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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 an 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 Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Troutdale Full Gospel Church

2. Location

street & number 302 SE Harlow Street  N/A not for publication

city or town Troutdale  N/A vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97060

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

*James Hamrick* July 23, 1993  
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date  
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State of 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 the property is:

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_)

Signature of the Keeper

*Alton Byers*

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

9/9/93

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		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 Structure

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Work in progress

**7. Description**

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

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:  
Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls wood: weatherboards  
roof wood: shingle  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

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Narrative Description

Describe the historic and current condition of the property.

The Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1895 on the hill overlooking the town of Troutdale. The church was built on what was known as the Harlow Farm, after Captain John Harlow, the founder of Troutdale. The last remaining building on the farm, the Harlow-Evans House, is a National Register Site. The Gothic Revival style, one-story, shiplap-sided, white church was built in traditional fashion above the hustle and bustle of the young and growing town center of Troutdale, probably as a community effort. The church is the oldest existing public building in Troutdale and was the only church until 1961. It remains remarkably intact to this day and serves as an historical landmark. Currently the basement of the building is used for domestic purposes. The exterior is in the process of being refurbished to its original historic condition.

The church is located on Lot 1, Block 11, Troutdale 1st addition, Troutdale, in Multnomah County. The nominated property is situated on its original city lot, which is 50 x 100 feet. The church faces north overlooking Troutdale's business community and parallels 3rd street, which runs east to west. Harlow street runs north to south along the west end of the church and is not a through street. The building site is bordered by forested land on the east and south sides.

The Troutdale church is Gothic Revival Style. However, it also is influenced by turn-of-the-century Bungalow leanings and might more properly be sub-identified as Vernacular Gothic Revival. The church's peaked windows distinguished it from other buildings constructed during the same time.

The building is a large single story rectangular structure with a daylight basement and an attic. It measures roughly 30 x 40 feet with an 8 x 8 foot entry on the west end and an enclosure 6 x 12 feet on the east end. The entire structure rests on a solid concrete foundation. The ridge of the gable roof stands approximately forty feet above the front ground level. The exterior, was historically and is today, white shiplap siding with a band of vertical milled boards encircling the building in-between the basement and main story windows. The building has four window bays. The windows are one-over-one double hung sash, with a triangular window above each of the upper windows. This triangular window simulates a lancet window.

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National Park Service

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The only significant exterior change that has taken place was the removal of the tall bell tower for safety reasons in the 1930s. The bell is now above the ceiling in the entry-way. When rung the bell can still be heard all over town. Rebuilding the belfry is planned for the future. Structurally the building is in excellent condition following some major repairs to the foundation in 1991. The foundation was first poured in 1922 and then redone in 1936. The exterior is in the process of being scraped and painted. Many of the windows are broken and are boarded until they can be replaced. The south side of the cedar shingled roof has been covered, but it all needs to be replaced. Generally the exterior is in poor condition, but the downward deterioration has been stopped and it is only a matter of time and money before it is an honor to the community.

The interior is in the process of being remodeled. The basement serves as a living area as it has at different times in its history. The main floor of the building is an impressive open area. The structure is entered from the west end through the entry, under the bell, and opens into a well-lit sanctuary. On the east end is an eighteen foot tall domed alcove used for baptisms and funerals. The chancel area is raised nine inches and is eight feet deep and goes into the sanctuary area. The chancel floor is fir while the rest of the sanctuary is one inch thick oak over one inch thick fir sub-flooring. The floor joists are solid fir and span the entire thirty-foot floor continuously, reflecting the quality of materials. The walls are constructed of full-sized 2 x 6 fir studs. All the upper level wood is in excellent shape and needs no replacement. The upstairs walls have been nearly completely stripped of their original lathe and plaster. This will need to be replaced. The upstairs needs a good deal of attention, but in time it will be finished.

Overall the church is in need of repair. The present owner bought the church in 1991 and has since rescued the building from demolition by extensive foundation work. Restoration will continue until the building is as close as possible to its original state. The owner is dedicated to maintaining the historical integrity of the structure. The church now stands in excellent position to be an outstanding historical building benefitting the entire area.

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1895-1924

Significant Dates

1895

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Troutdale Historical Society

Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.11 acres Camas, Washington-Oregon 1:24000

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	0
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5	4	7	9	6	0
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5	0	4	2	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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4 

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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 Andrew R. Collmer/Owner

organization N/A date February 4, 1993

street & number 1928 NE 149th telephone (503) 254-2616

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97230

#### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Andrew R. Collmer

street & number 1928 NE 149th telephone (503) 254-2616

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97230

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**SHPO SUMMARY**

The late Rural Gothic church built in 1895 by the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Troutdale, Oregon, which is a small lumber mill town on the Sandy River in east Multnomah County, is the oldest "public" building remaining in the community. It meets National Register Criterion C as the single intact example of Gothic Revival church architecture in Troutdale. It meets Criteria Consideration A because its primary area of significance is not religion, but architecture. It is significant also in the area of social history. The building is now in private ownership and is being adapted for residential use.

The former church building occupies a 50 x 100-foot lot at the corner of Third and Harlow Streets, high on the hillside which is the town's backdrop. It is oriented with its long axis east to west, its north face, or downslope side, overlooking the Sandy River plain at its meeting with the Columbia.

In form and detail, the church reflects the Gothic Revival tradition that customarily was promulgated by church-sponsored handbooks, but it is an economical, vernacular interpretation appropriate to its rural setting. Characterized in brief, it is a simple, gable-roofed volume of frame construction measuring 30 x 40 feet in its main footprint. Since a basement story was added in 1922, it rests on a concrete foundation. A hip-roofed apse is centered on the east end, and a square corner entrance tower projects from the upslope side of the west end without the historic pyramid-capped and louvered belfry that was removed in the 1930s. Today, the entry vestibule is roofed with a gable and is reached by a flight of concrete steps with pipe handrail that meets the double-leaf door in its north face. The original bell remains on the premises, suspended within the vestibule gable. The owner's long-range rehabilitation plans call for reconstruction of the belfry.

The sanctuary is lighted by tall windows with one-over-one double-hung sash, four bays on either side elevation, and, on the west facade, a single bay on the north side of a major central window. Approximating the appearance of lancet, or pointed-arch windows, which are among the chief identifying characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, the windows are crowned with triangular top lights. A circular window or vent is in the peak of the west gable.

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The building exterior, including the basement story, is clad with novelty, or drop siding, and a wainscot of vertical tongue and groove mill stock set off by string moldings encircles the ground story. Openings in the basement story consist of one doorway each on the north and west elevations and straight-topped windows with plain surrounds on side elevations only. The exterior is finished with plain corner and rake boards. The shingle-clad roof has a simple boxed cornice. Interior space is divided as vestibule, sanctuary with raised chancel, and a semi-coved alcove, or apse. Except in the apse, lath and plaster wall and ceiling cover, which was in poor condition, was removed by a previous owner in a conversion to living quarters. The current owner plans to complete the adaptive use project by refinishing the walls with gypsum board and doing as little subdivision of the sanctuary as possible.

That the church was untouched by the fires of 1907 and 1925 that destroyed much of Troutdale owes to its situation on the hill above the riverfront business district. As a consequence of the fires, it is the only building that was in regular use by the general population remaining from the last century. Its significance as a community gathering place of long continuity in the mill town makes it appropriate to nominate the former church in the area of social history under Criterion A.

The building's origins are nearly concurrent with the founding of Troutdale, the plat of which was formally recorded in 1890 by Celeste Harlow, widow of Captain John Harlow, proprietor of the townsite. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized locally in 1895, at which time a lot was purchased and construction was begun with lumber believed to have been manufactured in the local mill of Joseph Cone, one of the trustees. In all its history as part of the Methodist Conference, the church was served by circuit preachers. It was the Ladies Aid Society that provided for day-to-day maintenance by raising funds and supporting the Sunday school, which was organized by local school teacher Nancy Thomas in 1913. The basement addition completed in 1922 provided space for both Sunday school and community meeting hall. In 1924, however, the Methodist church was sold by its trustees and began a long history of intermittent use by other denominations. It did not have a resident minister before 1953. Its final abandonment as a church came in 1980 and prompted community concern for its survival. The present owner acquired the property in 1991.



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Narrative Statement of Significance  
Explain the significance of the property.

The 1895 Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church is particularly significant to the history of the town of Troutdale. The Gothic Revival Style church is the oldest surviving public building. Architecturally it is the last vestige of its time. From 1895 to 1961 this structure was the only church building in Troutdale making it the center of religious activity in the community. The social history of the community was affected by the church mainly because of the activities of the Ladies Aid Society formed in the church. A church is more than a building, it is the people and the Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church has touched the lives of multitudes of people in its history.

The church, perched on the hillside above the business district, is an important part of the over-all view of Troutdale. It is an element characteristic of most traditional village scenes. The location on the hillside is picturesque giving an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in contrast to the activity of the business district below. The church survived the 1907 and 1925 fires that destroyed downtown Troutdale at the bottom of the hill leaving it the only public building of its time left.

The architectural style of the church is significant because it shows an attempt to distinguish it from other more humble structures in the town. The Troutdale church is Gothic Revival Style. The church's peaked windows distinguished it from other buildings built during the same time. A similar triangular peaked representation of the Gothic arched windows was used in some Reuben Nevius Carpenter Gothic, Upjohn, Episcopal churches of the 1870s in eastern Oregon and Washington. This "Gothic" element was frequently borrowed by rural builders to distinguish church buildings from similarly proportioned lodge halls and residences. It retains its original shiplap siding, band of vertically milled boards encircling the center of the building, windows, and white paint scheme. The structure has changed little as seen in 1890s photographs.

The Troutdale church is associated with the Harlow family, the founders of Troutdale. Family members were a part of the church and the church was built on what was their land. The patriarch of the family, Captain John Harlow was born in Bangor, Maine in 1820. He was a descendant of Richard Warren, a Mayflower passenger, signer of the Mayflower Compact and a settler in

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Plymouth Colony. John Harlow's early years were spent sailing and learning about the navigation of the seas. His voyages brought him to Portland in 1851 where he settled, becoming a successful businessman with the opening of the Portland Box Factory. In this venture he was partners with John Gates, later to become mayor of Portland. The Captain was master of several steamships including the Commodore Perry, the Shoo Fly, the Minnehaha and the Rip Van Winkle. In 1882 he was responsible for building the Harlow Block, a three-story building at Northwest Park and Glisan in Portland (currently on the National Register).

Captain Harlow first came to Troutdale in 1876 settling upon lands which he bought from his son, Florian Chester Harlow, who had bought his original farmstead in 1871 from Joseph Kibling, the first owner and a son-in-law of John Harlow. John Harlow named the town Troutdale after the stocked trout ponds on his land. In 1882 John Harlow bought 52 acres adjacent to his property from David Buxton. Captain Harlow died in 1883. His wife, Celeste, developed the land. She dedicated it the town of Troutdale on February 26, 1890. She platted out the major streets of the community and sold parcels of her land as the town grew. It was on this land that the Troutdale church was built.

According to The Troutdale Champion, the Troutdale newspaper which began in 1891, there was a church community already formed by this time with both Sunday School and church services available. It was not until 1895 that it was formally organized as the Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church. The articles of incorporation are dated June 18, 1895, and were filed September, 1895 by Joseph Cone, Thomas Keller, and John Roberts as trustees of the church. In 1895 the church bought the lot and borrowed money to build the new church. Lumber in the church likely came from Joseph Cone's mill in Troutdale.

The early ministers of the church were circuit riders, preparing one sermon and delivering it at different churches in the same day. Shared ministers is significant because it necessitated ties to other communities in the area. Actual records of ministers do not begin until 1908. The ministers were Methodist until 1924 when the ministers came from the Presbyterian denomination. From 1924 to 1948 the Troutdale church shared a minister with Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fairview. From 1948 to 1953 students training at Lewis and Clark College to be pastors preached at the church. It was not until 1953 that the Reverend John Hood became the church's first full-time minister. In 1961 the congregation had outgrown the building and moved into a new building in Troutdale. The church was vacant

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from 1961 to 1964 when the Reverend John Parks bought it. He pastored The Troutdale Full Gospel Church from 1964 to 1980. When he died the church was sold to take care of his adopted handicapped son. The church was mostly vacant and uncared for until the present owner purchased it in 1991.

Women played a large role in the survival of the church. With only a part-time minister to tend the flock, the woman who would devote much of her life to looking after the Troutdale church was school teacher Nancy Thomas, who came to the city in 1913. Soon after her arrival she leaped right in and organized a Sunday School. Church socials and teas were held at her home. During World War I, Thomas was instrumental in seeing that the Ladies Aid Society also served as the Red Cross Society, knitting sweaters and wrapping bandages. Most of the history of the church is traced through the Ladies Aid Society. From around 1910 to the 1930s the society paid the church's bills and minister, made sure the Sunday School was kept open, the church was repaired, and that a Christian presence was maintained in the community. The first edition of the Gresham Outlook, March 3, 1911, stated that the Ladies Aid Society of The Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church was the "very backbone of the church in our little city."

The church has had its high and low times. In 1924 the church could no longer meet its bills and it was decided to sell it to the Presbytery of Oregon. This allowed the church to continue and to officially share a minister with the Fairview Presbyterian Church. During the depression attendance was so low that only the downstairs was used as a meeting area. Since the upstairs was not being used, Edward "Smokey" Howell and his brother "Chim" were given permission to build an airplane on the main floor. They built a biplane from Gottingham kit #441. Sunday School continued through the lowest points, 1931-1936, due to the commitment of the Ladies Aid Society. In 1936 the church began to grow again and the community pitched in to remodel the entire building because it had been neglected for so long. Even local Jewish merchant Aaron Fox donated a large sum of money to the project.

The congregation has since left, but the building and its memories continue to be a beacon in the community. The church is a regular stop on local walking history tours. It is a symbol of the traditions of the early community of Troutdale. Now, The Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church stands on the hillside as a reminder to the ever-changing town below of the continuing efforts of people to plant spiritual roots.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### Bibliography.

Historic Sites And Buildings. State Historic Preservation Office. Oregon State Parks. Salem, Oregon. 1976.

Multnomah County Land Abstract. Lot 1, Block 11, Troutdale 1st Addition, Troutdale Oregon.

Oregonian. Portland, Oregon. Various editions.

Outlook. Gresham, Oregon. Various editions.

Troutdale Champion. Troutdale, Oregon. 1891.

Troutdale Planning Commission Minutes. April 18, 1984.  
Troutdale, Oregon.

Wetherell, Tom. A Brief History Of The Troutdale Community Church. Troutdale, Oregon. 1988.

### Interviews

Cunningham, Scott. Congregation member in the 1930s and 40s.  
1992.

Hewlett, Jo. Congregation member in the 1930s. 1993.

Nesbit, Sharon. Historian. Troutdale Historical Society. 1992.

Staehli, Alfred, AIA, And Associates. Architect/Planner,  
Architectural Conservator. Portland, Oregon. 1992.

Strebin, Vera. Longtime congregation member. 1993.

Wetherell, Tom. Congregation member. 1993.

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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## **Verbal boundary description**

The Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church is located in Sec. 25, T.1N., R.3E., Willamette Meridian, in Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon. The nominated area is legally described as Lot 1, Block 11, Original Plat of Troutdale.

## **Boundary justification**

The nominated area encompasses the 50 x 100-foot lot historically developed by the Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church in 1895.

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Section number Photo Page 1

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Photographs.

This information is the same for all photographs listed.

1. Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church.
2. Troutdale, Multnomah County, Oregon.
3. Andrew Collmer
4. February 18, 1993.
5. Andrew Collmer  
1928 NE 149th  
Portland, Oregon 97230

Photo NO. 4

6. Taken from the northwest on 3rd street.

Photo NO. 5

6. Taken from the northeast on 3rd street.

Photo NO. 6

6. Taken from the east of the building shooting west.

Photo NO. 7

6. Taken from the southwest corner of the property.

Photo NO. 8

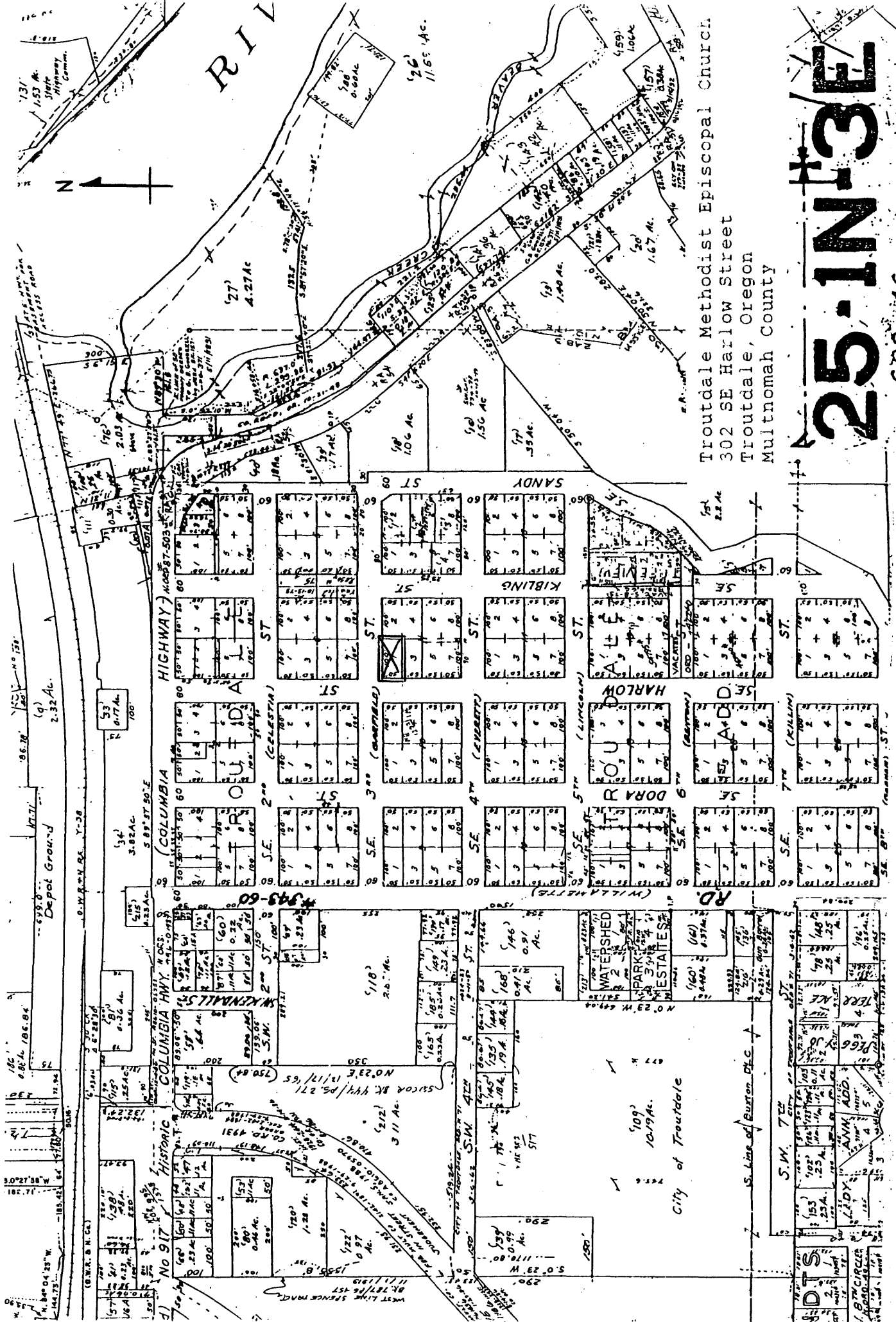
6. Taken from the west end of the sanctuary of the alcove.

Photo NO. 9

6. Taken from the middle of the sanctuary of the northeast interior corner of the building.

Photo NO. 10

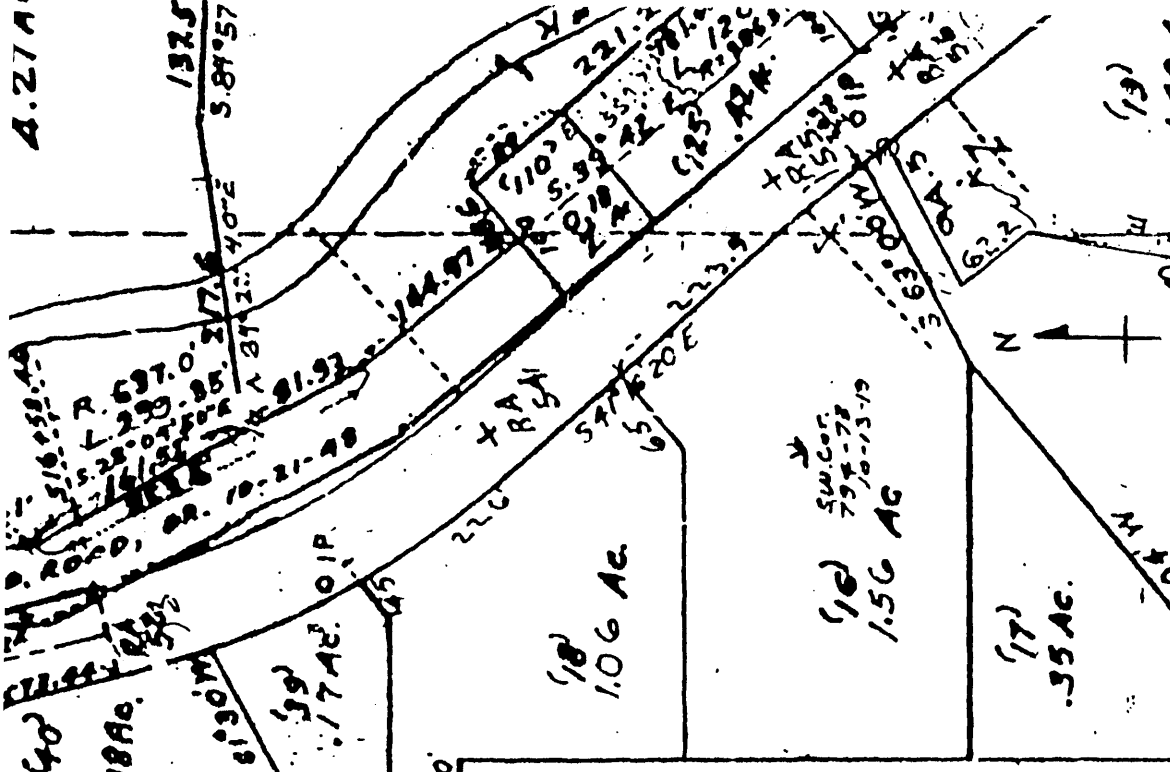
6. The bell above the entry. Taken from the east shooting west.



Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church  
 302 SE Harlow Street  
 Troutdale, Oregon  
 Multnomah County

**25-IN-3E**

600-46



Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church  
 302 SE Harlow Street  
 Troutdale, Oregon  
 Multnomah County

# 25-IN-3E

600-46



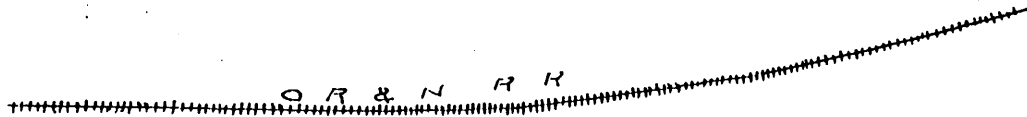


# MAP OF TROUTDALE

IN

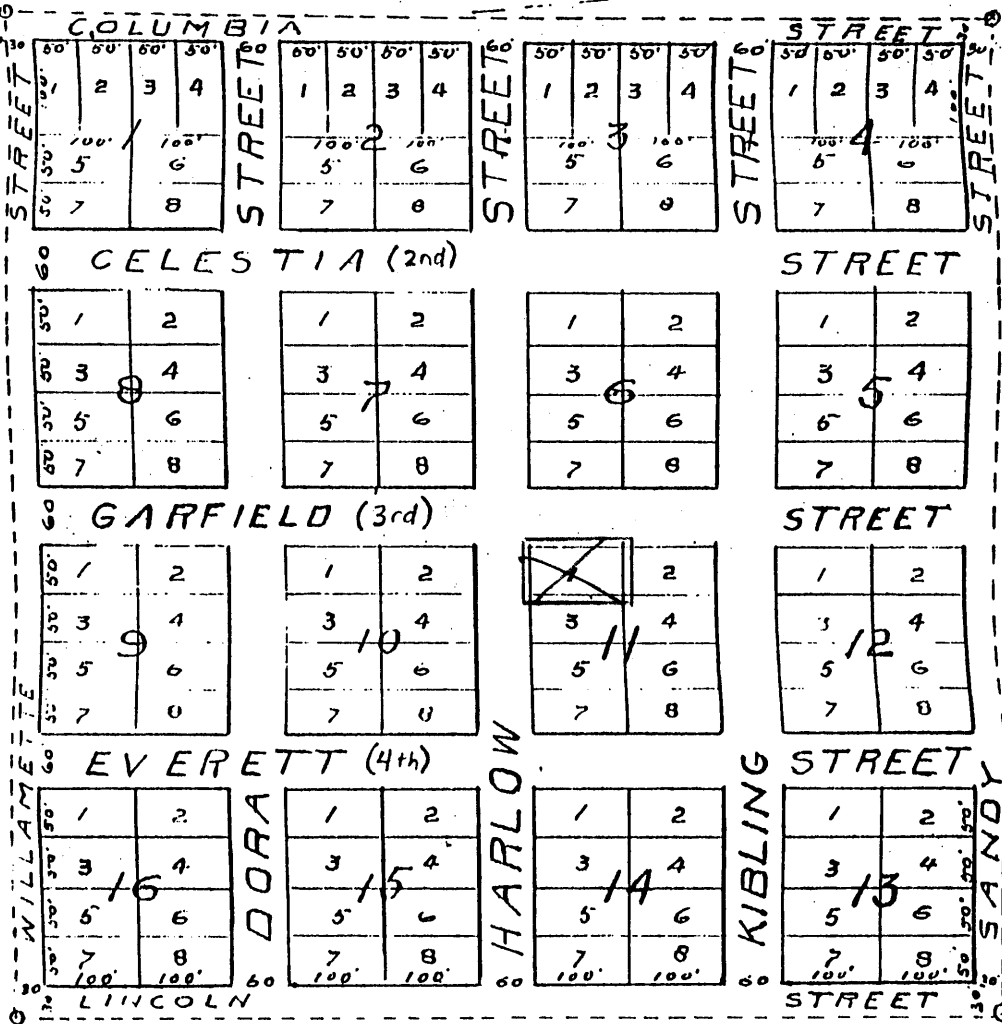
Sec 25. T.1N-R.3E. W.M

Scale 200 feet = One Inch



OR & N Depot Grounds

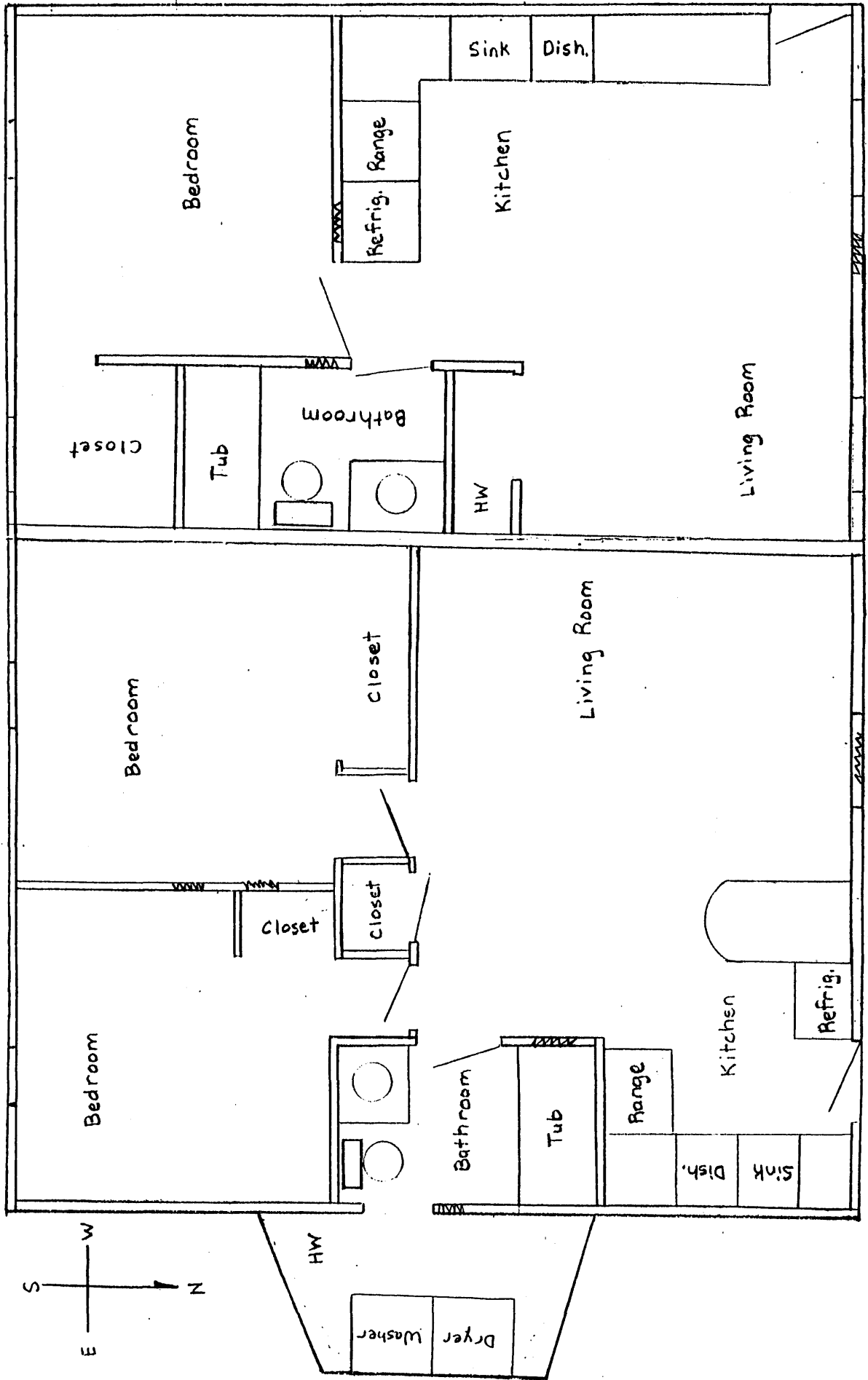
Initial Point  
3X0 X 2 1/2 inches





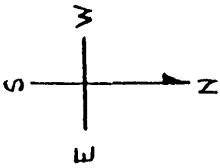
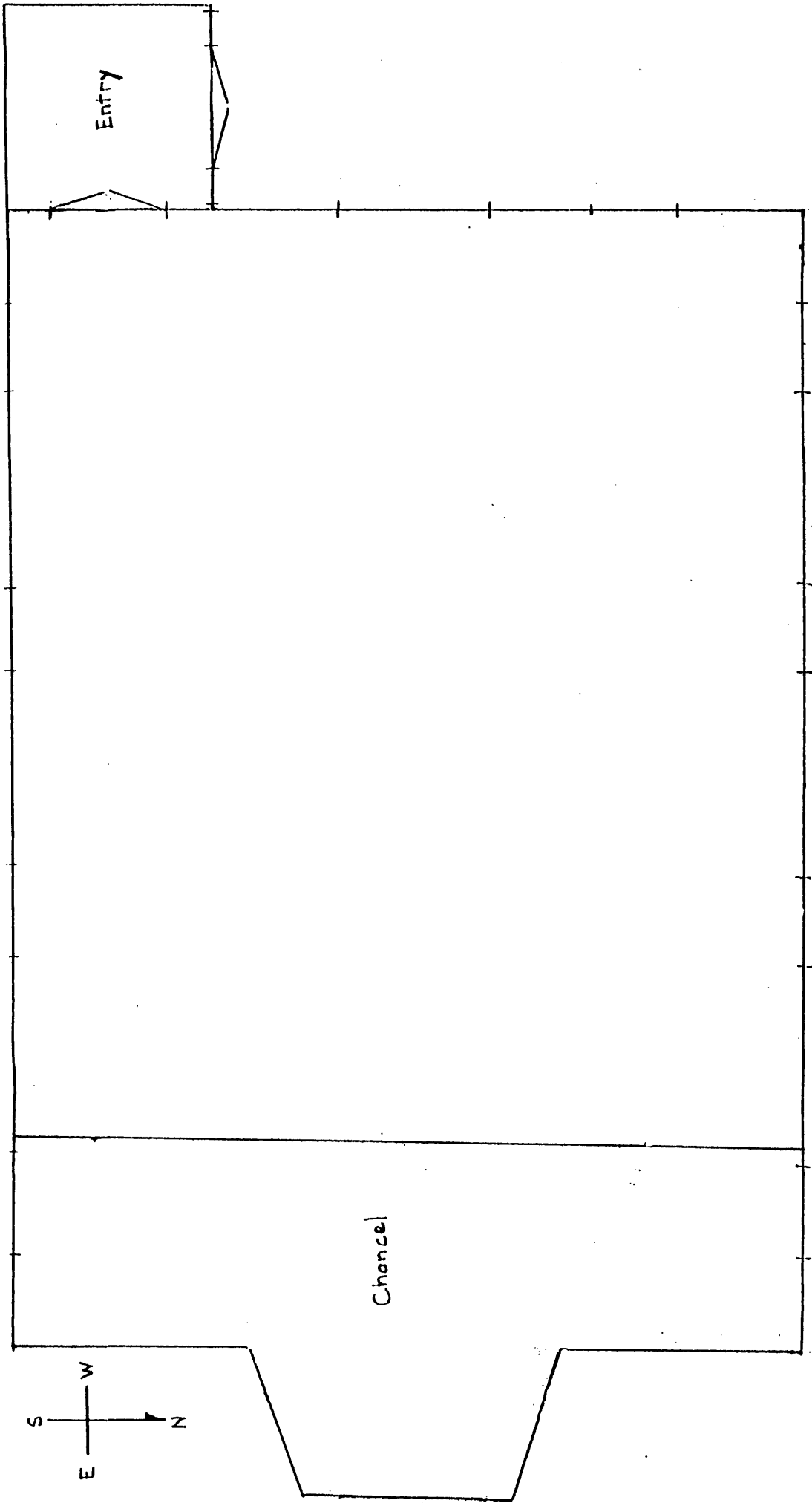
Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church  
302 SE Harlow Street  
Troutdale, Oregon  
Multnomah County

# Basement Floor Plan



Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church  
302 SE Harlow Street  
Troutdale, Oregon  
Multnomah County

# Sanctuary Floor Plan



HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310

County Multnomah

Theme 9-A

Name  
(Common) Troutdale Full Gospel Church

(Historic) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 302 S. E. Third St.

Troutdale, Oregon

Present Owner Troutdale Full Gospel Church

(Address) 302 S.E. Third St., Troutdale

Original Use church

Date of Construction \_\_\_\_\_



Physical

historical significance:

This building is a one story wood frame structure with a gable roof and a rectangular shape. Its exterior is shiplap siding. The Full Gospel Church stands at the southeast corner of the intersection of S.E. Third and S.E. Harlow. The building has four window bays, one-over-one double hung sash. There is a triangular window in the upper part of the bay simulating a lancet window. A band of vertical milled boards encircles the building at the ground level. The building has a basement.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 5 July 1976 Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Please enclose map Township 1 S Range 3 W Section 25