

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NOV 20 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCE
NATIONAL PARK

1. Name of Property

historic name Second Baptist Church

other names/site number Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 430 West Grant Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Neosho [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Newton code 145 zip code 64850

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 [])

Claire F. Blackwell

14 Nov. 95

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SRPO

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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
See continuation sheet []

Signature of the Keeper

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

foundation stone
 walls brick
 roof asphalt
 other wood

Narrative Description

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

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage--Black

Periods of Significance

1896-1945

Significant Dates

1896

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9 Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	377470	4081710			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Jean Barker
organization Second Baptist Church date August 22, 1995
street & number Route 8, Box 257 telephone 417/451-2545
city or town Neosho state MO zip code 64850

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Second Baptist Church
street & number 430 West Grant Street telephone 417/451-5157
city or town Neosho state MO zip code 64850

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO

SUMMARY: The Second Baptist Church, 430 West Grant Street, Neosho, Newton County, is a one-story brick church with Late Gothic Revival style affinities. Constructed in 1896, the church rests on a stone foundation and is covered by a gable roof. A projecting, centered, two-story brick belfry dominates the facade and houses the entrance. Above the doors is a Gothic arched transom, and a single pane, diamond shaped window is centered above the transom. The church still retains its historical integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, association, feeling, and workmanship.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: The Second Baptist Church stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Lincoln and Grant streets. The building's length is fifty feet eight inches and the width is thirty feet six inches. It is a rectangular one story brick building with Late Gothic Revival details and a gable roof and projecting two-story brick belfry on the facade; it is apparently the only Late Gothic Revival brick building in Neosho. The belfry, which was restored in February 1994, is open and roofed with asbestos fiberglass shingles; it is surmounted by a copper finial. The exterior of the building is six-course common bond brick. There are two other buildings in Neosho which utilized the same brick and which were thought to have been constructed around the same period. The bricks used to build these buildings were believed to be kilned at the Job Ratliff property on Scenic Route. The main entrance is located on the projecting central bay and has replacement metal and glass doors. Above the doors is an original Gothic arched transom with stained glass lights and three courses of brick relief arching. Above the transom is a small, diamond-shaped stained glass window. The window bays on the east and west facades are separated by brick pilasters.

Entrance to the sanctuary is through double wooden doors with four glass transoms above. Upon entering the small nine foot vestibule, entrance can be gained to the belfry through a two foot by three foot trap door on the ceiling. The original wood design on the woodwork remains throughout, including around the nine window facings in the sanctuary. The door frame and window casings are of a "corner block" with the pattern of concentric circles. The bottom door frames are bottom base block. The sanctuary is twenty-seven feet nine inches by forty-seven feet six inches. To the right upon entry a small library and furnace room was added, taking nine feet twelve and one-half inches by nine feet fourteen inches from the southeast corner of the sanctuary. (One additional window is in the furnace room.) The ledge around the room which is original, remains in good condition. Walls are plastered and the top half of the room has now been wallpapered, with paneling added to the bottom half of the original walls on the east and west sides; and complete north and south walls. All original wood is still in place around windows. The clear glass was replaced in remodeling with marbled stain glass and inside storm windows. The 20 foot cathedral ceiling is tongue and groove and again it is the original wood and is painted. New floor was laid in the early 60's and the original floor is still underneath. Red carpeting flows from the vestibule entrance, center aisle and around and including the pulpit and choir stand areas. The pulpit and choir stand were extended from a smaller size, during remodeling in 1973. The pulpit area is now thirteen feet four inches by twenty feet eleven inches. Lighting in the original church were small lamps hung on the east and west walls. The original pews were eighteen foot single board oak.

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Section 7,8 Page 2

**Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO**

The building's historic design remains, only with minor changes; window replacement, replacement of original shingles, entrance doors and restoration of the belfry. A frame addition at the rear of the building does not detract from the original design.

8. Statement of Significance:

SUMMARY: The Second Baptist Church of Neosho, Missouri is significant under criteria A in the area of Ethnic Heritage--Black. Built in 1896, the church represents one of the few public institutions in the town that expresses the legacy of black history. It is one of only two historic churches in Neosho identified in a 1991 survey of historic resources. The vernacular building with Late Gothic Revival style affinities is directly associated with the African American heritage of the community. The church was founded and supported by men and women who held significant roles in the African American community. The Second Baptist Church still stands tall as a center for Neosho's African American culture, serving also as the community's social and cultural focus. The church provided the community with a haven of rest in a changing world, and the diversity of its congregation brought many talents through its doors. The members played an important role in the community as did the church play the most important role in their lives. Despite minor alterations, the building still reflects this significant heritage; its period of significance extends from 1896, its date of construction, to 1945, the arbitrary fifty year limit.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND: Second Baptist Church apparently had its origins in the chaos and upheaval that accompanied the Civil War and its aftermath. At the beginning of the Civil War, there were about four hundred slaves in Newton County. The last major Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River occurred at nearby Newtonia on October 28, 1864, the conclusion to Sterling Price's last disastrous raid. Newton County housed troops from both North and the South, so the county and its communities experienced much unrest and strife and their attendant terror and devastation.

According to court records, on March 19, 1866, a merger and incorporation between Second Baptist and Pleasant Hill Baptist was approved; both churches had apparently been organized prior to this time. Pleasant Hill was originally located north of Neosho, near the Pleasant Hill cemetery. Those signing the petition for the incorporation included Phillip Givens, pastor, and Stephen S. Frost, who was later called to pastor and was the first pastor of the Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri. Frost was also the first teacher of George Washington Carver; about 1870, Frost taught in Neosho's first black school, which Carver, who was born ten miles away, in Diamond Grove, attended.¹ Others signing the merger and incorporation papers were Samuel Perry, Peter Graves, Edwin Martin, James Dale, and eight others.

Although approved ten years earlier, the merger of the Second Baptist and Pleasant Hill congregations was not finalized until August 16, 1876. In the same month, three lots to house the new church were

¹While attending school in Neosho, Carver lived with Andrew and Mariah Watkins on Young Street. Mariah Watkins was a well known mid-wife and taught her young charge many skills, as well as encouraging his interest in education and religion.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO

purchased from John and Emma Shatliff for the sum of \$200.00. The lots are the location of the present church. A one story frame church was built by members at this site; this original building is no longer extant.

The establishment of the Second Baptist and Pleasant Hill congregations and their subsequent merger was part of a general movement for separation which blacks favored after the Civil War. A church separate from the white churches permitted a degree of independence and self-determination not permissible in an integrated body and represented for many blacks a natural extension of their freedom. Before and after the Civil War, black preachers provided social leadership for their communities. The black church also served beyond its religious purposes as a community center. Usually located in the heart of the community, the building was typically used for community meetings and for recreational and social activities and provided some measure of security from intrusion.²

During the period when the church was first built the census records show that there were about three hundred African American families living in Newton County. The majority were farmers or farm laborers, and they typically had large families. Many of the African American residents of Newton County were originally from southern states. Census records indicate the states or territories were Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Indian Territory, South Carolina, and Georgia. At least three African American professionals were also recorded in Neosho: Aaron Williams, born in Mississippi, worked as a blacksmith; Gordon Jackson, born in Georgia, was a barber; and John Armstrong, born in the Indian Territory, kept a livery stable.

In 1891, the Neosho School system constructed Lincoln School, a one-story two room building, in 1891 on Washington Avenue, on lot 6, block 16 of the Henning's addition; the Lincoln School replaced the original school, attended by Carver and located on Grant Street. The African American community in Neosho also maintained its own separate social structure, similar to the legally imposed educational and economic structures. For example, on February 16, 1894, the P.T. Wright Colored Concert Company appeared at the Neosho Opera House and, with African American university students, staged a production of "H.M.S. Pinafore." The Neosho Colored Band was also organized and played a variety of music at both African American and white functions, including political rallies; because support for the band crossed color lines, uniforms were purchased through a community-wide fund-raising effort. The local African American baseball team enjoyed a reputation for excellence and played in the surrounding states, as well as Missouri.

The Second Baptist Church was the focus of many of these social functions, as well as its religious services. Weddings were occasionally a community-wide event, as on the night of March 27, 1895, when approximately four hundred members of the African American population of Neosho was in attendance at the wedding of Lizzie Beard and Dee Thomas; Thomas held a responsible and remunerative position in the culinary department of the McElhaney House. In May 1894, the original frame Second Baptist Church housed the graduation exercises for the first class to graduate from

²Gunnar Myrdal, "The Negro Church in the Negro Community," in Hart M. Nelson, Ratha L. Yokley, and Anne K. Nelson, The Black Church in America (New York: Basic Books, 1971), p. 85.

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Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO

Neosho's Lincoln School; the class consisted of two girls and one boy. The exercises included music, recitations, essays, and dialogues. One side of the church was reserved for the white visitors, all of the Neosho teachers, and the Board of Education. The Second Baptist Church was also a member of the Newton County Sunday School Association.

On November 10, 1896, \$500.00 was borrowed from the American Baptist Home Mission Board and used to construct the present brick structure. J. M. Clendenon was serving as church clerk at this time. Mrs. Della White, Misses Ora and Ophelia Baker were present at the dedication of the new church building. Most of the functions held in the previous building continued to be held in the new building, and it served as the focus for community events and social functions, as a meeting hall and cultural center. In addition to regular religious services, as well as Training Union, Sunday School and Mission, programs presented by students at Lincoln School were repeated a few days later at the church. All of the families attended both.

According to C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya, "A major aspect of Black christian belief is found in the symbolic importance given to the work 'freedom.'"³ Often the first thing the freedman did after emancipation was to put his freedom to a test, to move, change residence, employment, and even his name. To many, free also meant free from responsibility. Within the segregated and economically and politically powerless society, there were very few leaders who the community as a whole could look to for help and encouragement. With its stabilizing influence, the church was probably the most important part of the African American community, and the community drew most of its leaders from the church. The founders of the Second Baptist Church were knowledgeable and possessed the skills which provided the leadership for much of the African American community of Neosho. Since the initial pastoral work by Reverend Givens, there have been many great pastors of the Second Baptist Church, most of whom have passed away. They were as follows (years of service are not always known):

Rev. Palmer
Rev. Curtis
Rev. Green Embrey
Rev. Dudley
Rev. O.D. Bond
Rev. Rice
Rev. King
Rev. Sam Smith (who in later years organized the Mount Eagle Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri)
Rev. Brown
Rev. L.T. Thompson
Rev. Zachariah Johnson
Rev. W.E. Burns
Rev. Platt
Rev. Ransburg

³C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence H. Mamiya, The Black Church in the African-American Experience (Duke University Press, 1990), p. 4.

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**Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO**

Rev. Parker
Rev. M.G. Edmondson
Rev. Mack McConnell
Rev. V.L. Roy Liburd
Rev. Elwood Johnson
Rev. Titus Johnson

In addition, Rev. Leo Barbee served as assistant pastor, and Rev. Charles Askew and Rev. Maurice Reaves served as interim pastors. The current pastor is Rev. Larry C. Anderson.

Membership during the past two decades has remained constant. While many of the younger persons of the Black community have moved away for college or jobs, other families have moved into the community. There has always been a remnant of the "old" original body there to carry on the work. Today the church is more active than it has ever been. Membership is about sixty, with an average attendance of forty. Weekly meetings include Wednesday night bible study, laymen, junior laymen, women's missionary society, usher board and two choirs. The church remains active in community affairs. Now, however, the pastor resides in Kansas and commutes to Neosho weekends. The Second Baptist Church is still important within the Neosho community. It is important in the lives of many individuals and significant in the black heritage of Neosho.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Interviews:

Mrs. Mayme Patterson, Route 8, Mary Avenue, Neosho, Missouri
Mr. William B. Gage, 1111 Hickory Avenue, Neosho, Missouri
Mike Snow, Industrial Arts Instructor, Neosho High School, 511 Neosho Boulevard, Neosho,
Missouri
George Kelly, Route 8, Neosho, Missouri

Archives. George Washington Carver National Monument, Diamond, MO.

Census Records: 1870, 1880, and 1890. Microfilm copies in Newton County Library, Neosho, MO.

Congdon, Herbert Wheaton. Early American Homes for Today. N.p.: Charles E. Tuttle Co., n.d.

Cozad, Mary. The Story of an American Town. Neosho, MO: Newton County Historical Society, n.d.

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Section 9 Page 6

Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO

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The History of Neosho and Newton County Missouri. Newton County Library, Neosho, MO.

History of Newton County. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company.

"History of Second Baptist Church." Second Baptist Church Records, Church Clerk, Neosho, MO.

"History of Washington Avenue Baptist Church." Church Records, Church Clerk, Springfield, MO.

Historic Survey of Neosho, 1991. Copy in City Hall, Neosho, Missouri.

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Nelson, Hart M.; Yokley, Ratha L.; Nelson, Anne K. The Black Church in America. New York: Basic Books, 1971.

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Parrish, William E.; Jones, Charles T., Jr.; and Christensen, Lawrence O. Missouri, The Heart of the Nation, 2d ed. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc. 1992

Price, Margaret. History of Neosho. Neosho, MO: Newton County Historical Society, 1960.

Reconstruction: Days of Growth, 1866-1890. Newton County Historical Society, Neosho, MO.

Songs of Zion. Abingdon Press, 1981.

Voegeli, V. Jacque. Free But Not Equal. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967.

Weinstein, Gatell & Sarasahn. American Negro Slavery, 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 10, Photographs Page 7

**Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO**

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The church is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lincoln and Grants streets. The boundary of the nominated area is more specifically described as the following: beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of the rights-of-way of Lincoln and Grant streets, proceed east along the right-of-way of Grant Street seventy-five feet; then proceed north sixty-two feet; then proceed west seventy-five feet; then proceed south sixty-two feet along the right-of-way of Lincoln Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to include only the Second Baptist Church, the building which most clearly represents the area of significance Ethnic Heritage--Black; an altered frame parsonage of uncertain date located to the east of the church, as well as a modern storage building located to the north, have been excluded.

Accompanying Documentation (photographs)

The following information is common to all photographs:

Second Baptist Church
430 West Grant Street, Neosho
Newton County, Missouri
Mary Jean Barker
Mary Jean Barker, Route 8, Box 257, Neosho, MO 64850

- Photograph #1
Camera facing NE
- Photograph #2
View of belfry, camera facing N
- Photograph #3
View of Main entrance, camera facing NE
- Photograph #4
Camera facing NW
- Photograph #5
Camera facing NE
- Photograph #6
View of entrance from interior, camera facing S
- Photograph #7
View of interior window trim, camera facing SE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 8

**Second Baptist Church
Newton County, MO**

Photograph #8

View of interior window and door trim, camera facing S

Photograph #9

View of ceiling

Photograph #10

View of pulpit area, camera facing N

Photograph #11

View of pulpit area, camera facing NW



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
 NEWTON COUNTY, MO
 15/377470/4081710

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1972

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

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

36° 52' 30" 94° 22' 30" 260,000 FEET 4082 4083 4084 4085

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UTM GRID AND 1972 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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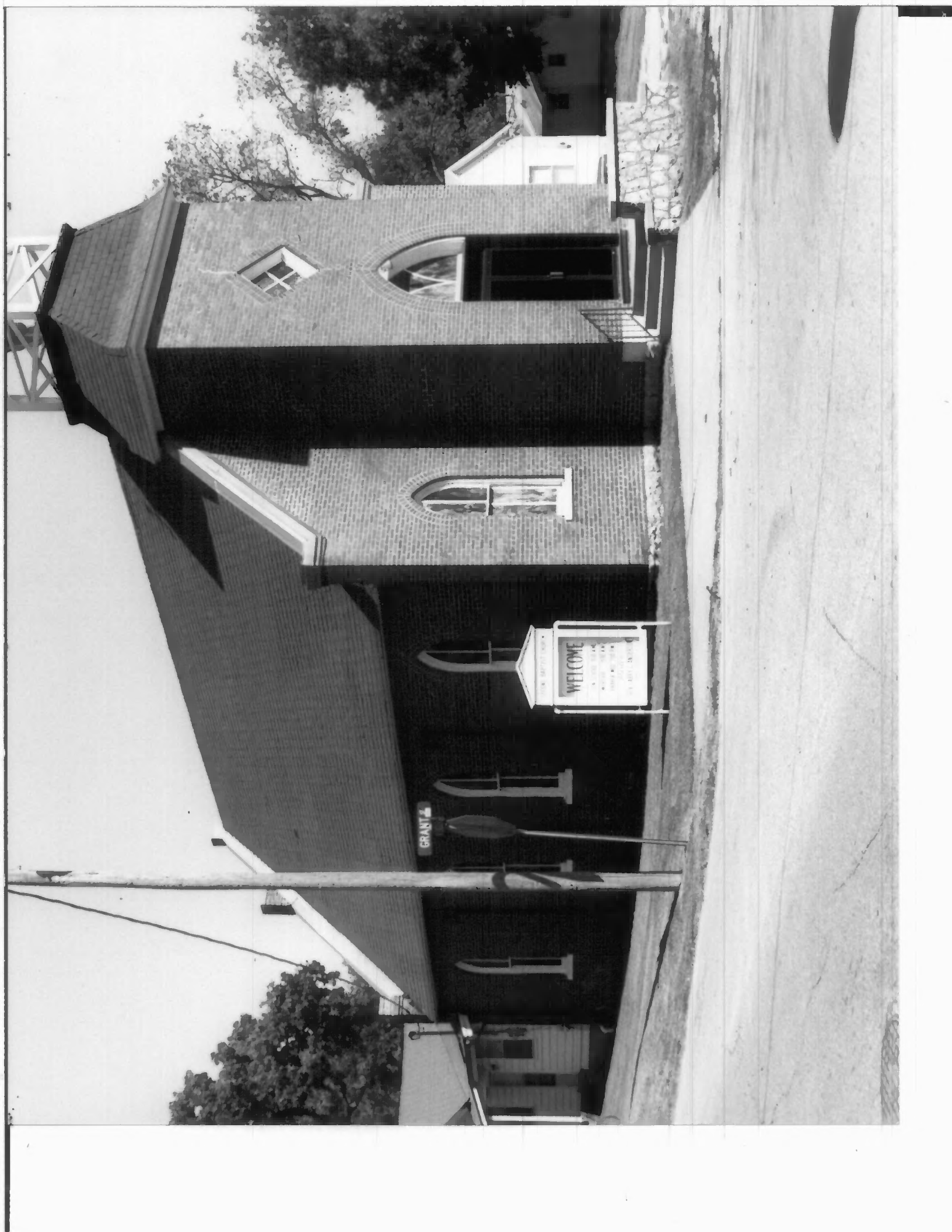
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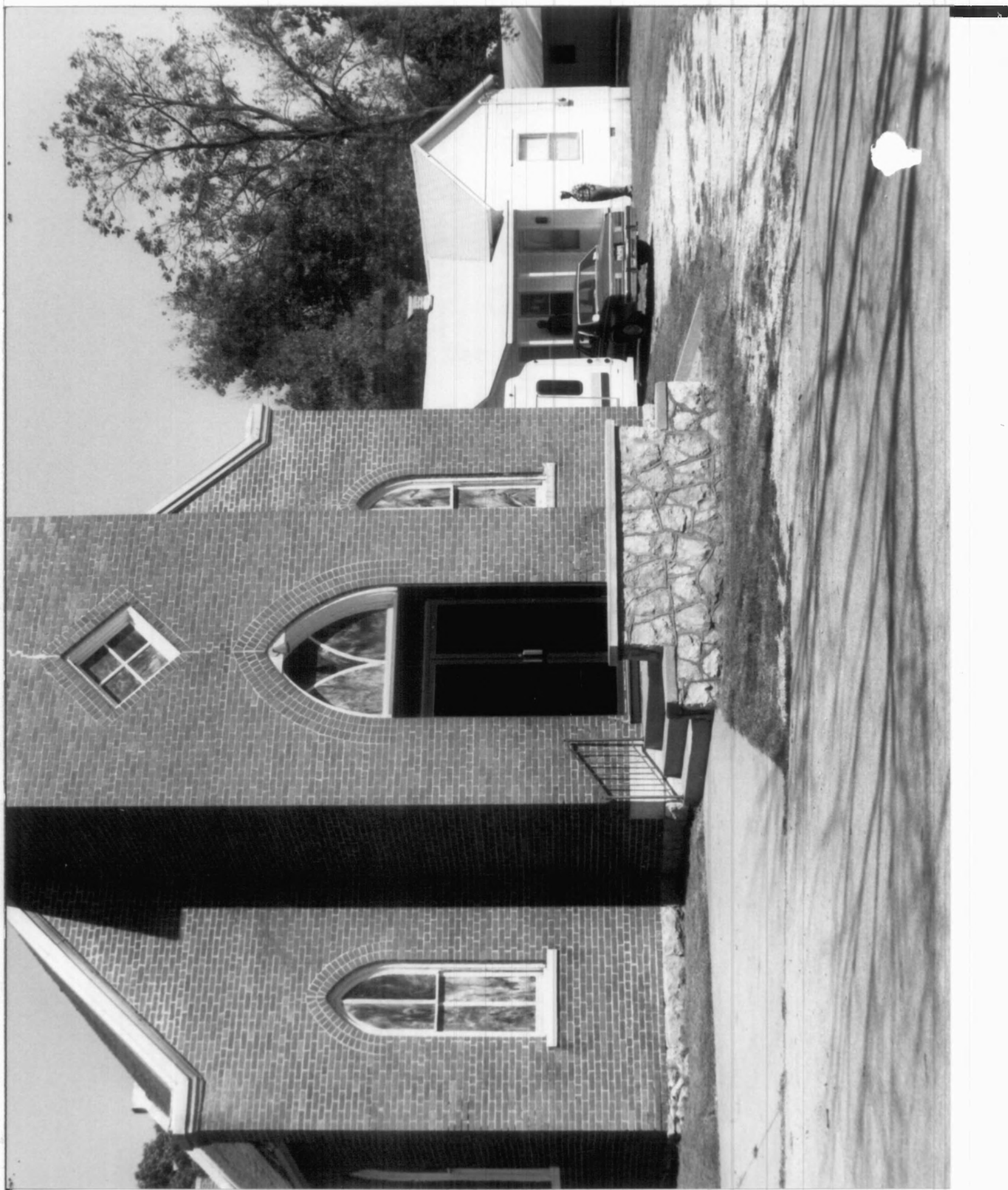
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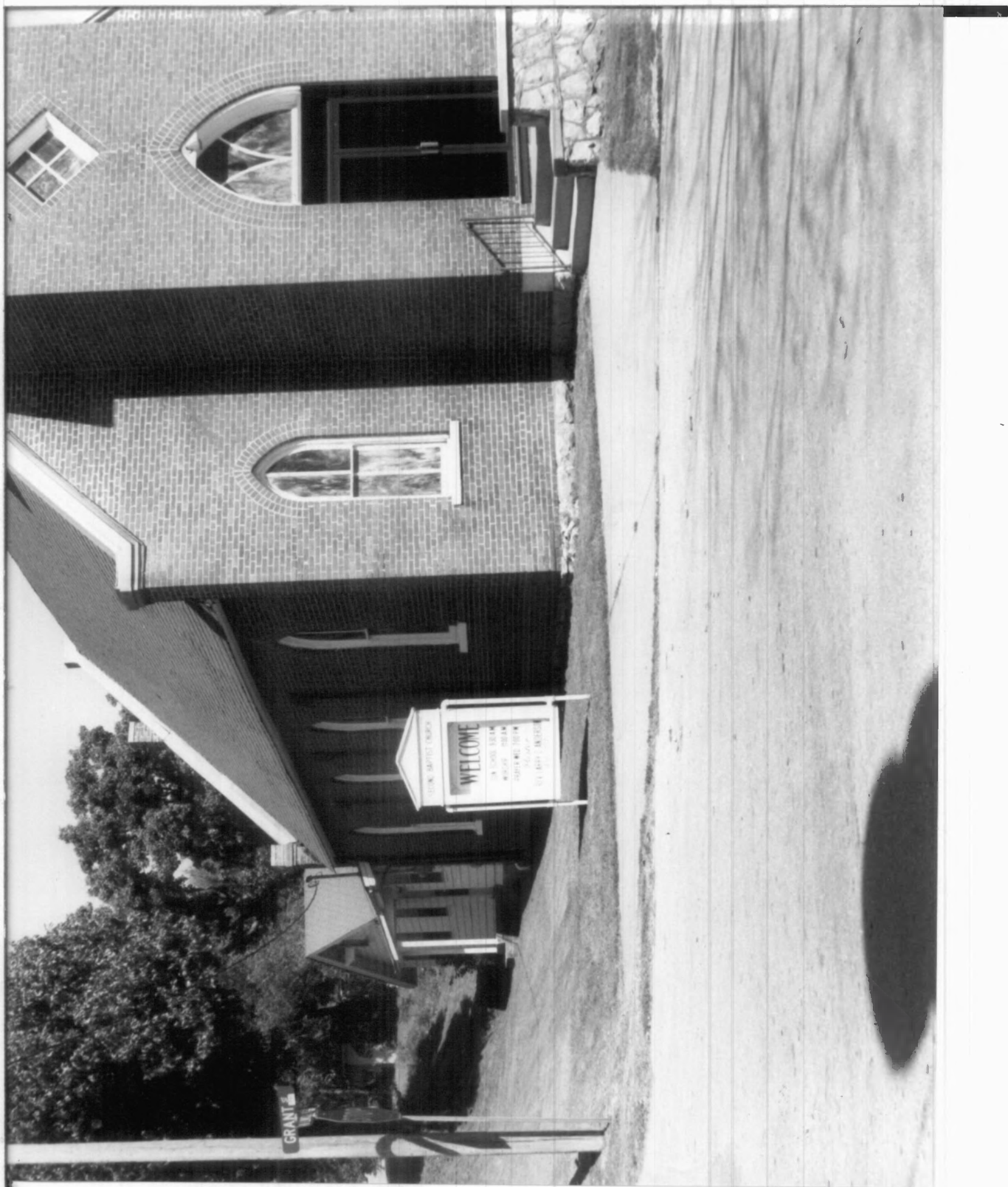
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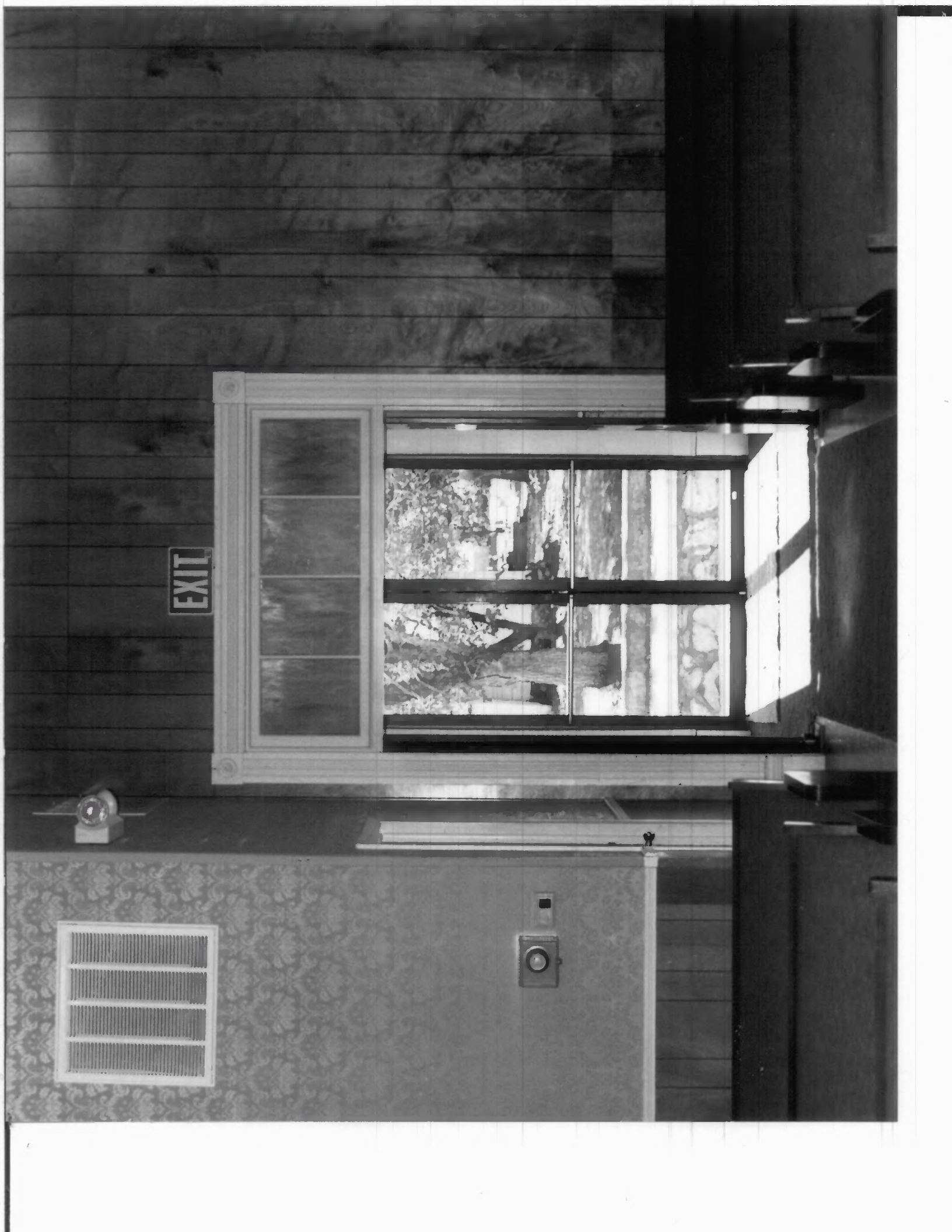




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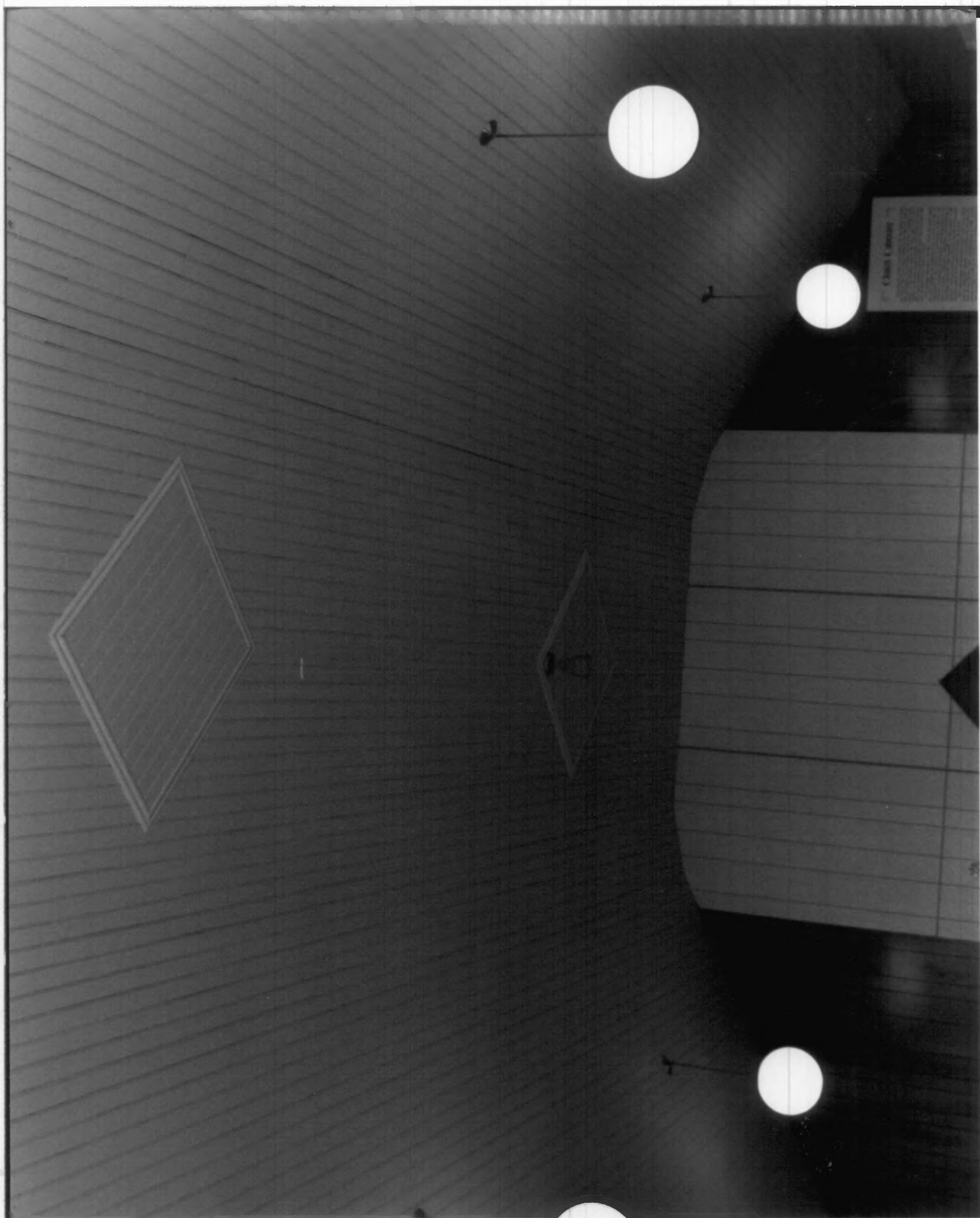
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EXIT







Charles E. Brown



"# Photo #11 is missing"

EXTRA
PHOTOS



1840
The first church building was built in 1840. It was a simple wooden structure with a steeple. The building was destroyed by fire in 1850. The present building was built in 1855. It is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. The building is made of brick and has a large stained glass window. The interior is finished with wood paneling. The church is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

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