

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Grace Episcopal Church Complex

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 421 Elm Street not for publication

city, town Chillicothe vicinity of congressional district #6 - Hon. Thomas E. Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county Livingston code 117

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Members of Grace Episcopal Church of Chillicothe, Missouri

street & number 421 Elm Street

city, town Chillicothe vicinity of state Missouri 64601

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Chillicothe state Missouri 64601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

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

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

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2. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture

1928

St. Louis Architectural Club

St. Louis

state

Missouri

Item number 9

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3. Jefferson City, Missouri. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. Edward P. Milbank, Draft of this National Register nomination of the Grace Episcopal Church Complex.

4. Roof, A.J. Past and Present of Livingston County, Missouri. 2 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913.

5. St. Louis Up To Date. St. Louis: Consolidated Printing Co., 1895.

6. Scully, Vincent, J., Jr. "Romantic Rationalism and the Expression of Structure in Wood: Downing, Wheeler, Gardner, and the "Stick Style," 1840-1876." Art Bulletin 35 (June 1953): 121-142.

7. Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

8. Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman. New York: Columbia University Press, 1939.

9. Welles, C.B.F. van Alstyne. A Documentary History of the Episcopal Church in Western Missouri. Chicago: The Community Press, 1964.

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2. Jill Johnson, Architectural Historian
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

April 18, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

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

The Grace Episcopal Church Complex, Chillicothe, Missouri, is located two and one-half blocks southeast of the business district in a neighborhood of moderately-sized single family homes. White paint not only provides a consistency of its own to blend the small and inexpensive prefabricated wooden church of 1867-69 and its additions with surrounding houses of slightly later periods, but it also heightens the abstract appearance of the church's crisp, gabled forms which lack superfluous and costly embellishment. Forgoing pretense for a quiet, churchly feeling, the simple building testifies to the stick character of many mid-western small town Episcopal churches built during the nineteenth century. Additionally, Grace Episcopal evidences the Episcopal Church's strong identification with the Anglican Church of England as illustrated by its patterning after Early English Gothic churches.

The church, which measures approximately 69 feet east-west by 22 feet north-south, follows rudimentary aisleless rectangular plans of Anglican parish churches of the 1820's to 1840's, consisting of naves and chancels under separate roofs with sacristies appendaged to the chancels. Rising to a height of 28 feet above a concrete clad stone foundation, Grace Episcopal reaches eastward from a gabled roof vestibule on Elm Street to a five bay nave (containing a choir in its easternmost bay) and beyond to a shallow chancel (9 feet east-west by 11 feet north-south) and an adjoining pent roofed sacristy to the south. A rectangular foyer situated to the north of the choir (which was formerly a library and later a gymnasium), links the church to the Andrew Leeper Memorial Parish Hall of 1912 and the more recent, metal sided kitchen.¹ These two rooms are positioned perpendicularly to the church and mark the eastern boundary of the property.

Hardly common to English Gothic antecedents, frame construction was frequently used for small rural American parish churches such as Grace Episcopal because it was oftentimes more readily available and cheaper than the traditionally employed stone. At Grace Episcopal, the expense of frame construction was even further reduced by the use of pre-cut boards and prefabricated parts. Although board and batten construction proved to be one of the cheapest and most stylistically appropriate wall treatments, weatherboarding was used instead for most of the Grace Episcopal complex. While corner boards at the nave and arched nave windows glazed with art glass panels held in place by plate tracery contribute vertical counterpoints to the weatherboarding, battens were paired and used horizontally at the level of the facade's rose window as decorative (rather than moisture-proofing) devices to emphasize the rhythm of the siding. The dentate cornice, the chevron moldings that edge the tympanum and rafters and the incised blocks that sheathe the vergeboards and form the voisoirs of the entrance arch and the capping arch of the rose window provide embossed and intaglio motifs which typify Victorian detailing. These subtly patterned wall surfaces are drawn upward in a characteristically Gothic fashion by the sweep of the steeply pitched, green asphalt clad vestibule, nave and bell cote roofs.²

Inside, above a dark-stained dado, diagonally-placed walnut paneling, echoes the steep inclines of the gable roof at the rear wall, while opposite, at the eastern nave and chancel walls, the converging panels dip downward directing attention to the altar. Walnut and damar-varnished white pine boards dress the longitudinal nave walls and the ceiling slopes in herringbone patterns which oscillate between

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the dado and wall plates below and the wall plates and roof ridge above. Not only are the ribbed, ceiling slopes more in keeping with the interior decorative program than the original light blue plastered slopes they concealed in 1878,³ but they effectively display the highly decorative English-inspired braced collar roof via color contrasts in the same material.

Carved black walnut furnishings are arranged according to strict Episcopal liturgical prescriptions against the rich, linear backdrop created by the trusses and paneling. The liturgical hierarchy begins at the west with the 1883 baptismal font, placed to one side of the main entrance to symbolize baptism as the door to the Church of Christ,⁴ and follows the rhythm of the art glass windows and trusses through the dark nave. The choir is elevated and removed from the nave by a low chancel rail to signify its greater liturgical importance, and in turn, the sanctuary with its carved altar (originally backed by a retable)⁵ and stained glass lancet triplet is elevated and set off from the choir by a low rail and chancel arch to signify its even greater liturgical importance.

Remarkably, the church has been little-changed since the 1870's and 1880's. In 1878, a builder named Dasher who constructed Trinity Episcopal Church (1871-1872) in nearby Utica, installed the ribbed pine ceiling and the black walnut pilaster strips which punctuate the nave and also faced the window jambs and the chancel arch and its supporting pilasters with oiled walnut. The northern choir wall was removed in 1880, and a shallow transept-like arm was constructed in its place to accommodate the ten rank, tracker system pipe organ which continues in weekly use today.⁶ Somewhat ill-fated structurally during this period, the church was shored up after a wind storm cleaved the sanctuary from the nave in 1871;⁷ the foundation was rebuilt in 1877;⁸ and the nave was braced with iron rods after being weakened by a cyclone in 1880.⁹ Unspecified chancel alterations amounting to \$6,000.00 were made in 1912¹⁰ and it was perhaps at this time that the chancel paintings were obscured.¹¹ More recently, the retable was removed and the mechanical systems were updated, including the refitting of the original gas chandeliers for electricity, the installation of central heating and air conditioning¹² and the replacement of the original interior chimney.¹³

A few modifications were made to the foyer - a small, dark paneled room - and the 1912 parish hall a paneled, high-ceilinged room divided by two rows of pillars and containing a non-original stage and rector's office to the north. The adjoining kitchen, however, has been modernized throughout.

FOOTNOTES

1. Photographic documentation reveals that the kitchen replaced an earlier pent-roofed frame addition which was perhaps the 1901 choir room mentioned by C.B.F. van Alstyne Welles in A Documentary History of the Episcopal Church in Western Missouri.

John Albury Bryan, comp. and ed., Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture (St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928), p. 60.

C.B.F. van Alstyne Welles, A Documentary History of the Episcopal Church in Western Missouri (Chicago: The Community Press, 1964), p. 139.

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2. Although Welles reports that the church received a bell from W.N. Deramus, president of the Kansas City Southern Railroad, it is not known if it was ever installed.

Welles, p. 222.
3. Edward P. Milbank, Draft of this National Register nomination of the Grace Episcopal Church Complex, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Missouri.
4. Ibid.
5. A.J. Roof, Past and Present of Livingston County, Missouri, 2 vols. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913), 1: Unnumbered plate.
6. Milbank.
7. Welles, p. 62.
8. Ibid., p. 77.
9. Ibid., p. 81.
10. Roof, p. 199.
11. Milbank.
12. Ibid.
13. Bryan, p. 60.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1867-1869 Builder/Architect J. Beattie, St. Louis Architect
Jacob H. Flower, St. Louis Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Grace Episcopal Church Complex, 421 Elm Street, Chillicothe, Missouri, is significant because it is one of the earliest organized Episcopal parishes in the Livingston County area. As a prefabricated building assembled in 1867-69 after plans by St. Louis architect J. Beattie, the church derives further importance from the architect's able blending of the technological advances of the 1840's and 1850's with architectural design. In addition, it is important as a fine, remarkably intact example of small, wooden parish churches modeled after Early English Gothic buildings.

The Grace Mission was organized by Deacon Loop to serve the Livingston County vicinity in 1859.¹ Following early services in Platter Hall and a hiatus during the Civil War, the congregation set about the task of building a permanent home on Elm Street, not far from the center of town.²

In 1867, St. Louis builder Jacob H. Flower began assembling fabricated parts according to specifications by another St. Louisan, J. Beattie.³

New York-born Beattie had only recently established himself as an architect in St. Louis when he designed Grace Episcopal Church. His work ranges from residential, ecclesiastical, and commercial construction to municipal structures as Beattie served a five year stint as the City's Commissioner of Public Buildings sometime before 1885. It seems likely that his best known ecclesiastical work in St. Louis -- designs for St. George's (Episcopal) and construction superintendence for Leopold Eidlitz's Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) of 1859-67 -- figured into his selection for the Chillicothe commission.⁴

Plausibly, the modest parish was able to afford the services of a bonafide architect with experience in Episcopal church design by economizing in other areas through the use of prefabricated parts, frame construction, a minimum of ornament and other similar cost trimming features. Prefabricated frame construction proved a suitable expression for honestly stated materials and construction and design methods as stipulated by Victorian and Gothic revival architectural theories. (Beattie, however, carried this aesthetic of truthfully presented materials only so far, choosing instead to paint the exterior.) Further, Beattie's design illustrates that prefabrication was not an obstacle to designing a solid copy of English parish churches, but rather a fit vehicle for simplified Gothic revival forms.

As evidenced by its thoroughgoing borrowing from English Gothic parish churches, Grace Episcopal Church exemplifies the strong associations between the American Episcopal Church and the Church of England.⁵ As such, Grace Episcopal is a near-intact example of the small parish church type which had gained considerable popularity in rural areas and small towns in the United States by the 1860's.⁶

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During its 110 year history, the church has served as a focus of religious activity for Episcopalians and as a focus of social activity for the Chillicothe community. From its early years when the church hosted town functions, organ recitals and lectures and housed the town's first gymnasium in the tiny, present-day foyer⁷ to recent years when the facilities were modernized and improved with the remodeling of the parish hall and the kitchen, the church has been an important, integral part of Chillicothe community life.

FOOTNOTES

1. Welles, p. 43.
2. Milbank.
3. Ibid.
4. St. Louis Up To Date (St. Louis: Consolidated Printing Co., 1895), p. 183.
5. Phoebe B. Stanton, The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1968), p. 4.
6. Everard M. Upjohn, Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York: Columbia University Press, 1939), p. 120.
7. Milbank.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bryan, John Albury, comp. and ed. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture. St. Louis: St. Louis Architectural Club, 1928.
- History of Caldwell and Livingston Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1886.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1 acre

Quadrangle name "Chillicothe, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>4513</u>	<u>81010</u>	<u>414</u>	<u>014</u>	<u>51510</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot No. 2, City Block No. 55

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 Edward P. Milbank, Senior Warden

organization Grace Episcopal Church date January 23, 1979

street & number P.O. Box 367 telephone 816/646-0183

city or town Chillicothe state Missouri 64601

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

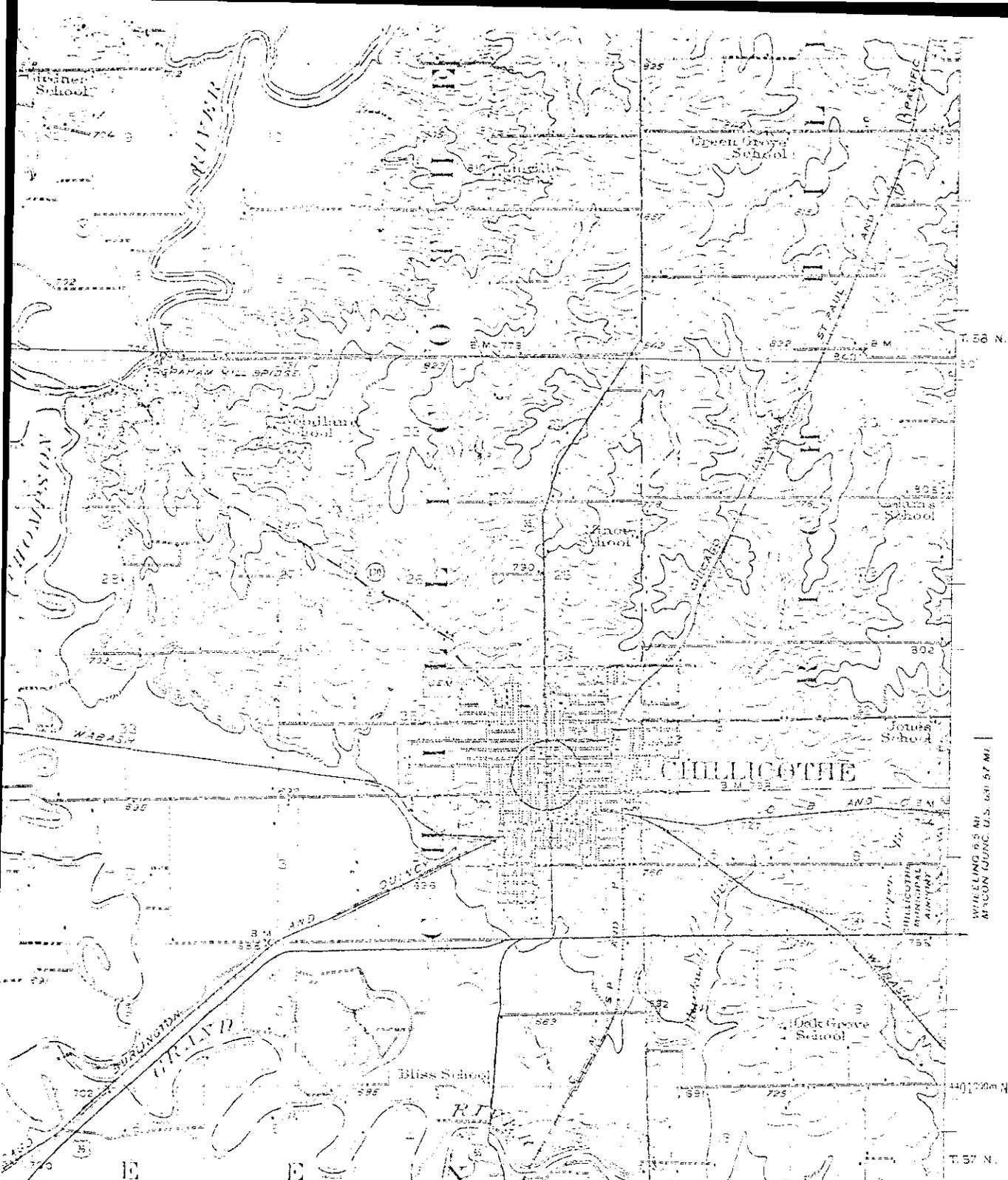
Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register
date

Attest:
date

Chief of Registration



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 421 Elm Street
 Chillicothe, Missouri 64601

U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle
 "Chillicothe, Mo." (1921)
 Scale: 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCE:
 15/453800/4404550

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 POLAR PROJECTION, 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
 10,000-METER GRID BASED ON MISSOURI (CENTRAL)
 RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM
 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID LINES,
 ZONE 15, SHOWN IN BLUE

CHILICOTHE, MO.
 N 39-45 - W 2330/15
 1921

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND BUILDING

#447

COUNTY: Livingston

LOCATION: 421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Mo.

OWNER: Members of Grace Episcopal Church of
Chillicothe, Mo.

ADDRESS: 421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Mo. 64601

DATE OF COUNCIL APPROVAL: April 25, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.: June 30, 1980

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: July 2, 1980

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: September 17, 1980

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR): June 17, 1982 Keith Graf

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Grace Episcopal Church Complex, 421 Elm Street, Chillicothe, Missouri, is significant because it is one of the earliest organized Episcopal parishes in the Livingston County area. As a prefabricated building assembled in 1867-69 after plans by St. Louis architect J. Beattie, the church derives further importance from the architect's able blending of the technological advances of the 1840's and 1850's with architectural design. In addition, it is important as a fine, remarkably intact example of small, wooden parish churches modeled after Early English Gothic buildings.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 1 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the complex from Elm Street, showing
1912 parish hall addition at the left, the
church at the right and the foyer linking
the two in the center.

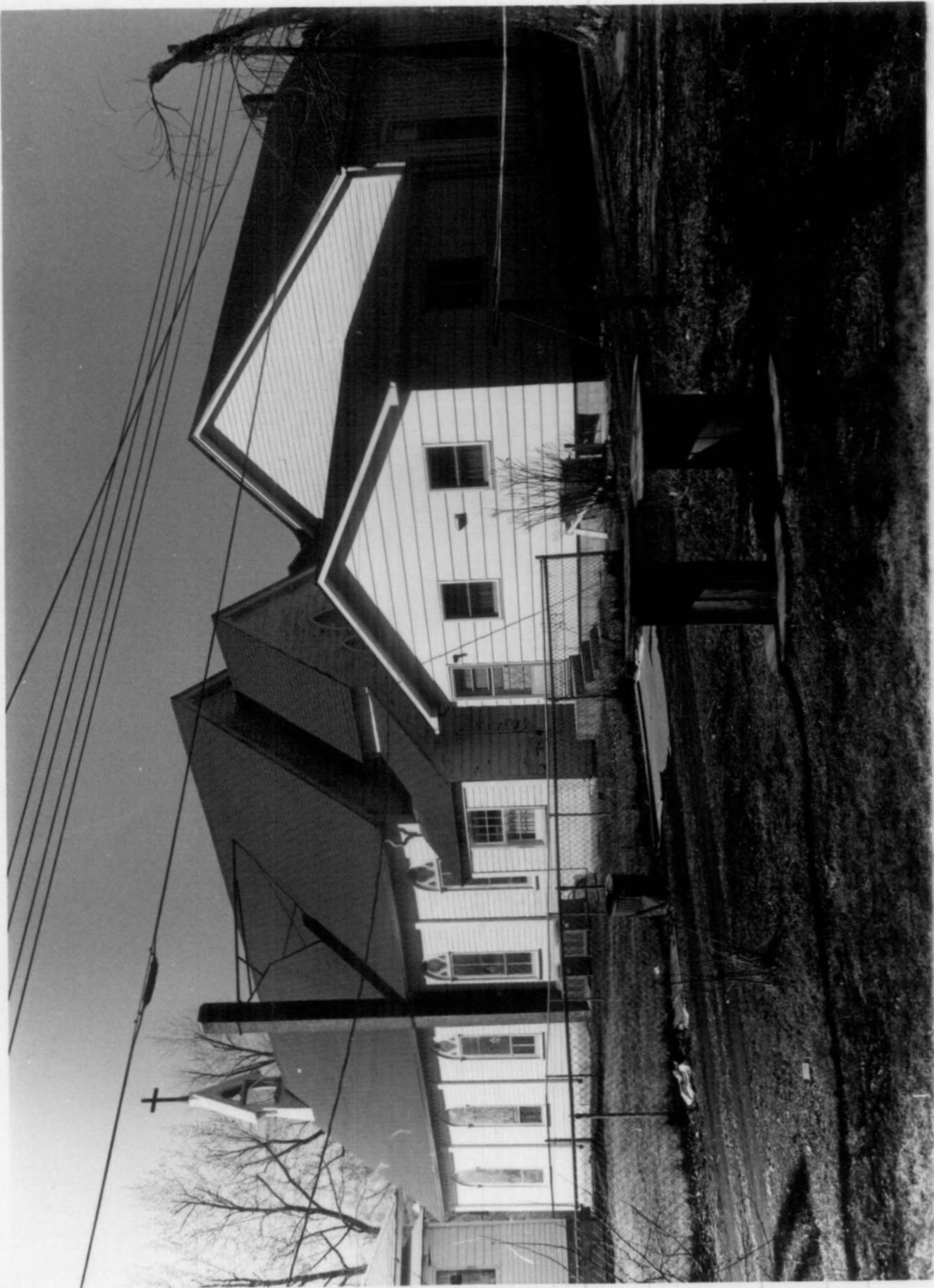


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 2 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the complex from the alley, showing
the parish hall and kitchen at the right
and the church with its separately roofed
chancel and sacristy at the left.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 3 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the primary and southern faces of
the church.

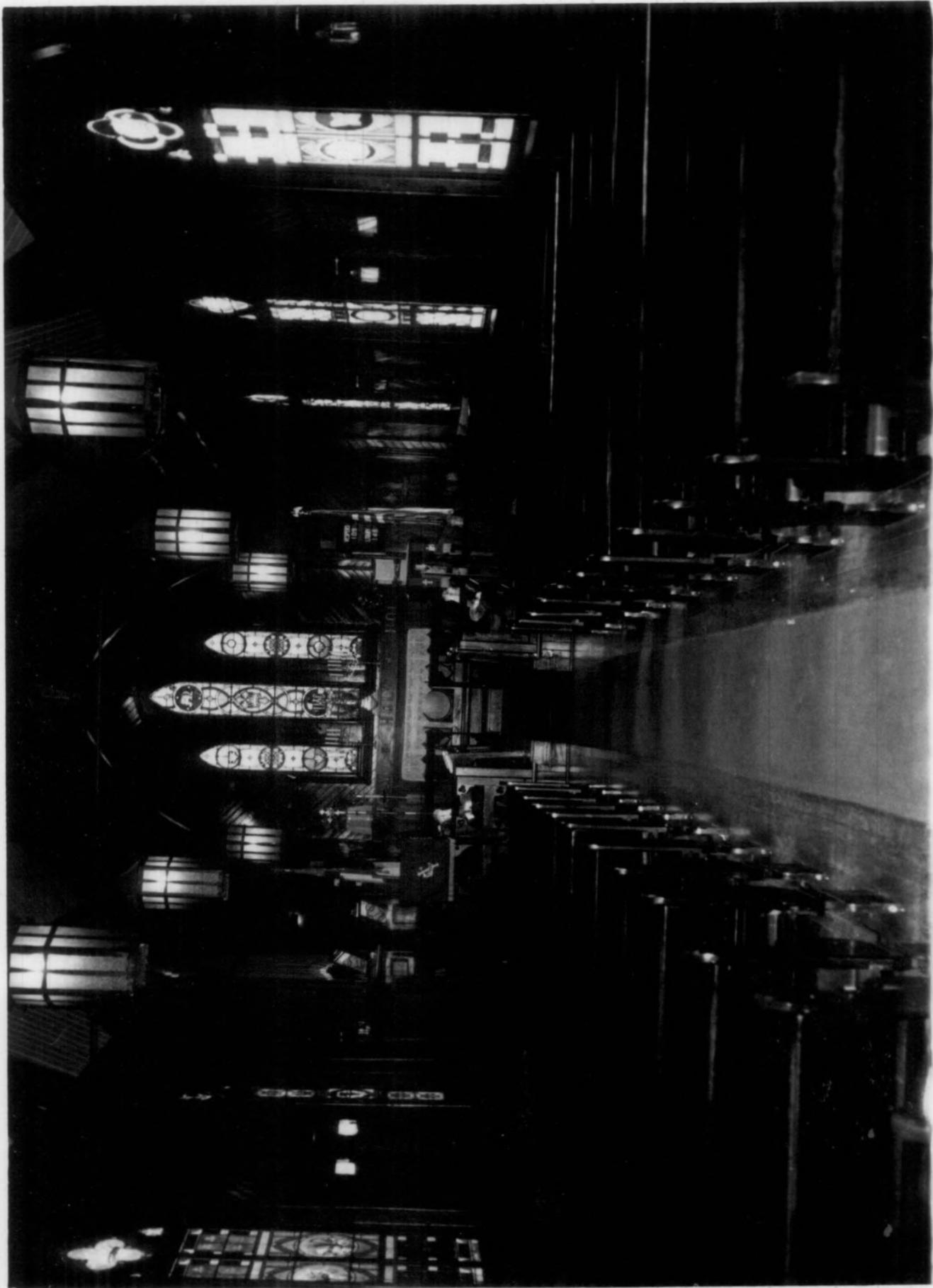


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 4 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the interior of the church looking
toward the altar; shows paneling in herring-
bone patterns, carved church furniture and
art glass windows.

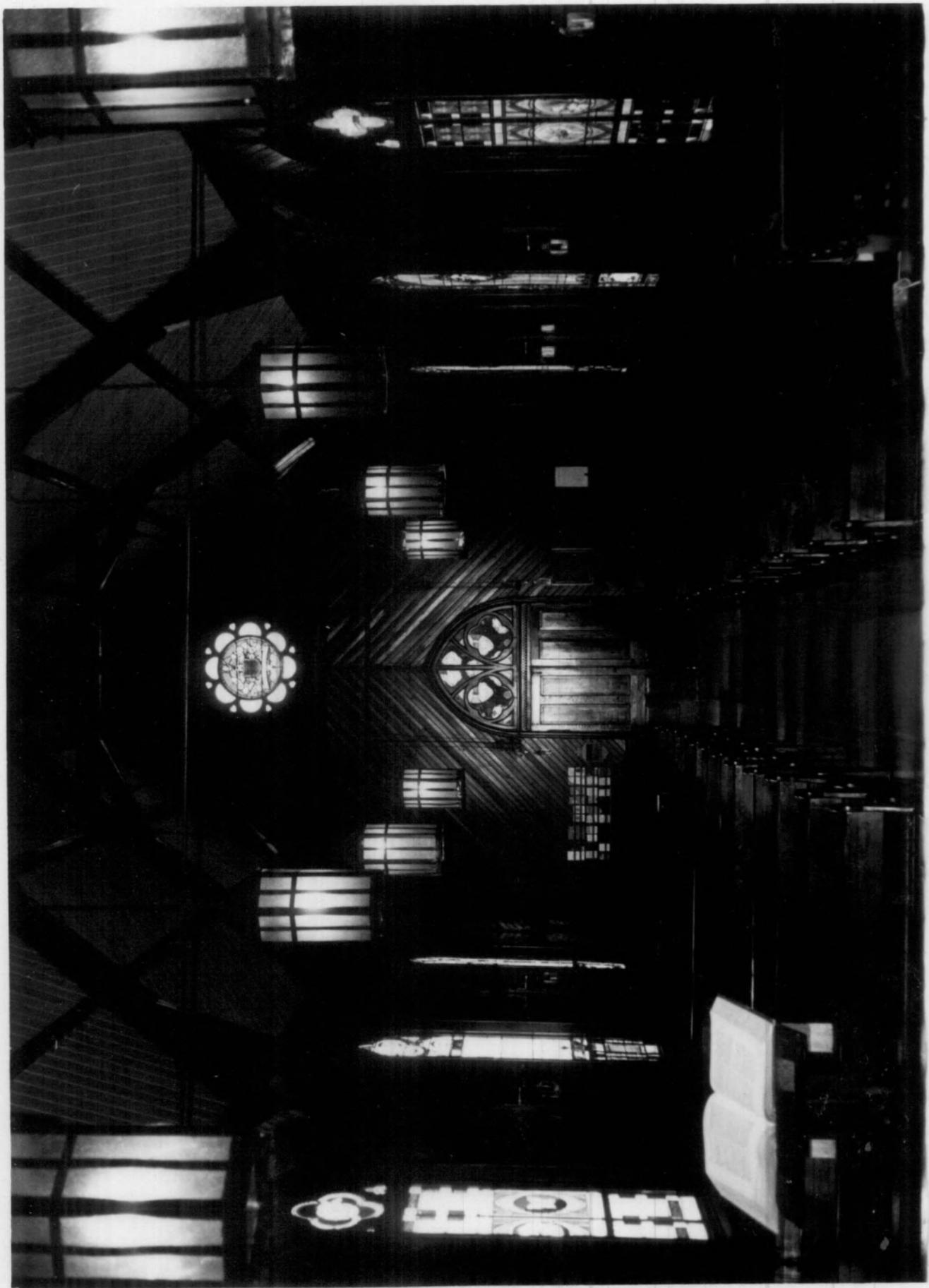


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 5 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
Resources, P. O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

View of the interior of the church looking
toward the vestibule doors; shows linear
patterns created by the paneling, art
glass windows and the English-inspired
braced collar roof.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMPLEX 6 of 6
421 Elm Street
Chillicothe, Missouri

Photographer: Jill Johnson
March 1980

Neg. Loc.: Missouri Department of Natural
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Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Interior view of the parish hall.

