

**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 First Presbyterian Church

other name/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 401 Jefferson N/A not for publication

city or town La Grange N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Lewis code 111 zip code 63448

**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 forth 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.)

Mark A Miles July 9, 2012  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
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: Signature of the 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)

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
*Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945 MPDF*  
*Historic Resources of La Grange MPDF*

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
 0

**6. Function or Use**

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

RELIGIOUS/ religious facility

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

VACANT

**7. Description**

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

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/ Greek Revival

OTHER/ Temple Front Church

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**foundation** STONE/Limestone

**walls** BRICK

**roof** ASPHALT

**other** STONE/Limestone

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

**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.)

- 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.)

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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1848

**Significant Dates**

1848

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

First Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Lewis County, MO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 6/2/8/1/2/0 4/4/3/3/4/8/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block Seventeen (17) of Wright and Shropshire's Addition to the Original Town, now City of La Grange, Lewis County, Missouri.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries encompass the legal description of the property and includes all the land historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Karen Bode Baxter & Timothy P. Maloney

organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist date July 2, 2012

street & number 5811 Delor St. telephone 314-353-0593

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63109

**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**

name/title Old Presbyterian Church, LLC

street & number 420 E. Woodland Road telephone (847) 331-8027

city or town Lake Forest state IL zip code 60045

**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 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 20503.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1**First Presbyterian Church  
Rural Church Architecture of Missouri,  
c. 1819 to c. 1945 MPDF  
Lewis County, MO**

### SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church at 401 Jefferson, La Grange, (Lewis County) Missouri, constructed in 1848, is a one story, red brick building with a raised basement located on a large lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of Jefferson Street and North Sixth. It is situated in the town's original residential area on top of the bluff above the historic business district that parallels the Mississippi River. This Greek Revival style building is an example of the Temple Front church type, as identified in the *Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c.1819 to c. 1945 MPDF*. It has a gabled roof with an unadorned wood raked cornice and a pediment on the symmetrical façade, which faces east onto Jefferson Street. Characteristic of Temple Front buildings, the front façade retains the wood entablature that rests on the large brick pilasters that divide the building into symmetrical bays on either side of the central entry. On the rear elevation, the cornice returns form a broken pediment. Physical evidence and paint shadows show the placement of the cornice although the sections that originally wrapped onto each side are missing, as are the frieze boards under the boxed cornices on each side. The very tall, square cupola that housed the church bell is missing but the wood base remains at the ridge near the entry. There is a single tall interior wall chimney on the north side near the rear of the building.

### EXTERIOR FEATURES

The façade (east elevation) of this forty-one foot by thirty-eight foot building is symmetrically arranged into three bays divided by equally spaced brick pilasters that have stone bases. The pilasters run the height of the brick façade and visually support the pediment and entablature across the façade. The wood entablature rests on the stone capitals of the four brick pilasters and the outer pilasters wrap the corners of the façade. Large twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sashed windows (currently boarded up) flank either side of the centered entry on the main level of the sanctuary, and align with basement windows. Although the basement windows are one-over-one sashed (replacement) windows, historic photos show the original windows were six-over-three sashed wood windows. All four windows have tooled limestone lintels and sills. The entry is reached by a steep metal staircase. The metal staircase replaced the wood stairs of similar configuration with the exception of the landing. The entry with its paired three light, three panel doors and six light transom has wood paneled sidelights and is protected by a small, sloped, wood roof. Historic photos show that this slightly projecting vestibule was added later (probably mid-twentieth century) and not part of the original design. The original paired two panel wood doors are stored in the building.

The side (north and south) elevations have three evenly spaced windows with the original six-over-three double hung wood sash on the main level. Below are the basement windows that matched those on the façade historically. The windows on both side elevations have stone lintels and sills, except for the wood basement level lintels on the south side. The rock-faced coursed limestone foundation is visible on the north side, extending to the basement window sills. There is a basement entry door at the west (rear) end of the south side of the building. The rear (west)

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elevation is unadorned except for the broken pediment cornice returns and the two basement windows, one near each corner (the north window is boarded over), each with wood lintels and stone sills.

**INTERIOR FEATURES**

On the interior, the main floor retains the original wood floors and the original plaster walls. The ceiling was originally plaster but it is missing, although it retains most of its crown molding. Shadow lines show that the ceiling was at the level of the bottom of the beams. There is also physical evidence of where the narrow choir loft was located and it is documented in historic photos. There was a wood medallion on the ceiling originally, which remains (unattached) in the building. The altar is missing but the plaster framework with a plaster acanthus leaf motif across the top remains. The baseboards are the original, plain wood boards and the windows retain the original trim of flat wood boards with a peaked trim cap. There are even shadow lines on the plaster walls that show the profile and placement of the pews, noteworthy for their apparent diminutive size.

The basement has concrete floors that appear to be older floors but are probably not original given the age of the building, although historically the basement was finished enough to use for classrooms. Drywall walls and partitions have been recently installed throughout the basement. Some walls still have exposed foundation walls and some of the foundation walls have been coated with plaster. The ceiling was plaster, as evidenced by the shadow lines on the joists above but there is currently no finished ceiling. There is no trim and there are no interior doors in the basement. There is a small non-historic bathroom in the basement.

**ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES**

Although the belfry portion of the cupola and the simple wood railing and stairs are missing, given the age of the building, it is amazing that most of the other historic details on this simple Greek Revival church are still primarily intact, including the main floor (sanctuary) sashed windows, the pediment and entablature, boxed cornice and even the tooling on the stone lintels, sills, and pilaster capitals. The basement windows have had the original six-over-three wood sashed windows replaced but they are clearly shown in at least one historic photograph. The entry was apparently modified to project out slightly so that it could meet up with the replacement metal steps, but the original door opening is still intact inside this small vestibule and the original paired two-panel wood doors are currently in storage and ready to be re-installed.

On the interior, it obviously was always a simply adorned space and many of those details remain: the ceiling medallion, altar frame and crown molding, as well as window trim and baseboards. Only the choir loft and parts of the altar rail are missing entirely although shadow lines on the plaster indicate their placement and historic photos document the designs of those elements. Where elements are damaged or missing, there is enough evidence to accurately repair or replicate those features.

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**First Presbyterian Church  
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c. 1819 to c. 1945 MPDF  
Lewis County, MO**

### SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church, located at 401 Jefferson Street, La Grange (Lewis County), Missouri is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture and is associated with two Multiple Property Documentation Forms (MPDF). Historically the church represents the “Antebellum Affluence, 1791 to 1865” context outline in the “Historic Resources of La Grange, Missouri MPDF.”<sup>1</sup> The building also represents the Temple Front church type as defined by “Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945 MPDF.”<sup>2</sup> Constructed in 1848, the church is one of only four pre-1850 antebellum buildings remaining in La Grange and typifies the building methods and styles of the earliest period of community development – notably Greek Revival-influenced building constructed of locally derived materials.<sup>3</sup> Use of local materials is also characteristic of rural church architecture in Missouri in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church is constructed of locally fired brick, stone from a nearby quarry, and wood milled in town. Following the tradition of the town’s residential architecture, the congregation built their church in the Greek Revival style, choosing a Temple Front design to reflect the building’s use as a place of gathering and worship. Temple Front churches were once common in rural and small town Missouri, but most were abandoned or replaced by a more modern building as congregations grew. Intact rural examples, such as the First Presbyterian Church in La Grange, are increasingly rare.<sup>4</sup> The First Presbyterian Church was the second church building constructed in La Grange and the oldest to retain its architectural integrity.<sup>5</sup> Because the building derives its primary significance from architecture rather than historic religious associations, the property meets the requirement of Criterion Consideration A. The period of significance is 1848, the date of construction.

### BUILDING HISTORY

The First Presbyterian Church was completed in 1848 and the building was dedicated in 1850, six years after the congregation was founded in 1844.<sup>6</sup> The building was constructed after Reverend W. W. Whipple held services for a newly formed congregation with six members. His services so impressed the people of La Grange that all the people in town, not just the members of the Presbyterian Congregation, committed to its construction, as long as Reverend Whipple settled in La Grange. After the church was finished the building was used as a community center and Reverend Whipple taught school in the basement during the week.<sup>7</sup> The building was also

<sup>1</sup> Debbie Sheals, *Historic Resources of La Grange*, MPDF, (NHRP Listed May 1999) Section E: page 9.

<sup>2</sup> Tiffany Patterson, *Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c. 1945*, MPDF, (NHRP Listed April 2011) Section F: 30.

<sup>3</sup> Sheals, Section E: 9.

<sup>4</sup> Patterson, Section F: 29-30.

<sup>5</sup> Sheals, Section E: 8-9.

<sup>6</sup> Press-News Journal Files, Harold Schaffer, “A Short History of the Presbyterian Church of La Grange, Missouri,” (Canton, Missouri) 1-3; *History of La Grange, Missouri, 1832-1992*, (Canton, Missouri: Press-News Journal, 1992) 54; *History of La Grange, Missouri, 1832-1982*, (Canton, Missouri: Press-News Journal, 1982) 34.

<sup>7</sup> Sheals, Section E: 9.

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used as a meeting place for St. Peter's Lutheran Church for much of its early history. In addition, it is believed (although not verified) that the basement was the first location in La Grange to be used as an African-American school. The church continued to grow until the Great Depression, but from the 1930s into the 1960s, the population of the congregation began to decline as did the population of La Grange as people moved out of the area to find work.<sup>8</sup>

As a result of the declining population, the First Presbyterian Church, New Providence Presbyterian Church and the Zion Hill Church combined to form the New Hope Larger Parish to share expenses and support a full time minister. Despite these changes, membership continued to decline through the 1970's, forcing congregations to close more churches. The last service at the La Grange Presbyterian church was conducted on January 8, 1978. The La Grange congregation moved their membership to the First Presbyterian Church in Palmayra, taking the bell cast in 1849 with them as a symbol of the joining of the two churches. After moving their membership, the La Grange building was used for catechism classes for Catholic students and by the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for meetings. The upper portion of the very tall, square cupola that housed the belfry was removed in the early 1990s when a new owner considered turning the building into a residence, but that project was never completed.<sup>9</sup>

### RURAL MISSOURI CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

The First Presbyterian Church is an excellent example of an antebellum rural church in the Temple Front property type identified in *Rural Church Architecture* MPDF and a good example of the Greek Revival style identified as popular in La Grange by the "Antebellum Affluence" context of the *La Grange* MPDF.<sup>10</sup> The Greek Revival style was one of the most popular American architectural styles prior to the Civil War and was used for numerous public, religious and private buildings.<sup>11</sup> The style was especially popular for churches in rural Missouri and there are two other Greek Revival antebellum churches in La Grange mentioned in the *La Grange* MPDF but only two can be identified (the First Presbyterian Church and the Green Chapel).<sup>12</sup> The Temple Front church is a rare property type in Missouri now, although it is believed that it was more prevalent prior to the Civil War when the First Presbyterian Church was constructed and in use. During this period, the Greek Revival style dominated American architectural design

<sup>8</sup> Schaffer, 1-3; *History of La Grange, 1832-1992*, 54; *History of La Grange, 1832-1982*, 34.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Patterson, Section F: 29, Sheals, Section E: 2-3.

<sup>11</sup> The following discussion of the Greek Revival style is based upon the following resources: John J-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981) 26; Ward Bucher, ed. *Dictionary of Building Preservation*, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996) 217; S. Allen Chambers, Jr. and John C. Poppeliers, *What Style Is It?: A Guide to American Architecture*, (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003) 39-45; Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) 178-195; Patterson, Section F: 28-32; Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780*, Revised ed., (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1969) 39-47.

<sup>12</sup> Patterson, Section F: 35, 36; Sheals, Section E: 8.

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and the use of the Temple Front form was an expansion of the revival styles, especially those associated with European church architecture.

To be architecturally significant under the Temple Front property type identified in the *Rural Church Architecture* MPDF, a church building must be a relatively pristine example of the type. This MPDF states that the Temple Front church is characterized by its boxy massing and symmetrical arrangement, particularly the symmetrical arrangement of a portico or an implied portico formed by colossal pilasters. The pilasters often support a pedimented parapet or entablature. Typical Temple Front churches often have flat arched windows, sometimes with ornamental surrounds. Temple Front churches typically have minimal ornamentation, often limited to the brick work around the fenestration, at the cornice line, or on the parapet wall.<sup>13</sup> Most Missouri Temple Front churches are made of brick while the foundation is generally constructed out of stone, concrete, or brick.<sup>14</sup> In addition to a relatively pristine exterior, Temple Front churches have large open interior spaces, reflecting the use of the church as a place for a communal activity.<sup>15</sup>

In the case of the First Presbyterian Church, it is a one-story, Greek Revival, Temple Front church with a raised basement, made with local red brick. The First Presbyterian Church's boxy massing and its sense of monumental scale on the symmetrical façade are hallmarks of the Temple Front property type described in the *Rural Church Architecture* MPDF. The First Presbyterian Church has Doric order pilasters that create an implied portico. The pilasters support a heavy wood entablature, as is also typical of Temple Front churches. The use of simplified ornamentation based on a vernacular approach to the Greek Revival style is evident on the First Presbyterian Church and can be seen in the wood architrave, which has rounded moldings below a simple wood frieze and in the unadorned raked boxed cornice and tympanum. The use of local stone and local timber for the decorative elements of the First Presbyterian Church is also typical of rural Missouri churches. The architectural details of the First Presbyterian Church make it a good example of a Temple Front property type and it retains most of its characteristic features, including the pilasters, the original wall materials, the windows, and the roof line, as required by the *Rural Church Architecture* MPDF. Historically, there was a bell tower on the First Presbyterian Church but it was removed in the 1990s, although the square base of the tower is still visible.

The temple form of the Greek Revival style is further reinforced by the raised entry to the First Presbyterian Church. The front entry is reached by metal stairs (originally wood) and extends beyond the front façade of the building. A shallow wooden enclosure (with a transom and wood pilasters on either side of the doorway) covers the original stone entry surround and original door opening, which is still intact inside. The large twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sashed windows on the façade are original and contribute to the ornamentation of the building, especially because of the tooled limestone lintels and sills, which form the most visible

<sup>13</sup> Patterson, Section F: 29.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Patterson, Section F: 32.

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decorative details of the First Presbyterian Church other than the large brick pilasters. The original side elevation windows were originally six-over-three double hung wood sashed windows, both on the main floor and basement, and the original window sashes are still intact on the main floor.

The interior of the church was (and still is) primarily a single room on the elevated, main floor with a simple, symmetrical open floor plan, creating the large open interior space required for registration under the *Rural Church Architecture* MPDF.<sup>16</sup> The pulpit was located at the west end, opposite the entry, and the narrow choir loft was historically located on the east end above the entry. Shadow lines in the painted plaster still indicate the profile and location of the pews, further defining the historic layout of the church. The simple raised plaster altar surround on the west wall faces the entry and has an acanthus leaf pattern across the top in a simple classical motif.

### LA GRANGE HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

The first European settler in the area that would later become La Grange was Godfrey La Seur, a French trader who established a trading post near the Wyaconda River where he constructed four log cabins in 1795. This settlement had been abandoned by the time the next settlers arrived in 1819 when John Bozarth moved from Kentucky with his son Squire to established the first permanent settlement in the new Settlement. The next year Bozarth returned to Kentucky to help the rest of his family move to the area. Within two more years, John McKinney had constructed a mill in the same area but it was soon destroyed by a flood and was never rebuilt. John S. Marlow and an Indian trader named Campbell joined the Bozarth's by 1828 and two years later, in 1830, William Wright platted La Grange, although it was not recorded the Marion County courthouse until 1832. It is not clear if Wright and Campbell lived in La Grange and none of the buildings from this time period remain. The following year, Lewis County was formed out of a portion of Marion County and the first term of the Lewis County Court was held at John Bozarth's house, which was used as a temporary site for the court but is non-extant.<sup>17</sup>

By the time La Grange was platted in 1830, steamboats had joined keelboats and flatboats in transporting goods along the Mississippi River, increasing the importance of a good shipping location. The steep banks above deep water made La Grange an ideal river port and helped contribute to the growth of the town. In 1836 the first brick house was constructed in La Grange but the town did not start growing substantially until the 1850s. Only four of the extant antebellum buildings (including the First Presbyterian Church) built by 1850 remain in La Grange.<sup>18</sup> Because almost all of the antebellum properties in La Grange were constructed in the last decade of the antebellum period, the First Presbyterian Church is even more important to the architectural environment of La Grange as one of the earliest remaining buildings and an

<sup>16</sup> Patterson, Section F: 31-32.

<sup>17</sup> *History of La Grange, 1832-1992*, 3-4; *History of La Grange, 1832-1982*, 3, 5.

<sup>18</sup> Sheals, Section E: 1.

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excellent example of the simplified Greek Revival style Temple Front buildings.

Although the “Antebellum Affluence” context in the *La Grange* MPDF only identifies residential property types, the buildings constructed for social purposes, like the First Presbyterian Church, also added to the architectural development of La Grange using the same Greek Revival styling popular for local residences. According to the *La Grange* MPDF, the growth of the town in the antebellum period saw the construction of mostly Greek Revival-influence buildings, although most are vernacular, residential interpretations of the style. As the town grew, many of the buildings from this era were retained and approximately thirty-one percent of the remaining buildings (at the time of the MPDF) were from the antebellum period.<sup>19</sup> It appears a number of these have since been lost in part due to recent flooding of the Mississippi River. The Greek Revival style predominated all of the construction in La Grange during this time period, but there were a few houses with Missouri-German characteristics and others that stem from vernacular designs, such as massed plan houses, I-houses and small linear plan houses, with the more developed examples of the Greek Revival style relegated to the few institutional buildings, like the First Presbyterian Church.<sup>20</sup>

After the Civil War, there were three different eras of construction in La Grange that were identified in the *La Grange* MPDF, each typified by certain styles. Immediately after the war, the Italianate style became predominant, although some Greek Revival buildings were still being constructed. By the turn of the century, Gothic Revival and Queen Anne dominated the architectural landscape in La Grange, while after World War I and into the 1950s, the Craftsman style became the most prevalent style.<sup>21</sup> Just like the residences, newer churches adopted the styles popular at the time. For example, the Baptist Church of La Grange built in 1887, the Methodist Marvin Church finished in 1901 and the Lutheran St. Peter’s Evangelical Church constructed in 1908, all adopted the Gothic Revival style popular after the Civil War.<sup>22</sup> Because of the changes in styles after the Civil War, the First Presbyterian Church is especially important both as one of the town’s oldest churches and as one of its few remaining Greek Revival style buildings—besides its distinction as one of the few Temple Front churches left in rural Missouri.<sup>23</sup>

**CONCLUSION**

As one of the oldest buildings in La Grange, the First Presbyterian Church is an important example of the architectural development of the town and is locally significant for Criterion C: Architecture. The First Presbyterian Church’s Greek Revival style Temple Front form makes it an excellent example a rural Missouri church under the *Rural Church Architecture of Missouri*,

<sup>19</sup> Sheals, Section E: 1, 6-7; Sheals, Section F: 1.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Sheals, Section E: 24-25.

<sup>23</sup> Patterson, Section F: 32,

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*c.1819 to c. 1945* Multiple Property Document. The First Presbyterian Church has all the hallmarks of a traditional Greek Revival style Temple Front church, including its use of local materials, less ornate ornamentation than many churches in more urban settings and it appears to be one of the oldest extant rural churches in Missouri based on the sampling identified for the *Rural Church Architecture* MDPF which categorized this property type as being predominantly found on 1850s and 1860s churches.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Patterson, Section F: 29-30.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Photo Log**

Photographer: Sheila Findall

May 2011

Negatives with Karen Bode Baxter, 5811 Delor Street, St. Louis, MO 63109

Photo #1: Exterior, looking southwest at east façade and north elevation

Photo #2: Exterior, looking northeast at south and west elevations

Photo #3: Interior, from mid west wall looking east

Photo #4: Interior, from mid east wall looking west

Photo #5: Interior, from mid room looking west

**Figure Log**

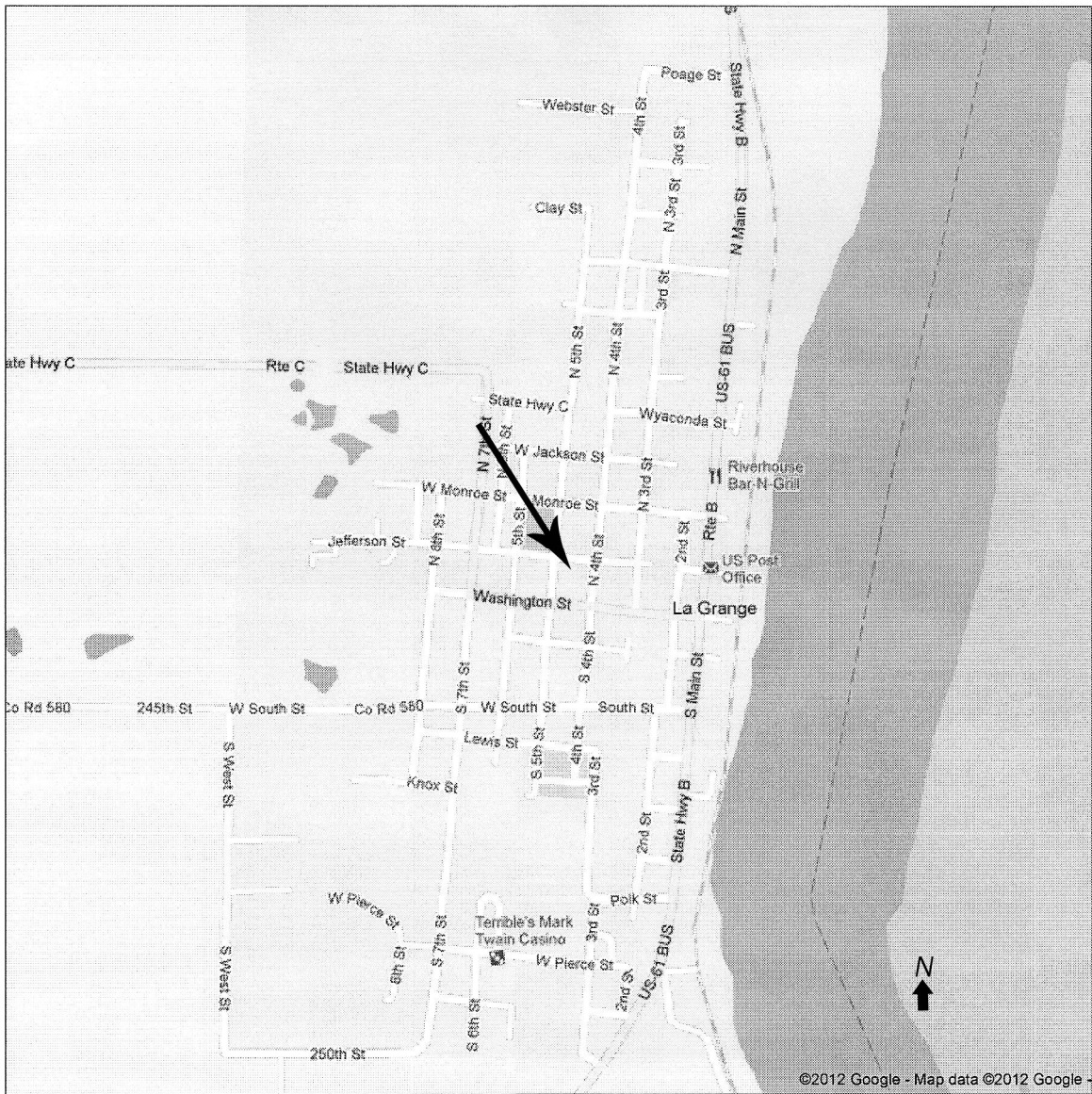
- Map locating property.
- Floor Plan courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc.
- Photo ca. 1945, East façade and North elevation, Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection
- Photo pre 1960's, East façade and North elevation, Courtesy of Press-News Journal files Canton, MO
- Photo ca. 1970's, East façade and North elevation, Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection
- Photo ca. 1970's, Balcony, looking Northeast, Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection
- Photo ca. 1970's
- Altar, looking Southwest
- Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection

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Map locating property

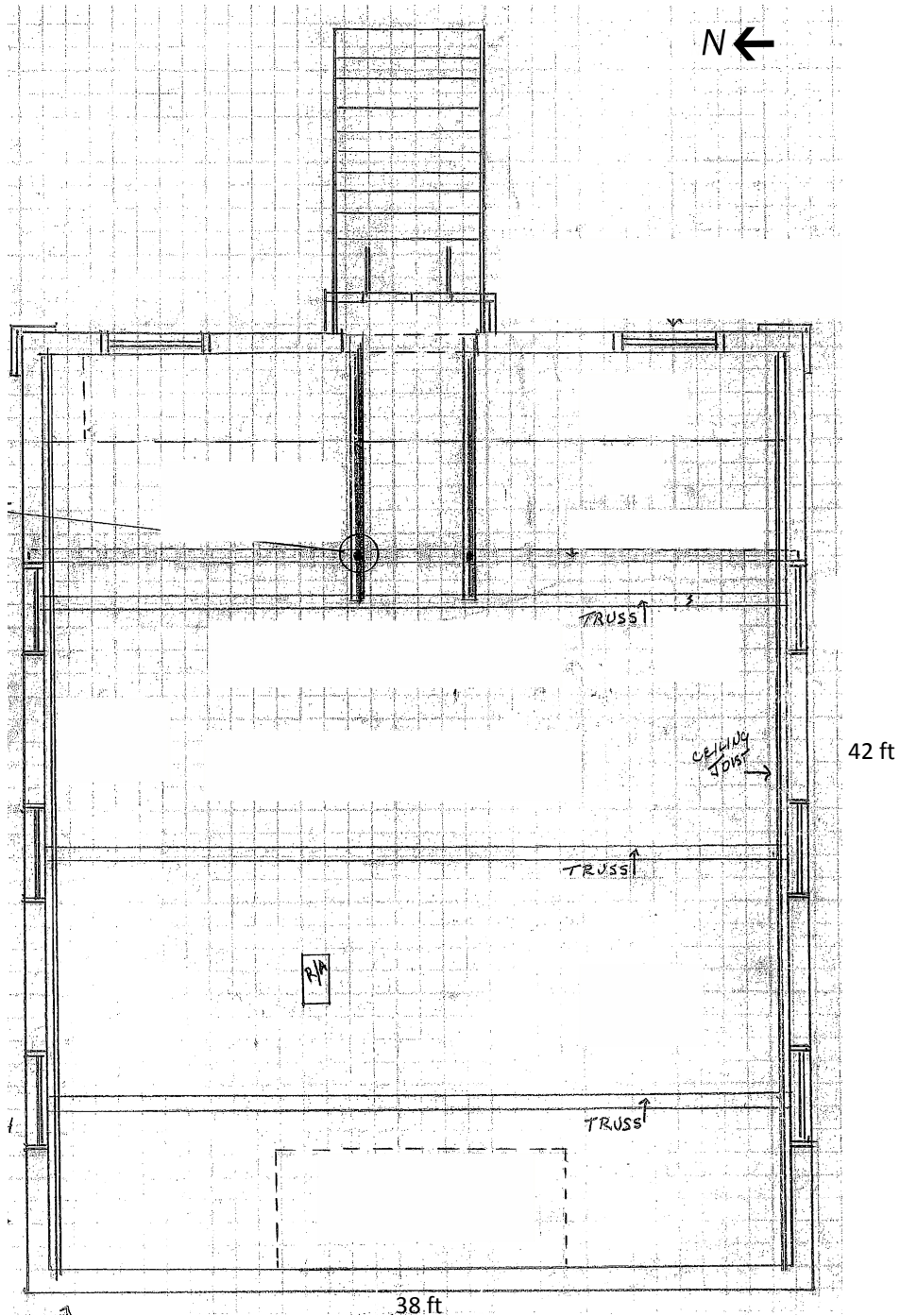


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Floor Plan courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc.





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Photo ca. 1945

East façade and North elevation

Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection



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Photo pre 1960's  
East façade and North elevation  
Courtesy of Press-News Journal files Canton, MO



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Photo ca. 1970's

East façade and North elevation

Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection



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Photo ca. 1970's  
Balcony, looking Northeast  
Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection





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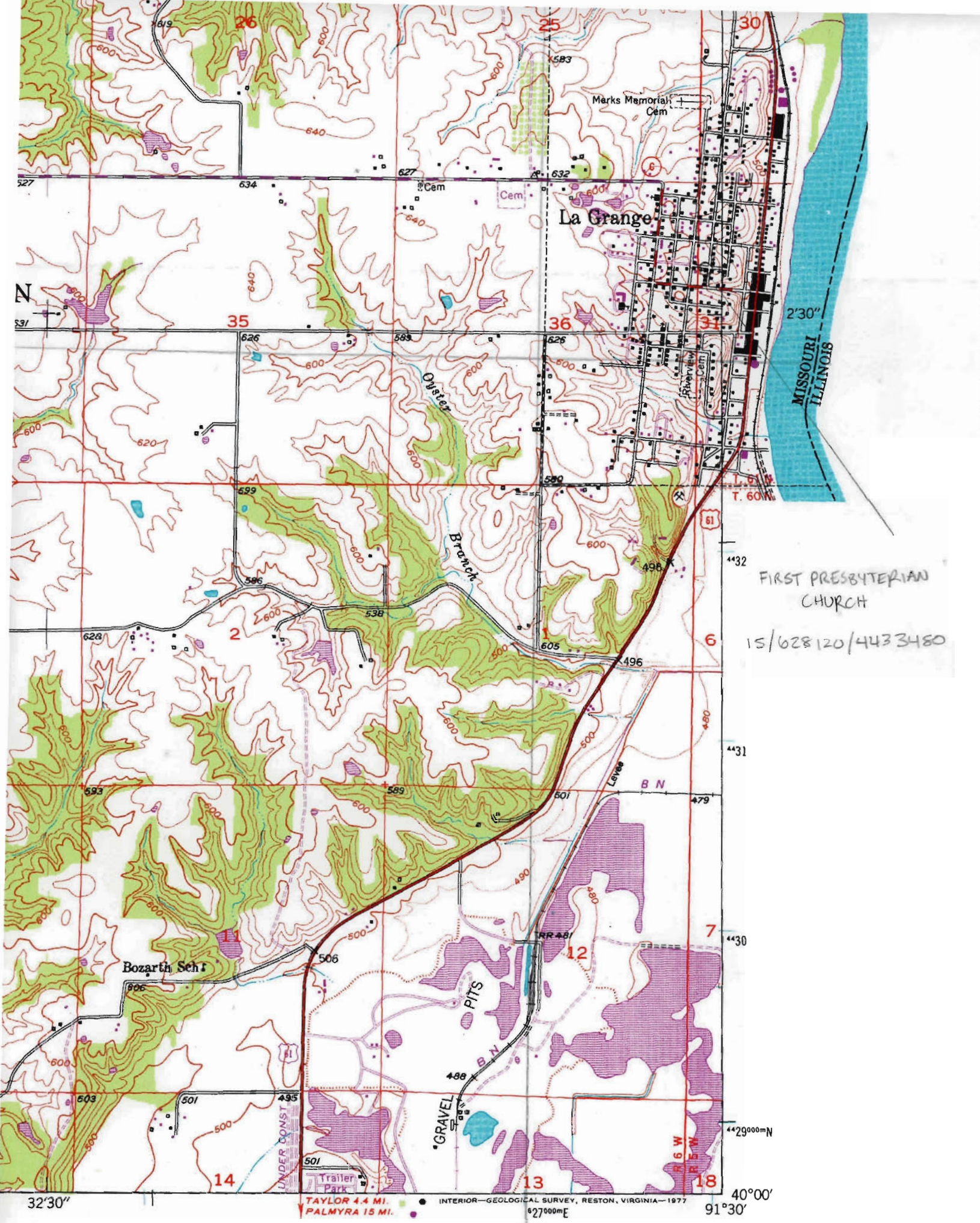
Photo ca. 1970's

Altar, looking Southwest

Courtesy of River City Restorations, Inc. personal collection







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
15/628120/4433480

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1977  
627000mE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

1 MILE

QUINC  
276











