

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Paul Catholic Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Paul on Salt River, Center Parish

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route EE (Rural Route #1)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Center

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#9 - Hon. Harold L. Volkmer

STATE

Missouri

CODE

029

COUNTY

Ralls

CODE

173

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: (vacant)

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Catholic Diocesan Chancery of Jefferson City

STREET & NUMBER

605 Clark Street

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 65101

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Ralls County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

New London

STATE

Missouri 63459

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri
Hitt and Lowry Streets

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul Catholic Church, near Center, Missouri, is a one story building, rectangular in plan, constructed of beige and golden-hued native Chouteau limestone on a stone foundation which is 2' wide and 6' deep. This church, which faces south, measures 33'6" along its east and west sides and 58'8" along the north and south. It is capped by a 6-12 pitch, gable roof of wood sheeting and black asphalt shingles which rises 30' and supports a squared cupola of delicate spoolwork at its south end. This cupola is topped with a bell-cast, cedar shake roof and supports a wooden cross. Within the cupola is a brass bell which is inscribed: "Hy Stackstede, Bell F.D.Y. Co., St. Louis, Mo., St. Paul Church, Sept. 1909, Rev. D.J. Donovan, Pastor".

The limestone walls of St. Paul average 14" in thickness. On the primary (south) facade, the rock-faced, random, squared rubble blocks are joined with beaded mortar joints. Elsewhere, these joints range from flush to struck with drip. Each corner of the church features well squared quoin headers. On the south facade, 5 1/2' from the southeast corner of the building, an inscribed stone reads "Build (sic.) 1860".

At the north end of the building, a hip-roofed frame addition is located. It is pierced by two, double-hung, 4-over-4 sash windows with entablature heads.

Decoration on the exterior of the church is minimal. The most notable features in this regard are the 7, double-hung, 18-over-12 light, lancet windows each of which is crowned with a mullioned section of lanceted lights and lozenged batement lights. Three of these are located in each of the east and west walls and one sits high on the south facade, piercing the rear wall of the balcony choir loft. Each measures 11' by 4' and is capped by heavy, radiating stone voussoirs which do not reach impost level. Below, each is supported by a lugsill. In addition, a similar 15 light transom crowns the main entryway, and a simply molded and boxed cornice surrounds the building.

The interior of the church is reached through plain double doors, painted red, in the center of the south facade which lead into the vestibule, where the original confessional and stairway to the balcony choir loft are located. Above, this choir loft measures 10'4" by 30'4". It overlooks the sanctuary and is edged with a varnished, 2'6" high wooden railing along its north side. Below, it is supported by two varnished wooden piers with molded and squared capitals and recessed, molded vertical panels.

The main sanctuary is entered through two single doors in the north vestibule wall. This area measures 46'6" to the north and south and 30'4" to the east and west. The walls are the original plaster and have been painted several times. They are currently painted pink and are adorned with small, terra cotta plaques representing the stations of the cross which hang from a picture molding along the east and west walls. Each of the six flanking windows sits in a 14" recess and rests on an interior wooden window sill, painted white. Above, the barrel vaulted ceiling rises 22' and is faced with painted plaster. It partially covers the lancet window in the south wall of the balcony choir loft and so is most probably a later addition to the design.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PRE-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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

1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Father Francis Kielty

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul Catholic Church, near Center, Missouri, is historically significant as the mother church of the Roman Catholic faith in northeast Missouri, western Illinois and southeastern Iowa. In addition, its tranquil, rustic, wooded setting is singular in its evocation of a vanished era.

St. Paul Church traces its beginnings to 1812 when a small band of Catholics left Kentucky and Virginia as part of the great westward wave of emigration after the War of 1812. After wintering in Cahokia, Illinois, these pioneers continued their trek up the Mississippi River in search of an area for permanent settlement. When they reached the mouth of the Salt River, which empties into the Mississippi just above Louisiana, Missouri in Pike County, they disembarked and followed the stream to the vicinity of the present church of St. Paul where they founded a settlement.¹

Priests from Cahokia came by boat and mule pack to minister to this settlement until 1826. Late the following year, Father Charles Van Quickenborne, S.J., the Superior of the Jesuits at Florissant, Missouri near St. Louis, sent Father Felix Verreydt as the first priest to make a recorded visit to northeast Missouri.² He was sent in response to a petition from 80 Catholics in the area who had written to Van Quickenborne to obtain the services of a missionary priest. Verreydt found the families there to be so scattered that nothing was done at this time to establish a permanent church or congregation.³

After 1828 the missionary activity of the Jesuits in eastern Missouri and Illinois assumed greater scope and importance.⁴ It was financed by funds allocated to Bishop Rosati of St. Louis by the French Association of the Propagation of the Faith in order to save the neglected Catholics of the rural Midwest.⁵ As a result, in February, 1828, Father John Elet was sent from Florissant to northeast Missouri where he preached at the home of "Mr. Leake near New London on the Salt River".⁶ From 1829 to 1832 the Jesuits continued their missionary efforts in the area through visits three times a year by Father Verreydt from his St. Charles, Missouri headquarters.⁷

In 1833 Bishop Rosati of St. Louis appointed Father Peter Paul Lefevre to the Salt River district as its first resident pastor.⁸ Through his efforts the first log cabin church of St. Paul was erected just north of the present church building by the autumn of 1834, on eighty acres of land donated by the Leake and Elliot families.⁹ Father Lefevre was born in Roulers, Belgium, the son of a farmer. He did his preliminary studies with the Lazarists in Paris and later volunteered for missionary

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Archives of St. Paul Parish.
2. Couch, Mrs. Judy. Personal interview with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, November 21, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.6

QUADRANGLE NAME "Center, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,5	61,91,9,5	4,37,32,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

1,5	61,91,9,0	4,37,34,9,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

1,5	61,90,4,0	4,37,34,6,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

1,5	61,90,2,0	4,37,32,1,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

F

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

G

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

H

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A quadrangle composed of straight sides meeting at the four UTM coordinates given above and enclosing the immediate area of St. Paul Church, its cemetery and the Seven Stations of the Mater Dolorosa.

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. Mrs. Judy Couch

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

RR #1

TELEPHONE

314/267-3513

CITY OR TOWN

Center

STATE

Missouri 63436

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

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January, 1979

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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



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

-
2. Missouri State Historical Survey 1978 state
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
January 10, 1979
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

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Flooring throughout the church is of 6" tongue and groove boards, painted brown. In addition, a continuous linoleum runner covers portions of the floor in the vestibule and the sanctuary. The original squared pews are arranged today on the east and west sides of the sanctuary while newer pews with Gothic detailing form the two center rows. Two gas heating stoves are located at central points to the east and west in the sanctuary. They are vented through openings in the upper portions of the lancet windows.

At the north end of the sanctuary, the altar is located and is separated from the main sanctuary by a wooden spindlework Communion rail, painted white. This entire end of the church is raised 8" to provide a kneeling bench for Communion ceremonies. The altar, which is in the form of a redwood table, rests on its own platform which rises an additional 7" and is covered with grey carpeting. Above, an hemispherical niche is located in the center of the north sanctuary wall. To either side, a wooden octagonal pedestal, painted white, rests on the wall approximately 4' above floor level. Each is edged with a scalloped apron and terminates in a cul-de-lampe. In the northwest corner, a plaster "Pieta" sits on a plain redwood table.

Beyond the sanctuary, at the northern extreme of the building, a frame addition, which encloses a back entry hall and a sacristy, is located. It is reached through a back entry and from the sanctuary through a door in its north wall.

ALTERATIONS

The sacristy addition was constructed sometime before 1897.¹ It measures 12' along its east and west sides and 33'6" along its north. Two chimneys were removed at an unknown date which were located on each of the east and west sides of the building between the windows at the south end. Inside, the church was originally one large room. To conserve heat, a partition of painted plaster board was added in 1943, creating the vestibule.² Electricity was added in 1947 and the present hanging fixtures in the sanctuary were installed at this time. The original altar was of wood and painted white with three tiers of shelving on either side and above. It was replaced by the present one in 1965.³

SITE

St. Paul Church is located in a large clearing on a heavily wooded hill in a remote, rural area, in the southeast quarter of its 40 acre plot. It is reached along a winding gravel road which runs to the northwest off Route EE. No other buildings can be seen in any direction from the church site. The gravel road ends in a small car park just south of the church. A cement sidewalk leads from here to the main

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entrance. A large cemetery is located due east of the church. Surrounding this and the church site to the north, east and west are rustic shrines to the seven stations of the Sorrowful Mother. A stone altar is located to the southwest. The altar and stations were built in 1939 of unfinished limestone blocks taken from the original rectory which stood southwest of the church and from nearby Church Creek which runs to the west and north of the property. The altar platform measures 16'6" along the east and west and 28'4" along the north and south and was constructed by Mr. John Elliot, a local man. The seven stations, which are situated in the woods surrounding the church, were built as memorials to several families of the parish. Each was originally adorned with its appropriate picture representing each station behind glass in an arched niche.

PRESENT STATUS AND CONDITION

Though owned by the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, the building sits vacant today, used only occasionally by the parishioners from the Church of St. William located in the nearby town of Perry. The exterior of the church is in excellent condition. The interior, however, is in need of painting and repair to the plaster and lath in the ceiling, especially over the balcony area. As far as can be determined, the Diocese has no plans to either use or destroy the buildings.

FOOTNOTES

1. Miss Maude Catherine Elliot, personal interview with Mrs. Judy Couch, June 11, 1978.
2. Mrs. Price Gough, personal interview with Mrs. Judy Couch, June, 1978.
3. Data excerpted from draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for St. Paul Catholic Church completed by Mrs. Judy Couch, July 21, 1978.

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work in America. He was ordained in St. Louis in 1831 and his career really began with his assignment to the Salt River district. For some years he was the only priest in residence from St. Louis all the way to Dubuque in northeast Iowa. He served in this area until 1840 when he retired with ill health to his native Belgium. He returned to the United States, however, in 1841 as the first Bishop of Detroit in which post he served until his death in 1889.¹⁰

From 1840 to 1848 the history of St. Paul Church is obscured due to the lack of records. In May, 1848 Father John Canon O'Hanlon was appointed to the ministry in northeast Missouri. He met his congregation in the log church on the third Sunday of each month and stayed at the home of Ralph Leake nearby.¹¹ Father O'Hanlon remained in the Salt River district for two years before being recalled to St. Louis in 1850.¹²

The decade from 1850 to 1860 saw a drop in attendance in the churches throughout the Salt River district which caused much concern on the part of Jesuits in the surrounding area. During this period, St. Paul Church was attended to by priests from other nearby parishes.¹³

In 1860 Father Francis Kielty was ordained at Cape Girardeau, Missouri and was appointed the following year to the Salt River district. By this time, the log church which had been constructed in 1834 was deteriorating. Father Kielty, acting as his own architect, designed and constructed the present church with native stone. Most of the labor was donated by the parishioners and some of the 80 acres of church land was sold to pay for materials.¹⁴

Father Kielty served until 1863 when he was transferred to St. Louis. There he served as rector of the Church of the Immaculate Conception for three years and as priest of the Holy Angels parish for thirty-eight years. He died there in 1906.¹⁵

Services at St. Paul Church continued under various leadership and with varying frequency until October 31, 1966 when it was closed due to the reorganization of parishes due to a shortage of priests.¹⁶ The congregation joined that of St. William's Church in Perry, Missouri.¹⁷ At present the building is used only occasionally by its former parishioners who remember it fondly.

St. Paul Catholic Church sits in an almost untouched rustic setting. To the east its cemetery is located which is the oldest on record in Ralls County. Its first occupant is reputed to have been a Virginian named Thomas Whittington, a soldier in the 19th Division of the Continental Army in the American Revolution, who had come west with the original group in 1812.¹⁸ His grave, however, has not been located.¹⁹

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Surrounding St. Paul Church to the east, north and west and dotting the edges of the woods are the Seven Stations of the Mater Dolorosa, a shrine constructed at the church in 1939 (see site plan). Each station of this shrine was erected by the descendants of one of the original settlers of the area.²⁰ St. Paul was chosen as the location for this shrine because it is the oldest Catholic church in northeast Missouri. A large altar was built as a part of the shrine to the southwest of the church at the same time by a local man, Mr. John Delaney. The Pieta, which now rests inside the church, was acquired at this time and was originally placed in the center of the altar. The shrine to the Mater Dolorosa was only one of three planned for St. Paul Church. Two others, to Mary Immaculata and Mary of Lourdes, were never begun.²¹

The feelings of peace, detachment and isolation from the cares of the world which are imparted by a visit to this rural, simply constructed church evoke a sense of place for an era long vanished from the American cultural scene. Its quiet, broken only by the rustling sounds of the woods, is the ideal backdrop for a place of reverence which has stood for over 118 years.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on their selection as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". St. Paul Catholic Church, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Society" and "Exploration and Settlement".

FOOTNOTES

1. Gilbert J. Garraghan, S.J., Jesuits of the Middle United States (New York: America Press, 1938), Vol. I, p. 229 and "Parishes of Ralls and Monroe Counties", mimeographed report from St. Paul Church Records.

2. Father Verreydt was born in Diest, Belgium. He was recruited for work in America by Father Charles Nerinckx in Belgium in 1820. He was at this time a professor of the Petit Seminary at Mechlin, Belgium. Father Verreydt came to the United States at this time with several other recruits. After settling in Maryland initially, they moved on to St. Louis under the leadership of Father Charles Van Quickenborne and laid the foundations for the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus. At the same time Father Verreydt served the Salt River district, he was also responsible for preaching in the Central Missouri district. See John Ernst Rothensteiner, History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis in Its Various Stages of Development from A.D. 1673 to A.D. 1928 (St. Louis: Blackwell Wielandy Co., 1928), Vol. I, p. 310, Garraghan, Jesuits, Vol. I, p. 232 and 241.

3. Garraghan, Jesuits, Vol. I, p. 238.

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4. Ibid., pp. 228-229.
5. Ibid., p. 246.
6. Ibid., p. 237. This is the same Mr. Leake who later donated some of the land for the construction of St. Paul Church. According to the Leake family tree, Robert Lee Leake was the second son of George I of England. He quarreled with his father and was sent into exile. He escaped and fled to Scotland where he married in 1734. One of his sons, James, came to America and settled in Kentucky. One of his sons, Raphael, came to St. Paul settlement while a young man. He is probably the Ralph Leake who was so supportive of the church in its early days. See "St. Paul Catholic Church", from Western Historical Manuscripts Collection University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. John Anthony Elet was born in St. Amand, province of Antwerp, Belgium in 1802. He completed College at Mechlin, Belgium and entered an ecclesiastical seminary in the same town. In 1821 he, too, accompanied Father Nerinckx to the United States, staying first in Maryland and then moving to Florissant, Missouri. Father Elet was one of the founders of St. Louis University and served as its president for several years. After this he was sent to Cincinnati, Ohio as head of the College of St. Xavier where he created a free school for poor children. Father Elet died of consumption in 1852. See Pierre Jean DeSmet, Western Missions and Missionaries: A Series of Letters (New York: P.J. Kennedy, 1859), pp. 486-491.
7. Garraghan, Jesuits, Vol. I, p. 241.
8. Ibid., p. 238. The Salt River district included Pike, Ralls and Marion Counties in Missouri.
9. Archives of St. Paul Parish and Father Peter Paul Lefevre, personal correspondence with Bishop Rosati of St. Louis, July 3, 1834, now in the Chancery Archives in St. Louis, Missouri.
10. Garraghan, Jesuits, Vol. I, p. 138-139, the records of Father Lefevre in the St. Louis Chancery Archives and Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933), Vol. VII, pp. 138-139.
11. John Canon O'Hanlon, Life and Scenery in Missouri (Dublin: James Duffey and Co., Ltd., 1890), pp. 192-193.
12. Ibid., p. 222.

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13. Archives of St. Paul Parish.
14. Ibid., Note that textual evidence points to 1861 as the date of construction of St. Paul Church while the inscribed stone in south facade gives 1860 as the date.
15. Rothensteiner, History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Vol. I, pp. 464-465.
16. The subsequent history of St. Paul Church can be found in some detail in the Chancery Archives in St. Louis and Rothensteiner, History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.
17. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form submitted by Mrs. Judy Couch of Center, Missouri, July 21, 1978.
18. "St. Paul Church", from the Western Manuscripts Collection.
19. Mrs. Judy Couch, personal interview with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, November 21, 1978.
20. Souvenir Magazine of the First Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Sorrowful Mother, St. Paul Church, Sunday, September 17, 1939, pp. 2 and 4-5. The Seven Stations commemorate the seven epochs of sorrow in the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who, according to the Catholic faith, is the Mother of all humanity. They are: #1, The Prophecy of Simeon, in the memory of John B. Flemming at St. Paul; #2, The Flight into Egypt, in memory of the Bell-Coontz family; #3, The Loss of Jesus in the Temple, in memory of Jerome P. Mudd; #4, Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary, in memory of Thomas and Ida Griffin; #5, Jesus Dies on the Cross, in memory of Raphael Leake; #6, Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus in Her Arms, in memory of Cletus and Rose Leake; and #7, Jesus is Placed in the Tomb, in memory of J.R. Jones. The purpose of the erection of this shrine at St. Paul was to provide a memorial to Mary and a place of pilgrimage for the troubled. Mrs. Judy Couch, personal correspondence with the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, December 24, 1978.
21. Ibid., p. 7.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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St. Paul Catholic Church is significant as the mother church organization of the Roman Catholic faith in northeast Missouri. The subject of this nomination, which housed this historic organization from 1860 to 1966, meets National Register criteria due to its age and to the associations with the rich history of this congregation, embodied in the stories of the lives of its founders and prominent members, such as Fathers John Elet, Peter Paul Lefevre and Frances Kielty, to the local citizenry. Its significance is further enhanced through its architecture and rustic location because, in its isolated, wooded setting which evokes another era, this building is a fine, though simple, local example of the Gothic Revival style in the medium of stone and one of the few remaining stone churches in northern Missouri.

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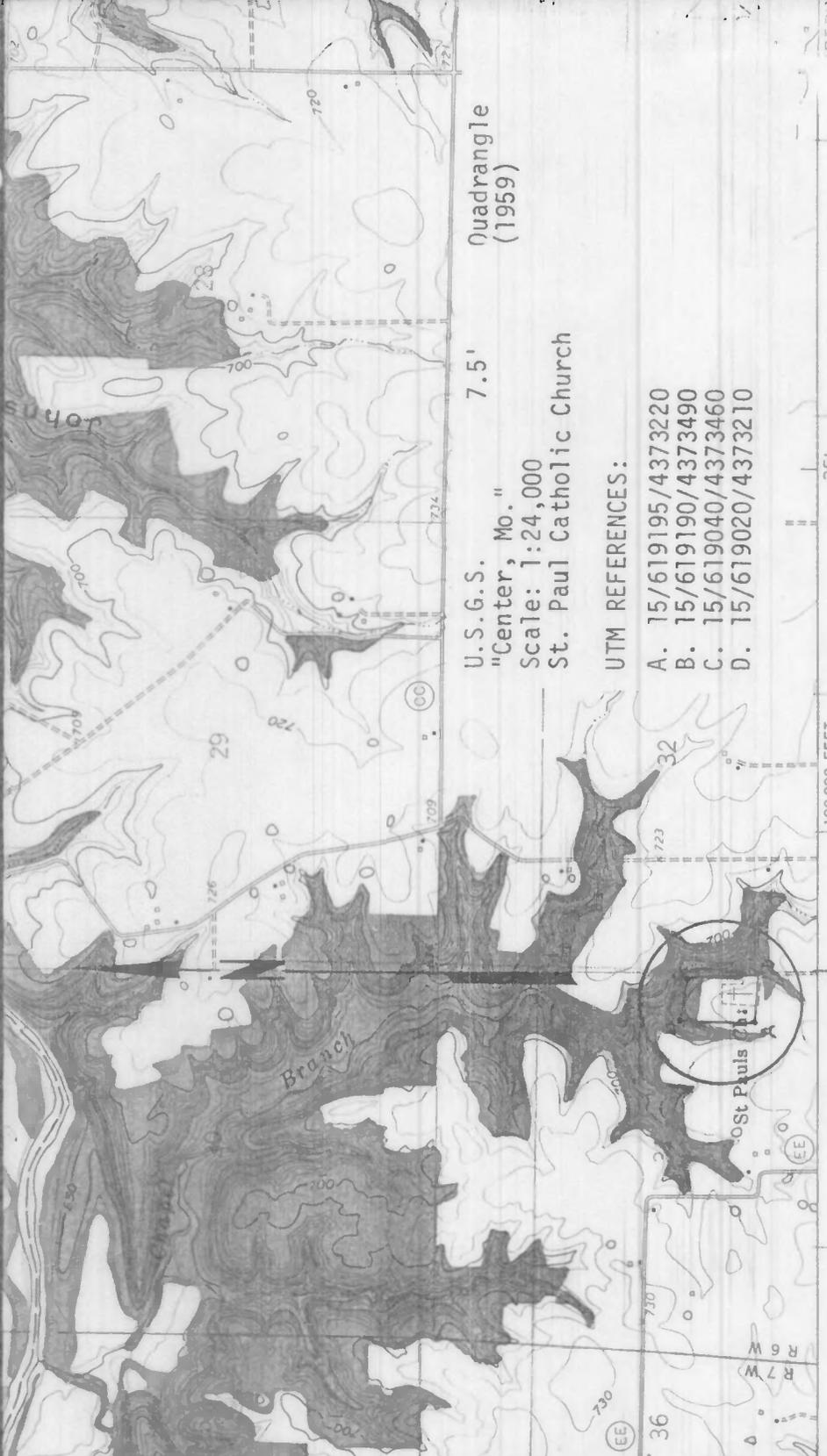
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ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

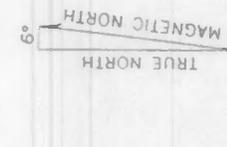
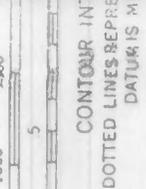
3. Data excerpted from draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form submitted by Mrs. Judy Couch, Center, Missouri, July 21, 1978.
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12. "St. Paul Church". Western Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
13. Souvenir Magazine of the First Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Sorrowful Mother, St. Paul Church, Sunday, September 17, 1939.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 "Center, Mo." (1959)
 Scale: 1:24,000
 St. Paul Catholic Church

- UTM REFERENCES:
- A. 15/619195/4373220
 - B. 15/619190/4373490
 - C. 15/619040/4373460
 - D. 15/619020/4373210

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1959
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, east zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue

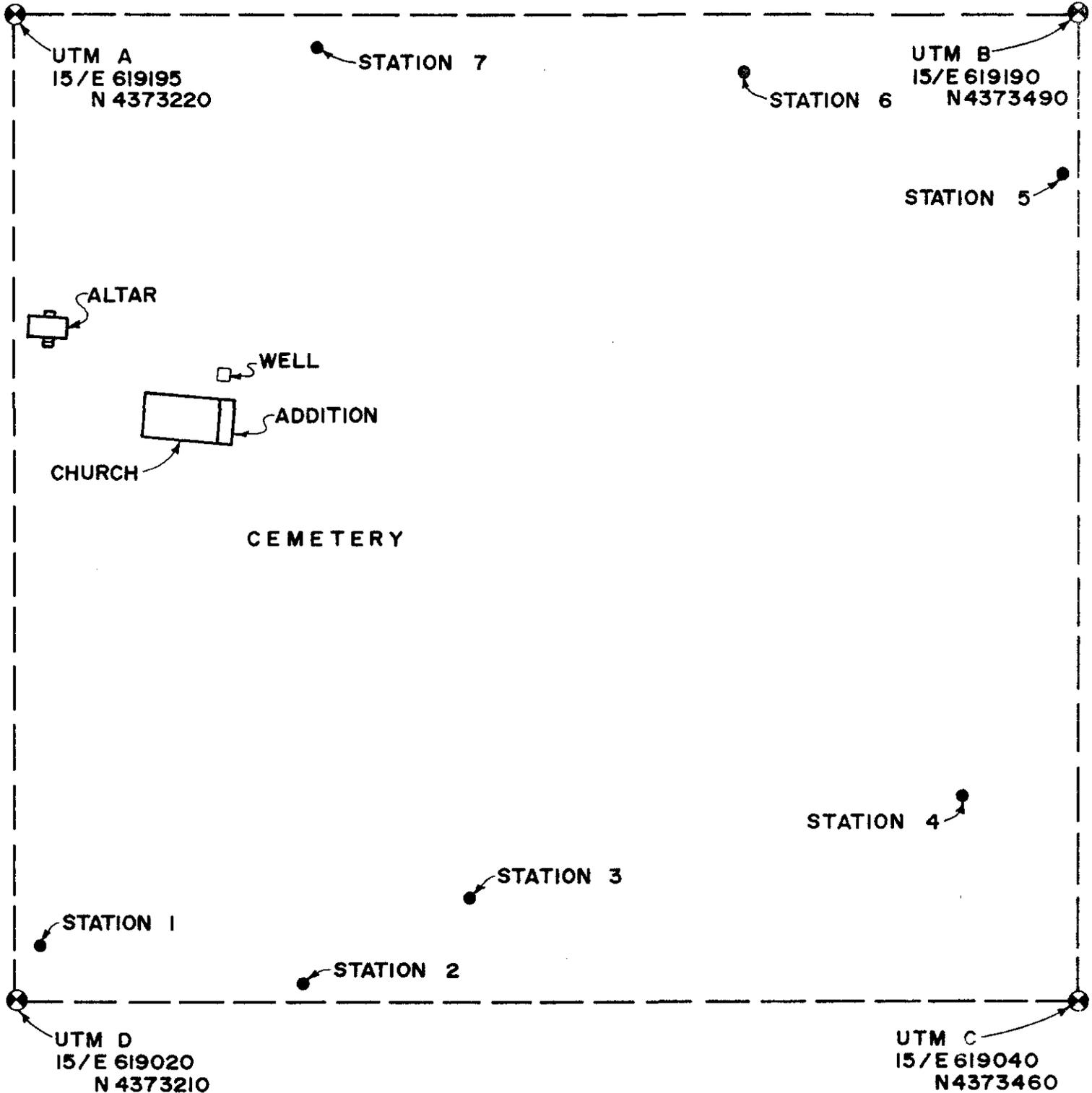
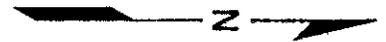
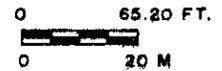


THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH THAT
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEPT.
 AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

APPROXIMATE MEAN
 DECLINATION, 1959

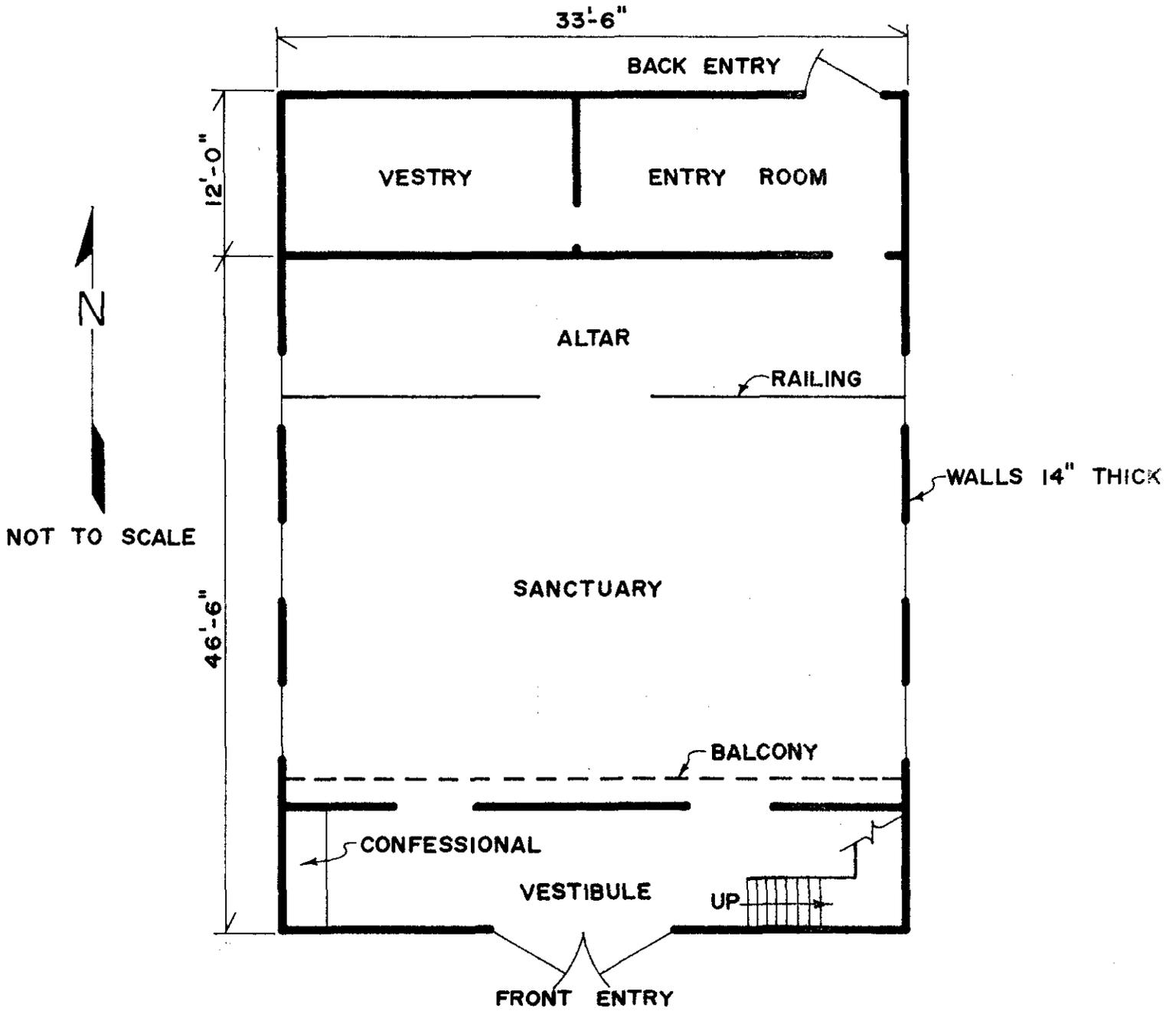
39°30' 91°37'30"
 1 340 000 FEET
 190 000 FEET
 35'

ST. PAUL CHURCH
CENTER VICINITY
RALLS COUNTY, MISSOURI



AREA ENCLOSED BY POINTS A,B,C,D = 6.24 HA (15.6 ACRES)

FLOOR PLAN
ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
CENTER VICINITY, MISSOURI



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

COUNTY: Ralls

LOCATION: Route EE (Rural Route #1)
Center

OWNER: Catholic Diocesan Chancery of Jefferson City
ADDRESS: 605 Clark St.
Jefferson City, Mo.

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: January 25, 1979

DATE SENT TO D.C.: February 9, 1979

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: February 23, 1979

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: May 31, 1979

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

St. Paul Catholic Church, near Center, Missouri, is historically significant as the mother church of the Roman Catholic faith in northeast Missouri, western Illinois and southeastern Iowa. In addition, its tranquil, rustic, wooded setting is singular in its evocation of a vanished era.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH #1
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager
May, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
View to northeast. Note hipped roof over
sacristy to rear.



#2

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager
May, 1978

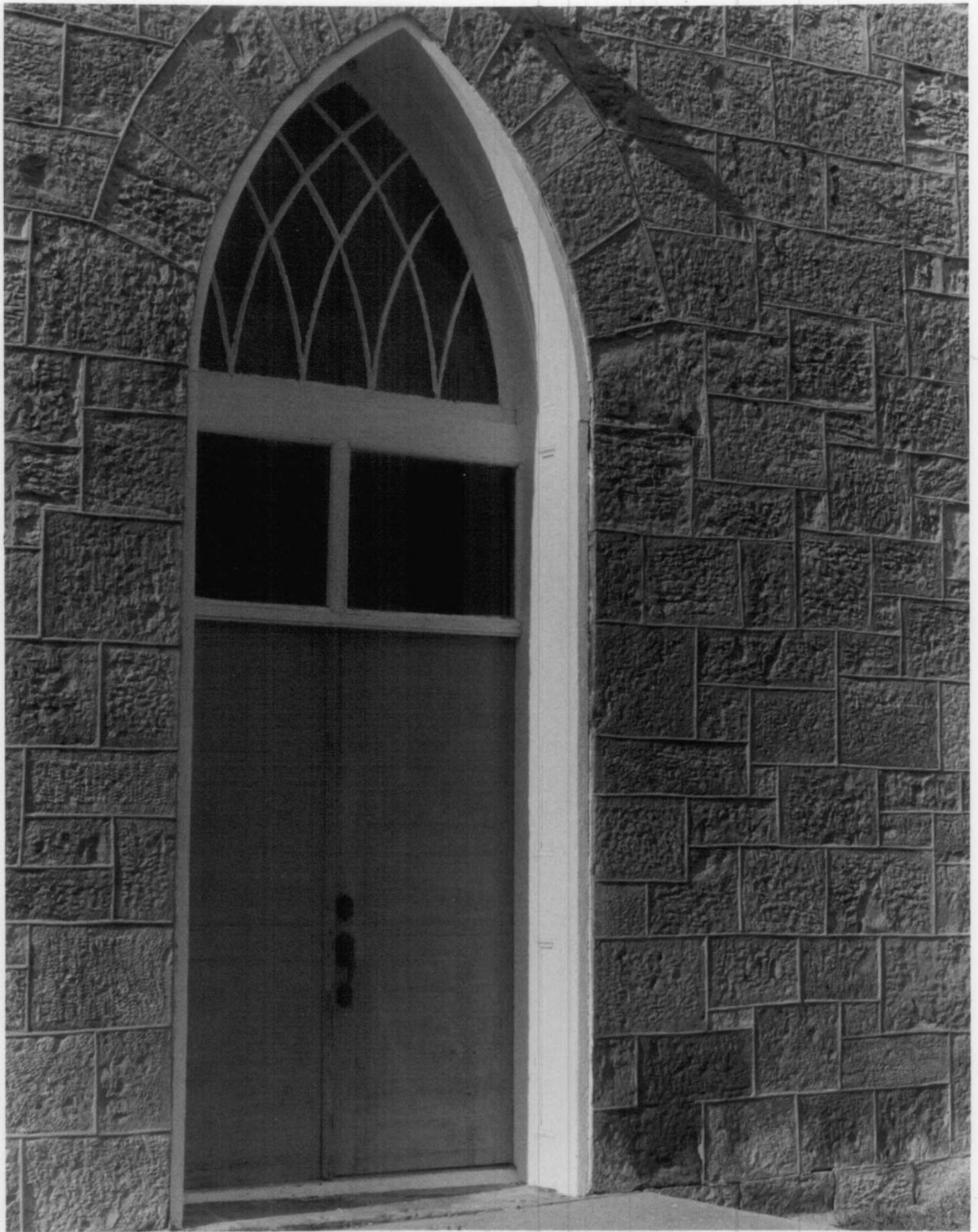
Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
View to west, including southern half of
cemetery.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager
May, 1978

#3

Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
South facade, main entrance. Note random,
squared rubble construction and beaded joints.
Wooden reveals are decorated with panels.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH #4

Center vicinity, Missouri,

Photographer: Noelle Soren

November, 1978

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,

Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

View to southwest, clearly showing frame,
hipped-roofed addition on south side.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager

#5

May, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
View to west of stone altar, located southwest
of church. It was constructed in 1939 with
stones from the former rectory nearby.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager
May, 1978

#6

Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
Station III of the Sorrowful Mother. Archway
once held picture of Jesus in the Temple which
was enclosed behind glass. Six other stations
are similar.



STATION III - THE GARDEN OF
JEROME W. MUDD
IN MEMORY OF
JEROME W. MUDD

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Bob Yager
May, 1978

#7

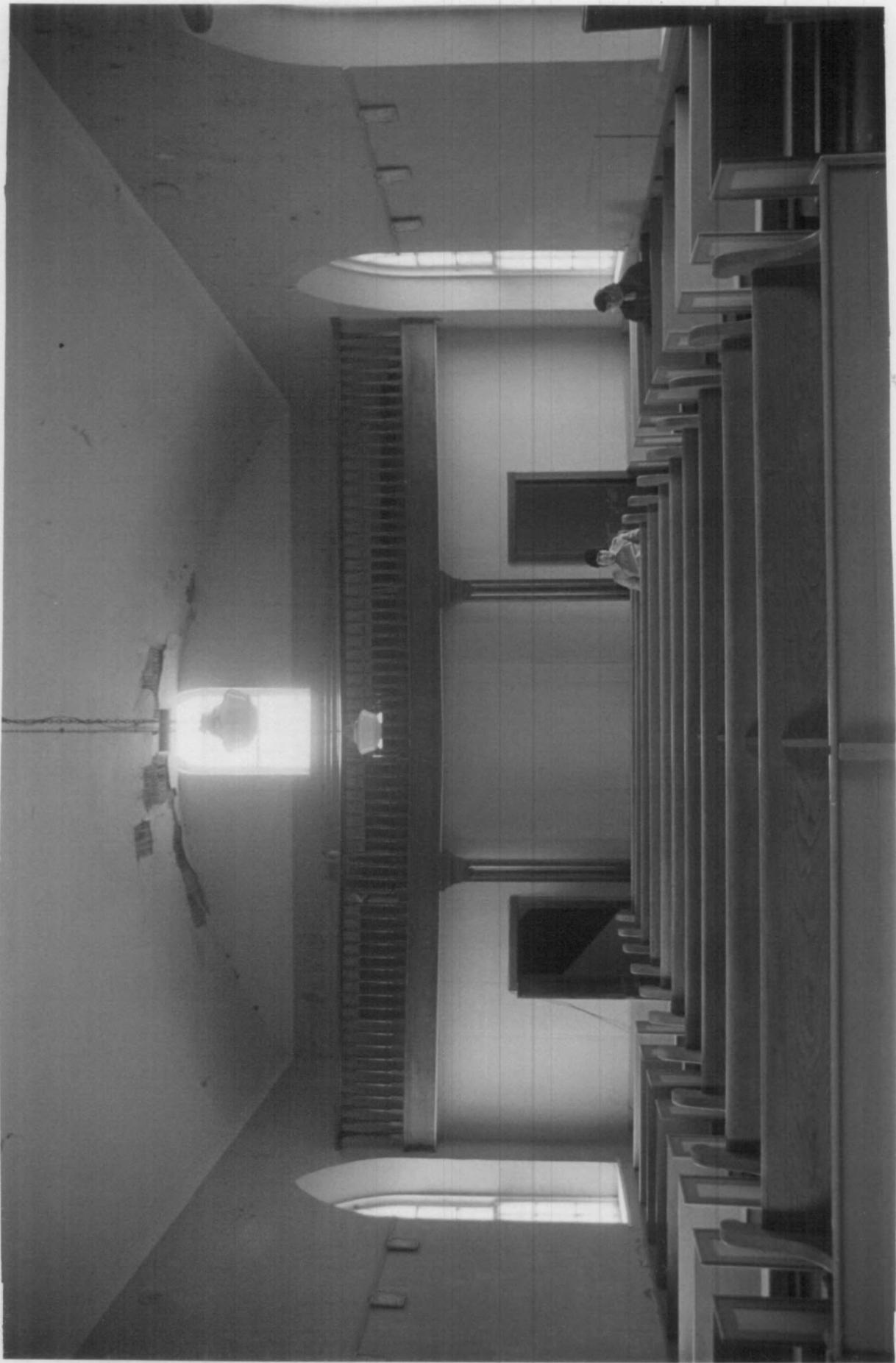
Neg. Loc.: Bob Yager, Center, Mo. 63436
Interior, vestibule, west wall, original
confessional.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Center vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Noelle Soren

#8

November, 1978
Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102
Interior, sanctuary, to south. Partition with
two doors to vestibule was added in 1942. Note
deteriorating condition of the ceiling which
involves the plaster and the lathe. Note also
that the ceiling masks the top of the window
in the balcony choir loft.



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH #9

Center vicinity, Missouri

Photographer: Noelle Soren

November, 1978

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,

Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Interior, sanctuary to north. Note original
pews in outer rows and view of sacristy
addition through doorway in north wall.

