

Form 10-309  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri</p>	
COUNTY: <p style="text-align: center;">Pike</p>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: <p style="text-align: center;">Old St. John's</p>	
AND/OR HISTORIC: <p style="text-align: center;">St. John's Episcopal Church</p>	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">1/4 mile north of Eolia on County Route D; 1/4 mile east on County Route H</p>			
CITY OR TOWN: <p style="text-align: center;">Prairieville-Eolia</p>			
STATE: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri</p>	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">63344</p>	COUNTY: <p style="text-align: center;">Pike</p>	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">163</p>

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	STATUS  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>	
OWNER'S NAME: <p style="text-align: center;">Trustees of St. John's Episcopal Church</p>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">c/o The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, 1221 Locust Street</p>	
CITY OR TOWN: <p style="text-align: center;">St. Louis</p>	STATE: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">63103</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. <p style="text-align: center;">Office of Recorder of Deeds, Pike County Courthouse</p>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: <p style="text-align: center;">Bowling Green</p>	STATE: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">63334</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>	
TITLE OF SURVEY: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue</p>	
DATE OF SURVEY: <p style="text-align: center;">1963</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <p style="text-align: center;">State Historical Society of Missouri</p>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">Corner, Lowry and Hitt streets</p>	
CITY OR TOWN: <p style="text-align: center;">Columbia</p>	STATE: <p style="text-align: center;">Missouri</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">65201</p>
	CODE: <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri  
COUNTY: Pike  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church, near Frairieville and Eolia, Missouri, is a brick rectangular structure in the style of a small Greek Revival temple, with Gothic Revival detailing, a form related to contemporary churches of "Tidewater Virginia." Built in 1856, it has a one story, one room plan and is an excellent example of the transition between the Greek and Gothic Revival styles in rural church architecture.

EXTERIOR

The exterior brick walls, laid in running bond with infrequent header courses, rest on a foundation of limestone blocks set in lime mortar. The bricks were hand-made.

The openings consist of, on the south (front) elevation, a large central doorway flanked by two windows on either side, three windows each on the east and west sidewalls, and a central window and small entrance door to the east on the north (rear) facade. The south central doorway is double leafed, each leaf measuring 2' x 11'6". The head of the doorway consists of a pointed arch light with the mullions gently arching left and right. A brick soldier course outlines this arch. All windows are identical. They contain 12 over 12 light double-hung sash, topped by a pointed arch light area which is divided by the gentle arcs of the continued vertical muntins. The lower sash lights are glazed clear while the upper sash and the pointed arch areas have frosted, untinted glazing. The windows have cut limestone sills and brick soldier courses around the pointed arches. The window on the north (rear) facade is boarded over and the door to the east is single-leafed, paneled and topped by a three light transom. The doorway is outlined by a single soldier course jack arch.

The church building has a simple wooden entablature. There is a full return on the south (front) gable end and a partial return on the north (rear) gable wall. The cornice is made up entirely of flat members joined in such a way as to give the effect of a more complex molding. The south (front) gable end has moldings similar to those of the cornice, following the pitched edge of the roof, forming a heavily delineated pediment. The lack of total resolution of the design may be noted in the detailing of this entablature which passes over the upper apexes of the brick soldier courses outlining the pointed arch window and door heads.

The simple ridge roof has a painted sheet iron covering with standing seams. Two brick chimney stacks protrude from the roof on the southern third of the east and west (side) elevations. These stacks are contained within the thickness of the brick walls.

W. L. ...  
of  
1910

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1856

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church building has primary significance as a pristine example of the transitional design in architecture which combines elements of both the Greek and Gothic revivals in a building that closely follows the form of contemporary churches in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Several of the original communicants including the main contributor to the construction of the building, John W. Davis, were from Virginia. This building therefore demonstrates a way in which design ideas were carried westward with the settlers.

The basic mass of the church building established its relatedness to the Greek temple form. The building is composed of a rectangular block under a ridge roof with the ridge oriented along the long axis of the block, and with utilitarian and ornamental elements arranged symmetrically on each facade. The primary facade is at one of the gable ends, and if it were to follow the classic vocabulary more fully, it should also have a pedimented portico. This building lacks the portico, but has the gable of the primary (south) facade accentuated by being bordered with an entablature and moldings along the eave lines.

The elements of its design borrowed from the Gothic vocabulary are evident primarily in the height and width of the windows and main front door in relation to the width of the intervening sections of wall. The pointed arch heads on all but one opening and the intersecting arc muntins of the pointed arch lights further relate the design to Gothic predecessors.

That the coming together of these two design sources is not totally resolved in this building is evidenced in the detailing of the entablature which passes over the upper apexes of the brick soldier courses outlining the pointed arch window and door heads.

The St. John's Episcopal Church was erected ca. 1856. On July 12, 1857, Bishop Hawks dedicated the church. (Lottie Wright Davis, History of St. John's Episcopal Church, 1966, p. 22.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Davis, Lottie Wright. Records of Lewis, Meriwether and Kindred Families. Columbia: Aircraft Press, 1951.
2. History of St. John's Episcopal Church. Prairieville, Missouri, [1956.]
3. The History of Pike County, Missouri. DesMoines, Iowa: Mills and Company, 1883.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 °	14 ' 58 "	91 ° 00 ' 29 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
M. Patricia Holmes, Research Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board  
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

DATE: Jan. 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City

STATE: Missouri

CODE: 65101

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title: Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Pike	
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(Number all entries)

6.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Missouri State Historical Survey

(state)

1969

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 24

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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7.

INTERIOR

The interior of the church consists of one large room oriented north and south, with two small vestry rooms at the north end, flanking the altar east and west. All of the doors and windows have simple raised moldings. The flooring is of natural finished pine boards and the walls and ceilings are plastered and painted. The flat ceiling is 18 feet high.

There are one central row of double pews, and two single rows of pews against the east and west sidewalls, respectively. The pews are painted white and trimmed with natural finished walnut. They appear to be original. The rows of side pews are discontinuous near the southern third of the room to provide space for the original cast iron stoves, which are identified in the casting as "Minnesota No. 6 Pat. 1855, C. F. Filley, St. Louis."

Arrangement and furnishings of the altar area also appear to be original. The altar on the north wall is approached by two wooden steps that extend the width of the room, east and west between the vestries. Two lecturns stand in front (just to the south) of the altar rail, one to either side of the altar area. The communion table is ornamented by a continuous pointed arch motif, which is consistent with the design of the pointed arch windows and door of the building. The baptismal fount is directly in front of the south wall of the west vestry.

Both east and west vestries have doorways opening onto the altar area.

The original hardware is still in place. The building has no wiring or electricity.

Structural condition and general maintenance are excellent.

This summary description of the physical appearance of the building is based, in part, on data included in the field report by architectural consultant, William B. Lane, A.I.A., received June 1969. The report was contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and is filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

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6.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The land for the church site was bought from Daniel W. Allen for \$150.50 and paid for by John W. Davis, who was originally from Hanover County, Virginia. When Davis burned the brick to build his house, he also burned 500,000 bricks for the church and reputedly donated an additional \$1,000 toward the cost of construction. (Lottie Wright Davis, History of St. John's Episcopal Church, 1900, p. 19; and Lottie Wright Davis, Records of Lewis, Meriwether and Kindred Families, 1951, pp. 99-100.)

The contract was let to Levi Ruggles of Louisiana, Missouri, August 1, 1855. This document included full specifications for the church building, and gave instructions that the seats, windows, doors and base should be finished in the same manner as those of the "Old School" Presbyterian Church in Louisiana, Missouri. The total cost of the building was \$2,000, payable in three installments. (Davis, 1966, pp. 20-22.)

The original members first worshiped outside around a large wooden cross, now preserved inside the present building. A smaller cross was used when services were later held in a log school house, the homes of the members and the local Methodist Church. (State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Sites File: Pike County.)

The church was closed during the Civil War but was reopened in 1868. (State Historical Society of Missouri, Historic Sites File: Pike County.) The building was restored in 1940 and remains in occasional use. (Louisiana Press-Journal, October 17, 1941, p. 1, col. 2.)

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STATE	
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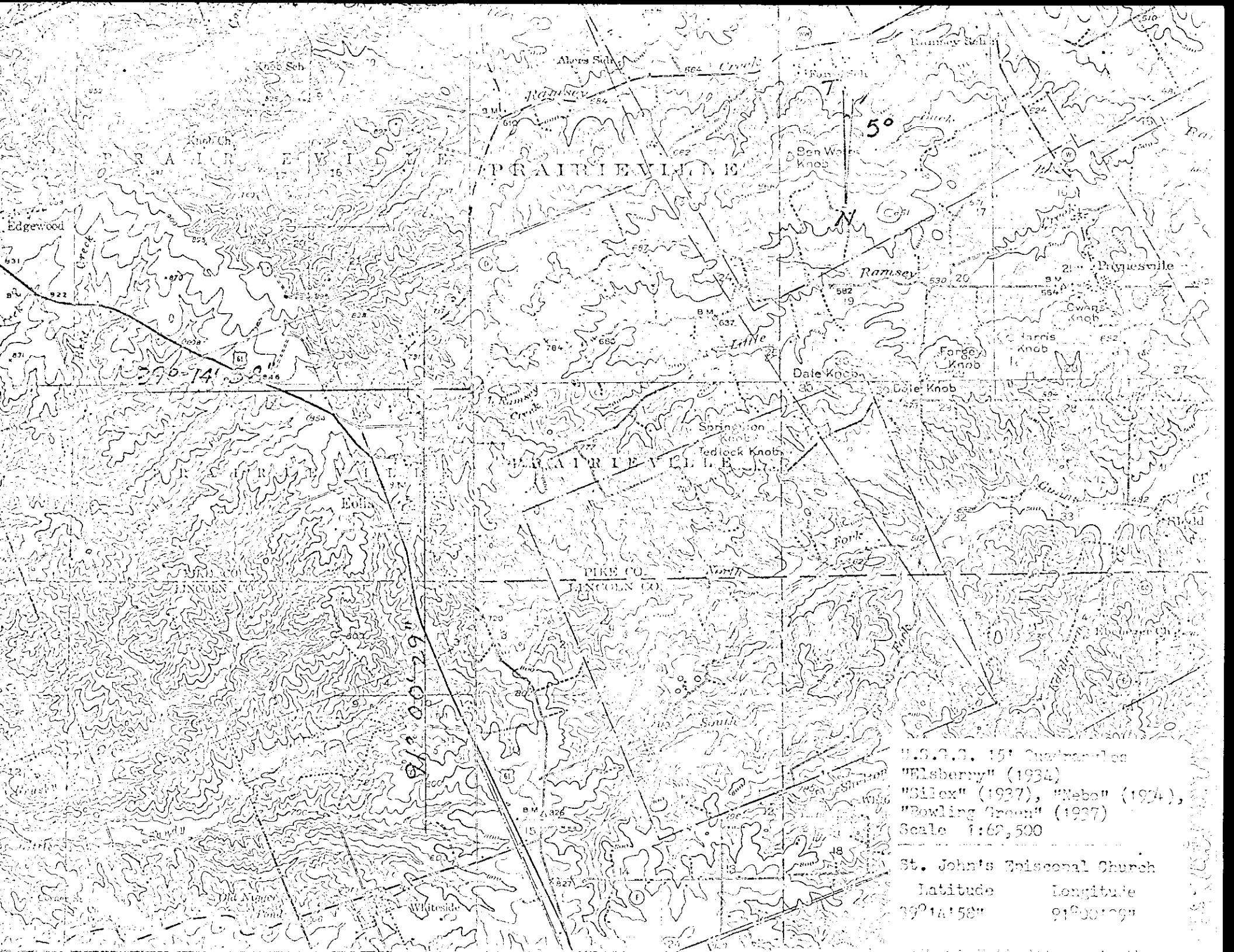
(Number all entries)

9.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4. Lane, William B., A.I.A. Architectural Consultant Field Report, received June 1909, contracted by the Missouri State Park Board and filed at its central office, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.
5. The Louisiana Press-Journal, (Missouri), October 17, 1951.
6. State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Historic Sites file. Ref. Fike County.

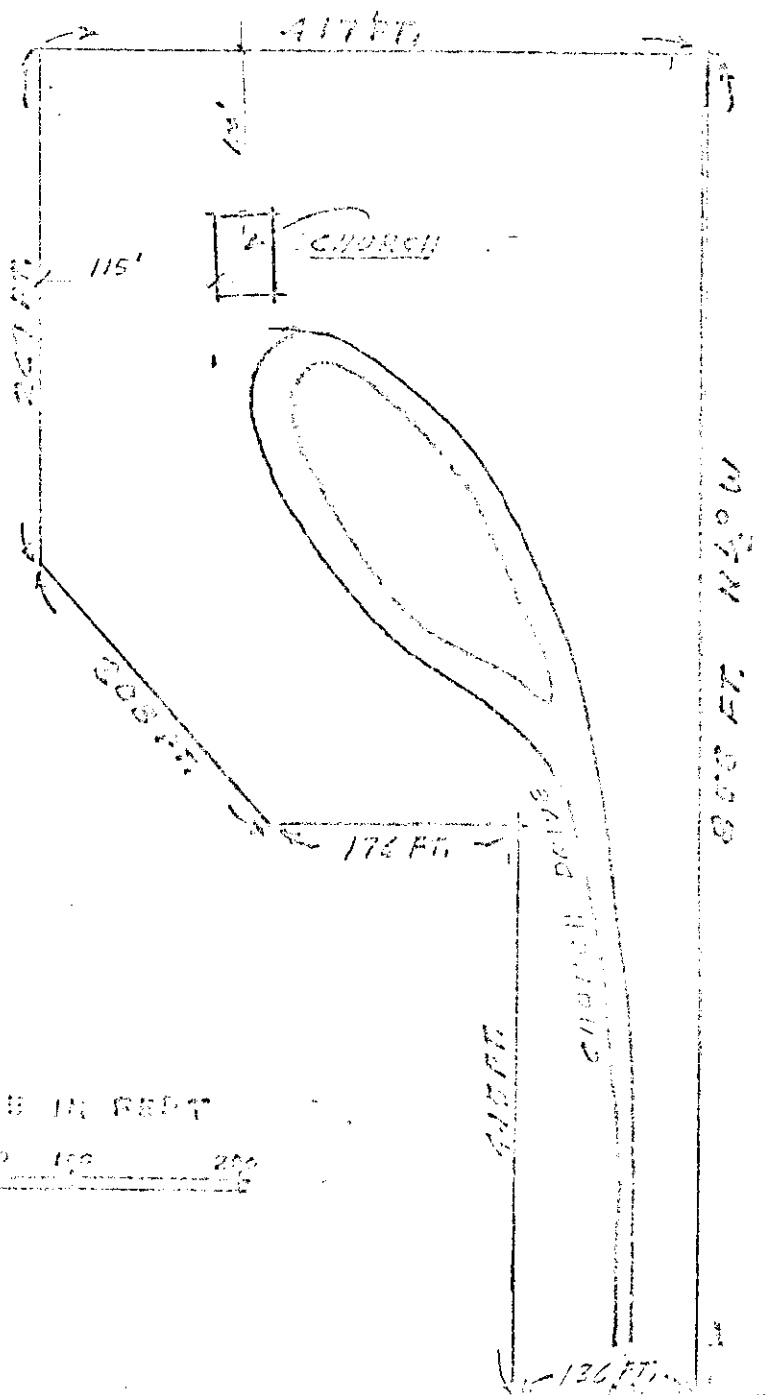




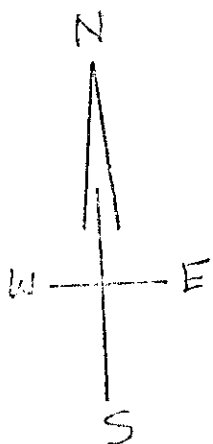
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadangles  
"Elsberry" (1934)  
"Silox" (1927), "Nebo" (1924),  
"Bowling Green" (1937)  
Scale 1:62,500

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Latitude 32°14'58"  
Longitude 91°00'29"

WEST LINE APPROX IN LINE  
WITH POLIA FOR MAIN STREET



POLIA CEMETERY EAST OF PROPERTY

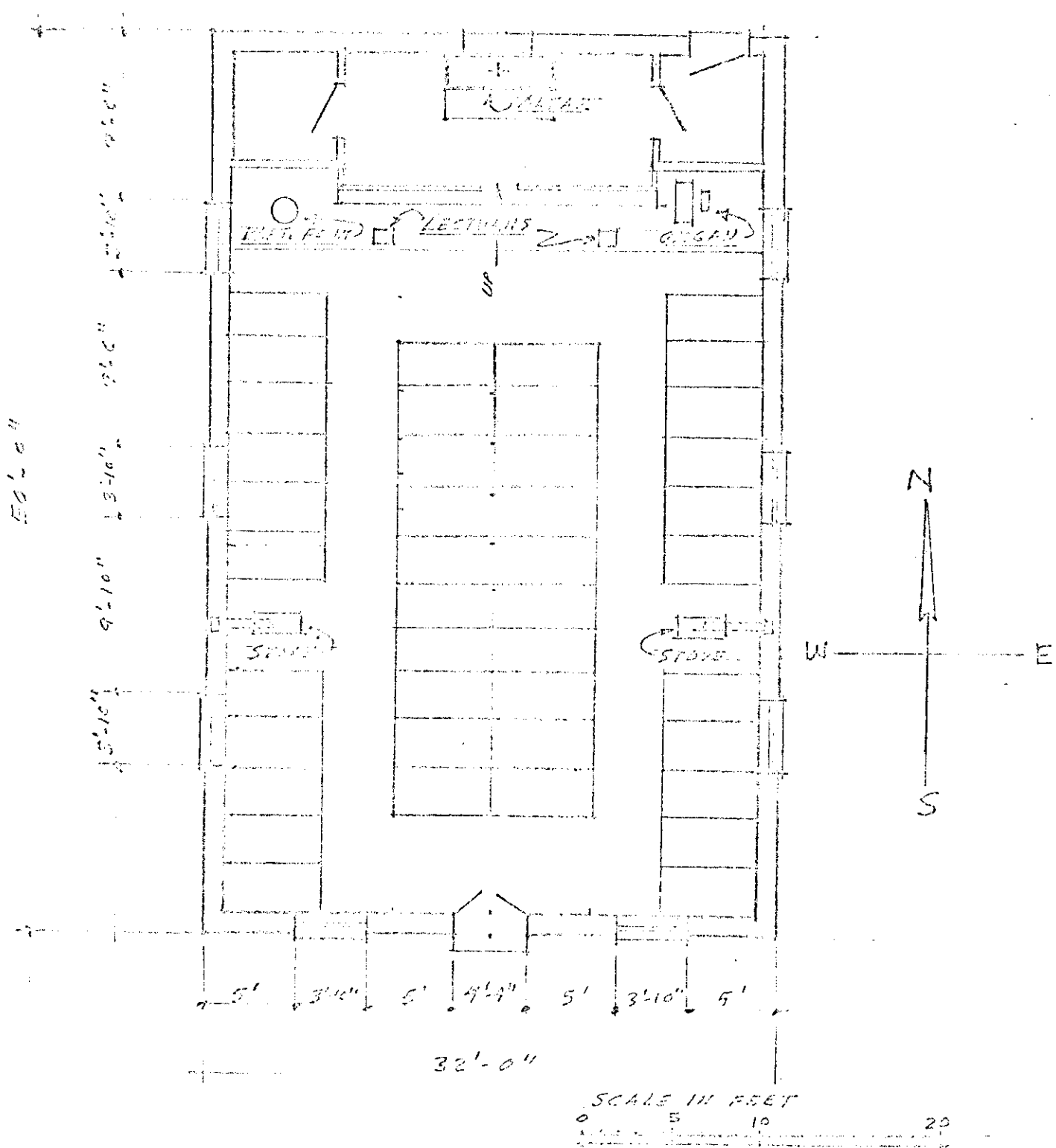


SCALE IN FEET  
 0 100 150 200

THIS DESCRIPTION FROM DEED  
 DENIAL W. ALLEN TO JOHN M.  
 DAVIS AND OTHERS SEPT. 14, 1885

PAGE 2 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - 11/11/1967

JUNE 1967



PAGE 3 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH FLOOR PLAN  
 JUNE 1907





ALICE  
MERWETHEE  
BORN 14 1850  
DIED 1910  
AUG 21 1910











