

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5th and South Green Streets - Corner

not for publication

city, town Lee's Summit

vicinity of

state Missouri

code 029

county Jackson

code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Inc.

street & number 5th and South Green Streets, P.O. Box 372

city, town Lee's Summit

vicinity of

state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 306 West Kansas

city, town Independence

state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is situated at the corner of 5th and South Green Streets in Lee's Summit, Missouri. This wood frame building rests on a rubble stone foundation. Exterior walls are covered with clapboards and painted white. The original structure was cruciform. High pitched gable roofs cover the transept and nave.

The main entry is on the south and consists of double six panel doors which are painted red. A trio of fixed stained glass windows set in a triangular arrangement are situated above the doors. A high bellcast hipped roof tops the bellfry. A fixed stained glass window is set above the major entrance on the upper level. There are three one-over-one stained glass windows on the west and east sides. Fixed stained glass windows in the shape of isosceles triangles are set above each of the double sash windows echoing the treatment over the front doors. The effect gives the impression of triangular pedimented door and window trim. Similar windows face south and west from the west end of the transept. A secondary entrance into the transept faces south and is located on the east end.

The interior walls and vaulted ceilings are covered with narrow strips of wood panelling set diagonally on the walls and horizontally on the ceiling. A trio of stained glass windows is set above the wooden altar in the apse at the north end of the transept.

The church has received few if any alterations since it was built in 1884. An early description of the newly built church would be accurate today:

"The church is frame, 40 feet by 24, with a porch in front 8 by 10 feet, with a bell tower extending above the roof. It is strongly and well built, with a solid stone foundation, which is so high in the rear of the church as to give room for a cellar for wood.

The interior is ceiled throughout with narrow stuff put on diagonally, the timbers above do not show."¹

An addition has been placed on the northeast of the original structure which extends toward the north. This addition was built in the 1960's and has not disturbed the original building nor does it detract from the vernacular Gothic Revival style of the 1884 church. The door which enters the new addition at the north end of the original structure was present prior to the new construction. The heating/cooling system added at the same time was placed in the crawl space at the northwest end of the church and did not disturb the original building or its features.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Church News, January 15, 1885.

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

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** Rev. Scheetz.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is significant architecturally in that the building is the only surviving vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival in Lee's Summit and the immediate vicinity. In addition, it has not been altered to any obvious degree since it was originally constructed as an Episcopal Church in 1884. The structure and religious community have maintained integrity in both physical and societal senses. Under category C of the Criteria for Evaluation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church embodies a distinctive type of vernacular adaptation to the earlier Gothic Revival style important in church construction. Economic exigencies as well as available materials quite probably limited this Midwestern frame structure to a simple relatively small derivative of the more expansive models constructed in the eastern United States. The simple yet elegant form and decorative features of St. Paul's reflect the Midwestern 19th century philosophy of spiritual beliefs constrained by the realities of the time and place. The continuity in the structure can easily be interpreted to reflect the continuity in the religious community which began and still maintains this impressive building.

(See continuation page)

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church was originally constructed as a simple frame structure with the necessary components which identified it as a church. Its design was influenced by the Gothic Revival style but also by the physical and financial restraints of the builders and parishioners. The architect was the Rev. Mr. Scheetz.² A former railroad engineer, Scheetz had become an Episcopal priest by the time of St. Paul's construction. He also drew the plans for at least three other churches, Trinity Episcopal, St. James, Missouri; Grace Church, Monroe City, Missouri; and St. Mark's Episcopal in Butler, Missouri.³ The Trinity Church now has a stone facade covering the original wood frame, and St. Mark's is no longer extant. These two were originally almost identical to St. Paul's.⁴ The building was completed in November or December of 1884 at a cost of \$1,100.⁵ and is the oldest church still in use in Lee's Summit today. An additional important aspect of St. Paul's significance is found in its historic conception and development. The land on which the building is situated was donated to the church by William B. Howard, who founded the City of Lee's Summit, then known as Strother, in October of 1865.⁶ Howard placed the land in trust; and, on July 16, 1884, Elizabeth M. Whiting, Belle M. Jones, and Bessie M. Gattreel, trustees, deeded lot 1, block 22 of William Howard's addition to the "Protestant Episcopal Church".⁷ These women assumed all the responsibility for the construction of the church. "They chose the plans and made the contract, and they superintended the building, paid the money, and gave the note for the deferred payment."⁸ Initial funding for the construction of the church came from the dues of 5 cents per week for a "Savings Society" which was organized in 1881.⁹ Bishop Robertson made a contribution of \$25 which was the first of many donations collected by the women.¹⁰ The women used various means of fundraising, and some referred to the building as the "carpet rag church" since the sewing and sale of such items partially financed construction.¹¹

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FOOTNOTES

2. Church News, January 15, 1885.
3. Ibid.
4. Personal Communication: Ven. Charles F. Rehkopf, Registrar,
Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Missouri.
5. Church News, January 15, 1885.
6. History of Jackson County, Union Historical Company, 1881.
7. William B. Howard's ledger, Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.
8. Church News, September 5, 1889.
9. Church News, January 15, 1885.
10. Church News, September 5, 1889.
11. Church News, January 15, 1885.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Church News of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Missouri.

St. Louis, Missouri. August 15, 1884.

History of Jackson County. Union Historical Company; Birdsall, Williams & Company, Kansas City, Missouri 1881.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/3

Quadrangle name Lake Jacomo

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

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4	3	0	7	5	6	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, block 22, William Howard Addition, Town of Strother (Lee's Summit)
Jackson County, Missouri--1865 Plat Book.

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 l. Ruthi Sturdevant

organization Environmental Research Center

date November 2, 1984

street & number 1524 Rosevalley Drive

telephone (314) 635-9569

city or town Jefferson City,

state Missouri 65101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Frederick A. Brunner, Ph.D., P. E., Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/19/85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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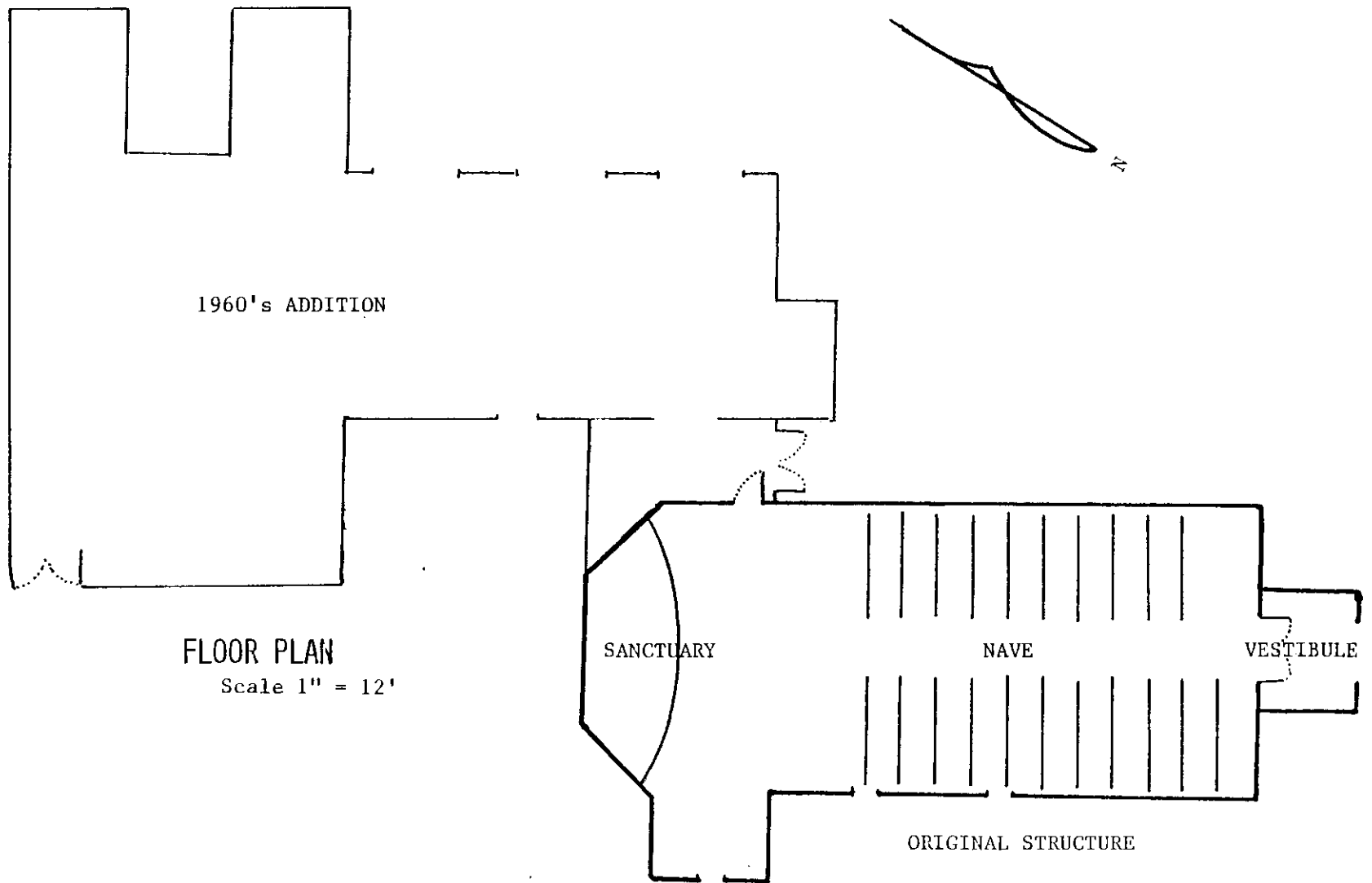
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date entered

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2. James M. Denny
Chief, Survey & Registration
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P. O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 314/751-4096
Date: August 13, 1985



FLOOR PLAN

Scale 1" = 12'

1960's ADDITION

SANCTUARY

NAVE

VESTIBULE

ORIGINAL STRUCTURE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI



Photo Log:

Name of Property: **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

City or Vicinity: **Lee's Summit**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **David Stover**

Date

Photographed: **May 1984**

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

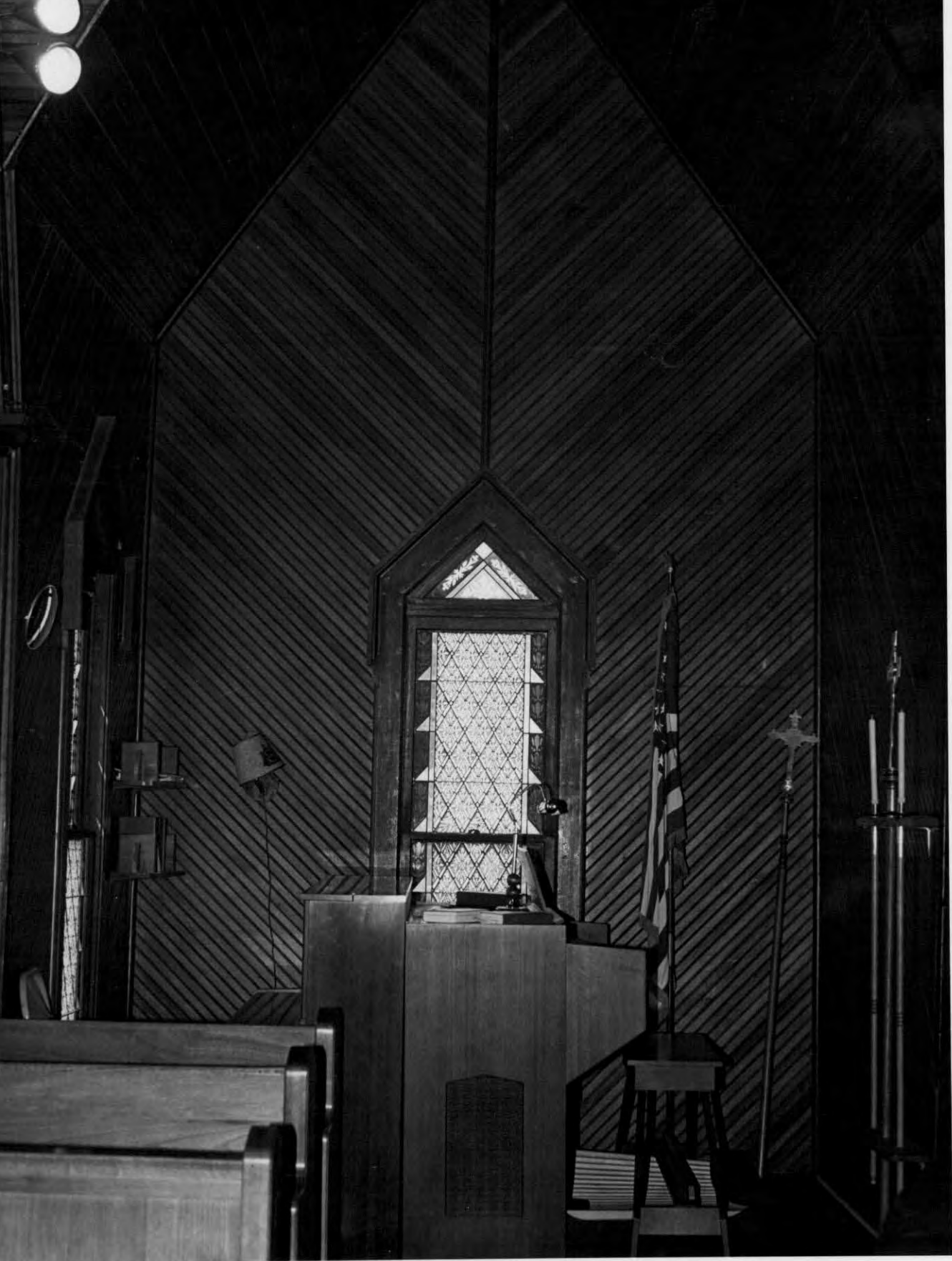
- 1 of 6. Main entrance, S side of church, looking N.
- 2 of 6. SE corner of church, looking NW.
- 3 of 6. S end of church, interior.
- 4 of 6. N end of church, interior.
- 5 of 6. W end of transept, interior.
- 6 of 6. SW corner of church, looking NE.

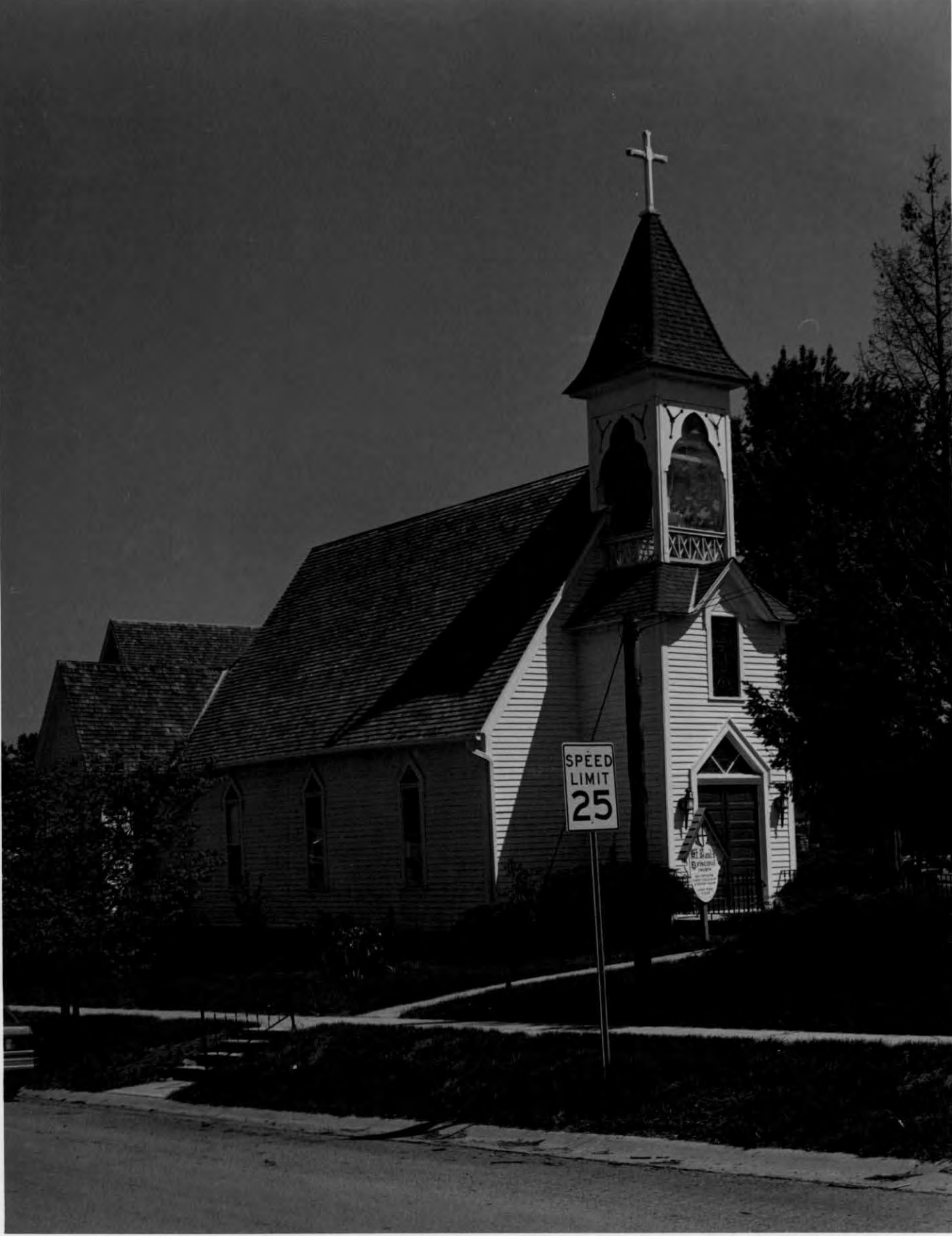












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