

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
RECEIVED MAY 31 1978  
DATE ENTERED  
AUG 31 1977  
OHP

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **PARKER AND HECTOR ST.**

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **TRINIDAD**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**2**

STATE **CALIFORNIA**

CODE **06**

COUNTY **HUMBOLDT**

CODE **023**

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

\_\_OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Bishop, Diocese of Santa Rosa**

STREET & NUMBER

**398 - Tenth St.**

CITY, TOWN

**Santa Rosa,**

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**California**

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Courthouse, Humboldt Co. Recorder's Office**

STREET & NUMBER

**Fourth and J. Sts.**

CITY, TOWN

**Eureka,**

**California**

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE **The City of Trinidad has not had an historical or architectural survey made.**

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> _GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> _RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> _MOVED    DATE_____
<input type="checkbox"/> _FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small church is located on a south sloping site which overlooks Trinidad Harbor. The nave seats about 60 persons in long wood pews (original pew ends) with space for 18 more in a choir loft. There is a tiny narthex at the front, and a sacristy room on each side of the sanctuary.

The building is all wood frame construction in the shape of a simple rectangle with a gable roof, except that the sanctuary area is a shed roof structure against the rear of the church. A small bell tower tops the roof above the choir. The foundation system is wood posts supported by concrete piers, all in excellent conditions.

Windows are wood sash, double hung, surmounted with an arched, fixed glass transom which was formerly in colored glass but is now clear glazed. Siding is horizontal lap siding painted white and the roofing is wood shingles. The exterior restoration matches the original, except for the window glass mentioned above, and the addition of a small gable porch roof over the entrance doors, which was added for protection from the rainy winter weather of Humboldt County. This was an addition only, and none of the openings, doors or windows were altered, as can be proved by comparing the two photos submitted. In the restoration of the church, the position of the placque with the date 1873, and the cross were reversed to allow room for a louvre which was necessary for ventilation for the loft and bell tower to meet safety requirements of the Fire Dept. Double doors are used as in the original construction. The interior finishes are painted 1 x 4 redwood, except for a modern plywood wainscot and vinyl asbestos floor tile. The nave ceiling does not follow the roof gable shape but is furred into a flat "basket handle" arch. This form is repeated over the sanctuary at a lower level. The sanctuary is carpeted and the original altar is used as a back altar. The original communion rail is stored in the building.

Interior paint colors are pastel shades of blue and green. The building has been electrified for lights and heat (wall heaters.)

Marvin Trump, A.I.A.

Two other modifications have been noted in comparing the restored structure with historical photographs. At the time of the 1955 restoration, the original clapboard siding was removed and replaced with drop siding. Also, the original steeple was larger in size than at present. At some time between 1907 and 1954, the original steeple was replaced with a smaller steeple. This smaller steeple was retained during the restoration.

Aside from the addition of the porch, which could be eliminated at any time, the church closely resembles its original architecture. The steeple could be enlarged to its original dimensions.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES January, 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Messrs. Purcell & Griffith

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Church was named in commemoration of the landing of the Spanish Explorers, Bruno de Heceta and Juan Bodega on the historic Holy Trinity Sunday, June 11, 1775, when after entering Trinidad Bay and exploring the port, they erected a cross on Trinidad Head and took possession of the land in the name of King Charles 111 of Spain. On this Trinity Sunday, mass was celebrated and a sermon preached by the Reverend Father Miguel de la Campa. Many volleys of cannon and guns were fired as an act of thanks to the Creator. At the foot of the cross, the Spanish put the words "Carolus tertius Rex Hispaniarum." On that day, Fray Miguel de la Campa, chaplain of the ship Santiago, recorded in his Diary: "The event of the day was the motive for giving the Port the name of the Most Holy Trinity" - hence the name of the City - Trinidad.

The first pastor was Father Michael Walrath, a young man born in Bochum in Rhenish Prussia, Jan. 18, 1840. At about twenty-five years of age he migrated to the U.S. and ended up studying for the priesthood at St. Joseph's College in Rohnerville, Ca. After being ordained in 1872 he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Church, County of Klamath and its biggest City - Trinidad. Tradition has it that he would travel monthly by mule between the two cities of his parish.

He was a man filled with zeal and enthusiasm, and had some success with the Indians in the villages of the north. So we can imagine that he envisioned great possibilities which existed in the city of Trinidad, the great apostolic work he could do among the Indians and the white settlers.

Early in 1873 he began to make preparations for the building of a church in Trinidad. The property with a house on it at that time was donated by Messrs. Hooper and Co. Cooper Lumber Co. donated the lumber, and the people collected over fourteen hundred dollars to pay the builders, Messrs. Purcell and Griffith. The Baptismal Registry, lists George Henry Haskill, the son of Henry and Mary Haskill, as the first child to be baptized here, the date is given as February 12, 1873.

In 1874 the existence of Klamath Co. was terminated, and its territory was divided among the neighboring counties. Hence Trinidad became part of Humboldt Co. and Holy Trinity Church became the responsibility of the priests of St. Bernard's Church, Eureka, Ca. In 1883, the parish of St. Mary's in Arcata was established and jurisdiction over the church was placed in the hands of the founding pastor, Father Thomas Nugent. The Eureka priests, and Father Nugent made monthly visits to Trinidad until about the turn of the century when St. Mary's Church, Arcata, became temporarily a mission of St. Bernards, Eureka. After that church followed the path of many of the old buildings of Trinidad, falling into a state of disrepair. However, fortunately it escaped the fate of a fire that took many of them. But what nature

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Coy - "The Humboldt Bay Region - 1850-75"  
 Heizer and Mills, "The Four Ages of Tsurai" 1952  
 Drucker, "Indians of the Northwest, 1955  
 Walsh, Henry L. "Hallowed Were the Gold Dust Trails, " 1946  
 Centennial Booklet of St. Bernard's Church, Eureka, Ca.  
 Memorial Brochure of St. Joseph's Church, Crescent City, 1961  
 McBeth, "Lower Klamath County" 1950

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM NOT VERIFIED  
 ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .043 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	0	4	0	3	9	7	0	4	5	4	5	7	5	0	
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING													

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING													

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot 54.78 feet by 34.47 feet bounded on the north by Parker Street, on the west by Hector Street, and on the east and south by vacant property owned by Mrs. Ed Krampert.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Janis J. Saunders, Historical Chairman Marvin Trump, A. I. A.

ORGANIZATION Holy Trinity Guild DATE August 24, 1977

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box A. TELEPHONE 877-3559

CITY OR TOWN Trinidad, Ca. 95570 STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kinoy Mellon*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/18/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Ray Luce* **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER** DATE 8/6/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TEST: *[Signature]* DATE 8-5-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

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and the elements did not destroy, souvenir hunters were seen taking.

In 1955 the pastor of St. Mary's Church, Arcata, Father Cornelius O'Connor, upon the recommendation of the Trinidad City Council began the repair of Holy Trinity Church on the 17th of March. In the restoration an attempt was made to retain as much as possible of the original flavor. Where possible, the original material was retained. The original placque with the title and founding date was restored to its place over the door. The original altar was still usable. The pews had been scattered about in the fields around the church, and had been destroyed by the elements; however the ends were still in fairly good condition and were used to build new pews.

In June of that same year - on Holy Trinity Sunday in commemoration of that Historic Holy Trinity Sunday in 1775, Bishop Armstrong of Sacramento rededicated the church. The Church is once more a house of worship for the people in the area, and the many tourists who visit this Historical spot. The community celebrated the Centennial of Holy Trinity Church in 1973, and the congratulatory letters from City State, and National Officials are on display in the Church. The Church is open to tourists, and regular services are held.

Holy Trinity Church is the Oldest Building still standing in the City of Trinidad.

Because of this, and the historical background outlined above which led to the building of this church; its importance to early settlers of this area; its strong association with the date of discovery of Trinidad Bay, and the religious ceremonies enacted on Holy Trinity Sunday - June 11, 1775 - the people of Trinidad feel that this little church deserves to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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SUMMARY

The building of the Holy Trinity Church was an asset to the whole community of Trinidad. It was used as a meeting house for the Town Council and citizens attending community gatherings. Many important decisions involving the future of the whole county were decided within its walls. In addition to business, the church was also used for the social events as receptions for baptisms, confirmations, and weddings.

The building typifies the carpenter-built small church of California's remote north coast during the 19th century. The region developed slowly and was one of the last areas of California to establish direct overland routes of travel connecting with the state's major economic and population centers. Access was primarily by sea, and the isolated north coast continued to perpetuate earlier traditions of building and design. Holy Trinity Church is a local carpenter's interpretation of "appropriate" ecclesiastical imagery. The building is a simple vernacular product which does not fit into a definite stylistic category, although the builder's use of lancet windows conveys some of the feeling of mid-19th century Gothic Revival church styling. The building remains as the oldest surviving tangible link with the community's early history.

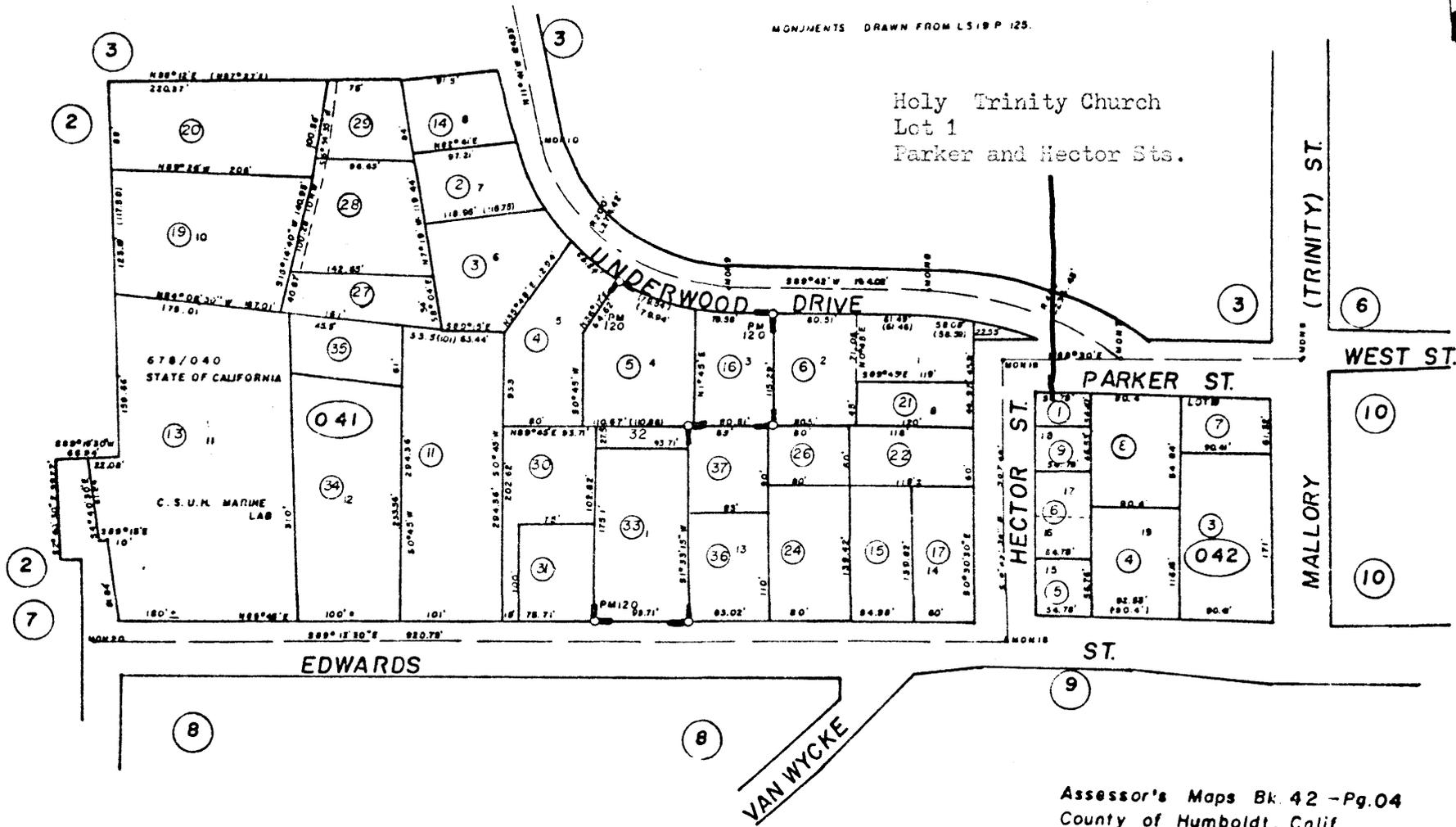
TOWN OF TRINIDAD

LS 19 P 125  
 LS 20 P 145  
 PM 2 P 271 PM 120

42-04  
 351



MONUMENTS DRAWN FROM LS 19 P 125.



Assessor's Maps Bk. 42 - Pg. 04  
 County of Humboldt, Calif.

TOWN OF TRINIDAD  
 Humboldt County, CA

42-05

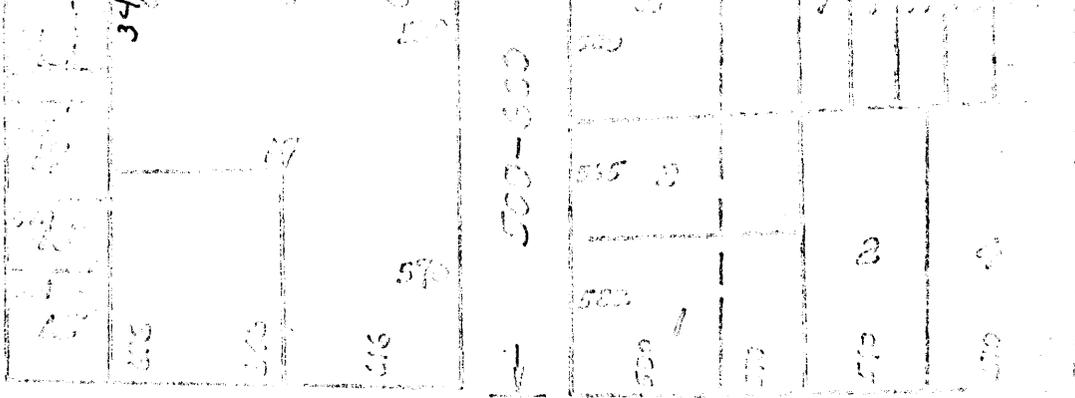
MONUMENTS DRAWN FROM L.S. 19 122  
 20 46  
 20 47

L.S. 19 122  
 16 21  
 19 122

1" = 100'  
 REV. 12/5/88

\*\* 54.78' PARKER  
34.47'

X



600-500

500-600



21

\* MAP - CITY OF TRINIDAD

\*\* Holy Trinity Church  
Humboldt County, CA.

ASSESSOR'S MAP  
BK - 42 - P. 1

LOT 18  
BLOCK - 1  
TOWN - 39