

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **JUL 1 1980**
date entered **SEP 12 1980**

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

1. Name

historic First Christian Church, Sweet Springs, Missouri

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 400 Bridge Street ___ not for publication

city, town Sweet Springs ___ vicinity of congressional district #4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

state Missouri code 029 county Saline code 195

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 the First Christian Church

street & number 400 Bridge Street

city, town Sweet Springs ___ vicinity of state Missouri 65351

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds

street & number Saline County Courthouse

city, town Marshall state Missouri 65340

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 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

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 First Christian Church of Sweet Springs is located at the southwest corner of Bridge and Main Streets in Sweet Springs, Missouri. It faces east towards Bridge Street and measures 45' along the east (front) and west (rear) sides and 60' along the north and south walls. The church is in a residential district with houses bordering it on the south and west sides.

The First Christian Church is a one-story, wooden structure covered by weatherboard painted white. It is basically rectangular with an attached two-story square tower with lower second-story walls that slope inward located at the northeast corner of the front facade. A slightly projecting transept divides the north and south sides into three bays midway along the length of the church.

The entrance is centrally placed and consists of a short wide flight of concrete steps and a gable roofed wooden porch with a wide semi-elliptical opening. The sides of the porch are cut out forming large semi-elliptical niches. The double leaf wooden doors, each with a small lozenge-shaped window, are set back under the projecting porch.

The church foundation is now a concrete basement. The roof of the nave is gabled as are the transept roofs. Parallel to the transept gables, at the west end of the church, over the back rooms, are two more gables. The tower roof is flat. All roofing materials are asphalt shingles.

Outstanding details include the stained glass lancet windows, accented with wooden frames and unusual keystone at the point of the arch; the Queen Anne element of imbricated shingles in the pediment of all the gable ends; the decorative brackets under the eaves; and the Bungalow Style entrance of the porch.

The sanctuary is entered through a foyer and a second set of wooden doors surmounted by a transom light. The sanctuary is open with a curved ceiling and no freestanding supports. There are two rows of pews with a center aisle. The walls are finished in wainscoting below the sill of the windows and plaster above this line. The wainscoting is continued on the front and rear sanctuary walls where there are no windows. The altar area is set back and framed by the wall of the sanctuary which gives the altar area a "boxed in" appearance. Behind this area there are a few rooms including the baptistry, and an upstairs classroom. There is also a classroom in the second story of the tower.

Outstanding interior features include the old cathedral lights and unusually carved wooden ceiling brackets that support the round arched ceiling.

Unfortunately the interior has been altered and redecorated a number of times so that much of the original interior design has been lost. Around 1950, a series of "improvements" were begun. The heating system was modernized and the basement was completed from 1955-1960. The sanctuary was redecorated during the 1950's several times and again in 1976 when a new carpet was laid over the entire floor.

The church is in good condition inside and out.

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 1882

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Christian Church of Sweet Springs, Missouri in Saline County is significant to the community and surrounding area because it was the first organized church in Sweet Springs. It is also interesting as an architectural structure combining several different stylistic elements. Such churches were prominent during the 1880s in the Mid-West where architects and builders did not feel bound to strict stylistic canons.

The First Christian Church is architecturally interesting because of such details as the Queen Anne Style imbricated shingles, the decorative brackets under the eaves, stained glass windows, and the unusual use of the keystone decoration at the point of the arch of the windows. This indiscriminate mixing of various stylistic elements gives a subtle charm to the building.

The Christian Church became the first organized church of Sweet Springs in 1843. A frame building, costing \$1200 was built in 1854. On Tuesday, April 18, 1882 Sweet Springs was struck by a cyclone and the church was destroyed. A new building (the current church) was erected completely debt-free through the generous donations of two members along with other local donations and many contributions from churches throughout the state. It was dedicated in April of 1883 by Alexander Proctor, minister of the Independence Missouri Christian Church. The church has played an important role in the religious and social life of its congregation and continues to do so at the present time.

FOOTNOTE

1. History of Saline County, Missouri (Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth Publ. Co., 1967) pp. 87-88.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. History of Saline County, Missouri. Marceline, Mo.: Walsworth Publ. Co., 1967.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Sweet Springs, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

A

1	5	4	6	3	6	9	5	5	7	3	0	5	2	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The North Eighty (80) feet of lot 23 in the original town of Brownsville, now city of Sweet Springs.

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. Mrs. Pauline Reavis

organization First Christian Church date March 11, 1980

street & number 301 South Locust telephone 816/335-4371

city or town Sweet Springs state Missouri 65351

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 Fred A. [Signature]

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer date May 27, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce date 9/12/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Paula Stover Reed date 9/18/80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JUL 1 1980
date entered

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS, MISSOURI

SEP 12 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
March 11, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102
3. Barbara Carr - Research Assistant
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City
March 11, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

Property

First Christian Church

State

MD, Saline

Working Number

7/1/80/1752

80002394

TECHNICAL

Photos 8
Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

1882 frame vernacular church architecturally significant as oldest example in community of type of building which has design features & character of late 19th C.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept.
Saxe
9-8-80*

eclecticism. Embodied in its architectural character are stylistic influences of Queen Anne and Late Victorian Gothic. Entrance porch has bungalow style features. Though interior was altered in 1950s + 1960s, round arched (or barrel vaulted?) ceiling remains.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Simple eclectic-vernacular midwestern church building with Queen Ann Overtones. First Church in Sweet Spr.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept.
P. Reed 9/3/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2, 3, 81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered SEP 12 1980

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
A.D.
1883

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

REV. EDDY LITTLE
MINISTER
SUNDAY
CHURCH SCHOOL 9 AM
MORNING WORSHIP 10 AM
HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM
WELCOME!
OUR GOD IS YOURS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS

400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Northeast side (front)

1 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
A.D.
1883

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS

400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Detail of front showing decorative brackets
under eaves

2 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



AN CHURCH
A.D.
1893

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WELLY, CLOUT, LADDER
MINISTER
SUNDAY
CHURCH SCHOOL 10 AM
WOMEN'S BIBLE 10 AM
HOLY COMMUNION 10 AM
WELCOME!
OUR 105 TH YEAR

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS
400 Bridge Street
Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri
Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece
Date: May 9, 1979
Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

View from th north

3 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS

400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box. 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

View from the west

4 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS

400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Southeast side

5 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS

400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

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Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Looking towards rear of church

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JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS
400 Bridge Street

Sweet Springs, Saline County, Missouri

Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

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Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

Southeast wall

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JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS
400 Bridge Street

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Photographer: Mr. Gerald Freece

Date: May 9, 1979

Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

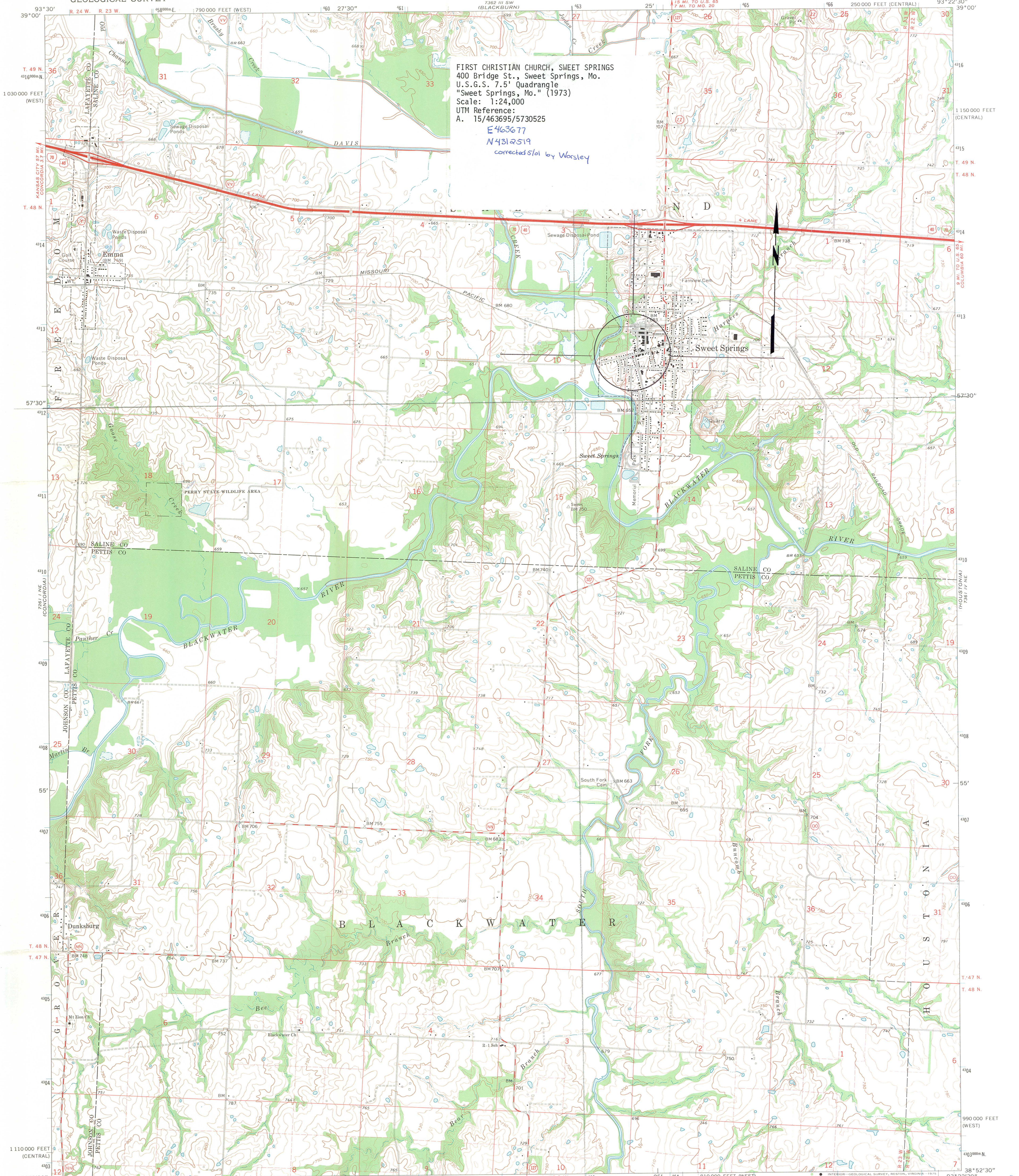
Looking towards front of church

8 of 8

JUL 1 1980

SEP 12 1980

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SWEET SPRINGS
400 Bridge St., Sweet Springs, Mo.
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Sweet Springs, Mo." (1973)
Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
A. 15/463695/5730525
E463677
N4312519
corrected to 1 by Worsley



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

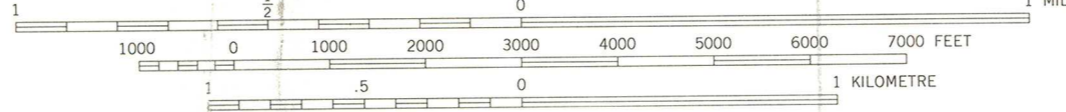
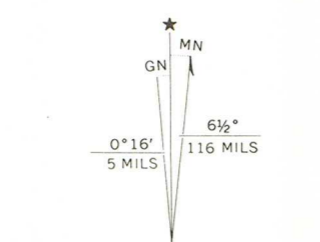
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973

Projection: Missouri coordinate system, central zone (transverse Mercator)

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Missouri coordinate system, central and west zones

1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

SWEET SPRINGS, MO.
NW/4 SWEET SPRINGS 15' QUADRANGLE
N3852.5-W9322.5/7.5

1973

AMS 7361 IV NW-SERIES V879



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MISSOURI

Date Entered SEP 12 1980

Name

Location

First Christian Church

Sweet Springs
Saline County

Oliver-Leming House
(Home of the Missouri State Flag)

Cape Girardeau
Cape Girardeau County

Also Notified

Honorable John C. Danforth
Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
Honorable Ike Skelton
Honorable Bill D. Burlison

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Fred A. Lafser
Director, State Department of
Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

NR

Byers/jms

9/24/80