

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000127

Date Listed: 2/21/97

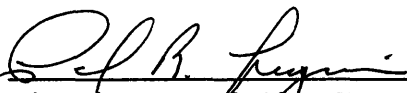
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Roman Catholic Church  
Property Name

Lane  
County

OR  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

2/21/97  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

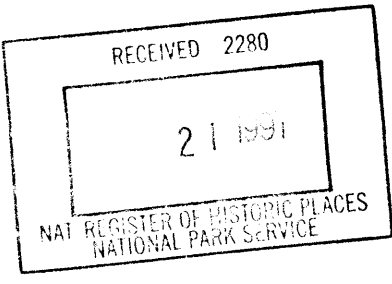
Criteria Consideration A should be checked since the property was constructed by a religious institution and used for religious purposes during the period of significance.

The property meets the criteria consideration because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction.

This information was confirmed with E. Potter of the OR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



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 any 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church  
other names/site number Cottage Grove Museum; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number 147 North 'H' Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Cottage Grove vicinity N/A  
state Oregon code OR county Lane code 039 zip code 97424

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( X See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James M. Haworth January 7, 1997  
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Lane/Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

*Paul R. Ferguson*

2/21/97

determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

**Category of Property**

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

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)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Name of Property

Lane/Oregon  
County and State

**7. Description**

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

OTHER: octagon/round  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
BRICK

**Narrative Description**

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

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Name of Property

Lane/Oregon

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 listing)

- 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 is 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 a 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1897

**Significant Dates**

1897

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

ARCHITECT: Black, Father J.H.

BUILDER: unresolved

DECORATOR: Overton, L.A.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Name of Property

Lane/Oregon  
County and State

**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:  
Cottage Grove Historical Society Library

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.09 acres 7.5 minute map (1:24000) Cottage Grove, Oregon

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone      | Easting       | Northing       | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | <u>10</u> | <u>494870</u> | <u>4849370</u> | 3    | _____   | _____    |
| 2 | _____     | _____         | _____          | 4    | _____   | _____    |

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 Maia C. Brindley  
organization University of Oregon, student, graduate date August 1, 1996  
program in historic preservation  
street & number 2906 Olive Street telephone 541-342-4297  
city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97405

**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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Name of Property

Lane/Oregon  
County and State

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Cottage Grove

street & number 400 East Main telephone 541-942-5501

city or town Cottage Grove state OR zip code 97424

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

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**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (1897)  
(COTTAGE GROVE MUSEUM)**

147 North H Street  
Cottage Grove, Linn County, Oregon

**COMMENTS OF THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, a vernacular building of octagonal design built in 1897, stands at the southwest corner of North H and Birch Streets in the community of Cottage Grove, on the westerly edge of Oregon's Willamette Valley. The building is owned by the City of Cottage Grove and is operated by volunteers of the Cottage Grove Historical Society as the Cottage Grove Museum. A detached, non-historic annex to the museum occupies the neighboring lot to the south and is not included in the nominated area. Neither is the parish rectory of 1907 included in the nomination. The former rectory, now a privately-owned residence, is a foursquare, two-story building with hip roof which stands on the adjacent lot to the west.

The church was consecrated as Our Lady of Perpetual Help in 1897 and has been known informally in the past as St. Mary's. It is a one-story balloon-frame octagonal volume with a rectangular west wing housing a sacristy and stairway access to an upper room. Overall groundplan dimensions are 30 x 55 feet. The primary volume is covered with a tent octagon roof having a cornice and central octagonal lantern with a blind arcade and an octagonal cap. A Latin cross which surmounted the lantern was removed after the church was sold for secular use. The clipped gable wing supports a square hip roofed and louvered belfry from which the steeple is missing. On the east end is a hip-roofed porch with wood stairs at north and south sides, plain square columns, and closed railing. The porch was added by 1927, as is documented by a photograph in *The Catholic Sentinel* for April 28 of that year. Originally, the porch had a single flight of steps on axis with the double-leaf front door. The exterior is clad with horizontal drop siding and trimmed with plain frieze, corner boards, and water table. In 1976, the original fieldstone foundation was replaced by a concrete perimeter foundation, and vertical board waterskiing was reapplied. An elongated and round-arched window is centered in each of three bays on side elevations. These openings are fitted with stained glass and have arcuated label-mould frames with decorative keystones. The entrance to the west wing is located on the north elevation and is sheltered by a gabled hood resting on large triangle brackets. An outside brick stove flue stands on the northwest side of the octagon. As is documented in a perspective view of Cottage Grove dated about 1906, the flue originally was an unenclosed stovepipe.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   3   Page   2  

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The interior, converted to museum use in 1961 after the church was vacated by the parish, is substantially intact with original wood finish. The walls are canvas-covered board sheathing above a tongue and groove wainscot. The chancel, or altar side on the west, directly on axis with the entrance, is demarcated by an alcove with depressed archway, a dias and paneled chancel rail. The three-bay altar with inset molded panels, pilaster caps and bases, is still in place, and two pews are retained among the historical displays. The interior is not now entirely clear span, as a row of two slender chamfered posts and short beam sections supports the ceiling that was lowered for energy conservation. The original ceiling was domed and illuminated in paint, probably on canvas. The choir loft, above the entrance on the east side, is supported by columns. Historically, interior seating was organized in the traditional manner of basilican churches, on either side of a central aisle, facing the altar.

The oblong basilica and the circular temple were ancient Roman building forms adopted by the early Christian church. While the basilica, with its longitudinal orientation conducive to a processional liturgy, became the norm in Roman Catholic architecture, round, or centric polygonal forms also were built through the Middle Ages to the High Renaissance. In the Baroque period, notably, acoustical properties of domed centric spaces enhanced the effect of antiphonal music that was integral to the Roman Catholic liturgy. The archetypical octagonal church, San Vitale, built in the 6th century A.D. at Ravenna, Italy, is believed to have inspired the 8th century chapel at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), seat of Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire. The Carolingian octagonal sanctuary at Aachen with its later extensions, in turn, became the model for churches elsewhere in Germany and the low countries. Octagonal churches were associated with the Protestant Reformation as well as Roman Catholicism. Although it is possible that Father J. H. Black's church at Cottage Grove on the northern Pacific Coast of America was patterned after East Coast examples of the Octagon Mode propounded by Orson Squire Fowler, it is more likely that it was derived from a folk tradition in octagonal churches that was prevalent in northern and central Europe. Whereas the centric churches of Protestant New England typically were preaching churches in the Calvinist tradition, and therefore focused upon the pulpit, Our Lady of Perpetual Help maintained the traditional Roman Catholic central axis on the altar. Its steep tent octagon roof and eccentric tower also are more evocative of Germany and the low countries than the Classical Revival octagon houses and churches of the eastern United States.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church meets National Register Criterion C as a rare Oregon example of the octagonal type of church antedating the turn of the 20th century. This application points out that Orson Fowler's *A Home for All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building*, first published in New York in 1848, was influential in the United States through the 1860s. In Calvinist tradition, the concept was to focus upon the preacher and open

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   3   Page   3  

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the view of the pulpit equally to all. Fowler and his adherents theorized that the centric form offered increased capacity for auditorium-style seating arrangements, just as round and octagonal barns were thought to promote efficiency of labor. While round and octagonal forms had been seen in Oregon in an agricultural context from an early date, the octagonal form for a church of any denomination is unusual in the 19th century. The statewide significance of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church in Cottage Grove is that it is the only documented example of the octagonal form in Oregon's historic church architecture. Moreover, it is well crafted and generally intact.

In Cottage Grove, the late 1880s and '90s were years of rapid upbuilding based on lumber manufacturing and gold mining activity. Local economy was invigorated when access to nationwide markets was provided by the Oregon and California Railroad beginning in 1872. The Catholic community in Cottage Grove reached sufficient size in 1895 to afford construction of its first church. Father J. H. Black, pastor of the Eugene mission church from 1895 to 1897, is believed to have provided the plans, and construction was commenced promptly. Conflicting information as to the church's building contractor is yet to be reconciled. The church was consecrated in the last month of 1897 by Archbishop W. H. Gross. The first resident pastor of the parish was the Reverend J. B. Fitzpatrick, who moved into the new rectory in 1907. Thereafter, the congregation fluctuated between parish and mission status until 1942, when it was made a permanent parish. In 1961, ground for a new church was broken, and the growing congregation vacated its historic building. The building was purchased by the Cottage Grove Historical Society for a museum, but in 1966, title was transferred to the City for cooperative management of the building as a publicly-owned museum.

Accompanying this documentation is a letter of endorsement from the Cottage Grove City Council in which Council president Bob Baysinger points out the appropriateness of registering the historic building in its centenary year.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   7   Page   1     Our Lady of Perpetual Help     Lane/Oregon    
name of property County and State

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7. Narrative Description

Summary

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, informally known as St. Mary's, was dedicated in 1897 and is a one story, balloon frame, octagonal building with a rectangular wing extending to the west. The roof is a hipped tent octagon covered in cedar shingles with an intersecting gable over the rectangular wing. There is a blind lantern over the main octagonal "nave" and a belfry over the west wing. On the east facade, there is a covered entrance porch. The walls are finished in horizontal drop siding with a water table above vertical skirting. The walls are punctuated by tall, semi-circular arched, narrow stained glass windows with hood moldings. The church is located in a quiet, older residential neighborhood at the southwest intersection of Birch Avenue and 'H' Street. It sits on a double lot with a non-historic annex to the south. The 1907 rectory is still located to the west of the church and currently functions as a private home. The landscaping around the church consists of a modest lawn that slopes toward the street on the north side. Large historic machinery dots the landscaping since the church now functions as the Cottage Grove Museum. The property is in good condition and is owned by the city.

Exterior Description

In 1976, the cinder block foundation replaced the original fieldstone foundation. There are a few decorative blocks throughout the foundation to ventilate the crawl space. The skirting, painted gray, is vertical, 7" to the weather drop siding. Above the skirting, is a 9" water table. The walls of the building are covered in 5" to the weather horizontal drop siding trimmed with corner boards. Both the water table and siding are painted white as are the wide frieze boards and boxed eaves.

Six of the eight stained glass windows are on six sides of the octagon. There are no stained glass windows at the east entrance or on the rectangular wing. The two remaining stained glass windows are located on the north and south walls of the rectangular wing. All of the semi-circular arched windows have wood hood moldings with wood keystones and stops. They are all protected by wire mesh with metal straps. Six of the windows are fixed, but the windows in the center sides of the octagon, on the north and south elevation, have hopper sashes incorporated into the center of the window. There are also two small, rectangular casement windows of gold colored glass, one on each side of the entrance porch, in the adjacent octagonal panels. These windows are not original and may have been added to light the choir loft. On the west elevation of the rectangular wing, there are four, one over one, double hung windows, two per floor level.

The double leaf entry doors have four molded panels and appear to be original. The porch has a closed railing and a hip roof which terminates in boxed eaves with a flat soffit supported by box columns. The ceiling is beaded tongue and groove. The porch is accessed by double entry stairs on the north and south. This configuration is not original and replaced the single entry flight from the sidewalk. There is also a small entrance to the rectangular wing on the north elevation with a bracketed gable hood. The four paneled entry door appears to be original.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

The roof of the building is cedar shingles with formed tin flashing some of which is galvanized. The gable roof of the wing terminates in a clipped gable, or jerkinhead roof form. The blind lantern is octagonal with blind arches infilled with the same siding as the building and topped with a faceted tent roof. The square bell tower has louvered vents on three sides with the west one covered. The bell tower currently terminates in a steeply pitched hip roof with a flat deck. A spire once completed the steeple composition. There is a non-original, slender exterior brick chimney at the northwest side of the octagon.

Interior Description

The interior of the church is basically an open, octagonal volume with a choir loft at the east end and the sanctuary at the west end. The floor is 3 1/2" tongue and groove wood painted gray with the strips running east to west. The sanctuary floor is raised, painted red, and further delineated by a wide opening framed by a depressed arch. The walls have a 43 1/2" wainscoting of 3 1/2" tongue and groove, beveled wood painted white with simple 1" x 6" baseboards. The walls are board sheathing covered in canvas painted cream and all corners are finished with white trim. The tall, narrow stained glass windows are basically centered in six of the panels of the octagon and run from the top of the wainscoting to the full height of the present ceiling. Moldings around the windows are simple 1" x 6" with a keystone at the top and simple, decorative scroll work applied to the trim. The original ceiling was domed and painted sky blue with stars and circles.<sup>1</sup> This ceiling was replaced with a lowered beaded tongue and groove ceiling for heating purposes. Two central "T" supports have been added for structural purposes. At present the ceiling is painted gray and has a height of 14' 11". Remnants of canvas visible in the attic suggest that the original domed ceiling was covered in canvas, as the walls are. The choir loft is accessed by a narrow open/closed stairway that follows the contour of the building on the southeast panel of the octagon. The ceiling height of the loft is rather low at 6' 4" and the loft has a closed railing made up of the same tongue and groove wainscot used on the walls. The space beneath the choir loft stairs is a narrow closet used for storage.

At the sanctuary end of the church there are two doors on either side of the far west wall that lead to the back room of the rectangular wing. Only the north door is operable because of a recent staircase addition in the back wing to replace a ladder to the second level. The back room of the west wing, lower floor, has a 31" wainscot painted green with no baseboard. The floor is 1" x 6" tongue and groove wood. A four paneled, likely original door, leads to the exterior on the north wall. There is a sink and a toilet located in this area. The walls are board sheathing covered, at present, with a cardboard material that has been stapled on. Remnants of canvas suggest the walls were originally finished similarly to those in the sanctuary. A fairly recent staircase along the east wall leads to the upper level which also has walls of board sheathing with remnants of canvas. The west and south elevations have been covered in plywood including the south window. A ladder leads to the attic entrance above the north wall. Original items from the church, including two pews and the altar, are on display in the museum.

<sup>1</sup>"Dedication of a Church," The Catholic Sentinel, 16 Dec. 1897.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   7   Page   3     Our Lady of Perpetual Help     Lane/Oregon    
name of property County and State

---

**Alterations**

Exterior alterations include the new cinder block foundation installed in 1976. The main entry porch was altered sometime between 1927 and 1958, according to historic photographs. A 1927 photograph shows single entry stairs leading directly to the sidewalk. This change may have taken place with the street alterations and sidewalk plans the city undertook in the 1950s. Other exterior alterations include the small windows in the choir loft and the wire mesh over the stained glass windows. The chimney was originally a stove pipe. The stained glass window on the northwest elevation of the octagon, next to the chimney, has had the hood mold stops removed. A significant alteration to the exterior was the removal of the belfry spire between 1927 and 1958. A cross has also been removed from the top of the blind lantern roof.

Interior alterations include the reportedly early lowering of the ceiling from the original domed configuration and the "T" posts that are now necessary to support that ceiling. The southwest stained glass window had to be replaced after the 1962 Columbus Day storm. The replacement window was installed in 1971.<sup>2</sup> The sanctuary platform was apparently extended at some point due to an odd seam and a difference in the size of the floor boards. The rectangular wing has had the wall surface removed and a stairway added as well as a sink and toilet.

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<sup>2</sup>Trask, D. M. "A Short History of the Cottage Grove Pioneer Historical Museum."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, informally known as St. Mary's, was dedicated on December 5, 1897.<sup>3</sup> It is a particularly significant building for its octagonal form. Although octagonal structures are not uncommon in 19th century Oregon architecture, an octagonal church is unusual.<sup>4</sup> Emeritus Professor Philip Dole, of the Department of Historic Preservation in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon, has stated that this building is the only public building of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.<sup>5</sup> The church remains largely intact and meets National Register Criterion C for architecture due to its unique octagonal form. It is also significant for its craftsmanship in representing the work of skilled local carpenters.<sup>6</sup>

Cottage Grove experienced a substantial growth period in the late 1880s and 1890s. This was due in part to being located in the heart of lumber country as well as being situated on the Oregon and California Railroad line which came to Cottage Grove on July 7, 1872.<sup>7</sup> With the railroad came an end to the isolation of Cottage Grove. The gold mining boom of the 1890s was also a factor in the growth of Cottage Grove. Our Lady of Perpetual Help dates from this growth period.

Early Catholic services, prior to the building of the church were first held in railroad cars, then private homes of Catholic families. F.S. Beck was the first pastor of Eugene in 1887 and ministered to the Catholics of Cottage Grove. It was not until 1895 that there were enough members and funds to build a church.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help is built on part of the D.G. McFarland donation land claim. On September 1, 1896, the north 1/2 of lot 4 block 2 was sold by McFarland to Archbishop William H. Gross for one hundred dollars.<sup>8</sup> The plans for the church are attributed to Father J.H. Black, pastor of the Eugene mission from August 1895 to May 1897.<sup>9</sup> Plans for the church had been drawn by October of 1895 and the church was completed in 1897 for about \$1500 under the pastorate of Rev. W.A. Daly of Eugene.<sup>10</sup> The dedication took place in December of that year by

<sup>3</sup>"Dedication of a Church," The Catholic Sentinel, 16 Dec. 1897.

<sup>4</sup>Dole, P. Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties, Church of the Immaculate Conception [sic], 1969.

<sup>5</sup>Trask, D.M. "A Short History of the Cottage Grove Pioneer Historical Museum."

<sup>6</sup>Dole, P. Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties, Church of the Immaculate Conception [sic], 1969.

<sup>7</sup>Guzowski, K.J. Cottage Grove, Oregon Historic Context Statement.

<sup>8</sup>Lane County Deed Records.

<sup>9</sup>"St Mary's Church, Cottage Grove," The Catholic Sentinel, 28 Apr. 1927.

<sup>10</sup>"Eugene Correspondence," The Catholic Sentinel, Oct. 31, 1895.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

W.H. Gross of Portland.<sup>10</sup> The building's interior finishes were done by L.A. Overton. There is not definite proof of a builder although three names have appeared in different sources, these are David Lea, George Lea, and Lee S. Hunsacker. In the 1907 Cottage Grove directory, George Lea is listed as a millwright. In an article covering the dedication of 1897, the Eugene Guard described the church as:

"...rather a departure from ordinary church architecture. Its form is octagonal with a wing in splendid proportions attached to one of the squares. A tower, also octagonal [sic], with its richly gilded cross, crowns the eight-sided roof of the main building, while from the wing rises the main tower or spiral seventy feet high...The church is not a large one, each square of the octagon being not over sixteen feet, yet its peculiar form gives it a seating capacity greater than one would obtain from the ordinary buildings of more pretentious proportions. It will easily accommodate between 300 and 400 people...The interior is pronounced perfect in its manner. The walls clouded white contrast with the sky blue of the sloping ceiling, sparkling with stars and circles. There is about it that neatness and finish which is characteristic of the work of Mr. L.A. Overton, who held the contract...A partition in the wing forms an alcove for the altar and sanctuary. The altar [is] finished in white and gold...The windows are of stained glass, richly ornamented. They have all been donated, with the exception of two, and have the names of donors inscribed...The church seems complete in every detail, and its frequent visitors do not hesitate to pronounce it, if unique in its design, one of the prettiest in the county."<sup>11</sup>

Although the above article attests the church could seat 300 to 400 people, it is unlikely it could truly accommodate this many. Father Leipzig, who formerly spent time at the church, estimated in the files at the Archdiocese of Portland that the church would seat no more than 150 to 200 people. According to local tradition, the stained glass windows were imported from Italy or Spain. However, the source of the windows is not identified in the dedication article of 1897.

There are two rooms at the back of the wing. The lower room was used by the priest to prepare for services. There was originally a small staircase that led to the upper alcove area that was used as a living space for the priest until the rectory was built in 1907. The rectory is still standing, but is in private, separate ownership from the church.

Rev. J.B. Fitzpatrick became the first resident pastor of Cottage Grove in 1907.<sup>12</sup> In 1922, Father Edwin V. O'Hara, pastor of Eugene, began the now nationally practiced summer religious vacation school, or Catechism classes, in three of the Eugene Missions; Springfield, Junction

<sup>10</sup>Schoenberg, W.P. A Chronicle of the Catholic History of the Pacific Northwest 1743-1960, 1962.

<sup>11</sup>"Dedication of a Church," The Catholic Sentinel, 16 Dec. 1897.

<sup>12</sup>Baty, E.F. "Some Early History of the Catholic Church in Cottage Grove Oregon," 1988.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

City and Cottage Grove.<sup>13</sup> The status of the church fluctuated from a parish to a mission several times until 1942 when it became a permanent parish.

By the 1950s the members were outgrowing Our Lady of Perpetual Help and in 1961 ground was broken for a new Catholic church and the old church was put up for sale. It was purchased by the Cottage Grove Historical Society for \$4,000 and became known as the Cottage Grove Pioneer Historical Museum. In 1966, with the building in need of maintenance, the historical society turned the church, debt free, with all of the artifacts, over to the city of Cottage Grove. It is still maintained as a museum with the city paying for the utilities and insurance. All other expenses are covered by donations.

It is local conjecture that the design for the building was modeled after a brick church in Germany. There is no evidence to substantiate this. However, Philip Dole noted on his 1969 inventory form for the church that the design is an:

...unusual octagonal space-volume and very picturesque external mass...the composition [is] tight, [and] high like German Baroque...[therefore] the story that [the] concept copied a brick church seen in Germany makes visual sense...while [the] detail-style is typical c. 1900 Oregon.<sup>14</sup>

As a practical matter, octagonal buildings are said to have certain advantages. Proponents claim that cross ventilation is increased by placement of windows on eight sides, instead of four, and a cupola at the apex over the central area of an octagon structure can provide increased ventilation as well. Octagonal buildings are advantageous in windy climates since the direct wind load is borne by a smaller section of wall space. Octagonal buildings are also reportedly more efficient to heat.

Although there is no definitive evidence of a specific paradigm which inspired Father Black's choice of an octagon form, there are general major currents that could have influenced the design. These are the Protestant Calvinist tradition of octagonal church building, the American Octagon Mode of building inspired by Orson Fowler, and the tradition of round or octagonal churches and cathedrals of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Protestant Calvinist tradition of church building in Germany and the Netherlands underwent an octagon phase of building in the 1500s. The followers of Calvin were more interested in the sermon than the ornamentation of a church, so they adopted the octagon form which facilitated viewing superior to that of the traditional church design with a long nave and narrow aisles. Since this occurred in Germany, it supports the idea that Our Lady of Perpetual Help was modeled after a brick church in that country. However, it is questionable whether a Roman Catholic church would follow a Protestant model.

<sup>13</sup>"History of Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Catholic Church," 1958.

<sup>14</sup>Dole, P. Oregon Inventory of Historic Properties, Church of the Immaculate Conception [sic], 1969.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

The second possible source of inspiration for the design may have been Orson Fowler, a promoter of the octagon. In his book The Octagon House A Home For All, first published in 1848, he praised the octagon as ideal for domestic architecture as well as many other structures including churches and school houses. He stated that:

To impress an audience, a speaker requires that they be gathered all around him...the octagon secures this end perfectly...Compactness and equi-distance facilitate impressibility. These the octagon form promotes, while the square and oblong shapes prevent...The octagonal form also facilitates the congregation's seeing one another, and thereby the interchange of friendly and benignant feelings toward one another.

There were several octagonal Dutch reform churches in the Hudson River Valley and in New Jersey between 1680 and 1750 although the height of popularity for octagon buildings in America was during the 1850s and 1860s and was largely due to Fowler's influence.<sup>15</sup> It is possible that this is the foundation for Father Black's choice of an octagon form. Fowler, however, suggested that the seating in an octagon church be centric. This was not the historic layout of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which had seven pews on each side with an aisle down the middle.<sup>16</sup>

The final possible source for the choice of an octagonal church for Cottage Grove is based on the historical appearance of octagonal or circular buildings throughout history. The Tower of the Winds was built in the form of an octagon by the Greeks about 300 B.C.<sup>17</sup> The octagon building form continues to appear in many periods of architectural history and recurs in Catholic cathedrals and churches of Europe. Pictorial examples of the buildings discussed in the following section can be found in the appendix.

The Pantheon is an early example of a circular structure utilized by the Catholic church. Although it was built by the Romans in 27BC, it was consecrated in 608 by Pope Boniface IV to Christian worship.<sup>18</sup> The Baptistery of Florence Cathedral is a true octagonal structure. The building dates from the 4th or 5th century A.D. but the Romanesque green and white marble paneled exterior was added in the eleventh century. Also in Italy, the Church of San Vitale at Ravenna, c. 526-548AD has a high, broad octagonal central form enclosing a dome.<sup>19</sup> This is not unlike Our Lady of Perpetual Help which also is a high octagon form that originally had a domed ceiling painted blue and decorated with stars and circles. It is interesting to note that the mosaic design at the apex of the vaulting in the chancel at San Vitale is a "blue nocturnal sky dotted by gold and silver stars."<sup>20</sup> Aix-la-Chapelle, the next example, was built

<sup>15</sup>Schmidt, F. & Parr, P. More About Octagons, 1958.

<sup>16</sup>Museum Tour.

<sup>17</sup>Schmidt, F. The Octagon Fad, 1958.

<sup>18</sup>Feehan, P.A. Glories of the Catholic Church, 1895.

<sup>19</sup>Bovini, G. Ravenna Mosaics, 1956.

<sup>20</sup>Bovini, G. Ravenna Mosaics, 1956.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   8   Page   5   Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

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as a mausoleum by Charlemagne at the end of the 8th century and is representative of the Carolingian period. It was consecrated by Pope Leo III in 805.<sup>21</sup> It is a sixteen sided polygon which forms an octagon in the central space. It is probable that the architect of Aix-la-Chapelle was inspired by San Vitale since some of the antique columns in the octagon were brought from Ravenna.<sup>22</sup> Another example which supports the tie of octagonal structures throughout architectural history is Ottmarsheim in Germany, consecrated in 1049. This Romanesque church was closely modeled after Charlemagne's chapel at Aix-la-Chapelle.<sup>23</sup> From the Gothic period, St. Gereon's in Cologne 1219-1227, is representative of the octagonal form continuing in church design although its central form is a decagon. Treatment of the roof on the central structure of St. Gereon's is similar to that of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in pitch and form. In Baroque architecture, the pilgrimage church in Germany at Wies, 1746-1754, is an example of the continuity of this tradition and, like Our Lady of Perpetual Help, extends a wing from the central polygonal space. Finally, a tie to America is exemplified in th Protestant, Old Round Church of Richmond, Vermont, 1813. Although this is a sixteen sided structure, it is a representation of polygonal building in the United States which antedates the writings of Orson Fowler. Its vernacular simplicity and cupola prefigure the character of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

It seems that Our Lady of Perpetual Help has more to do with Roman Catholic tradition than with the Octagon Mode in America due to its tight, high composition and Romanesque arched windows. Although the octagon is not a typical form in Catholic church design there is a thread that ties it to Our Lady of Perpetual Help from an early age. It is not suggested that Our Lady of Perpetual Help derives directly from these grand cathedrals and structures, but rather that its form was influenced by a strong history of polygonal and circular building in Catholic architecture. It is logical that Father Black was exposed to octagonal churches during his childhood in Virginia and/or in his studies at Notre Dame. The conclusion is that Our Lady of Perpetual help is related to Northern European archetypes such as Aix-la-Chapelle and is a vernacular Romanesque structure.

Octagon buildings in America represent a relatively rare style most often found in New York, Massachusetts and the Midwest. Octagon buildings in the far west are rarer yet, particularly in reference to churches. Therefore, the importance of Our Lady of Perpetual Help becomes apparent. It is a singular building type in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

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<sup>21</sup>Gall, E. Cathedrals and Abbey Churches of the Rhine, 1963.

<sup>22</sup>Gall, E. Cathedrals and Abbey Churches of the Rhine, 1963.

<sup>23</sup>Gall, E. Cathedrals and Abbey Churches of the Rhine, 1963.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   2   Page   1     Our Lady of Perpetual Help     Lane/Oregon    
name of property County and State

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9   Page   2     Our Lady of Perpetual Help     Lane/Oregon    
name of property County and State

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Lane/Oregon  
name of property County and State

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated area is located in the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 Section 28, Township 20 South, Range 3 West of the Willamette Meridian, in Lane County, Oregon and is legally described as the North 1/2 of Lot 4, Block 2 of D.G. McFarland's 2nd Addition to Cottage Grove, excepting the westerly 51 feet. The property is otherwise identified as tax lot 8300 at said location.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated area of 0.09 acres encompasses the tax lot occupied by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church prior to 1907, at which time the rectory was built on adjoining property which is now a tax lot [8200] under separate ownership. The formerly associated rectory is not included in the nominated area. The museum annex also stands on a separate tax lot (8101) and is not included in the nominated area.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church  
(Cottage Grove Museum)  
147 North H Street  
Cottage Grove  
Lane County, Oregon

Historic Views

Perspective view of Cottage Grove, looking south/southeast, ca. 1906  
Cottage Grove Historical Society  
147 North H Street  
Cottage Grove OR 97424

Photographic illustration from *The Catholic Sentinel* for April 28, 1927  
Showing new porch, intact belfry steeple, and rectory to the west

Current Views

Photographer: Rebecca Ossa  
Date: May 12, 1996  
Negatives: Cottage Grove Historical Society, Cottage Grove Museum

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 1 of 12  | Looking southwest, general setting                                     |
| 2 of 12  | South and east elevations  |
| 3 of 12  | East (entrance) elevation  |
| 4 of 12  | North elevation  |
| 5 of 12  | North and west elevations of belfry wing                               |
| 6 of 12  | Exterior view of typical window  |
| 7 of 12  | Interior view of sanctuary   |
| 8 of 12  | Interior view, looking east toward entrance and choir loft             |
| 9 of 12  | Interior view of typical memorial stained glass window of later origin |
| 10 of 12 | Stairway to upper level of west wing                                   |
| 11 of 12 | Historic altar   |
| 12 of 12 | Close view of original pew   |

RECEIVED

AUG 29 1996

STATE PARKS AND  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT



CITY OF  
**COTTAGE  
GROVE**

400 Main Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424

August 26, 1996

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation  
c/o Elizabeth Walton Potter, National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
1115 Commercial Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310-1001

RE: NOMINATION OF THE COTTAGE GROVE MUSEUM (OLD ST. MARY'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH) TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is to express our support for the nomination of the Cottage Grove Historical Museum to the National Register of Historic Places. This wonderful and unusual building, which will soon be celebrating its centennial year, is a local landmark in our City and an outstanding element of our historic Northwest Neighborhood. Since the 1970s, the City has worked in partnership with the Museum members to ensure that the building be saved and maintained, and we are all thankful and proud of the work the Museum Committee volunteers have done to make the museum a fine showcase for our local history.

We would also like to thank the author of the nomination, Ms. Maia Brindley, for her work in helping our community to honor and preserve its heritage, and Mary Gallagher, preservation instructor from the University of Oregon, for bringing her students to our town and choosing it as a resource for their work.

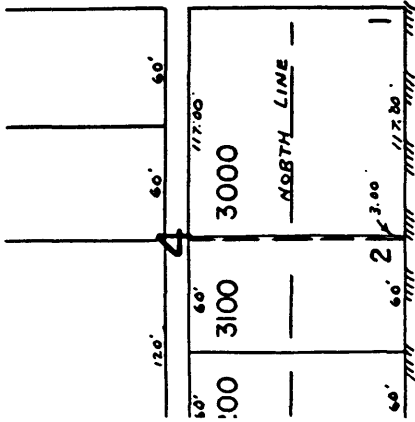
The City, as owner of the property, is proud to support the nomination of this outstanding landmark to the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

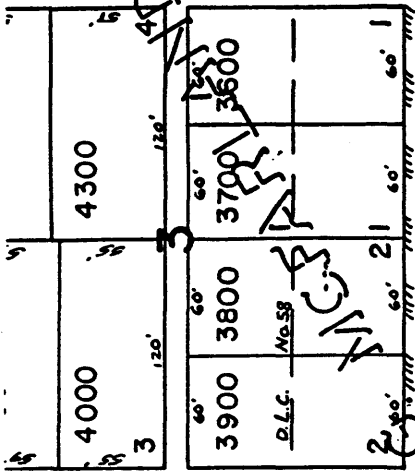
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Bob Baysinger,  
City Council President

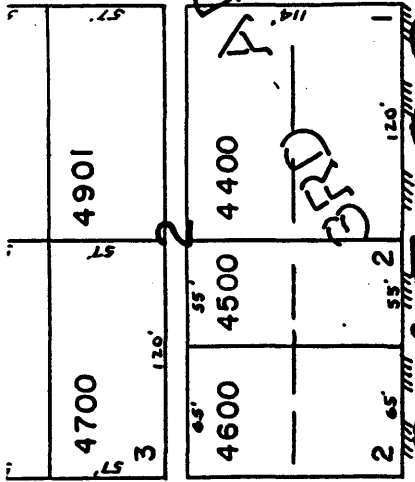
PROMOTE . FOSTER . ESTABLISH . CARE . ENCOURAGE



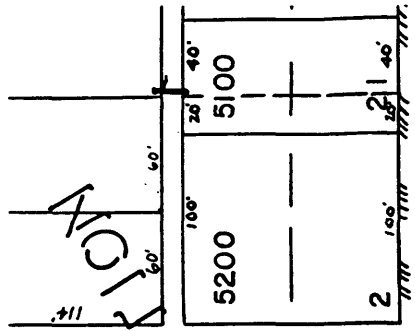
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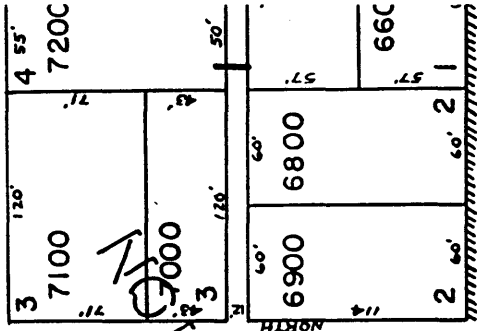
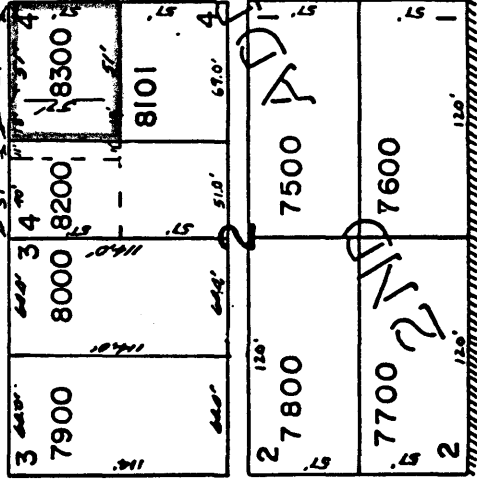
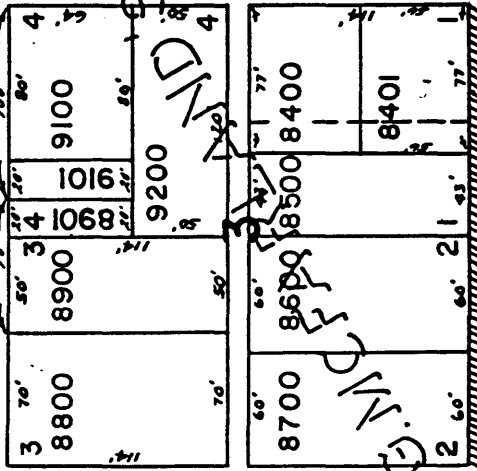
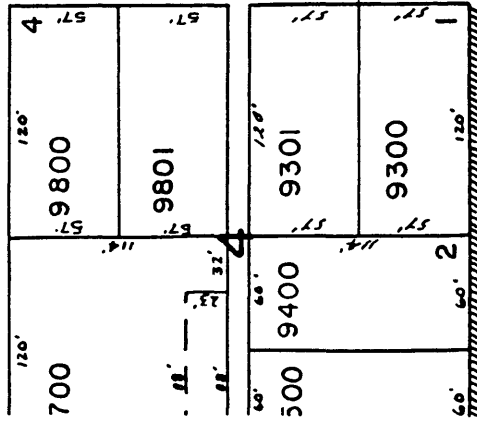
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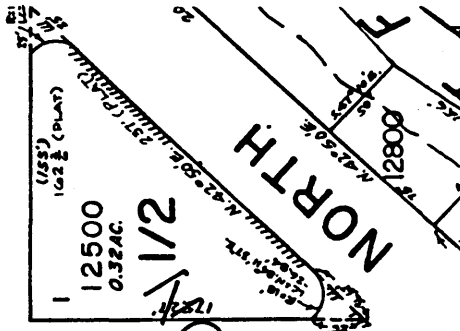
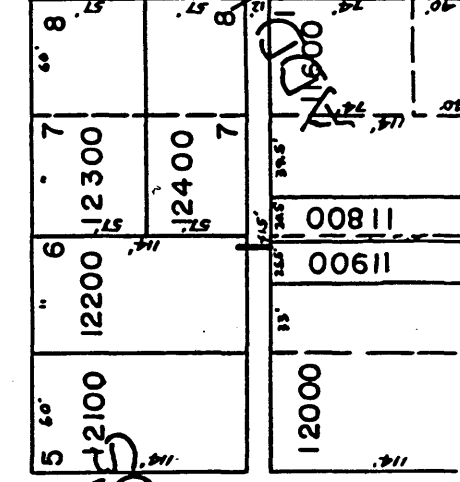
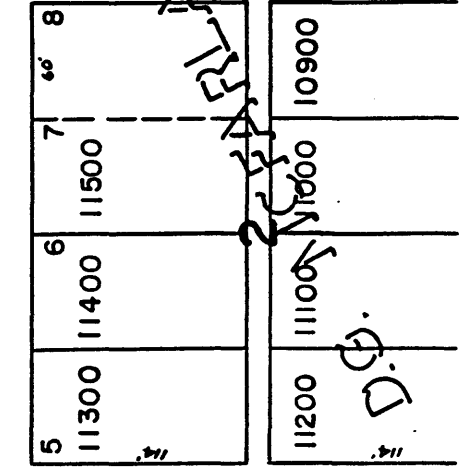
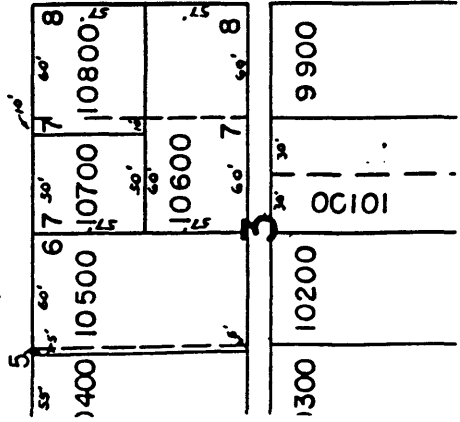
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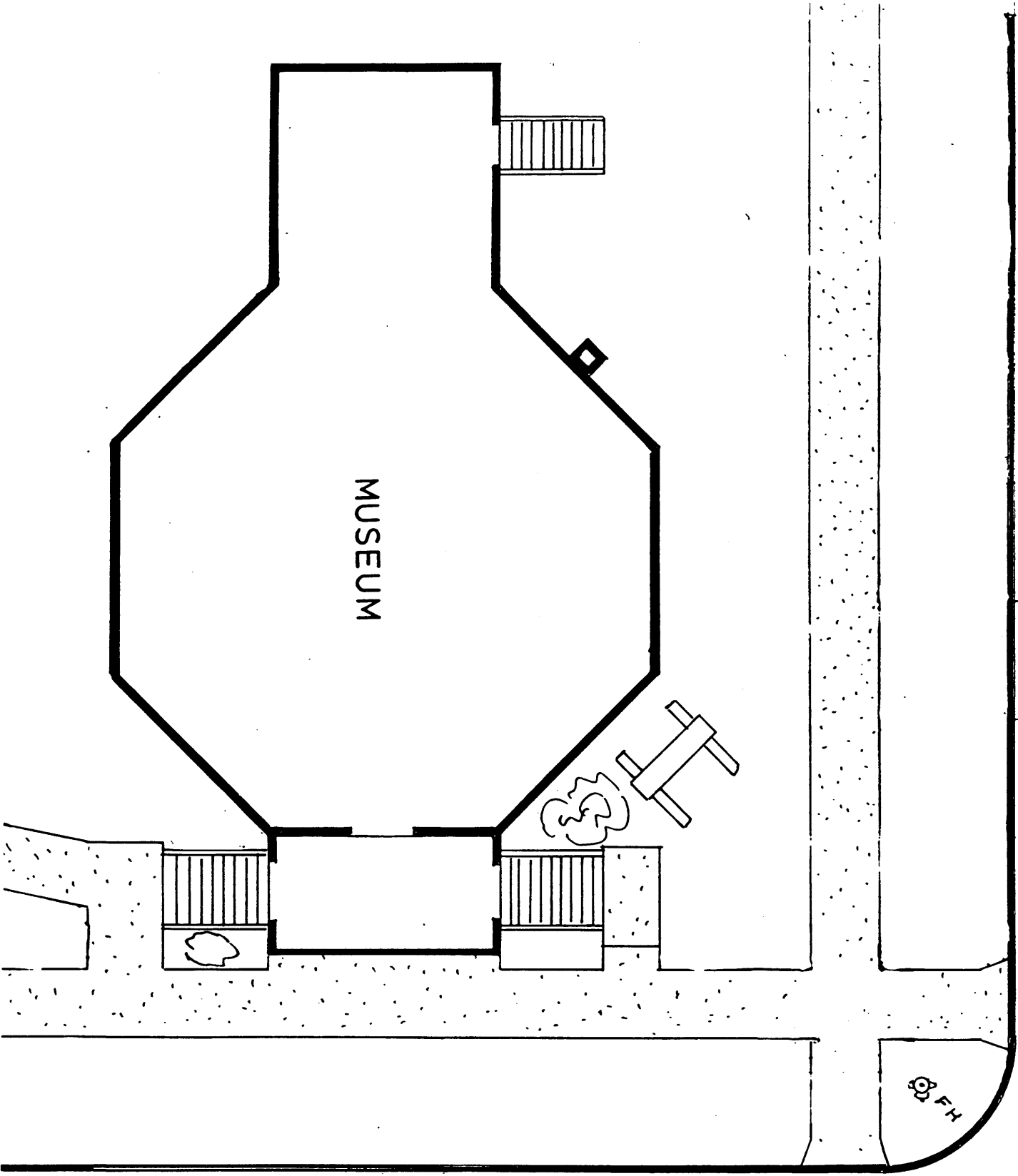
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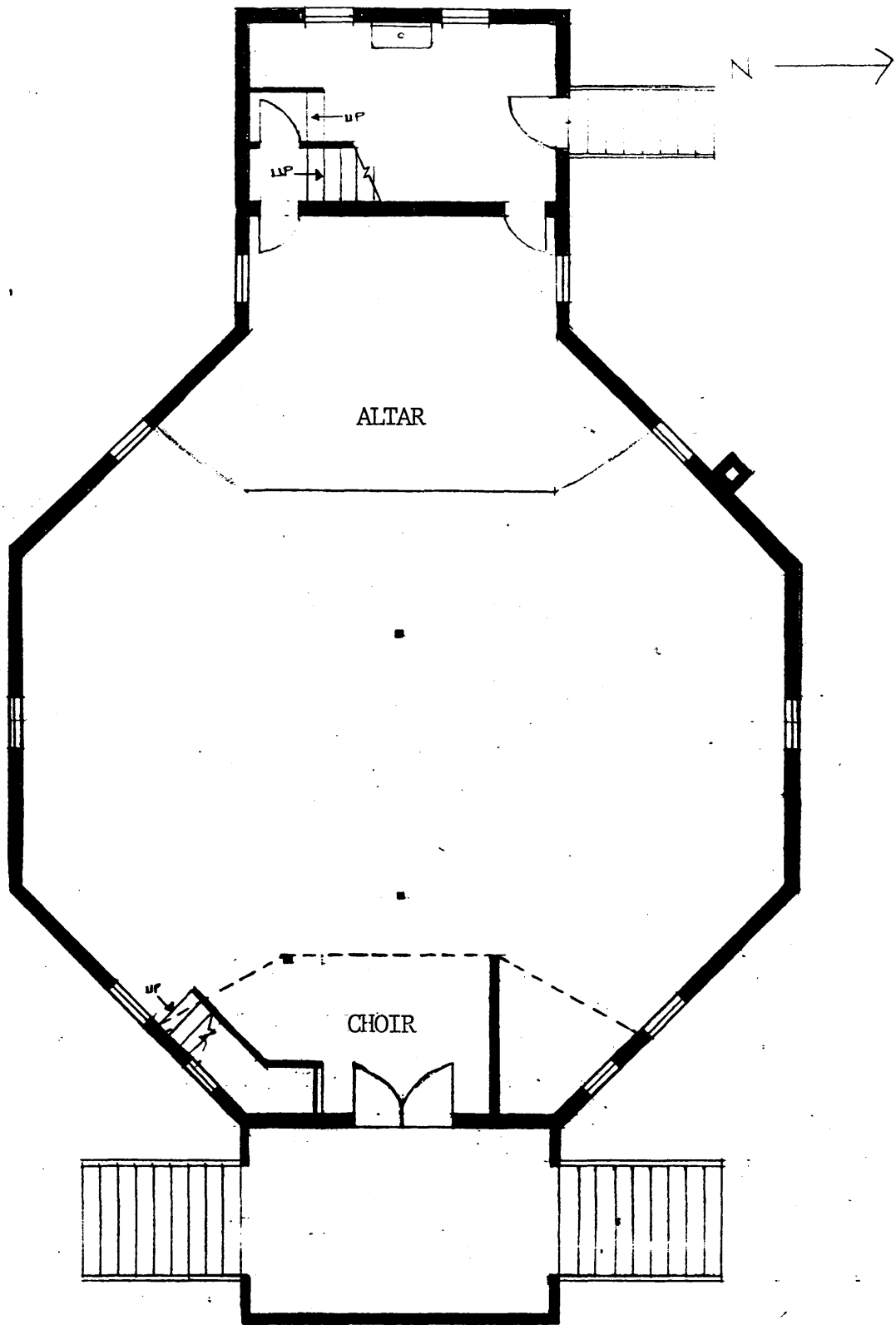
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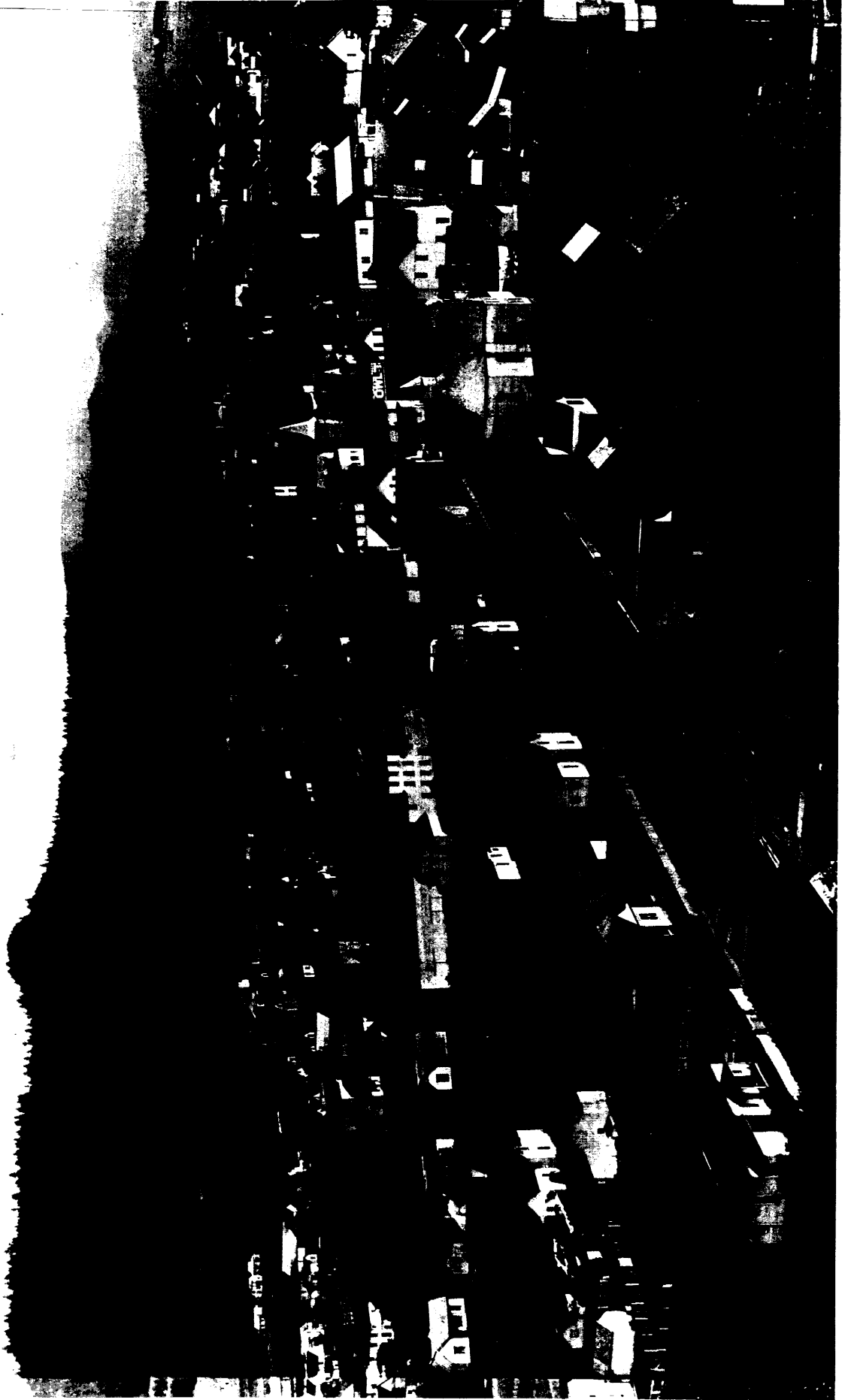
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DRAWN BY: MAIA BRINDLEY

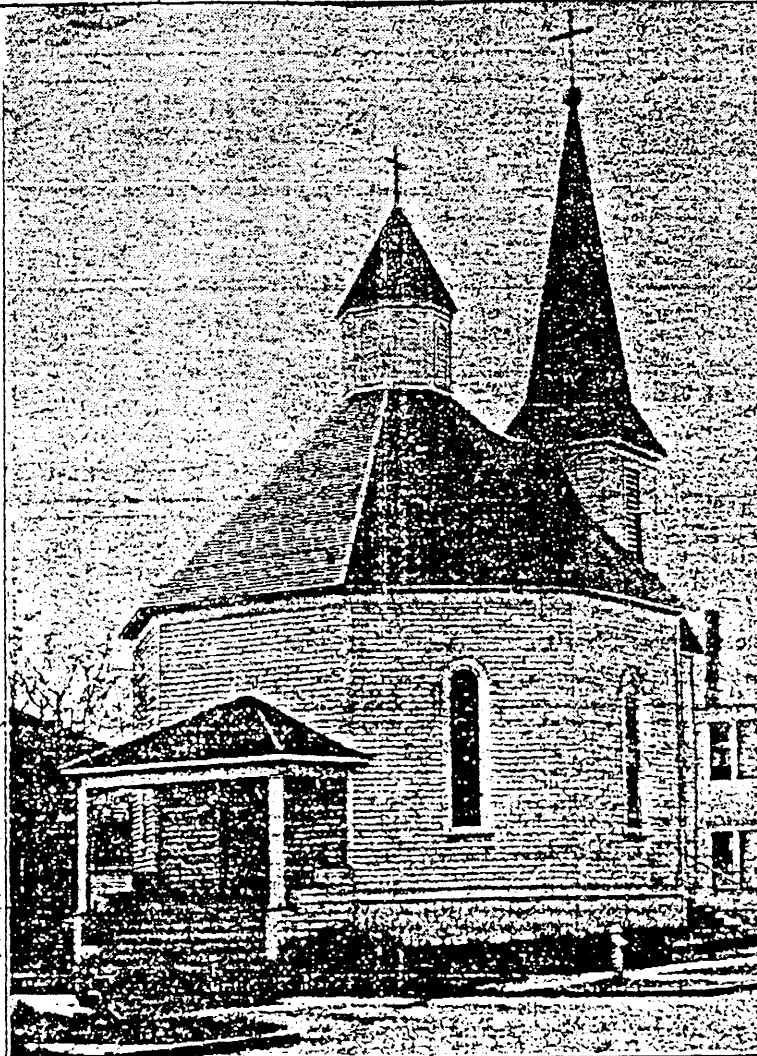
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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church (1897), Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon  
Perspective view, looking south/southeast, ca. 1906

1927

THE CATHOLIC SENTINEL



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, COTTAGE GROVE, ORE.

April 28 - 1927

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church (1897)  
Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon

Illustration from The Catholic Sentinel, April 28, 1927

278

From

To

From

WARRANTY DEED.

~~John J. Anderson~~ ~~Witness~~, That ~~John J. Anderson~~ and ~~his wife~~, for ~~and in~~ consideration of the sum of ~~One hundred~~ Dollars, to ~~him~~ paid, do hereby bargain, sell and convey unto ~~Mrs. H. Gross~~, Roman Catholic ~~Archbishop of Portland~~, the following described premises, to-wit: ~~North half of Lot No. 4, Block 22 in D. G. McFarland's Second Addition to Cottage Grove, Lane County Oregon~~

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as  
Cou

To Have and to Hold the said premises, with their appurtenances, unto the said ~~Mrs. H. Gross~~, Roman Catholic ~~Archbishop of Portland~~, and his assigns forever. And the said ~~D. G. McFarland~~ do hereby covenant to and with the said ~~Mrs. H. Gross~~, Roman Catholic ~~Archbishop of Portland~~ and assigns, that he is the owner in fee simple of said premises; that they are free from all incumbrances and that he will WARRANT AND DEFEND the same ~~against~~ all lawful claims whatsoever

To  
said  
in fee s  
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In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of August A. D. 1896.

DONE IN PRESENCE OF  
 Dr. G. Snapp (SEAL)  
 Wm. C. Gray (SEAL)  
 D. G. McFarland (SEAL)

of  
18  
th

STATE OF OREGON,  
 COUNTY OF LANE, ss. On this, the 18th day of August A. D. 1896  
 personally came before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, the within named  
 D. G. McFarland, unmarried, and his wife, to me personally known to be the identical person described in, and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein named.  
 And the said ~~on examination separate and apart from her said husband~~ acknowledged to me that she executed the same freely and voluntarily, and without fear or compulsion from any one.  
 Witness my hand and seal this 18th day of August 1896.  
 seal  
 Wm. C. Gray  
 Notary Public

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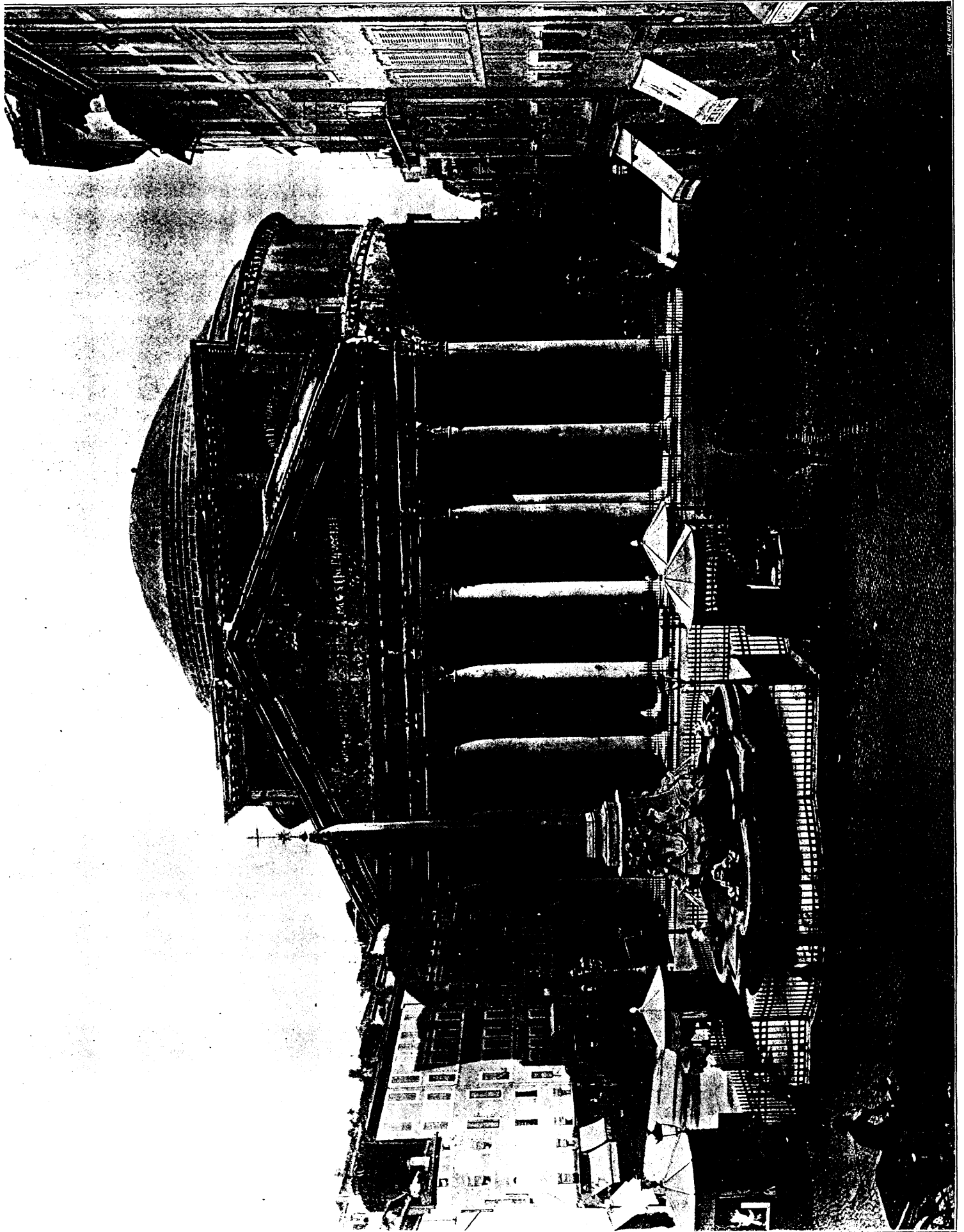
Filed for record September 1st 1896 at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
 R. C. Jennings County Clerk.  
 By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy.

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## APPENDIX

### OCTAGONAL BUILDINGS

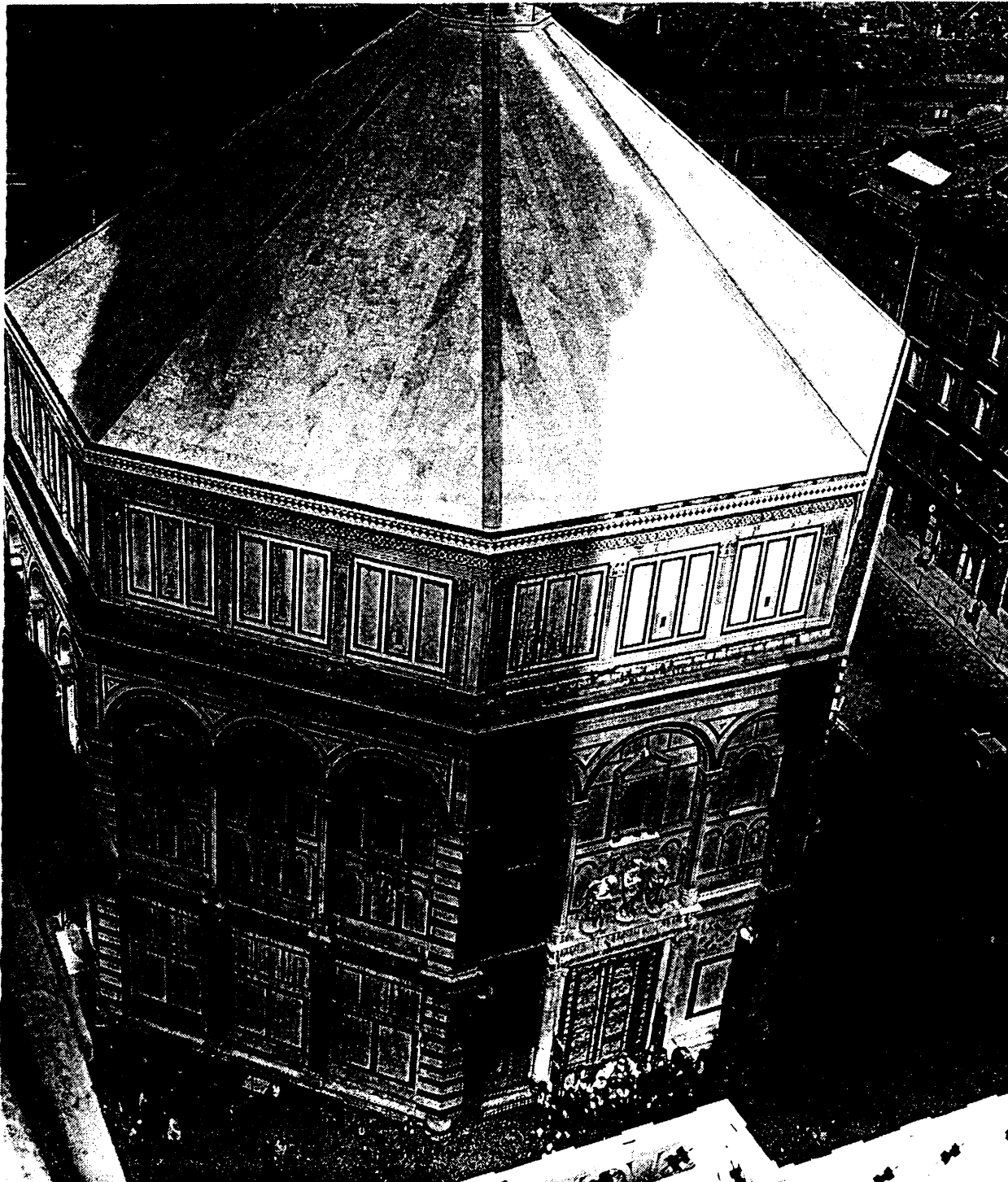
Tower of the Winds, Classic Greek, B. C.  
Temple of Jupiter at Spalatro, 300 A. D.  
Baptistry of the Lateran, about 350 A. D.  
St. Giovanni in Fonti, Ravenna, 390 A. D.  
St. Vitale in Ravenna, about 528  
Baptistry in Florence, 6th Century  
Dome of the Rock at Jerusalem (Mosque of Omar) 4th Century  
The Mausoleum of Theodoric in Ravenna (10 sided)  
Church of Ottmarsheim, near Muehlhausen, 1000  
Aix-la-Chapelle, 796  
Baptistry at Artsago near Milan, 864  
Tomb of Zobeide, Bagdad, 800  
Church at Oberwittighausen  
Church at Grunsfeldhausen  
San Sepolcro at Pisa, 1120  
Baptistry of Abbenga  
St. Agata at Pisa, 1075  
Baptistry at Parma, 1196  
Mathias Kapelle at Cobern-on-the-Rhine, 1200 (hexagon)  
Church at Drugelte, 1200 (twelve sided)  
Castel del Monte, 1228  
Baptistry at Pistoia, 1337  
S. Maria di Canepanova, 1492  
S. Maria della Croce near Crema, 1490  
Anna Chapel in Heiligenstadt, 1500  
Karlshofer Church in Prague  
Santa Maria della Salute, Venice, 1632  
Church at Gruenfeldshausen, 16th Century  
Church at Jzendijke, Holland  
The Noorderkerk at Amsterdam  
Church at Maasluis, Holland  
Church in Willemstad, Holland, 1595



GLORIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE PANTHEON, ROME 27 BC

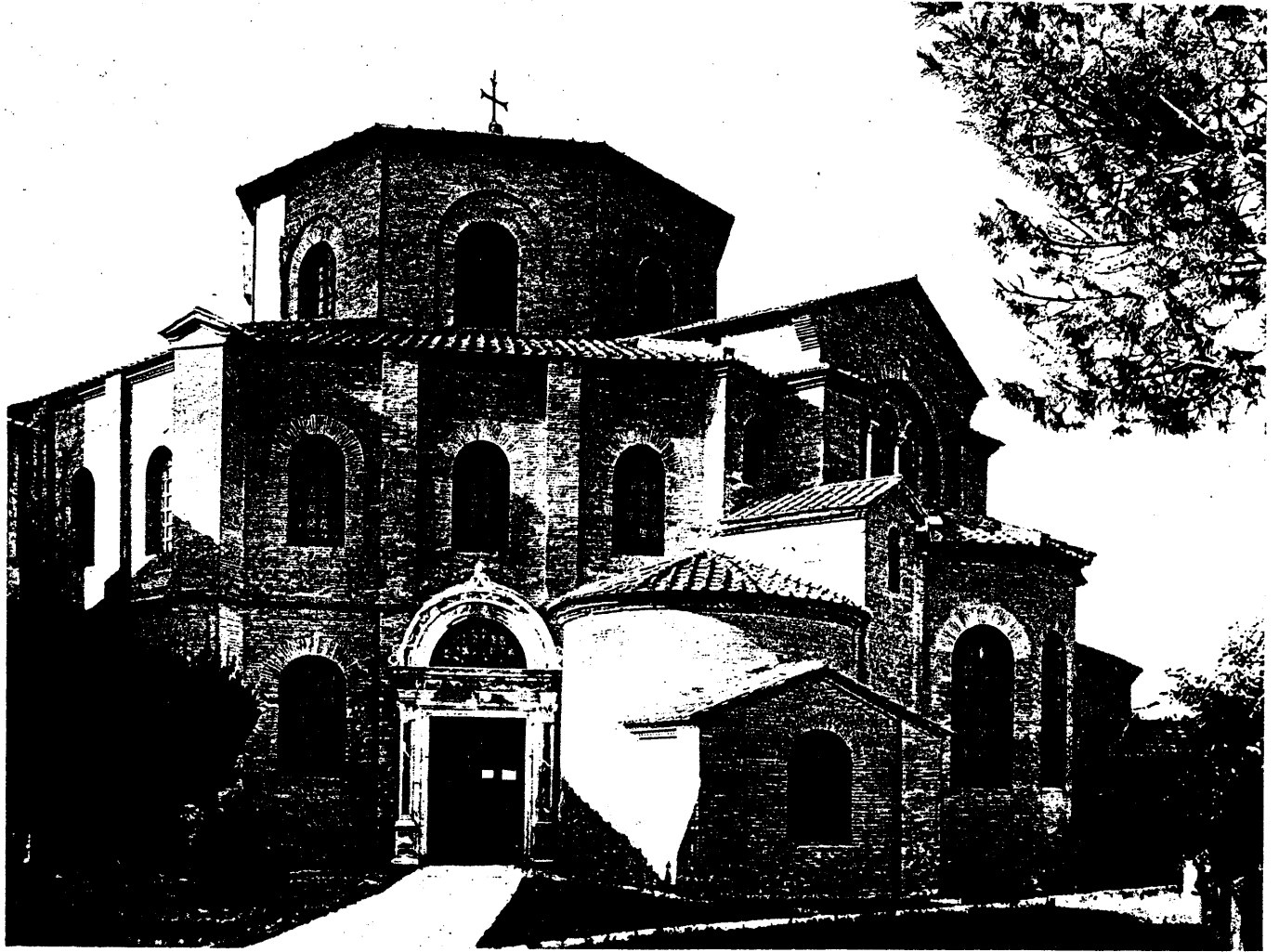
*The Baptistry of Florence Cathedral,  
which functioned as the cathedral itself  
until the present one was erected.  
Renaissance Florentines believed this to  
be an ancient Roman building.*



THE BAPTISTRY OF FLORENCE CATHEDRAL

THE HOLISE OF GOD





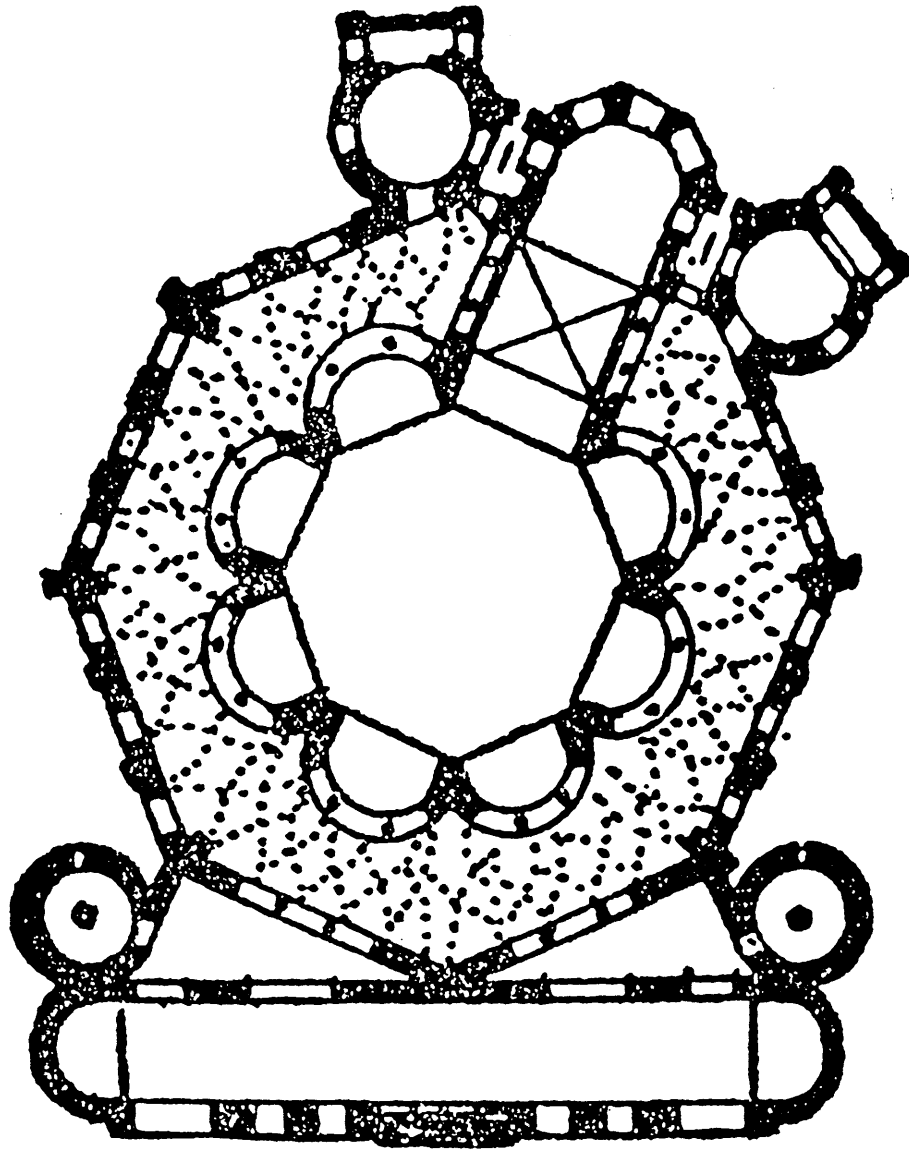
San Vitale

Exterior

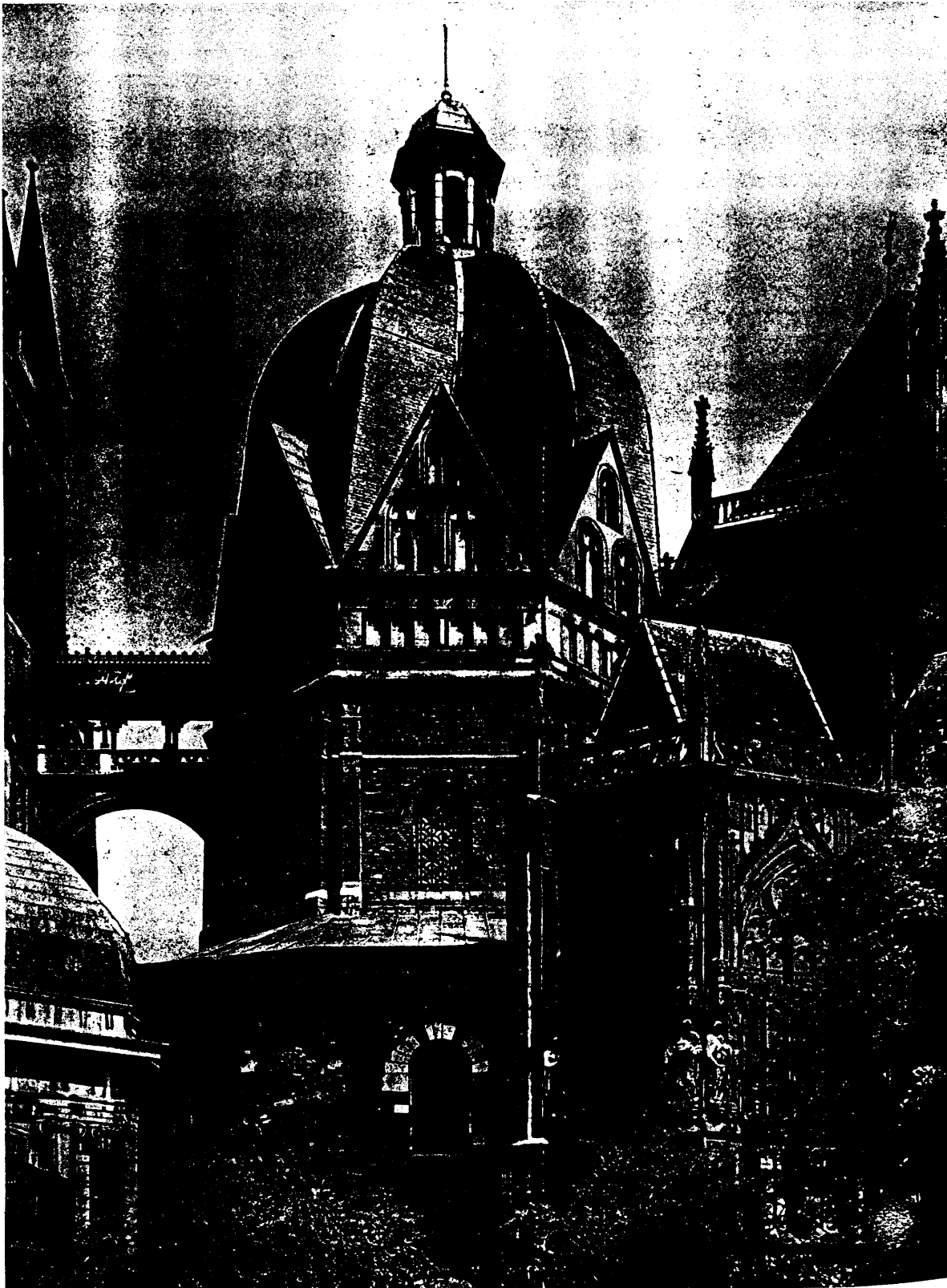
THE CHURCH OF SAN VITALE  
*RAVENNA, ITALY*

3. 526 - 548 A.D.

*RAVENNA MOSAICS*



CHURCH OF SAN VITALE, RAVENNA



158 Aix-la-Chapelle, former Palatine chapel (since 1801 cathedral church) from the south. Only the centre part of the building dates from the Carolingian era, the superstructure was rebuilt in 1224, the baroque roof in 1664. On the right the Gothic choir and a chapel added in the 14th and 15th centuries

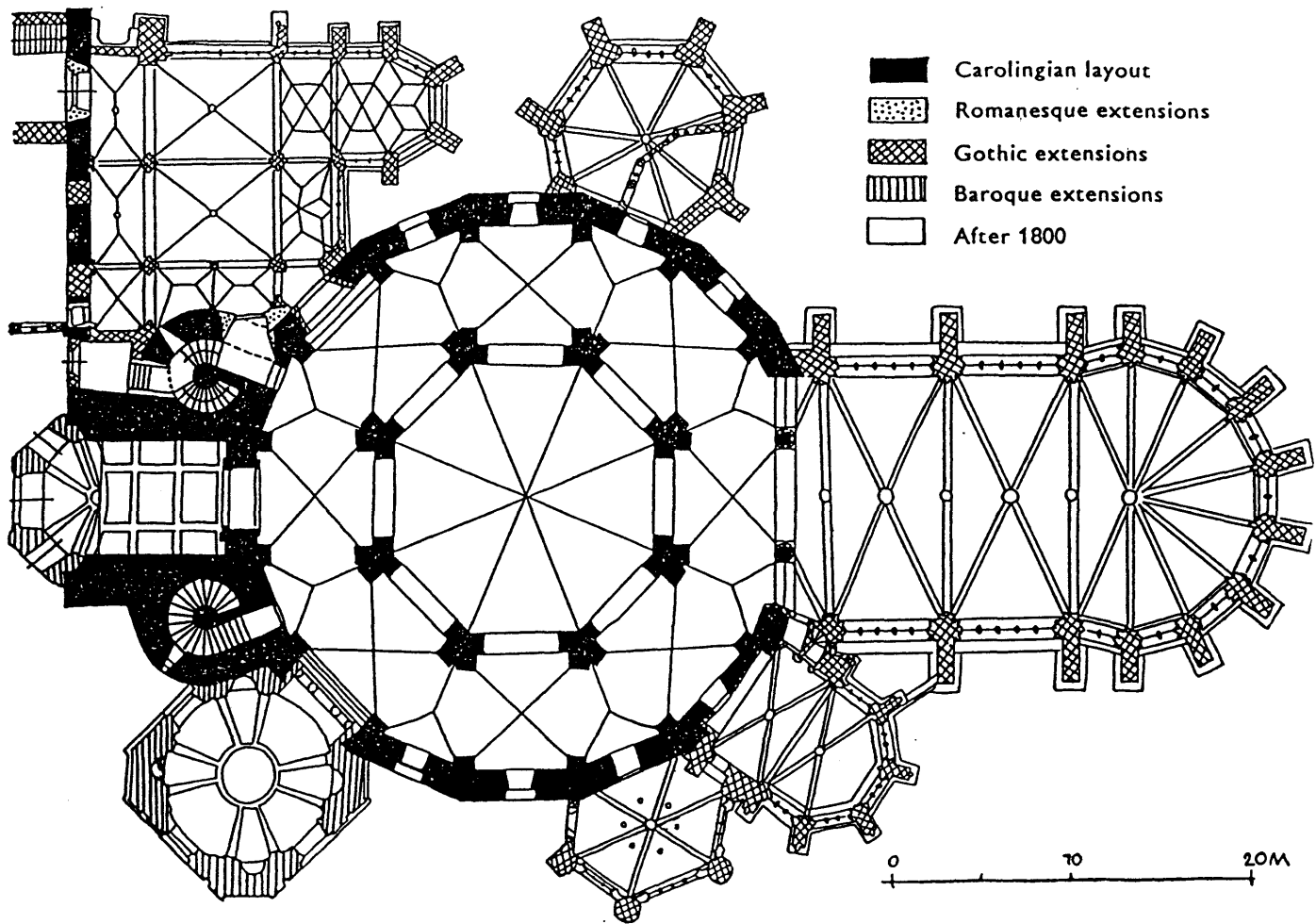
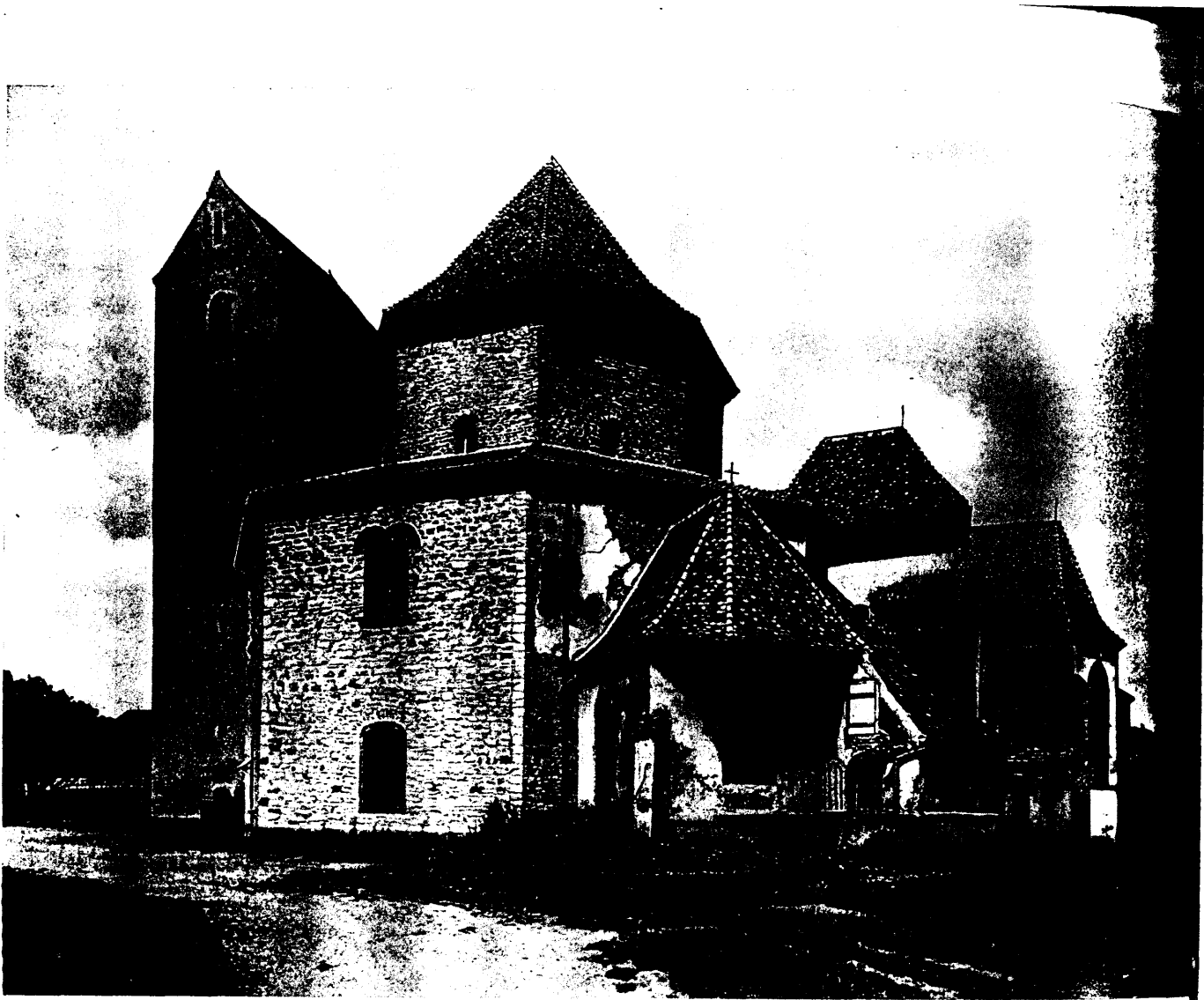
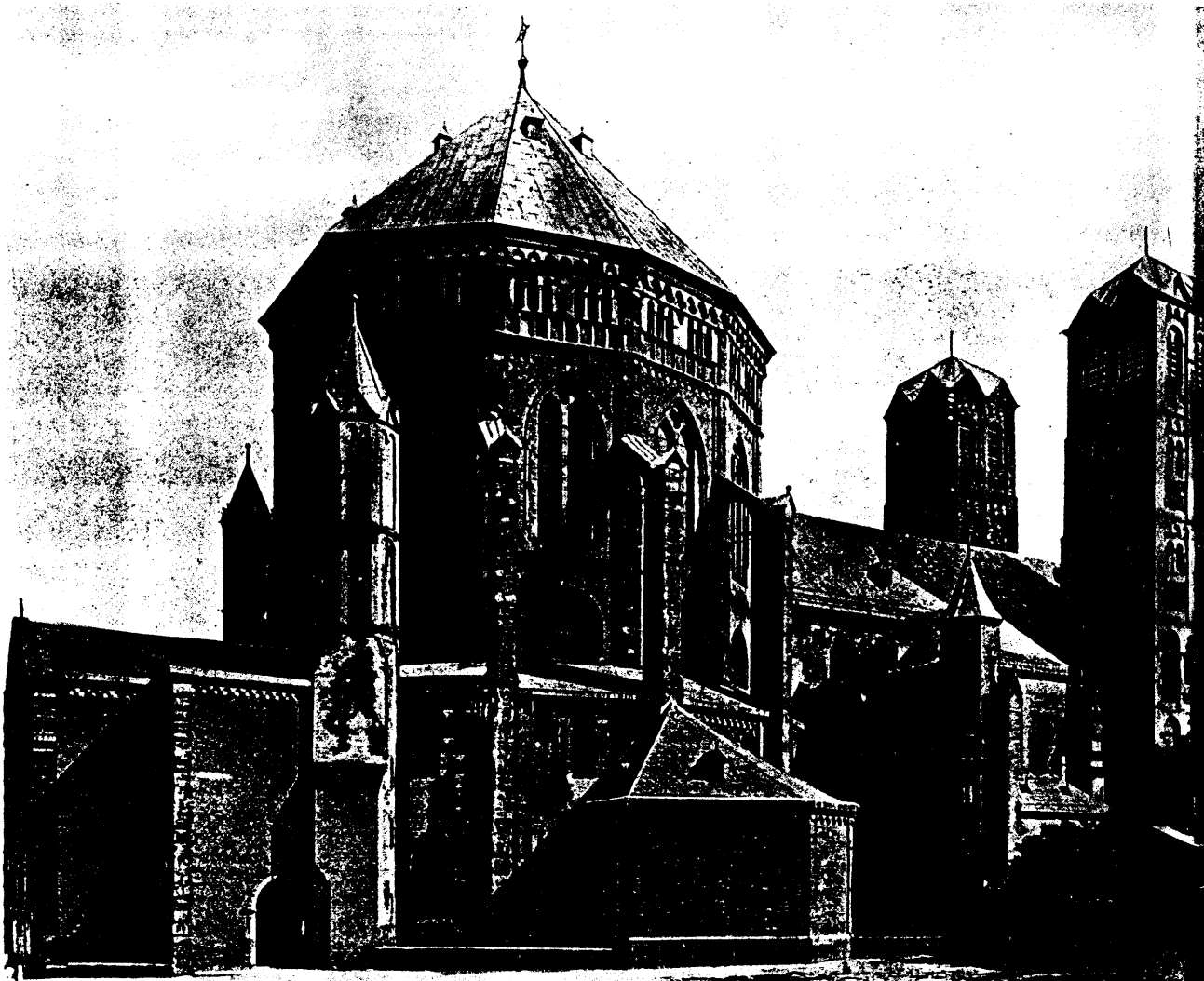


Fig. 3 Aix-la-Chapelle, former Palatine chapel, now cathedral, ground-plan.



26 Otmarsheim, convent-church from the south-east.

The central structure dates from the first half of the 11th century, the side-buildings and the upper part of the extension of the west front (left) were added during the Gothic period. The higher roof of the central structure with the arched frieze dates from the 19th-century restoration



190 Cologne, St Gereon's from the south-west. The central structure was rebuilt on Late Roman foundations 1219-1227, the long choir on the east side (right), which was added in the 11th century, was extended to the east along with the towers round the middle of the 12th century. Partially destroyed during the last war



123 WIES, PILGRIMAGE CHURCH - GERMANY  
1746 - 1754

OLD ROUND CHURCH, RICHMOND, VERMONT 1813

