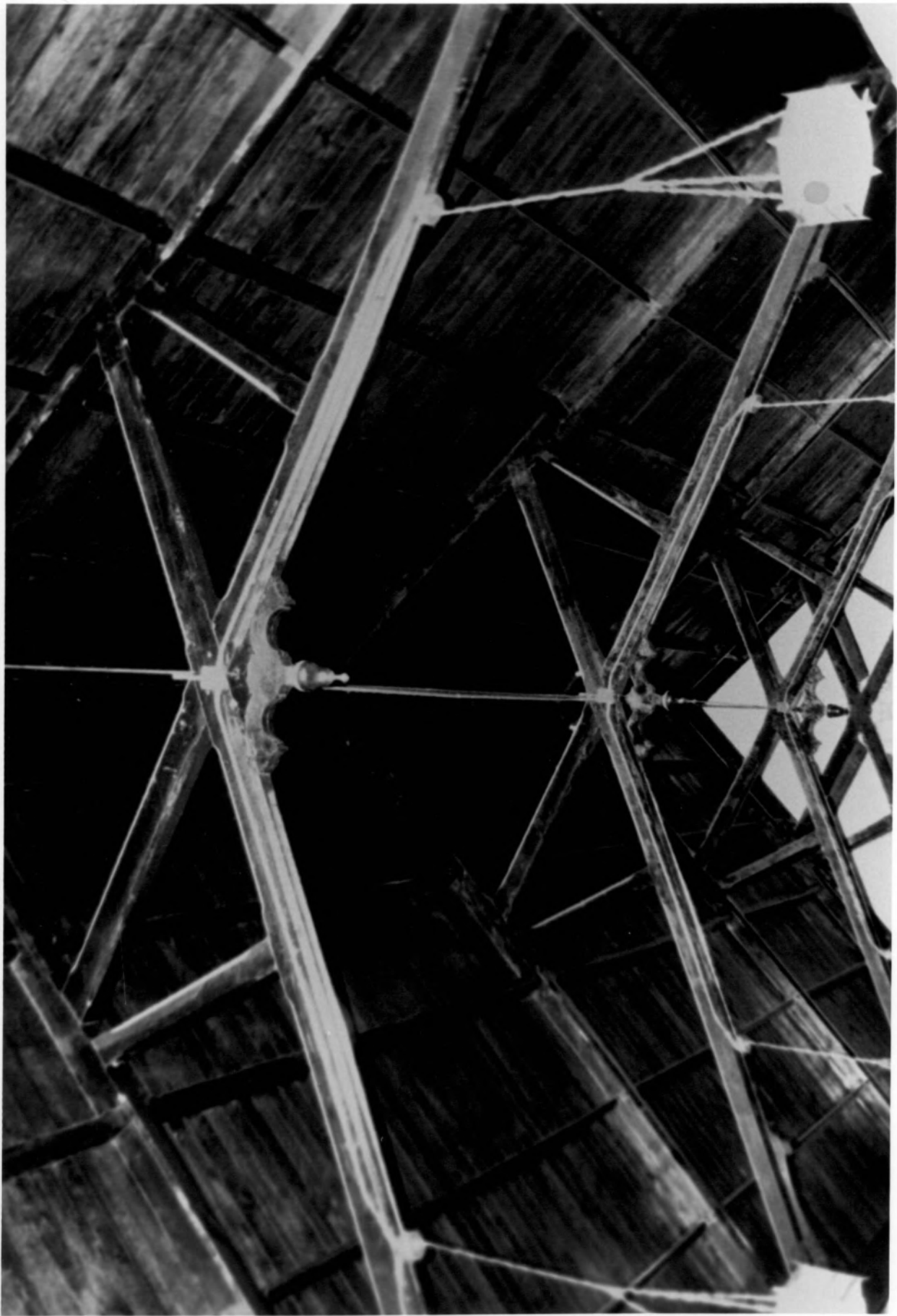


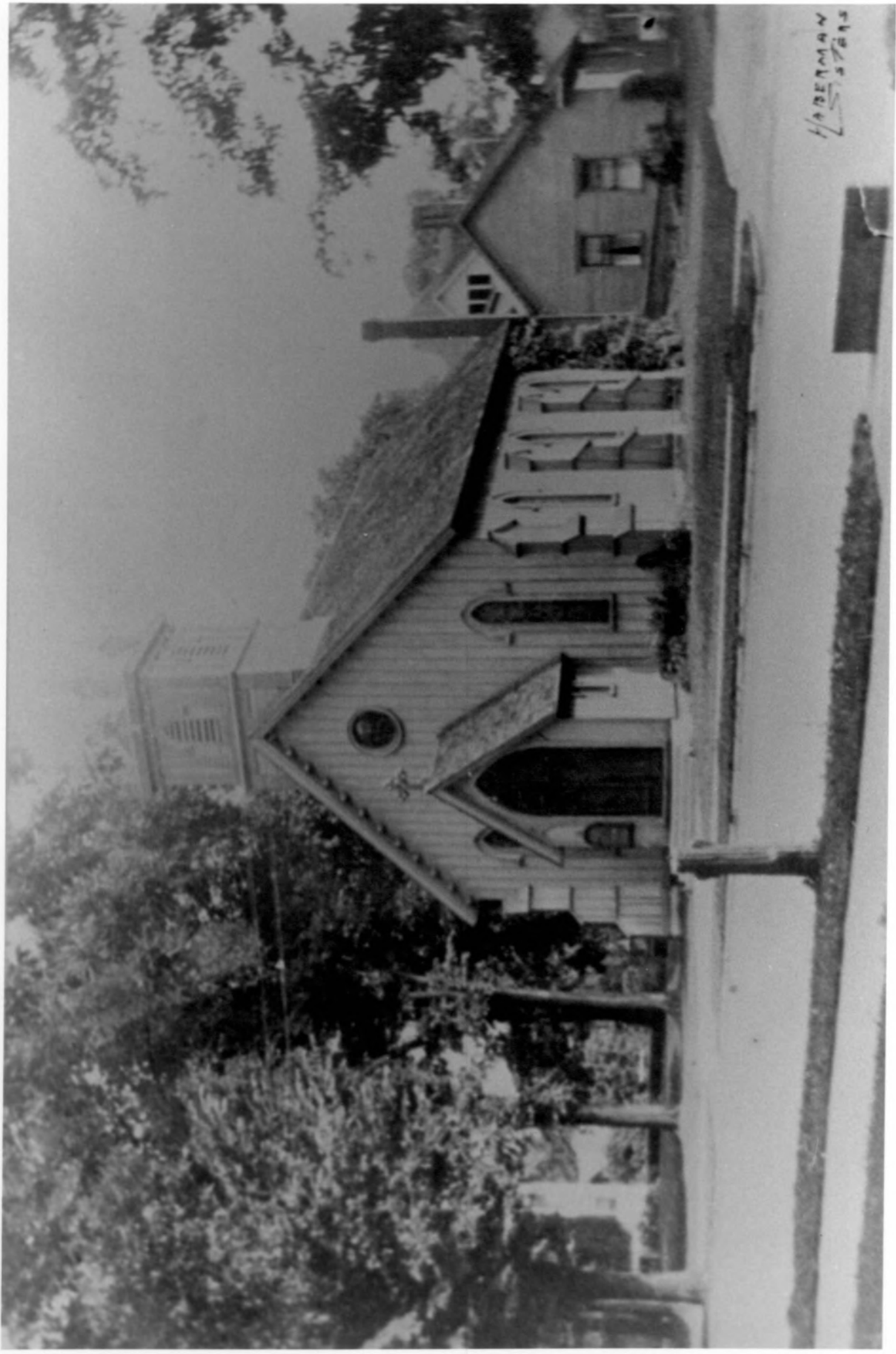












HABENMAN
STARS