

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

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

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

1. Name

historic St. Peter's Catholic Church

and/or common Brush Creek Church

2. Location

street & number Rural Route 2 ___ not for publication

city, town Monroe City vicinity of congressional district #9 - Hon. Harold Volkmer

state Missouri code 029 county Ralls code 173

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Diocese of Jefferson City

street & number 605 Clark Street

city, town Jefferson City vicinity of state Missouri 65101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number Ralls County Courthouse

city, town New London state Missouri 63459

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1963 federal state county local

depository for survey records Missouri State Historical Society

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. Peter's Church at Brush Creek, Missouri, is a small, rectangular structure with walls and foundation of coursed rubble limestone. The medium pitched roof carries an arcaded belfry. Facades are defined by limestone and sandstone ornamentation and large pointed arched windows with delicate mullion tracery.

The church's distinctive fenestration pattern features doublehung lancet windows of 18-over-12 lights, placed under arches of radiating sandstone vousoirs of alternating lengths. The arches are filled with sections of lancet and lozenge batement lights and the windows trimmed with sandstone lugsills. Rockfaced ashlar quoins appear at each elevation and a wooden boxed cornice and frieze surround the building. The south facade contains the primary entrance to the church, a doubleleaf door set under an arch identical to those over the windows.

Interior

The interior of the church is entered through a vestibule which occupies one-half of the south wall. To the right is a curving L-shaped staircase leading to a balcony running the width of the church, bordered by a simple railing and supported by two iron piers. The interior wall and ceiling of the sanctuary are plastered and those of the vestibule are constructed of vertical planking. All walls have been painted green and white. The pews of the church are original. An ornate carved wooden altar and pulpit are situated in the raised chancel area at the north of the sanctuary.

Alterations

The major alteration to the structure is a frame, two-room weatherboarded addition, a sacristy and confessional, attached to the north facade. Other changes include the addition of new electric heaters in place of wood stoves, and a new cement floor over the original wood planking.

Site

St. Peter's Church faces south on a quiet wooded lot surrounded by farmland, outside of Monroe City, Missouri. A graveyard is located to the west and north. The approach to the church is made along an avenue of large oak trees.

Present Status

The church is structurally sound and well-maintained. It is now used only occasionally for memorial services.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention					

Specific dates ca. 1862 **Builder/Architect** Rev. Francis M. Kielty/Martin Hogan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Peter's Catholic Church, near Monroe City, Missouri, is significant as a fine example of vernacular stone architecture in Missouri, and as a product of local design and craftsmanship. It is additionally important as the place of baptism of Father Augustine Tolton, one of the first black Roman Catholic priests in America.

The area around Brush Creek was first settled by Catholic emigrants from Virginia and Kentucky, who chose a site upstream on the Salt River for a permanent settlement.¹ The Bishop of St. Louis, in response to the demands of the growing Catholic community, appointed the pioneer missionary priest, Father Peter Paul Lefevre, as the first resident pastor of the newly-formed Salt River district in 1833.² Father Lefevre was born in Belgium, and studied with the Lazarists in Paris before volunteering for missionary work in America, where he had been ordained in 1831. He became one of the first priests in the West, and later served as the first Bishop of Detroit.³ Through his efforts, a log church was constructed south of the river in 1834, near the town of Center, Missouri.⁴ The new church was called St. Paul's Church, after its founder.

The area served by St. Paul's was large and the Catholic community was rapidly expanding. Often families north of the Salt River were unable to attend mass because of high water.⁵ Accordingly, in 1845 Bishop Peter R. Kendrick of the Diocese of St. Louis purchased land for the use of the small congregation at Brush Creek.⁶ A log church was erected on the site by the following year⁷ and called St. Peter's Church.

In 1861, Father Francis Kielty was appointed to the Salt River district and began the construction of a new St. Paul's, to be built of native limestone.⁸ Father Kielty served as architect for the one-room church of Gothic derivation,⁹ which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The following year, he undertook to design and build another stone structure at Brush Creek, with the help of Martin Hogan, a stonemason newly arrived from Ireland.¹⁰ The new St. Peter's church would have distinctive stonework with heavy quoins and lancet windows with radiating sandstone voussoirs. This second church, completed in 1862, was similar to the first and the two became known locally as the "Sister Churches."¹² The same pastor served both congregations until 1902, when the Brush Creek church was taken over by the Holy Rosary Church of Monroe City. Services there continued until 1967, but are at present conducted only on an irregular basis.¹³

Father Augustine Tolton, who was one of the first black Roman Catholic priest in America, was born in the Brush Creek area in 1854.¹⁴ A slave belonging to the Stephen Elliot family, he was baptised the same year at the log church of St. Peter's, with Mrs. Elliot as his sponsor. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Augustine fled with his family to Quincy, Illinois. There his education was supplemented by private tutoring with Catholic priests.¹⁵ Father Tolton became a student at St. Francis College in Quincy in 1878, but upon completion of his studies, he found there were no seminaries in America willing to accept him for the priesthood. Instead, he travelled to Rome where he enrolled at the College of Sacred Propaganda and was ordained there on April 24, 1886.¹⁶

Returning to Quincy, Father Tolton served as pastor of St. Joseph Church for many years. He

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Archives of St. Paul Parish, Center, Missouri.
2. Bartholmew, Sr. M. "Brush Creek Church," unpublished thesis, n.d. Mimeographed. Archives of St. Peter's Church, Brush Creek, Missouri.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2½ acres
Center, Missouri"

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 5	6 1 9 8 2 5	4 3 8 6 2 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Being a part of the North East quarter of Section 30, Township 56, Range 6, bounded as follows, to wit: beginning at the South East corner of said quarter section and running thence West 31 poles, thence North 12 poles, thence East 31 poles, thence South 12 poles to the

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. Janice R. Cameron, Research Assistant
organization Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program date June 26, 1980
street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 314/751-4096
city or town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

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

For the State only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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2. Missouri State Historic Survey

1980

State

Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City

Missouri 65101

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later established St. Monica's Parish for Negroes in Chicago, where he died in 1897.¹⁷
Father Tolton is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois.

FOOTNOTES

1. Gilbert J. Garraghan, S.J., Jesuits of the Middle United States (New York: American Press, 1938), Vol. 1, p. 299.
2. Ibid., p. 238.
3. Ibid, pp. 138-139.
4. Archives of St. Paul Parish, Center, Missouri.
5. "Historic Missouri Churches," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 71, January 1977.
6. A deed was made between William H. and Lucretia Hutcherson and Bishop Kendrick for the purchase of two and one-half acres of land some ten miles north of St. Paul's. See Warranty Deed Record, Vol. F, p. 202, 8 March 1845, in Ralls County Courthouse, New London, Missouri.
7. Archives of St. Paul Parish.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Data extracted from draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form submitted by Thomas Miskell, Monroe City, Missouri, 30 May 1978.
11. Sr. M. Bartholomew, "Brush Creek Church," unpublished thesis, n.d. (mimeographed) in Archives of St. Peter's Church, Brush Creek, Missouri, p. 6.
12. Missouri Historical Review.
13. Fr. John Groner, personal interview, 8 June 1979.
14. Sr. Bartholmew, p. 6.
15. Rev. Landry Genosky, "United States' First Negro Priest's Life Centered in Quincy," Quincy Herald-Whig, 9 July 1976, p. 1.
16. "Historic Ralls County Church of St. Peter's Has Rich Background," Monroe City News, 27 February 1976.
17. Sr. Caroline Hemesath, O.S.F., From Slave to Priest (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1973), p. 238.
18. Ibid.

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3. Data extracted from draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form submitted by Thomas Miskell, Monroe City, Missouri, 30 May 1978.
4. Garraghan, Gilbert J., S.J. Jesuits of the Middle United States. New York: American Press, 1938. 3 vols.
5. Genosky, Rev. Landry. "United States' First Negro Priest's Life Centered in Quincy." Quincy Herald-Whig, 9 July 1976, p. 1.
6. Groner, Fr. John. Personal interview, 8 June, 1979.
7. Hemesath, Sr. Caroline, O.S.F. From Slave to Priest. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1973.
8. "Historic Missouri Churches," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. 71, January 1977.
9. "Historic Ralls County Church of St. Peter's Has Rich Background." Monroe City News, 27 February 1976.
10. Warranty Deed Record, Vol. F, p. 202. Ralls County Courthouse, New London, Missouri.

ITEM NUMBER 10

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beginning, so as to include 2½ acres.

ITEM NUMBER 11

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2. Thomas Miskell
211 East Dover Street
Monroe City
May 30, 1978
Missouri 63456
3. Fr. John Groner
Pastor, St. Peter's Church
405 South Main Street
Monroe City
June 8, 1979
Missouri 63456
4. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
June 26, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

7783 11 NW
(MONROE CITY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

91°37'30"
39°37'30"

619000m E

620

HUNTINGTON 2.5 MI.

621

4386000m N.

4386000m N.

4385

T. 56 N.

T. 55 N.

4384

4383

35'

4382

U.S.G.S.
"Center"

7.5'

Quadrangle
(1959)

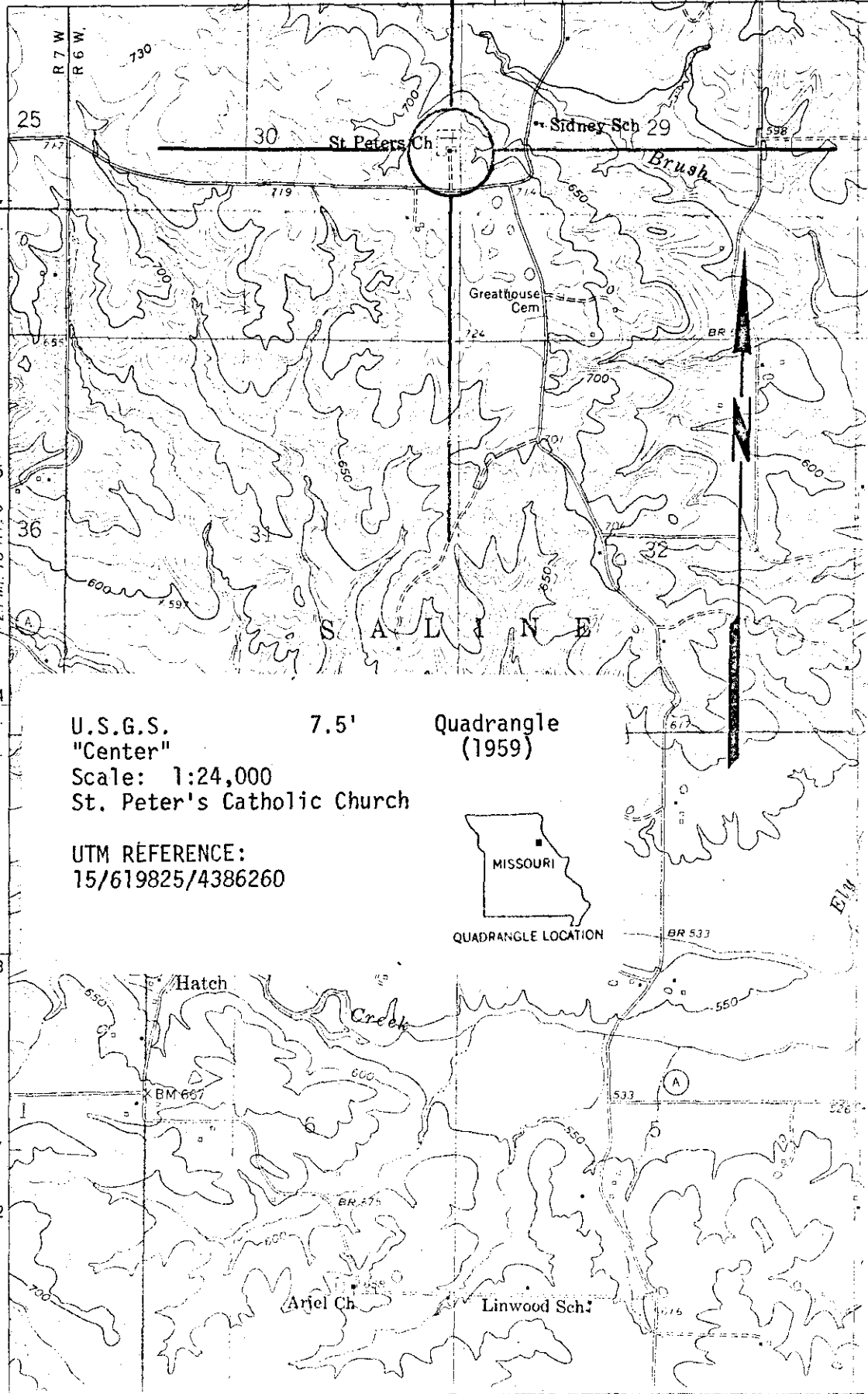
Scale: 1:24,000

St. Peter's Catholic Church

UTM REFERENCE:
15/619825/4386260



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



2.1 MI. TO HY. J

R 7 W
R 6 W

25

30

29

36

31

32

S A L I N E

Hatch

Creek

BM 667

Ariel Ch

Linwood Sch

533

E 1 M

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

#1 of 5

Rural Route 2

Monroe City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

June 8, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 1176

Jefferson City MO 64102

General view of primary facade from the
south.



St. Peter's
BRUSH CREEK
Church
FOUNDED 1883

ST. PETER'S CHURCH #2 of 5
Rural Route 2

Monroe City, Missouri

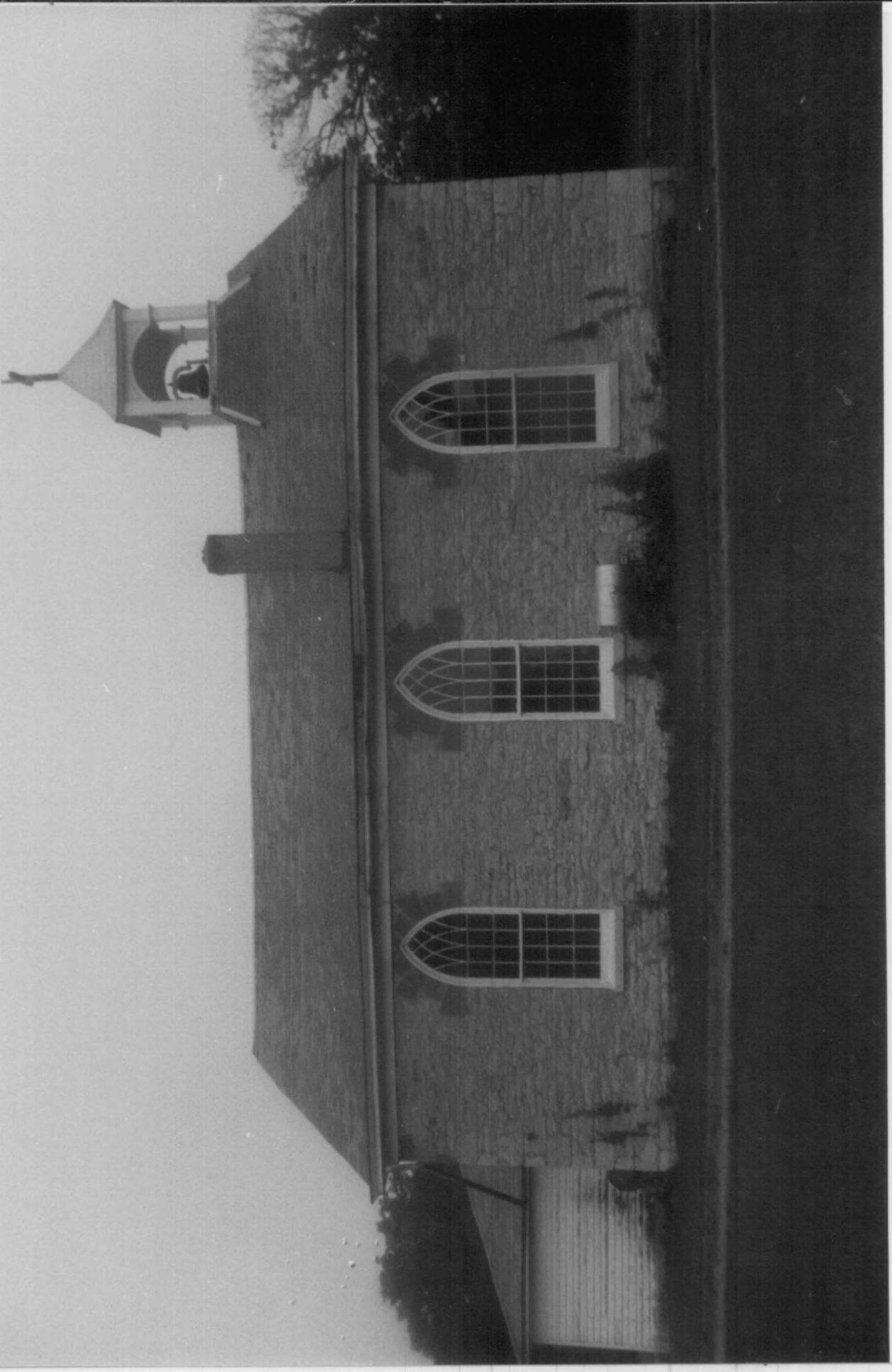
Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

June 8, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102

General view from the west.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH #3 of 5

Rural Route 2

Monroe City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

June 8, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102

General view from the east.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH #4 of 5

Rural Route 2

Monroe City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

June 8, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102

General view from the north.



#5 of 5

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
Rural Route 2

Monroe City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron
June 8, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Interior view to the north.



EXTRA
PHOTOS

