

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. James Chapel

and/or common St. James United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Church & Meramec Streets

not for publication

city, town St. James

vicinity of

#8 - Richard Ichord

state Missouri

code 29

county Phelps

code 161

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of St. James United Methodist Church

street & number Church & Meramec Streets

city, town St. James

vicinity of

state Missouri 65559

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds - Phelps County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rolla

state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(p. 126)  
title Missouri Historic Sites Catalog has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1963  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Missouri

city, town Columbia

state Missouri 65201

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. James United Methodist Church building is located on lots No. 9 & 10 of block 13 in the City of St. James, Missouri (Block 32 according to Parker's Re-Survey of 1892). These lots provide frontage of approximately 100 feet on Church Street; 110 feet on Meramec Street; and 100 feet on Johnson (see maps). The building is composed of two parts--the first, comprising the sanctuary, and the second is composed of two relatively recent additions (see Floor Plan).

### EXTERIOR

The old building, known originally as the St. James Chapel, was constructed in 1868. Its overall dimensions are 40 by 60 feet with a wall height of approximately 20 feet from the top of foundation to plate. The locally-fired red brick walls are buttressed with engaged brick pilasters along the sides.<sup>1</sup>

A small concrete porch has been added just outside the main double wood door entrance on Church Street. In addition to the sanctuary, the original building contains an entrance vestibule above which is a balcony opening to the sanctuary. Stairs lead from the vestibule below. Pointed stained-glass arch windows of the sanctuary, the pointed arch light above the paired entrance doors and the smaller balcony window directly above classify the building styling as gothic revival.<sup>2</sup>

"A bell tower, romanesque in design, occurs above the vestibule/balcony portion of the building. The tower is framed in heavy timber of 10" to 12" dimension. The tower is topped by a dome providing some distinction from the more usual spire termination of church bell towers and steeples."<sup>3</sup>

The roof is supported by three heavy timber trusses, 6" x 8" perkins and 2" x 5" rafters spaced at 2'-0". The roof cover is composition shingle--originally rolled sheet iron. The bracketed cornice about the roof line is typical of the period. In essence, the original building is Victorian in its architecture, a simple rectangular-type built to satisfy the simple needs and tastes of frontier Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

### CHURCH INTERIOR

The interior of the building consists of the 10' x 25' vestibule/balcony centered at the rear of the auditorium plus the sanctuary. A door on each side of the vestibule leads to parallel aisles approaching the chancel. Longer center pews are enclosed by shorter pew sections on either side.

The ten large stained glass windows provide great beauty in simple design and a variety of colors. Five of these windows have named donors inscribed in the glass. The spectacular entrance window with its symbolism and "welcome" wording is strikingly unique.

The original hanging lamp fixtures gave way to more modern lighting and the gothic design fixtures which now grace the sanctuary. These three fixtures suspended along the center line of the auditorium from front to back hang from 4 1/2' diameter circular cast plaster rosettes. The original plaster ceiling has been covered with acoustical tile. A cast plaster cornice graces the ceiling wall joints. Interior walls are painted plaster with wainscoting below window height.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1868 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. James United Methodist Church, St. James, Missouri, is the oldest church building in the city of St. James. It has been in continuous use as a church house since its opening in 1868. It is a Victorian-style building very little changed from when first constructed. Recent additions do not detract from its architectural integrity. While some original features have changed over the years, the ambience of the church remains unaffected. The bulk of its original fabric is intact. Having stood and been the setting for the worship of God for over a century, it is our aim and goal to see it continue as a community worship center for many years to come.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The St. James United Methodist Church sanctuary building was built in 1868. The first names associated with this building were three men who composed a Board of Trustees: Azro Emory, James R. Bowman and Edward J. Seymour, leading men of the community. It was to these men as the "Trustees of the St. James Chapel" that William and Lucy James deeded the land for the building of the chapel. This was accomplished on February 17, 1868.<sup>2</sup> A solicitation of subscriptions from community citizens was the means taken to finance this community chapel, a non-denominational house of worship.

By July the Chapel had been erected, for at least three independent sources list the date of July 5, 1868 as the date of the dedication of the Chapel. There was an advance notice of the dedication published in the July 1, 1868 issue of the Christian Advocate of St. Louis, as follows: "The St. James Cahpel will be dedicated July 5, 1868. A general attendance is expected. Bishop Marvin from O'Fallon, Missouri, and Rev. J. Brooks, of St. Louis, assisted by W. P. Renick, of St. James, will be here at said time."<sup>3</sup>

A second reference to the dedication is found in the July 13, 1933 issue of the St. James Leader. In this issue of the local newspaper, a story is carried entitled: "Memories of Long Ago--Memories of W. S. Mounts--Sixty-five years ago--1868". In these recollections, Mr. Mounts wrote: "The next day was Sunday, July 5th. They dedicated the Methodist church in St. James on that day. Bishop Marvin preached the dedicatory sermon on that day."<sup>4</sup> He apparently called it "the Methodist church" because at the time he wrote about it, it had long since become that. The Bishop Marvin referred to was the first native born Missourian to become a bishop in the Methodist church.

C. V. Mann, historian in the St. James area, edited a diary in which under the heading of July 5, 1868, he wrote: "St. James Chapel dedicated today--large attendance from here."<sup>5</sup>

A little over a year following the dedication, the trustees announced a public auction to sell the building as the debts had not been paid off. The announcement of this auction in the Rolla Herald of Thursday, August 12, 1869, indicated that the Sept. 1 sale was necessary because only \$4,280 of the \$6,280 cost had been subscribed. After paying the debts and

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Book of Deeds, Book "E", Phelps County Recorder Office, County of Phelps Court House, Rolla, Missouri.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, Book "W".

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Maramec Spring

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	6 2 1 7 3 8	4 2 0 5 8 2 9
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** All of lots numbered nine and ten in Block thirteen containing Brick Church in the Town of St. James, Missouri; a/k/a All of Lots numbered Nine and Ten in Block Thirty-two in the City of St. James, Missouri, according to Parker's Re-Survey of 1892; being bounded by Church Street on the North, Meramec Street on the West,

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Richard L. Clemans, Minister

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 20, 1980

street & number Rt. 1, Box 361 telephone 314/265-8451 or 314/265-8859


city or town St. James state Missouri 65559

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

A central altar in the chancel rests below a large cast plaster arch in the wall which is dominated by a simple wooden cross set within the arch. A door off the right side of the chancel is the only other exit from the sanctuary.

Floor construction is of 2" x 12" joists spaced 24" on center and resting directly on the cut limestone foundation. A crawl space of about 12" clear height occurs between the bottom of the joists and the ground surface.<sup>5</sup>

ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL BUILDING

Two one-story additions were added to the church building in the 1960's. These additions abut the original structure to the south and east. Construction is of masonry block with brick facing. Wall height is about 10'-0". The roof is essentially flat.<sup>6</sup>

ALTERATIONS<sup>7</sup>

Clear glass windows replaced with stained glass around 1880.

New lights installed 1944 and 1965.

New gas heating system added 1962.

Redecorating of sanctuary in 1963.

Oak Floor installed - 1965.

Windows repaired and releaded - 1965.

New Roof installed - 1970.

The original chimney has been removed.

CONDITION

The condition and maintenance of the church property is excellent. Considerable effort has been made toward keeping the building in good repair and energy conservative. Insulation has been placed above the sanctuary ceiling, exterior windows are double glazed and a hardwood floor overlays the original. Routine painting, decorating, minor repairs and improvements have been accomplished. In sum, the building is structurally sound and suffers no serious defects. The major repairs needed are: correction of leakage in the bell tower; replacement in wainscotting which in past years was badly injured by termites; and a wall crack in exterior wall above the southwest corner of the sanctuary.<sup>8</sup>

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

SITE

The St. James United Methodist Church building is located in a residential area near local schools and parks. In recent years, additional lots 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the block on which the church is located have been purchased to supplement the church holdings. Two dwellings are located on these lots.

PRESENT STATUS

The historic sanctuary of St. James United Methodist Church is still used as a place of regular worship for the 165 member congregation and as a center of some community activities for the St. James area. No new road construction is anticipated and the population and community is very stable in this area. Occasional tour groups and passers-by as well as guests of people in the community stop by to visit and inspect this historic landmark. A program of thorough restoration is being planned for the near future.

FOOTNOTES

1. Kenneth E. Coombs, Report of investigation and analysis of St. James United Methodist Church building, submitted January 24, 1980.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Violet Mills Herriott, Saint James United Methodist Church History 1870-1970. Coombs, op. cit.
7. Herriott, op. cit.
8. Coombs, op. cit.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

costs, the balance was to be distributed among the subscribers, said the ad.<sup>6</sup> The following brief statement was carried in the September 9th issue of the Rolla Herald: "The St. James Chapel was sold last week at public auction for \$6,100; Wm. James, esq. was purchaser."<sup>7</sup>

The association with the period and name of William James give the church "historical ties unique and meaningful", for James headed "the nearby Meramec Iron Works, a considerably important industrial undertaking relating to Missouri's growth and the development of the west."<sup>8</sup> It can be assumed that during the time James owned the Chapel, it was available to the community. But toward the end of that decade, Mr. James suffered financial reverses and his holdings were largely liquidated. And so it was that on October 23, 1879, Azro Emory (one of the original trustees) and his wife Terisa--names inscribed on one of the stained glass windows--purchased the St. James Chapel at a bankruptcy sale.<sup>9</sup> They held it in their name until arrangements could be made placing it in the ownership of the Methodist congregation to which they belonged. The deed gives February 14, 1880, as the date of the sale, the purchase price being \$500 and the purchase being made by the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of which Emory was a trustee.<sup>10</sup>

The Methodist congregation which has now occupied the building for 100 years, has a significant history of its own. Involved in this history is the whole frontier religious movement and the circuit riders who carried the gospel forth. Many names of early preachers are associated with the St. James area. In the mid-1840's Methodism was divided into northern and southern camps along the lines of the national division. Both sections of this divided church made forages into the St. James area, but it was the South's following that came to dominance and purchased the St. James Chapel in 1880. Prior to that time for at least a decade there had been a Methodist congregation which, no doubt, used the Chapel for services during that time.

In 1939 the divided parts of the denomination reunited and the St. James congregation then became part of "the Methodist Church" as it was officially called. Then in 1968, a further merger on the national level caused the local churches, including St. James, to be known as United Methodist Churches.

FOOTNOTES

1. Kenneth E. Coombs, Report of investigation and analysis of St. James United Methodist Church building, submitted January 24, 1980.
2. Phelps County Recorder Office, Deed, Book E. p. 173, County of Phelps Court House, Rolla, Mo.
3. Christian Advocate of St. Louis, July 1, 1868, Methodist ARchives, Central Methodist College Library, Fayette, Missouri.
4. St. James Leader, July 13, 1933, St. James Public Library, St. James, Missouri.
5. Clair V. Mann, Meramec Iron Works, v. 2, p. 49, St. James Library, St. James, Missouri.
6. Rolla Herald, August 12, 1869, Rolla Public Library, Rolla, Missouri

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

For NPS use only.

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

7. Rolla Herald, Sept. 9, 1869, Rolla Public Library, Rolla, Missouri.
8. Coombs, op. cit.
9. Phelps County Recorder Office, Deed, Book "W", pp. 112-115.
10. Phelps County Recorder Office, Deed, Book "W", pp. 115-117.

Item number 9

Page 1

3. Christian Advocate of St. Louis, issues dated July 1, 1868 and Dec. 28, 1870, Methodist Archives, Central Methodist College Library, Fayette, Missouri.
4. Coombs, Kenneth E., Historic Inventory, 1980, State Office of Historic Preservation, Jefferson City, Missouri.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, Report of investigation and analysis of St. James United Methodist Church building, submitted January 24, 1980.
6. Evans, Ellis G., Meramec Iron Works, v. 1, p. 72, St. James Library, St. James, Missouri.
7. Herriott, Violet Mills, Saint James United Methodist Church History 1870-1970, private publication available at St. James United Methodist Church, 1970.
8. Mann, Clair V., Meramec Iron Works, v. 2, p. 49, St. James Library, St. James, Missouri.
9. "Memories of Long Ago," St. James Leader, July 13, 1933, p. 1, St. James Library, St. James, Missouri.
10. Rolla Herald, issues dated August 12, 1869 and Sept. 9, 1869, Rolla Public Library, Rolla, Missouri.
11. St. Louis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Minutes of the Annual Meetings for many of the years between 1845 and 1880, Methodist Archives, Central Methodist College Library, Fayette, Missouri.
12. Woodard, William S., Annals of Methodism in Missouri, E. W. Stephens, Columbia Missouri, 1893.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

and Johnson Street on the South.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Survey & Registration  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

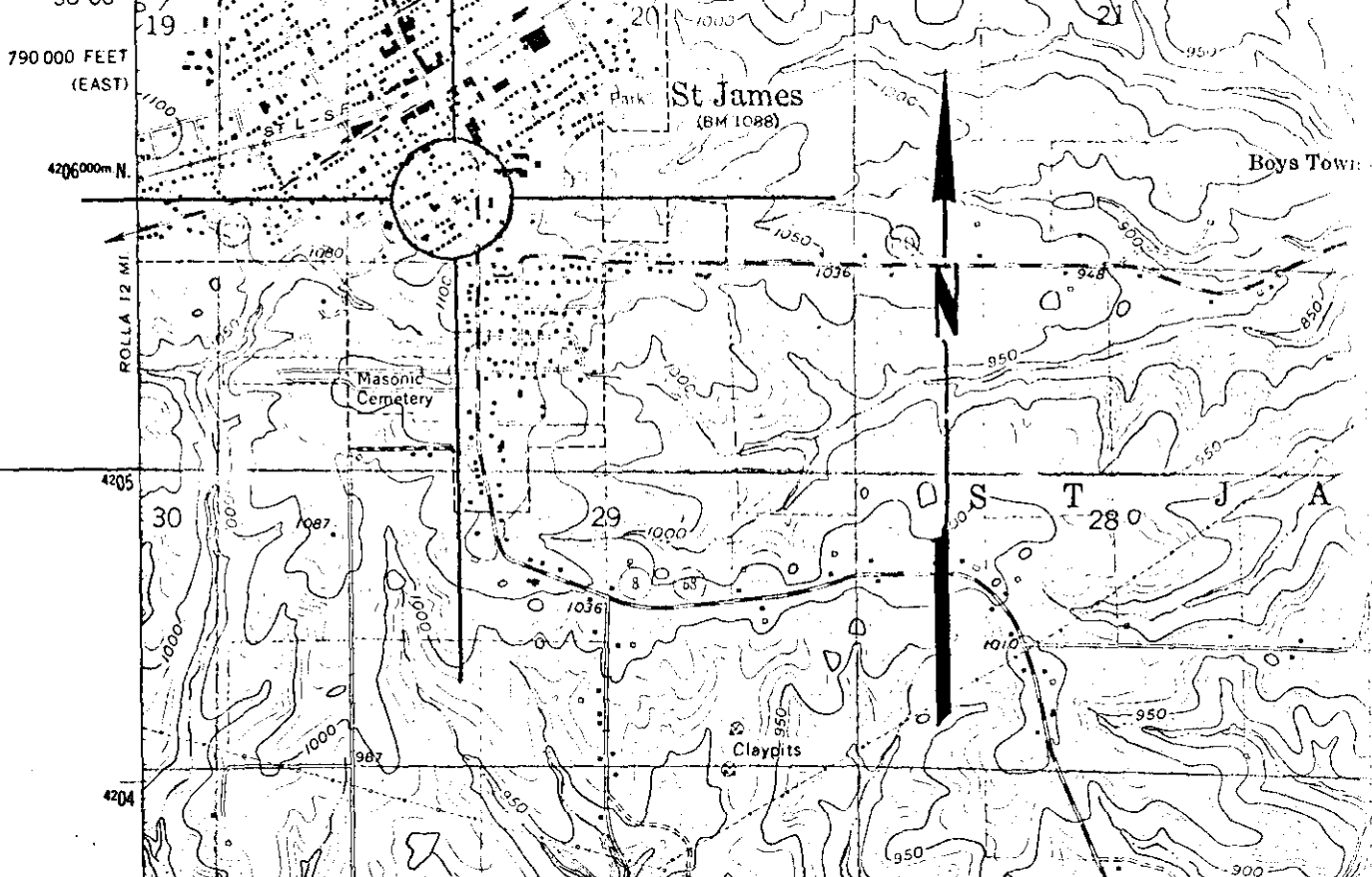
March 15, 1983  
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

7650 11 SW  
(SAFE)

91°37'30" 621 8 68 14 MI 10 U.S. 63 623000m E. 1624 35'



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Meramec Spring, Mo." (1963)  
Scale: 1:24,000

St. James United Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:  
15/621760/4205860

T. 38 N.

T. 37 N.

4202

57'30"

6

5

4

4201

4.5 MI

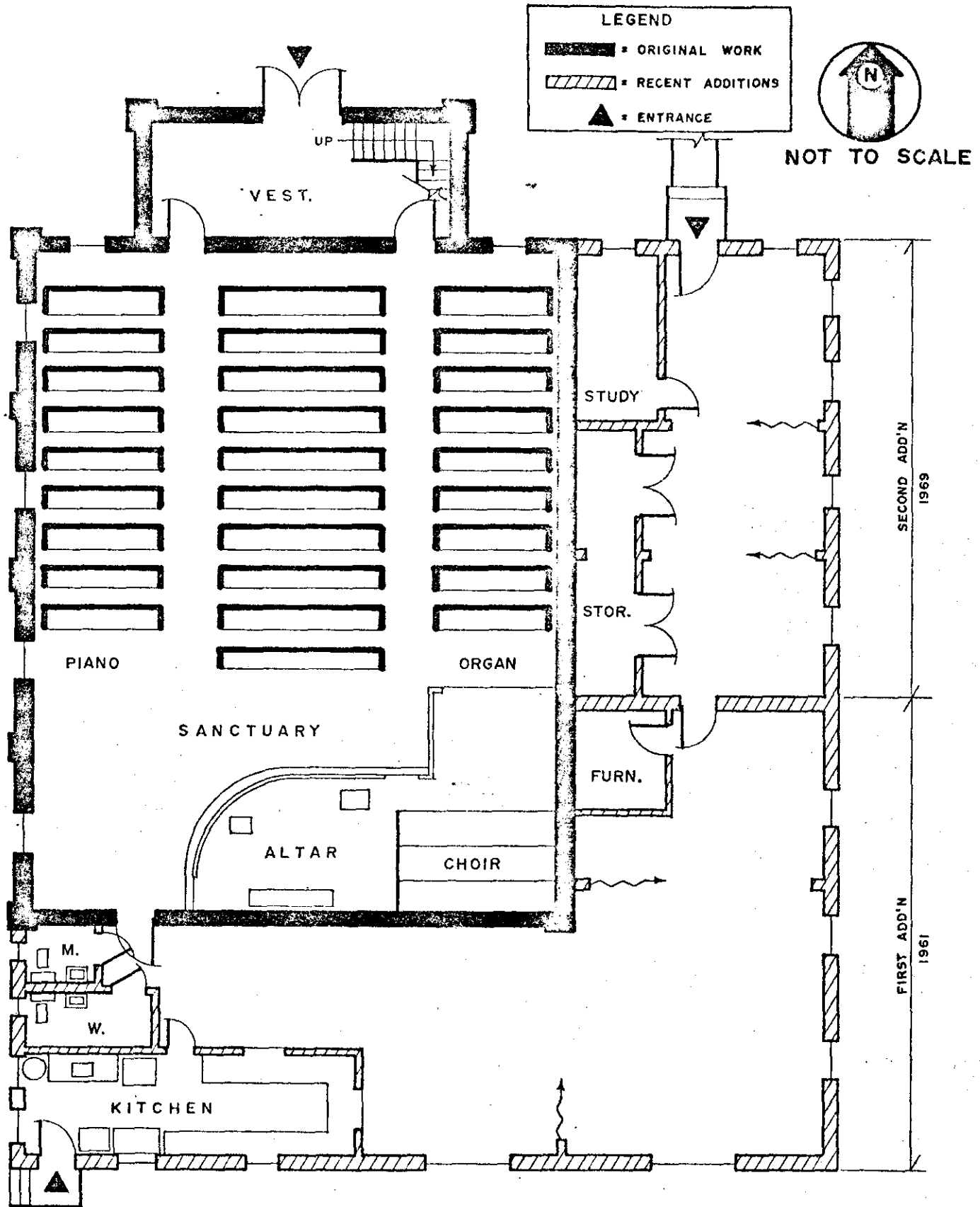
922

846

850

FLOOR PLAN

ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ST. JAMES, PHELPS COUNTY, MISSOURI



TAKEN FROM A DRAWING BY K.E. COOMBS, JAN. 1980

DRAWN FOR: JIM DENNY

DRAWN BY: BILL SMITH

APRIL 1983

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#1 of 6

Photographer: Peter Pineiro  
Date: May, 1980  
Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of front and west side of old sanctuary

R1-2



ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#2 of 6

Photographer: Robert Buckner

Date: May, 1980

Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of front and east side of old sanctuary  
showing addition attached in 1969.



85

829/16

3 col  
Church 19  
~~Office~~

Top

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#3 of 6

Photographer: unknown  
Date: around 1880  
Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of "The St. James Chapel" and  
immediate surroundings.

26-101

773





79

ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#4 of 6

Photographer: Robert Buckner

Date: ~~May~~, May, 1980

Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of the chancel and choir area of  
sanctuary as seen from balcony looking  
southeast.



ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#5 of 6

Photographer: Robert Buckner  
Date: May, 1980  
Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of the auditorium as seen from the  
southwest corner of the sanctuary.



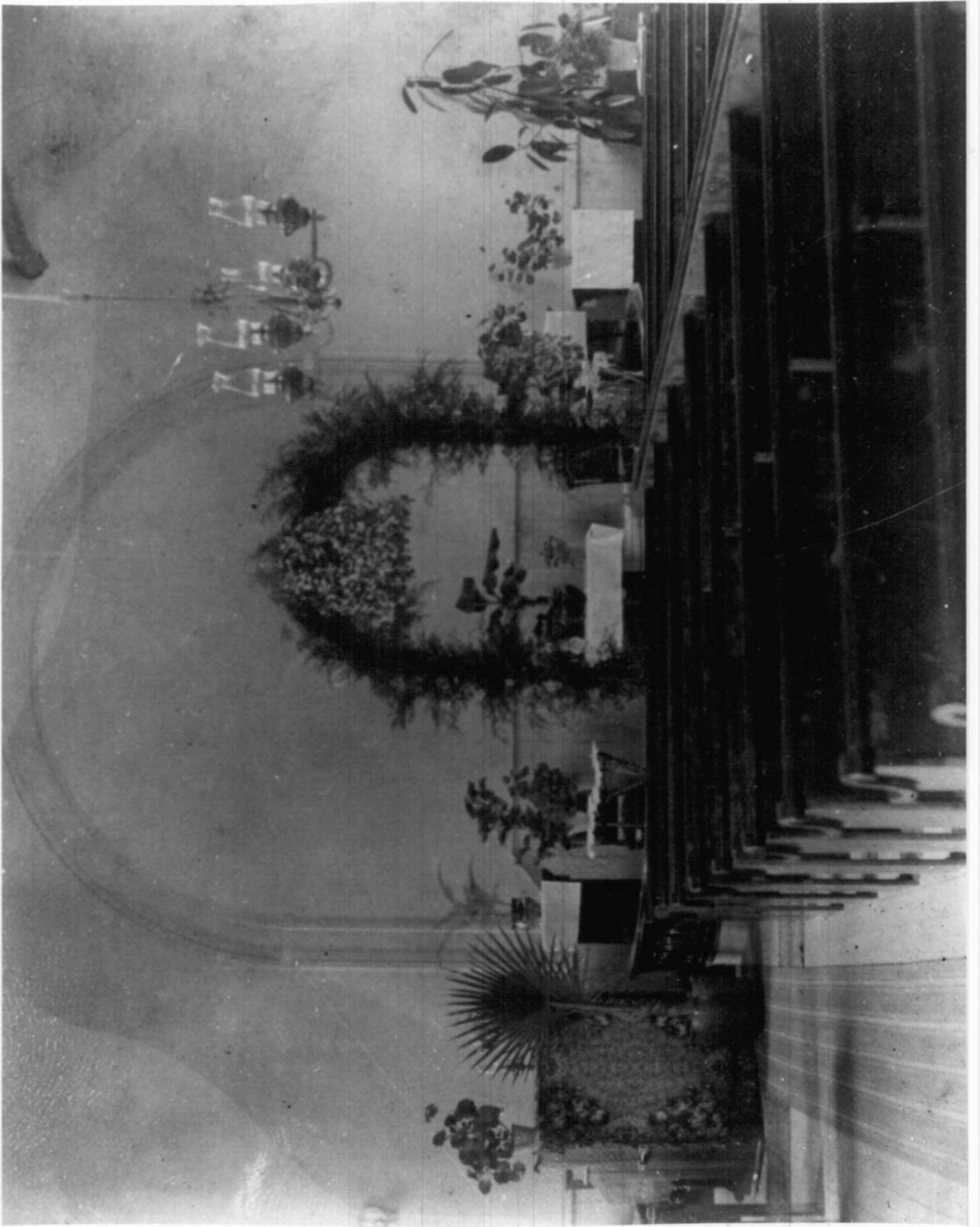
ST. JAMES CHAPEL

#6 of 6

Photographer: unknown  
Date: April, 1901  
Neg. Loc.: St. James Methodist Church  
St. James, Missouri

View of the chancel area of the Sanctuary





EXTRA  
PHOTOS



