NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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NAME				
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DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Patrick's Church, near Gravois Mills, Missouri, is a rectangular, one-story, masonry structure built at grade with no basement. A Latin cross decorates the gable roof on the main (east) facade which faces State Road O. A one-story, "L"-shaped stone addition adjoins the southwest corner of the church and is capped by a medium-pitch hipped roof.

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions

The rectangular church is 24'3" long on its east and west facades and 44' long along its north and south facades. The "L" shaped addition is 9' long on its east facade, 21'11" along its south facade, 18' long on its west facade and 13'2" along its north facade. The roof of the church rises from a 15' high wall to reach 28' at its ridge. The roof of the addition rises from a 7' wall to reach 13'8" at its peak.

Wall Construction

The walls of St. Patrick's Church are made up of roughly dressed, coursed rubble of native limestone. The cornerstones are more rectangular in shape and are generally larger than the stone blocks of the main wall mass. The walls of the "L" shaped addition are of random rubble. The church walls are 21" thick, the addition walls 10" thick.

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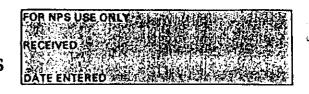
Openings

Windows

The church has six rectangular windows, three on its south facade and three on its north. All are six-over-six light, double-hung sash with cut stone lintels and lug sills. Most of the glass is believed to be original. The windows are symmetrically spaced on both facades. They measure 9'2" x 3'10", are set 3'6" above the ground and are recessed 1 1/2" into the wall. The window frames are painted white and covered by white, wood frame screens. The windows slide on their tracks with little effort.

The windows of the addition consist of six-light casement windows set in pairs and set singly. All are rectangular, operable and framed by white-painted wood casings with no screens. The south facade of the addition has one casement window separated from two hung side by side. Its west facade has two casement windows placed apart; its north, two hung side by side; its east has no windows. The windows hung alone are 3'8" x 2'3". The windows hung side by side measure 3'8" x 4'. All the windows of the addition also have cut stone lintels and lug sills.

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Doors and Doorways

The centered door of the church's main (east) facade is a single leaf, four panel door capped by a segmental relieving arch over a cut stone lintel. The addition has two doors; one on its east facade and one on its north. Both are single leaf, five panel pine doors painted white. The door on the east facade measures $6'10'' \times 3'$. The door on the north facade measures $6'10'' \times 2'8''$. Both have cut stone lintels and lug sills.

Chimneys

The church chimney rises from within the fabric of the wall near the eave line between the second and third bays on the south facade. A thin belt course decorates the top of the chimney. The addition has a rear slope chimney centered 9' in from either wall on its west facade. It also is built within the fabric of the wall. Both are operable, square shaped and built of brick.

Roofs

The church roof is a gable roof made of standing-seam metal sheets supported by pine joists. The roof of the addition is medium hipped with green asphalt shingles over flush pine boards. The church eaves extend 8", while the eaves on the addition extend 19" and have exposed rafters.

Decorative Features

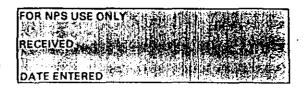
Besides those mentioned earlier, a white-painted pine cross secured at the peak of the primary (east) facade stands out as a decorative feature.

INTERIOR

Church Interior

The interior of the church retains much of its original character. Access to the church is through the main door centered in the east facade. Green carpeting covers a cement and gravel floor up to the first rise in the floor at the chancel rail. At the rail the carpeting is red and follows the two rises to the altar.

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Sixteen oak pews, set eight on each side, create a center aisle in the church that leads to a chancel rail perforated with a quatrefoil motif. The original pews were "puncheon seats" made from split logs. In 1907 the present pews were donated to the church from St. James Church in Kansas City. Monsignior John Keyes, who grew up in St. Patrick's Parish, arranged the donation.

A gas furnace was installed in 1968 and stands along the south wall between the second and third window. It stands 5'll" high, is 2' wide and protrudes 1' into the church. A round stovepipe rises from the furnace and enters the chimney built within the wall. The walls are plaster painted white. Green trim surrounds the splayed windows and doors.

On the west wall of the church, above the altar, is a tripartite arrangement of painted green plaster hood molds which spring from culs-de-lampe. This arrangement gives the church a gothic flavor—the central nave flanked by side aisles. Within the center hood mold is a pine crucifix with a plaster cast of Christ believed to be the only original statue in the church. Below the hood molds is the altar, flanked by five-foot plaster statues of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary. The original altar was an oak table. It was replaced in 1930 by the present altar, which was donated to the church by the St. Mary's Hospital in Sedalia, Missouri. The plaster paris over plaster altar has a 1907 date stone saying it was made in Chicago. The statues were donated by churches in the Jefferson City area. The altar is 10' high. On its base is an Agnus Dei relief flanked by four columns. The altar also has a tripartite arrangement with a statue of the Sacred Heart set above a brass relief of a chalice on the tabernacle door. Three brass candle holders flank each side of the tabernacle. A gothic arch with crockets enframes the head of the Sacred Heart statue.

The north and south walls rise to 14'2" to meet a 1' wide green plaster molding. From the molding the ceiling rises on a 45 degree angle for 4' before meeting the pressed tin ceiling that is painted silver. In 1968 electricity was installed and three delicate light fixtures were hung on each side of the church between the windows. Two of these same fixtures are hung aside the altar. Two floodlights, mounted to the windows nearest the altar, illuminate the altar and the area around it. Plaster casts of the stations of the cross are spaced evenly on the east, north and south walls.

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Addition Interior

Access to the addition is from a doorway located on the south wall near the altar. After the addition was built, the door, which has a small trap built into it, was used as a confessional separating the priest from confessor. Through this door is the utility room, which has a 7' high ceiling of lath and plaster board painted white. The floor in the addition was also originally wood but was poured in 1968 with that of the church. On the east wall of the utility room is a door leading outside; on its west wall is a door leading to what was once used as a sleeping quarters for visiting priests and nuns that used to teach Sunday School. The west wall is made of 3" tongue and groove board painted white. The door is made of pine and also painted white.

The sleeping quarters also have a 7' ceiling and its south wall is covered with white painted cement. The wood trim around the doors and windows is painted white. On the north wall is a door opening to the outside.

ALTERATIONS

All alterations to St. Patrick's Church, excepting the new roof and floor, have been minor and have not greatly affected the character of the church.

1907 New pews were donated as mentioned earlier.

1919 Well dug.

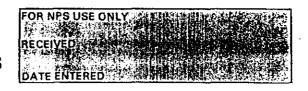
The standing seam metal roof was constructed to replace the wood shingle over oak saplings roof that blew away in a storm in this year. The second door, a single leaf, four panel, pine door painted white, was installed to replace the flat oak door believed to be the original. The second door now is used to screen the front facade of the outhouses in the rear of the cemetery grounds. Also in this year, a wood floor was constructed over the original dirt floor. The original cross blew down and crumbled in the same storm that tore off the roof. It was made of a stone that was imported by the Osage Iron Works and donated to the church. It was replaced by a pine cross painted white. A sidewalk was laid from the gravel turnaround to the front door of the church.

1930 New altar donated. (mentioned earlier)

New addition was built to house visiting priests. An outhouse was built made of random rubble like the addition.

1949 Cemetery and the grounds were fenced off with steel poles and barbed wire. 12

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A major renovation effort was begun by the grandchildren of three of the original builders of the church. The wood floors in both the church and the addition were taken up and a cement and gravel floor was poured. The windows were repaired and minor tuckpointing was done to the church and the addition. Minor repairs to the altar were made. The third door was installed. It resembled the second, being a single leaf, four panel door and made of pine painted white. ¹³ Routine painting and plastering were done to the interior and carpet was laid later that year.

SITE

The St. Patrick's Church of Gravois Mills, Missouri, is located 1.1 miles east of Missouri Hwy 5 on State Road O. The land was originally surveyed in 1870 to be 3.39 acres. Since then highway O was built and cut into the southeastern corner of the property, leaving it at 3.1 acres.

The church faces east and is about 200' from highway 0. Between 0 and the walkway is a gravel turnaround used during services for parking. Two cedar trees shade the walkway. Near the south wall of the church is a well capped by a wooden platform and hand pump. Behind the church, near its western property line, are two outhouses built next to each other. One was built of random rubble when the church was built; the other was built of cinder blocks at a later unknown date. The second door used at the main entrance is now used to screen the front of the outhouses from view. A well manicured cemetery surrounds the back and sides of the church, and a barbed wire fence surrounds the grounds. The grounds are surrounded by countryside.

CONDITION

St. Patrick's Church is in good condition structurally. The cut stone lintel above the main entrance and the cut stone step have cracked, but this has caused no major problems. The exterior wood trim around the roof has decayed and is termite infested and will probably need attention soon. Plaster in the interior is cracked but seems to need only minor attention.

PRESENT STATUS

St. Patrick's Church is maintained by donations from the parishioners of New St. Patrick's Church in Gravois Mills. Old St. Patrick's is used only for weddings and funerals now.

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FOOTNOTES

- 1. Elizabeth Andrews, in a personal interview with Tom Chesser, 8 May 1978. Andrews is the granddaughter of Josiah Riffle, one of the original builders of the church. She subscribes to the belief that the stone was quarried on the surrounding countryside and the limestone used in the mortar was burned on the site.
- 2. Ibid.
- 3. Kathleen Dornan, in a personal interview with Tom Chesser, 10 May 1978. Dornan is the granddaughter of Frances McDonough, one of the original builders. She said she was told the original seats were "puncheon seats", split logs with shaved sapling legs.
- 4. <u>Ibid.</u> Dornan said her grandfather donated the cross to the church when it was built. When the new church was built the original furnishings of the church were divided up among descendants of the original builders.
- 5. Elizabeth Andrews, "A History of the Old St. Patrick's Church," paper prepared to preserve the history of the church, Versailles, Mo., 1966, p. 3. (Typewritten.)
- Claude Dunnaway, in a personal interview with Tom Chesser, 12 May 1978.
 Dunnaway installed the lights during the 1968 restoration.
- 7. Andrews interview, 8 May 1978.
- 8. Dunnaway interview, 12 May 1978. The single leaf, four panel door replaced the flat oak door and was later altered to allow people to converse through it.
- 9. Andrews interview, 8 May 1978.
- 10. Andrews interview, 8 May 1978. Andrews said the original cross was donated by the Osage Iron Works, a now defunct company. She said the company had the stone imported and made a cross for the church from scraps it didn't use. The new cross is pine.
- 11. Ibid. She says the sidewalk was poured when the roof was replaced in 1926.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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- 12. Ibid. There was no fence before the present one.
- 13. Dornan interview, 10 May 1978. She said the third door was donated by a local lumber company and made to resemble the second one.
- 14. Dexter Slagle, in a telephone interview with Tom Chesser, 10 May 1978. Slagle has the original survey and did a 1978 survey.
- 15. Ibid.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION	
_1400-1493	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE	
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Patrick's Church, near Gravois Mills, Missouri, is an extension of the character of its builders: simple, practical and plain. All unnecessary ornamentation was omitted. It is a stone church, a replica of the type of stone churches the majority of its builders were familiar with in their homeland, featuring utilitarian design and lasting construction of native limestone. In addition, it is the only existing stone church in the counties surrounding the Lake of the Ozarks and is the oldest remaining church in Morgan County. Also, St. Patrick's is the boyhood parish of Monsignior John Keyes, a religious leader and humanitarian popular in the Kansas City

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

St. Patrick's Church was built by II persons: nine Irish Catholics from what was then called the county of Fermanagh, a first generation German-American Catholic and a Protestant Scotsman.⁴ Tom Fitzpatrick was the most instrumental in getting the church underway.⁵ He arrived in Morgan County in 1850, squatted some land, then went back to Ireland for his family. Many of the Irish immigrants who came to the area and helped with the building of the church were neighbors and relatives of the Fitzpatrick's in Fermanagh.⁶

Fitzpatrick started plans for the church in 1863.⁷ Later, Patrick Johnson donated 3.38 acres of land and work began in 1868.⁸ The stone was quarried on the Johnson farm, and a kiln was erected on the grounds to burn limestone necessary for the mortar.⁹ The building was designed to accommodate 80 persons and was ready for worship by 1870.¹⁰

It wasn't until 1883 however, that the church was dedicated. Before the erection of the church, visiting priests to the area held services in Catholic homes. 12

In 1938 an addition was built to the church to house two nuns who gave religious instruction to the children of the area. 13

The church was used for weekly services until 1952, when a new church building was built in nearby Gravois Mills. The larger church was necessary to accommodate the largercrowds attending services from the Lake of the Ozarks area. 14

St. Patrick's Church is now the oldest church in Morgan County (and the oldest stone church in the three counties surrounding the Lake of the Ozarks) by virtue of the razing of a 1842 Methodist Church in 1907 to make way for a larger building. 15

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Historians believe there were three reasons why some of the Irish Catholic immigrants of the 1850's and 1860's chose to settle in Morgan County: land was cheap, Catholicism was established in the area, and earlier Irish immigrants had successfully settled there.

Most of the Irish immigrants were farmers in their homeland, but few could afford to buy or even squat land here. Those that could settled for the more inexpensive land in the less accessible parts of the state, in counties not bordering the Mississippi or Missouri rivers.

Before the Civil War, Missouri land was cheaper than most southern, northern and eastern land. After the war southern land became less expensive but Missouri land was still not as costly as that in the North and East. 17

The territory now comprising Morgan County was once occupied by the Osage Indians. 18 The first Catholic missionary effort in western Missouri was undertaken by Father De La Croix when he visited the Osage Indians in the region of Harmony Mission in 1822. The Osages were the first Indians west of the Mississippi River to ask the Catholic Church for missionaries, so it is known Catholicism was established in the area as early as the 1820's.

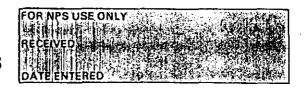
Some of the first land bought in the county was purchased in 1824 by an Irish immigrant; George McFarland. Hugh Kelsay, another Irishman, bought land in the county a year later. The two are believed to have been among the first successful Irish settlers in the area and to have encouraged friends and relatives from their homeland to join them there. Alfred McCutcheon, another Irish jmmigrant, became the first sheriff of Morgan County when it was organized in 1833.

Some of St. Patrick's original builders came to Morgan County by way of Montreal, having their passage paid by England to help colonize Canada and ease the economic situation in Ireland. Others came by way of Boston and New York City. All eventually made their way to St. Louis, most by working on the railroads, before settling in Morgan County. 23

MONSIGNIOR JOHN KEYES

Perhaps the most prominent individual associated with the church was Monsignior John Keyes, who grew to manhood in St. Patrick's parish. After training for the priesthood, he served in various churches in Missouri and achieved distinction in a long period of service to the Catholic Church, especially in Kansas City. Keyes was responsible for organizing the St. James recreational center in Kansas City and for

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building both Protestant and Catholic chapels at the Jackson County Home for the Aged at Leeds Sanitarium. He gave \$45,000 from his own personal funds to equip the recreation center.²⁴

HENRY PURVIS

Henry Purvis was the only Protestant to work on St. Patrick's Church. He died in 1885 and was buried in the St. Patrick's Cemetery. Fifteen years later a group of irate Catholics banded together and decided it wasn't fit for a Protestant to be buried in a Catholic cemetery. They had his body exumed and moved to a local Protestant cemetery. Relatives of Purvis believe this to be an indication of the harsh anti-protestant feelings the Catholics still held to after leaving their homeland.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. Elizabeth Andrews, "A History of Old St. Patrick's Church," paper prepared for preserving the history of the church, Versailles, Missouri, 15 May 1966, p. 1. (Typewritten.) Andrews is the granddaughter of Josiah Riffle, the German-American who helped build the church.
- 2. A.G. Baker, <u>History of Morgan County and Some of its People</u>, (Versailles, Missouri: n.p., 1908-1917), p. 44.
- 3. "Honor to Father Keyes, Pastor's 50 Years to be Marked," <u>Kansas City Star</u>, sec. 2, p. 1. 12 June 1947.
- 4. Andrews, p. 2.
- 5. <u>Goodspeed's History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties</u>, (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889) p. 444.
- 6. Andrews, p. 2.
- 7. Ibid., p. 3.
- 8. Bridget Johnson, deed filed at Versailles, Missouri, 6 October 1873, book 24, pp. 236-237.
- 9. Andrews, p. 2.
- 10. <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 4.



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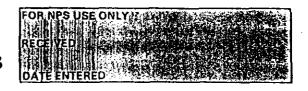
- 11. "Sedalia Priest Serves Parish With Little Stone Church in Rugged Area," <u>Sedalia Democrat and Capital</u>, 12 June 1938, sec. 1, p. 3.
- 12. Baker, p. 39.
- 13. Andrews, p. 5.
- 14. Ibid., p. 5.
- 15. Baker, pp. 40-42.
- 16. David D. March, The History of Missouri, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co. Inc., 1967) 1:500.
- 17. Floyd Calvin Shoemaker, <u>Missouri and Missourians</u>, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1943) 1:41-42.
- 18. Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, 1901 ed., S.V. "Morgan County," 4:480.
- 19. "Do You Know or Don't You," Missouri Historical Review, (April, 1939), p. 415.
- 20. Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, 4:480.
- 21. Arthur Paul Moser, "Directory of Towns, Villages and Hamlets Past and Present of Morgan County," booklet prepared to preserve the history of Morgan County, Springfield, Missouri, December 1976, p. 1. (Mimeographed.)
- 22. Moss McDonald, in a personal interview held with Tom Chesser, 17 May 1978. McDonald is the grandson of Michael McDonald, one of the original builders of the church.
- 23. Kathleen Dornan, in a personal interview with Tom Chesser, 9 May 1978. Dornan is the granddaughter of Frances McDonough, one of the original builders of the church.
- 24. Ibid., p. 6.
- 25. Leslie Moore, in a telephone interview with Tom Chesser, 14 June 1978. Moore is the great great niece of Henry Purvis.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Baker, A.G. <u>History of Morgan County and Some of its People</u>. Versailles: n.p., Versailles, <u>Missouri</u>: 1908-1917.
- 2. Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, 1901 ed. S.V. "Morgan County."

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ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (OLD)

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- 3. Goodspeeds History of Cole, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Miller, Maries and Osage Counties. Chicago: the Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.
- March, David D. <u>The History of Missouri</u>. New York: Lewis Publishing Co. Inc., 1967.
- 5. Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin. <u>Missouri and Missourians</u>. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1943.

PERIODICALS

- 6. "Honor to Father Keyes, Pastor's 50 Years to be Marked." Kansas City Star, 12 June 1947, sec. 2, p. 1.
- 7. "Do You Know or Don't You." The Missouri Historical Review, April 1939, p. 415.
- 8. "Sedalia Priest Serves Parish With Little Stone Church in Rugged Area." Sedalia Democrat and Capital, 12 June 1938, sec. 1, p. 3.

UNPUBLISHED WORKS

- 9. Versailles, Missouri Elizabeth Andrews, "A History of Old St. Patrick's Church," 15 May 1966.
- 10. Versailles, Missouri. The Original deed to the land filed by Bridget Johnson, 6 October 1873.
- 11. Columbia, Missouri, State Historical Society Library. Arthur Paul Moser, "Directory of Towns, Villages and Hamlets Past and Present in Morgan County," December 1976.

INTERVIEWS

- 12. Andrews, Elizabeth. With Tom Chesser, 8 May 1978. (Personal)
- 13. Dornan, Kathleen. With Tom Chesser, 10 May 1978. (Personal)
- 14. Dunnaway, Claude. With Tom Chesser, 12 May 1978. (Telephone)
- 15. McDonald, Moss. With Tom Chesser, 17 May 1978. (Personal)
- 16. Moore, Leslie. With Tom Chesser, 14 June 1978. (Telphone)
- 17. Slagle, Dexter. With Tom Chesser. 10 May 1978. (Telephone)

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (OLD)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

0 PAGE]

7°30' East run West 7.69 ch, thence South 7.00 ch, to NE corner of land at which a limestone was placed from which the arris of the doorsill of the church on the land bears S 42 $1/4^\circ$ W 3.89 ch, from this point run West 5.82 ch, thence South 5.82 ch, thence East 5.82 ch, thence North 5.82 ch to starting point at the NE corner of the above described lot of land. Contains 3.4 acres less approximately .3 acres from SE corner of lot which was intersected by Missouri State Road 0 leaving approximately 3.1 acres.

ITEM NUMBER

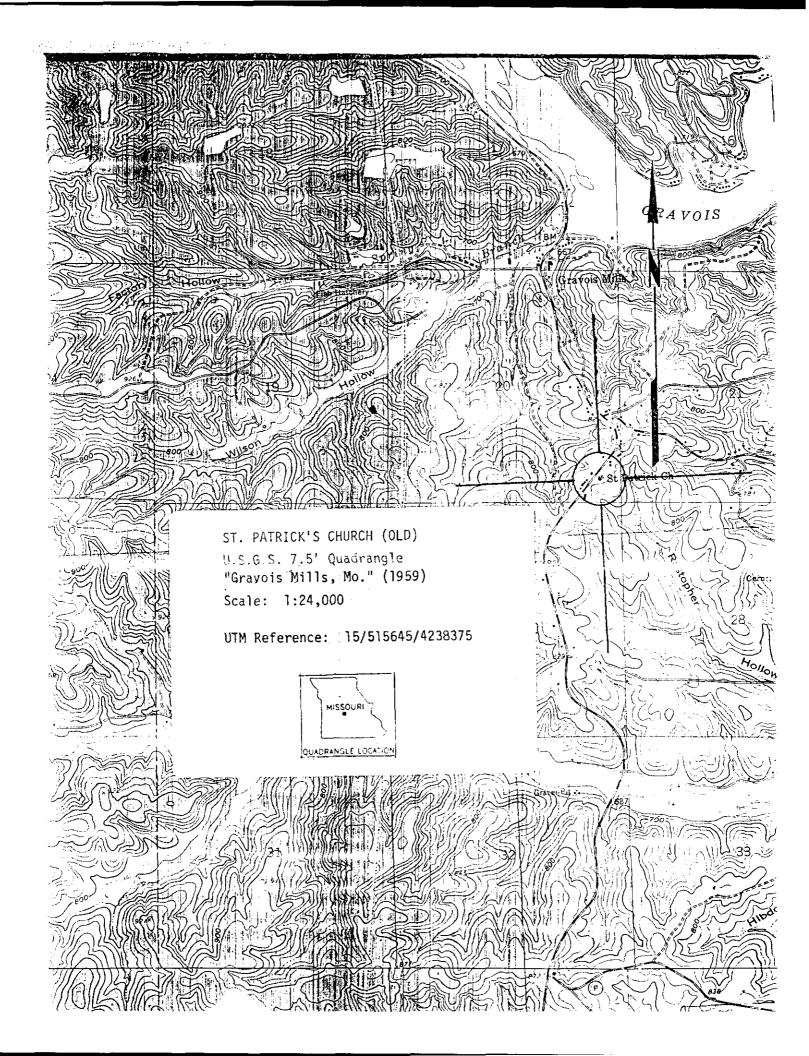
11 PAGE

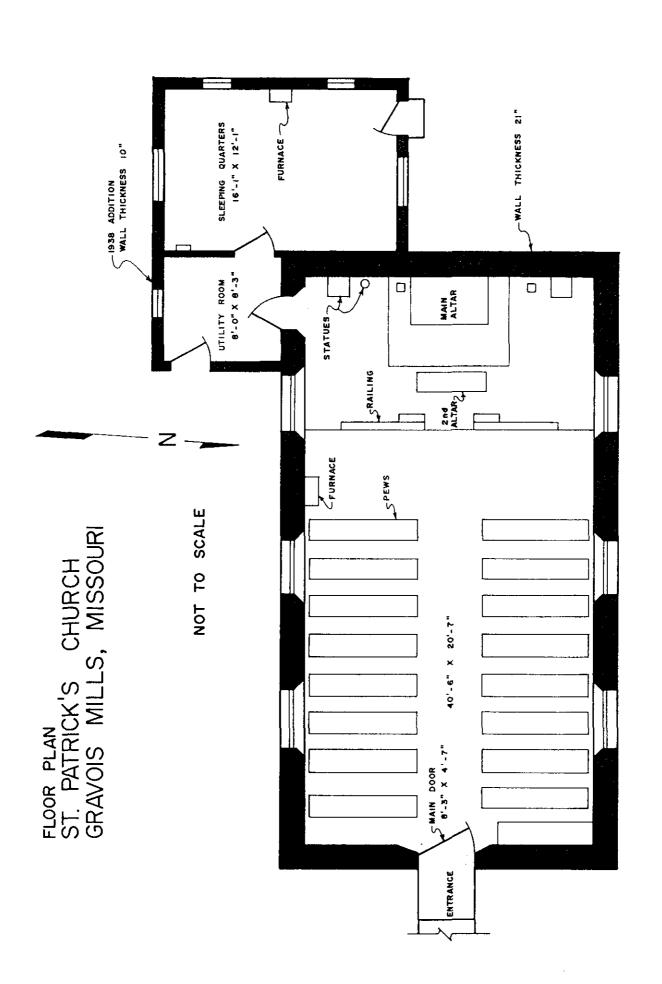
2

 James M. Denny Claire F. Blackwell, editors Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City

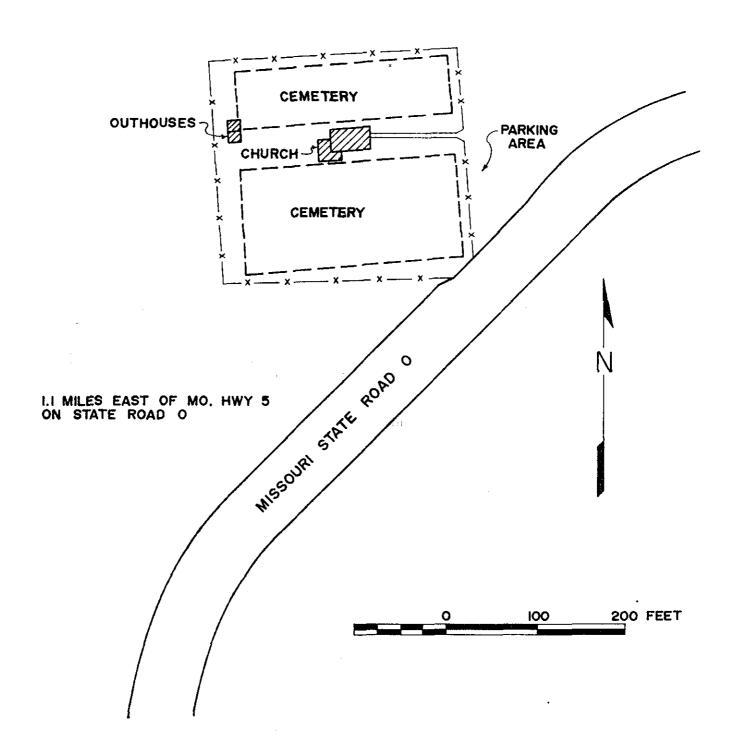
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

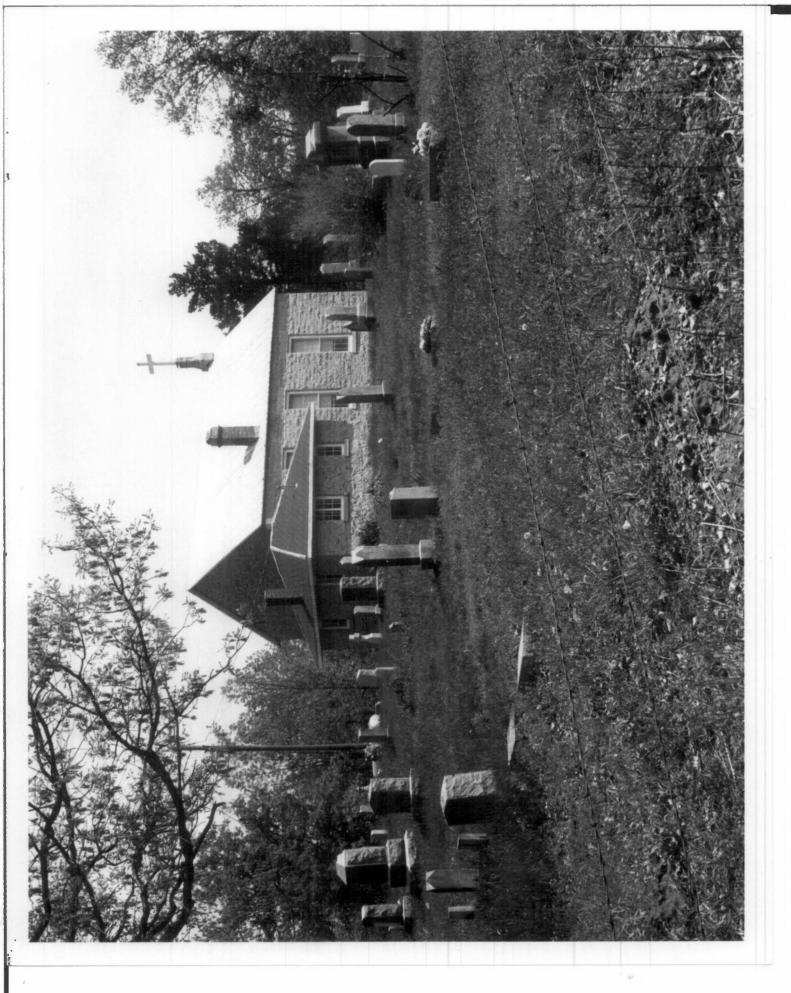




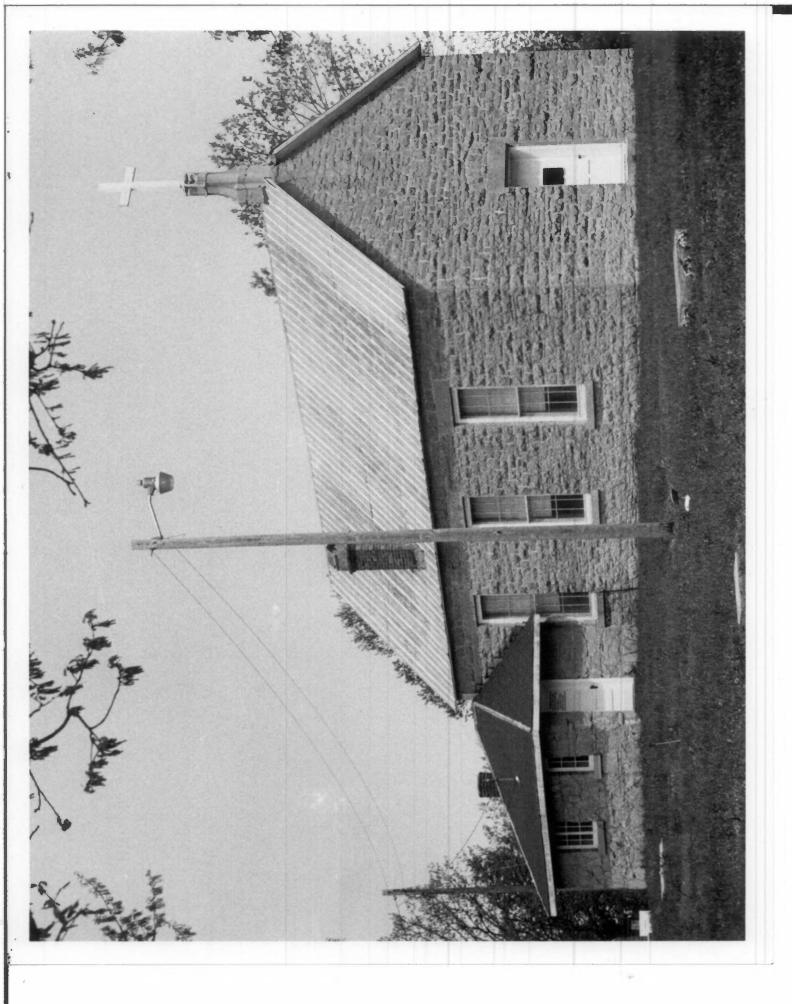
SITE PLAN MAP ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH GRAVOIS MILLS, MISSOURI



View from southwest, showing cemetery.

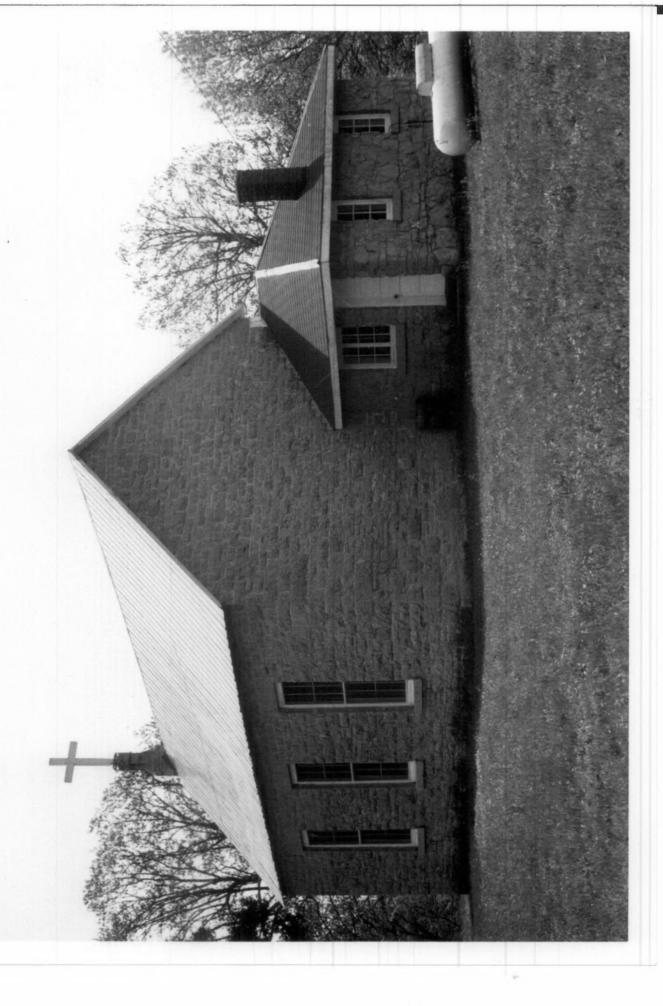


Southeast corner.



Northwest corner.

#3



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

#4

Gravois Mills, Missouri

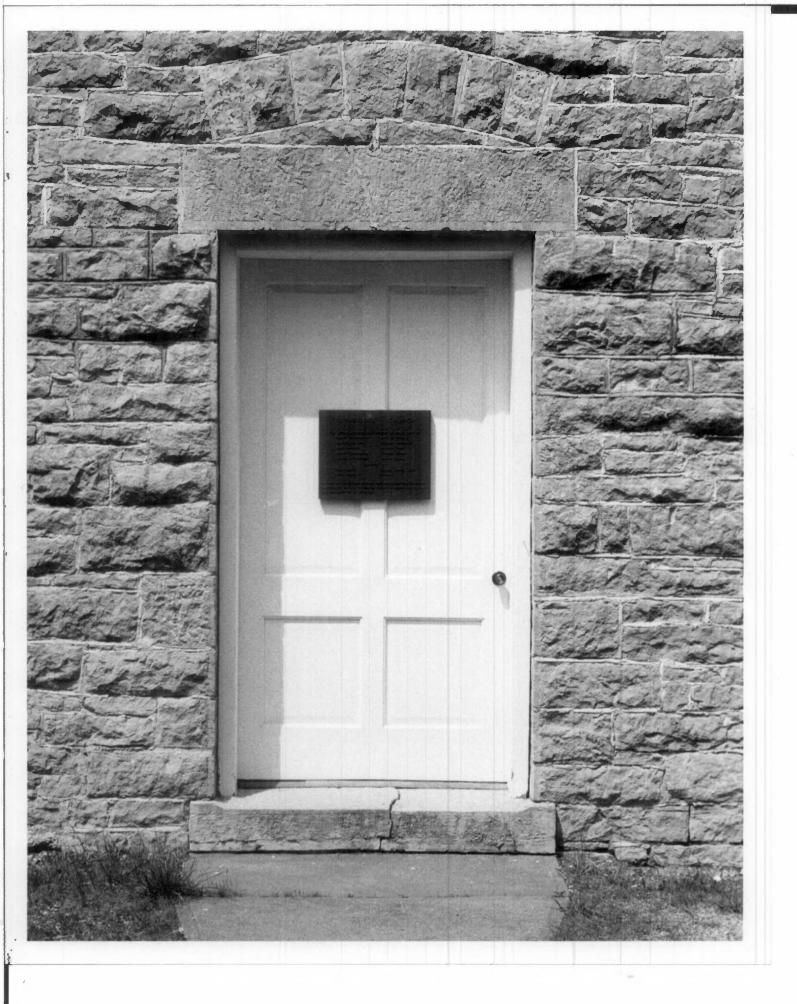
Photographer: Tom Chesser

May, 1978 Neg. Loc.: Lake of the Ozarks Council of

Local Governments P.O. Box 786

Camdenton, Missouri 65020

Main door on east facade, showing relieving arch and cut stone lintel



Interior, looking toward altar (west).

