NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

FEB 15

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: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Other names/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 105 E Alder Street ____ not for publication

city or town: Palouse ____ vicinity

State: Washington code: WA county: Whitman code: 075 zip code: 99161

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 __ statewide X locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: [signature] Date: 2/9/05

WASHINGTON 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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register.
  - __ See continuation sheet
- __ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - __ See continuation sheet
- __ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- __ removed from the National Register.
- __ other (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall

Signature of the Keeper: _____ Date of Action: 3/30/05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box

1 building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2		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

None

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls WOOD: weatherboard, shingle
roof Wood: Shakes
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.)

X 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.

X 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 owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

___ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period of Significance

1895

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Duke, John P. (Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Engineering Record#_____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11	4 94 144	519 539 0	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.) Lots 1 and 2, Block 22, Fitch's Addition to the City of Palouse.

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot (100'x100') that is occupied by the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Annie Pillers
organization _____ date June 2004
street & number PO Box 166 telephone 509-878-1418
city or town Palouse State WA Zip code 99161

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.)

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

name Whitman County Historical Society
street & number 623 N Perkins telephone 509-397-2555
city or town Colfax state WA zip code 99111

Narrative Description

SETTING

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is located on a 1,000 square foot lot in a residential section in the City of Palouse, Whitman County, in rural eastern Washington. The building faces west and sits on lots 1 and 2, Block 22 of Fitch's Addition. The city of Palouse, incorporated on May 3, 1890, has a population of 1,000 and is roughly 1 square mile in size. The surrounding area, known as "The Palouse", has rolling fields and record producing wheat, barley, pea and lentil crops. The City of Palouse is nestled in this agriculturally rich setting and today serves as bedroom community for nearby Pullman, Washington, home to the state's land grant university. The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is a landmark structure on South Hill of the city and is two blocks North of State Route 272 on Alder Street. The site gradually slopes to the south. A large maple tree is located next to the main entrance to the building.

EXTERIOR

Constructed in 1895, the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was built in the late nineteenth century Gothic Revival style. The 40' x 20' stick frame structure is "L" shape in plan with a small entry vestibule on the northwest corner. The exterior is clad with a combination of lap cedar siding and wood shingles. The lower one third of the exterior walls are battered out and are highlighted with staggered cedar shingles. The gable roof of the church rises to 25 feet 7 inches at it peak. The building sits on a concrete foundation.

The church's main structure includes 5 buttresses on both the north and south elevations. On the north elevation they rise 9 feet 5 inches while on the south elevation, due to the topography of the site, they rise 11 feet 6 inches. The buttresses are 1 foot 1-1/2 inches wide and are covered by the cedar shingles.

On the east elevation, above the entry vestibule is a decorative corbelled brick chimney, which rises 14 feet. Incised within two part chimney is a cross on the north and east elevations and an a trinity symbol in the form of a raised triangle on upper portion. Holding the chimney to the roof is a wrought iron tie rod with decorative scrolled ends. This matches the altar details inside the church.

The sanctuary has 11 double-hung wood, leaded stained-glass windows in a diamond pattern. The stained glass is referred to as Kokomo glass and is likely from the Kokomo Opalescent Glass Company of Kokomo, Indiana. Each window has a tri-foil transom window above a double hung unit. The upper sashes have a lamb-tongue detail. The north and south elevations have five windows each and the west elevation has one large double stained glass window with gothic tracery.

Entrance to the church is via a small 7' x7' gabled entry on the northwest corner of the building. The outside peak of the entry is 15 feet 9 inches. Here you will find an original set of three paneled double entry doors. The space is lit by a single Kokomo leaded stained glass window matching those in the sanctuary.

The east elevation of the church has two original exterior doors that each enter into small rooms leading into the church sanctuary. At the northeast corner of the church is a small gabled entry which leads directly to the basement.

INTERIOR

The sanctuary is 31 feet 10 inches x 18 feet 11 inches with a partially angled ceiling rising to a height of 16 feet 4-1/2 inches. The walls are 9 feet tall. The room features hardwood floors. The 10 Kokomo leaded stained windows, 5 each on the North and South elevations, measure 2 feet and 1-¼ inch wide. The lower moveable window is 1 foot 11-1/2 inches tall. The upper fixed window pane measures 3 feet 5 inches and features a trinity arch.

The back of the sanctuary is accented by a double hung Kokomo leaded stained glass double window. The top part of the upper fixed window pane features 3 Gothic Arches. The top arch is adorned by an amber cross in the middle. The two lower arches are adorned by the trinity symbol of three circles and a triangle upside down. The window is 3 feet 10 inches wide. The lower moveable window is 2 feet 7 inches tall. The upper fixed window pane measures 6 feet 4 inches to the top peak of the upper Gothic Arch.

The altar is 7 feet x 10 feet 10-1/2 inches with a wooden top that depicts a cross in the middle set in an arch with 3 smaller arches on either side.

The lettering on the walls of the church "*The Lord is in His Holy Temple; let all the Earth keep silence before Him*" was out lined by John Duke and painted by church member, Mrs. John R. Payne when originally built. In 1979, Arvid Olson painstakingly repainted and outlined the lettering when the interior of the church was repainted.

The altar hangings in the church were handmade in England and were sent to Palouse, coming around the Cape. Some are still in very useable condition. The current altar vestment is shown in a c.1905 photo of the church and still proudly is displayed on the altar.

To each side of the alter are two small rooms that lead out to the East elevation of the church. They are 7 feet 2 inches x 4 feet wide. The doors leading into these small rooms still have the original ornate hinges in use.

The basement has concrete walls and a floor and is divided into the entrance, main room, kitchen, bathroom and furnace room. The basement was started in 1941 by volunteers who encountered solid rock when the top soil was removed. Endless hours of backbreaking work with picks and shovels followed. With the interruption of World War II, the basement which was used for a parish hall and kitchen was finally finished in 1945.

LICH GATE

Also located on site is a lich gate at the northwest corner of the lot next to the sidewalk. This unique feature is 10 feet tall and 5 feet wide. Two posts, resting on concrete piers support a gable roof toped with a simple cross. The open gable ends has decorative half round collar ties.

Lich-gates have their origin in England but comparatively few were built in the United States. The purpose of the lich gate revolves around funerary services. Here the clergy meet the corpse and some portion of the service is read. It also served to shelter the pall-bearers while the bier was brought from the church. In some lich-gates there stood large flat stones called lich-stones upon which the corpse, usually uncoffined, was laid.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Palouse, Washington is historically significant under Criterion "A" as a structure that represents the spiritual needs and aspirations of a small community in rural Washington State. The church is also historically significant as a representative example of rural ecclesiastical architecture under Criterion "C" at the local level of significance. Constructed in 1896, in the waning years of the Gothic Revival style, the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church boasts numerous intact features typical of the Gothic style as it was utilized in ecclesiastical buildings. The church is the oldest religious structure in Palouse and maintains a high level of architectural integrity.

Palouse, Washington originally called the "Village of the City of Palouse" was incorporated in 1888 in anticipation of the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Later "Village of" was dropped from the name and Town was added. According to J.B West in his book Growing Up in the Palouse, no one is certain of the origin of the name "Palouse."

The first structure built in the community was a log cabin built near the current city pump house on Main Street. The structure was built in 1873 by James A. "Modoc" Smith, who claimed land between present day "F" Street and "H" Street (This area would later be called Smith's Addition).

In the late 1870s, the town's first postmaster, R.P. Ragsdale, saw the need for another general store in town. He contacted carpenter W.P. Breeding who suggested a 2-story building with the lower floor used for the store and the upper floor for a meeting hall. Known as Ragsdale Hall, the building became a gathering site for many newly formed congregations. Among the services held in the hall was church service for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

By the 1880s Palouse businesses included a flour mill owned by William P. Breeding, a steam-powered saw mill, Power's general merchandise store, a hotel owned by Daniel Preffer, a saloon, and a hotel owned by O.E. Clough (the brother of the Governor of Minnesota). The Preferrer Hotel and the Farnwsorth Livery were among the first businesses to settle across the river, off the steep hillside where the town originally began. In fact the Preffer Hotel building was moved across the river by a team of 80 oxen. When C. H. Farnsworth built his livery he insisted that main street be wide enough to turn a team of 4 horses into the stable. Hence the origin of the 100 foot wide main street of today.

The city's first newspaper, The Boomerang, was founded in 1882 by Edward R. Orcutt, the first publisher. It was a weekly at the time with an annual subscription of $2.50. The named changed over the years from The Boomerang to The Palouse Republic, the Whitman Latah Record and then back to The Boomerang.

The first meeting of the Trustees for the Village of Palouse City was held on March 8, 1888. J.G. Powers was the first Chairman, holding office from March 1888 to May 1888. C.H. Farnsworth followed Powers and was chairman from May 1888 to March 1889. The first Clerks were F.M. Martin and Frank Maupin. This first group of trustees had oversight over Palouse for roughly two years. The first elected officials

were: Mayor J.H. Wiley, Clerk E.E. Ellsworth, and 5 councilmen: C.H. Farnsworth, F.M. Smith, H.A. Skeels, C.W. Bassett, and J.A. Miller.

Like many towns in the west, a fire swept across Main Street in Palouse on May 17, 1888, destroying nearly all the businesses. However the downtown recovered with many new permanent brick structures being built. The growth was fueled by the agricultural and timber industry. By 1889 over 100 men were employed in three different sawmills. The railroad and the river both played a significant role in transportation of these products. However, in 1912 when the Potlatch Lumber Company built a new mill in the neighboring town of Potlatch, Idaho, the only remaining saw mill in Palouse was dismantled and the economy took a several downturn. As such little development occurred in the downtown, and today much of the original turn-of-the-century fabric remains.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The first Episcopal services in the city were held in the Ragsdale Hall in Old Town in 1879 and were conducted by a variety of itinerant ministers as they traveled through the community on their regular circuits on horseback. Ragsdale Hall also housed services for the first Roman Catholic services. On April 13, 1891, the Episcopal Mission was officially organized under the name Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, with regular services held by the Rev J.K.L. Koss two Sundays each month. Exactly a month after the church as organized the first public confirmation was held.

Plans for the construction of a church actually began prior to the official formation of the congregation. Records show that land for the construction of a permanent home for the church was given to the Diocese of Spokane on May 26, 1890. A warranty deed records that the Rev. Lemuel H. Wells, the Episcopal Bishop of Spokane, accepted two lots on the corner of Alder and Bridge Street from E.N and Mary E. Beach. In 1891 a foundation was begun with Bishop John Paddock from Spokane laying the cornerstone on October 28th of that same year. However due to the panic of 1893 and the subsequent bank failures, the building fund the loss $500 and construction was halted on the church until 1895.

The construction of the church was under the direction of Reverend J. Neilson Berry and the design is credited to John P. Duke, a member of the building committee. John, his sister and her husband, Cross, had come to Palouse to work as clerks for the First National Bank sometime before 1893. John eventually became cashier and married Leona Warren. Together, John and his wife bought three lots on Illinois Street for $300 and then built an English style home. The house was located in the west part of town at 620 W Illinois Street. John was very active in civic affairs and helped design the City Park. It is unknown at this time what, if any architectural training Duke had.

The first service in the new church was held on December 25, 1895, with a short dedicatory speech by Rev. Barry. The building was consecrated on Wednesday, February 12, 1896 by Bishop Wells. That evening Bishop Wells and Rev. Dean Babbitt spoke at length on the peculiarities and history of the church to the congregation. On Thursday, February 13, 1896, Rev. Barry was ordained a priest by Bishop Wells at Holy Trinity. The Bishop was assisted by Rev. Dean Babbitt of Spokane and Rev. Wright of Colfax.

That first year was very active for the new congregation and by April of 1896 a class of nine was confirmed by the Reverend Lemuel H. Wells. Also during the first year the first burial service at the church was held on December 17, 1896, for Mrs. Emma Flint who was a member of the confirmation class of 1896.

Over the years a variety of pastors have severed the small congregation. Several had two or more parishes and came to Palouse on a rotating basis from their home church in the larger communities of Moscow, ID or Colfax, WA.

Reverend Lemuel H. Wells – 1890s?
Reverend Burleson 1919-1929
Reverend Richard F. Ayers 1929 - ?
Reverend Phillip Nelson came from Pullman 1930s 1932-1939
Reverend John Bill came from Moscow Years? 1941 -
Reverend Flaherty came from Moscow 1950s
Reverend William Blewett from Moscow 1954 -
Reverend Charles Fox came from Colfax 1959 – 1964?
Reverend Woodrow Epp 1967
Reverend Jack Dirks 1976 - ?
Reverend Armand Larive from Pullman ? - late 1990s

Before the church was built, in 1891 a parish house was built. It was located just south of the church, but fire destroyed it in 1926. According to records, in 1919 the C.E. Frederick home diagonal from the church was bought as a vicarage for the Reverend Burleson and his family who lived there for 10 years. Rev. Burleson who presided as minister of the church until 1929 was the last resident minister of the Holy Trinity.

For the next 70 years thereafter, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Palouse shared a minister from Moscow, Pullman or Colfax. By the 1990s services at Holy Trinity were held only once a month until they were discontinued altogether in 1999.

Dr. E.T. Hein was organist and musical director in the early days of the church. Others "pumping' the organ over the years was Rosemond Joslin, Emogene Belvail, Mildred Skovlin, and Dr. R.O. Barton, a dentist who came to Palouse in 1926 and moved to Spokane in 1942 to practice dentistry. An electronic organ was purchased in the 1960's and Dorothy Fox, the minister's wife from Colfax, became the organist for several years.

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane took ownership of the church in 1965 (Quit Claim Deed Trustees of Protestant Episcopal Church to Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, Inc.). In October of 2003, the Diocesan decided that since no services had been held at the church over the past three years, it was time to sell the building. When several people in town heard that the building was going to go on the market, a meeting was held to determine if there was enough interest to purchase it. Fortunately, there was a

dedicated core group of people who were willing to invest time and money and a proposal was made to purchase the building. The Diocese accepted the offer and the building was purchased for $28,000 with a 5 year payment plan.

During this same time, this core group partnered with the Whitman County Historical Society. The Historical Society agreed to take ownership of the building with all responsibility for raising funds, maintaining, and operating the building remaining with the local community group. Future plans for use of the building include renting it for small weddings, funerals, recitals, gatherings for cultural presentations – poetry readings, etc.

Architecturally Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is designed in the Late Gothic style, showing a transition between the fanciful Queen Anne styles of the 1890s and the up-and-coming, Arts & Crafts period of the early 20th Century. The church has a high level of architectural detail including tri-foil toped windows, buttressed exterior walls, articulated brick chimney, and combination wood and shingle exterior sheathing.

Standing at the entrance of the church property next to the sidewalk, is a litch gate. Mainly found on European churches, this unique feature it is believed to be one of only seven lich gates in existence in the entire United States. The covered entry gate served as an important part of a burial service. Traditionally the coffin is placed underneath its roof to await the arrival of the clergyman. Then the burial service begins at the gate before proceeding inside.

Through the boom and bust cycle of the small town, the church has had continuous pastoral leadership and ministry. Today the Trinity Episcopal Church is the oldest church building still standing in Palouse that dates back to the turn of the 20th century. The building has been an integral part of the history of the community since the town was established.

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David Powers, Letter to Robert W. Hadlow, March 23, 1989.

"Local Episcopal History" The Palouse Republican, Volume 4, No. 31, December 21, 1895.

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Oral Interview – Mary Kernan, Co-owner New Morning Glass Studio, June 2004
Jane Flansburg, Lifetime member Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, August 22, 2004

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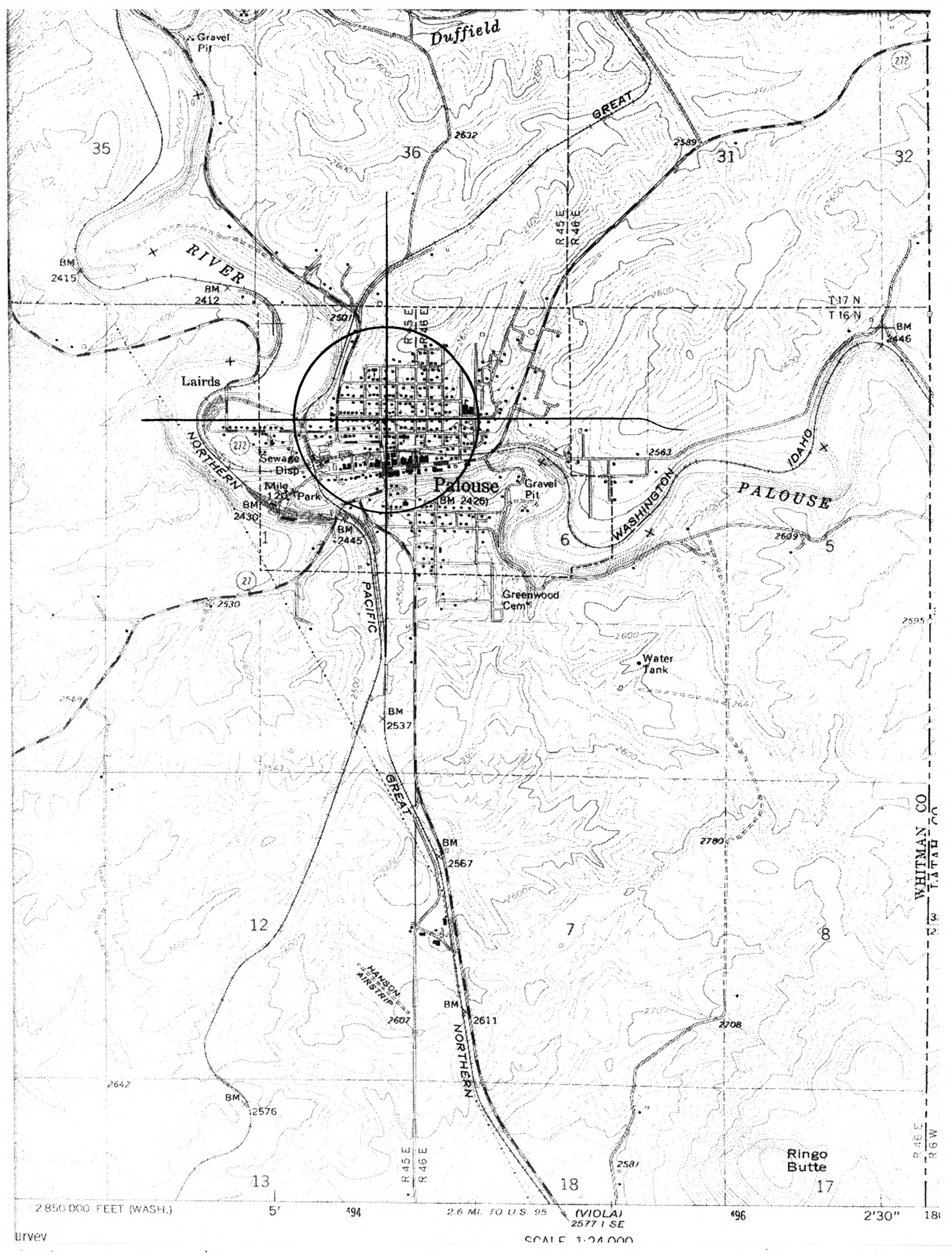
Hills of Home: Grassroots History and Tales of Palouse by J.B.West and Bob West, 2000.

Early Churches of Washington State, Arnold and Esther Pearson, 1980

City of Palouse Centennial and Palouse High School 100th Graduating Class 1990, The Boomerang! August 23, 1990.



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PALOUSE
Greenwood Cem
PACIFIC
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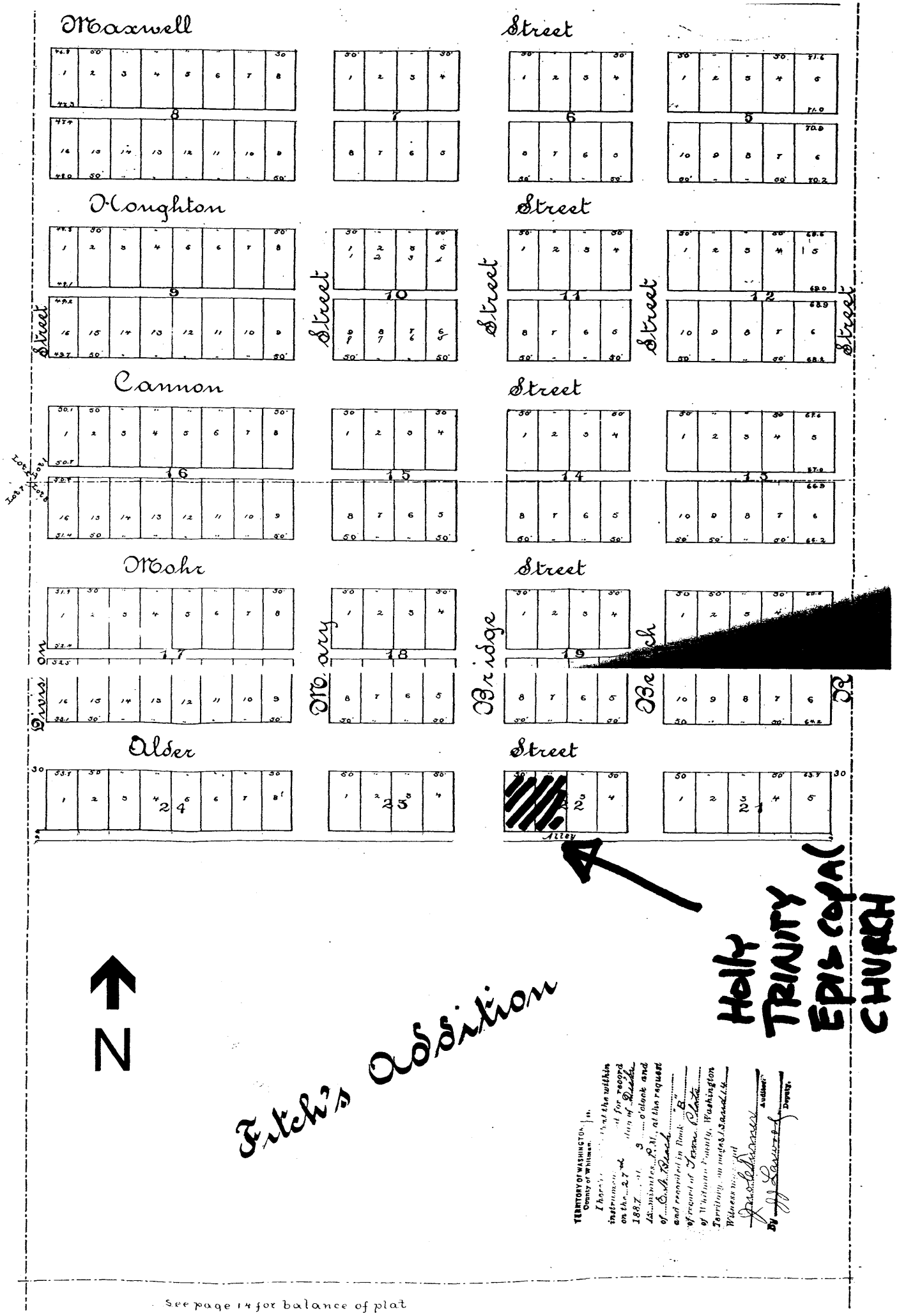
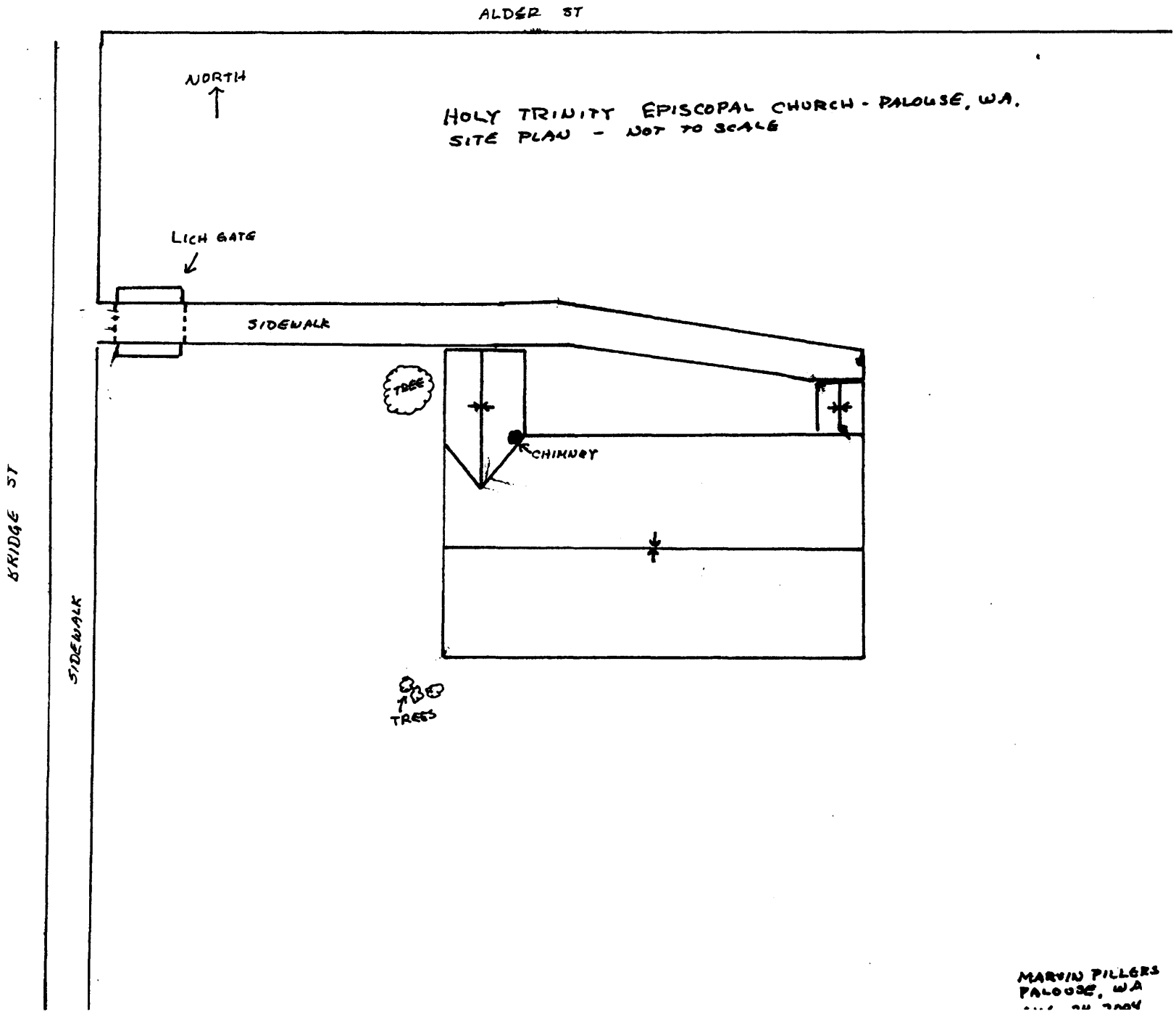


See page 14 for balance of plat

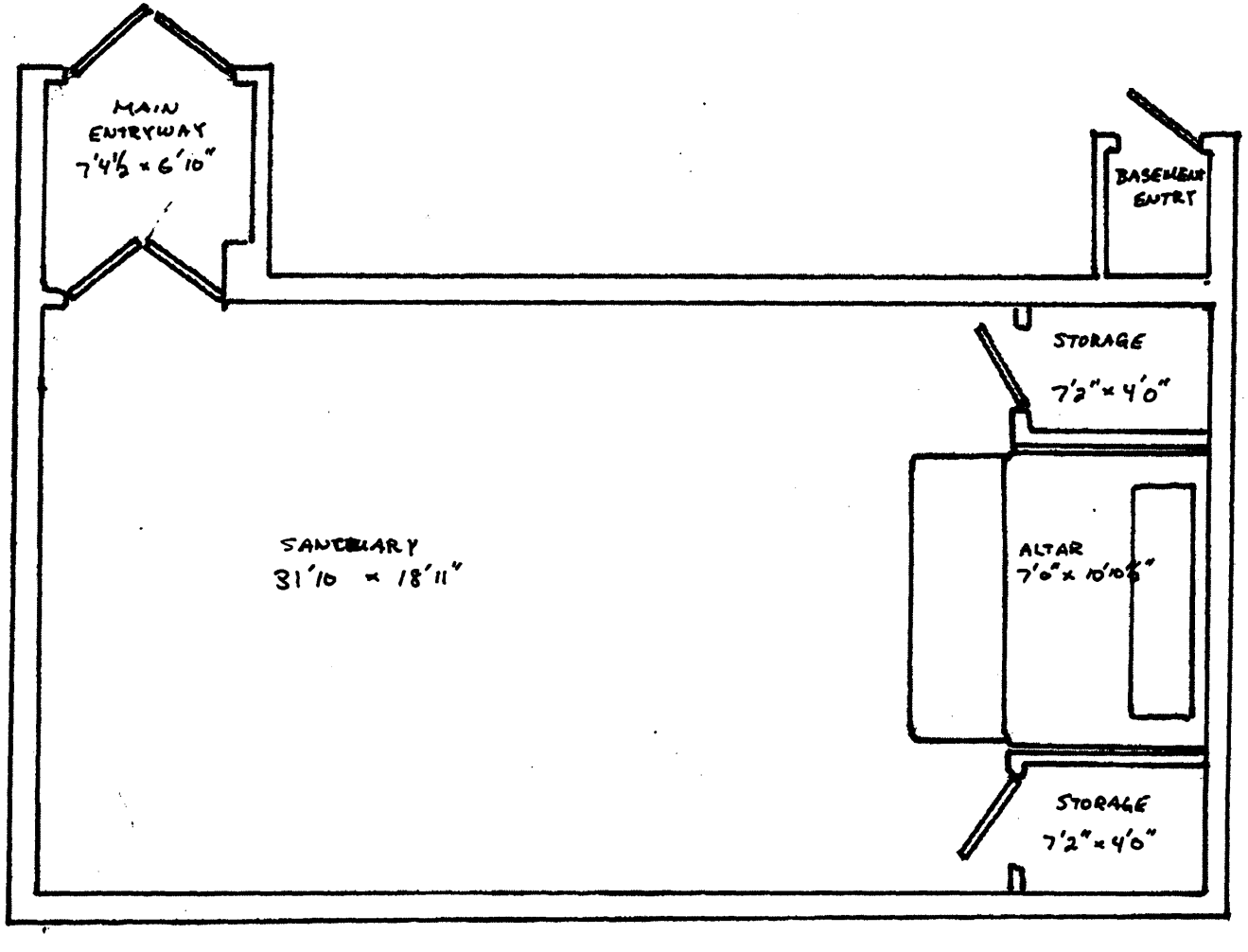


MARVIN PILLERS
PALOUSE, WA

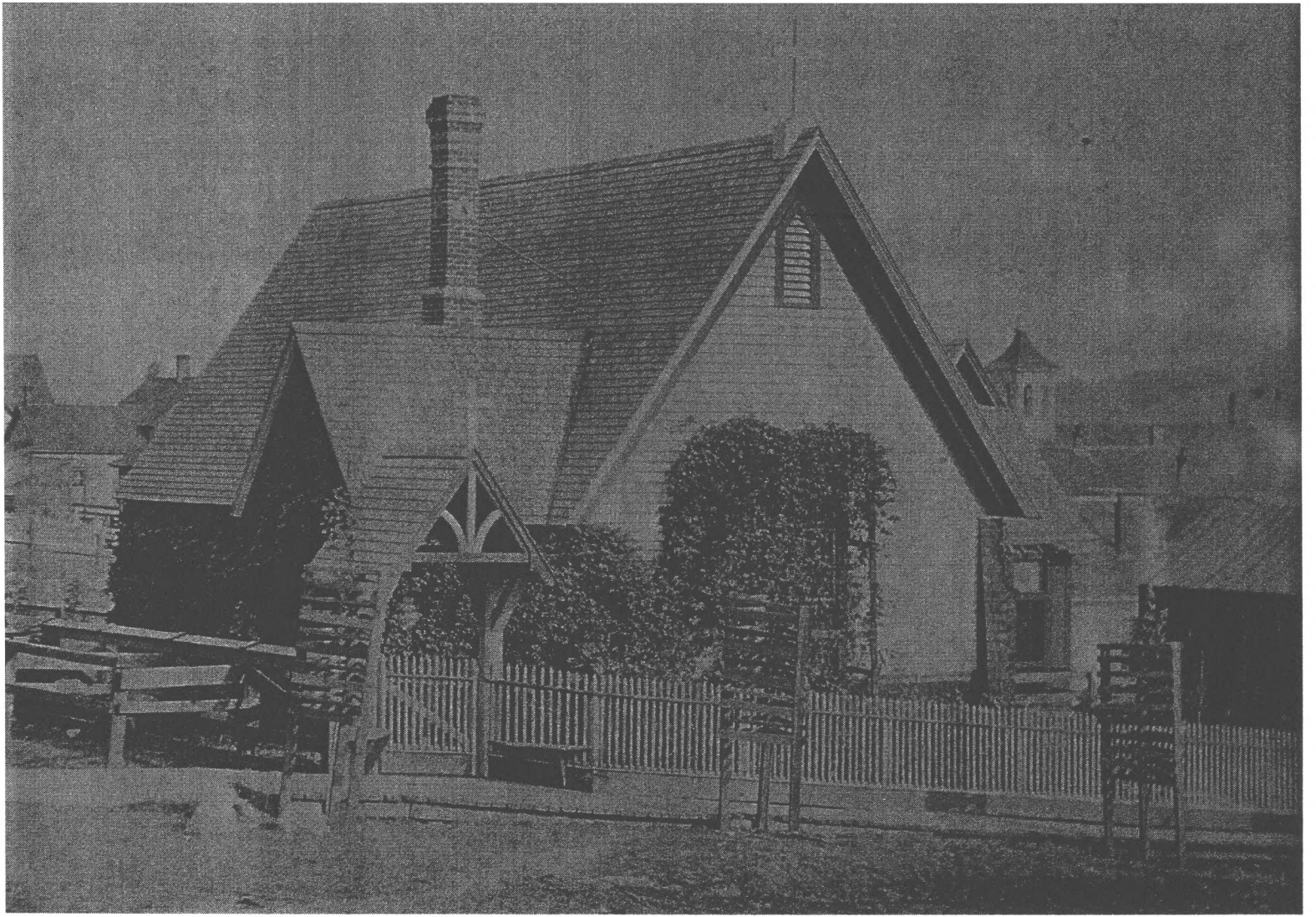
NORTH ↑

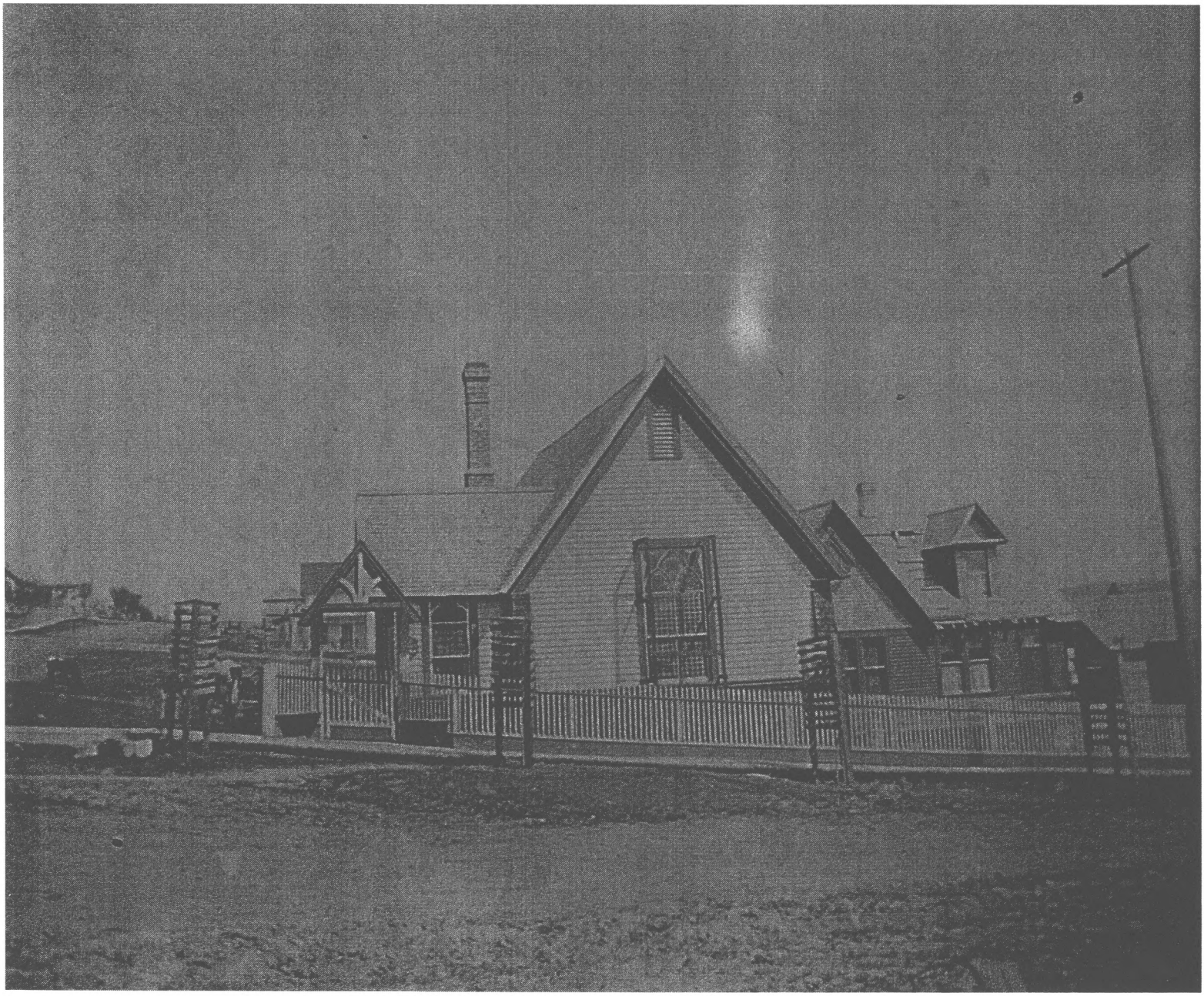
HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH - PALOUSE, WA.

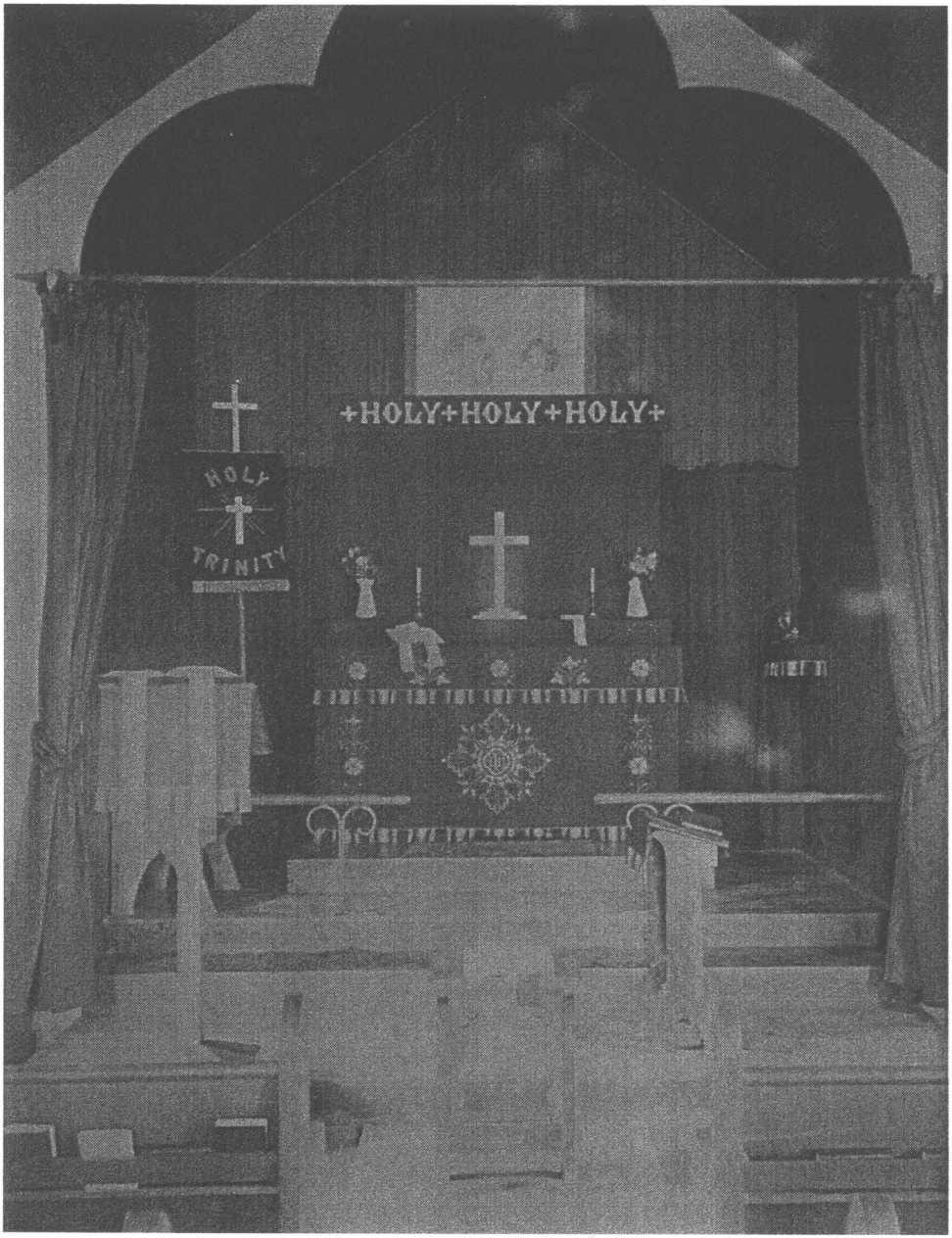
FLOOR PLAN - NOT TO SCALE



MARVIN PILLERS
PALOUSE, WA
AUG. 24. 2004



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TRINITY