

# EXCELSIOR SPRINGS HISTORIC RESOURCES

Resource No. 9

1. Property name, present **New Abundant Life Episcopal Church**

Property name, historic **Hope Funeral Home**

2. Address/location  
**216-220 Spring Street  
 Excelsior Springs, MO**

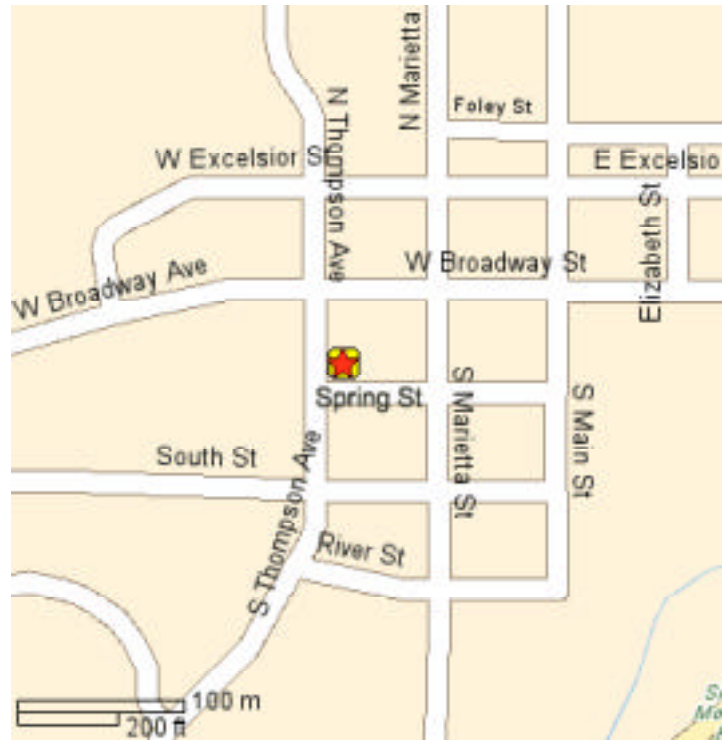
3. Owner's name and address

4.  Building Structure  
 Site Object

5. Use, present **Church**

Use, original **Funeral Home**

6. Location Map



7. Date of construction (or estimate) **ca. 1930's**

8. Changes  
 Altered  Addition  Moved

9. Architect/engineer/designer

10. Contractor/builder/craftsman

11. Style:  High Style  
 Elements **Spanish Eclectic**  
 Vernacular

12. Plan Shape **H-shape**

13. Number of stories **2 & 1**

14. Roof type and material **Mansard - Tile; Gable - composition shingle**

15. Type of construction

16. Exterior material(s) **Stone**

17. Foundation material(s) **Stone**

18. Porch(es) **Awning**

19. Additional physical description

The H-shaped plan structure is actually composed of two structures, connected by a one-story hall. The west portion has a steeply pitched mansard roof, with regularly laid mission tile (formerly red, now painted black). The connecting portion also has a tile mansard roof, and the east portion has a composition shingle gable roof, with no overhang and a clipped gable in approximately the center of the ridge line. The main entrances (one on each building on the south, and one on the west) have tile, hip awning roofs. All porch roofs are supported by square wood horizontal beams with chamfered ends, resting on false "projecting" beams (also with chamfered ends), braced by curved square wood brackets. The southeast entry also features lion's head decorations under the porch cornice. The southwest entry has been replaced with a large, single-pane window, with a large urn set in front. The other entry doors are double wood with metal storms. The west entry has concrete wheelchair ramps with iron rails; the south entries have concrete steps with stone balustrades. On the west structure, the west and

south elevation original windows have been replaced with 6/6, double-hung. These are covered with metal awnings. The remaining double-hung windows are original, and feature multiple, narrow vertical panes on the top, and a large single pane below.

The most distinctive element of the former funeral home is the stone wall cladding. It features random ashlar quarry-faced limestone, with larger stones at the corners serving as quoins. Interrupting the ashlar work are large, irregularly shaped stones which feature a rougher quarry-face. On the gable end of the east structure, the roof edge has a course of small, square cut stones with a large, rough triangular stone at the peak. The window sills also feature a course of small, square stones and the window lintels have narrow, vertical stones with triangular pieces at each corner and as a keystone. Also in the gable end of the eastern structure is a round window.

Wood steps lead to a second story entrance on the rear (north.) Also on the rear is a one-story, flat roof garage additions.

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#### 20. Description of environment and outbuildings.

The Hope Funeral Home is located on the northeast corner of Thompson Avenue and Spring Street. Spring Street is one-way with traffic heading to the east, and has parallel parking on both sides of the street. To the west across Thompson Avenue is the Community Center. Historic structures are to the east and south; a non-historic structure is on the north. There are small areas of grass lawn on the west and south. Trimmed yews accent the entries.

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#### 21. History and significance

The Hope Funeral Home was constructed ca. 1933. Prior to this building, Prather & Hope undertakers were located at 203 S. Main. This structure has served as a funeral home for several years. Recently, it has been the site of a church, gift shop, doctor's office, and a 3-bedroom apartment on the second level.

The Hope Funeral Home retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It is significant for its architecture -- an example of the use of local materials and a "rustic" style, which fits in with the health and tourist development in the rest of Excelsior Springs. In spite of its use as a funeral home, it projects a comfortable, bucolic appearance. If additional historic information is found, and after comparison to other stone structures in Excelsior Springs, it would possibly be individually eligible for the National Register. It would at the minimum be eligible as a contributing building in a potential historic district.

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#### 22. Sources of information.

Sanborn maps. City Directories. Oral interview.

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#### 23. Prepared by

Deon Wolfenbarger  
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#### 24. Date of survey

July, 1991

#### 25. On National Register Eligible for listing

- Individual
- District
- Local designation
- Eligible for local designation

26. Negative: roll #

frame #

