

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 7 1987

date entered

FEB 5 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Methodist Episcopal Church, South Number of contributing resources: 1  
Number of non-contributing resources: 0  
and/or common St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church (Old) - preferred

2. Location

street & number 330 Monmouth Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Independence N/A vicinity of Fifth Congressional District  
state Oregon code 41 county Polk code 053

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                                   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | N/A in process                              | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government           |
|   | N/A being considered                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial           |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military             |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum               |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                 |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence    |
|   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific           |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation       |
|   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:               |

4. Owner of Property

name Independence-Monmouth Church of the Nazarene  
street & number PO Box 95  
city, town Independence N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97351

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Polk County Courthouse  
street & number 850 Main Street  
city, town Dallas state Oregon 97338

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Independence  
Historical Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1985  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records City of Independence/City Hall  
city, town Independence state Oregon 97351

## 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date _____ N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, originally constructed in 1874 as the home of the Methodist Episcopal Church South congregation, was altered in 1910 to its current configuration and consequently displays characteristics of the Georgian style. Bungalow-style living quarters were attached to the rear elevation for the convenience of parish priests. Both church and addition are constructed of wood framing under horizontal wood siding. When the original church was purchased by the Catholics it was elongated and provided a transept, and the original steeple was replaced by the existing bracketed belltower with octagonal domed belfry. Windows were enlarged with Georgian-style fanlights. The exterior has been virtually unaltered since 1910 and the interior has had only a few minor changes. The building is in relatively good condition and is currently undergoing rehabilitation for use by the Independence-Monmouth Church of the Nazarene. It is not known who designed or constructed the building in either of its earlier phases.

The church occupies the southeast corner of Block 13, specifically Lot 4, in Hill's Town of Independence, Oregon, Section 28, Township 8S, Range 4W, Willamette Meridian, in Polk County. The lot measures 66 x 148.5' and is situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of 3rd Street and Monmouth Street, the major east-west thoroughfare. The location is two blocks west of the town's historic commercial core. The prominent towers of the historic Independence National Bank and Cooper Block rise above the rooftops nearby. The surrounding neighborhood is composed primarily of late-19th century buildings, interspersed with occasional bungalow-era-residences. An alley borders the west property line. Adjacent to the property on the north is a Colonial Revival style residence (c. 1900); to the west is a Queen Anne style house (c. 1880); across Monmouth Street to the south is the city's handsome Colonial style library (1929); and to the southwest across the intersection is another Colonial style house (c. 1925). Directly east across 3rd Street is a one-story contemporary office building.

### Exterior

According to Sanborn maps and photographs, the original church building was a small rectangular structure with a simple steeple rising to a height of 50 feet. In 1910 the Roman Catholic Church enlarged the building along its east-west axis and added the gabled transept. The original steeple was replaced with the existing belltower, and bungalow-style living quarters were added to the west end. Both the main church building and the apartment addition have gabled roofs covered with composition shingles. The projecting gable on the north elevation houses the furnace room, and has a tall brick chimney with corbelled cap. The foundation system of both sections is wood post on concrete pads, with the exception of the transept which has a full concrete foundation. The foundation is covered with wood skirting. The exterior wall material of the main building is wide shiplap with corner and rake boards. There is a water table at the floor line.

The apartment addition is sheathed with narrow tongue and groove siding with corner boards. It has a much shorter brick chimney, also with corbelled cap, projecting from the ridge of the roof. The roof has deep overhangs with purlins and exposed rafter ends. The full length recessed porch on the south elevation is supported by turned posts. There is no balustrade. With the exception of the

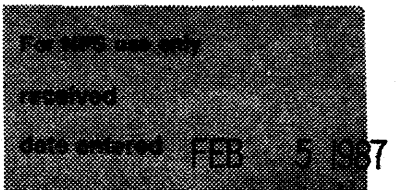
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concrete stoop and pipe railing at the main entrance of the church, the only other alteration to the exterior since 1910 is the projecting porch on the north elevation of the apartment.

Fenestration is uniform throughout the church, consisting of elongated multi-light, double-hung sash with arched heads containing yellow "Cathedral" glass. There are three such bays in either side elevation of the nave and one each in either end elevation of the transept. A shorter version of this window type lights the section of the belltower above the vestibule and, unlike the others, it has a keystone. In each face of the topmost section of the tower, are square windows with sixteen fixed lights each. Windows in the apartment addition are primarily one-over-one, double-hung sash with simple architrave molding.

Decorative elements on the church are concentrated on the elegant belltower, a prominent visual landmark. Square in plan, the tower projects from the front wall, and rises above the east elevation of the church. It is divided into four distinct sections. The base of the tower is fitted with double doors, which replaced the original entrance. A full entablature divides this portion of the tower from the middle section which is sheathed in shiplap and separated from the topmost section by a belt cornice. Wood shingles cover the uppermost section of the tower, which in turn is finished by a denticulated and bracketed cornice. Each bay of the octagonal belfry is composed of an arch framed by pilasters, and the whole is crowned by an octagonal bell-shaped dome having a Latin cross termination.

### Interior

Originally, the church interior was typical of the one-room meeting house type of the mid-19th century. In 1910 it was elongated at the west end to make room for a large barrel-vaulted chancel. Two small rooms were added on either side of the altar space to serve as sacristy and furnace room. At the east end of the nave a choir loft was added. It is reached via a small wooden staircase in the southeast corner. With the exception of enclosing a small area at the east end for use as a bathroom, the spatial organization of the building remains original to the 1910 remodel. Interior finishes, for the most part, remain intact. Door and window trim is plain with simple architrave head trim. Doors are the five-panel type common to Colonial Revival architecture and Craftsman style houses. Most of the original fir floor boards have been covered with linoleum. Walls are finished with lath and plaster. However, those in the nave have been covered with plywood above the V-grooved wainscoting which remains throughout. A bathtub-size pool was added behind the altar for baptismal purposes by one of the donominations which succeeded the Roman Cahtolics. A simple wood cross remains at the altar; however, the altar rail has been removed, as was the image of St. Patrick which once adorned this area. Also, the bell was removed from the belfry.

The apartment addition may be entered from the church through either of the sacristy or furnace room on either side of the altar. In addition to a small living room, the apartment also has a kitchen, bath, and bedroom. Interior door and window trim is simple and unadorned. Floors are 3" wood boards in the living room. Linoleum covers the kitchen floor.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)     |

Specific dates 1874, 1910 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The church at 330 Monmouth Street in Independence, Polk County, Oregon, was constructed in 1874 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Purchased by the Roman Catholic Church in 1910, it was enlarged and remodeled into its current Georgian style configuration. It was used by the Catholic Church until 1966. It is significant under Criteria "c" and "a" as the first church erected in Independence, and one which architecturally reflects its use and modification in the historic period by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Roman Catholic Church. As St. Patrick's, the church was the first Roman Catholic church to be established in Polk County. It is locally distinctive as the only Georgian-style church in Independence, and it is the best-preserved of four historic churches in the community.

By 1890, the City of Independence boasted five church buildings, four of which survive today. With the exception of subject building, all were built in the 1880s. Two of these are in the Gothic Revival style: the Presbyterian Church (1882) and the Christian Church (1886). Both buildings have lost their steeples and have been moved from their original locations. The First Baptist Church (1888) shows the influence of the Queen Anne style. Among the four historic church buildings in the community, St. Patrick's has the oldest physical history.

In the early 20th Century, Catholics in Polk County were cared for by Father William Cronin and Father Hugh McDevitt of Portland, who made periodic visits to Independence and Dallas. The Federal Census indicates there were no registered Roman Catholics in Polk County in 1900, but both Dallas and Independence had achieved Mission status by 1908. Encouraged by the growing Catholic population, Father McDevitt began seeking funds in 1909 to establish a church building in Independence. Locally, the nominated building is significant for having united previously scattered communicants of the Catholic faith in the environs. However, until as late as 1953, it remained a mission of larger parishes, such as those of Sheridan, Salem and Mt. Angel. Historically, the resident Catholic population in Independence has not been large. Catholics were outnumbered by Protestants except during hops season when the church became a focal point for those of the Catholic faith who came by the thousands each summer to harvest hops. The heyday of hops cultivation was 1910 to 1940, and earned Independence the title of "Hops Capital of the World." Beginning in the 1950s, the Catholic population increased rapidly owing to influx of non-itinerant Hispanics. Construction of a new church building elsewhere in town was completed in 1955. Helping to increase the congregation's size were students from Oregon College of Education, in nearby Monmouth.

### Historical Background

Methodism is a term denoting religious organizations which trace their origin to

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Monmouth, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 0 | 4       | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6        | 0 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church occupies Lot 4, Block 13 of Hill's Town of Independence in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 28, Township 8S, Range 4W, Willamette Meridian, in Polk County, Oregon. The nominated area is otherwise described as Tax Lot 10102 in said location.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | N/A | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| state | N/A | code | county | code |

# 11. Form Prepared By

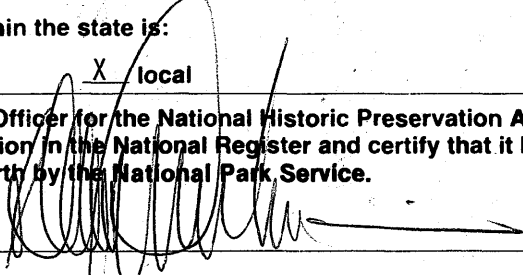
|                 |                                      |       |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| name/title      | Betty Lou Newberg and Julie M. Koler |       |                          |
| organization    | N/A                                  | date  | March 15, 1986           |
| street & number | 887 Monmouth Street                  |       | telephone (503) 838-3280 |
| city or town    | Independence                         | state | Oregon 97351             |

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

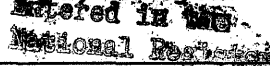
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

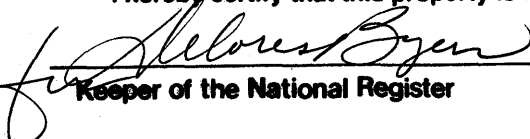
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 2, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



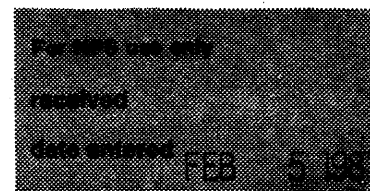
date 2/5/87

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the evangelical teaching of Englishman John Wesley (1703-1791). It began as a revival of personal religion with the goal of spreading "scriptural holiness throughout the land."<sup>1</sup> Although Wesley and his followers fully accepted the teaching of the Church of England, the zeal and enjoyment with which they taught was frowned upon by the Anglican Church. They were soon forced to preach without the shelter of a pulpit. This method of "open-air preaching" was followed, to some degree, in the aggressive evangelistic work of Methodist ministers throughout the 19th century, both in England and the United States, and by the 1830s, the distant Oregon country.

In the early 20th century there were 16 distinct Methodist denominations in the United States, all of which were compatible in doctrine. The largest of these was the Methodist Episcopal Church. Its roots stemmed to Philip Embury, an English immigrant, who began preaching in 1766 in Maryland. In 1773 the First American Conference was held and in 1784 the Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized. It grew rapidly in the following decades; however, at the Conference of 1844 the Church was wrenched apart largely over the issue of slavery. In 1845 the slave-holding states organized the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The two factions were not reunited until 1939.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church to send missionaries to Oregon. Led by the Rev. Jason Lee, a five-member group crossed the plains with Nathaniel Wyeth's overland party in 1834 and established a mission in the vicinity of present-day Salem, Oregon. The Methodist Church, South, was not established in Oregon until 1858, nearly 25 years later. For the most part, however, their work duplicated that of their northern counterparts.

In his book A History of Oregon Methodism, Thomas Yarnes divides the history of Oregon Methodism into 10 periods. Five are summarized here:

1. 1834-1849. The coming of white settlers changed Lee's Indian Mission into a church for the settler community. Period characterized by series of circuits composed of as many preaching places as a pastor could reach at reasonable intervals. Work concentrated in Willamette Valley.
2. 1849-1853. Oregon/California Mission Conference organized in 1849. Membership 348. Work spread north into Washington and south into the Umpqua and Rogue River areas.
3. 1853-1861. Oregon Annual Conference organized in 1853. Period of tremendous growth throughout Oregon Territory. More than 80 new pastoral charges added to the Oregon Conference.
4. 1861-1873. Growth slowed due to Civil War and Modoc Wars. Approximately 12 new churches organized during this time.
5. 1873-1884. Eastern Oregon and Washington Conference organized. In 1884 Puget Sound Conference organized.

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The Methodist Church, South, began working in Oregon during the 3rd period, in 1858. The disruption of the Civil War resulted in increased numbers of ministers being transferred to Oregon, after the war. In 1866 there were 12 regular ministers and 12 local preachers working in Oregon, and in that same year the Columbia Conference of the Methodist Church, South was organized. Among those who came after the war was Rev. N. M. Skipworth, who is credited with building the Methodist Church in Independence.

In 1861 a flood destroyed much of the "old town" of Independence which was located just north of Ash Creek. This small swale bisects the present town just north of "A" Street. The "new town" of Independence was relocated on the Donation Land Claim of Henry Hill just south of Ash Creek. According to local historian Sid Newton, in order to encourage development Hill donated a number of lots to several businesses as well as one each to the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations. As yet no documentation has been uncovered to verify this claim. Courthouse records, however, indicated that Hill deeded the nominated lot to Charles Myers in 1868 and in 1874 Myers deeded it to trustees of the Methodist Church. The earliest appointed Methodist minister in Independence was Rev. J. H. Rook, who served 1871-1872. Two years later, in 1874, the Rev. N. M. Skipworth sponsored the first church building in the town.<sup>2</sup> This date corresponds with Skipworth's arrival in Oregon from Louisiana. Prior to this, he had been a practising physician, then became a local preacher and presiding elder of the Shreveport District in Louisiana. Although the record is unclear, it appears that Independence was Skipworth's first posting in Oregon. He served in the community for five years. Skipworth died in Eugene in 1913 at the age of 84. In addition to his work in Independence he also served as a missionary to the Klamath Indians and filled pastorates in Prineville, St. John and Corvallis.

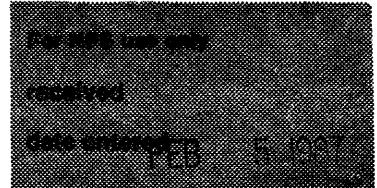
There is no record of presiding ministers between the time of the Reverend Skipworth's departure in 1879 and 1886, at which time the Rev. Burch appears in the Gazetteer Business Directory. Burch's is the last recorded name associated with the Methodist Church, South. The building remained in the ownership of the Methodists until 1905, although it was used by other Protestant denominations during the final period of ownership.

F. S. and Lettie Wilson bought the building in 1905 and four years later sold it to Thomas Fennell. In 1910 Fennell sold the church to the Roman Catholic Church, under whose ownership it remained until 1968.

In 1908 Father Hugh J. McDevitt, pastor of the Immaculate Conception of the Cathedral Parish of Portland, was asked by Archbishop Christie to study the possibility of building churches in the outlying missionary areas of Rainier, Sheridan, Newberg, Dallas, Falls City and Independence. In the following year, Father McDevitt began seeking funds for a church building in Independence. His efforts were encouraged by the arrival of the St. Anthony Chapel Car. A renovated Pullman car, it was sent from Chicago by the Catholic Extension Society to help reach the Catholic population in remote areas. In Oregon the 72-foot car went through Rainier, Newberg and on to Sheridan and Independence. Drawing up at

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railroad passenger stations, it provided the first Catholic masses in many areas. According to Bishop Leipzig, a former pastor at Sheridan who served the Independence church when it was a mission in the 1920s, the car had played an important role in encouraging Catholics in the Independence area to "have a house of God."<sup>3</sup> In 1910, the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South was purchased and arrangements were made to renovate it for use as a Roman Catholic church. A portion of the money for the project was donated by the Extension Society, which provided assistance in building many churches throughout the United States, and particularly in Oregon. On November 27, 1910, "St. Patrick's" church was dedicated by Archbishop Christie.

Father Joseph Berne was the first resident pastor in Independence. He lived in the apartment attached to the rear of the church a short time, then moved to Dallas, a few miles distance. From that time until the 1950s, the Independence parish apparently was a mission of various larger parishes in the area. In 1955, after several years of tremendous growth, plans were made for construction of a larger church elsewhere in town, which was dedicated on January 19, 1966.

In 1968, St. Partick's Roman Catholic was sold. Over the next sixteen years the building was used by several different denominations. It was vacant for approximately two years before being purchased by the current owners, the Independence-Monmouth Church of the Nazarene.

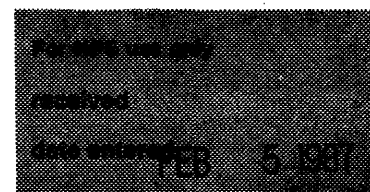
Footnotes

- 1 Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition. New York: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1911, p. 478.
- 2 Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. Miscellaneous Clippings, Archival Collection.
- 3 Ibid.



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A Brief History of the Independence Methodist Church. Unpublished typescript, 1962. Methodist Church Collection.

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Laatz, Catherine. Unrecorded interview by Betty Lou Newberg. July and August, 1986.

NE 1/4 NW 1/4 SEC.28T8SR4 WWM

POLK COUNTY

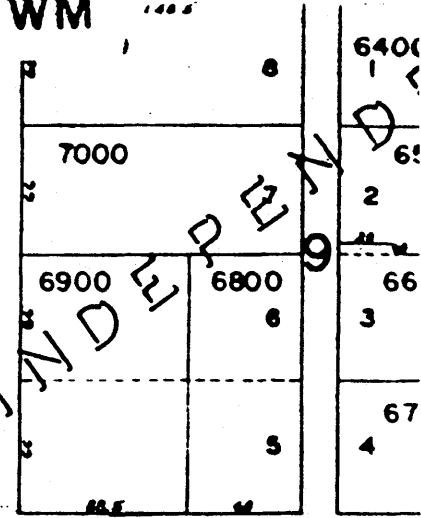
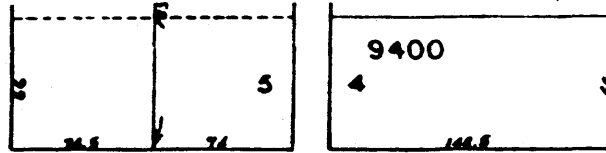
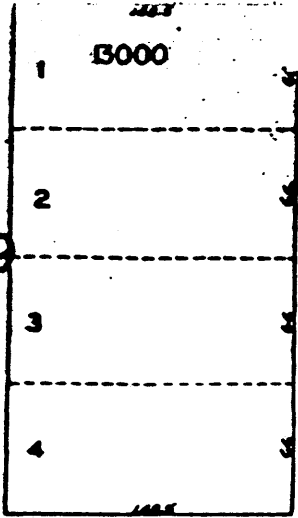
SCALE 1"=100'

8 4 28BA

STREET

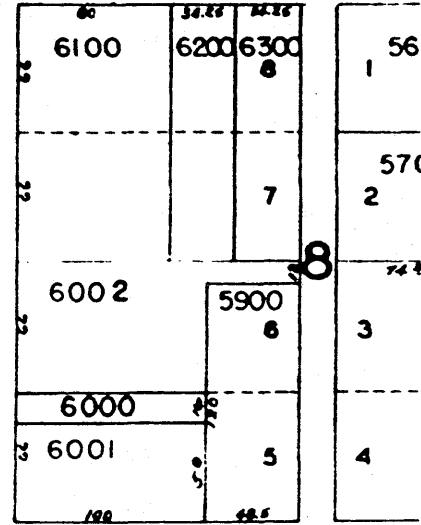
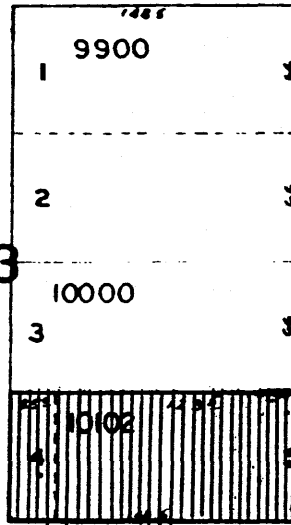
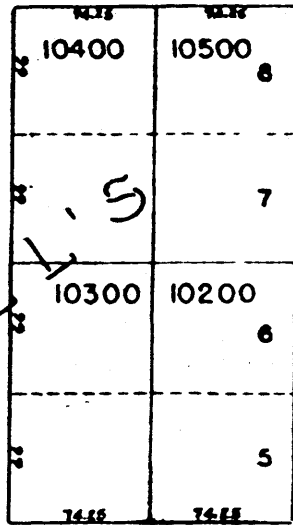
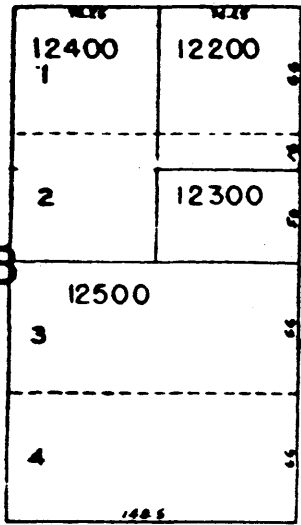
STREET

INDEXED



'C'

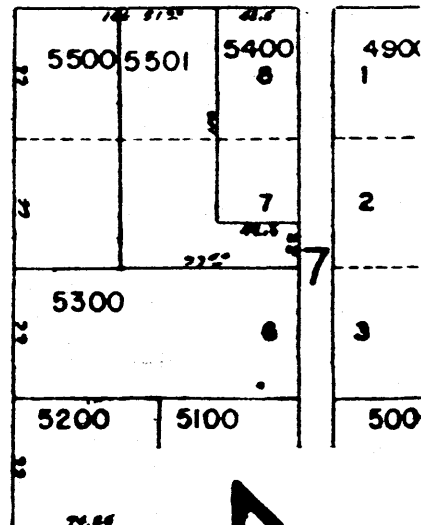
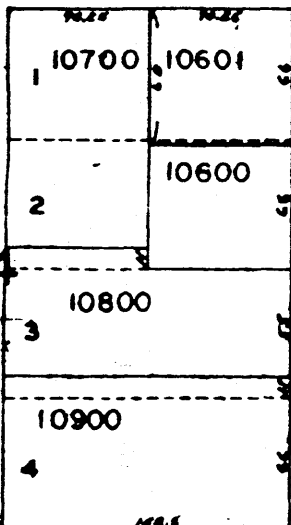
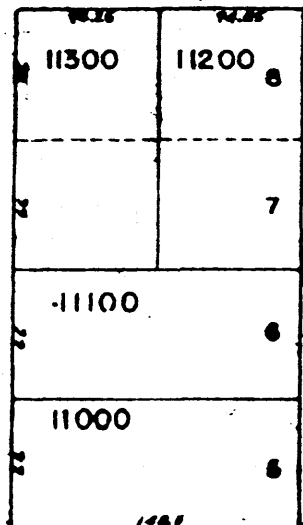
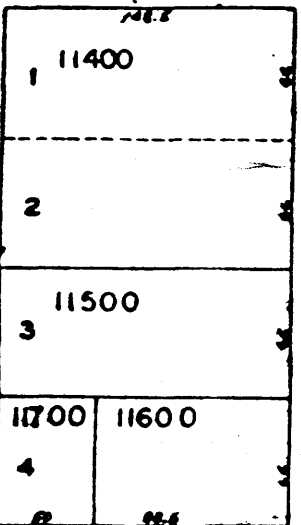
13-3 STREET



HILL

MONMOUTH

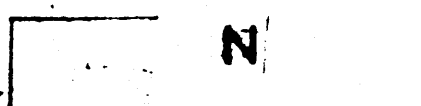
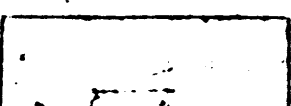
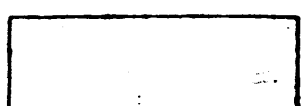
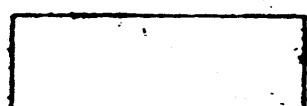
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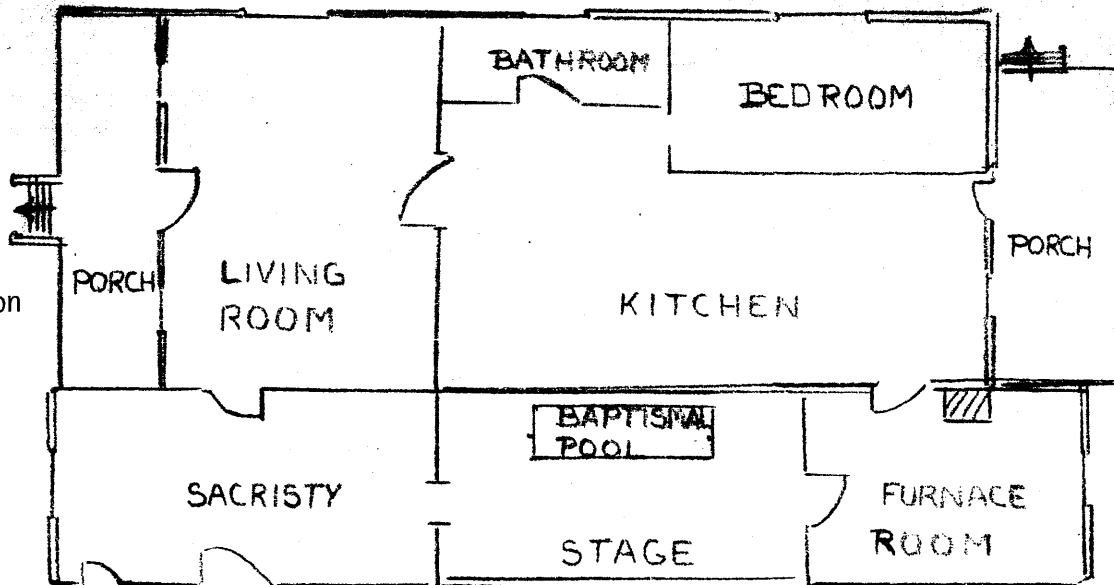
FOURTH

THIRD

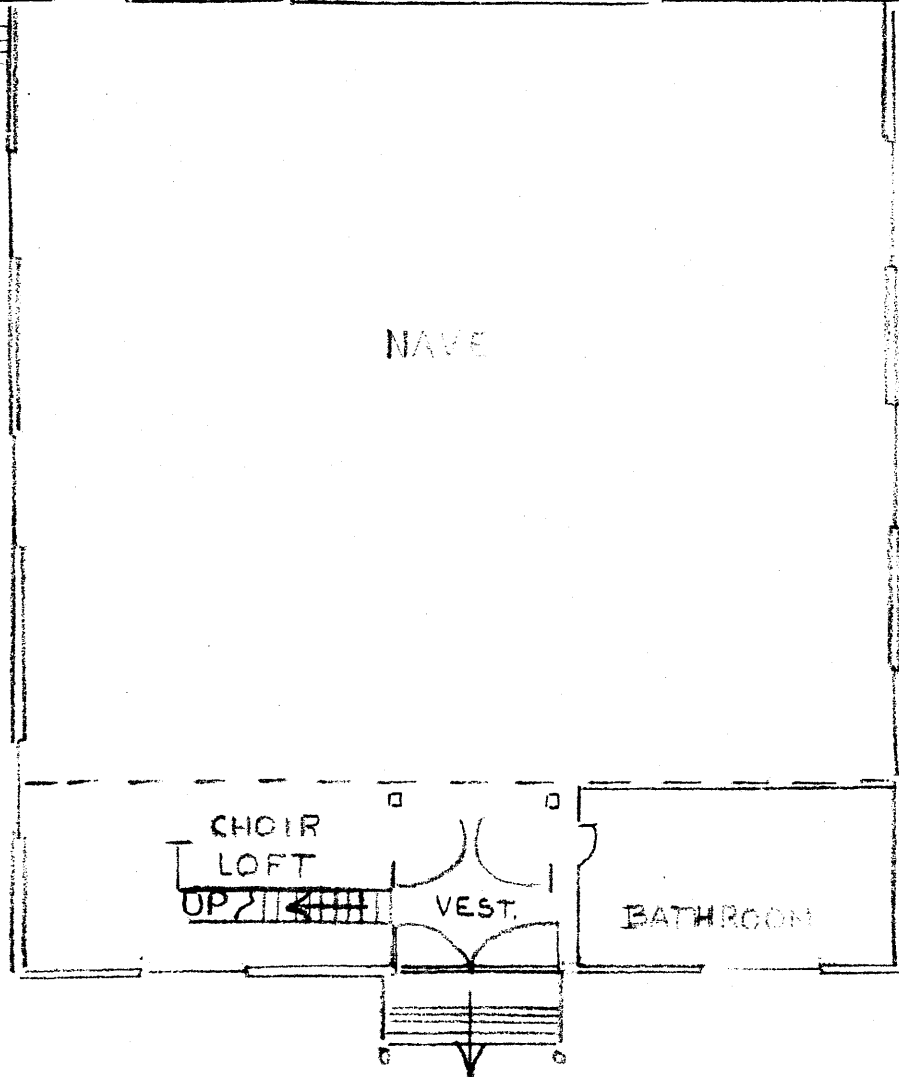
'D'



1910  
Addition



Original  
volume of  
1874



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH. 1874  
INDEPENDENCE, OREGON.