

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name St. John's Episcopal Church
Other name/site number 037-2050-0007

2. Location

Street & number Southeast Corner of Buffalo and Summit not for publication
City or town Girard vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Crawford Code 037 Zip code 66743

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Johnson DSHPO

2-27-09

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Edson H. Beall 4.22.09

St. John's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing		Noncontributing		
1		2		buildings
				sites
				structures
				objects
1		2		total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: second Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Limestone
Walls: STONE: Limestone

Roof: Asphalt

Other: WOOD: Oak

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. John's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1888

Significant Dates

1888

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

St. John's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Crawford County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	3	3	7	1	1	0	4	1	5	2	6	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis

Organization Davis Preservation, LLC Date 10/15/2008

Street & number 909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7 Telephone 785-234-5053

City or town Topeka State Kansas Zip code 66612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Museum of Crawford County, Inc.

Street & number Summit & Buffalo Telephone 620-724-6460

City or town Girard State Kansas Zip code 66743

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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National Park Service

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

Narrative Description

Overall

The St. John's Episcopal Church is located on the southwest corner of Buffalo and Summit, just south of the courthouse square commercial area in Girard (pop. 2773), the county seat of Crawford County, Kansas. There are three buildings on the nominated property: the church, which is used as exhibit space for the Museum of Crawford County; and two metal buildings east of the church, which are used to store the museum's collections.

Exterior

The building is rectangular in massing, with a steeply pitched gabled roof whose ridgeline runs east to west. The footprint measures 30' X 60'; it is 40' tall. The roof is covered with composition shingles. There is a small square vestibule on the northwest corner. The building is constructed of rough-cut limestone laid in regular courses. Gothic Revival features include pointed-arch openings and faux buttresses. The windows have wood frames and original stained-glass supported by wood tracery.

The front (west) elevation is separated into two elements – the shallow-gabled entrance vestibule and the gable end. The main entrance, a pointed-arch door opening, is flanked by faux buttresses. A shallow ramp with metal railing rises to the painted wood double entry doors. The gable end has a large centered pointed-arch tripartite window. This window is flanked by faux buttresses. Above the large window is a small portal window.

A faux buttress on the south end of the front elevation meets another faux buttress on the south (side) elevation to create the southwest corner. The south elevation is divided into five bays. Each bay houses a double-hung pointed-arch window with dressed-stone sill and window crown. The points of the window crowns rise to the abbreviated eave at the roofline. The bays are divided by faux buttresses.

The rear (east) elevation is a gable end with two openings – a pointed-arch tripartite window and partially enclosed door opening. The pointed arch of the door opening has been infilled with stone. The existing, non-original door is rectangular. There are faux buttresses on the north and south. The north (side) elevation is nearly identical to the south elevation, with the fifth bay housing the projecting entry vestibule with a lancet window.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

Interior

With the exception of the entry vestibule, the interior of the church is one large open space. In the vestibule there is a built-in wood cabinet with glass case, the original wood double entry doors and the lancet window. A wood railing divides the altar from the rest of the sanctuary. The stage area houses the altar and the decorative 1917 pipe organ. The altar is centered on the tripartite window on the east wall. The sanctuary is used as exhibit space for the Museum of Crawford County. Although most of the Gothic Revival pews have been removed, one pew and pointed-arch kneeling rail remain. Wood cases flank the tripartite window on the west elevation.

The interior walls and steep vaulted ceiling are covered with historic tongue-and-groove paneling. All the woodwork is oak. The oak floors are exposed. A simple wood base occupies the junction between the floor and the tongue-and-groove wainscoting. A chair rail, which separates the wainscoting from the main wall, sits a few inches above the window sill level. A picture rail sits atop the trim of the pointed arch windows. Whereas the majority of the tongue-and-groove woodwork, at wainscoting and wall levels, runs vertically, the woodwork above the picture rail is set in a chevron pattern above some windows. This pattern is commonly found in Victorian-era architecture, including Stick and Queen Anne homes. This clerestory level rises to the junction between the wall plane and the vaulted ceiling, which is covered with vertical tongue-and-groove wood. The ceiling is supported by exposed joists and truss work that rises from wood brackets at the wall. Ca. 1920s pendant schoolhouse-type light fixtures drop from the ceiling.

Summary

St. John's Episcopal Church retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building's current exterior and interior appearance is nearly identical to its original appearance. It is a unique intact example of a Gothic Revival parish church.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

Introduction

The St. John's Episcopal Church in Girard is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of Gothic Revival Architecture.

A Brief History of Girard

Girard, Kansas (pop. 2800), the county seat of Crawford County, was sited and named by Dr. Charles Strong, a native of Girard, Pennsylvania. According to local lore, Strong marked as the town site the place where a deer he shot fell. Girard narrowly defeated Crawfordsville in a late 1868 election to become county seat. County-seat designation was critical to growing towns in the nineteenth century when county seats were centers of community life in an agriculture-based society.

By February 1870, the town was bustling with 5 hotels, 4 eating houses, 8 restaurants and saloons, 5 grocery stores, 1 wholesale grocery, 1 clothing store, 5 dry goods, 2 shoemakers, 1 saddleshop, 1 drug store, 1 printing office, 1 watch shop, 2 bakeries, 1 billiard saloon, 1 book store, 7 law and land offices, and 2 lumber offices and yards. In all, there were 72 homes and 140 buildings. Many of the town's 260 residents hailed from Fort Scott. Many others were Civil War veterans who populated the state's southeast region in the late nineteenth century.¹

Girard continued to grow after the Missouri River, Fort Scott, and Gulf Railroad brought passenger service on March 3, 1870. Railroads stimulated unprecedented growth throughout the state. Along with fair weather, they ushered in an unparalleled economic boom. By 1880, Girard boasted a population of 1292.² Brick buildings gradually replaced the temporary wood structures – and in 1886, the last wooden building was moved from the town square. Civic improvements included a waterworks in 1893 and interurban lines to Dunkirk and Arma. The town's population had doubled to 2547 by 1900.³

Like other communities in southeast Kansas, Girard became an industrial center, spurred by boosters who raised funds to lure investors. In 1884, Girard Foundry opened for business. A zinc smelting plant opened in 1888. More smelters came to town after the Girard Board of Trade raised

¹ James Shortridge, *Peopling the Plains: Who Settled Where in Frontier Kansas* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1995).

² US Census, 1880.

³ US Census, 1900.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

\$11,000 to lure St. Louis investors. Mining and other industries attracted European immigrants, who were credited for giving the town a "radical" air and the region the nickname "Kansas Balkans."

A progressive community, Girard was at the center of various reform movements. During the 1890s, the *Girard Press* featured a regular front-page column calling for women's suffrage. Industrial Girard was a seedbed for the organized labor movement. While Populist farmers were calling for "free and unlimited coinage of silver," industrial workers called for state ownership of industry in the form of Socialism. Girard became a center of Socialist activity. The Girard Socialists were chartered in 1897, the same year that publisher J. A. Wayland moved his socialist newspaper, *The Appeal to Reason*, to town.

By the late nineteenth century, Girard faced serious competition from the nearby community of Pittsburg, Kansas. Established in 1876 as "New Pittsburg," Pittsburg began as a coal mining camp located on the rail line that linked the industrial towns of Girard and Joplin, Missouri. Soon, industrialists eyed the region's coal for its potential to fuel other industries. By 1883, Pittsburg was home to three zinc smelters and 4000 residents. In 1891, Pittsburg was home to 29 corporations. The town's population continued to grow in the twentieth century, expanding from 10,112 in 1900 to 18,148 in 1930.⁴

Over the years, Girard has successfully fended off calls to move the county seat to Pittsburg (pop. 19,243) by making concessions to their larger neighbor city. Although Girard's population remains steady at 2800, its economy is still tied to industry. Today, Girard is the self-proclaimed "printing capital of the nation," home to five printing firms.⁵

A Brief History of the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church, also known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, is a descendent of the Church of England, or Anglican Church. For over a thousand years England's church operated under papal authority, with kings anointed by the Catholic Church. In 1534, however, after Pope Clement VII refused to grant him an annulment, King Henry VIII severed ties with the Catholic Church and declared himself "Supreme Head of the Church of England." When Puritans collided with Catholics, the Anglican Church declared itself both Catholic and Protestant.

As England colonized North America, the Anglican Church followed. On the eve of the American Revolution there were approximately 400 Anglican congregations in the colonies. Many Anglicans, particularly in the northern colonies, remained loyal to Britain in the Revolution. After the war,

⁴ US Census, 1900; 1930.

⁵ James Shortridge, *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004), 366.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

American Anglicans separated from the Church of England so clergy would not have to recognize the authority of the British monarch.

As the nation forged west, so did the Episcopal Church. The church held its first services in Kansas Territory at Fort Leavenworth in 1837. The first permanent Episcopal church was St. Paul's in Leavenworth, founded in 1856. By August 1859, when delegates met at St. Paul's Church in Wyandotte to establish the Diocese of Kansas, there were 7 Episcopal priests in Kansas Territory.

The state's first bishop, Bishop Thomas Hubbard Vail, was instrumental in guiding the Kansas Diocese through fledgling times. Vail raised funds on the east coast to establish an endowment for his new bishopric. After he arrived in Kansas in 1865, he implemented a strategy to organize churches throughout the new state by visiting and conducting services in every Kansas community. By the end of his episcopacy, in 1889, Bishop Vail had helped establish 138 congregations, three church schools, and Christ's Hospital in Topeka (established 1884, now Stormont-Vail Hospital). By 1901, there were thirty-seven Episcopal parish churches and seventy-seven mission churches in Kansas. The diocese broke ground for Grace Cathedral in Topeka in 1910. Today, there are fifty Episcopal congregations in the state, ministering to approximately 12,000 parishioners.⁶

Gothic Revival Architecture and the Episcopal Church

The Gothic Revival Style was a logical choice for Episcopal Churches as, like the church itself, the style hailed from England. When the first British subjects arrived in the United States, they built their churches in the Gothic traditions that had permeated church architecture beginning in the Middle Ages. In 1632, colonists built St. Luke's Church in Smithfield, Virginia in the Gothic Style. The building is America's oldest surviving English church and only remaining Gothic-Style building.

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Gothic architecture gave way to classical designs. The style made a comeback, however, beginning in the 1830s, when Gothic Revival was promoted by romantic-age cottage designers Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing. High-style church examples, like Topeka's Grace Cathedral, took their cues from the church designs of Richard Upjohn, an English native who designed a number of Gothic Revival churches on the east coast and from the works of John Ruskin and Augustus W. N. Pugin.

St. John's Episcopal Church owes its design to the English parish church tradition, which was revived in the United States through the construction of St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Philadelphia (1846-48), a replica of a Medieval Gothic church in England. Many early Kansas Episcopal churches employed the parish church mode. Among these were St. Mary's Chapel at Fort Riley (1855), Lawrence's Trinity Church (1859), Leavenworth's St. Paul's Church (1863) and

⁶ Blanch Mercer Taylor, *Plenteous Harvest, The Episcopal Church in Kansas, 1837-1972* (Topeka: Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, 1973).

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

Trinity Church in Atchison (1866-68, NRHP). Like Girard's St. John's, all of these early churches were built of native limestone. Character-defining features of Gothic Revival parish churches are massive construction, gabled roofs, faux buttresses, and pointed-arched windows and other openings. Like St. John's, these were initially constructed to house only a sanctuary. The interior of St. John's Church is similar to that of St. George's Church in Wakefield (1876). Both have unique interior woodwork that, in lieu of plaster, conceals the stone construction.⁷

St. John's Episcopal Church

Many of Girard's early settlers hailed from Fort Scott, which had established one of the state's first Episcopal parishes in 1859. Girard Episcopalians met on March 19, 1870 to organize an Episcopal church in Girard. Early on, the parishioners met at the Girard schoolhouse and at the Presbyterian Church. In 1873, the budding congregation purchased the property at the corner of Summit and Buffalo from C. J. Hawley, with the intention of constructing a new church. For years the congregation held services in a house on the site. Reverends Beattie and D. W. Coxe, priests serving the Episcopal congregation at Fort Scott, ministered to the parishioners, preaching once a month, until 1879, when the parish obtained its permanent minister, Reverend George P. Coming of Hannibal, Missouri.⁸

Church members raised funds from eastern congregations and fundraisers, including a "kermis" or outdoor carnival at Painton's Hall. By the mid-1880s, the parish had raised the funds necessary to construct a permanent church. The congregation purchased 2100 pounds of stone from a stone quarry on the property of George Priestly, southwest of town, began construction in 1886 and completed the building in 1888 at a cost of \$4230.16. They ordered stained glass windows from St. Louis. Among the few changes the congregation made to the church over time was the addition of a pipe organ in 1917. The organ was built by Vogel-Barker-Cisler Company of Marietta, Ohio and donated by Harriet Nye Town of Marietta, Ohio.

By 1972, St. John's was no longer identified by the Kansas Episcopal Diocese as an active church.⁹ The Museum of Crawford County purchased the building in 1975 in order to preserve it. Since then, the organization has used the building to exhibit its collections. In 1983, the museum constructed two metal buildings to house its larger artifacts.

⁷ Ibid; John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, *What Style is It: A Guide to American Architecture* (New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2003), 46-53.

⁸ Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc. ...* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912).

⁹ Taylor, 149.

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

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St. John's Episcopal Church
Crawford County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

St. John's Episcopal Church is located in Lots 15 and 16 in Block 13 of Girard's Original Town Plat.

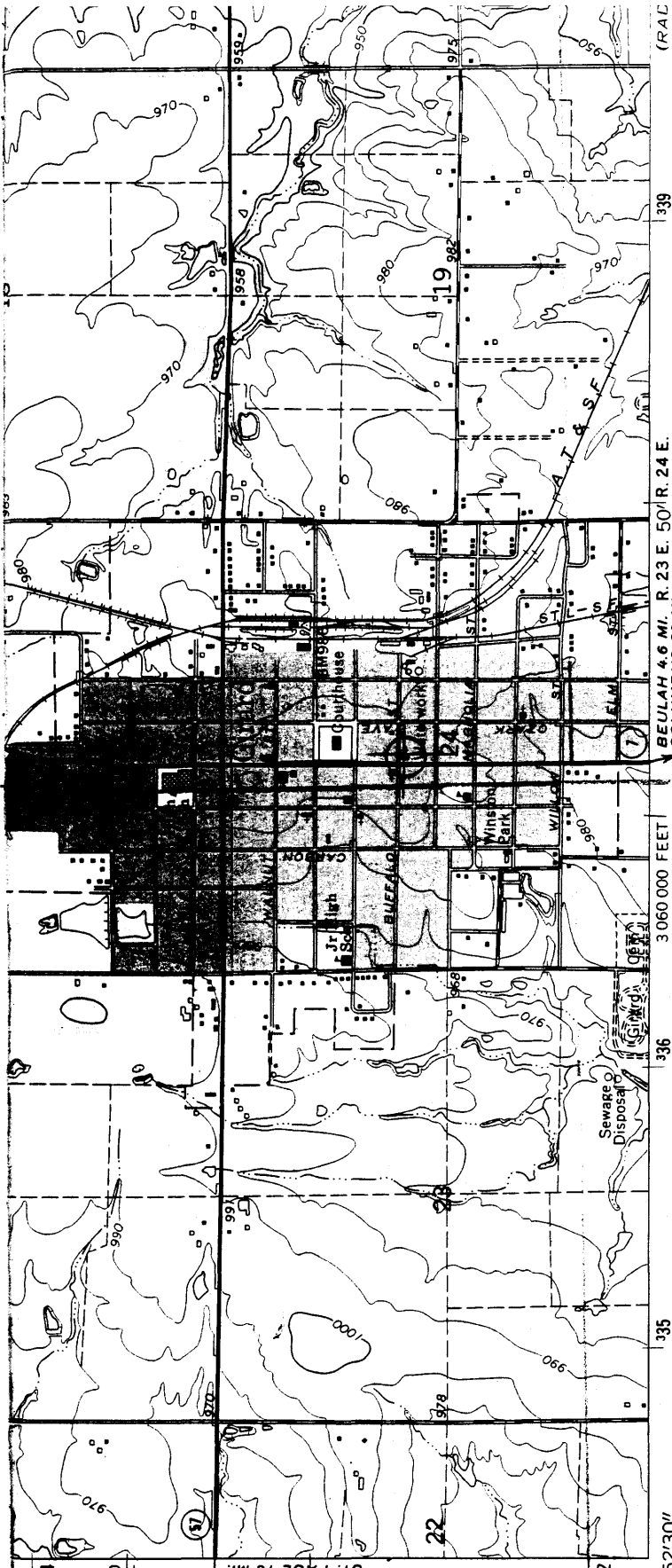
Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the property on which the church sits.

Photo Log

All photographs were taken by Christy Davis on July 14, 2008.

1. Exterior, West (Front) Elevation, Looking Northeast.
2. Exterior, South (Side) Elevation, Looking Northwest.
3. Exterior, East (Rear) Elevation, Looking Southwest.
4. Exterior, North (Side) Elevation, Looking Southwest.
5. Interior, Vestibule, Looking West at entry doors.
6. Interior, Sanctuary, Overall View, Looking East.
7. Interior, Sanctuary, Overall View, Looking West.
8. Interior, Sanctuary, Tongue-and-Groove Wall Covering.
9. Interior, Sanctuary, Pipe Organ.
10. Interior, Sanctuary, Close-up of Stained Glass Window.
11. Interior, Sanctuary, Pew and Kneeling Rail.
12. Interior, Sanctuary, Wainscotting.
13. Interior, Vestibule, Lancet Window.



St. John's
 Episcopal Church
 Crawford Co, KS
 15: 357110
 4152 600

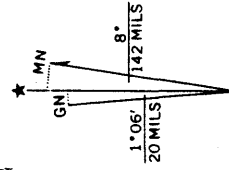
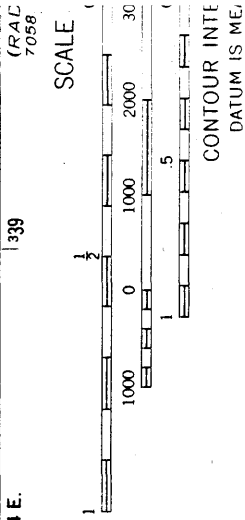
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Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, south zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIC
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEN
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(CHEROKEE 1:62,500)