

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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**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 Central Methodist College Campus Historic District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Boundaries as shown on the site plan map  not for publication

city, town Fayette  vicinity of congressional district #4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

state Missouri code 29 county Howard code 089

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Central Methodist College

street & number

city, town Fayette  vicinity of state Missouri 65248

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Howard County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fayette  vicinity of state Missouri 65248

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1963  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Missouri

city, town Columbia  vicinity of state Missouri 65201

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey

1980

Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation ProgramP.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,

state

Missouri 65102

Item number

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Chapman, Clark. "The Discovery of Jupiter's Red Spot," Sky and Telescope, XXXV, May 1968.

Circuit Court Records, Howard County, Missouri, Fayette, Missouri.

Dorsey, Dorothy. "Howard High School, the Outstanding Pioneer Coeducational High School in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, Columbia, Mo.: State Historical Society, XXXVII 1942.

Fleet, Robert R. "The Morrison Observatory," Missouri Historical Review, Columbia, Mo.: State Historical Society, XXXVII 1942.

History of Howard and Cooper Counties, St. Louis, 1883.

Minutes of the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on file in the Methodist Archives at Central Methodist College.

Our Campus Views, Howard-Payne and Central Colleges. Booklet found in Stephens Museum of Natural History at Central Methodist College. No date given.

Puckett, E.P. Centennial History of Central College. Unpublished. Manuscript in possession of Puckett's daughter, Mrs. Sue Koch of Fayette who graciously granted permission to quote from it.

Smith, T. Berry. "Educational Enterprises at Fayette," History of Chariton and Howard Counties. Topeka-Indianapolis, 1923.

Tucker, Frank C. Central Methodist College, One Hundred and Ten Years. Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1967.

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date 1935 - Morrison Observatory

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri began its role in higher education over 125 years ago. Located only 12 miles from the Missouri River in historic Howard County, the school was at the center of some of the major routes of westward expansion and is located in an area of the state that was settled early. The campus contains buildings from the federal period to the modern era with all buildings being still in use as classrooms, offices or dormitories. Although the interiors of some buildings have been modernized, the exteriors basically remain in their original appearance so the campus looks much the same as it appeared 50 years ago. The buildings from the 1850's must be among the oldest educational buildings in Missouri still being used for their original purpose.

Central Methodist College as it exists today is the combination of several colleges that existed throughout the state. However, the buildings nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places are all from three colleges: Central College (the main portion of the present campus), Howard-Payne College for Women (immediately adjacent to Central College to the south), and Pritchett Institute.

The buildings in the proposed historic district sit on a gently rolling site with open vistas around each building. Shrubs, trees and memorials dot the landscape. The college is immediately adjacent to the town square and county courthouse to the south and is bounded by Church Street (Highway 5 & 240) to the west, Elm Street to the south, Mulberry Street to the east and College Street to the north. Residential areas surround the campus on the west, north and east. The Morrison Observatory is located on Park Road on the western edge of town, a distance of 0.7 miles from the main campus. Residential areas adjoin the observatory to the south and north, the City Park is across the street to the east and open land is to the west. Since the entire town is laid out 45° off true north all directions are relative and traditional rather than accurate to a compass (see site plan map).

The 15 buildings in the proposed historic district are listed as follows (numbers refer to location on the site plan map):

#### 1. CLASSIC HALL

Date=1911

This Renaissance Revival building with identical front and back facades was constructed as part of the Howard-Payne College for Women campus as a classroom building. Interesting features include four smooth dressed stone panels with diamond shaped inserts per facade, two chimneys featuring three decorative steps offset left and right, a raised basement and a boxed cornice with plain brackets. The interior originally featured a large auditorium for plays and recitals on the second floor with a grand staircase.<sup>1</sup> The interior of the building has been re-modeled several times the last re-modeling being in 1967.<sup>2</sup> The only alterations on the exterior are different windows and a side entrance. Classic Hall is still in use for offices and classes.

Classic Hall cost over \$40,000 to construct and Howard-Payne College never financially recovered from this drain on its resources.<sup>3</sup> The debt on the institution from this building was one reason Howard-Payne College merged with Central College in 1923.<sup>4</sup>

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2. HOWARD-PAYNE HALL

Date=original section 1852  
additions=1854, 1889 and 1921

The original section of Howard-Payne Hall was a two story rectangular building of red brick in the stretcher bond pattern featuring six brick pilasters across the front facade. The building was constructed as a boarding house for women who were attending Howard High School. In October 1854, a 40x50 foot addition was added to the north and continued the decorative scheme of the original section.<sup>5</sup> In 1889 a 80x40 foot addition of four stories of red brick in the stretcher bond pattern with gabled, dormer windows was added to the east side of the building for additional dormitory space.<sup>6</sup> This section opened in 1891 at a cost of \$8,000.

"a new wing, 40x80 feet, four stories high is being added to the old building...When the new wing shall have been completed, it is the purpose of the President and Board of Curators to overhaul and modernize the old building and to heat the entire structure with steam, and furnish and equip it in the most improved modern style. In order to consummate this laudable enterprise it will require the sum of \$15,000 additional to what has been raised."<sup>7</sup>

Porches were added in 1911 and then terraces in 1927. According to the unpublished history of Central Methodist College by Dean Emeritus E.P. Puckett:

"the final unit in the evolution of Howard-Payne Hall was erected in 1921. The college president and board hoped that the church-wide Christian Education Movement of 1920-21 would be successful and that Howard-Payne Junior College would receive all or most of its approved askings of \$150,000. Despite excellent publicity, pressure of all the bishops, systematic organization and vigorous campaigning, the movement supplied only a small part of the amount requested by Howard-Payne. So in 1921, Howard-Payne Junior College added a new and modern four story brick addition on the south and at the same time added an embarassingly large debt."<sup>8</sup>

This addition was identical in design to the original building and like Classic Hall the debt incurred was a factor in Howard-Payne Junior College merging with Central College. In 1957 Epple Construction Company of Columbia, Missouri re-modeled the building, tore off the porches and demolished the 1854 addition plus 40 feet of the original main section. The building is still in use as a dormitory for women.

3. GIVENS HALL

Date=1848-1850  
Builders=Adam and Isabella Hendrix

This Classic Revival style home was the private residence of the first treasurer and one of the founders of Central Methodist College, Adam Hendrix. Hendrix purchased three lots in 1848 for \$400 and built this house on lot 69 sometime

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between 1848-50, making this the oldest building on the present Central Methodist College campus. He lived in the house until his death in 1876 and the family maintained the residence until 1903 when it was sold to Howard-Payne Junior College by the executors of his estate. It then became the home of the Howard-Payne Junior College for Women president. Upon the merger of Howard-Payne Junior College with Central College the building was remodeled in 1928 and named Mary Kring Givens Hall after Mrs. Givens who was a member of the first graduating class of Howard-Payne. It was used as a residence for women teachers until World War II when it was the infirmary of the V-12 unit U.S. Navy. In 1953, it was converted into a guest house with faculty offices on the first floor.

Givens Hall is L-shaped and constructed of bricks in the stretcher bond pattern which have been painted white. The three bay front facade features double hung windows with 2/2 lights and intact, original interior shutters. A trabeated door with transom and sidelights is in the center of the front facade and the front facade windows feature entablatures. The building has a medium gable, shingled roof with side slope chimneys on each end. A wooden porch with plain railings extends across the front of the main facade and is two stories high with four square pillars over the main entrance. Givens Hall features a three story floating solid cherry staircase on the interior; restoration work is in progress on the interior.

4. BRANNOCK HALL

Date=1856

Architect=Solomon Jenkins of Fulton

Contractor=George Parker of Shelbina

This three story Italianate Style building is the oldest building on the original Central College campus. Sometimes referred to as the College Building it was built to replace Howard High School which burned. "A commodious and tasteful edifice is nearly completed", a local newspaper proclaimed on August 6, 1857. Classes began in this building on September 28, 1857 and except for a period during the Civil War when the college was ordered closed (1864-65); Brannock Hall has been in continual use for some type of educational purpose.

This T-shaped, three story building is constructed of brick in the stretcher bond pattern with a medium gable, shingled roof. The front facade is broken by two square towers, originally of unequal height. A boxed pediment with a circular window and plain cornice is between the towers; quoins are on the ends of the building. A belt course runs between the first and second floor. The side facades have boxed pediments identical to the front facade. In 1911, three Roman arches were added to form a porch between the towers and an identical porch was added to the rear of the building. The red brick was painted white in 1955.

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6. CUPPLES HALL

Date=1899

Cupples Hall today houses the library for the Central Methodist campus. The building was erected as a men's dormitory and named after Samuel Cupples, a curator of Central College who donated \$25,000. The building is in an excellent state of preservation being three stories high with a raised basement and measuring 88x45 feet. Constructed of two tones of red brick, a belt course between the second and third stories separates the two tones. A small, four story turret of rock faced, random ashlar stone is slightly off center right with a veranda featuring a low hip roof, plain box cornice and frieze and four rock faced pillars covering the rest of the front facade to the left of the turret. The raised basement and front steps feature the same rock faced, random ashlar stones. Rock faced lintels and sills are above and below each window. In the center of the turret is a stone medallion with the initials S.C. (for Samuel Cupples) and the date 1899. Under each window on this level is a circular medallion with the rock faced stone placed to give a sunburst effect. The influence of Richardsonian Romanesque is clearly visible in this building. A modern addition featuring a theater and the rest of the library has been added to the rear of the building. Due to the slope of the ground this addition is not visible from the front.

9. CLINGENPEEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

Date=1906

(Also referred to as Old Gymnasium or Little Gym)

This modified Renaissance Revival building features a medium hip, shingled roof and buttresses on each facade. The red brick building has stone lintels over each window and at the top of each buttress. Elaborate stone carvings in Baroque patterns are placed at each end of the front facade. A plaque festooned with a garland, geometric patterns and the date 1906 comprise the medallions.

The gymnasium cost \$10,000 to construct; in 1961 it was extremely damaged by fire and the interior was then re-modeled.

10. T. BERRY SMITH HALL

Date=1895

(Also referred to as Science Hall)

Architect=W.C. Root of Kansas City

This three story yellow brick building in the stretcher bond pattern with a raised basement is an outstanding example of Victorian era institutional architecture. Built on the highest point in Howard County, the tower offset left on the front facade offers a view from its platform for miles. The tower features a shingled hexagon roof with slate ribs, a boxed cornice with plain brackets, a hexagon viewing platform with Roman arch windows, decorative finial and a parapet with brass railing and spindles. Under the parapet is a boxed cornice with plain brackets and decorated frieze containing four round windows per side. A belt course then separates this upper third of the tower from the lower two thirds. Two Roman arched windows in a small arcade interrupt another belt course approximately one half of the way up the tower. A much smaller tower

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topped by a brass railing and conical roof is immediately adjacent to the tower to the left and reaches to the top of the high hip roof. A three story projecting bay with a complex shingled roof is in the center of the front facade. An arcade of eight windows circles this bay for the top two stories, then a belt course separates it from the five windows in the bottom story. To the right of the rotunda is a squat tower featuring a pyramidal roof over a boxed cornice with plain brackets. A three window arcade interrupts a belt course while another belt course serves as the sill for the windows of the arcade. An arcade of windows also runs across the third floor of the building with stone sills under each window. The main entrance is through a porch flanked by four Corinthian pilasters on each side of the steps and three Corinthian pilasters on a pier adjacent to the door. The plain entablature on the front is embellished with egg and dart molding and two marble torches plus the phrase "Apply thine heart unto instruction and thine ears to the words of knowledge." Originally, terra cotta medallions with the names of persons famous in art, literature, music, science or philosophy (example: Chaucer, Plato and Aristotle) formed a band under the third floor windows of the rotunda. These were removed when the building was renovated in 1965.

T. Berry Smith Hall was designed in 1890. Bishop Eugene Hendrix (son of Adam Hendrix who built Givens Hall) told a Methodist Conference of plans for the building stating that, "Our plans are large and wise. .let there arise...on the beautiful site reserved for that purpose, the noble College Hall, which shall have the necessary modern appliances and facilities such as a great Church can provide."<sup>10</sup>

11. SWINNEY CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Date=1927

Architects=W.T. Trueblood & H.K. Graf of  
St. Louis

Contractor=John Epple Construction Company  
of Columbia

The conservatory is part of the religious-educational complex built in the late 1920's and is connected to Linn Memorial Methodist Church on the right by an arcade. This L-shaped building extends toward Church Street and has five bays constructed of rock faced stone donated by the Indiana Limestone Company of Bedford, Indiana laid in a random ashlar pattern. Built to be compatible with the adjacent church, the conservatory is two storied with a raised basement. The high gable roof is broken by three sets of plain dormer windows with no overhangs. The end of the conservatory contains an apse. The casement windows are original throughout the building.

The Swinney Conservatory of Music began with a gift of \$50,000 from Mr. Ed Swinney, a Kansas City banker. Originally the donation had been made to Howard-Payne Junior College but that school merged with Central College. The conservatory has been so successful that approximately one third of the students attending the college major in music.

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12. PAUL H. LINN MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH Date=1929-31  
Architects=W.T. Trueblood & H.K. Graf  
of St. Louis  
Contractor=John Epple Construction

This Neo-Gothic cruciform shaped church is built of rock faced, random ashlar stone from the Indiana Limestone Company of Bedford, Indiana. The church was designed to be the center of a religious-educational complex. The front entrance features a large Norman arch with the standard three portal doors and large stained glass window above called the "Triumphal Arch of the Laity." The five bay sides of the church also feature stained glass windows with a clerestory and buttresses. The cathedral like interior of the church contains all the original furnishings with oak woodwork, a traditional king-post and tie-beam roof support of wood covered steel beams, and a gothic arched grillwork festooned with grape clusters and branches above the choir.

The church is built upon the site of Centennary Chapel which was demolished in 1928 after it was determined to be unsafe.

With room for 1,000 persons this church is used by the college, the local congregation and is the site of the annual Methodist conferences.

13. CROSS MEMORIAL TOWER Date=1929-31  
Architect=W.T. Trueblood & H.K. Graf  
of St. Louis  
Contractor=John Epple Construction Company

Cross Memorial Tower joins Paul H. Linn Memorial Methodist Church to the rear (east). This rectangular tower measuring 24x36 feet and being 96 feet tall is constructed of rock faced, random ashlar stone from the Indiana Limestone Company of Bedford, Indiana as is the rest of the religious-educational complex. The tower features a single lancet arch on the north and south sides and two lancet arches on the east. Modified piers run the length of the tower. Six lancet arches filled with metal grates approximately 3/4 of the length of the tower hide the carillon bells. Clocks on the extreme top of the tower chime each hour. The tower is in perfect condition and as one of the tallest buildings in the county, the tower is visible from a distance of several miles.

Built as part of the religious-educational complex, the Cross Memorial Tower was the gift of James Thomas Cross of Moberly as a memorial to his parents, wife and children. The Harris Memorial Carillon Bells were installed in memory of Reverend B. Marvin Harris and Nancy Ellen Harris.

14. RICE H. COOPER PARISH HOUSE Date=1927  
Architects=W.T. Trueblood & H.K. Graf  
of St. Louis  
Contractor=John Epple Construction Company

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This L-shaped building is almost identical to the Swinney Conservatory of Music and flanks the opposite side of the Paul H. Linn Memorial Methodist Church, being connected by an open arcade. The Parish House also is a five bay building with three wall dormers with gables and no overhangs in the front. This rock faced, random ashlar building is constructed from stone donated by the Indiana Limestone Company like the rest of the complex. The facade of the building projecting toward Church Street (Highways 5 & 240) contains a single, large lancet window in the second story. The casement windows are original as is the interior woodwork. This building is in an excellent state of preservation.

The Parish House is maintained by the local congregation of the Methodist Church and is used by both the college and local church for educational purposes.

15. MORRISON OBSERVATORY

(Also referred to as Observatory from Pritchett College)

Date on equipment, dome and decorative porches=1875

Date on Building housing observatory=1935

Architect for dome and original building=Plan designed by a Cambridge, Massachusetts architect (name unknown) and approved by the Director of the Harvard Observatory  
Dome and shutters were identical to the Harvard Observatory and were constructed in Massachusetts

Equipment=Alvan Clark & Sons, Cambridgeport, Massachusetts

The Morrison Observatory is located on seven acres of land on Park Road in Fayette 0.7 miles from the main campus. The observatory was moved to this site in 1935 from Glasgow, Missouri, a distance of 14 miles. The site on Park Road was chosen because it was at that time on the edge of town and was away from lights. The observatory consists of the observatory rooms, a classroom and a house for the director. The asymmetrical two story structure with a basement under the house portion is approximately 88x15 feet. The teaching areas contain a 20x36 foot lecture room and a 35x16 foot instrument room where the meridian circle, collimating telescopes, sidereal clock and Clark chronograph are housed. The second floor observation room for the large telescope is a circle with a diameter of 22 feet set inside walls 24 feet square while the telescope is mounted on a re-enforced concrete pier, with a 14 inch base, extending 10 feet below ground level. The original 1875 sheet metal dome from the observatory at Glasgow now rests upon a circular concrete beam and is motor-driven with a revolving shutter. The building itself is constructed of brick in the stretcher bond pattern with a concrete foundation and quoins on the end. The three porches feature decorative railings from the 1875 building in Glasgow. The plaque saying "Ad Astra. A.D. 1875" over the main entrance is also from the original building. The building is in fair condition while the instruments are in good repair. The telescope is one of the largest refracting telescopes of this type in use in this state; the chronograph is on loan to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

The observatory is the home of the Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers and is still in use for class work and teaching.

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NONCONFORMING INTRUSIONS: (numbers refer to locations on site plan map)

5. HOLT HALL

Date=1957

Architect=O.W. Stiegemeyer

Contractor=John Epple Construction Company

This Latin cross shaped women's dormitory of red, stretcher bond brick with quoins is situated between Cupples and Brannock Halls.

7. STEDMAN HALL OF SCIENCE

Date=1962

Architect=O.W. Stiegemeyer

Contractor=John Epple Construction Company

This rectangular building of red brick with a rock faced, random ashlar foundation containing three stories and a raised basement is located between Cupples and T. Berry Smith Halls. The building is named for Samuel Stedman, an alumni of Central Methodist College and an investment banker on Wall Street in New York, who left the college one million dollars in his will to construct a new science building, saying that the college had given him his start on a fabulous career and he wanted to do something in return.

8. THE EYRIE

(Also referred to as Student Union)

Date=1940's, enlarged 1965

Architect=Federal Government Project

Contractor=John Epple Construction Company

The Eyrie originally was an officer's club at Camp Crowder, Neosho, Missouri. Purchased from the federal government in 1947 it was rebuilt on the campus and named the Eyrie or Eagle's Nest after the school mascot, the eagle. This building is modern in design and is located between T. Berry Smith Hall and Stedman Hall of Science.

CONDITION

The buildings on campus are all occupied and maintained. All are in fair to excellent condition on the exterior while the interiors of some of the older buildings have been extensively re-modeled.

PRESENT STATUS

The college is working to maintain and repair the buildings. The Dames Club of Central Methodist College is in the process of restoring the interior of Givens Hall. The local Methodist congregation raised the money in 1978 to have all the stained glass windows in the Paul H. Linn Memorial Methodist Church cleaned and re-leaded. The local congregation also maintains the Parish House. There is no danger at the present time for any of the buildings to be demolished. The area surrounding the proposed historic district is residential to the west, north and east and commercial to the south.

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1. Interview with Mrs. Sue Koch, daughter of Dean Emeritus E.P. Puckett on June 1, 1979.
2. Interview with Ray Cox, Business Manager of Central Methodist College for 14 years on February 10, 1979.
3. Minutes of the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1910, p. 50-51.
4. Centennial History of Central College by E.P. Puckett (unpublished and in possession of his daughter, Mrs. Sue Koch).
5. Pucket, E.P. Newspaper Clipping from The Fayette Advertiser, Sept. 24, 1957.
6. op. cit (unpublished).
7. Minutes of the Missouri Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1890, p. 32.
8. Puckett, E.P. "The Evolution of Howard-Payne Hall", The Fayette Advertiser, (Fayette, Mo., Sept. 24, 1957), p. 3.
9. Glasgow Times (Glasgow, Missouri, August 6, 1857).
10. Tucker, Frank C., Central Methodist College One Hundred and Ten Years, Parthenon Press: Nashville, Tennessee, 1967), p. 70.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1850, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1895, 1899, 1906, 1927, 1929 **Builder/Architect** See Section 7, Description

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Central Methodist College Campus Historic District is significant as an architectural significant complex of mid-19th Century to early-20th Century buildings; as the location for continuous higher educational activity in central Missouri under the auspices of four different colleges since 1832; as the home since 1935 of Morrison Observatory, an important mid-western center for astronomical research when under the direction of the distinguished astronomers, C.W. and Henry Pritchett, during the years when it was part of Pritchett Institute in nearby Glasgow, and significant in its present location for the intact state of its original instruments and dome and the compatibility of its design with that of the original observatory.

Architecturally, Givens Hall is a good example of the Classical Revival Style in Missouri. Howard-Payne Hall and Brannock Hall although both have been altered over the years are still among the oldest academic buildings in continuous use in the state, and Brannock Hall is still a recognizable and good Italianate Style building. T. Berry Smith Hall is among the finest Victorian era buildings existing on any college campus in Missouri and has not been altered on the exterior, and the Linn Memorial Methodist Church Building complex is a fine example of early 20th Century neo-Gothic architecture. The remaining buildings, while of secondary significance, do contribute to the 19th century ambience of the Central Methodist College Campus.

The roots for the college reach back to 1820 when Franklin Academy was incorporated by the First General Assembly and became the first state incorporated school in Central Missouri. Six years later, the Fayette Academy opened its doors and in 1832 purchased Lot 68 of the Original Town for \$40.25. This is approximately where Brannock Hall is located.<sup>1</sup> In 1835 a new institution named Howard College (Howard High School) bought the Fayette Academy and incorporated it into a new school for both boys and girls. As early as 1841 the Methodist Episcopal Church had an interest in the school, even to the point of appointing an agent for the school. Howard High School had 250-300 pupils in 1852. There were no dormitories and Fayette was small so every family had to board students. A boarding house (the first section of present Howard-Payne Hall) opened in 1853 for "female students".<sup>2</sup> This building has been in continuous use as a dormitory for women. On January 26, 1854 the Howard High School building was completely destroyed by fire. Due to this calamity the women held classes in the boarding house (Howard-Payne Hall) and the men met wherever they could find a room. For the next 69 years two schools would exist side by side in Fayette, Howard Female College (later named Howard-Payne Junior College) and Central College.<sup>3</sup>

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CENTRAL METHODIST COLLEGE CAMPUS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Item number 8

Page 1

Meanwhile, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, acquired the first parcel of what is now Central Methodist College and determined to establish a college. At an educational convention held in St. Louis in 1853, it was determined to establish an institution of learning of high grade, to be located at some central point, easily accessible from every point in the state. The name accordingly given it was "The Central College". The church had long been interested in Fayette and selected it as the site, buying out Howard High School. On March 1, 1855 Central College was incorporated with Adam Hendrix as treasurer. Hendrix and his wife, Isabella, had just completed building their private residence adjacent to the school (Givens Hall). The first item for the new college was a building to replace the burned Howard High School structure. The result was Brannock Hall begun in 1857. A debt of \$6,000 was incurred in the construction of this structure; such a large debt would haunt the college for 20 years. On August 6, 1857 the Glasgow Times reported of the building, "the commodious and tasteful edifice is nearly completed." Supposedly Central College was to be coeducational but a great scandal erupted when it was learned that male and female students were having clandestine meetings at night. This kept the schools separate. In 1859 Howard Female College (Howard-Payne Junior College) was officially incorporated. The Civil War closed both campuses in 1864 until 1865, although a collegiate course was taught by C.W. Pritchett in Brannock Hall until the building was occupied by Federal troops.

In 1892 Howard Female College was re-named Howard-Payne Junior College in honor of Moses U. Payne of Rocheport who had saved the school from financial ruin after the Civil War.

On June 17, 1893 the cornerstone for Science Hall (today named T. Berry Smith Hall) was laid with Masonic ceremonies by Col. W.G. Wilson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, who was then Post Master General of the United States. Classes opened in 1896 in the building which housed the campus museum named in honor of Lon V. Stephens, a member of the Board of Curators and Governor of the state at that time.<sup>4</sup>

In 1923 Central College and Howard-Payne Junior College merged. The influence of Howard-Payne upon the higher education of women had been felt throughout the state. This consolidation preceded a general consolidation of all the Methodist colleges throughout the state in the 1920's through the 1940's until the present Central Methodist College was achieved. The merger of 1923 paved the way.<sup>5</sup>

The Paul H. Linn Memorial United Methodist Church, Cross Memorial Tower, the Swinney Conservatory of Music, and the Rice H. Cooper Parish House are the result of a unique agreement between the college, the local congregation and the Methodist conferences. The local congregation raised funds for the parish house while the college raised funds for the church from sources outside the community. An arrangement was reached whereby the local congregation was granted use of the new church building for worship and programs while the local congregation would have full control of the parish house and be responsible for its operating costs and maintenance.<sup>6</sup>

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The last building nominated for the register is the Morrison Observatory which originally was part of Pritchett Institute in Glasgow, Missouri, 14 miles northwest of Fayette on the Missouri River. The institute was founded by Carr Waller Pritchett. Pritchett had a grammar school education, one year of college and one year's study of astronomy at Harvard. His career included village school master, college president and professor. Indeed, he had served on the faculty of Central College and had been instrumental in the early development of that college. He would maintain an interest and work cooperatively with Central College during his lifetime, even going so far as to suggest that the colleges merge. In 1874 Pritchett was host to Berenice Morrison, ardent feminist from St. Louis. The two sat on his porch watching Ceggia's Comet and Pritchett expressed the wish that he had proper instruments with which to view the skies. Several attempts to found an observatory had failed, but Miss Morrison agreed to donate the money for the observatory with the understanding that all other things equal Pritchett on the staff would "appoint competent women...for said positions in preference to men." She donated \$50,000 for the observatory alone. Pritchett modeled this observatory after the one in Harvard where he had studied. He hired an Eastern architect and had the Director of the Harvard Observatory inspect and approve the plans. Alvan Clark and Sons built the refracting telescope. A meridian circle and sidereal clock purchased from England were also included in this first permanent observatory west of Chicago.

By 1885 C.W. Pritchett and his son Henry published 50 articles and papers and one volume reporting Observatory research. The observatory sent time signals to the Chicago and Alton Railroad and electronically dropped time balls from tall buildings in Kansas City and St. Louis for persons interested in correct time. The most important astronomical work concerned double stars and the Great Red Spot of Jupiter. In 1879 Pritchett published the first scientific account of the spot based upon his observations. If he did not actually discover the Great Red Spot as has been claimed, he was the first to examine it scientifically and publish the results. Pritchett worked with his two sons, C.W. Pritchett, Jr. who became a mining engineer and Henry S. Pritchett, later associated with Washington University in St. Louis and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey before becoming President of MIT and President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Pritchett retired in 1905 and in 1922 Pritchett Institute closed. The college had combined its operations with the Glasgow public schools and the endowment was being used in the public school system. Because Berenice Morrison (now Mrs. Fuller) had stipulated when she donated the money that it was to be used solely for higher education, the Curators of Central College with her consent and the consent of Henry S. Pritchett sued the Glasgow Public School system to obtain the Observatory's assets and endowment. In March 1927 the court awarded the observatory to Central College. From 1927 to 1935 Central College operated the observatory in Glasgow, but staff and students found the trip very inconvenient and the building needed much repair so the observatory was moved to Fayette with a grant obtained by Henry S. Pritchett from the Carnegie Foundation. The dome, the keystone bearing the legend "Ad Astra. A.D. 1875", wrought iron balconies and all the original equipment were moved to Fayette

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CENTRAL METHODIST COLLEGE CAMPUS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Page 3

and dedicated on June 1, 1936. Dr. Harlow Shaply, Director of the Harvard Observatory, delivered an illustrated lecture.<sup>8</sup> The observatory is today the home of the Central Missouri Amateur Astronomers and is still used by the college for classes. The telescope is one of the largest of this type in use in Missouri.

In 1961 the name of this combination of all the Methodist colleges in Missouri was officially adopted as Central Methodist College.

FOOTNOTES

1. Dorsey, Dorothy. "Howard High School, the Outstanding Pioneer Coeducational High School in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, 31 (July, 1937) p. 250.
2. Puckett, Dean Emeritus E.P., Centennial History of Central College, (unpublished and in possession of his daughter, Mrs. Sue Koch.
3. Ibid.
4. Tucker, Frank, Central Methodist College: One Hundred and Ten Years, (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1967), p. 70.
5. op. cit.
6. Interview with Dr. M.L. Koch, pastor of Linn Memorial Methodist Church from 1947 to 1955 on June 1, 1979.
7. Morrison, Berenice, Declaration of Trust (May 18, 1881), 50 Warranty Record, Howard County 444 (filed April 22, 1898).
8. Puckett.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, David R. "The Story of Morrison Observatory, 100 Years (1875-1975)" Leaflet, Central Methodist College, 1975.

Bulletin of Central College. Series XXIII, Number 8, August 1928.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### UMT References

A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The proposed historic district is contained in the N 1/2 of Section 10 and 11 Township 50N Range 16W and is divided into two segments. Beginning at Mulberry Street, area number 1 is bounded by Mulberry Street on the east, Elm and Spring Streets on the south and Church

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. Maryellen H. McVicker, Larry Dimond, June Thade., Bartlett Jones and Sue Koch

organization Central Methodist College and Central Methodist College Dames Club

date August 1979

street & number Central Methodist College

telephone 816/248-3391 ext. 330

city or town Fayette

state Missouri 65248

## 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

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and state Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCERS 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  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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CENTRAL METHODIST COLLEGE CAMPUS HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Page 2

INTERVIEWS

Cox, Ray. Business Manager of Central Methodist College, February, 1979.

Koch, Mrs. Sue. Daughter of Dean Emeritus E.P. Puckett on June 1, 1979.

Koch, Dr. Melville. Pastor of Paul H. Linn Memorial Methodist Church from 1947 to 1955 on June 1, 1979.

Lawrence, B.I. Professor Emeritus at Central Methodist College on February 19, 1979.

Smith, George. Owner of local Abstract Company on August 22, 1979.

Thogmorton, Helen. Daughter of Dean Emeritus E.P. Puckett and President of CMC Dames Club on February 13, 1979.

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Page 1

Street (Highways 5 & 240) on the west. To the north of the proposed district the boundary begins on Church Street and extends eastward 350 feet immediately behind T. Berry Smith Hall and thence north 70 feet to the northwest corner of the Clingenpeel Physical Education Building, thence east 40 feet to the east end of the building, thence south immediately adjacent to the east side of the Syria, Stedman Hall of Science and Cupples Hall to Mulberry Street, the point of beginning and containing approximately 16.82 acres.

The proposed historic district area number 1 includes all of lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 103, 104 and 105 of the Original Town of Fayette, Lots 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Fugitt's North Addition, Outlot #3 and the southern half of Outlot #4 as recorded in the office of the Howard County Recorder of Deeds.

Area number 2 fronts on Park Road and is located in the N 1/2 of Lot 31 of Herndon's Addition to the City of Fayette as recorded in the Office of the Howard County Recorder of Deeds and contains approximately 3.18 acres.

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Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

March 31, 1980

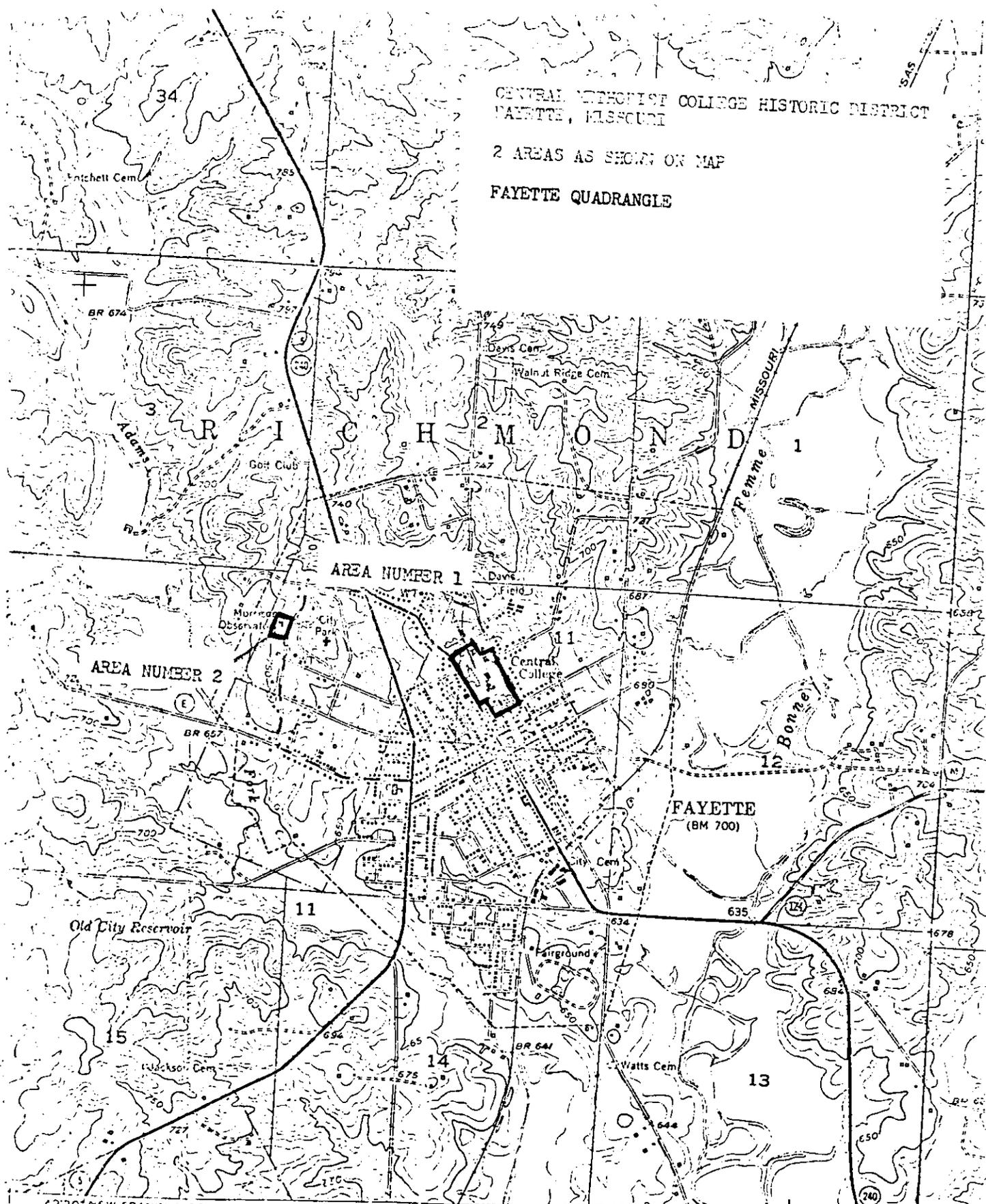
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

CENTRAL METHODIST COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FAYETTE, MISSOURI

2 AREAS AS SHOWN ON MAP

FAYETTE QUADRANGLE

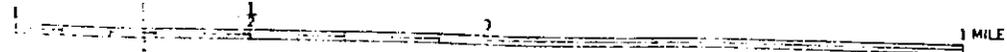


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BOONVILLE 11 MI.

(NEW FRANKLIN)

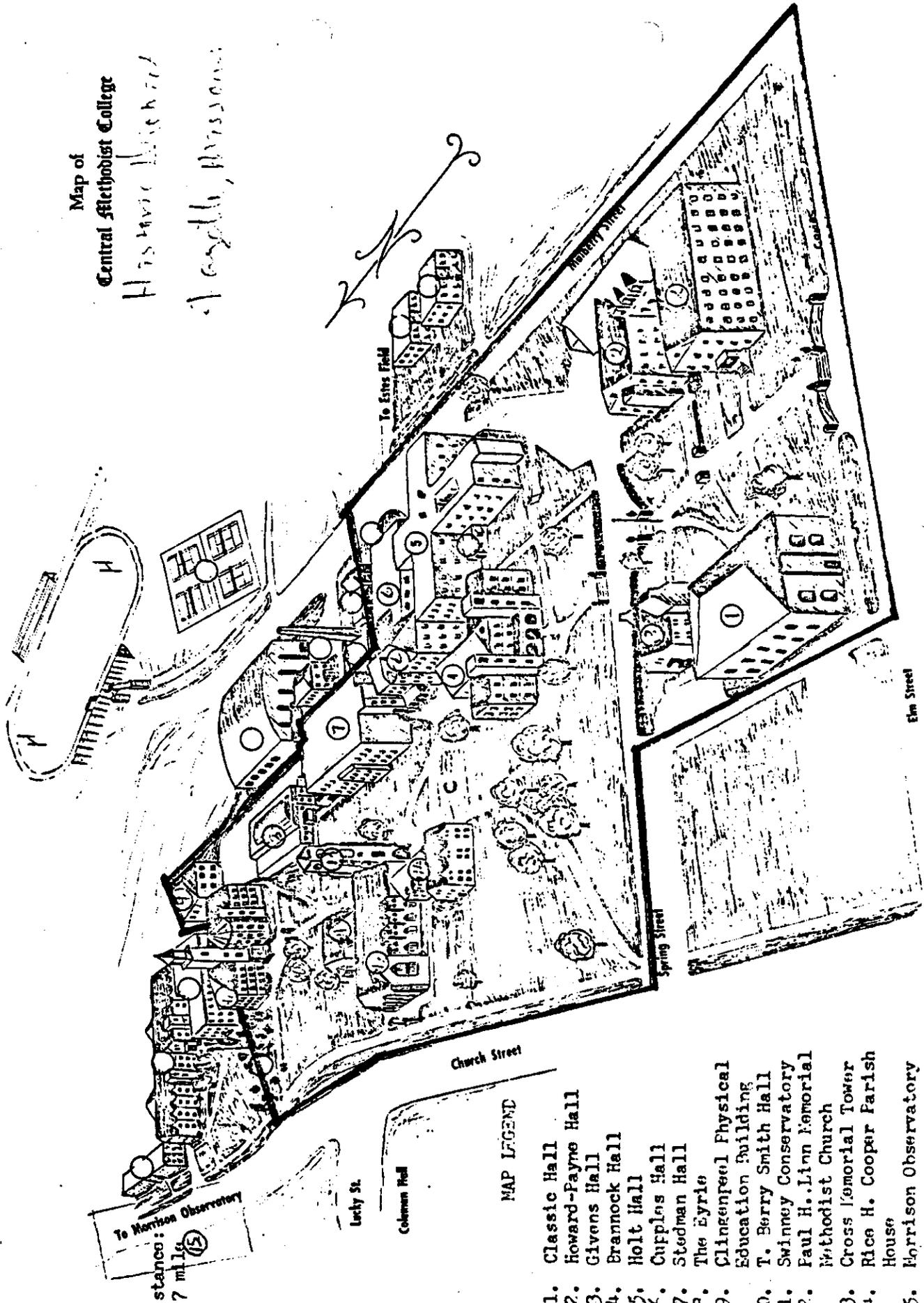
SCALE 1:24000

40° R. 16 W. 11 MI TO U.S. 40 R  
ROCHEPORT 13 MI.



Map of  
Central Methodist College

Historic District  
of Fayette, Missouri



MAP LEGEND

1. Classic Hall
2. Howard-Payne Hall
3. Givens Hall
4. Brannock Hall
5. Holt Hall
6. Cupples Hall
7. Stedman Hall
8. The Eyrle
9. Clingenpeel Physical Education Building
10. T. Berry Smith Hall
11. Swinney Conservatory
12. Paul H. Lion Memorial Methodist Church
13. Cross Memorial Tower
14. Rice H. Cooper Parish House
15. Morrison Observatory

Boundaries of Proposed District

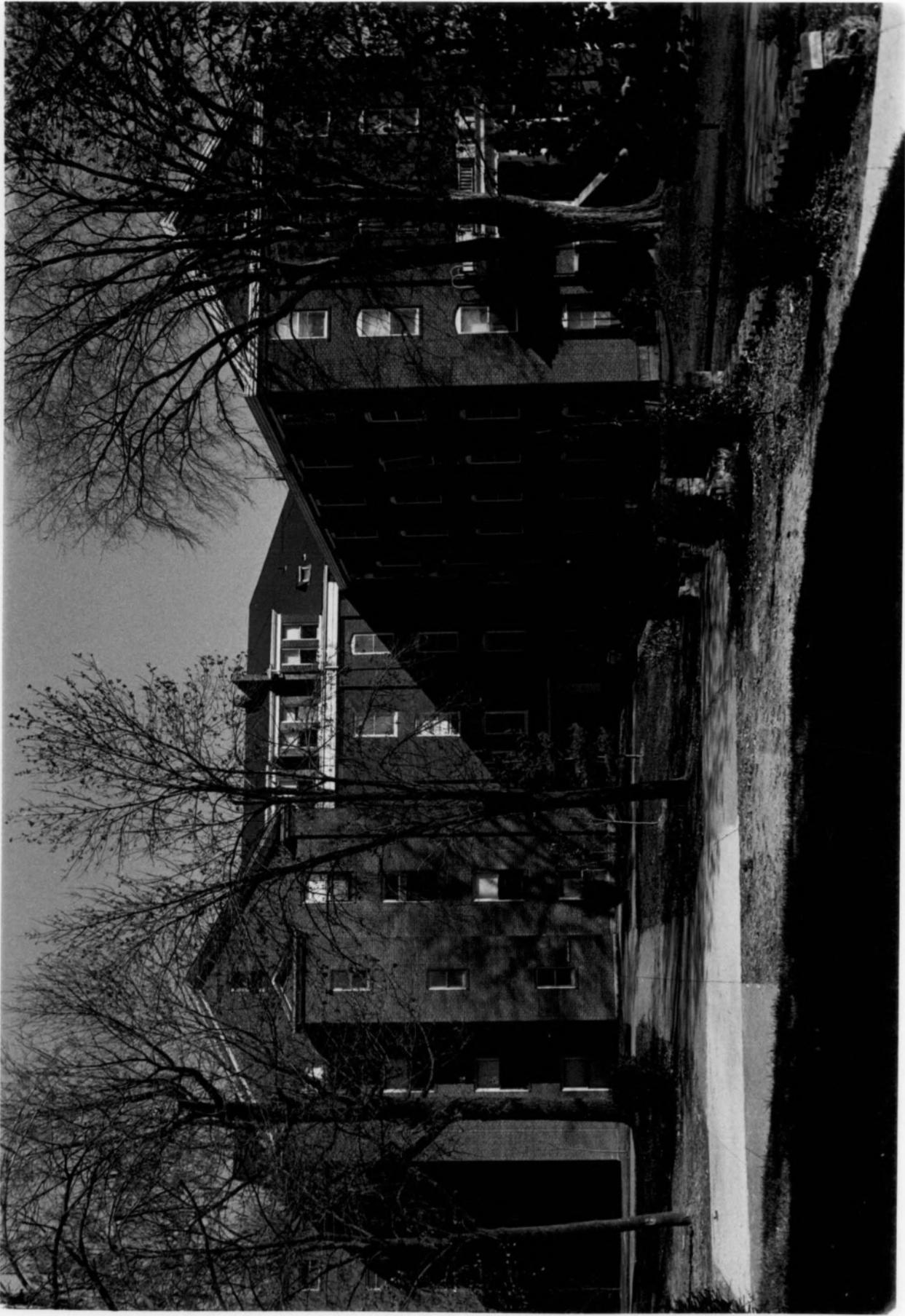
Classic Hall--Central Methodist College  
Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist Collage  
Front Facade  
Photo 1 of 24

11-79  
B. HELVY  
PAGE



Howard Payne Hall --Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo 2 of 24

DATE 11-79  
B. HELVEY



Howard-Payne Hall--Central Methodist College

Historic District

Fayette, Missouri

Jill Bock

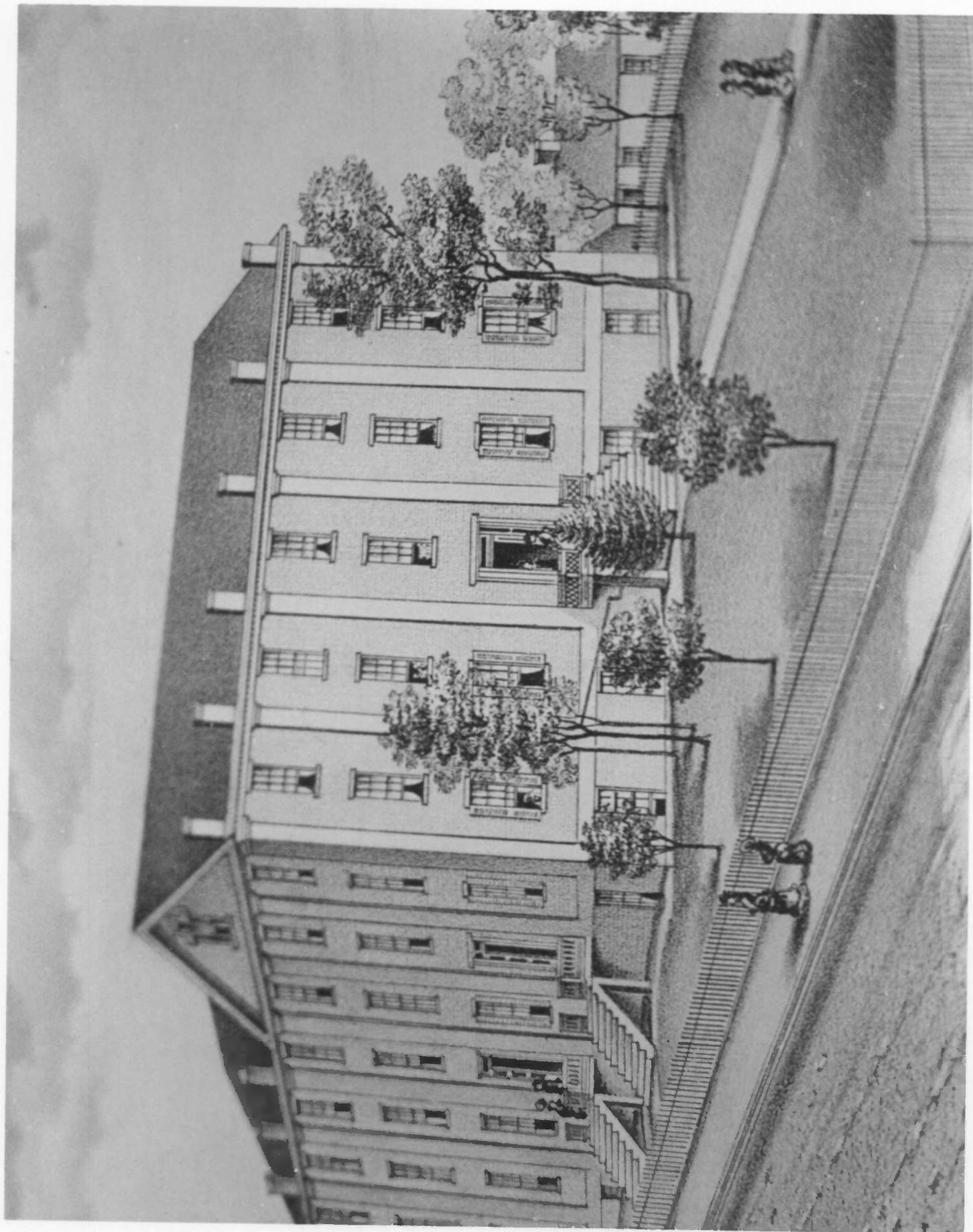
February 1979 (view from 1874 print)

Central Methodist College

View of original section of building from

1874 print

Photograph 3 of 24



PHOTO

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24

Givens Hall--Central Methodist College  
Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Formal Parlor  
Photo 5 of 24

B. HELVEY  
DATE 1/1/79



DATE 11-75  
B. MERRY

Brannock Hall--Central Methodist College  
Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
View From Southwest  
Photo 6 of 24



PHOTO

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24

Brannock Hall--Central Methodist College

Historic District

Fayette, Missouri

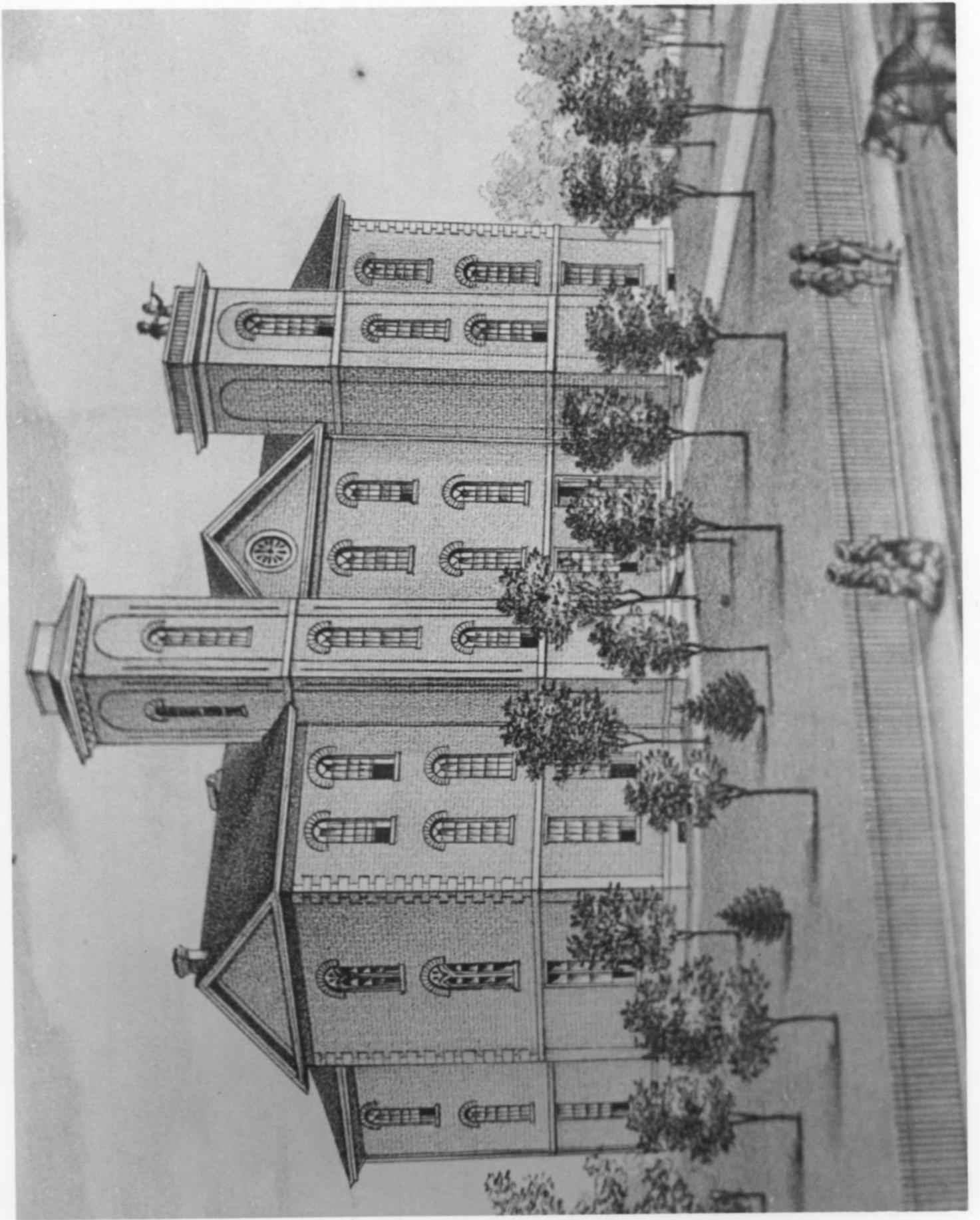
Jill Bock

February 1979 (from print dated 1874)

Central Methodist College

View of building from 1874 print

Photo 8 of 24



PHOTO

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24

Glingenpeel Physical Education Building  
Central Methodist College Historic Dis-  
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Fayette, Missouri

Bill Helvy

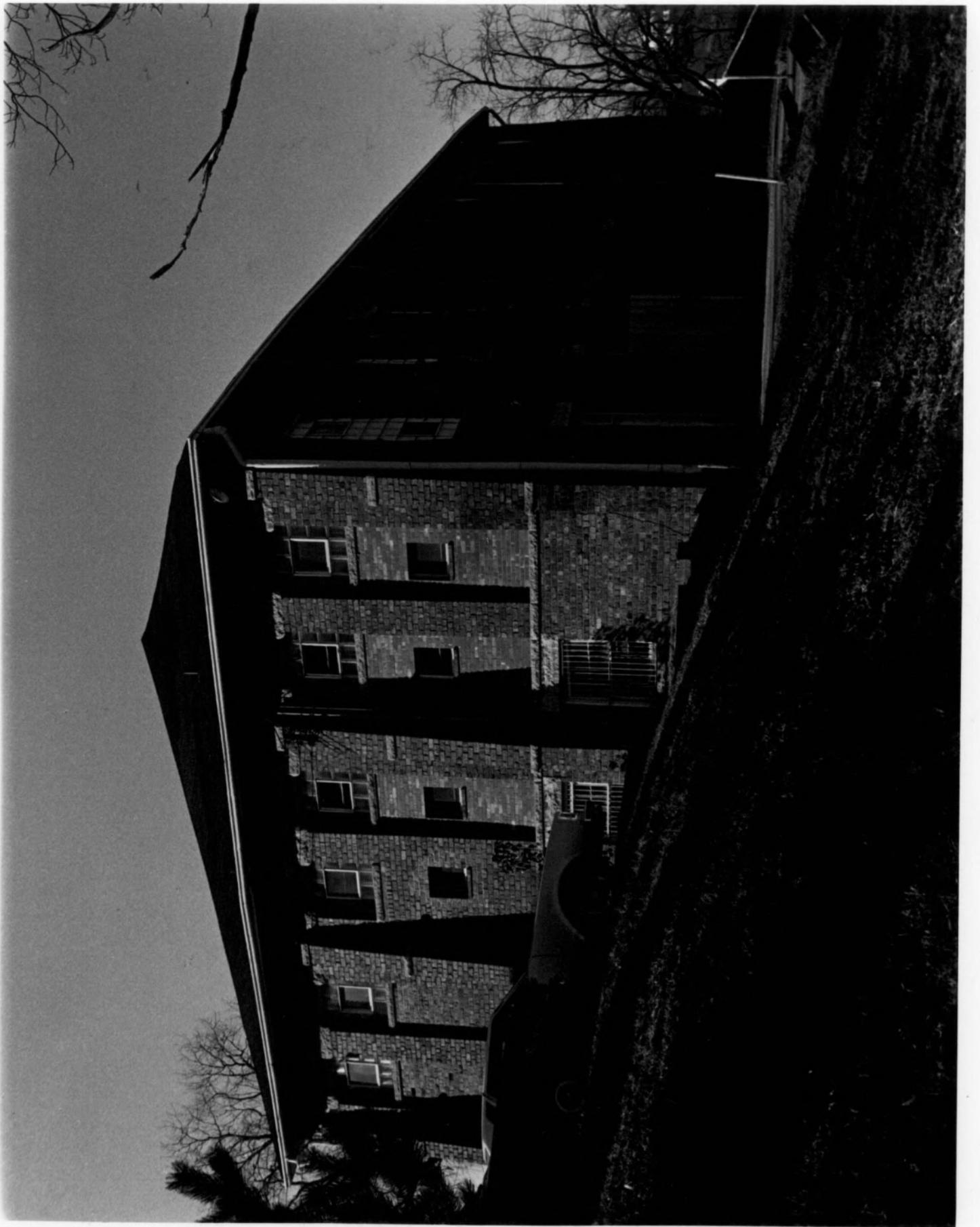
November 1979

Central Methodist College

South Facade

Photo 10 of 24

56-11  
L. HEAVY  
DATE



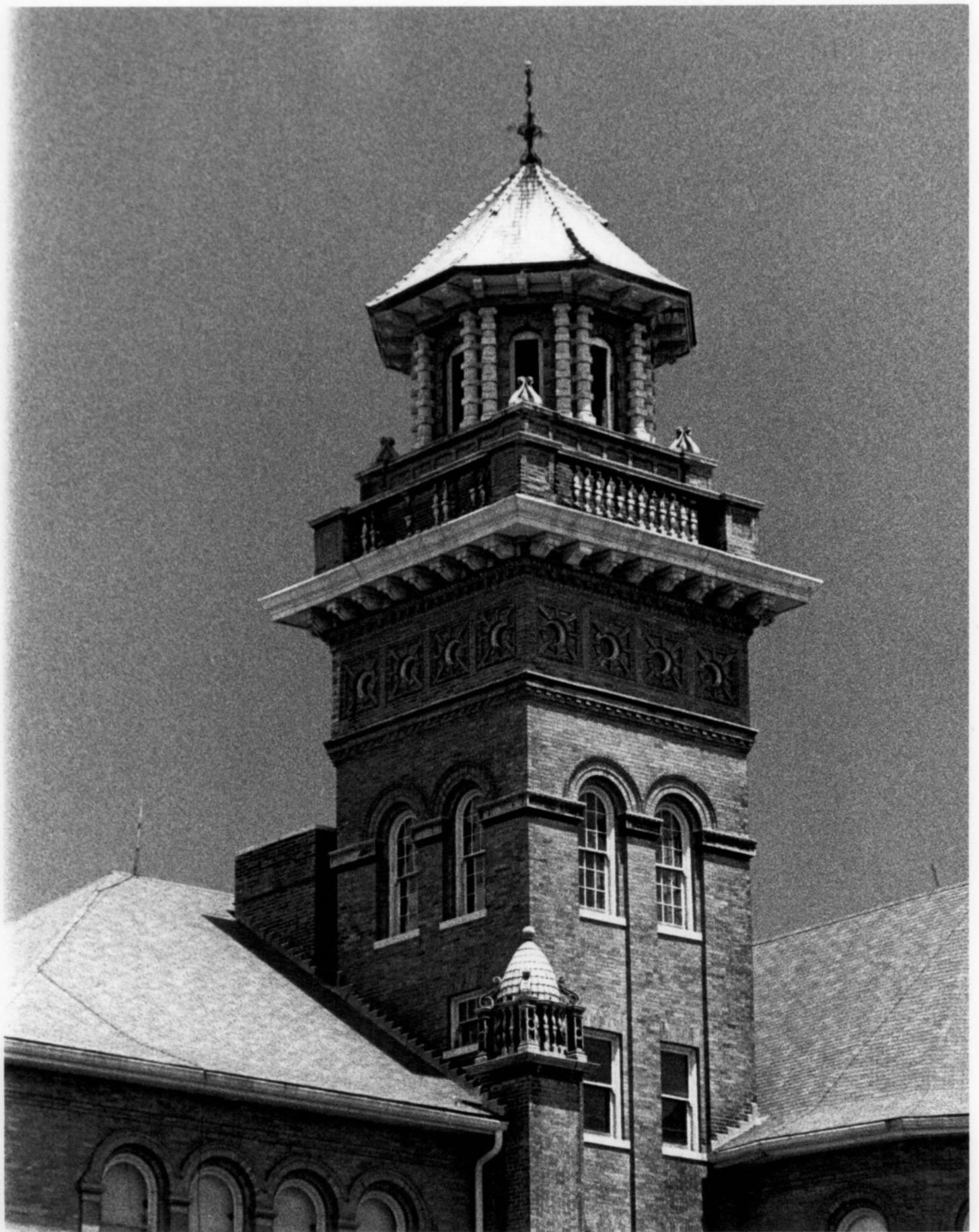
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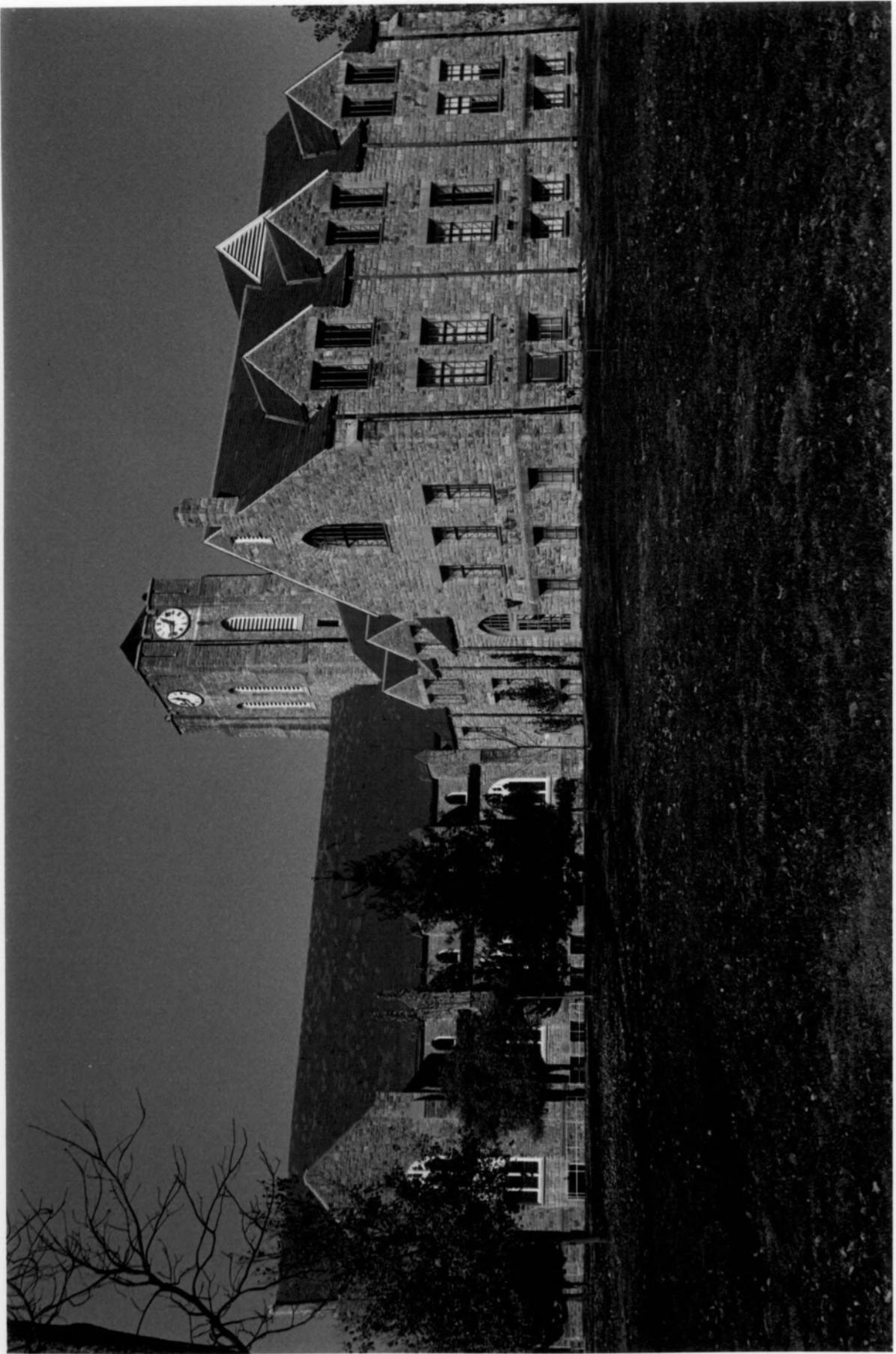
T. Berry Smith Hall-Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Detail-Tower  
Photo 12 of 24

B. HELVY  
DATE 1978



Linn Memorial United Methodist Church &  
Cooper Parish House--Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
View From Southwest  
Photo 13 of 24

DATE 11-79  
B. HELVEY



Linn Memorial United Methodist Church  
Central Methodist College Historic Dis-

trict

Fayette, Missouri

Bill Helvy

November 1979

Central Methodist College

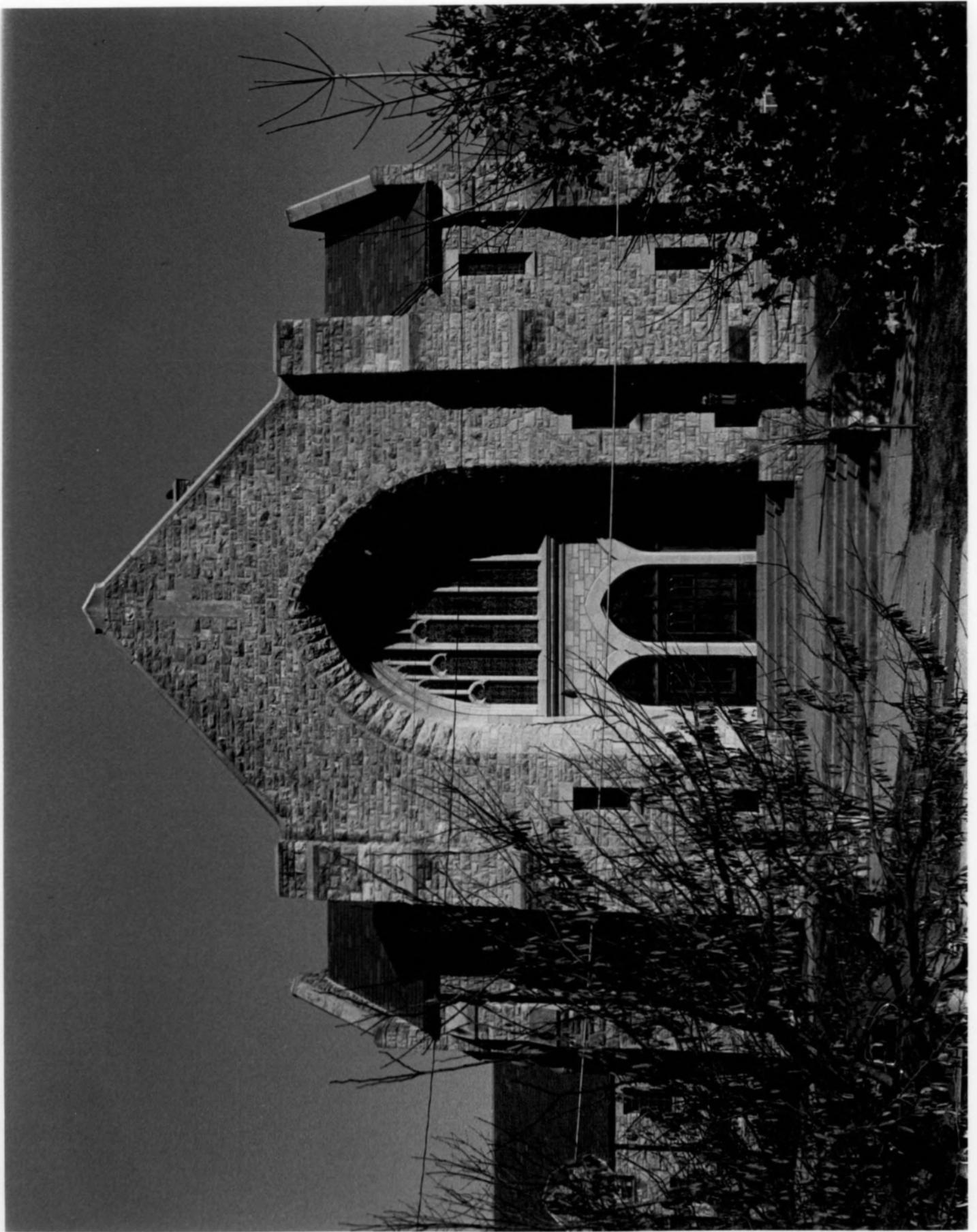
North Facade

Photo 14 of 24



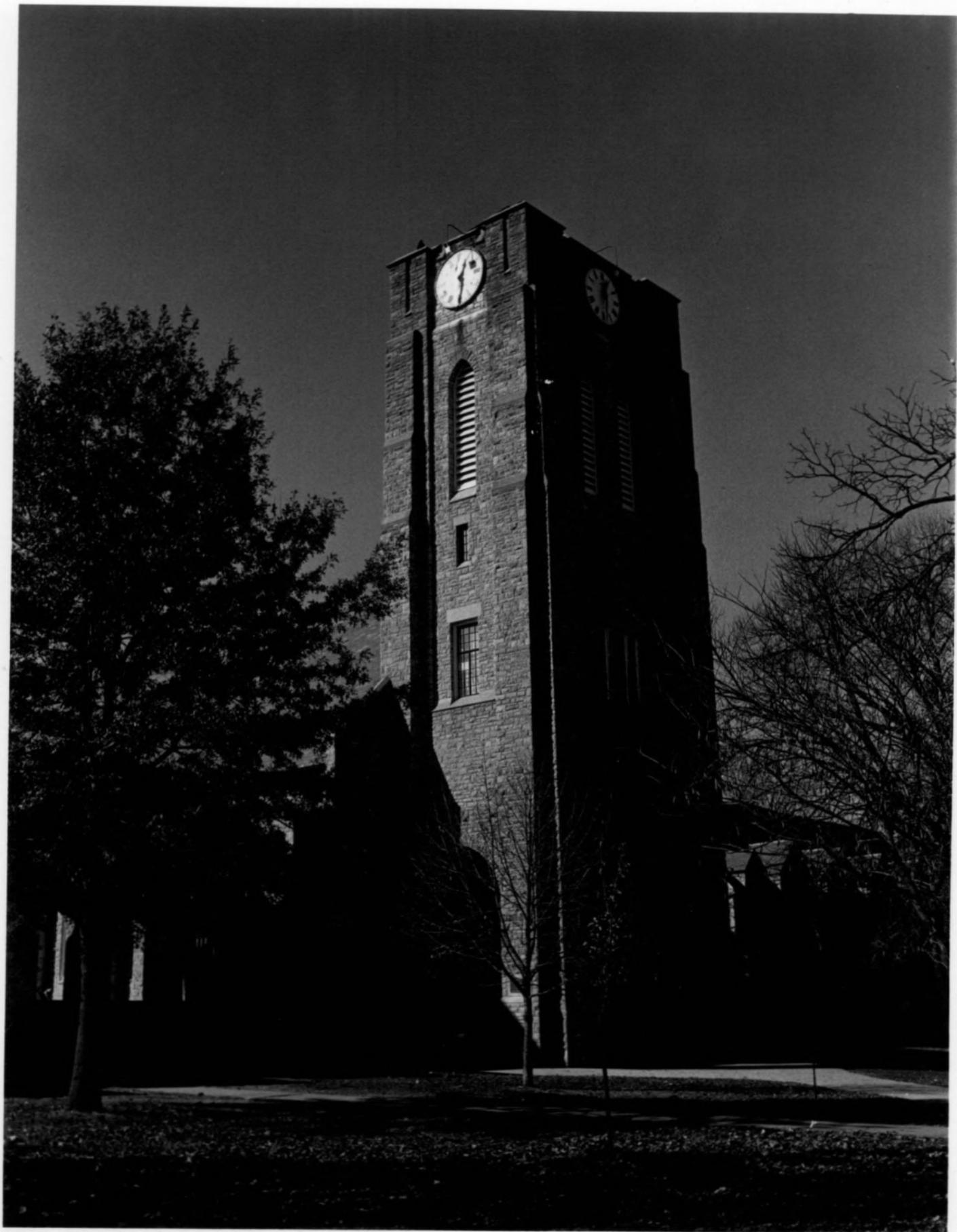
Linn Memorial United Methodist Church--  
Central Methodist College Historic Dis-  
trict  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bibi Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo 15 of 24

DATE 1-79  
B. HELVEY



Cross Memorial Tower--Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
View From Southeast  
Photo 16 of 24

B. HELVEY  
DATE 11-79



Linn Memorial United Methodist Church--  
Central Methodist College Historic Dis-  
trict

Fayette, Missouri

Bill Helvy

November 1979

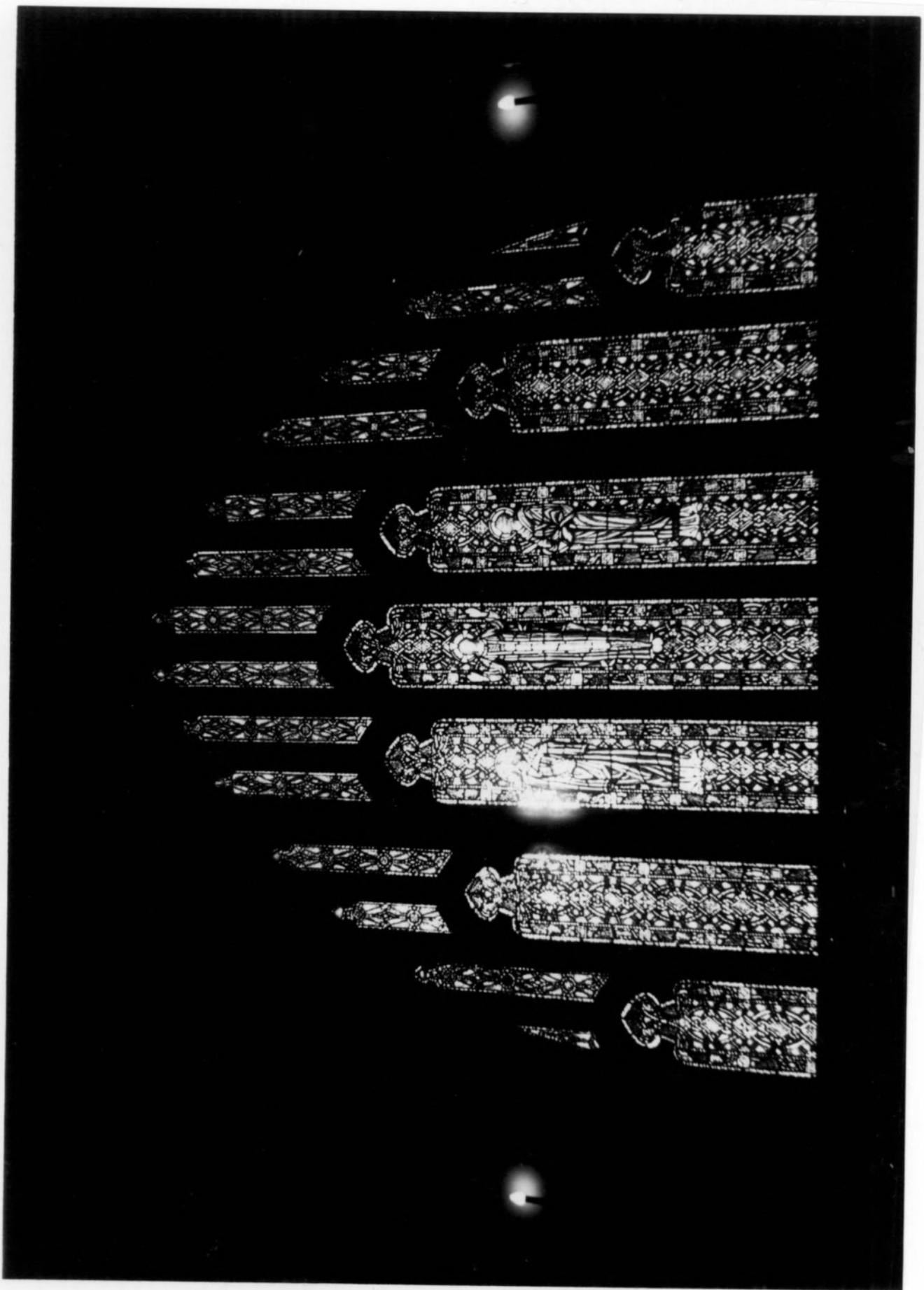
Central Methodist College

Interior--Great West Window

Photo 17 of 24

S. HELVEY  
DATE

11-79



Linn Memorial United Methodist Church--  
Central Methodist College Historic Dis-  
trict  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Interior-Looking Toward Alter  
Photo #8 of 24

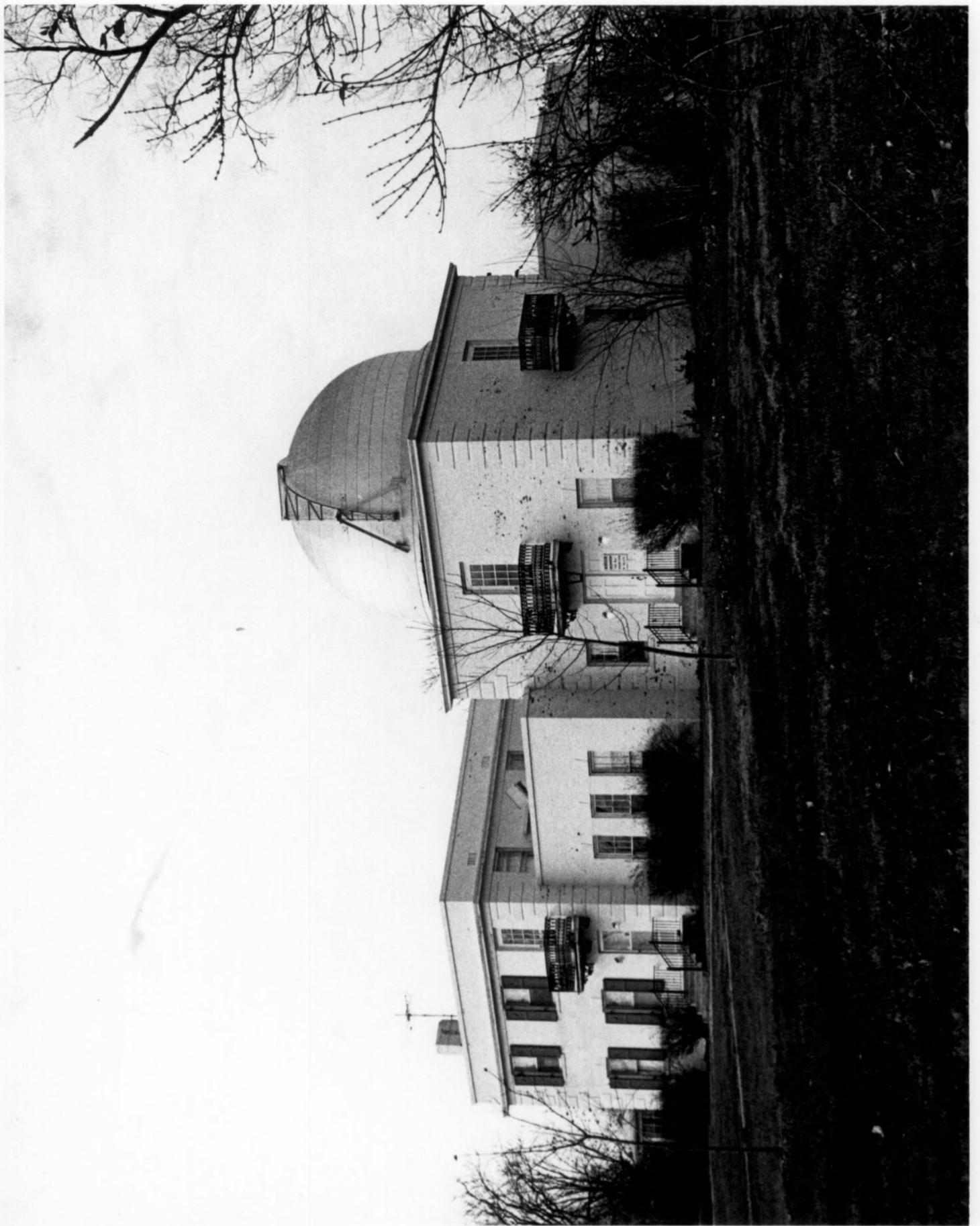
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11-79



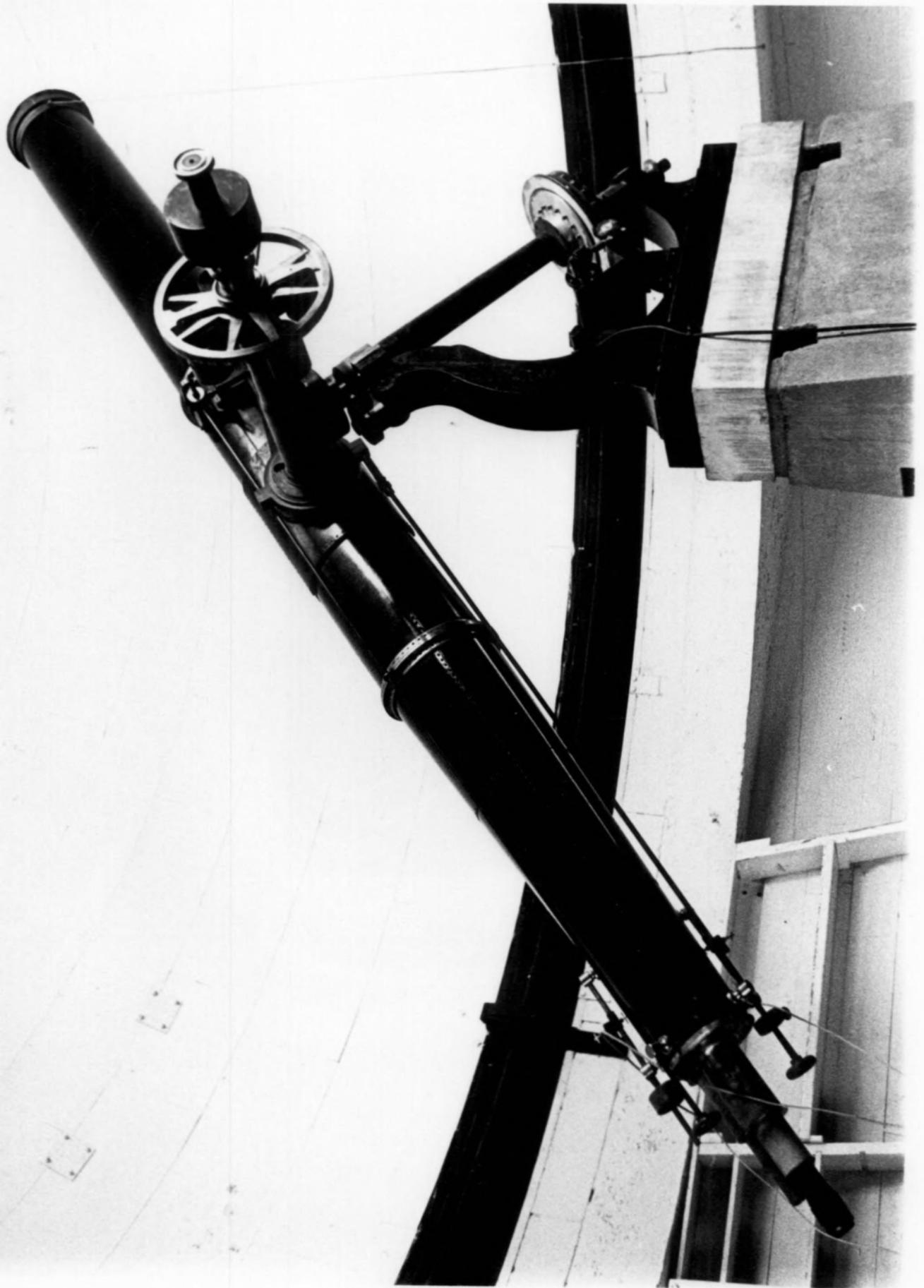
Morrison Observatory--Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo #19 of 24

B. HEWY 1/24  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_



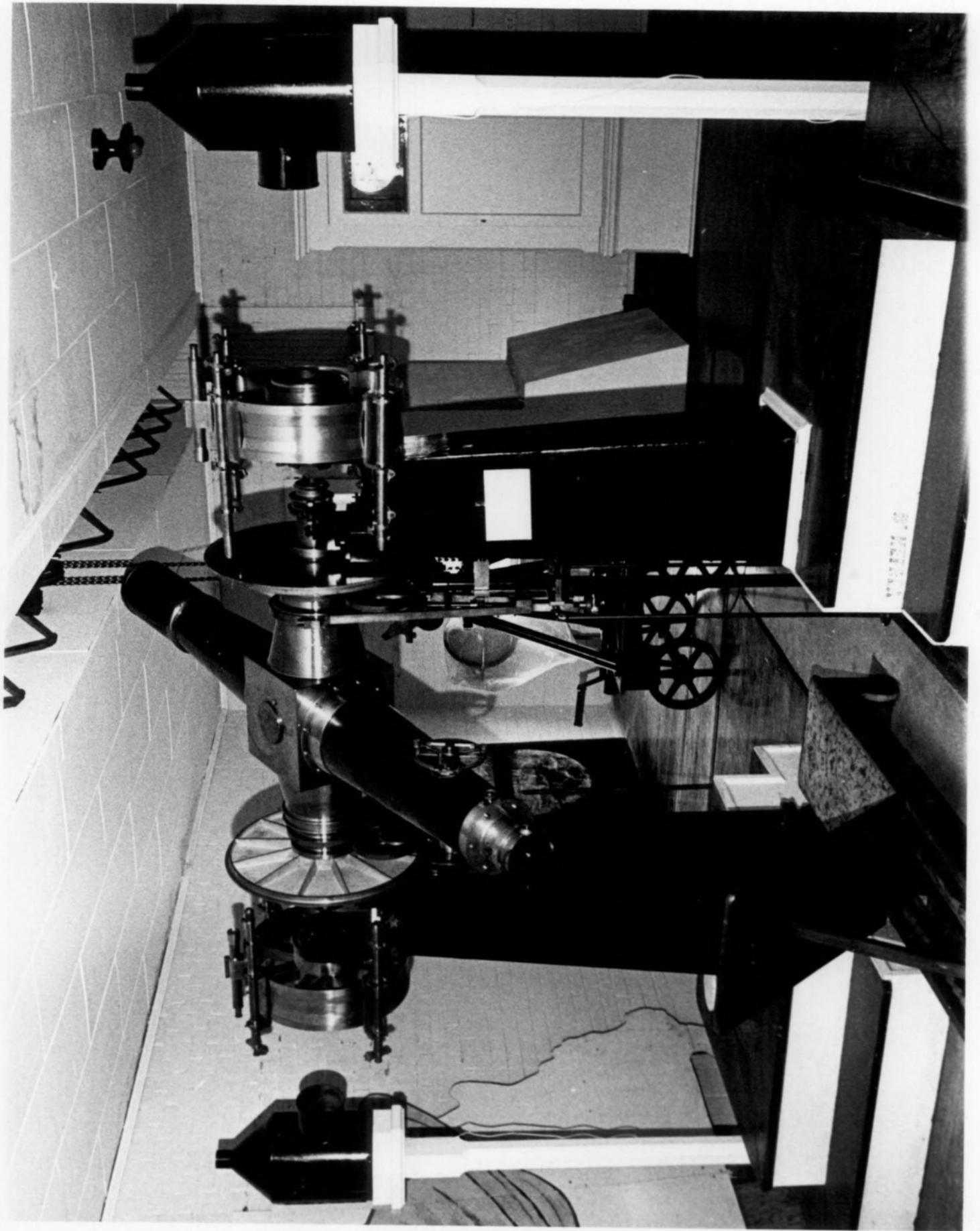
Morrison Observatory--Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Alvan Clark & Sons Telescope  
Photo 20 of 24

B. HELVEY 11-29  
DATE



Morrison Observatory--Central Methodist  
College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Meridian Circle  
Photo 21 of 24

B. HELVY  
DATE 11-79



Holt Hall--Central Methodist College  
Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo 22 of 24

56-11

B. HELVY

DATE

DATE



Stedman Hall Of Science--Central Meth-  
odist College Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo 23 of 24

B. HELVY  
DATE

11-79



DATE 11/75  
B. HELVY

The Eyrle--Central Methodist College  
Historic District  
Fayette, Missouri  
Bill Helvy  
November 1979  
Central Methodist College  
Front Facade  
Photo 24 of 24

