

NR listed 3/5/92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Grace Episcopal Church

other name/site number: N/A CS0027

2. Location

street & number: 614 East Poplar

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wynne

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Cross

code: AR 037

zip code: 72396

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

1-27-92  
Date

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**Arkansas Historic Preservation Program**  
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State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**5. National Park Service Certification**  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
    \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
    National Register  
    \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
    National Register  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic: Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

Current : Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival  
Craftsman

Other Description: English Parish Church style

Materials: foundation brick roof asphalt  
walls brick other stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1917-1918

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>701440</u>	<u>3900340</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line formed by the northern edge of Poplar Street and a line formed by the eastern edge of Garland Street, proceed northerly along the Garland Street line to a point formed by the intersection of said line and an east-west line created by the northern elevation of the church (and approximately one foot from the wall); thence proceed easterly to a point formed by the intersection of said line and a line created by, and approximately ten feet from, the eastern elevation of the church; thence proceed southerly along the eastern elevation line to a point formed by the intersection of said line and the line created by the northern edge of Poplar Street; thence proceed westerly to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the surrounding property historically associated with this resource that has not been subdivided into residential house lots.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 01/08/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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National Park Service

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### Summary

The Grace Episcopal Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building designed in an unusual synthesis of the low, English Parish Church type combined with elements of both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Its plan is fundamentally rectangular, with only the entrance porch at the western end of the southern elevation breaking the symmetry. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the brick walls rest upon a brick foundation covered with stucco.

### Elaboration

The Grace Episcopal Church is a single-story, brick masonry church building designed in an unusual synthesis of the low, English Parish Church type combined with elements of both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Its plan is fundamentally rectangular, with only the entrance porch at the western end of the southern elevation breaking the symmetry. A single, brick chimney rises through the roof at the northeast corner. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the brick walls rest upon a brick foundation covered with stucco.

The southern or main elevation is divided into three bays. The two eastern bays are each filled with a pair of eight-over-one wood sash windows. The western bay is sheltered by a gable roof porch, supported upon two full wood columns and two wood pilasters set upon a concrete stoop and step platform. The wall beneath is accessed via a single-leaf door with Gothic Revival detailing and lighted with a transom. The northern elevation opposite is also three bays in length, with each bay containing a pair of the same eight-over-one wood sash windows seen in the opposite elevation.

The western elevation is two bays in length, each bay containing a pair of eight-over-one windows. A single, stained-glass oculus window ornaments the gable peak above. The eastern elevation opposite is blank with the sole exception of the same oculus window in the gable peak.

Significant exterior details are limited to the gable roof porch, with its sloping wood columns; the concrete lintels and water table that extends around all four elevations; and both the unusual eight-over-one wood sash windows, and the oculus windows in the eastern and western gable peaks.

The interior is substantially intact and displays far more ornament than the exterior. The walls are faced with a darker, glazed brick that frames the windows, door, and wood reredos and altar. The blue, red and yellow coloring of the stained-glass, oculus windows is also striking from within the structure. The wood pews are painted a flat beige with dull green trim, and floors are covered with a wood parquet. Plaster panels separate the wood beams in the ceiling.

The addition of the metal awnings over the western and southern windows comprise the only alterations of any kind to the structure.

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### Summary

The Grace Episcopal Church is the only extant example of the English Parish Church style in Wynne, not to mention the only example that also reflects the secondary stylistic influence of both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Its physical appearance remains unchanged since its construction in 1917 and it is in good condition.

### Elaboration

Wynne's first documented Episcopal congregation met in 1901 in the home of Mrs. Todie Rouse Dunham; presiding was the Reverend C.H. Lockwood, rector of St. John's parish in Helena, Arkansas. Unfortunately, the congregation's records are spotty until 1913, when Archdeacon W.M. Walton held a mission meeting in the Presbyterian church, which the members of that church had graciously loaned for the occasion. This mission resulted in the administration of the sacrament of confirmation to six persons who attended, and thus marked the first formal demonstration of an interest in a more active and established church.

In 1917 Mrs. R.C. White and Mrs. John Harrison travelled to Batesville, Arkansas (then the home of the Bishop for the Diocese of Arkansas) to speak to the Bishop about obtaining assistance with the establishment of a permanent mission in Wynne. Soon thereafter, a resident by the name of Rafe Block donated a lot for a church building on Poplar Avenue. Three employees of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad -- which was in the process of carrying-out an ambitious depot construction campaign throughout its growing rail network -- persuaded the railroad to donate all the brick and most of the other building materials for the new church. Other donations of both cash and materials ensued, and by 1918 the new building was completed.

Grace Episcopal Church was consecrated on June 13, 1918 by the Rt. Reverend James Ridout Winchester, the Episcopal Bishop of Arkansas, and was placed under the charge of Reverend Burke. By 1919, the congregation had grown to 35 communicants, and was admitted into the union of the Diocese of Arkansas. Since that time, the congregation has continued to hold regular meetings in this church, though the number of members has fluctuated over time, presently numbering a total of six families and fifteen communicants.

The Grace Episcopal Church is the only surviving example in Wynne of the English parish church style. This particular subcategory of the Gothic Revival in America drew its inspiration from the small, vernacular, English medieval parish churches which tended to be constructed of rough-hewn, random stone or boulders and which were distinguished from other Gothic designs by their relatively small scale and low, earthbound elevations. These designs were recognized in the late nineteenth century for their indigenous and organic quality, manifested in both design and materials, which elevated them above familiar stylistic traditions and into a separate realm of an original and genuinely creative vernacular tradition; their identifiably Gothic character came only from their use of pointed arch windows and occasional crenelation of the towers and parapets. Otherwise they were understood as a remarkably creative vernacular trend (for several hundred of these structures had survived throughout England) quite distinct from popular architectural styles and which spoke to the craftsmanship and native talent of local builders.

The English parish church style took on other associations when it was embraced by the Episcopal Church of England as the only "proper" style for Episcopal churches. This preference grew out of the perception that this

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native, indigenous English style and its nationalistic associations would distinguish Episcopal churches from other Christian institutions, the Catholic Church in particular. This distinction was especially dear to the Episcopal church in the mid-nineteenth century due largely to the fact that the Episcopalians' split from the Catholic church in the sixteenth century was a decision which occurred not over a difference on substantive issues of dogma or faith but rather over the Pope's refusal to grant King Henry VIII a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, who had not borne him a son -- a son he desperately wanted, largely to avoid the same vacuum of power that had resulted in the Wars of the Roses prior to his reign. Hence the formation of a new church in England was largely a convenience for the King, and virtually all of the architectural and liturgical traditions inherited from the Roman Catholic Church continued without change. By the nineteenth century, however, a pervasive nationalistic sentiment in England began calling for distinctively English forms for the official English church, and hence the adoption of the local English parish church type as a model.

In America, such architects as Richard Upjohn of New York City, who was himself a devout Episcopalian, began both designing Episcopal churches in this style and publicly advocating it as the "proper" style for all Christian ecclesiastical buildings. Naturally, the nationalistic aspect of the appeal of this style was lost on Americans; however, its "propriety" remained dear to Episcopalians, and its purely aesthetic appeal spread to other congregations. By the end of the nineteenth century it had become one of the most popular styles for Christian ecclesiastical structures throughout the United States, from the largest cities to the smallest towns and communities.

The Grace Episcopal Church in Wynne survives as the only local embodiment of this trend, in spite of its other obvious architectural influences. Though it is known that it was constructed for around \$1,700, the identities of the architect (if any) and the contractor have not survived; thus the source of the particular design is not known. However, both the Colonial Revival and Craftsman elements blend well with the low, horizontal aspect of the English parish church style, and, in fact, harmonize well with its overall effect. As such it is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.



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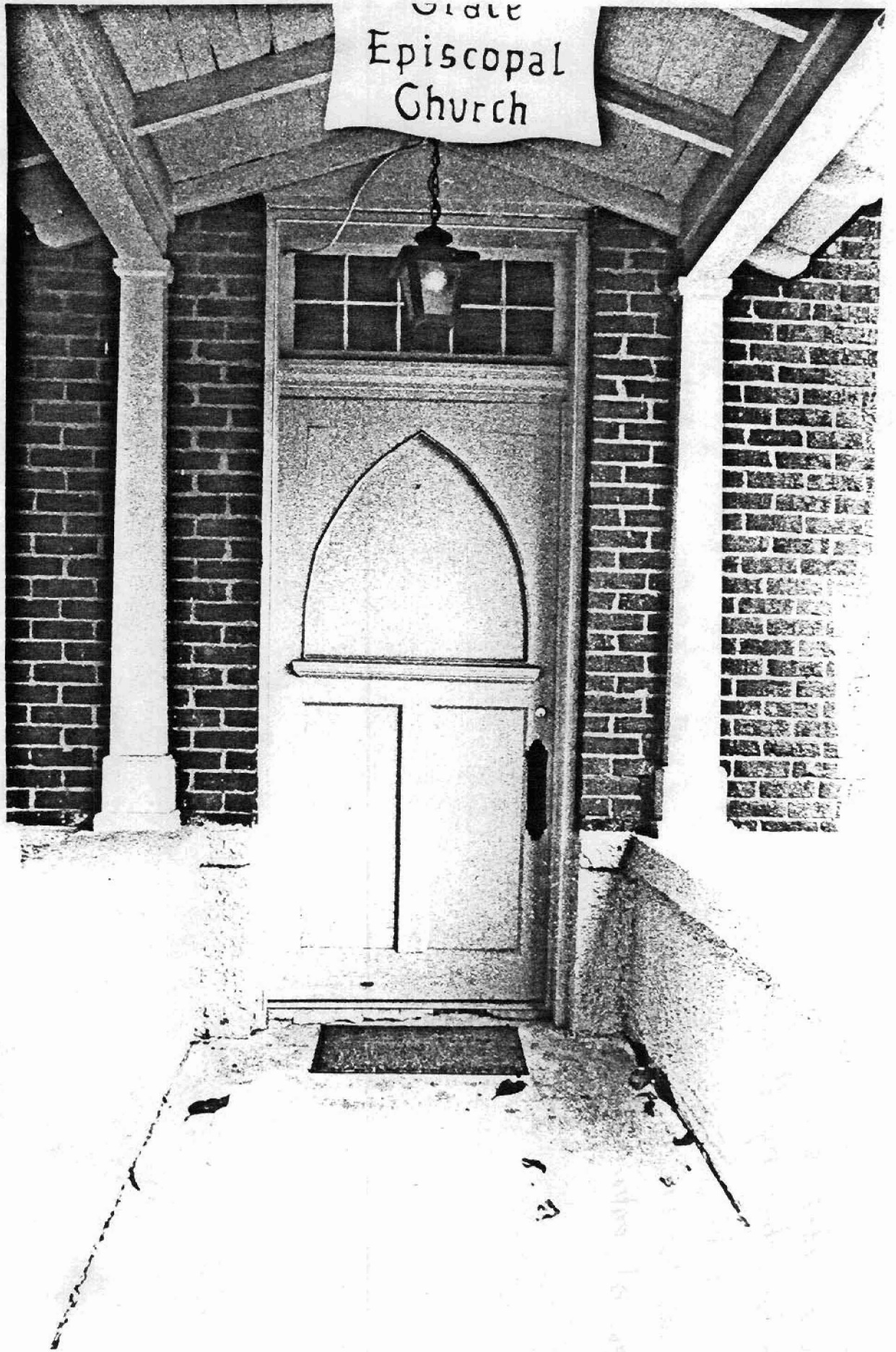
### Bibliography

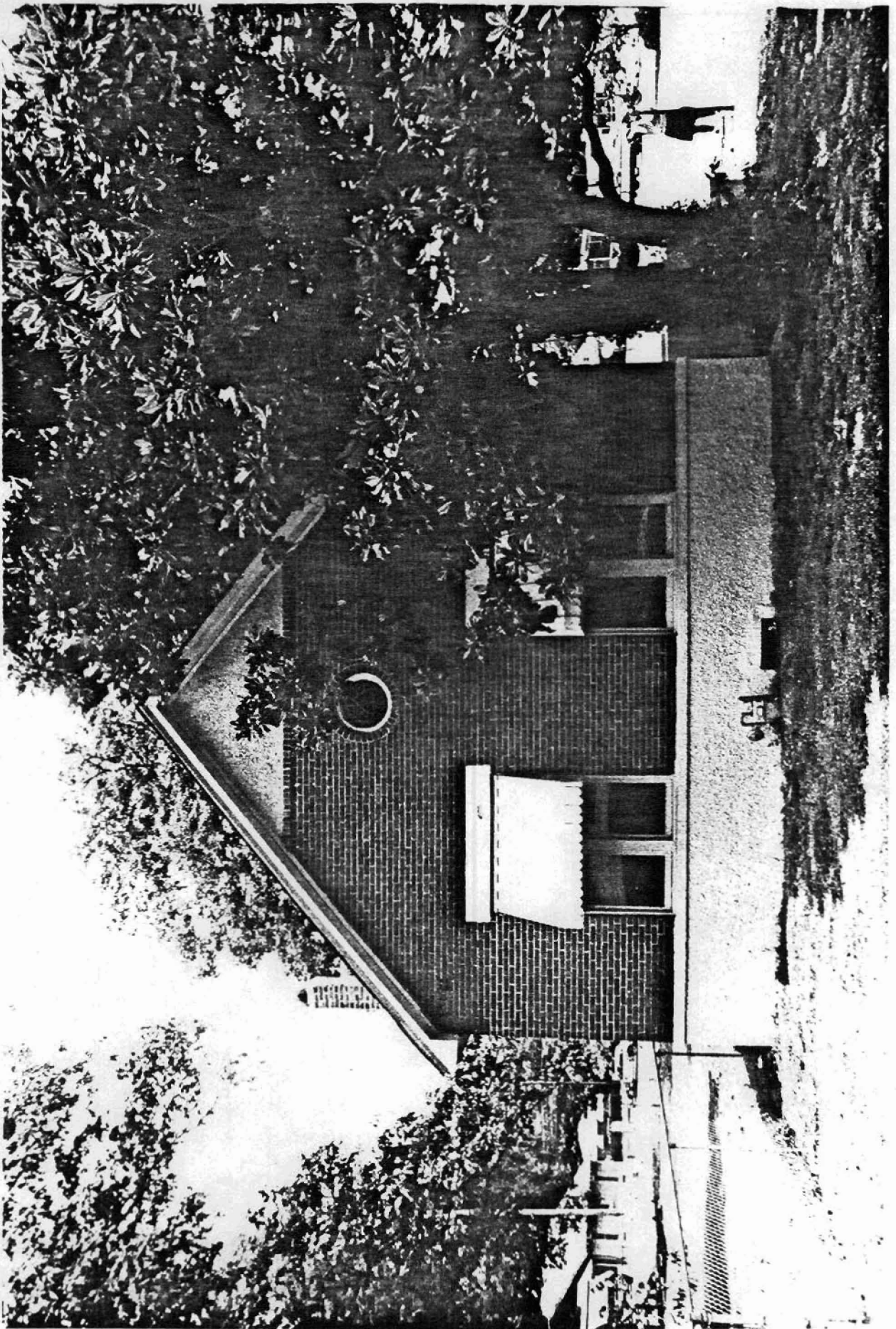
Chowning, Robert W., *History of Cross County, Arkansas, 1955*, (Wynne, Arkansas; 1955), p. 17.

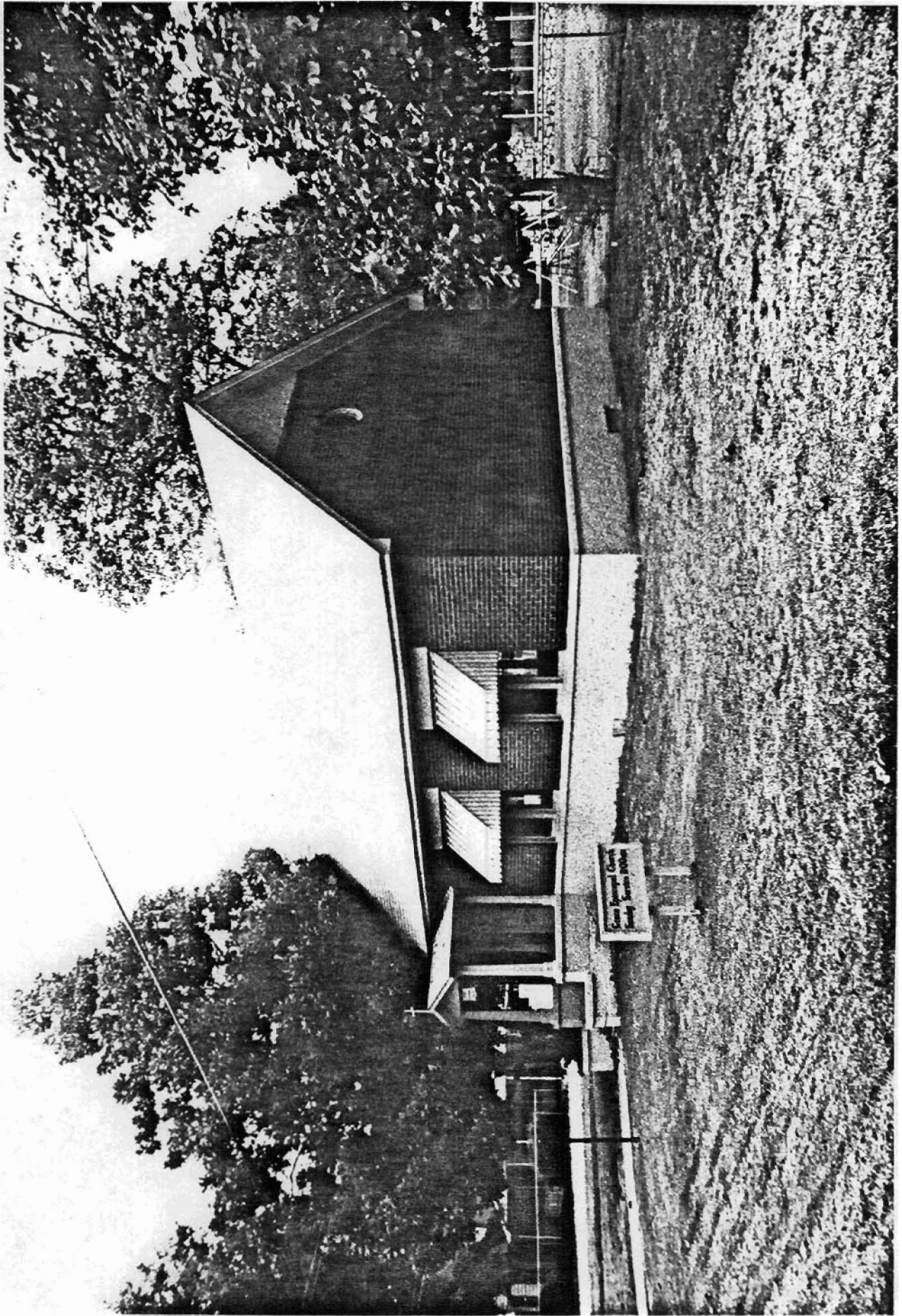
"Grace Episcopal Church -- A Wynne Landmark," *The Progress*, 06/08/77.

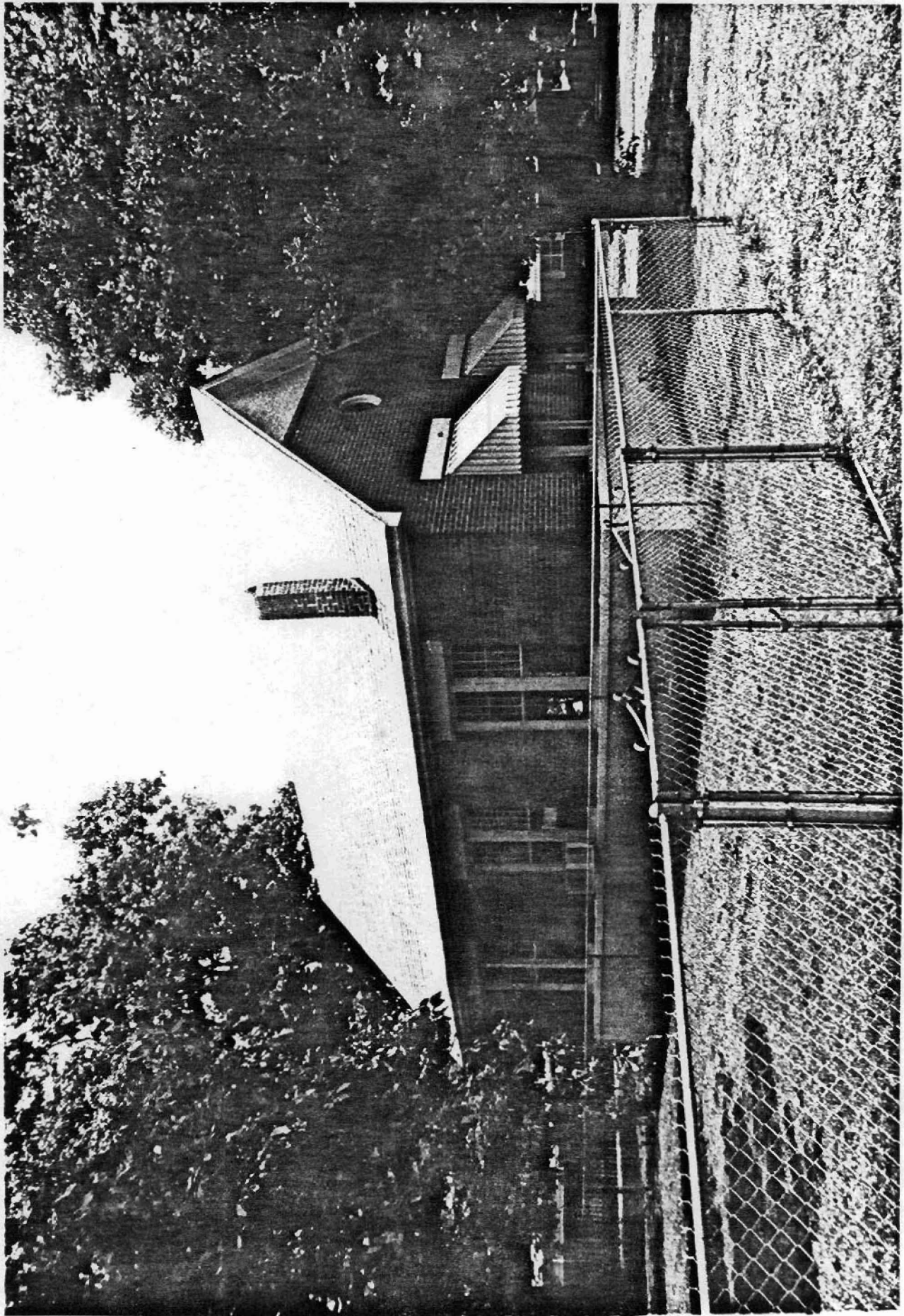
"Grace Episcopal Church One of Wynne's Smallest, But Contains Prominent People in Membership," *The Progress*, 07/14/36.

Old  
Episcopal  
Church

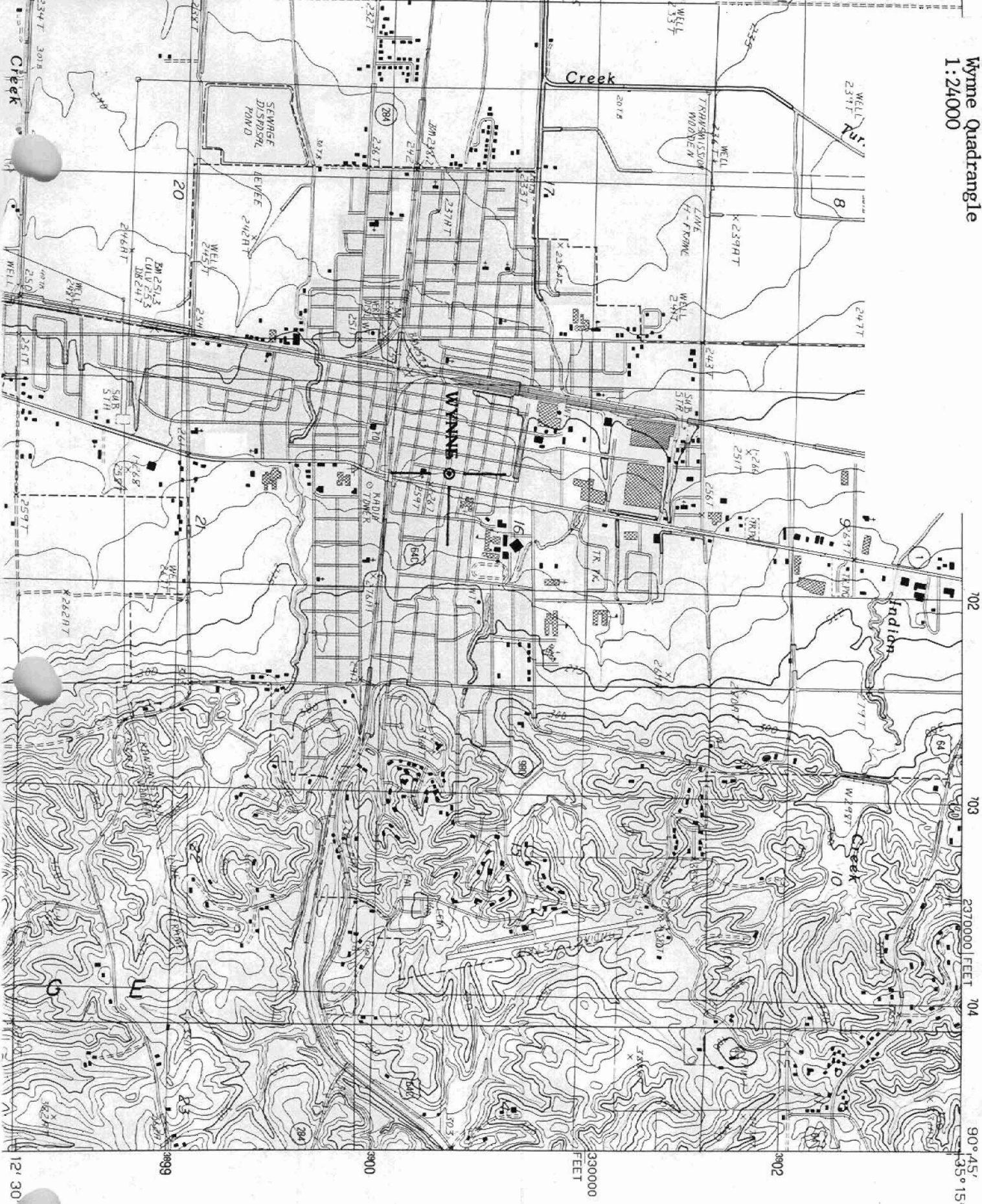








Wynne, Arkansas  
Cross County  
15/701440/3900340  
Wynne Quadrangle  
1:24000



7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

ARKANSAS

90° 45' 15"

103

102

2370000 FEET

704

35° 15'

330000 FEET

3902

3900

3899

12° 30'