

NATIONAL REGISTER  
LISTED

JUN 08 2005

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete 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 Covenanter Church  
Other name/site number Reformed Presbyterian Church / 185-5210-0012

#### 2. Location

Street & number 113 N. Green St.  not for publication  
City or town Stafford  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Stafford Code 185 Zip code 67578

#### 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.)

4/21/05

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

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	_____	Signature of the Keeper	_____	Date of Action	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____				

Covenanter Church  
Name of Property

Stafford Co., 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

Social: meeting hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete  
Walls: Weatherboard

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

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

Covenanter Church  
Name of Property

Stafford Co., 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

1913

#### Significant Dates

1913

#### 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:

Covenanter Church  
Name of Property

Stafford Co., Kansas  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	5	3	4	6	3	0	4	2	0	1	5	6	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 F. Clare Moore; Edited by KSHS staff  
Organization Henderson House Bed and Breakfast, LLC Date December 14, 2004  
Street & number 551 S. Woodlawn Telephone 1-800-888-1417  
City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67218

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 Henderson House Bed and Breakfast, LLC  
Street & number 551 S. Woodlawn  
City or town Wichita

2501 E. Central Ave  
Wichita KS  
67214-4511

Zip code 67218

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for appl determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Resg Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

s to nominate properties for listing or to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic

**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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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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**DESCRIPTION**

**Summary**

Constructed in 1913, the Covenanter Church is a single-story, wood-frame, Gothic Revival-style building located at 113 N. Green Street in Stafford, Stafford County, Kansas (pop. 1300). Set in a residential housing area, the Covenanter Church is distinguished by its flat-roofed bell/entrance tower and Gothic-arched windows. In the 1980s, the church was altered by the addition of vinyl siding to the exterior, obscuring the bell tower and gable end vents, and the addition of a bathroom, kitchenette, and dropped ceiling in the overflow room in the interior. The current owner removed the vinyl siding in 2003 and restored the building to near original appearance.

**Elaboration**

The L-shaped structure is set on a high foundation (48"-ground to floor level), allowing significant window exposure for natural lighting in the high-ceiling basement. This foundation is poured concrete below grade, with rusticated formed concrete masonry units set on top of the poured concrete for the above-ground exposure. The wood-frame walls are sheathed with narrow-lap wood siding, and the moderately pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves is clad with composition shingles. The square bell/entrance tower is set within the "L" on the front elevation. The tower retains its original metal flat roof; however, the lattice-type, wood balustrade shown atop the tower in a historic photo is missing. Most of the original frosted Florentine glass in the windows remain, although some panes are cracked and others have been replaced with clear glass.

The front, or eastern, elevation consists of a wide, projecting gable end to the north, the entrance tower within the "L", and a short side wall of the south-facing gable end to the south. The gable end is fenestrated by a three-part window group with a larger, one-over-one lancet window in the center flanked by conventional one-over-one, double-hung windows. A wood louvered oculus vent is placed above these windows near the peak of the gable. Three six-pane basement windows are located underneath the window group in the foundation. The tower contains the double-leaf entrance; the original doors were replaced with aluminum-frame, glass doors in the 1980s. A large, Gothic-arched, wood louvered vent is positioned above the entrance. The south-facing wall of the tower is fenestrated by a one-over-one window to the east, a small one-over-one lancet window near the juncture with the east-facing wall of the south gable end, and a matching wood louvered vent in the second story. A conventional one-over-one window occupies most of the east-facing wall of the south gable end.

The southern elevation is fenestrated by a three-part Gothic-arched window group identical to the one on the front elevation and two additional one-over-one windows, one on each side. A wood-louvered

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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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oculus vent is placed near the peak, and the foundation contains four six-pane windows and two two-pane windows for basement illumination.

The rear, or western, elevation contains two one-story, hipped-roof projections off of the north gable end. The south projection has a small one-over-one window facing south and two west-facing basement windows. The north projection has an above-grade single-leaf entrance facing west (currently with no access stairs) and a small one-over-one window facing north.

The north elevation contains a three-part, Gothic-arched window group flanked by one-over-one windows directly opposite their southern elevation counterparts. This elevation also contains a pair of conventional one-over-one windows to the east and several basement-level windows.

A poured concrete sidewalk leads to the building from the concrete sidewalks parallel to Green Street. Grass parking exists between the street and sidewalk.

The interior is largely unaltered. A suspended ceiling had been added to the sanctuary in the 1950s and was removed during the recent restoration. The original 14-foot ceilings have been repaired and the original light fixtures reinstalled. The walls throughout the sanctuary are plaster with a rough stucco finish, as are all the walls of the first floor and basement. A pulpit area is located on the western end of the sanctuary and is raised approximately 18" above the main level. The center portion extends to a depth of 10 feet, while a choir section extends to the north of the center stage and is 4 feet wide and 12 feet long. Behind the choir section is a pastor's study, which is approximately 7'x10' in size.

The original oak pews are curved in design and are placed in two-aisles, six pews deep. With this arrangement, the sanctuary seats about 125 persons. The flooring in the first floor area is 4" wide yellow pine. The woodwork throughout the main level is yellow pine finished with amber shellac, though the woodwork in the pastor's study is painted.

There are approximately twelve 2-foot-wide folding doors between the sanctuary and the overflow room. These folding doors have been restored to a functional condition and altered only to accommodate the addition of the two new bathrooms in the overflow room. These two ADA bathrooms have been installed on the north end of the original overflow room area where a bath and kitchenette was previously installed in the 1980s. The ceiling in the overflow area was dropped in the 1980s using trusses with a sheetrock covering that has been covered with a rough stucco finish.

The interior basement walls are plaster-parged brick. Some plaster is falling off the lower portion of the walls. The basement ceiling is original lath and plaster. The floor is poured concrete and was never finished, painted, or covered. Most of the basement is open area; however, there were originally two bathrooms in the northeast area, a mechanical room/storage area along the east, and two classrooms

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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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along the south side. The north wall is supported with wood braces to stabilize the wall, and the west wall needs similar support. Research indicates that many of the doors, jams and hinges installed in the basement were salvaged from the original 1887 building that was demolished for the construction of this structure. There is some water penetration into the basement during wet weather.

Original knob-and-tube wiring with fuse-style circuits make up the primary electrical system. A new 200 amp breaker box has been installed utilizing the original fuse system for the lighting. New wiring has been added for outlets and other electrical needs. The original light fixtures have been reinstalled in the sanctuary. Two matching light fixtures (c. 1920s-30s) have been left in the overflow area. Most of the light switches are push-button style. Two original wall-mounted light fixtures on either side of the center platform area have also been reinstalled. The heating system was a gravity gas furnace with a blower added to create a forced-air system. Only two vents existed to distribute heat: one in the main sanctuary and one in the overflow area. A cold-air return (c. 1950s) was added with a floor grate in the northwesterly area of the main sanctuary area. The old system has been replaced with a new forced air central heat and air system.

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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Covenanter Church is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as a good example of a relatively unaltered, Gothic Revival-style, wood-frame church in Stafford.

**Elaboration**

Stafford is located in Stafford County in west central Kansas in the fifth tier of counties lying south of the Nebraska border and in the sixth tier of counties lying east of the Colorado border. Although Stafford is the largest town in the county, St. John, located a few miles to the northwest, is the county seat. Both the town and county were named for a Union soldier, Captain Lewis Stafford (ca. 1833-1863). Captain Stafford was a Vermont native who settled in Grasshopper Falls, now Valley Falls, Kansas, and was killed in 1863 at the battle of Young's Point, Louisiana. Stafford, originally known as Sod Town, was founded in the spring of 1876.

On September 10, 1885, Stafford was incorporated as a third class town, having achieved the mandatory three hundred residents. Agriculture has always been the town's main source of revenue. The sandy soil is for ideal growing conditions for such crops as corn, broom corn, cotton, flax, millet, sorghum and winter wheat. Stafford was a major grain depot for the county with two grain elevators, one at the north and the other at the south end of town. In 1887, two railroads came to Stafford: the Chicago, Kansas and Western, which ten years later became the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and the Denver, Memphis and Atlantic, which became the Missouri Pacific. Their depots were located at either end of Union Street, the Santa Fe at the north end and the Missouri Pacific depot at the southern end of the street.

From 1930 through the 1950s, the oil industry was a major economic factor in Stafford's economy. On April 10, 1930, oil was discovered in the Richardson Field, followed rapidly by another well in the Zenith Field. During the heyday of the county's oil production, there were as many as eighteen oil companies pumping crude oil out of the ground. Although oil is still being pumped from Richardson #1, today there is little active drilling in Stafford County.

Agriculture remains the primary source of income, but it too is no longer the economic giant it once was. Stafford has lost one of its two grain elevators and one of its railroad lines along with both depots. The Missouri Pacific depot was demolished in 1984 and its brick was used for planters lining Main Street. The handsome Santa Fe depot still stands, but its windows and doors are boarded shut. Today, the city's major employers are schools, rest homes, a hospital and an alfalfa processing plant. The county's



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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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population has steadily dwindled from a high of 9,824 in 1900 to an estimated 4,589 citizens in 2003.

This site at 113 N. Green Street has been a church location since 1887 when it was purchased by the Associated Presbyterian Church, more commonly known as the Seceder Church. A church building was constructed that September and remained until the construction of the current building. In 1911, the Associated Church became the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and through several ownership transfers, the Reformed Church became the owners of the church that year. The Reformed Church congregation, one of six congregations in Stafford in 1913, met in the basement area of the new building until the remainder was completed at the end of 1913.

The dedication of the church on January 13, 1914, indicates that the Reformed Presbyterian Church, also known as the Covenanter Church, was an integral part of the community, as leaders from all segments of the community were invited and included as speakers at the dedication. Many prominent citizens lived in the surrounding residential area and attended this church over the next two decades, reinforcing its significance to the community leaders as a regular meeting place. By 1935, four members of the Covenanter congregation had gone abroad as missionaries to China, India and Cyprus; the small community of Stafford thus influenced the world at large through the Covenanter Church and its members.

The Covenanter Church remained at the location in Stafford until 1958, when the church disbanded and was closed. All records were transferred to the Sterling, Kan. congregation. The building was later sold to the Bible Missionary Church, which held services in the building until the mid 1990s, when it also disbanded. The ownership then was transferred to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Sherrill, who were the last pastors of the Bible Missionary Church in Stafford.

The building and grounds were purchased by Henderson House Bed and Breakfast, LLC on January 1, 2001. Principals are Dr. Roger and Carolyn Evans and F. Clare and Nancy Moore. The building has been and will continue to be used as meeting and conference space for the retreat center portion of the operation. Because much of the retreat operation involves church-related retreats, the building is being utilized as a meeting space and religious worship facility similar to its original use.

The Gothic Revival style of architecture was commonly utilized for churches in small Midwestern rural communities during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Unfortunately, many have been closed and torn down over the years as the rural population in Kansas has declined. With its prominent flat-roofed bell tower and lancet windows, the Covenanter Church is a good vernacular interpretation of the style and is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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Stafford Co., Kansas

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### Bibliography

Kingsbury, Pamela D. Nora E. Larabee Memorial Library National Register nomination. January, 2005.

Stafford Centennial Committee. *Stafford, Kansas: Crossroads of Time, 1885-1985*. 1985

*Stafford County Republican*, Dec. 22, 1887, p. 2.

*Stafford County Republican*, Nov. 27, 1913, p. 2.

*Stafford County Republican*, Jan. 15, 1914, p. 1.

*Stafford Courier*, Sept. 5, 1935, p. 4, sect. 2.

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Stafford Co., Kansas

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 78 and the South 30 feet of Lot 77, Mincer's Addition to Stafford, Stafford County, Kansas

### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource.

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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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**Photographic Information**

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Covenanter Church
2. Stafford Co., Kansas
3. Photographed by Patrick Zollner
4. November 17, 2004
5. Negative on file at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is applicable to specific photographs:

6. View from the southeast
7. #1
  
6. View from the south
7. #2
  
6. View from the southwest
7. #3
  
6. View from the northwest
7. #4
  
6. View from the northeast
7. #5
  
6. View of entrance/bell tower from the east
7. #6
  
6. View of entrance vestibule from the east
7. #7
  
6. View of sanctuary from the southeast
7. #8
  
6. View of raised pulpit from the east
7. #9

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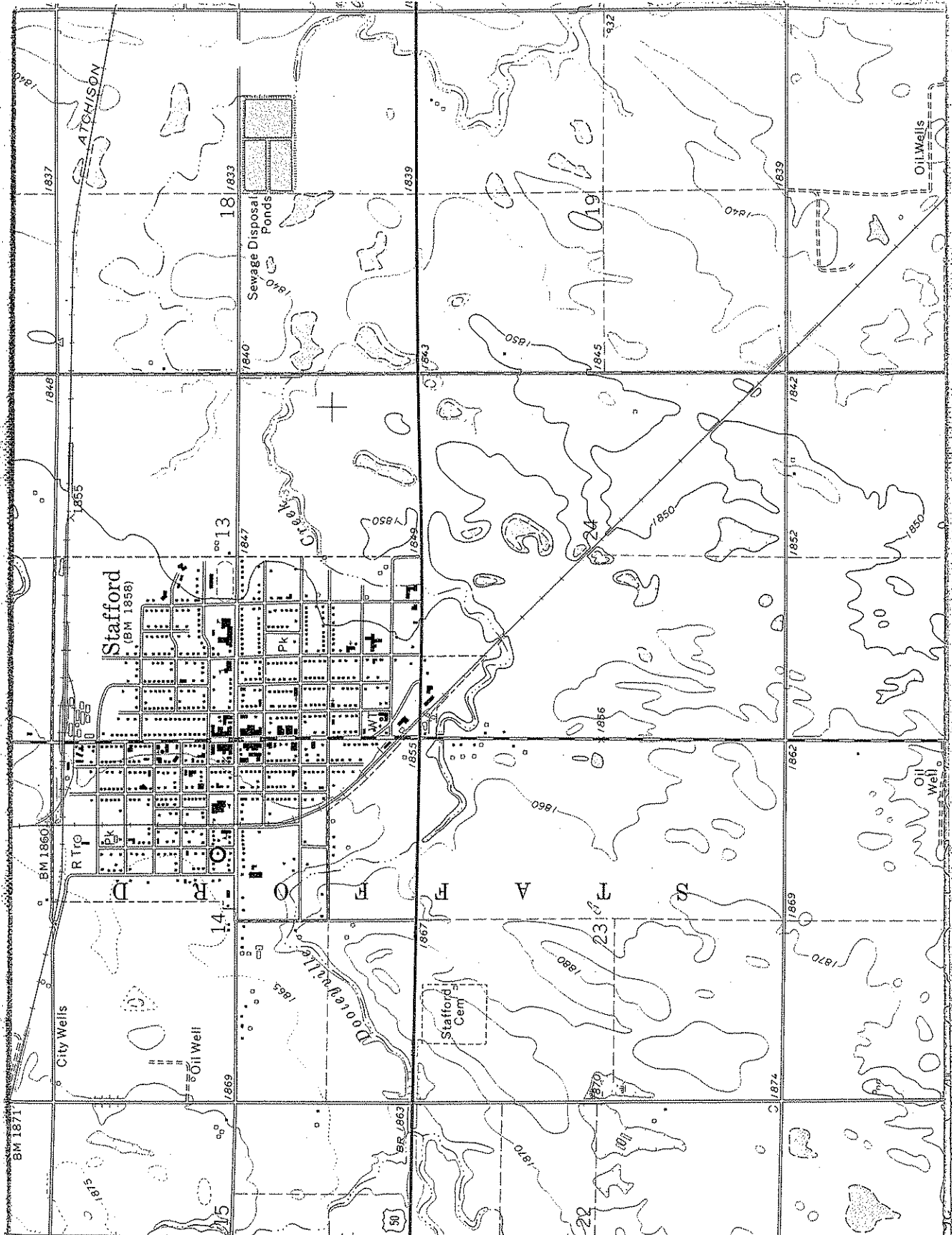
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Covenanter Church  
Stafford Co., Kansas

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6. View of sanctuary window from the south
7. #10
  
6. View of sanctuary folding doors from the southwest
7. #11



Covenanter Church  
 Stafford Co., Kansas

UTM Coordinates:  
 14/534630/4201560

57'30"

KINSLEY 46 MI.  
 7 MI. TO U.S. 281

4200

6259 1 NW  
 (STAFFORD NW)