

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Missouri
COUNTY:	St. Louis City
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

SITE FILE COPY

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 225 Bowen Street				
CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd Hon. Leonor K. Sullivan		
STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63111	COUNTY: St. Louis City	CODE: 510	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		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"/> Comments
<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: Trustees of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: 225 Bowen Street				
CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis		STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63111	CODE: 29
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the Recorder of Deeds, St. Louis City Hall				
STREET AND NUMBER: Twelfth and Market streets				
CITY OR TOWN: St. Louis		STATE: Missouri	CODE: 63103	CODE: 29
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri State Historical Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Natural Resources				
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 176				
CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City		STATE: Missouri	CODE: 65101	CODE: 29

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church is a one-story, rectangular-plan building located in the Carondelet district of South St. Louis at the intersection of Minnesota and Bowen streets. Originally built for use as a public marketplace by the City of Carondelet in the late 1860s, a black congregation purchased it in the early 1880s. The congregation added an entrance tower about 1900, and much interior remodeling has occurred in the recent past.

EXTERIOR: The brick structure rests on a stone block foundation; there is no basement under the church. The external measurements are approximately 51' long by 42' wide, but these figures discount the entrance tower that extends outward from the main facade. This facade, an adaptation of the classical motif, has three bays facing southwest. The front entrance has a fanlight transom. A five-step, straight stairway connects the front door with the walkway below, and two iron railings are attached to the stairway. Round-arched windows with colored glass (eight lights) are located on either side of the main door; these windows occupy bays framed by pilasters. There is a stone sill beneath each window. Similar pilasters and windows on each side wall create an arcading effect. Paired, smaller arched windows previously located in both gable ends have been bricked in. There is a secondary entrance at the northwest corner. At each of the four corners, a square brick pier rises about two feet above the cornice. The faces of each pier are articulated by two recessed panels. The tower extension has two side windows at the vestibule level. The tower rises about eight feet above the gable end on the main facade. At approximately the point where the tower masks the gable end, four, rectangular, wood, louvered openings provide ventilation for the belfry. There is a brick chimney on the west roof slope. The roof is covered with composition material. The cornice of the main facade is boxed. The tower's cornice has ornamental brackets.

INTERIOR: The interior is austere. Seven rows of pews rest on a carpeted floor. The colored glass windows have non-opening aluminum frames. The sanctuary is separated from the pew area by a low, straight railing that crosses the front of the church, and the sanctuary is raised about six inches above the main floor. Besides the wood altar, a few chairs and a pulpit are the only other fixtures in this area. The pastor has a small furnished office just to the right of the main entrance.

ALTERATIONS: The entrance tower extension was added circa 1900. As pointed out above, gable windows are bricked in. A bell, reputedly removed from an abandoned Mississippi River steamboat, bears the inscription: Fulton Casting Works, Pittsburgh, 1847.

SITE: The church is located in a well-kept, integrated, residential neighborhood. Trees and bushes abound in the yard. The small brick parsonage just north of the church was built around 1908. Bowen Street is not heavily traveled, but greater vehicular traffic appears to utilize Minnesota Street to the west at this point.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860s-1880s

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☒ Religion/Phi-

☒ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

Black History

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☒ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church has utilized one building as a house of worship longer than any other black congregation in the Carondelet district of South St. Louis. Throughout the years, this church has been the focal point for many worthwhile activities in the black community. Furthermore, the structure is one of the few extant buildings originally commissioned by the once independent City of Carondelet, Missouri.

Protestant missionary efforts among the St. Louis Negro community began as early as 1817 or 1818 but unlike black Baptists, black Methodists worshipped under the direction of white pastors until the early 1840s. Around that time, William Paul Quinn, an African Methodist Episcopal Church missionary and later its first black bishop, founded the initial church of that denomination west of the Mississippi River. However, it was not until the Reconstruction era and its aftermath that the first black congregations were established in extreme South St. Louis. During this interval, the black community in Carondelet organized St. John's Methodist (built and burned in 1869); African Methodist Episcopal Church, Seely Institute; Corinthian Baptist (circa early 1870s); and Quinn Chapel a decade later.<sup>1</sup> Reportedly, dissidents from St. John's left to form a new parish, and that group became the nucleus of Quinn Chapel.<sup>2</sup> Of these various parishes, only Quinn Chapel and Corinthian Baptist remain viable operations in the 1970s.

Although a relatively small segment of the population of Carondelet prior to the Civil War, the Negro element grew fairly rapidly in the later third of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth. In the interval between 1890-1920, the black community in Carondelet averaged roughly a thousand persons; this is compared with a white population that grew from about 11,000 to more than 30,000 during those same years. Beginning with an ante-bellum nucleus of free Negroes and slaves, the black community increased quickly when an influx of former bondsmen reached the area seeking employment.<sup>3</sup> Some of these newcomers managed to eke out a living from the river, zinc and iron foundaries; others became draymen, teamsters, and domestics. From these humble origins, their sons and daughters reached middle class status in the twentieth century.<sup>4</sup>

Unlike other neighborhoods in St. Louis that underwent more rapid change,

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8. # 1

QUINN CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

black/white relations in Carondelet have, throughout the years, remained on an amicable footing. Perhaps much of this can be attributed to the limited influx of blacks compared to other districts in St. Louis; this factor permitted the two races to live in harmony without experiencing the traumatic tensions that arise from too rapid social change.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, this stable black community has developed its own effective local institutions--one of the best examples being Quinn Chapel A. M. E.

This particular A. M. E. church was named to honor the first black Methodist bishop, William Paul Quinn. The building at Minnesota and Bowen had been constructed as a result of a contract let by the City of Carondelet in 1869. It and two similar buildings were slated to be used as marketplaces.<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, a similar building remains at the intersection of Broadway and Schirmer streets (South Market Square) not far away. Soon after the buildings were put up, the City of St. Louis annexed Carondelet (1870). While the Bowen Street structure received little recorded use in the 1870s, the City of St. Louis sold the property to the Carondelet A. M. E. Church in July, 1880. Two years later on June 26, 1882, the parishoners of the recently organized Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church dedicated the structure. Thus, the congregation has utilized the same building for worship and other purposes for at least 92 years.

On at least two occasions around the turn of the century, the congregation borrowed substantial sums of money.<sup>8</sup> It seems highly likely that the proceeds were earmarked for a new entrance tower (circa 1900) and the parson's home in 1908. The records point out that the parishioners met their financial responsibilities.

Since its founding, the Quinn Chapel congregation grew to 150 members, peaked, and then slowly declined to the present 50 stalwarts. Black emigration to outlying suburban areas has helped drain the membership rolls.<sup>9</sup> Throughout its long history, this church has been the focal point for frequent social, cultural, and educational activities in the black community. When barred from other institutions by Jim Crow laws and customs, Carondelet blacks gathered at Quinn Chapel and at Corinthian Baptist. Quinn Chapel sponsored ice cream socials, fish fries, lectures, songfests, and, of course, traditional religious experiences.<sup>10</sup> The church has also served in humanitarian ways. For instance, in 1943 approximately 25 men who had been flooded out of their homes on the Illinois side of the Mississippi slept for at least two weeks at Quinn Chapel.<sup>11</sup>

Even though the membership of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church has declined in recent years, dedicated and hardworking members have done much to preserve their church. Except for the entrance tower, the exterior has changed little. As for the interior, industrious members have greatly improved it.

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8. # 2 QUINN CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

Placing this historic church on the National Register of Historic Places will do much to bolster morale and interest in preserving this vital focal point in the black community of South St. Louis.

FOOTNOTES

1. Lawrence O. Christensen, "Black St. Louis: A Study in Race Relations 1865-1916," (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Missouri, 1972), 28-34, 119. Interview with Albert T. Jefferson, May 18, 1974, St. Louis, Missouri. William L. Hyde and Howard L. Conrad, Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis: A Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference, (New York, Louisville, St. Louis: The Southern History Company, 1899), 1478-1479.
2. Jefferson interview.
3. Christensen, "Black St. Louis," 76, 77, 79, 87, 89, 91, 94.
4. Jefferson interview.
5. Ibid.
6. "Carondelet in the Early 1940s," taken from a scrapbook, Carondelet File, Carondelet Branch Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri. Interview with Charles U. Brown, May 18, 1974, St. Louis, Missouri.
7. Carondelet Centennial Official Souvenir Book, 1851-1951, copy in possession of Albert T. Jefferson. Southern Commercial and Savings Bank: 1891-1966 Our Diamond Anniversary, Quinn Chapel File, Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Columbia, Missouri.
8. Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church "abstract," Quinn Chapel File, Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Columbia, Missouri.
9. The Blue Book--The Church Manual of Greater St. Louis, (St. Louis: Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis, Missouri, 1931-1932), 329. Jefferson interview. Brown interview.
10. Jefferson interview.
11. Brown interview.

# 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Blue Book--The Church Manual of Greater St. Louis. St. Louis: Metropolitan Church Federation of Greater St. Louis, Missouri, 1931-1932.
2. Brown, Charles U. Taped interview, May 18, 1974, St. Louis, Missouri.
3. Carondelet Centennial Official Souvenir Book, 1851-1951. Published by the Carondelet Centennial Commission, 1951.

# 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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			38°	33'	32"
NE	0			0			90°	14'	51"
SE	0			0					
SW	0			0					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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: <b>Ronald W. Johnson, Ph.D., Research Associate</b>		
ORGANIZATION <b>Department of Natural Resources State Historical Survey and Planning Office</b>	DATE <b>July 20, 1974</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>P. O. Box 176</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Jefferson City</b>	STATE <b>Missouri 65101</b>	CODE <b>29</b>

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 James L. Wilson, Director  
 Title Department of Natural Resources & State Historic Preservation Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

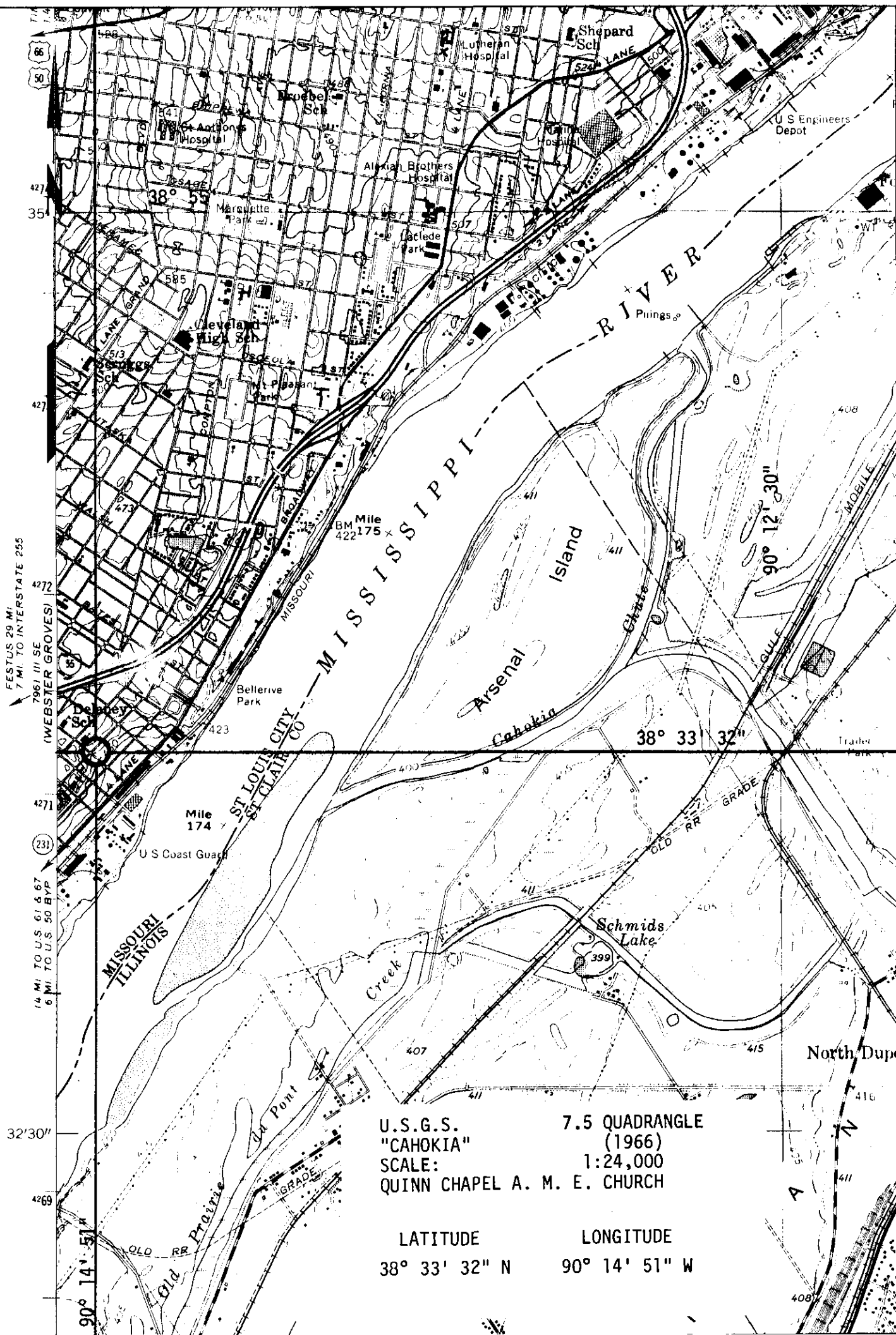
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9. # 1 QUINN A. M. E. CHAPEL
4. "Carondelet in the Early 1940s." Scrapbook. Carondelet File, Carondelet Branch Public Library, St. Louis, Missouri.
5. Christensen, Lawrence O. "Black St. Louis: A Study in Race Relations 1865-1916." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Missouri, 1972.
6. Gould's St. Louis Directory for 1885, XIV, St. Louis: Gould Directory Company, 1885.
7. Hyde, William L., and Howard L. Corn<sup>nd</sup>. Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis: A Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference. New York, Louisville, St. Louis: The Southern History Company, 1899.
8. Jefferson, Albert T. Taped interview, May 18, 1974, St. Louis, Missouri.
9. Negroes: Their Gift to St. Louis. St. Louis: Employers Loan, 1964.
10. Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church "abstract." Quinn Chapel File, Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Columbia, Missouri.
11. Scharf, J. Thomas. History of St. Louis, City and County, from the Earliest Periods to the Present Day Including Biographical Sketches of Representative Men. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts and Company, 1883.
12. Southern Commercial and Savings Bank, 1891-1966 Diamond Anniversary, published by Southern Commercial and Savings Bank, 1966.



FESTUS 29 MI.  
7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 255  
7961 III SE  
(WEBSTER GROVES)  
14 MI. TO U.S. 61 & 67  
6 MI. TO U.S. 50 BYP

U.S.G.S.  
"CAHOKIA"  
SCALE:  
QUINN CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

7.5 QUADRANGLE  
(1966)  
SCALE: 1:24,000  
QUINN CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

LATITUDE  
38° 33' 32" N

LONGITUDE  
90° 14' 51" W



**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church**

City or Vicinity: **St. Louis [Independent City]**

County: **St. Louis [Independent City]** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Ronald W. Johnson**

Date

Photographed: **May 1974**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 8. Main façade, view to the NW primary (S) façade at left, E side wall at right. The tower is a c. 1900 addition.

2 of 8. Main façade, view to the NE. Storm damage apparent on the left window.

3 of 8. Interior, view toward S. Shot taken from pulpit area.

4 of 8. View to the S, NW-SW side façade. Brick parsonage (6120) Minnesota at left.

5 of 8. View looking NW.

6 of 8. View looking N, primary façade.

7 of 8. Detail of tower.

8 of 8. Detail, primary façade. Note moisture penetration on corner.









6120











