

NR Listed 7/23/92

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Trinity Episcopal Church
other names/site number Resource #WH1015

2. Location

street & number North Elm Street not for publication N/A
 vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Boyd
Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

5-13-90
Date

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

5. National Park Service Certification

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof stone/ slate

other glass

stone/ sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B* C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1902-39

Significant Dates

1902

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 15 514610 3901270
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 14 December, 1989
street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Description

Trinity Episcopal Church is a single story, brick, gable roof ecclesiastical building designed in the low, picturesque medieval English parish church style which became especially popular among Episcopalian (nee Anglican) congregations in the second half of the nineteenth century. The original plan consisted of the asymmetrically-placed narthex, nave, projecting chancel, and single northern vestry/organ room. This was later augmented with the attached parish house and connector. The entire structure is covered with a slate roof, is constructed of brick, and rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

The western or front elevation of the sanctuary consists of a single, central monumental stained glass window, with a stained glass rosette window in the peak of the gable end above, and a projecting narthex placed to the north with a gable roof set behind a peaked parapet coped with stone.

The northern elevation consists of the projecting, gabled roof vestry to the east, three bays of the nave in the center, and the narthex projecting to the west. The vestry is lighted with three pointed arch stained glass windows which are placed symmetrically within the gable end and a single central short pointed arch window above. The three nave bays each contain one pointed arch stained glass window and are separated by stepped buttresses with stone offsets. The narthex is lighted with only one short pointed arch window placed toward the sanctuary wall. The southern elevation is only two bays in length, both filled with pointed arch stained glass windows, with the parish house connector occupying the remainder of the elevation.

On the eastern elevation the projecting chancel is placed centrally in the rear gable end of the sanctuary and is of a gable roof with parapet design. A single pointed arch window lights each side (north and south) of the chancel, while three pointed arch window openings (now filled with brick) are placed evenly across the center of the chancel. A single stained glass rosette window is placed centrally above.

The later parish house (c. 1935) is of similar configuration to the sanctuary, it being a gable roof brick structure of the same height and color. The connector between the church and the parish house has a flat roof and is fenestrated on its western elevation with a single pointed arch, stained glass window to the north and a wood single door entrance to the south. The eastern elevation of the connector is blank. The western elevation of the parish house is fenestrated by two symmetrically placed pointed arch, stained glass windows and a single rosette stained glass window in the gable peak above. The southern elevation is four bays long, with three square multi-pane windows placed around the raised entry and access stair so that one appears to the west of the door and two to the east. Two more recent doghouse dormers are placed symmetrically on the side of the gable roof (as are two more on the other side), and three horizontal multi-pane windows which light the basement are placed directly beneath those on the main story. The eastern elevation is punctuated by a basement entry on the southern end (covered by a simple, flat metal roof) and two single fixed-pane square windows in the main story directly above. Another single fixed-pane square window on the main story is placed next to the northern terminus of the gable above, which itself is lighted only by a single stained glass

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

rosette window in the peak. The only alterations to Trinity Episcopal Church have been the addition of the parish house on the southern elevation and the filling of the eastern or rear chancel windows. Also, the parish house originally had a flat roof (like that which continues to cover the connector); the gable roof was added in 1980.

The Trinity Episcopal Church is in excellent condition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Significance

Criterion C, local significance

The Trinity Episcopal Church (Part E, Historic Context #3) is the only surviving example in White County 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 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 his current wife; hence the formation of a new church in England was merely 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 Trinity Episcopal Church in Searcy survives as a remarkably intact and high quality testament to this trend.

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Continuation Sheet

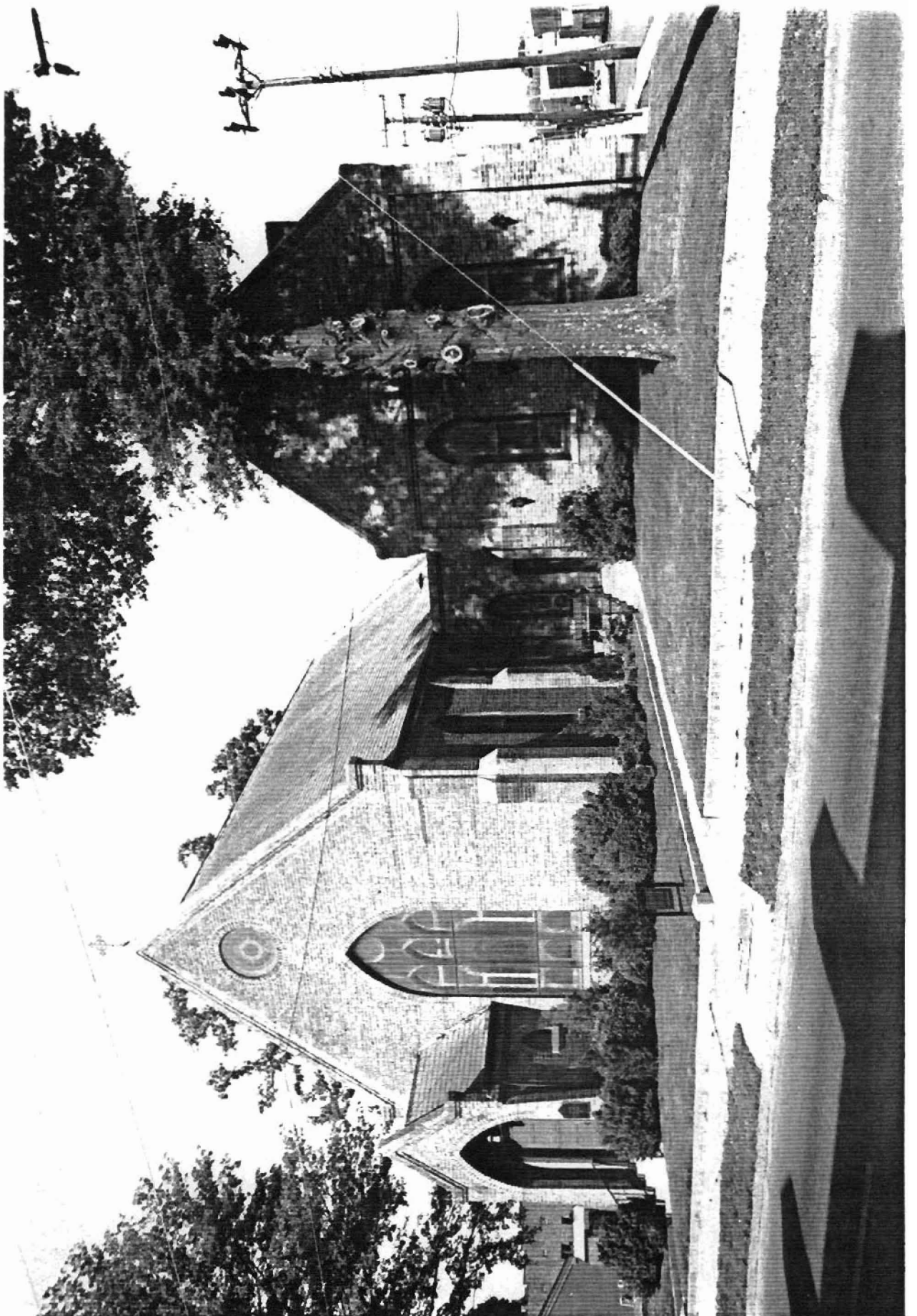
Section number 10 Page 1

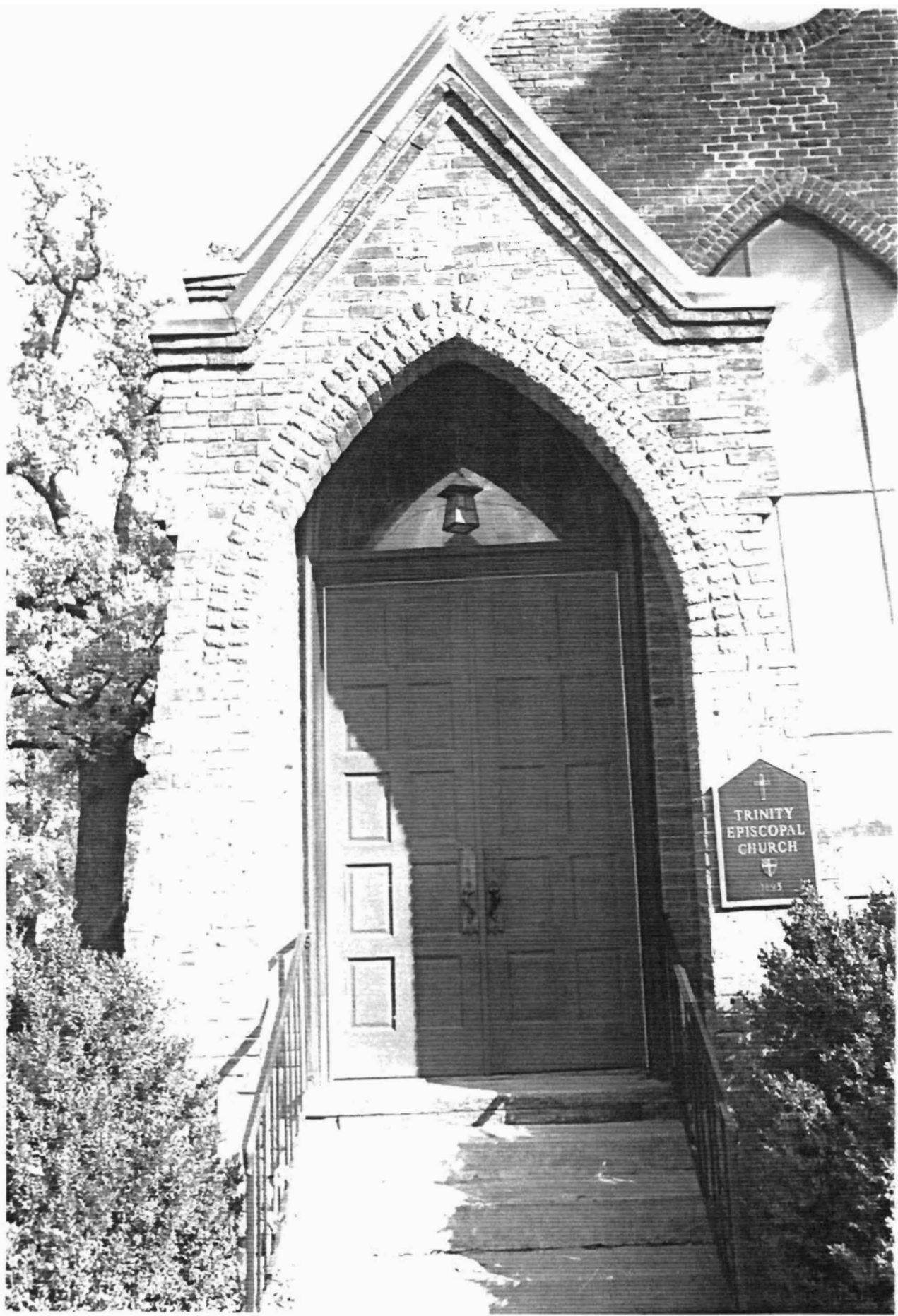
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Market Street and North Elm Street, proceed northerly along the eastern edge of North Elm Street for a distance of approximately 150 feet to the point formed by its intersection with the southern edge of West Arch Street; thence proceed easterly along said edge for a distance of approximately 125 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the eastern elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 150 feet along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of West Market Street; thence proceed westerly for a distance of approximately 125 feet along said line to the point of beginning.

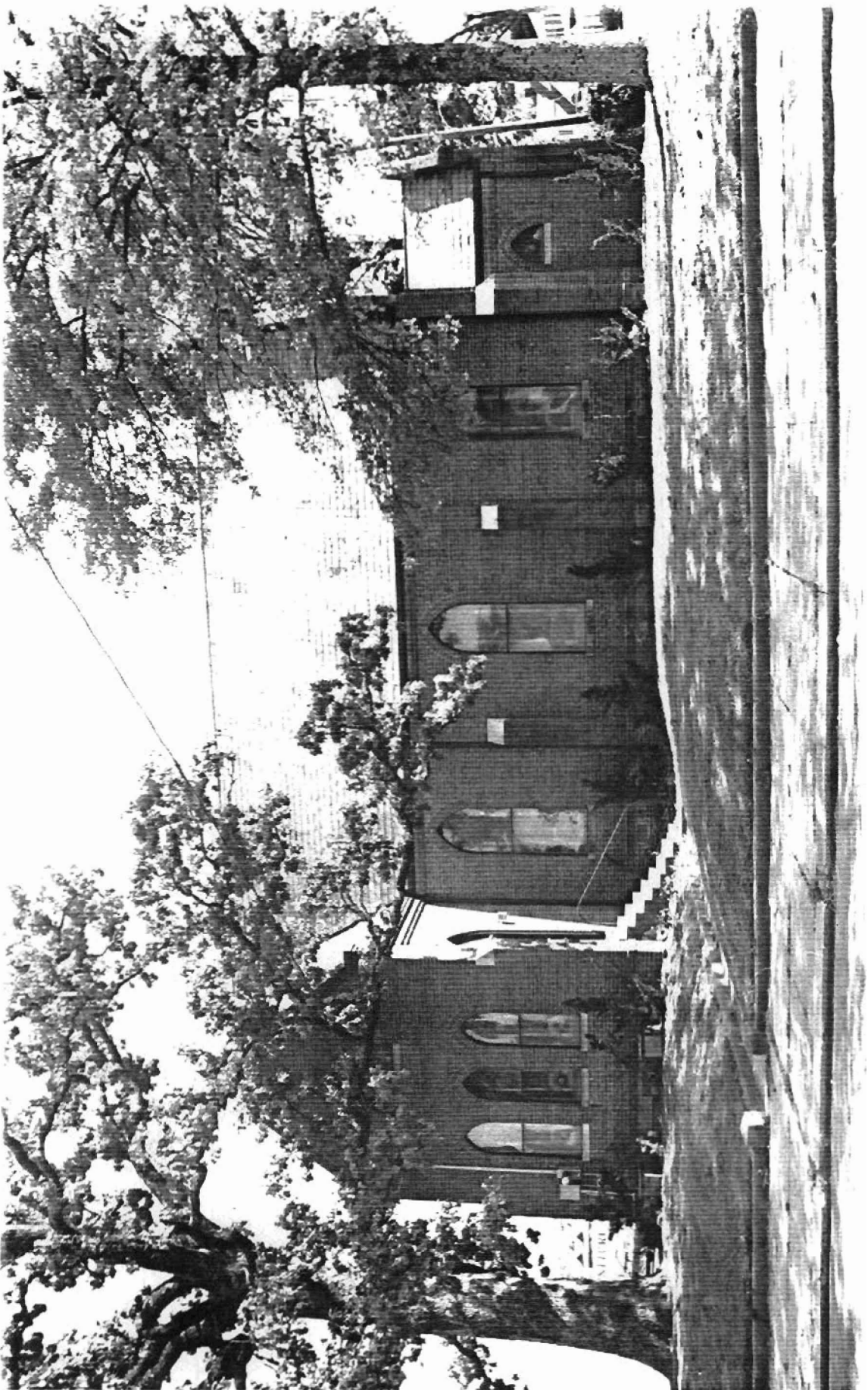
Boundary Justification:

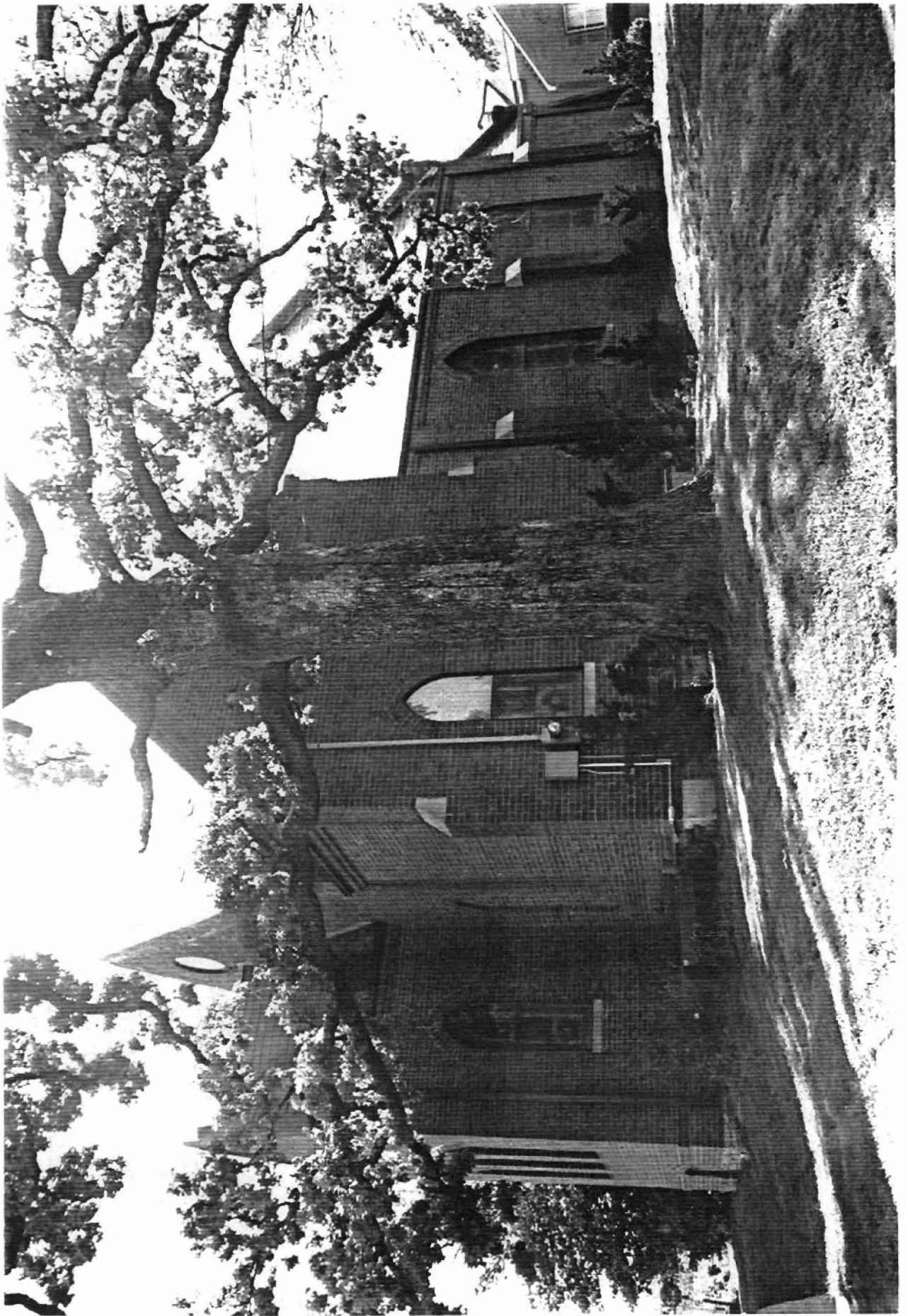
The original lot has been subdivided during the non-historic period, resulting in an indefinite current lot boundary; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

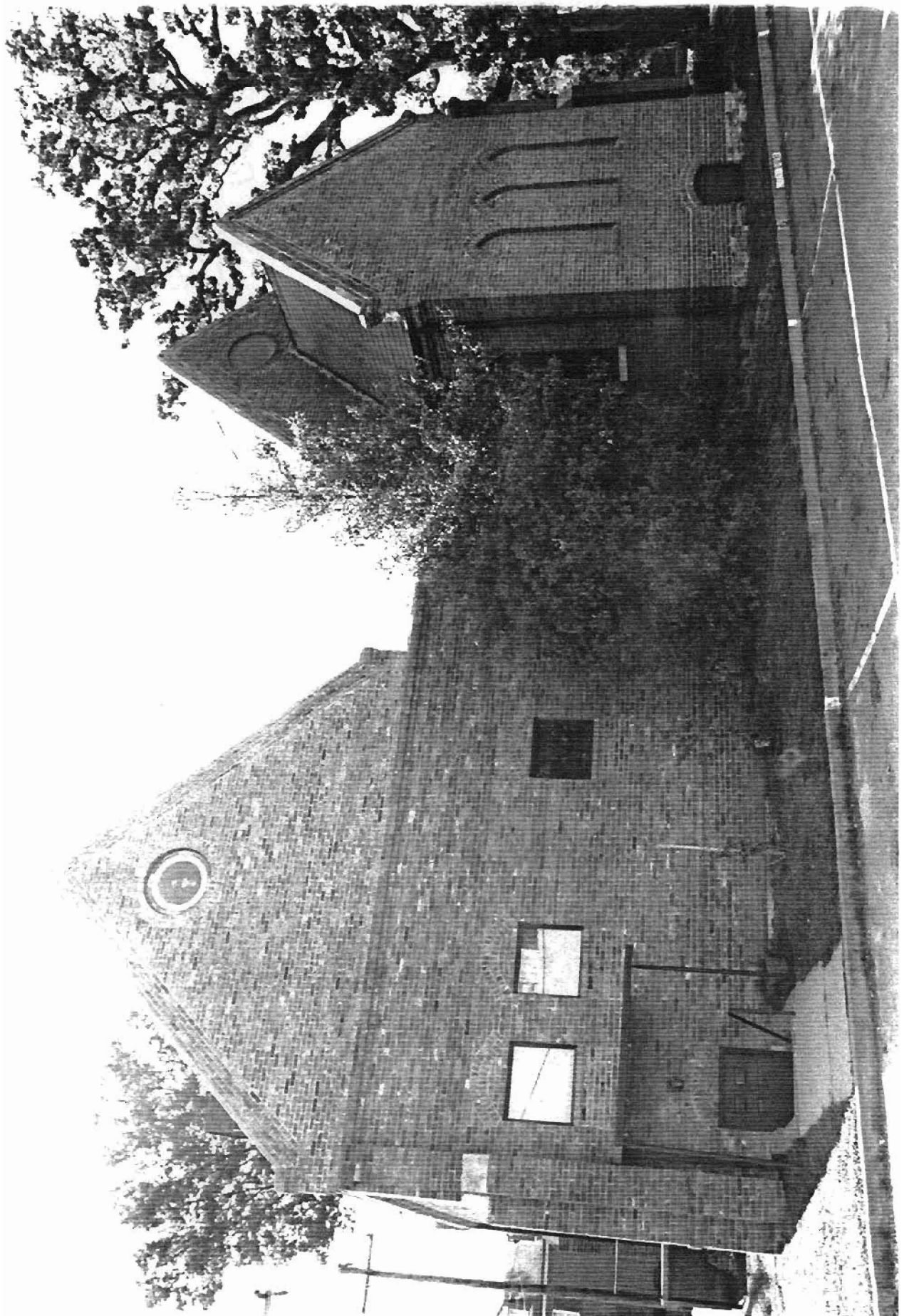


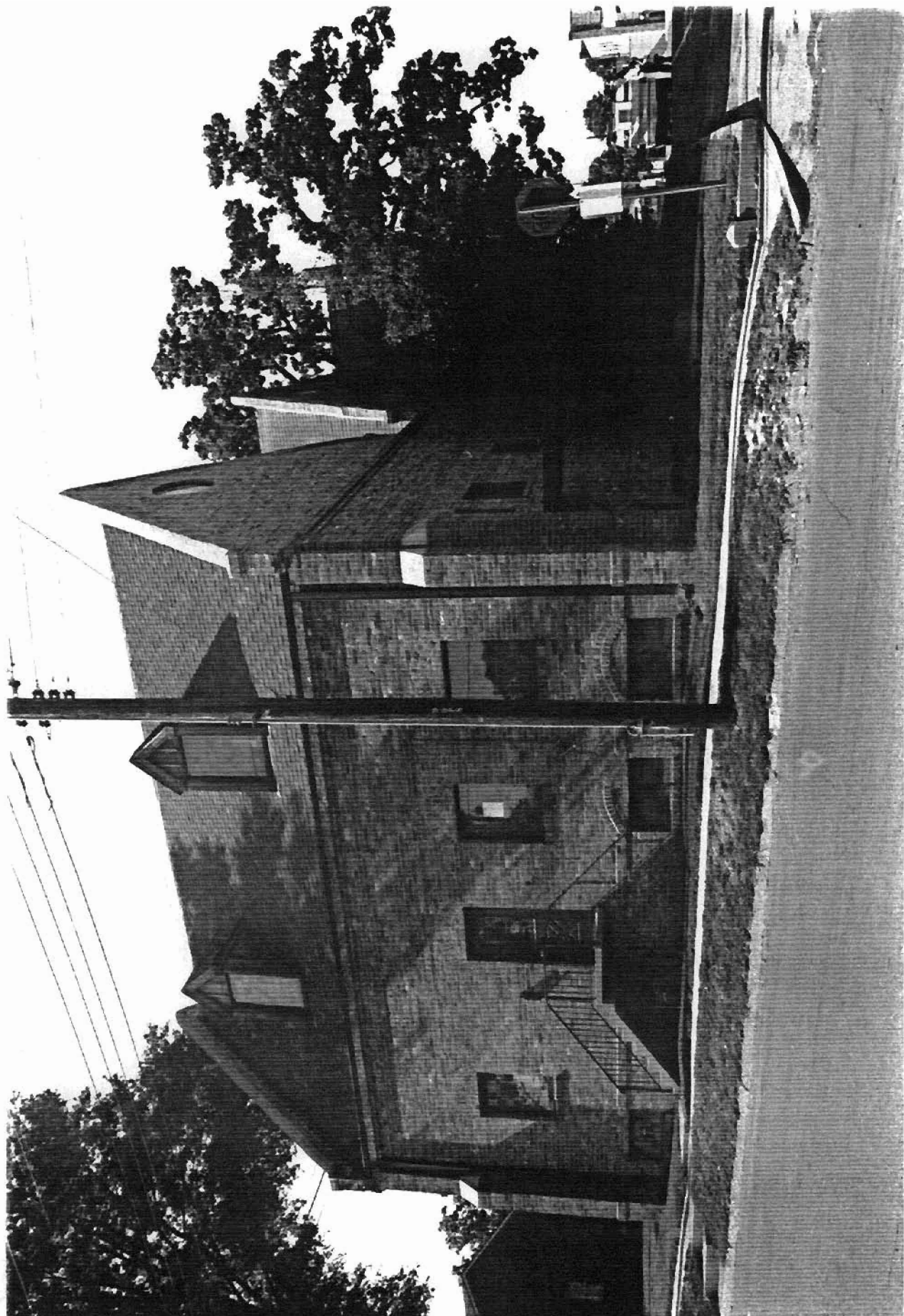


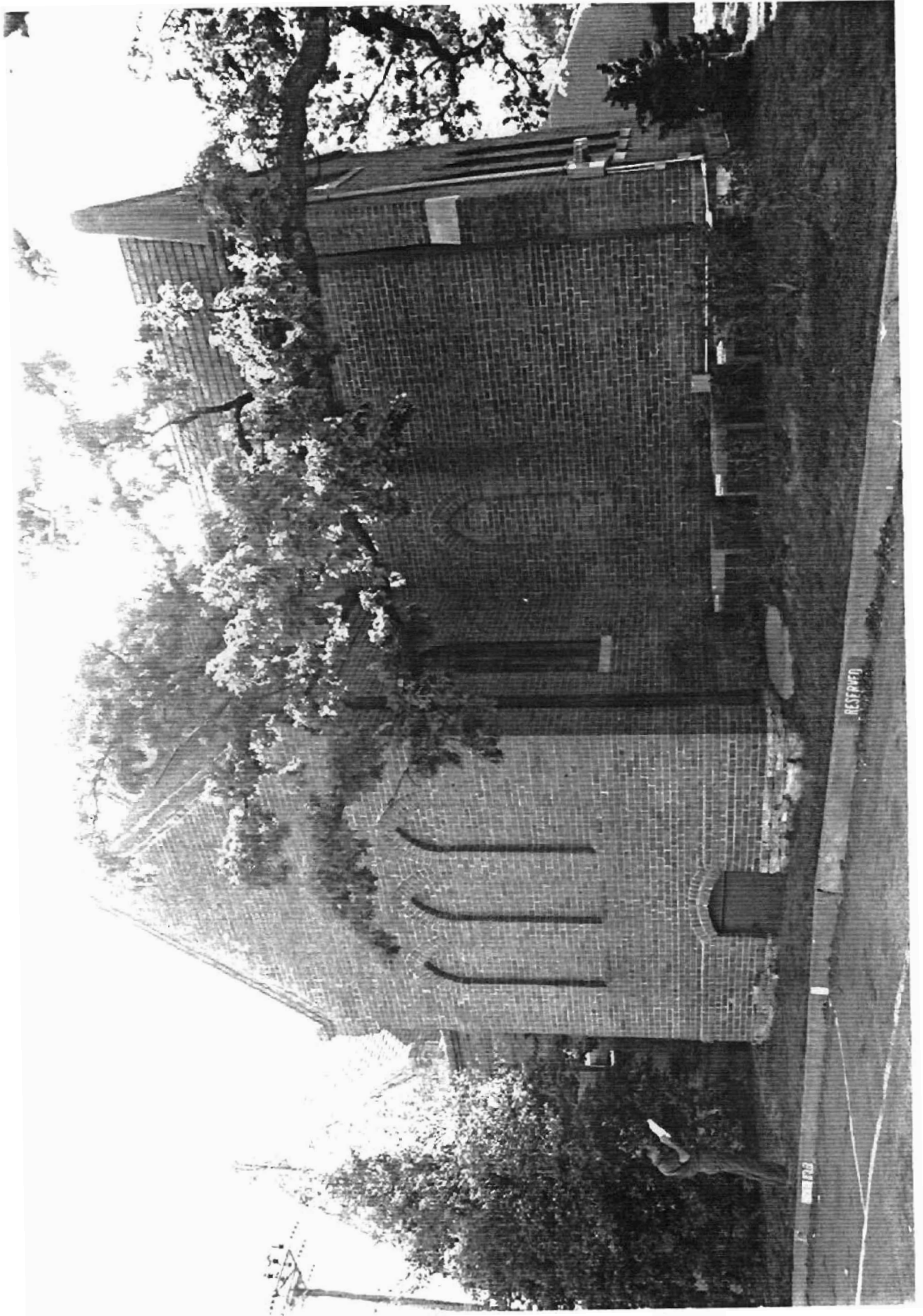
TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
1895











WH1015 WH0037 WH2143 WH0036

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WH1814

WH2080

WH2079

WH2071

WH2286

WH2041

WH2285

WH0023

WH2089

WH2253

WH2181

WH2037

WH2275

WH2237

WH2218

WH2182

WH1999

WH0033

**Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas**

- Resource #
- WH2143: 15/615100/3901230
 - WH2141: 15/615170/3901270
 - WH2079: 15/615610/3901280
 - WH2080: 15/615530/3901280
 - WH2237: 15/614400/3901125
 - WH2037: 15/615020/3901220
 - WH1015: 15/614610/3901270
 - WH0037: 15/614640/3901270
 - WH2182: 15/614645/3900890
 - WH2253: 15/614250/3901170
 - WH0033: 15/614900/3900840
 - WH1814: 15/614325/3901280
 - WH1999: 15/614995/3900470
 - WH2285: 15/613880/3901280
 - WH2286: 15/613950/3901280
 - WH2218: 15/614550/3901120
 - WH2041: 15/615760/3900990
 - WH2071: 15/615710/3901130
 - WH2275: 15/614210/3901120
 - ~~WH2080: 15/615390/3901230~~
 - WH0036: 15/615010/3901280
 - WH2181: 15/614565/3900840
 - WH1290: 15/615210/3895170
 - WH0023: 15/615200/3901170

Kensett Quadrangle
1:24000

