

Form 10-300  
(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: Missouri	
COUNTY: Callaway	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>	
COMMON: Winston Churchill Memorial	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury	

<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 7th Street and Westminster Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Fulton			
STATE Missouri	CODE 65251	COUNTY: Callaway	CODE 27

<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<b>STATUS</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b>  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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Nonsectarian Student Chapel

<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: Board of Trustees, Westminster College			
STREET AND NUMBER: Westminster College			
CITY OR TOWN: Fulton	CODE 65251	STATE: Missouri	CODE 29

<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Callaway County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 5th and Court Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Fulton	CODE 65251	STATE: Missouri	CODE 29

<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri State Historical Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Missouri State Park Board			
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City	CODE 65101	STATE: Missouri	CODE 29

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is a single story, three aisle, five bay, longitudinal plan church designed in the English Baroque style by the 17th century architect, Sir Christopher Wren. It was designed in 1667 to rebuild a 12th century church of the same name destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, and was constructed in 1677 on the corner of Aldermanbury Street and Love Lane, London, England. In 1941, it was hit by a German incendiary bomb and gutted. All that remained of the church after the blitz were the exterior walls, the tower and twelve interior columns that separated the nave from the side aisles. In 1962, these remains were given to the Board of Trustees of Westminster College, Missouri, who had them dismantled, shipped to the United States and used to reconstruct the original Wren church as a memorial to the famous English statesman, Sir Winston Churchill. It now stands as the center point of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States, which is located on the corner of 7th and Westminster streets in the Churchill Quadrangle of Westminster College.

The college's Churchill Quadrangle is situated on a rise in the landscape and the Churchill Library, Museum and Gallery is located in a rectangular undercroft built into this rise at the corner of 7th and Westminster streets. The stone roof of the museum forms a platform level with the top of the embankment, and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is located on this platform. As was the case in London, it is oriented in an east-west direction.

## EXTERIOR

The exterior of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury is completely typical of Sir Christopher Wren's city church architecture. It is constructed of gleaming white Portland limestone according to a pure and simple architectural design that gives it an essentially flat character. The main emphasis of the exterior design is on the tower which is placed as the dominant feature in the center of the west facade. It rises over a square plan in three stories separated by shallow mouldings. The lower two stories are undecorated stone, the first being characterized by a large round-arched window on the west, while the second is pierced by a small circular window on the west and a round-headed window on each side. The third story of the tower is more detailed with stone quoins at each corner. This story holds five new bells and has four round-headed windows, one on each side, louvred for sound. The tower is terminated by a bold cornice and topped by a balustrade. On top of the tower is a small square cupola covered with copper coated with lead. On the west facade, the tower is flanked by two round-headed windows, one to each side, at the end of each aisle.

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7.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

Both side elevations have an even sequence of large round-headed windows in the four eastern bays, with a doorway, circular window and small round-arched window characterizing the western bay. The door on the south side of the church is articulated by a segmental pediment supported by two applied columns.

The east end facade of the church is the most ornate, but the treatment remains confined to a very few planes and the character is still flat. The central portion of the facade that corresponds to the nave is carried forward a little and capped with a pediment to hide the pitch of the roof. This central section is distinguished by quoins and characterized by a large round-headed window flanked by great carved volutes. The aisle ends are lower than the central portion but a transition from the height of the nave end to that of the aisles is effected by means of two curved triangular filling pieces. Each of the two aisle ends contains a round-headed doorway distinguished by acanthus leaves and a pediment, with a circular window above.

All four corners of the building are strengthened by quoins and capped with a large stone pine cone, a trademark of Wren's work. The roof is of copper coated with lead, and has a single arched clerestory window over each side of the central bay.

The majority of the exterior of the church is constructed with the original material used by Wren in 1677. Only a minor amount of new stones are used to supplement the originals and these replace the ones lost in the bombing of 1941. To keep the church as authentic as possible, the new stones were quarried from the original Portland quarry. The clear window glass is newly made to replace the Victorian stained glass, but it is all hand blown to duplicate exactly the glass used by Wren. The roof, and the little cupola that tops the tower are completely new, but have been reconstructed according to the original plans. All the window frames, pediments and ornamental carving, however, are original.

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7 (#2)

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

INTERIOR

The interior of the church has much less original material since it was gutted by the German incendiary bomb. Only the twelve columns that divide the nave and side aisles and eight of their capitals are original. They no longer support the roof, however, which now rests on a hidden steel frame. The remainder of the interior is a twentieth century reconstruction after the 17th century church. There is a barrel vault over the nave and flat divided ceilings over the aisles. The floors are of Bedford limestone, the walls are plastered with white stucco, and all the decorations are of plaster cast from the original molds sent from England, wood carved according to the original specifications, and brass copied after examples in other Wren churches.

The eastern bay of the nave holds the altar and ornate oak reredos decorated with limewood carvings and gold leaf. In the aisle to each side of the altar is a vestry door ornately carved with corinthian columns and segmental pediments. The pediments come from another Wren church, Saint Dionysis Back, which was partially destroyed by fire in 1886. They were carved by Grinlin Gibbons, Wren's chief craftsman.

The central area of the nave and aisles are filled with pews in the 17th century design, while the western bay holds a choir loft with a new organ in an 18th century case.

A modern cantilever stone staircase leads from the lower bell tower to the Churchill Museum in the undercroft and twenty-four circular stone steps from the 12th century church stand above them in the second story of the tower. Wren used these steps when he rebuilt Saint Mary, Aldermanbury and they have been used again here.

The careful reconstruction of the interior according to original specifications has produced a spatial effect that is totally Wren, for it exhibits a subtle attempt to centralize a longitudinal area, a factor characteristic of almost all Wren's later churches. The nave dominates the church so clearly by its greater height and width that the narrow aisles hardly appear as independent spatial units, but rather as extensions of the nave, thus giving the impression of

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7 (#3)

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

a large open area. As the width is extended, the length is limited, for the two end bays are filled with woodwork and their barrel vaults are emphasized to the point of almost subtracting them from the true area of the nave. This gives the interior the aspect of a square rather than a rectangle, and the impression is enhanced by the placement of a single groin-vault over the center of the church. The intersection of the vault is marked by a large circular rosette which rounds the square and gives a subtle sense of centrality.

## 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)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☒ Other (Specify)

Memorial to a

historically

significant

individual,

Sir Winston

Churchill

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury has primary significance as the only example of an original 17th century church designed by the famous English architect, Sir Christopher Wren, to be reconstructed on American soil. This significance is greatly advanced by the fact that the reconstruction was carried out with the aid of Wren's original plans for the church. The structure is of additional significance as a memorial to one of America's only two honorary citizens, Sir Winston Churchill.

The original Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury was built in medieval London in the late 12th century and maintained until its destruction in the Great Fire of 1666. From 1667 to 1677, the medieval church, along with fifty others was redesigned and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, the English baroque architect in charge of rebuilding London after the fire. (Church records relating to the building of Saint Mary, Aldermanbury, from: The Wren Society, Vol. XIX, Oxford: 1942.)

In the 1860's, the Wren church was given new gothic window tracery, stained glass windows and a new vaulting system, and during the following decades was blackened by the London smog and gutted by a German incendiary bomb. (Dame Beryl Oliver, The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, London: 1969, p. 12.) In 1965, however, it was cleaned, dismantled and shipped to the United States where it was carefully reconstructed according to Wren's original specifications. (A Guide for Visitors to the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States, Missouri: 1968.) Because of this, the building possesses an important quality that most of Wren's other churches lack. It has been freed from the dirt of the ages and the unfavorable "modern improvements," and has been restored to its original purity of design.

The architectural importance of the church is further increased by the nature of the design. It is one of the finest examples extant of Wren's overriding preoccupation with the amalgamation of centralized and longitudinal space. All of its elements clearly illustrate Wren's desire to give a central emphasis to a longitudinal church, and indicate a development in Wren's style from his longitudinal churches to his purely centralized buildings. In fact, it represents Wren's first solution of

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CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

the problem, and as a transition point is essential to the understanding of the artistic development of Wren's style. (E. E. Sekler, Wren and His Place in European Architecture, New York: 1956, p. 82.)

The church was moved to Fulton, Missouri to commemorate Winston Churchill's speech, "Sinews of Peace," given in the Westminster College Gymnasium (NHL) in 1946. It was in this address that the term "iron curtain" was coined. The Church of Saint Mary, Aldermanbury now stands as a lasting tribute to Sir Winston, and the museum in the undercroft beneath it houses the foremost collection of Churchill memorabilia in the Hemisphere. Churchill was proclaimed an honorary citizen of the United States in 1963. In all its history, America has honored only one other person -- the Marquis de Lafayette -- with honorary citizenship.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Briggs, Martin, S. Wren the Incomparable. London: 1953.
2. Dutton, Ralph. The Age of Wren. New York: 1951.
3. Oliver, Dame Beryl. The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury. London: 1969.
4. Sekler, Eduard. Wren and his Place in European Architecture. New York: 1956.

# 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	° ' "	° ' "		38°	57'	2"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		91°	56'	47"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten

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: Sheila M. Hannah, Research Architectural Historian		
ORGANIZATION	Missouri State Park Board State Historical Survey and Planning Office	DATE October 13, 1970
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Jefferson City	Missouri	29

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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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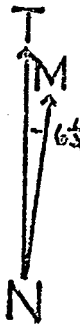
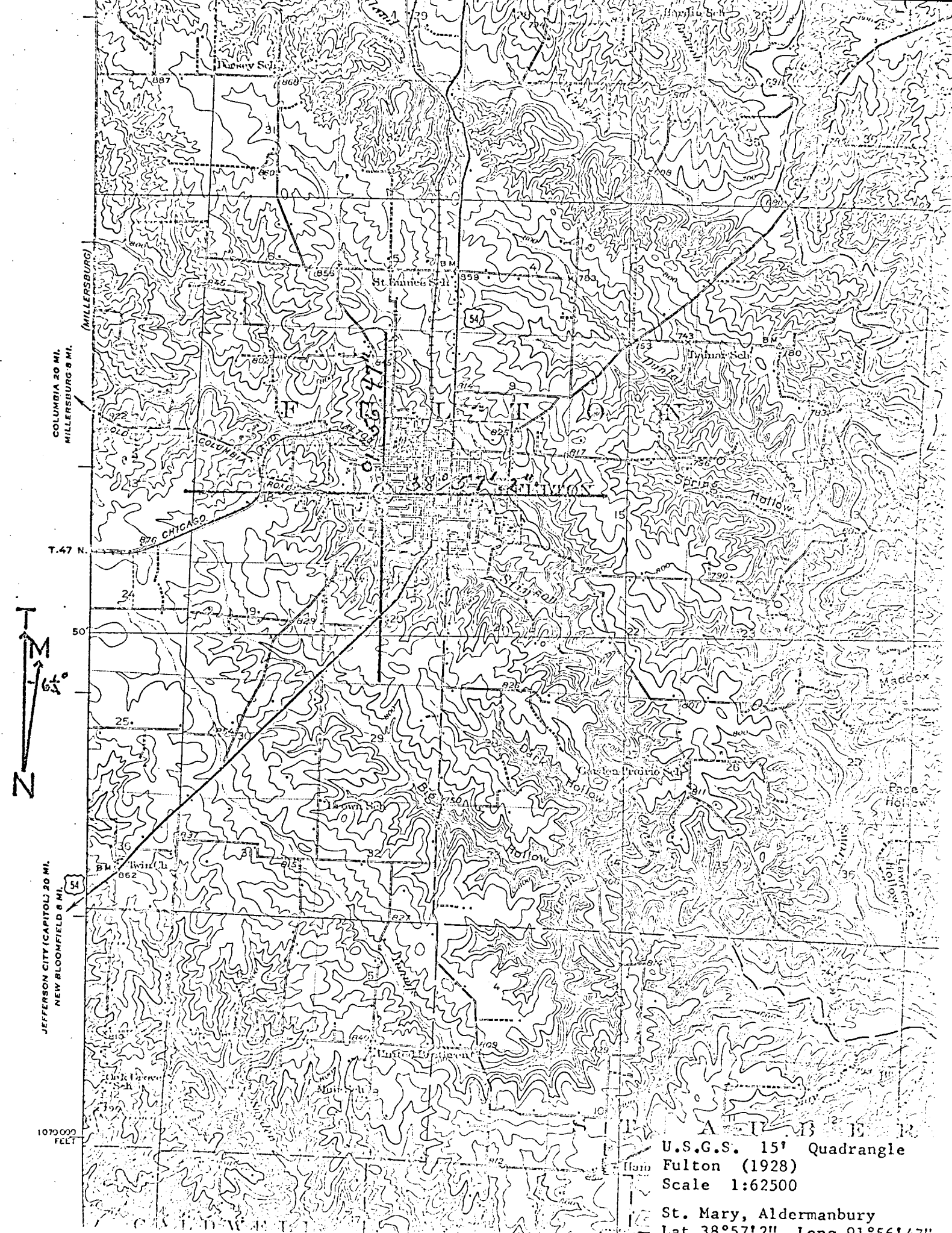
STATE	
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9.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

5. The Wren Society. Vol. XIX, Oxford: 1942.
6. A Guide for Visitors to the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library in the United States. Missouri: 1968.
7. "A Gift for Missouri." Time. February 8, 1963. P. 35.
8. "In Tribute to Churchill." St. Louis Post Dispatch Sunday Pictures. December 29, 1968.
9. "St. Mary Aldermanbury Comes to Fulton, Missouri." The New York Times. Sunday, September 25, 1966.
10. "St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury." Globe Democrat Sunday Magazine. August 29, 1965.
11. "The Realm of Christopher Wren." Life. June 2, 1961. p. 94-103.



COLUMBIA 20 MI.  
MILLERSBURG 8 MI.

T. 47 N.

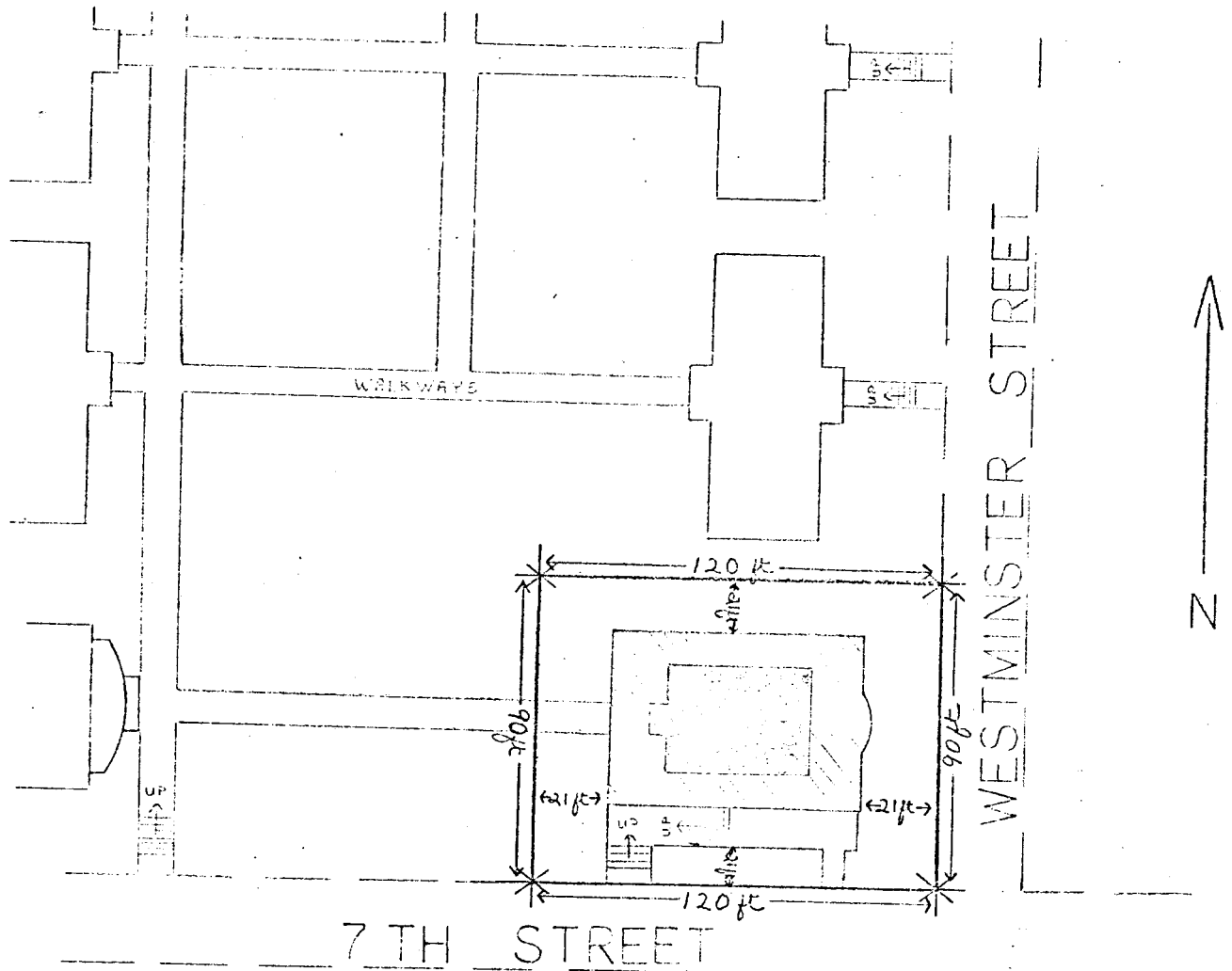
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NEW BLOOMFIELD 8 MI.




1070000  
FEET

U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
Fulton (1928)  
Scale 1:62500  
St. Mary, Aldermanbury  
Lat 38°57'2" Long 91°56'47"

# SAINT MARY, THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

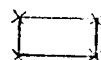
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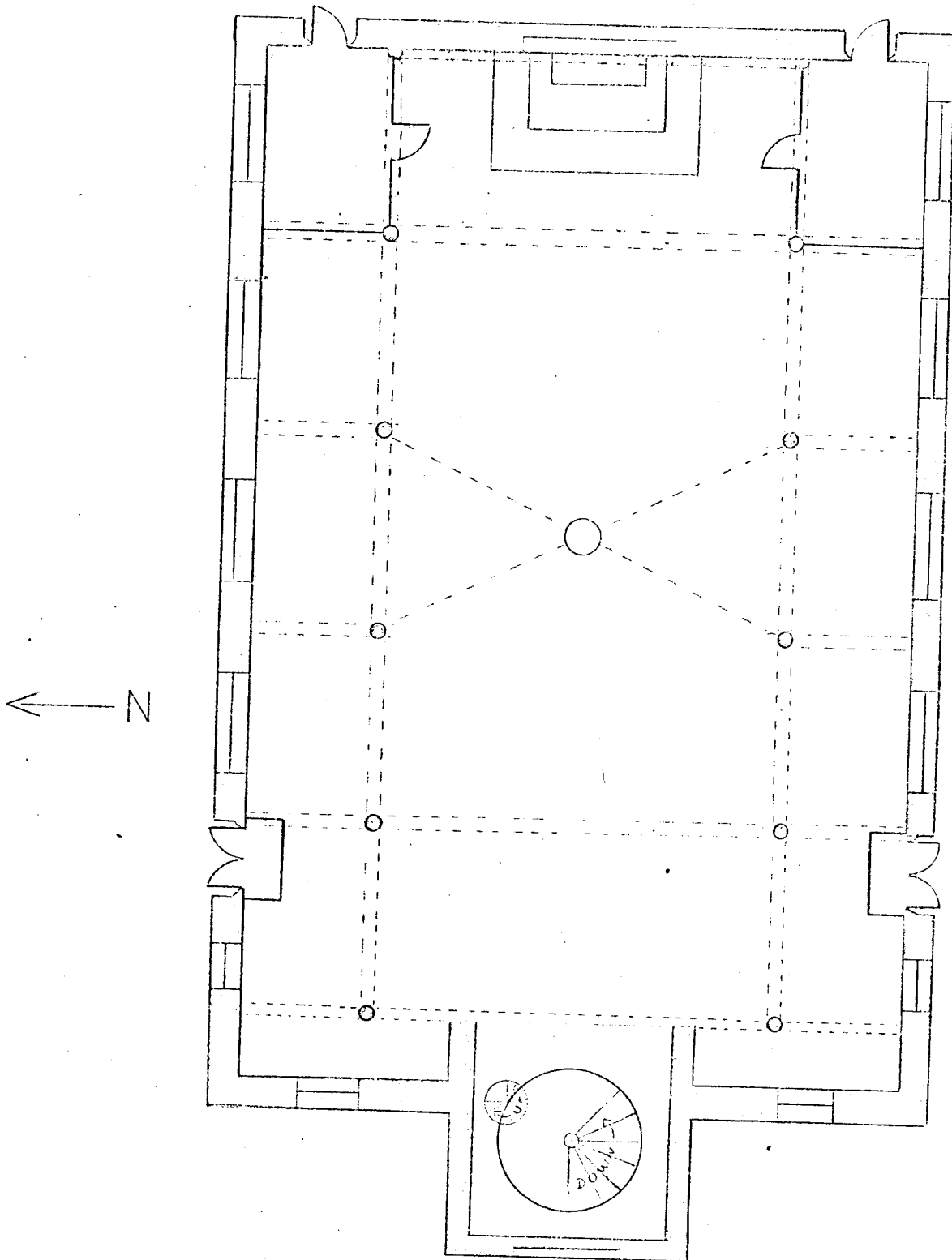


-  SAINT MARY ALDERMANBURY.
-  CHURCHILL MUSEUM & GALLERY.
-  AUDITORIUM & DORMITORIES

CHURCHILL QUADRANGLE, WESTMINSTER COLLEGE, FULTON, MO.  
NOT TO SCALE

SMH-1970

 AREA NOMINATED TO NATIONAL REGISTER



SAINT MARY, THE VIRGIN, ALDERMANBURY

SCALE: 1" = 12'

SMH - 1970

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Winston Churchill Memorial

City or Vicinity: Fulton

County: Callaway County State: MO

Photographer: Sheila Hannah, Missouri State Park Board

Date

Photographed: September 1970

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

Photo #1 – Interior view of the east end of the nave and south aisle taken from the choir loft; also visible is the barrel vault over the east end bay and the groin vault over the center bay; View from the west facing east.

Photo #2 – The west end and south side of the church; view from the southwest facing northeast.

Photo #3 – West façade; view from the west facing east.

Photo #4 – The north vestry door; view from the southwest facing northeast.

Photo #5 – The great, ornamental volute on the east façade of the church; view from east facing west.

Photo #6 – The east end and north side of the church; view from the northeast facing southwest.















