

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

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 St. Agnes Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 27 Franklin Street N/A not for publication

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Macon code 033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Agnes Church

street & number 27 Church Street

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Macon County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Franklin state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Reconnaissance Survey of Macon County
Historic Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History, Western Office

city, town Asheville state North Carolina 28805

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 checked="" 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 1888-1910

Builder/Architect William Gould Bulgin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

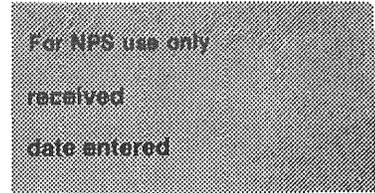
St. Agnes Church is a red brick Gothic Revival structure located on the north side of Church Street in Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina. Architecturally, the church is typical of the structures erected by Episcopal congregations throughout western North Carolina from the late antebellum period until well into the twentieth century. St. Agnes served as the "mother church" for the spread of the Episcopal denomination in the far western section of the state. It is also the principal structure associated with the career of the Rev. John A. Deal, a figure of some significance in the religious history of western North Carolina as it was he who encouraged the establishment of other churches from his base at St. Agnes. The church survives largely unaltered from the period of its construction. A one-story brick parish hall was constructed to the rear of St. Agnes in 1972. St. Agnes has local architectural and historical significance from its construction in 1888 to the retirement of Rev. Deal from the ministry in 1910.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- b. The church is the principal surviving structure associated with the life of the Rev. John A. Deal, who served as a missionary and circuit riding priest in the far western section of the state. Because of his presence, St. Agnes Church was the "mother church" for the spread of the Episcopal denomination throughout the southwestern North Carolina mountains. The church is the building best associated with Rev. Deal's productive career because it was his base of operations for twenty-two years. He lived in two or three different houses in Macon County between 1877, when he arrived, and his 1910 retirement. Until 1906 he lived outside Franklin in the county, in houses whose locations are unknown to local historians. From 1906-1910 he lived in a newly-built rectory built approximately two miles from the church. The rectory sold by the church soon after Deal's retirement and a new rectory was built adjacent to the church. None of these residences, therefore, have as strong an association with Rev. Deal's career as the church.
- c. Architecturally, St. Agnes is a well-preserved example of the small Gothic Revival churches built by Episcopal congregations in rural western North Carolina during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

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Continuation sheet DESCRIPTION Item number 7 Page one

Interior. The interior is divided into four parts. The largest part is the nave, which occupies the western two-thirds of the church and contains wooden pews for congregational seating, an entrance area, and the baptismal font. Two steps separate the nave from the choir, which contains the pulpit, lectern, pews for the choir, and the organ. A door in the north wall of the choir leads to the sacristy, which is used for storage and clergy vesting. At the east end, separated from the choir by one step and the altar rail, is the sanctuary, which contains the altar, credence table, and seating for clergy and servers. On the whole, the interior retains most of its original appearance. Alterations made over the years have been in keeping with its original Gothic design. (See photos #8 - 11).

All original interior wood finishes are of locally-grown oak and chestnut. The roof is supported by exposed wooden trusses (Photo #11). The ceiling and floor are of wood. The walls are white-painted plaster. The sanctuary, central aisle, and entrance are carpeted. The chair rail is original throughout, but only the wainscoting in the sanctuary is the original chestnut (Photo #9). The remaining wainscoting was added during the 1960s. The door to the sacristy is constructed of diagonally-laid beaded tongue-and-groove boards with original brass hardware in a fleur-de-lis pattern. The entrance doors are divided into two sections. The upper section is divided into four sections by a St. Andrew's cross (Photo #8).

The stained glass windows were originally designed to pivot outward from the bottom to allow for ventilation. Since central heating and air conditioning were installed within recent years, the window sash was fixed and a protective lexan covering was installed on the outside for protection. In 1969, all of the windows except those in the east end were reworked using original work (Photos #9 & #10). Lighting was added in the 20th century, utilizing "Gothic" type church fixtures. Ceiling fans are a more recent addition to aid in heating and cooling the large enclosed space.

A 3,200 square foot, gable-roofed, one story brick contemporary parish hall with a full basement was constructed to the north (behind) the church in 1972. The parish hall is joined to the church by a covered walkway with open sides and simple wooden posts, clearly differentiating the historic structure from the contemporary. The church's original bell is housed in an open-work metal bell tower with a pyramidal roof erected just outside the sacristy of the church in 1967, replacing an earlier metal tower which had deteriorated (Photo #5).

RESOURCES COUNT

- Buildings - 1. Church (1886-88) - contributing
- 2. Parrish Hall (1972) - noncontributing
- Structures - 1. Bell Tower (recent) - noncontributing
- Total Resources: 3 (1 contributing, 2 noncontributing)

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Architecture

Constructed in the Gothic Revival style, St. Agnes Church is typical of the structures erected by Episcopal congregations throughout western North Carolina from the late Antebellum period until well into the 20th century. (Other examples, to name only a few, include the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cashiers; Church of the Incarnation, Highlands; St. Cyprians, Franklin; St. James, Black Mountain; and St. John's, Cartoogechaye.) The same Victorian romanticism which manifested itself in the popularity of the novels of Sir Walter Scott also found expressing in the Gothic architecture, domestic, civil, and particularly ecclesiastical. Although Gothic design was popular with many religious denominations during this period, it found particular favor with the Episcopal Church.¹ This is due, in part, to the effects of the reform begun in the 1830s in the Anglican Communion known as the Oxford Movement. Churchmen began to study the past and revive customs and garments that had died out in the English church in the 16th century. The movement fostered a renewed interest in Christian art on both sides of the Atlantic.² The greatest architect of the ecclesiastical Gothic in America, Richard Upjohn, was an Episcopalian. He designed not only elaborate urban churches but small simple rural structures in the Gothic style. These, and the designs of other architects, had a profound effect on the design and construction of Episcopal Churches throughout the country.³ The first rector of the Church, the Rev. John A. Deal, who was educated at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, the donors of the money which paid for the erection of the church, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. H. Bell, who were from New York, and the builder, William Gould Bulgin, who was from England, were undoubtedly affected by these movements. The church they produced is typical of the early Gothic Revival, with its pointed windows, basically rectangular shape, lack of a deep chancel, and use of a wooden truss ceiling instead of masonry vaulting. The hood moldings over the pointed arch windows and the large rose window in the west end of the building give a slight hint of the more elaborate late Gothic Revival. In sum, St. Agnes typifies the architectural style 19th century rural Episcopal Churches.⁴ It has remained largely unaltered from the period of its construction. For these reasons, the structure is significant in the area of architecture.

Religion

St. Agnes Church is significant to the religious development of Macon County and all of far western North Carolina, serving as the base or "mother church" for the spread of the Episcopal denomination in that part of the state. Although Anglicanism was firmly established in coastal North Carolina during the colonial period, it made few inroads into the interior, particularly few into the mountains. Most Anglicans or Episcopalians who settled in the southwestern mountains converted to the Methodism or Baptist faith of their neighbors.⁵ As late as the third quarter of the 19th century, there were

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance Item number 8 Page two

only a handful of Episcopalians scattered throughout the mountains and these were unserved by clergy. These few Episcopalians persuaded their bishop to send a missionary to organize churches throughout the region. The Rev. John Archibald Deal took up that missionary work in 1876, settling first at Murphy in 1876 and moving to Macon County in 1877. The Rev. Mr. Deal employed the technique of his many Baptist and Methodist colleagues by riding a circuit over many counties, serving many small congregations. After the completion of St. Agnes in 1888, that church was used as a base for missionary activities in Macon, Jackson, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, and Swain counties. A number of churches, including those in Highlands, Cashiers, Murphy, Cullowhee, Cartoogechaye, and Nantahala, among others, were organized and, to a large extent, administered from St. Agnes.⁶

St. Agnes is the church best associated with the career of the Rev. John A. Deal, a figure of some significance in the religious history of western North Carolina. Born in Cumberland County, North Carolina, and educated at Donaldson College and Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, he was also a Confederate veteran, enlisting at age 16, and twice captured and exchanged. He was ordained to the priesthood at Trinity Church, Asheville in 1872. Between 1876 when he was sent to Murphy and his retirement in 1910, the Rev. Mr. Deal was, in effect, the founding father of the Episcopal Church in the southwestern mountains. While in Franklin, he was also involved in secular activities. The Episcopal Church in Franklin and other mountain towns was regarded with suspicion by many members of other denominations, with threats of physical violence being made against church and vicar. To counteract this hostility, Deal resorted to education, teaching school himself and establishing St. Agnes School for young ladies in 1891-92. The results of these efforts in education won some converts but had a wider effect by improving the general educational level of the community and quieting fears of those who did not understand the doctrines or practices of the denomination. The Rev. Mr. Deal founded the first teachers' association in the county, served as president of the board of education and as chairman of the board of trade (forerunner of the chamber of commerce), and founded the firm of Deal and Stoner, Minerologists, with A. M. Stoner, a Union soldier who had taken him prisoner during the Civil War. After his retirement, the Rev. Mr. Deal moved to Gainesville, Georgia where he died in 1928. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Franklin.⁷

Many of the fifteen priests who succeeded Deal at St. Agnes continued the circuit riding tradition well into the mid-twentieth century, serving up to as many as 11 congregations.⁸ From St. Agnes was also established St. Cyprian's, which was one of very few black Episcopal Churches in the state. In 1910, St. Agnes's membership consisted of 45 baptized persons from 13 families, of whom 18 were regular communicants. The church property was valued at that time at \$4,000. In 1922, the congregation acquired the property adjacent to the church to build a rectory for their priest. The following year, 1923, the Episcopal

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Churchwomen were formally organized. This organization has been active through subsequent years in both religious and charitable endeavors which have had an important impact on the community. The priests assigned to St. Agnes have also taken leadership roles in the local ministerial association, working cooperatively with denominations which were once hostile to the Episcopal Church. In 1938, the church celebrated its Jubilee Year by conducting special services, issuing a brief historical pamphlet on the church's history and refurbishing the church building. In 1941, the congregation acquired an old barracks, which had been used by the Civilian Conservation Corps, for use as its parish hall and as a meeting place for a troop of boy scouts which the church sponsored. Destroyed by fire thirty years later, the building was replaced by the present parish hall in 1971, from which the congregation conducts a variety of congregational and community activities. In 1978, ninety years after its founding, St. Agnes became a full parish, ending its missionary status with the diocese. By 1986, there were 125 members in the parish.⁹

The Macon County Historical Society, recognizing the historical significance of St. Agnes Church in the development of Franklin and Macon County, designated the structure as one of the ten most significant sites in the county in 1980.

Footnotes

¹Green, Samuel M., American Art (New York, 1966), pp. 213-221.

²Moorman, J. R. H., A History of the Church in England (Wilton, Connecticut, 1980), pp. 352-353, 362-363.

³Fitch, James Marston, American Building: the Historical Forces That Shaped It (Second edition, New York, 1973).

⁴Whiffin, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1969), pp. 53-60.

⁵Horton, James H., Theda Perdue, James M. Gifford, edited with an introduction by Clifford R. Lovin, Mountain Heritage (Cullowhee, North Carolina, 1979), pp. 114-117.

⁶Annual Report, 72nd annual convention of the Diocese of North Carolina, 1888.

⁷Deal, John A., Memoirs of Reverend J. A. Deal (manuscript, c. 1910), various pages, particularly chapter 4, page 11; Duncan, Norman C., A Pictorial History of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1701-1964 (Asheville, N.C., 1965), pp. 122-123.

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⁸ Parish Registers of St. Agnes, various dates; undated clippings from the Franklin Press; Morgan, A. Rufus, From Cabin to Cabin (Franklin, N.C., 1982), p. 1, et seq.

⁹ Ibid.; St. Agnes Church, Franklin, N.C. The First Fifty Years 3rd May 1888 to 3rd May 1938 (Franklin, N.C., 1938).

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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Bibliography

Parish Register, St. Agnes Church 1878-present; multiple volumes.

Deeds, September 4, 1886, Book V., page 450; October 16, 1981, Book E-14, page 169; December 31, 1897, Book GG, page 349.

Morgan, A. Rufus, From Cabin to Cabin, privately published, Franklin, N.C., 1982, printed by Hilton Business Equipment Company.

Duncan, Norman C., A Pictorial History of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1701-1964, Miller Publishing Company, Asheville, N.C., 1965.

St. Agnes Church, Franklin, N.C., The First Fifty Years, 3rd May 1888 to 3rd May 1938, privately published, Franklin, N.C., printed by the Franklin Press, Franklin, N.C., 1938.

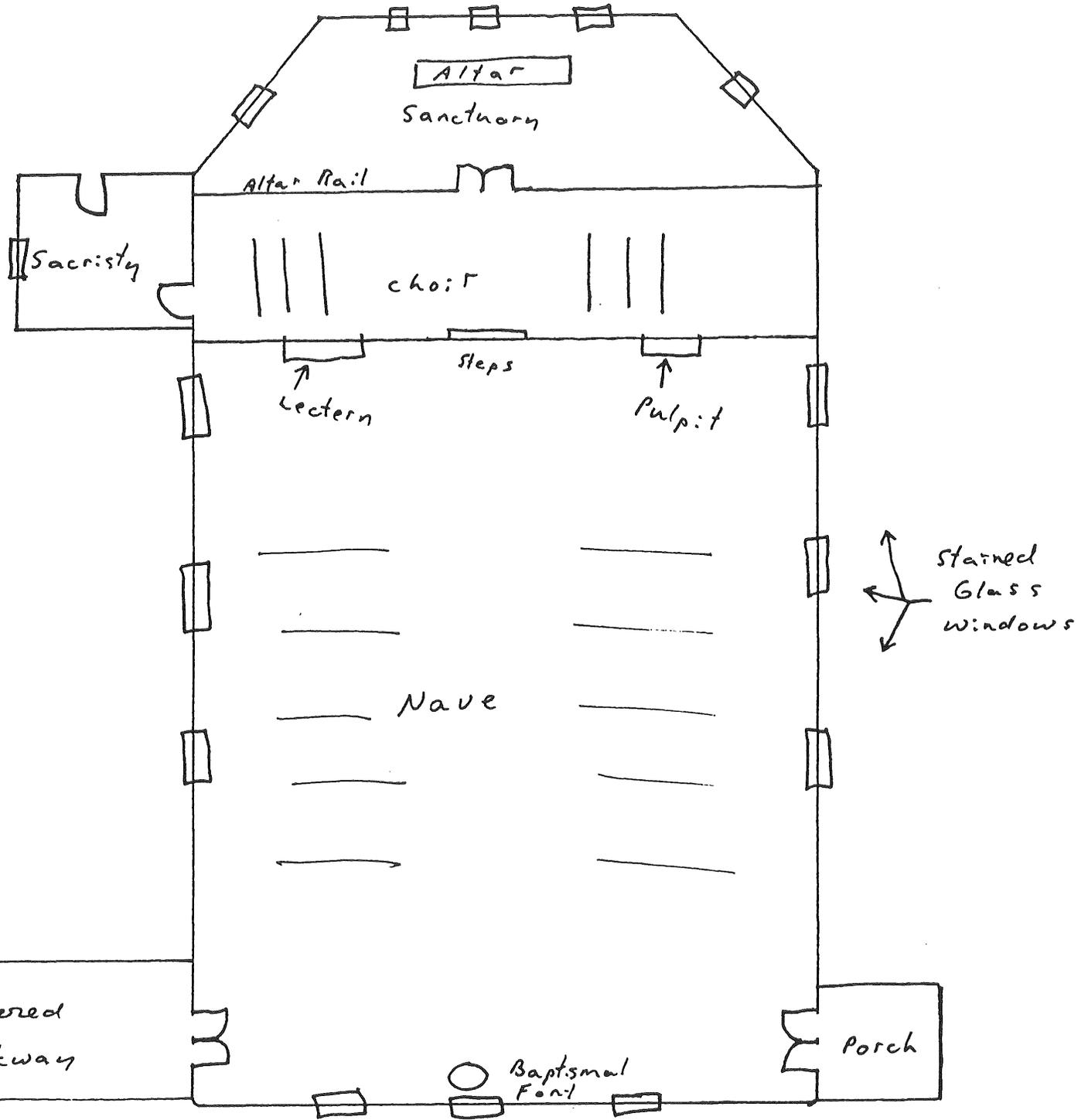
Journal of the Annual Convention of the Missionary District of Asheville, Diocese of Western North Carolina, various dates, Diocese of Western North Carolina Archives, Black Mountain, N.C.

The Franklin Press, Franklin, N.C., various dates.

Deal, John A., Memoirs of Reverend J. A. Deal, manuscript, c. 1910.

Toomer, Ann Deal, Missionary Pioneering, Asheville, N.C., 1953, printed by The Inland Press, Asheville, N.C.

ST. AGNES CHURCH
FRANKLIN, N.C.



(not to scale)

COATES

CMS REPLACING EXISTING RE-BAR

N86-50-54E
83.55'

BATES
Book Z-11, Page 197

S16-08-45E
516.08-915

LOT 4
STREET

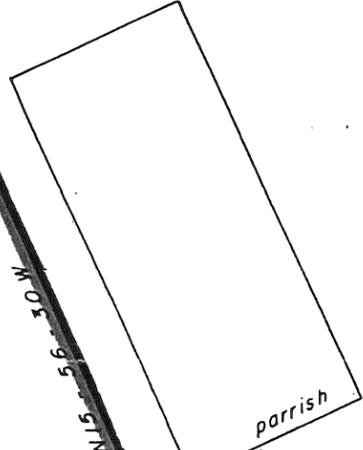
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(dmd)

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(91.49')

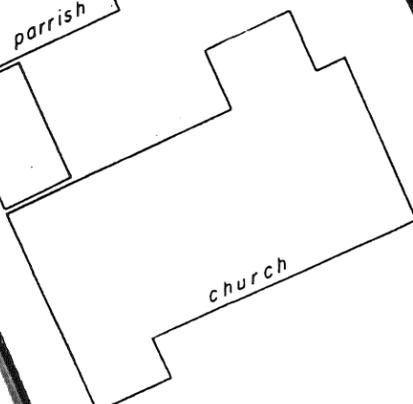
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(dmd)

0.19 ACRE
(dmd)

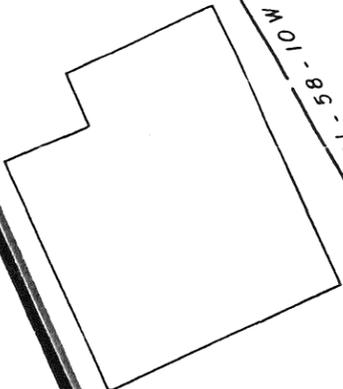
THE "MASONS"
Book L, Page 603



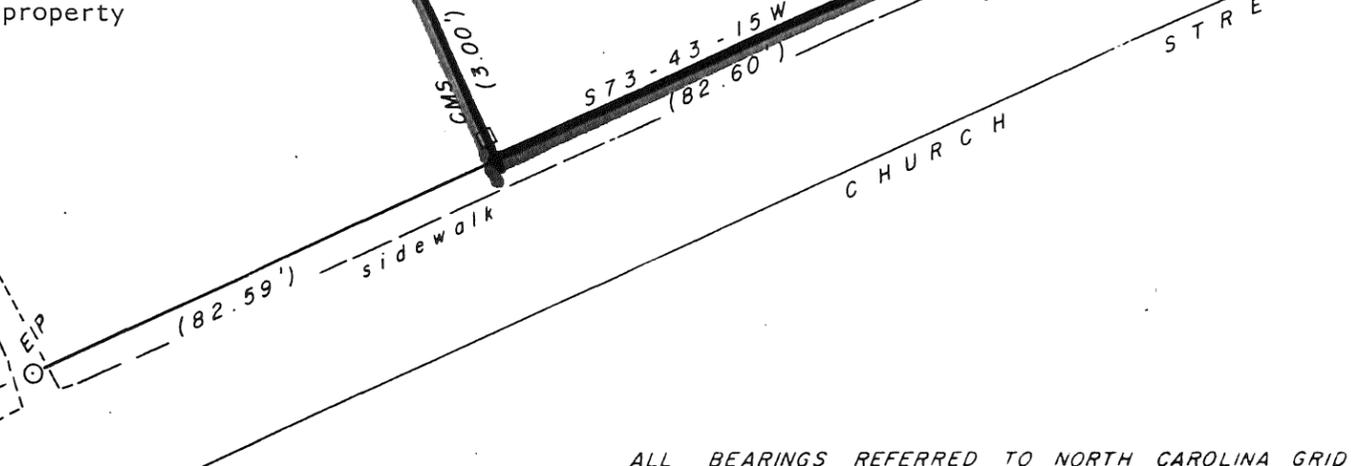
parrish



church



St. Agnes Church
Macon County
Boundary of nominated property
outlined in red



ALL BEARINGS REFERRED TO NORTH CAROLINA GRID
AN AVERAGE COMBINED SEA LEVEL & SCALE FACTOR
OF 0.999771 WAS APPLIED TO ALL MEASURED
DISTANCES TO OBTAIN THE GRID DISTANCES SHOWN
ON THIS MAP

ALL DATA SHOWN IS BASED ON THE NC PLANE
COORDINATE SYSTEM

- NIP ——— NEW IRON PIPE
- CMS ——— CONCRETE MONUMENT SET
- EIP ——— EXISTING IRON PIPE

RON KIRKLAND

REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR L-2514

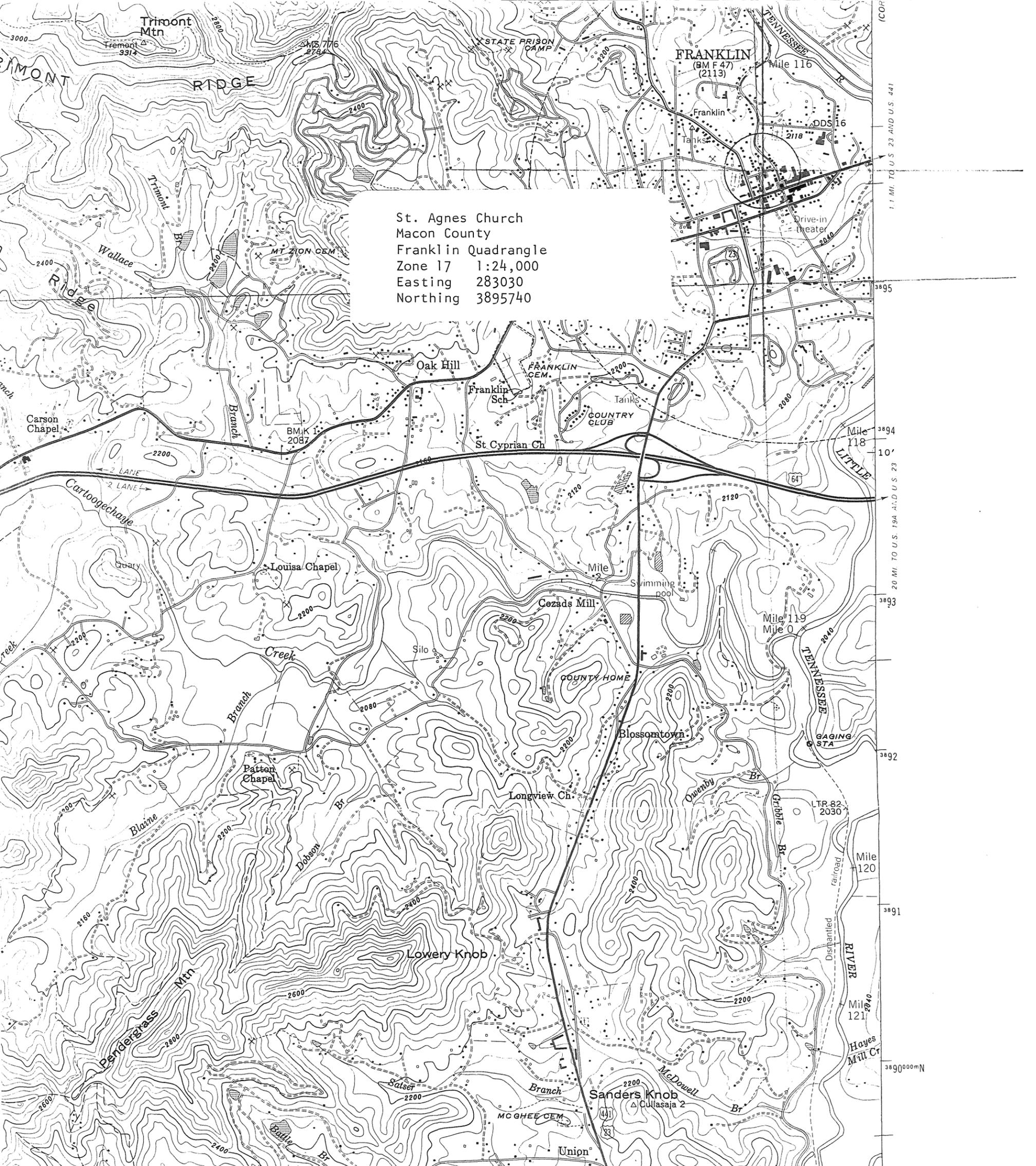
3 1/2 EAST MAIN ST., TEL. 524-3668

FRANKLIN, NC 28734

DATE: 3-5-83

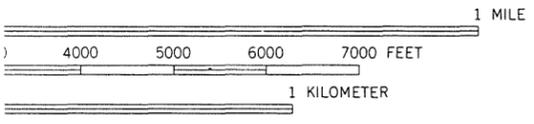
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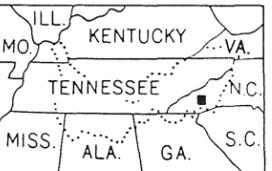


St. Agnes Church
 Macon County
 Franklin Quadrangle
 Zone 17 1:24,000
 Easting 283030
 Northing 3895740

167-SW1 SW 279 25' 280 281 OTTO 4.6 MI. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1978 2830000E 35°07'30" 83°22'30" (TVA 167-NW)



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Poor motor road
Medium-duty	Wagon and jeep track
Light-duty	Foot trail
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

In developed areas, only through roads are classified

FRANKLIN, N.C.
 N 3507.5-W 8322.5/7.5
 1946
 PHOTOREVISED 1978
 AMS 4354 III NW SERIES V842

IRVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 MOONINGA, TENN. 37401 OR KNOXVILLE, TENN. 37902
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

