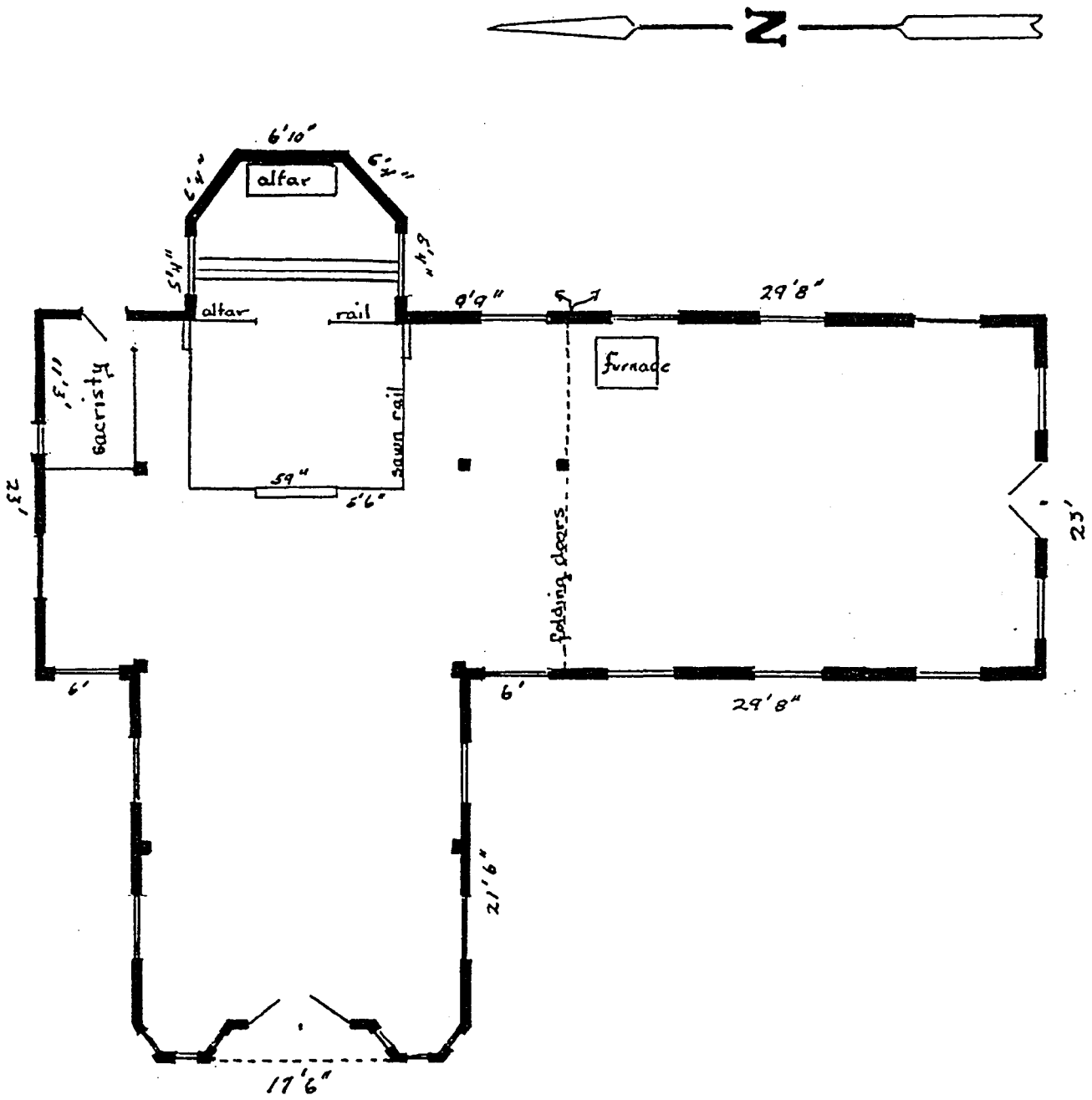

St Oswald's Protestant Episcopal Church

1/10" = 1' not drawn to exact scale

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Oswald's Protestant Episcopal Church
other names/site number St. Oswald's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number Missouri Highway EE [N/A] not for publication
city, town Skidmore [X] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Atchison code 005 zip code 64487

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[XX] private	[XX] building(s)	1	0 buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district		sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site		structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure		objects
	[ ] object	1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date 12/4/91
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/ Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Shingle Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation brick
walls Wood
Shingle
roof Asphalt
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Oswald's Protestant Episcopal Church is located in a sparsely occupied rural area near the south east corner of Atchison County, Missouri. Reached by gravel roads it is the only building on the east side of the road for over a mile. It is built of rough sawn weatherboard and shingle with large window areas of clear glass, which are divided into gothic segments by muntins. The original wood shingles which covered the gable roof have been replaced by composition shingles. The building, which has no basement, sits on a porous brick foundation. There has been no alteration of the building's historic appearance other than the replacement of the original shingles and some repair of the foundation with a coating of cement. This is the only distinctly rural Episcopal church on the western side of the state of Missouri, and one of only two in the entire state, the other being the brick antebellum St. John's near Eolia in Pike County 1)

Exterior

St. Oswald's Church stands in the middle of crop and pastureland on one of the highest points of land in the southeast corner of Atchison County, Missouri. The closest community is Skidmore, in Nodaway county. The paving on a county road ends one mile north of the church site and from the south and Mound City, access to the church is gravel road for at four miles, through both Atchison and Holt counties. The church is surrounded by the sections bought in the 1870's by the English settlers, most of which remains in descendent ownership.

The structure sits back some 150' from the road and is approached by a well maintained gravel driveway. There are no walks to either entrance of the building. Commonly, the door to the Guild Hall is that which is used when entering the structure, since it is closest to the driveway. The only other building found on the grounds is an outdoor privy which has served the church for many years. The privy stands on the east property line east of the guild hall.

The framing of the structure and at least some of the finishing material is of native sawn lumber. The church faces west and is cruciform in shape, measuring, overall, 60 feet north and south and 64 feet east and west. Shallow transepts extend from the east ends of the north and south walls and a polygonal apse extends from the center of the east wall A guild hall wing, measuring 23 feet east and west and 30 feet north and south, which extends from the south transept is included in the overall exterior dimensions. Typical

[x] See continuation sheet

of the shingle style each of the components of the building has a different roofline. The main body of the church has a steep gable roof, the transepts have lower pitch gable roofs with a pent gable face on the north transept. The gable face of the south transept is hidden by the attached guild hall wing which has a significantly lower hip roof. The apse has a semi-pyramidal roof. There is no steeple. The roof which was originally of wood shingles is now covered with composition shingles.

The west (front) facade which is visually the most ornate has shallow bays on either side of a double leaf entry door. A hood which extends across the base of the gable face serves as the roof for the bays and a shelter for the doorway. Above the hood is a large clear glass gothic window which is divided into three major segments on the top and three on the bottom by wooden muntins. Each of the twelve segments is again divided into two gothic panes. The lower portion of the gable face is recessed and the upper section, which is level with the eaves, shelters the window which has no separate lintel. This gable face and that of the pent roofed north transept are shingle clad.

The lower portion of the of the building's walls is weatherboard and the upper portion is shingle clad. Each of the faces of the bays on the front facade has a single gothic window. Wide fixed windows on the sides of the church, the transepts, the north and south faces of the apse, and the guild hall are divided into three gothic panes by wooden muntins. The top rail of the weatherboard forms a sort of continuous sill for the windows which have flat plain surrounds. The south wall of the guild hall has a double leaf entry door in the center bay.

Interior

The interior of the church consists of a nave with center aisle which leads by way of a raised choir to the apse which houses the altar. The walls of the nave are plastered above a wood wainscot, which, like the weatherboarding on the exterior rises to the bottom of the windows. The floor of the nave is the original pine narrow width flooring. The center aisle, choir and apse are covered by carpeting which was installed in the 1950's.

The nave and choir have a natural finish tongue in groove wood ceiling which is installed in a herringbone pattern between exposed roof joists, Exposed

scissor trusses are supported by carved pilasters of finished walnut six inches square. The ceilings of the transepts and the apse are plastered. An early picture of the interior decorated for a harvest festival indicates that the semi-pyrimidal apse ceiling was originally painted with a star design The north transept was partitioned using tongue in groove lumber for walls, to provide a minute sacristy. An exterior door is on the south wall of this room.

The choir, which is two steps up from the nave floor is surrounded by a sawn choir rail. Several of the original white maple chairs are located in the choir and others are located in rows on either side of the center aisle of the nave. A memorial electronic organ stands at the north west corner of the choir.

The Guild Hall has a lowered T-bar ceiling with composition panels hiding the original ceiling which followed the slopes of the roof. The floor of this room is covered by linoleum. The only plumbing in the building is a water line to the sink in this room. A folding door separates the Guild Hall from the south transept.

Endnote

(1) Records of the Diocese of Missouri and the Diocese of West Missouri

The first American architect to extend the shingle sheathing over the entire house was Bostonian William Ralph Emerson, who did so in his design for a home at Mount Desert in 1879. Vincent Scully Jr. says in his book The Shingle Style and the Stick Style that this may well be the first fully developed example of the Shingle style.

Henry Paston Clark also of Boston, designed several "summer cottages" at Kennebunkport, Maine between 1880 and 1885 which reflected the continuing development of the style with its flowing and irregular massing and significant rooflines.

It would take the work of such creative giants as Henry Hobson Richardson, Charles Follen McKim, Willaim Rutherford Mead and Sanford White to refine and develop the style. Richardson's totally shingle clad residence designed for Dr. John Bryant foretells the work of Frank Lloyd Wright when it spans a ravine on the property. This house is also important in its lack of any Queen Anne or colonial detailing. The McKim, Mead and White firm designed what is considered the high point of the style in the William G. Low house although it was primarily a designer of urban properties. 17)

Before Frank Lloyd Wright developed his Prairie Style, he too designed in the Shingle style. The massing of the front facade of the church has a marked resemblance to the first home which Wright designed for himself in Oak Park, Illinois.

James and James, Architects

The architect commissioned to design St. Oswald's Church was Arthur H. James of Kansas City, Missouri James, a native of Penzance, County Cornwall, England, born 1851, studied with the architect Pocock in England before emmigrating to Canada and then in 1878 to the United States. In 1878 Henry Hobson Richardson moved his practice from New York City to Brookline, Massachusetts. James became an employee of Richardson and was involved in the design of Sever and Austin Halls at Harvard University and the Allegheny County Courthouse at Pittsburg, Penn. 18) There is also some suggestion that James was an associate of

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1892

Significant Dates
1892

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
James, Arthur H./Yous, W.O. & Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

St. Oswald's Protestant Episcopal Church is significant locally and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. in the area of "architecture" as an intact, unaltered example of the Shingle Style and as one of the few remaining examples of the work of English born Kansas City, Missouri architect Arthur H. James. This rural ecclesiastical property contains in its exterior design most of the hallmarks of the shingle style: the varied roof pitches and shapes, the wrapping of the building in wooden shingles which create a horizontal feeling and the lack of ornate millwork at the windows and doors. Arthur H. James was credited with many architectural designs in contemporary records of Kansas City, but none of the buildings cited remain standing and his contributions have not previously been recognized.

The church, built in 1892, was the cultural centerpiece for a group of English born farmers who settled in the far southeast corner of Atchison County, Missouri in the early 1870's. Lineal descendents still own and farm much of the land the first settlers bought and their interest and pride in the church is evident.

The period of significance is 1892

Historic Background

In 1855, Joseph and Anne (Fleming) Tyson and their eight children Jane, Mary, John, James, Joseph, Isaac Thomas and William left their native Westmoreland County, England seeking a better life in the United States. Anne Tyson's uncle,

☒ See continuation sheet

Isaac Fleming had settled at Todd's Point, Shelby County, Illinois, prior to this time, and Joseph and Anne first rented land from Fleming and specialized in raising the Merino sheep which had been a mainstay of their English lifestyle.

By the end of the 1860' s the family was ready to find land of its own. Joseph Tyson Jr. made a trip to northwest Missouri in about 1869 looking for that land and returned to Illinois with the report that the southeast corner of Atchison County was fertile and that it reminded him of England. 1)
The family had done well financially on their Illinois farm and Anne had inherited 600 pounds from her father. With money saved from the Illinois farming operation and Anne's inheritance, the couple and their sons were able to buy almost three sections of land in Dale Township, Atchison County, Missouri in 1870. establishing residence the following year. 2)

In the summer of 1871, Isaac Tyson and Anthony Close, a Yorkshireman, and the Tyson's Chief Herdsman drove 1500 head of Merino sheep overland from Shelby County, Ilinois to Atchison County. (The Tysons put 600 acres of land under cultivation, reserving the rest of the acreage for pasture.) 3) Anthony Close, bought a quarter section of land adjacent to his employer. At Anthony's urging, his elder brother Joseph also moved from Illinois to Missouri, also buying a quarter section of land. Both brothers eventually returned to England, but Anthony's son, Charles William, born in 1885, returned to the land his father had purchased, married Beatrice Huggins and became a pillar of the community. Beatrice was the daughter of Edward Huggins, a native of Cumberland County, England who had married Jane, the eldest daughter of Joseph and Anne Tyson. Edward and Jane (Tyson) Huggins came to Atchison County with her parents.

Attracted by the presence of the Tysons, Closes and Huggins and the "English countryside" ambiance John and Mary Jackson, their son and two daughters and 17 year old William Bowness came from Westmoreland County to join the growing community. In 1885 Bowness and Hannah Jackson were married. Two of William Bowness' brothers also joined the community . 4)

In England, the Tysons had been active in the Church of England and they had also joined the Episcopal Church in Illinois. When they arrived in Missouri it was to discover that the nearest Episcopal Church was in St. Joseph, some fifty miles away by rail. The families held "cottage" services from the Book of Common Prayer and journeyed to St. Joseph for baptisms and marriages.

John Jackson, aged 39, died in 1877, and in 1887 Joseph Tyson Sr. aged 84 also died. Both gentlemen were buried in the nearby Walkup's Grove cemetery. This cemetery had been dedicated by property owner James Walkup in the 1860's "to be a burying ground to be a public or neighborhood graveyard". The first two burials at Walkup's Grove are two children from a passing wagon train whose parents asked permission of Mr. Walkup to bury their children in the grove of trees on his land. 5) It is not recorded whether either the Jackson or Tyson families had the consolation of an Episcopal burial service. It seems probable that Mrs. Anne Tyson's recorded passion for having a church for the English community began with the fact that she was unable to bury her husband from the church of their heritage. Because early community burials had already taken place at Walkup's Grove, when St. Oswald's was built no cemetery was dedicated adjacent to the church.

In September of 1889, Edward and Jane Tyson Huggins made the long trip to St. Joseph to have their two younger daughters baptized at Christ Episcopal Church. While in St. Joseph the couple told the clergy of Christ Church that there were 10 or 12 families in and around Mound City (the railroad access point for the area) who "longed for their mother church". The clergymen promised that they would visit the Mound City area at the earliest possible moment. 6)

The Rev. Messrs. Foote and Gardiner did make at least one trip to Mound City in 1890 and on May 25, 1891 Edward Huggins recorded in a journal that services of the Episcopal Church were held at the Minnesota Valley Methodist Church in Holt County. (This church was about three miles directly south of the St. Oswalds location.) On June 15, 1891, the Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri, The Rt. Rev. Edward R. Atwill, stopped at Mound City and that evening presided at a service of Evensong. Music for the service was directed by George Parker, an active Episcopal layman and musician who had just recently moved to the city from Cameron. The next day Bishop Atwill, the Rev. Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Parker made a circuit of the English families of northern Holt County and southeastern Atchison County. At a service in the Minnesota Valley Methodist Church on the evening of June 16, the Bishop officially designated the gathered group as a Mission in communion with the Diocese and named Mr. Parker to the post of Senior Warden, William Edward Huggins Secretary, Edward Huggins Treasurer and Anthony Close, Isaac Tyson and George Holtom members of the Mission Committee. 7) Holtom, a native of Buckinghamshire, England had settled in Holt County, just north of Mound City before the Civil War.

On October 31, the Mission Committee met and selected the name St. Oswald's for their new congregation. The church at Grasmere, Westmoreland County, England where the Tysons had been members was also named for St. Oswald. The committee decided that they would pay a clergyman $16.00 monthly to come to Atchison County on the first Sunday of each month and that they would circulate a subscription list for the purpose of building a church . One list was to be circulated by Dr. Benson Bond. 8) Bond had come to Missouri, from his native Maryland, immediately after the Civil War and had bought land in Dale Township, Atchison County and Liberty Township, Holt County He ministered to the medical needs of the area as well as being a successful horticulturist. His wife, Sallie Ann was the Postmistress of Elkdale Post Office, located near their home. It is apparent that the couple welcomed the appearance of the Episcopal church of which they had been members in Maryland.

By December 4, Dr. Bond had secured pledges of $160.00 from the neighborhood and Mrs. Anne Tyson, Edward Huggins, Isaac Tyson and Anthony Close had each subscribed $100.00 to the building fund. Minutes for the next few months record continuing successful efforts to raise the money for the structure.

On February 6, 1892, the Mission Committee minutes note that Mr. Parker had gone to Kansas City to secure the services of an architect. The minutes further state that Mr. Parker was to offer no more than $50.00, less if possible. At the March 19 meeting of the Committee, Senior Warden Parker presented the plans drawn by Kansas City architect Arthur H. James. The Mission Committee approved the plans and instructed Parker to advertise for construction bids, which would be due by April 9. Concerning the building's design, Thomas Tyson is reported to have quipped. "Well, if it doesn't succeed as a church it will certainly make a fine sheep shed!" The structure has been affectionately identified as the "Sheep shed church" through the years. 9)

On April 16, the contract for construction, to cost no more than $1980.00, was awarded to W.O. Yous & Co. of Mound City. 10) W.O. Yous, the senior partner, had come to Holt County in 1878, and quickly become one of the community's leading carpenters and builders.

At the April 26 annual business meeting of the congregation, a Committee on Hauling Building Materials was appointed. The three members, William Bowness, Isaac Tyson and George Holtom were charged with harvesting native

lumber for the framing and at least some of the finishing from the Tyson woodlot and transporting it to the building site. 11)

A deed dated May 25, 1892, conveyed a tract of land 70 yards square at the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 63N, Range 38W from Thomas Tyson to George Holtom and Isaac Tyson, as trustees for St. Oswalds church. In 1896 the land would be more properly conveyed to Bishop Atwill as the Diocesan of the Diocese of West Missouri. Both deeds state that the land is conveyed for the sole purpose of use as the site of an Episcopal Church and if that use should ever cease the land would revert to the grantor. 12)

The group had hoped to lay the cornerstone at the end of May but the weather was "unfavorable" so the ceremony was rescheduled for July 17. At a Mission Committee meeting on Saturday night, July 16, Warden Parker was authorized to purchase 200 white maple chairs, five lamps with Rochester burners and an aisle carpet. 13) The chairs are still in use as are the lamps, although the latter have been electrified.

On the day of the cornerstone laying the congregation met at District Schoolhouse #2, Spring Valley, where the Bishop celebrated Holy Communion. Immediately after the service, dinner was served by the women of the congregation. At 3:00 p.m. the congregation formed a procession walking the mile east to the buiding site where with typical Anglican pomp and ceremony the cornerstone was laid. 14)

On October 30, 1892 the church was "opened for public worship" at 10:30 a.m. during a service of Holy Communion by Diocesan Missioner, Archdeacon Horatio M. Gates. 15)

The Shingle Style

St. Oswalds church is important architecturally as an intact, unaltered example of the gable front variant of the Shingle Style.

The Shingle Style is one of the earliest, if not the earliest uniquely American architectural adaptations. It is responsive to the the abundance of wood as a building material in most parts of the United States, using it both for the

framing and for the decorative elements. The use of wood as a first choice for building material was first proposed by Andrew Jackson Downing in his Country Houses. The picturesque forms of architecture with their assymetrical massing espoused by Downing would lead the preeminent architects of the United States into development by the end of the 19th Century of the Shingle style. Intermediate steps included the Stick Style with its accent on the structural elements of the building,and the Queen Anne which borrowed from English design.

The Shingle style was first built in quantity in suburban and resort areas on the eastern shore, in the last decades of the 19th century. The shingle style is not an urban style and very few of the better examples of it were or are located in the cities. The development of architecture as a discipline separate from construction had become a fact and this style was primarily the work of professional architects rather than the work of the ubiquitous carpenter/ builder of vernacular structures. The style spread to the midwest and west with the movement of architects from the east and/or establishment of branches of their firms in the growing cities.

The style has almost endless free form variations but all share the hallmarks of total or partial shingle cladding, irregular massing and multiple rooflines, and an emphasis on the horizontal rather than the vertical. At least a part of the horizontal emphasis is gained by the grouping of windows in bands of multiple sashes, the millwork of which is plain and is subdued by the adjacent shingle. 16)

Technical advances in heating systems let homes of the last half of the 19th century have larger interior spaces which was reflected in the development of the more sprawling forms of Queen Anne and Shingle styles. Also involved in the developmental process of this style was the revolt against the classicism and academic attitudes of the major European schools and architectural firms, and a fondness for the rustic life of the country and recreational areas.

The use of wood shingle as a decorative element such as is found in the Queen Anne style gradually increases to entire portions of shingle cladding,in the work of such men as Bruce Price. In 1879 Price used the same combination of clapboard (weatherboard) and shingle in his massive West End Hotel at Bar Harbour Maine, as is found in St. Oswald's.

Henry Van Brunt in Boston and may have accompanied that architect to Kansas City. 19)

By the mid 1880's Arthur James and his elder brother, J. King James had established the firm of James and James, with offices in New York City and Kansas City. Arthur James was the partner in the Kansas City office while his brother worked out of New York City. The firm designed the Toronto, Canada, Board of Trade building and was second in the competition for the St. Louis City Hall. 20) In 1892, the year that Arthur James was selected to design St. Oswalds, he and his brother severed their partnership. J. King James is listed in New York City Directories until his death in 1902.

Beginning in 1885 there was a building boom in Kansas City, which was stimulated by the activity of investors from out of the city, according to George Erlich, author of K.C. Mo. An Architectural History 1826-1976. This building boom led such nationally known firms as McKim, Mead and White of New York City and Burnham and Root of Chicago to establish Kansas City offices and attracted Henry VanBrunt and Frank Howe to the city, where they established their permanent office.

The firm of James and James was actively involved in designing structures during this building boom. They had commissions for at least two Episcopal churches: St. Mark's, in the northeast section of the downtown area and St. George's which was intended as a "Cathedral Chapel" for the first Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri. St. George's located at the southeast corner of Linwood and Troost, in a developing "suburban" area of Kansas City, was built in 1891. By 1907 the parish had outgrown the relatively small structure and had purchased a larger tract of land in the 2900 block of Tracy. The "Cathedral Chapel" was secularized and sold. It had a number of non ecclesiastical uses including that of a pool hall before being demolished in 1935. 21) The archives of the Diocese of West Missouri contain a signed drawing of the proposed St. Georges's church and a photograph of the completed church. The drawing and photograph show a distinct similarity between that Richardsonian Romanesque style urban "Cathedral Chapel" of brick and sandstone with shingle gable faces, steep gable roofline and shallow transepts and the rural wooden Shingle Style design for St. Oswald's

Articles about the firm of James and James in late 19th century Kansas City publications identify the firm with the construction of a number of the commercial structures of the growing city. Among these were the Walton Holmes building in the 1300 block of Grand Ave., the Bullene, Moore and Emery Block, later Emery, Bird & Thayer, on 11th between Walnut and Grand, the Chamber of Commerce building and the Hopkins Hotel. 22) Unfortunately, St. Oswald's Church appears to be the only public structure designed by James which is still standing. Pen and Sunlight Sketches of Kansas City and Environs also credits him with many city and suburban residences. There is no accessible record by which to ascertain which of those designed by James are still standing. The Kansas City Landmarks Commission has no information on the firm. James continued in the practice of architecture in Kansas City until his untimely death in 1904 at age 53. James death occurred in Pontiac, Michigan where he had gone for a vacation and to visit friends. The funeral service was at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City and he was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. One of the last commissions executed by James was the design of a Confederate Memorial at Forest Hill. 23) 24)

Further information: the English community

This church was not located in this place as the result of the arrival of a large group of immigrants who brought with them their religious mores and celebrations and built a building to house these activities. It is rather because a relatively small group, interrelated by marriage, were wealthy enough and had enough of the proverbial English grit to build for themselves a church of their own. Membership is still largely limited to descendents of those who were involved in the building of the church.

According to the 1880 census of Dale Township and of Liberty Township of Holt county ,which adjoins it on the south, there were very few foreign born settlers, and the American born settlers were predominantly German and Swiss with a sampling of Irish, Scotch and Scandinavians. The only persons who are listed as being of English birth, or second generation English are those who became the members of St. Oswald's. The 1900 census for both townships, lists in addition to the St. Oswalds families, only a few English born immigrants who are either single and listed as "farm laborers" or persons married to others of different ethnic backgrounds. These additional immigrants, with few exceptions, are not associated with the history of St. Oswald's.

Men like John Willcocks and John Shepherd who emmigrated to Missouri as "farm laborers" for the Tysons married into the original families, became active members of the congregation and land owners. Daughters of the families married men like Yuba New and Fred Cottier and brought them to the congregation. The New family had been associated with David Rankin, and Cottier's grandfather had emmigrated to Holt County from the Isle of Man in 1847. Elizabeth Tyson Cottier was for many years an officer of Holt County

On September 19, 1896 the first of a still continuing series of Harvest Festivals was held in thanksgiving for the Dedication of the church (meaning that debts for construction of the building had been retired) and for the crops raised during that year. The Harvest Festival was brought to the United States from England where it has been a parish function for literally hundreds of years. Celebration of the centennial of the congregation will begin with a Harvest Festival on October 6, 1991. At the first Harvest Festival the church interior was decorated with the fruits of the harvest, the Bishop of the Diocese celebrated Holy Communion and the members of the congregation gathered for a basket dinner after the service. This pattern has continued annually almost without a break and it is now the opportunity for far flung members of the families to return to their roots for reunion and for for fellow Episcopalians from other congregations to sample the hospitality of this English colony.

In the years from the First and Second World Wars, this congregation was the only established presence of the Episcopal Church in the three northwestern counties of the state. An unfortunate series of events led to the closing of St. Paul's parish at Maryville in 1915 and work there was not resumed until 1945. Through all of those years there were services and Sunday School at St. Oswalds and couples were married, babies were baptized, youth were confirmed and elders buried in Episcopal services. In 1945, the members decided to lay claim to their very rural location and petitioned the Diocese for permission to change their name from St. Oswald's to St. Oswald's-in-the-Fields and began promoting the Harvest Festival in nearby Episcopal Churches.

Not only has St. Oswald's been the centerpiece of the life of the English families, but it has in many ways served as a community center for the neighborhood. The church lent its name to the local postoffice from 1897 until 1901 when family member James Fleming was Postmaster. County records show that the guild hall served as the polling place for Dale Township from November 1968 to April 1983. Community memory states that the guild hall was used in the same

way for many years earlier in the century. When the local district school, Spring Valley, burned in the spring of 1931, the guild hall was pressed into use for the rest of the school year. Through the years the members of the congregation hosted "oyster suppers", musical concerts, card parties, ice cream socials, dances and elaborate English style Christmas Pantomimes which were looked forward to and attended by the entire neighborhood. Someone once asked "You mean they really have card parties and dances in the church?" to which was replied "Remember these people are Anglicans not Puritans".

The congregation has cared for the structure and its grounds with love and dedication. Two typically rural English money raising projects have been carried on at times through the years to provide maintenance monies. Each household would designate an acre of land to be planted in wheat, which would be harvested and sold by the men of the congregation. Women of the church would contribute the money from selling all of the eggs laid on Sunday.

Today, the descendents of the Tyson, Jackson, Bowness and Close families are the persons who are maintaining the church and keeping alive the Harvest Festival. Leadership of the congregation and the Diocese is looking for new ways to utilize this historic structure since its use as a community centerpiece is threatened by the increasing age and scattered residency of the membership.

It is highly unusual to find a midwestern Episcopal Church in the middle of the country side and equally unusual for a rural church of any denomination to be architect designed. These two facts combined with the importance of the small group of English settlers to the development of Dale and Liberty Townships and the importance of their church to them is cause to secure for this building listing on the National register.

Endnotes

1) Geneological records of the Tyson family in the possession of Marcia Tyson Symanski

2) Records in the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Atchison County

3) Records of the Tyson family op.cit

4) Interview with Mary Catherine Bowness Ball, March 3,1991

5) Records of the Walkup's Grove Cemetery Association

6) Records on file at the Archives of the Diocese of West Missouri, Diocesan Center, 420 W. 14th, Kansas City, Mo 64141

(7) Ibid

(8) Minutes of St. Oswald's church in possession of Fr. Lawrence Lewis, Vicar

(9) Records of Tyson family op.cit

(10) Minutes of St. Oswald's Church op.cit

(11) Ibid

(12) Records at Diocesan Archives op.cit

(13) Minutes of St. Oswald's op.cit

(14) Records at Diocesan Archives op.cit

(15) Ibid

(16) McAlester, Virginia and Lee A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984) p 289 ff

(17) Maddix, Virginia, ed Master Builders. A Guide to Famous American Architects (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1985 pp 78-83, 92-97, 102-105,

(18) Morrison, Andrew The Two Kansas Cities The Englehardt Series: American Cities (no publisher cited) p.70

(19) Obituary of Arthur Dunham James "Kansas City Times" August 28, 1956.

(20) The Two Kansas Cities op,cit

(21) Records at Diocesan Archives op.cit

(22) The Two Kansas Cities op.cit

(23) Obituary of Arthur H. James "Kansas City Star" October 3, 1904

(24) When future research is done on Arthur H. James it will be necessary that Arthur H. James and his son, Arthur Dunham James, are not confused. A. D. James followed his father in the practice of architecture. Born in Canada, he was two years of age when his father moved the family to Boston and still a young- ster when the move to Kansas City was made. He began his profession as a draftsman for Walter Root, the brother of John Wellborn Root, who had managed the Kansas City office for Burnham and Root and had remained in Kansas City to complete the commissions begun by his brother. Walter Root later joined with St. Joseph native Arthur Siemens in the firm Root and Siemens. Arthur D. James was for many years associated with the firm of Hoit, Price and Barnes, which began the alteration of the Kansas City skyline with their designs for the Kansas City Power and Light Building (1930) and the Fidelity Bank and Trust building (1931), the city's first two true skyscrapers.

Bibliography

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Kansas City Times August 28, 1956 Kansas City Star Co.

Kansas City Star October 3, 1904 Kansas City Star Co

The History of Holt and Atchison Counties, Missouri (St. Joseph, Mo: National Historical Co., 1882)

Western Contractor October 5, 1904 (Kansas City, Mo: Peters Publishing Co.)

Typescript of St. Oswald's Minute book 1891-96, courtesy of Fr. Lawrence Lewis, Vicar

Signed drawing St. George's Church, and photograph of completed church (1891-92) Historical clippings re: St. George's (Archives of the Diocese of West Missouri, Diocesan Center, 420 W. 14th, Kansas City Mo.)

Interviews with Fr. Lawrence Lewis, Mrs. Mary Catherine Bowness Ball, Phillip Close, Mrs. Marcia Tyson Symanski

9. Major Bibliographical References

[XX] See continuation sheet

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
- [x] Other

Specify repository:
Archives of Diocese of West Missouri
420 W. 14th, K.C. Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	390845	4460750
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

From the northwest corner of the intersection of the county road which runs east and west between sections 12 and 13, R39W, T63N, and Missouri Highway EE, proceed thirty feet east, across Missouri Highway EE, to the point of beginning; then proceed north along the right-of-way of Missouri Highway EE 210 feet; then proceed east 207 feet 6 inches; then proceed south 210 feet; then proceed west 207 feet 6 inches to the point of beginning.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This tract of land is that which was deeded for church use by Thomas Tyson less the adjacent road right of way and is that which has been in continuous use for that purpose

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Sandehn, Preservation Planner
organization Mo-Kan Regional Council date September 23, 1991
street & number 1302 Faraon St. telephone 816-133-3144
city or town St. Joseph state Missouri zip code 64501

St Oswald's Protestant Episcopal Church
mo Hwy EE, Skidmore vicinity
Atchison County, Mo.
15/301845/4460750

THANKSGIVING
PRS. 137
PSALM 65
735
211
REC. 140

PENTECOST
274
402
369
196
422