

60-46-400-23

NR 5-13-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**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 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
310 WEST 17th

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
LITTLE ROCK

VICINITY OF

2

STATE
ARKANSAS

CODE
05

COUNTY CODE
PULASKI 119

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 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL PARISH

STREET & NUMBER
310 WEST 17TH (~~CHARLES A. HIGGINS, DEAN~~)

CITY, TOWN
LITTLE ROCK

VICINITY OF

STATE
ARKANSAS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
LITTLE ROCK

STATE
ARKANSAS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Trinity Cathedral is a single-story, common-bond brick structure of Gothic style, with the main section a cruciform. The building is asymmetrical, having an engaged spherical baptistry at the left of the west elevation and a square two-story engaged corner tower on the right.

Triangular dormers emerge from the high gable roofs that cover the nave and transepts, while a hipped roof caps the tower. Drop-arch gable porches provide entrances to the west end of the nave and to the tower on the south.

The pointed-arch windows signify the universal feature of Gothic architecture. The central motif of the west elevation is a drop-arch window with round trefoil tracery. Large north and south transept windows also have drop-arches but with intersected tracery. Smaller lancet-arch windows without tracery are located at various locations throughout the building. Small-eye windows are employed directly beneath the gables of the nave and transept and in the centers of the two exposed sides of the tower. Stained glass is used in all of the windows to create colorful pictorial representations of religious ideas.

The Gothic quality of the Cathedral is further developed by the buttressed masonry walls. Buttresses are built against the walls of the church in strategic locations, and angle buttresses meet at right angles at the corners of the tower.

The nave of the Cathedral was completed in 1884 with the crossing and transepts built in 1889. In 1924 a chapel was added at the northeast, right-angular intersection of the nave and transept. The chapel is a small room, and light enters through three pairs of small lancet-arch windows.

The chancel altar, which has a large wood carving of Christ as its center, was given to the church as a memorial in 1924. The original altar was removed and placed in the chapel that same year.

Trinity Cathedral is in an excellent state of preservation. The interior and exterior blend with Gothic harmony as an example of a type of architecture that has enriched Arkansas.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-1499	<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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural composition and events relating to its construction make Trinity Cathedral an important historical feature of religious growth in Arkansas. As the Episcopal Bishop's first official chair of authority in Arkansas, Trinity Cathedral was organized and built to become the principal church of the Arkansas Episcopal diocese.

Construction of the church was largely the responsibility and achievement of its founding Bishop the Right Reverend Henry Niles Pierce. When Pierce was elected the fourth Missionary Bishop of Arkansas and the Indian Territory in 1870, he set out to establish religious order in the undeveloped Arkansas.

After nine years of service as a missionary bishop, Pierce recognized the need for a cathedral at Little Rock and approached the people of Christ Church about assuming cathedral responsibilities. They declined the offer; so he set out to single handedly raise the money to build a cathedral.

Contributions for the cathedral came in small amounts, with the largest single contribution in the amount of \$250.00. In 1882 Pierce had enough money to buy land at the corner of 17th and Spring Streets, and construction started two years later. The plans for constructing the building came from Pierce's son, the Reverend A. W. Pierce, and the responsibility for the task of construction was placed in the hands of master-builder Ambrose Pettefer.

By October, 1884, the first section of the church was completed, consisting of the nave, tower, and baptistry. The east end of the structure was boarded up at the crossing leaving only a small entrance there, and the altar was placed on a raised, improvised chancel under the west window.

In the spring of 1889 the crossing and transepts were completed, and the altar was moved to the north transept wall. Due to a lack of funds, Pierce was unable to finalize construction on the chancel until 1892 when the altar was at last moved to its proper place in the east end of the building. It had taken Pierce thirteen years to realize the fruits of his labor.

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A major addition to the church came in 1924 when Pierce's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Lyman, gave the chapel in her father's memory. The chapel is attached to the northeast intersection of the transept and nave walls; it completed the embodiment of the structure of the cathedral.

Trinity Cathedral has served the Arkansas Episcopal diocese as the bishop's official seat since it was built in 1884.

The single-story common-bond brick structure was the chair of authority for directing the growth of the Episcopal denomination in Arkansas. The asymmetrical building with engaged baptistry and two-story corner tower has sustained structural strength and solidarity as it provided shelter for the many religious services taking place in it for 91 years.

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Architecturally Trinity Cathedral is significant in that it is possibly Arkansas' best preserved example of "Band-saw" or "Jig-saw" Gothic. In Trinity Cathedral central Arkansas' early artisans recreated virtually every medieval form, not with chisel and stone however; but with band-saw and clear pine.

The cathedral is the traditional cruciform plan with its transepts ascending to full nave height at the crossing. The nave is framed with wood beams trimmed with bent pine planks and molding to resemble the towering stone and carved wooden arches of larger more costly cathedrals. Sawn wooden brackets over the side-aisles at each column bay are extended to give the illusion of flying buttresses.

The cathedral is dimly lit and all wood is darkly stained. Light streams down from above through six lancet clerestory windows above the intersection of the side aisle and nave.

Above the chancel to the east and over the main entrance to the nave from the west are large drop-arched windows with round trefoil traceries. North and south transept windows also have drop arches but with intersected tracery. Smaller lancet arch windows are located throughout the building. Small eye windows are employed directly beneath the gables of the nave and transepts and in the centers of the two exposed sides of the tower. Stained glass is used in all of the windows to create colorful pictorial representations of religious ideas. The chancel altar, which has a large wood carving of Christ, was given to the church in 1924. The original altar was removed and placed in the smaller chapel.

The exterior is dark brown brick laid in common bond with brick buttressed walls. The building is asymmetrical, having an engaged spherical baptistry at one side of the nave and a two-storey engaged tower to the other. Dormers emerge from the nave roof at each clerestory window.

The interior and exterior blend with Gothic harmony. Trinity Cathedral is in an excellent state of preservation, and is an fine example "Band-saw Gothic" religious architecture in Arkansas.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC TRINITY CATHEDRAL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN LITTLE ROCK VICINITY OF COUNTY PULASKI STATE ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

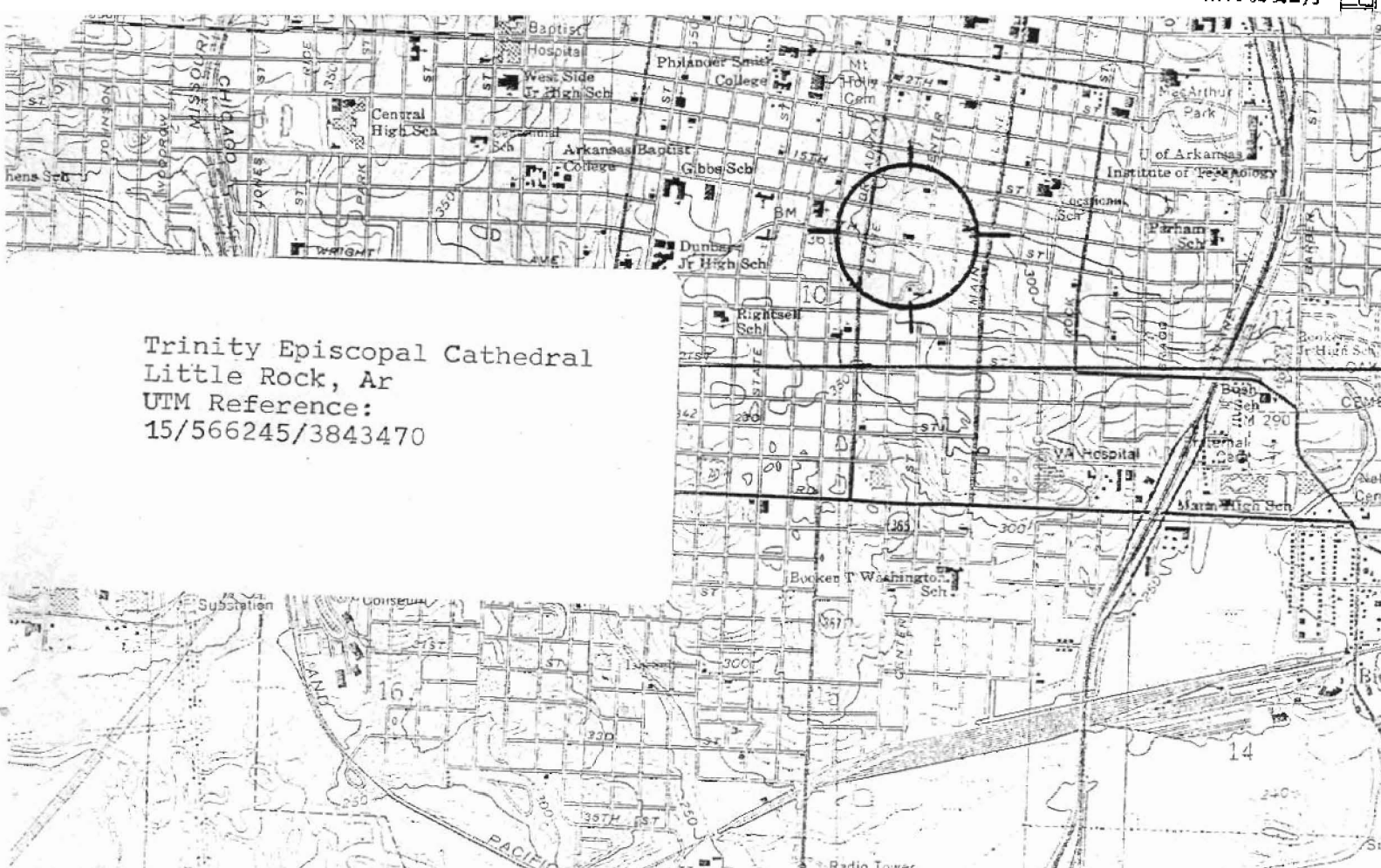
SOURCE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1962

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Little Rock, Ar
UTM Reference:
15/566245/3843470

INT: 3454-75

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brown, John H., and Speer, William, ed. Encyclopedia of the New West. Marshall, Texas: U. S. Biographical Publishing Company, 1881.
- Cantrell, Ellen H., Comp. The Annals of Christ Church Parish of Little Rock, Arkansas from 1839 to 1899. Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Democrat, 1900.
- Hemstead, Fay., Historical Review of Arkansas. Vol. III. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,6,6	2,4,5	3,8	4,3	4,7,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul McCormack - Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

7-30-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

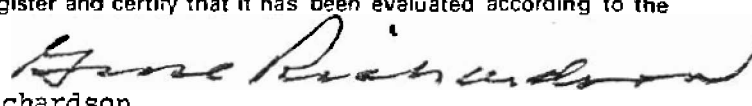
STATE

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

Gene Richardson



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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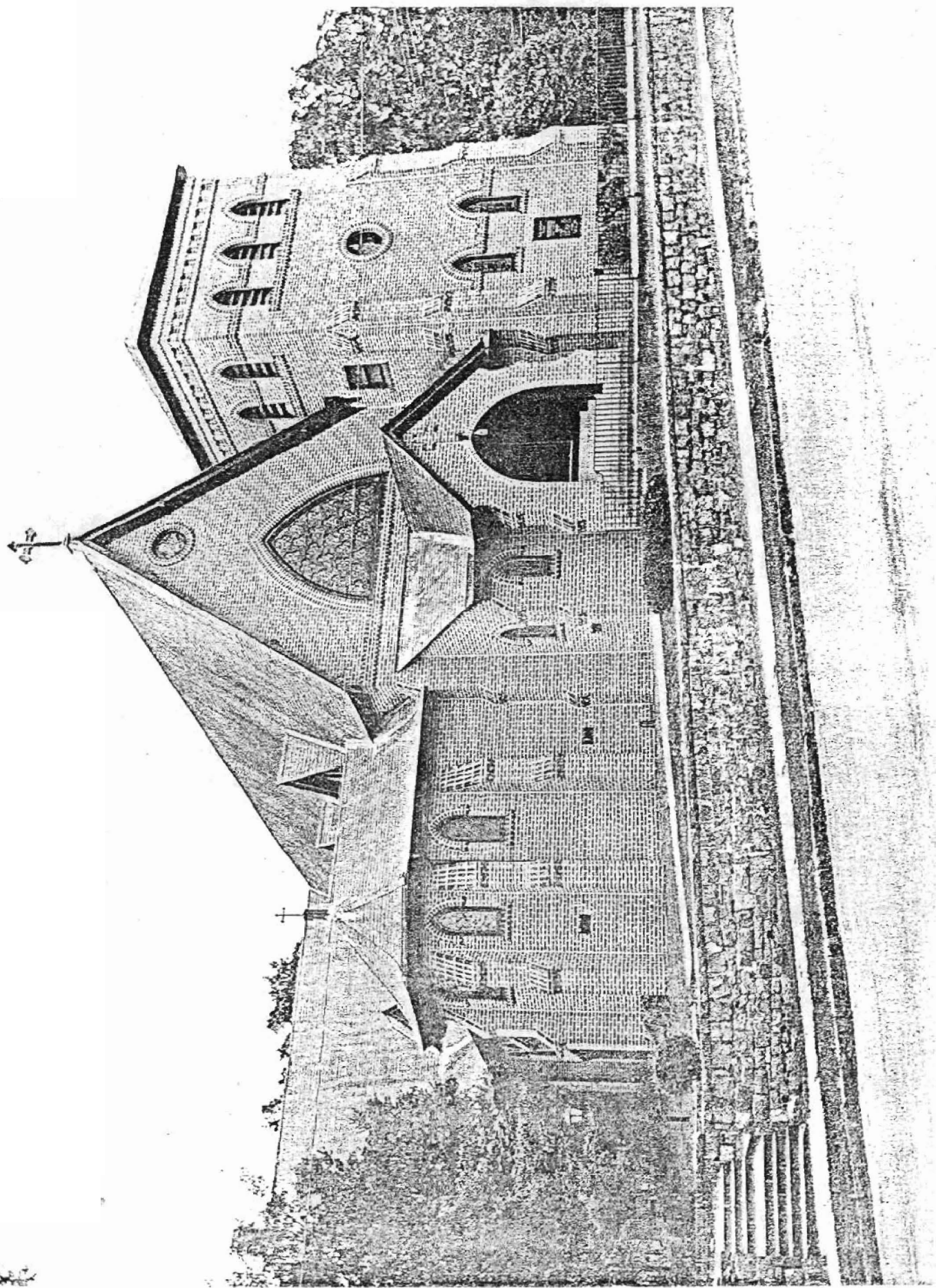
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE 1

Lyman, Elizabeth Pierce. History of Trinity Cathedral. Unpublished brochure,
1934.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

LITTLE ROCK

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

PULASKI

STATE

ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

JACK DOSS

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

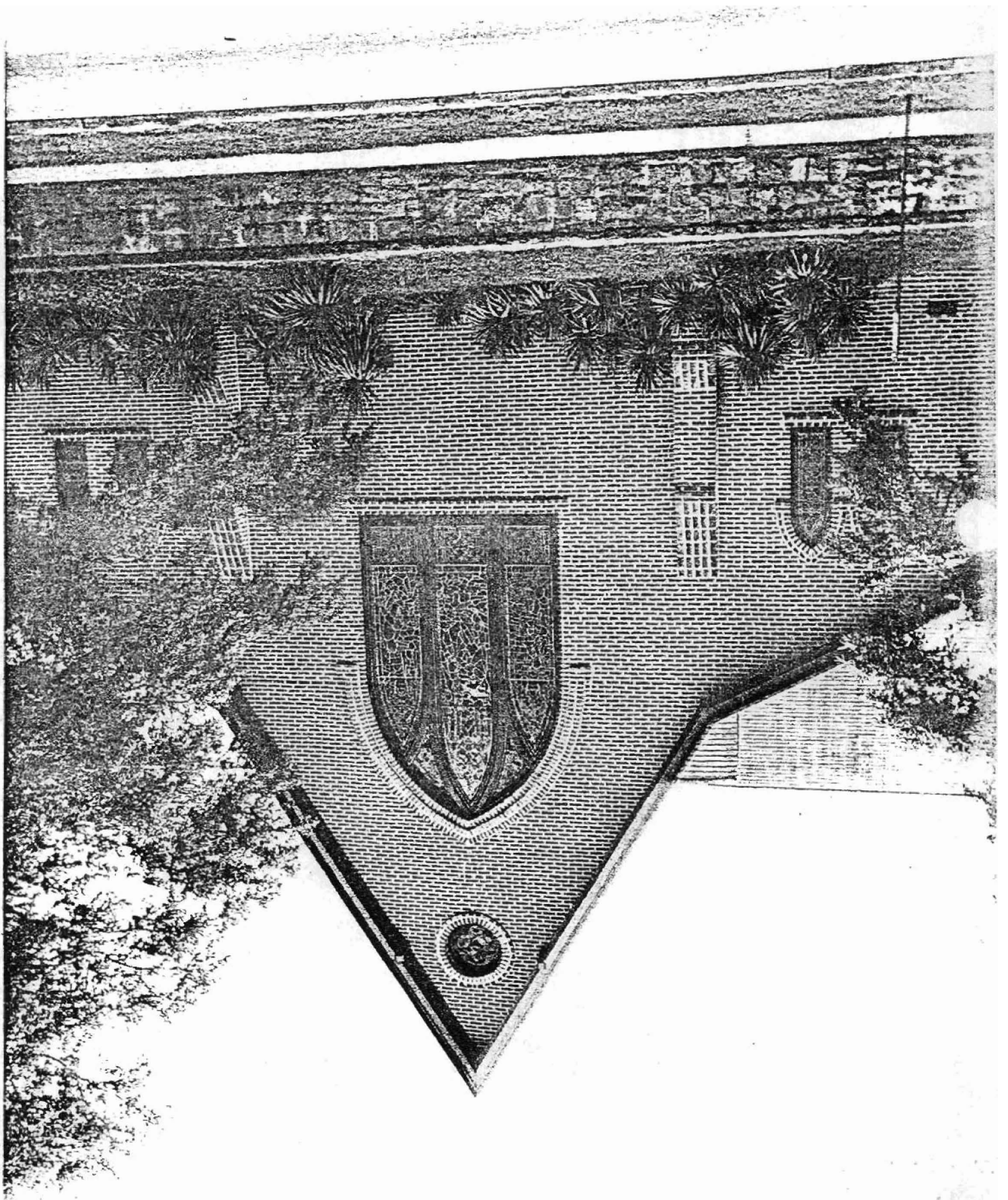
4 IDENTIFICATION

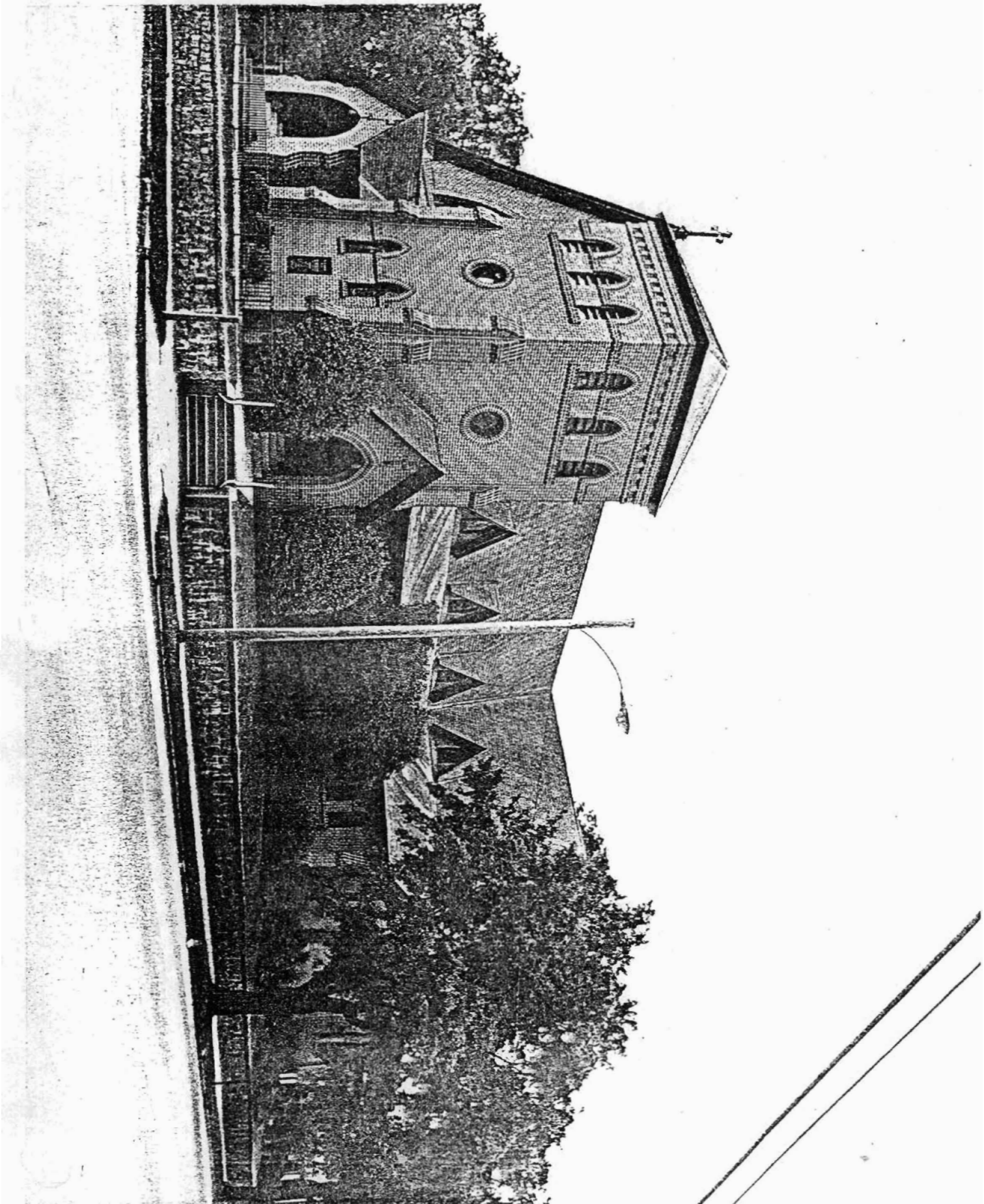
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

WEST FACADE

PHOTO NO

1





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TRINITY CATHEDRAL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

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LITTLE ROCK

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

PULASKI

STATE

ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

JACK DOSS

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

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4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

SOUTHWEST VIEW

3

