

PH 362474
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED 10/17/77
 DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC
 Episcopal Church of the Ascension
 AND OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 25 East Laurel Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CITY TOWN _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____
 STATE California VICINITY OF _____ COUNTY Los Angeles CODE 037
 CODE 06

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Church of the Ascension
 STREET & NUMBER 25 East Laurel Avenue
 CITY TOWN _____ STATE California
 _____ VICINITY OF _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Los Angeles County Hall of Records
 STREET & NUMBER 320 W. Temple Street
 CITY TOWN _____ STATE California
Los Angeles

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE California Historic Resources Inventory
 DATE September 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY _____ LOCAL _____
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation
 CITY TOWN Sacramento STATE California

Not for
 Permanent
 File

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT

The Church of the Ascension is a structure of fieldstone and pebbled brick with a steeply pitched roof of asphalt shingles. The structure is cruciform with the nave roof consisting of a series of additions (partly of fieldstone) on the northeast corner of the

The facade on the south side is of shingle with 3 stained-glass windows. The open work and capped by a pediment and is connected to the organ loft. It contains the mid-nineteenth century steamship which had washed ashore from the white stucco side. The side is semi-circular and lined with wooden brackets and line with wooden brackets overhang of the roof. The similar building materials of the structure.

The interior of the church is supported by hammer beams. The exposed brickwork is also evident. The stained-glass windows and

Since its original construction, which have blended harmoniously, Winslow added a parish hall and northern section in 1922. The church was carefully designed to match the existing structure. The entrance was enlarged the rear of the church. A school building was constructed adjacent to the church. War damage on the exterior, and the interior liturgy have also occurred.

The building is presently in good condition. The cracks from recent earthquake are correct. The structure lies in a good neighborhood.

DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
| <input 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 | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of the Ascension is a Norman-styled ecclesiastical structure with Romanesque and Gothic details. The exterior is composed of fieldstone and pebbling, with wood shingle and stucco gables and a steeply pitched roof of asbestos shingles. The basic floor plan is cruciform with the nave running from west to east with a rectangular series of additions (parish hall, etc.) extending eastward from about the northeast corner of the church.

The facade on the southside is broken by a center gable of wood shingle with 3 stained-glass windows. A square fieldstone belfry with open work and capped by a pyramidal roof lies to the immediate west and is connected to the original wooden entrance portico. The belfry contains the mid-nineteenth century bell from the City of Dublin, a steamship which had washed ashore on the coast of Oregon. The new entrance on the west side (1951) also has a high-pitched portico extending from the white stucco gable. The exterior of the apse on the east side is semi-circular and made of fieldstone and pebbling up to the roof line with wooden brackets connecting the exposed verticle beams to the overhang of the roof. The addition on the north side is composed of similar building materials and blends in well with the original portion of the structure.

The interior of the church features exposed wooden rafters supported by hammer beams. The exposed fieldstone foundation and pebbling above it is also evident. The church is also ornamented by the original Gothic stained-glass windows and new pews.

Since its original construction the church has had several additions which have blended harmoniously with the original structure. Carlton Winslow added a parish hall, sunday school, and related rooms to the northern section in 1922. The exterior and interior of this addition was carefully designed to match the original church. In 1951, Winslow's son enlarged the rear of the building on the western side and left a new entrance which was stylistically sympathetic to the old entrance. A school building was constructed on the property in 1952 and is not connected to the church. Various minor changes such as re-painting the wood on the exterior, and interior alterations to accomodate the changing liturgy have also occurred.

The building is presently in fair condition but has suffered several cracks from recent earthquakes which the church administration intends to correct. The structure lies on a well landscaped setting in a residential neighborhood.

SIGNIFICANCE

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION |

SPECIFIC DATES 1888 BUILDER

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Ascension is the second and the oldest ecclesiastical structure in the area. The church was constructed in 1888 on the site of a building had blown down in a windstorm the preceding year. It was erected by the congregation under the direction of Ernest A. Coxhead, on land donated by one of Sierra Madre's first settlers, Frances H. Hawks. Since that time, the church has been the community of Sierra Madre as a place of worship for Catholics and as an institution which has helped to shape the community.

Architecturally, the church is one of the finest examples of the ecclesiastical designs of Ernest A. Coxhead. Coxhead, who was born and educated in England, moved to the United States and settled first in Los Angeles and later in Pasadena. He established a reputation as the most important church designer of the late nineteenth century. His work includes the Church of the Angels in Pasadena, St. Augustine in Santa Monica, and the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles. About twelve such churches built in Southern California are attributed to Coxhead.

Although not the most elaborate example of the Church of the Ascension is a substantial and well designed. Coxhead designed it and supervised the work on a very close working relationship with the members of the congregation. He brought the building materials to the construction site. Anita Wash and did the actual construction. The final product was a fine Norman-styled house of worship in wood and stone which was heavily influenced by the architecture of Coxhead's native England.

Since 1888, the original church structure has been altered. An addition to the western side in 1951 by another noted California architect, Carlton Winslow, increased the length of the structure to accomodate the new style, however, blends in well with the original structure. The addition added the parish hall and related rooms to the church in 1922 and was careful to use almost the same materials in the interior and exterior to keep the original structure intact.

SIGNIFICANCE

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
ALTERED ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE _____

KNOWN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Norman-styled ecclesiastical
walls. The exterior is composed
of stone and stucco gables and a
portico. The basic floor plan is
rectangular, extending eastward from about

centered by a center gable of wood
square fieldstone belfry with
which lies to the immediate west
of the entrance portico. The belfry
is from the City of Dublin, a
coast of Oregon. The new
addition is a high-pitched portico extend-
ing from the apse on the east
side and pebbling up to the roof
line. Exposed verticle beams to the
north side is composed of
stone wall with the original portion

Exposed wooden rafters supported
the foundation and pebbling above
is ornamented by the original Gothic

The church has had several additions
to the original structure. Carlton
Winslow, and related rooms to the
interior of this addition was
added to the church. In 1951, Winslow's son
extended the eastern side and left a new
entrance to the old entrance. A
portico in 1952 and is not con-
sistent with the original archi-
tecture such as re-painting the
interior to accommodate the changing

The church has had several additions
to the original structure. Carlton
Winslow, and related rooms to the
interior of this addition was
added to the church. In 1951, Winslow's son
extended the eastern side and left a new
entrance to the old entrance. A
portico in 1952 and is not con-
sistent with the original archi-
tecture such as re-painting the
interior to accommodate the changing

| 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" 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

1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Ernest Coxhead

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Ascension is the second Episcopal church building and the oldest ecclesiastical structure in the city of Sierra Madre. The church was constructed in 1888 on the site of the first church which had blown down in a windstorm the preceding year. The structure was erected by the congregation under the direction of the architect, Ernest A. Coxhead, on land donated by one of Sierra Madre's earliest settlers, Frances H. Hawks. Since that time, the church has continuously served the community of Sierra Madre as a place of worship for local Episcopalians and as an institution which has helped to guide community growth.

Architecturally, the church is one of the few remaining examples of the ecclesiastical designs of Ernest A. Coxhead (1863-1933). Born and educated in England, Coxhead moved to the United States in 1885, settling first in Los Angeles and later moving to San Francisco. He established a reputation as the most important Southern California church designer of the late nineteenth century with such works as the Church of the Angels in Pasadena, St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Santa Monica, and the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles. Of about twelve such churches built in Southern California, only three remain.

Although not the most elaborate example of Coxhead's work, the Church of the Ascension is a substantial achievement in that Coxhead designed it and supervised the work on a very modest budget. He had a close working relationship with the members of the congregation who brought the building materials to the construction site from the Santa Anita Wash and did the actual construction themselves. The finished product was a fine Norman-styled house of worship, a remarkable structure in wood and stone which was heavily influenced by the country churches of Coxhead's native England.

Since 1888, the original church structure has not been radically altered. An addition to the western side (rear) of the building in 1951 by another noted California architect, Carlton Winslow, Jr., extended the length of the structure to accommodate the growing congregation. The style, however, blends in well with the original. Winslow's father had added the parish hall and related rooms to the northern section of the church in 1922 and was careful to use almost identical building materials in the interior and exterior to keep the original spirit of the church intact.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 9 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Today the Church of the Ascension is one of the few remaining examples of the ecclesiastical style of one of Southern California's most accomplished architects, Ernest Coxhead. It is also Sierra Madre's most important link to its community origins and a lasting institution which has helped to guide its development.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Los Angeles Times, December 3, 1895, p. 11; February 4, 1906, V, 28.

Los Angeles Tribune, January 1, 1838, p. 6.

Pasadena Daily Star, April 11, 1838, p. 7.

(continued)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.8

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|------------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 12 | 40, 31, 240 | 3, 7, 8, 0, 8, 0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME - TITLE

Tom Sitten Curatorial Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

DATE

March 11, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

900 Exposition Blvd.

TELEPHONE

(213) 716-0410

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

California

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL STATE XX LOCAL

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

Herbert P. ...

MAY 16 1977

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

8/19/77

LEADER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/11/77