## **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received	MAR	9	1984
date entere	ed		

For NPS use only

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

#### 1. Name

historic	Trinity Epsico	pal Church		
and/or common	Same			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	44 N <del>orth</del> Secon	id Str <del>eet</del>		N/A not for publication
city, town	Ashland	N/A vicinity	of Fourth Congres	sional District
state	Oregon	code 41 c	ounty Jackson	<b>code</b> 029
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	X yes: restric	gress education entertainn red governme	ial park nal private residence mentX religious ent scientific
4. Own	er of Prop	erty		
name street & number	The Epsicopal PO Box 467	Diocese of Oregor	n (Please refer cor The Reverend Jer Trinity Episcopa	ry A. Lamb, Rector
	Lake Oswego	N/A vicinity	<u> </u>	state Oregon 97034
city, town 5. Loca		egal Descri		
		lackson County Cou		
courthouse, regis		Eighth and Oakdale		
city, town		ledford		state Oregon 97501
6. Repr	esentatio	n in Existi	ng Surveys	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
title Ashlan	d Historic Build	ling Inventory <b>has</b> (	his property been determ	ined eligible? yes X no
<b>date</b> 1974			federal	state county _X local
depository for su	rvey records Ash1	and Public Libra	у	
city, town	Ashl	and		state Oregon 97520

# 7. Description

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

Trinity Episcopal Church, erected between 1894-1895, was designed in the Gothic Revival style. Although altered, it retains its integrity of location, design and setting.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located in the heart of Ashland, Oregon, and stands one-half block north of East Main Street, the major east/west thoroughfare and is oriented in an east/west position on its property. Ashland builder  $\bar{W}$ . J. Schmidt prepared the plans and supervised construction for the structure for which the cornerstone was laid in May, 1894. The church was opened for a first service in September, 1895. Rectangular in form, the church is of frame construction and sided with wood channel siding. Trinity Church exhibits characteristics of the Gothic style, although in simple form. Its steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed in wood  $\sqrt{shingles}$ ; the belfry has flared eaves. A narthex projects on the west elevation and the facade contains a pointed window of stained glass composed of triangular and diamond shaped lights. The abbreviated south porch has a gabled roof also, and a small diamond window light. Windows throughout the church are double-hung and one-over-one. All contain a diamond and square leaded glass pattern. The interior of Trinity Church is distinguished by its wooden raftered ceiling which is supported by A-trusses carefully hewn by the builders. Two gueen-post tie-beams are located near the west wall of the nave. A former chapel projects on the south elevation and now functions as an office. The church is connected by a covered walk-way to the parish hall which is also of frame construction and covered with channel siding. The environmental attributes of Trinity Church include its location on one of the primary business streets of Ashland, and its proximity to the main community thoroughfare. Located immediately to the north of the church is a residence built at approximately the same time as the church, and which has been maintained in its original condition. Large mature trees, both deciduous and everyreen, provide a graceful setting for the church and the parish hall. The integrity of the church has been retained on both the interior and the exterior. Enlargements of the church proper occurred c. 1948 and in 1958, and in both cases the work was sensitively accomplished. The first enlargement consisted of the addition of the narthex, for which the pointed window was moved out to keep its same position. Roof pitches were maintained on both the narthex and abbreviated south porch. In 1958 the choir and chancel were enlarged, extending the main body of the church several feet. 1 Again, the original roof pitch and material was retained. The original parish hall is still in use, (constructed in 1912) and was turned on the property, and a hall wing added in 1954.<sup>2</sup> Exterior materials and roof pitches were again retained in their original form.

Located in Township 39 South, Range 1 East, Section 9, Trinity Church stands in Block 0 of the Railroad Addition on Lots 7 and 8. The church is roughly rectangular in shape with one projection toward the south which consists of the former chapel-now office. The dimensions of the main body of the church are approximately 24' x 93'. The projection of the previously enlarged office and sacristy is 22' from the south wall of the church and approximately 33' deep. The parish hall is L shaped and measures in the east-west portion of the L, approximately 24' x 81' and in the north-south portion, 24'; x 57'.

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Continuation sheet TRINITY EPSICOPAL CHURCH Item number 7

Doors in the church are of wood. There are five; one of these leads to the basement, which lies under the 1958 addition. The steps to the south porch are cement. Alterations to the church proper include the 1948 addition of the narthex, in which the original pointed window was moved out to retain its same location. The south porch was lessened in depth and moved a few feet west to maintain its original relationship to the west elevation. The small diamond window in the porch was retained in the move. The cornices and returns throughout the church structure have been retained and maintained. The fomer chapel was enlarged and is now in use as offices. A door has been added between the two windows on the west wall. (Please see photograph #4). A sacristy addition was made in 1958 as was the choir and chancel enlargement already described. The sacristy is flat roofed. In 1974 a bathroom and altar guild closet was added just east of the sacristy. All have been successfully incorporated into the main structure by use of original materials.

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The interior of the church has had changes, but retains the basic elements of its design and intention. The roof A-trusses still exist over the nave, and new ones were added for the extension. The original fir flooring remains, but has tile over it. Walls are plaster for the most part. Fir wainscoting provides decorative interest on the east wall and on the north and south walls. In the narthex, the pointed window has symmetrical moulding with bullseyes on the moulding as trim. The interior of newer portions, the offices, sacristy, and altar guild space are of sheetrock, their floors are tile, their moulding of wood. Church fixtures of historic note include the brass altar cross, donated in 1899. The baptismal font is of white Lucido marble, and hand carved by an Ashland craftsman, Samuel Penniston. It was purchased by the church c. 1905.

The architectural integrity of Trinity Episcopal Church has not been compromised by the changes which have occurred through the years. Enlargements have been made with sensitive concern for the original design of the building. In its form and materials the church maintains successfully its association with the early civic development of Ashland and remains today the single example of church architecture in Ashland which retains its original appearance and has been occupied throughout its history by the same denomination.

 $^2\mbox{Architect}$  for the parish hall addition in 1954 was John N. Tilton of Ithaca, New York.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The architect responsible for the 1958 changes was Jack Edson, of Medford, Oregon, who, one year later, designed the Elizabethan Theatre of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, Oregon. Contractor for both jobs was Scotty Fairweather.

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	literature military music	X religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1894-1895	Builder/Architect W.	J. Schmidt (builder)	

#### **Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Trinity Episcopal Church is significant to Ashland for its Gothic Revival architecture and as the oldest standing church in the city. In addition, it is significant as the second oldest intact church in the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. We feel that it is eligible under criteria "c".

Trinity Episcopal Church, constructed in 1894-1895 from drawings by local builder W. J. Schmidt, is the only remaining 19th century chruch structure in Ashland which still retains its original significant architectural qualities, and is still in use for services by its original denomination.<sup>1</sup> In the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, Trinity Church is the second-oldest remaining church structure still in use for services in its original location, retaining its basic architectural form. Grace Church, Astoria, was built in 1886. Of the 75 parishes and organized missions in the Diocese today, approximately 25 had 19th century church structures. Of these 25 buildings, about four remain.<sup>2</sup> Grace Church, Astoria and Trinity Church, Ashland, most clearly express their original form. Trinity Church retains its integrity of location, design and setting. Constructed near the heart of the community, the church maintains its original relationship to the business and residential community. The materials and workmanship of the early craftsmen who completed the structure remain evident to this day. The church also retains its feeling and association with the developement of Ashland and the growth of civic institutions. Trinity Episcopal Church embodies the distinct characteristics of a 19th century structure which contains elements of concern for appropriate and attractive architecture, as well as the limitations imposed by materials, craftsmanship and finances. The building is significant architecturally as an expression of approved ecclesiastical design, and intense efforts at church construction in Southern Oregon by the Right Reverend Benjamin Wistar Morris, under whose guidance Trinity Church was erected. As one of two 19th century churches in Ashland which retains its original architectural qualities, the building contains noticeable characteristics of the Gothic style, including a steeply pitched gable roof, pointed west window, south porch with gable, and trussed rafter roof construction. In addition to the expected social/humanitarian accomplishments a church will contribute, Trinity Episcopal Chruch has throughout its history been actively involved with the entire Ashland community. Concerts, use of its facility by many Ashland institutions and organizations, and a close relationship throughout the years with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival are some of the ways in which the church has reached its present position as an integral part of the community. Through both of these primary areas of significance, architecture and social/humanitarian efforts, Trinity Episcopal Church expresses the cultural, religious and social development of Ashland, Oregon.

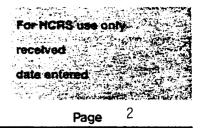
Ashland, Oregon, developed slowly as a farm community from 1852 when a saw-mill was constructed on the bank of a fast-rushing stream, until 1884 when the Oregon and California Railroad line reached the town border. During the first thirty year period, a small community grew up around the saw-mill and a flour-mill, and gradually the expected institutions appeared. Stores, the trades shops, a school

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached

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tate	None	code	county	code	
tate	None	code	county	code	
11. For	m Pre	pared By			
ame/title	Kay Atwo	od			
rganization	Trinity	Episcopal Church	da	te September 9, 1983	
treet & number	102 Sout	h Pioneer	tel	telephone <sup>(503)</sup> 482-8714	
ity or town	Ashland		sta	oregon, 97520	
2. Sta	te His	toric Prese	ervation (	<b>Officer Certification</b>	
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Continuation sheet TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH Item number 8

and churches appeared gradually on the town plat. During the three year period from 1884 to late 1887, when the railroad tracks were joined at Ashland after completing construction of the road through the Siskiyou Mountains, the population grew rapidly. People road to the "end of the line" and established themselves in an area which, as a railhead community, was certain to develop.

On August 1, 1884, Bishop Benjamin Wistar Morris, of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, paid his first official visit to Ashland. He had traveled to Jackson County the summer before to make himself familiar with the area. Just before leaving Portland, Bishop Morris addressed the annual convocation of the Episcopal Church:

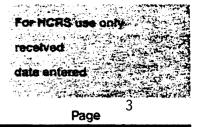
"The Oregon and California Railroad has been extended more than sixty miles south of Roseburg, and is rapidly approaching the California line. This will bring Jackson County and other southern portions of the state within comparatively easy reach of Portland, and will open out to settlement. . . a most important and attractive part of our country. For fertility of soil, beauty of scenery, growths of fruits and charms of climate, it is unsurpassed by any part of our State. . . We should by all means establish a mission in Jackson County at once. . I have arranged to make a visit to this county in the latter part of this month, having the Reverend J. W. Sellwood, 'to my minister', being well assured that there is great advantage in going thus, 'two by two', as in primitive and apostolic times."<sup>3</sup>

When the Bishop arrived in 1884 there were three churches already in existence; the Presbyterian, the Methodist, and a Dunkard, or German Baptist church which had been built that year.<sup>4</sup> Throughout the rest of the decade, Bishop Morris, and various visiting priests made pastoral visits to Ashland. Their visits occurred at least once a month after 1886 for church documents indicated that The Reverend Frederick H. Post made monthly trips south from Salem to hold services at Ashland, Grants Pass, and Medford. <sup>5</sup> The clergy and congregations occupied other church facilities including the Methodist and Baptist buildings, whose ministers graciously gave the Episcopalians room. Bishop Morris loved the Rogue Valley area and made frequent pleasure trips south, as well as pastoral ones. The Ashland Tidings, April 27, 188 reported:

"Bishop B. Wistar Morris, wife and daughter, of Portland, arrived here last Wednesday for a visit of several days in the Rogue River Valley."

In 1893 Bishop Morris secured permanent arrangements for the church congregation to use the Masonic Hall for services, and noted that:

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The congregation joined together as frequently as possible for the services conducted by traveling missionaries, and the women of the Episcopal group formed a Guild in order to raise funds for the purchase of property and eventual construction of a church building. In May, 1894, the money had been accumulated and a Trust Deed was signed between Baldwin Beach and Benjamin Wistar Morris for lots seven and eight in Block O of the Railroad Addition to Ashland. The cost was \$200.00.<sup>7</sup> The cornerstone for a new church was laid May 3, 1894.

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Apparently the bids were not accepted on August 27, 1894, for three days later the paper announced that one of the church members was going ahead with foundation work:

"Reverend Thomas Neil Wilson came out from Roseburg the first of the week to look after the new Episcopal church building. No contract was let, but the building of the foundation is to begin immediately under the supervision of J. Leslie Corbett.  $11\,$ 

A delay in construction, whether caused by weather, material shortage, or lack of a contractor, halted progress and almost a year passed before a building seemed likely. In July, the Ashland Tidings reported:

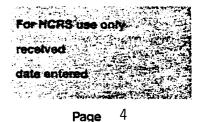
"During the visit here this week of Bishop Morris and Thos. Neil Wilson, the Episcopal people of Ashland determined upon the building of their church without further delay, upon their lot just below Main Street. The contract for the building was let to W. J. Schmidt, the architect and builder. Norris and Co. will furnish the lumber. . . The structure will be an attractive one, built in Gothic Style. The Episcopal Society in Ashland is a flourishing one and has almost funds enough on hand to build the church which will be the sixth one in Ashland.<sup>12</sup>

Work moved along rapidly for within two months the church was open for services. The local paper announced:

"The new Episcopal church in Ashland was opened for services at 11 a.m. . . . The new church has not been entirely finished, but is very nearly so, requiring some painting yet and the pews with which it is to be fitted, have not yet been put in place. The church is not a large one, but will be cozy and comfortable. It is constructed in modern style. The interior walls will be finished in plaster; overhead the finish is in natural wood. W. J. Schmidt furnished the plans and had the contract for the building and he was highly complimented by the Bishop for his skillful work."<sup>13</sup>

The same month, William Hart, the new rector for Episcopal churches in Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass, arrived from Illinois to serve. He was delighted with his first impressions of the valley, which, he said, Bishop Morris had "truly described to him as the land of fruits and flowers."<sup>14</sup> The Bishop also continued to visit for several reasons.

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"Last Thursday afternoon. . . the cornerstone of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church was laid by the Right Reverend B. Wistar Morris, Bishop of Oregon. . . The stone was of Ashland granite, tastefully engraved, bearing the inscription, 'Trinity, 1894', and was the handiwork of Mr. Russell. The church will be completed at once and will be a handsome and commodious edifice, a credit to the congregation and an addition to the church architecture of our city."

The next day, Bishop Morris traveled to Grants Pass where he laid a cornerstone for St. Luke's church in that place. One month later the Bishop made a report to his convention:

". . In May I laid the cornerstones for two churches in this mission, one at Ashland, and the other at Grants Pass. . . We have the means 'in sight' for the enclosing of these buildings, so as to make them habitable and comfortable, in the rough, but as far as the work goes, it will be well done, according to an approved architectural plan, and when the means are available the interiors will be finished in a proper churchly style."<sup>8</sup>

The Bishop continued, expressing his affection for the Rogue Valley, and his hope for successful church establishment:

"... Now, with a nice little church at Medford, free from debt, with two church buildings in progress of construction, with growing towns and hamlets spread abroad through a land of unsurpassed fertility, beauty and healthfulness; a very garden of fruits and flowers, here is an opportunity for church work that any earnest, faithful clergyman might gladly embrace."<sup>9</sup>

During the next few months, plans were finalized, and in August an announcement for bids appeared in the local paper:

NOTICE

"Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of a church in the city of Ashland, Oregon, will be received at the store of Ashland Drug Co., up to Monday, August 27, 1894 at the hour of 12:00 noon. The right to reject any or all bids is reserved. The plans and specifications may be seen at the Ashland Drug Co. store.

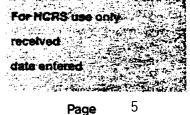
The Reverend Thos. Neil Wilson"10

The Tidings recorded one of its many references to Bishop Morris's visits in 1896:

"Bishop to hold services Saturday, August 8, . . . and Sunday, August 9. . . The Bishop has been on his annual missionary and fishing trip."  $^{15}$ 

This year, also, the Diocese purchased a residence just south of the church and rented it out for many years, while waiting for a permanent priest to be afforded by the mission. The Bishop's hope was to house a local clergyman in the building. $^{16}$ 

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In 1899, an unnamed woman of the congregation donated money to the clergyman for the purchase of a fine bell. The Reverend Charles Booth, rector, placed an order and the Tidings reported the planned improvement:

"A generous gift of \$150.00 has been given to the Reverend Mr. Booth by a lady in this city, to purchase a bell for Trinity Episcopal church in this place. He has already made an order on Meneely and Co., the celebrated bell founders of West Troy, New York, for one of their first class bells."<sup>17</sup>

In February, 1900, The Oregon Churchman described the finished product:

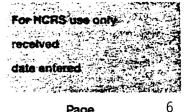
"A fine bell and tower have just been added at Trinity Church, Ashland. With its proper inside finishing and furnishing it is altogether one of the prettiest village churches we have."

The church was debt free by 1900 and consecrated with the new bell and tower, on January 15, 1900. The residence next door continued as a rental for several years, but by 1909 was being used as a rectory on the top floor and a parish hall on the ground floor. By Easter week, 1912, the parish hall was new; a  $24' \times 46'$  structure erected on the grounds by the congregation at a cost of \$1250.00.18

The church grew steadily and slowly between 1912 and 1928. The stock market crash in 1929 soon affected the Diocese of Oregon and missionary help from the national church was no longer as readily available to the Oregon area. Bishop Sumner was forced to close the work in Southern Oregon. Efforts of Ashland citizens to raise funds, however, helped achieve the assignment of a permanent missionary to Ashland in 1932. In 1934, the fifty members of the congregation present at the annual meeting, heard that all the debts of the church were paid and that some money was being saved in the bank. In 1950, the congregation reached total financial independence and was admitted to the Diocese as a parish. In November, 1954, a new parish hall was dedicated. A narthex had been added at the west elevation of the church about 1948, and incorporated the pointed window of stained glass, original to the structure, in the new west wall. In 1958, the main church was enlarged by the addition on the east end of choir and chancel space. The church continues to serve the Episcopal congregation and the community as it has for the past eighty-nine years.

Trinity Episcopal Church retains special significance as the only one of the six early churches in Ashland to retain both its original architectural characteristics, and its use by the original denomination which built the structure. The Presbyterian, Congregational and Baptist churches are gone; the Roman Catholic church was purchased by another denomination approximately twenty years ago. The Methodist church, damaged in a severe storm in 1908, was totally remodeled at that time. In the Diocese of Oregon, Trinity Church and Grace Church, Astoria, remain the two oldest churches retaining their original location, architecture, and use as a church. There are approximately four 19th century structures existing today out of seventy-five parished and organized missions. Of these, Trinity and Grace Churches retain their original architectural appearance to the greatest extent.

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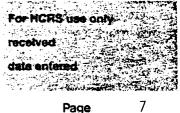


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Trinity Church exemplifies the expansion of ecclesiastical building throughout the Diocese of Oregon, and especially the determination of Bishop Benjamin Wistar Morris to erect architecturally appropriate church structures. The church embodies his high standards and also the local limitations of funds, craftsmen from the local citizenry, and the materials available in Southern Oregon. Trinity Church retains its integrity of association with the development of the railroad after 1883, and the ever-increasing growth of the community of Ashland.

Throughout the years, Trinity Church has maintained an active profile in Ashland. For the better part of two decades, between 1952 and 1968, the church's parish hall housed the Renaissance Institute of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. Concerts are held regularly in the church, making use of an excellent pipe organ. Local schools, helping organizations, and private groups frequently use the parish hall for meetings and classes. The church continues an eighty-nine year tradition of availability and participation in the community.

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 $^{1}$ The Roman Catholic congregation no longer uses its original structure, and the Methodist Church was thoroughly remodeled after 1908.

<sup>2</sup>Others included, St. Lukes, Grants, Pass; and St. James, Coquille. The Diocese of Oregon lies west of the Cascades.

<sup>3</sup>Benjamin Wistar Morris, Speech to the Thirtieth Annual Convocation, Episcopal Missionary Jurisdiction of Oregon, June 7, 1883, St. Paul's Church, Salem, Oregon. Bishop Morris was consecrated Missionary Bishop of Oregon in 1868. He became Bishop of Oregon in 1880 and served until his death in 1906. Thomas Fielding Scott served as first Missionary Bishop, and was consecrated in 1854. The baptism of James McKinlay, infant son of Archibald and Julia McKinlay, and grandson of Peter Skene Ogden, December 1, 1847, is generally acknowledged as the first recorded service by an Episcopal clergyman from the Book of Common Prayer in the Pacific Northwest. The Reverend St. Michael Fackler presided.

<sup>4</sup>A Baptist Church was built in 1885 on Church Street. The Congregational Church followed, and in 1889 the Roman Catholic Church was constructed in the Railroad area.

 $^{5}$ Journal of the 34th Annual Convocation, Episcopal Missionary Jurisdiction of Oregon, Trinity Church, Portland June 17, 1887, p. 41. The Reverend Frederick Post gave the following and first report from the "Ashland Mission." Twelve adults, three children, one baptism, one marriage; Eleven Sunday services, twenty other services.

<sup>6</sup>Journal of the Annual Convention, 1893, p. 42.

<sup>7</sup>Ashland <u>Tidings</u>, May 17, 1894.

<sup>11</sup>Ashland Tidings, August 30, 1894.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., July 25, 1895.

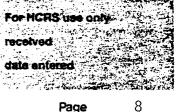
13Ibid., September 23, 1895.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., September 5, 1895.

<sup>8</sup>Journal of the Annual Convention, 1894, St. Timothy's Chapel, Portland, June 29, 30, p. 9-10. St. Luke's Church in Grants Pass was not completed until 1897 due to construction delays. It has been extensively remodeled. According to David Powers of the Oregon State Preservation Office, Bishop Morris set a high standard for appropriate and pleasing church architecture. (Telephone interview, July 18, 1983).

<sup>9</sup>Journal of the Annual Convention, 1894, p. 9-10.

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<sup>10</sup>Ashland Tidings, August 6, 1894.

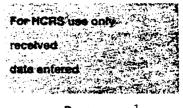
<sup>15</sup>Ashland Tidings, August 6, 1896.

<sup>16</sup> Josephine Polvika, "Trinity, Ashland,", The Oregon Churchman, October, 1957, p. 4.

17 Ashland Tidings, November 2, 1899. The Meneely Bell Foundry, is one of nine notable early bell foundaries in the United States. Andrew Meneely opened his firm in 1826 in West Troy, New York. The business was known as A. Meneely and Son, and after Andrew Meneely's death in 1851, was carried on by his two oldest sons. The firm prospered until 1901 when metal shortages forced suspension of operation. Electronic competition and later wars forced the closure of the company in the 1950s. (Information from the Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, New York).

<sup>18</sup>Josephine Polvika, "Trinity, Ashland," The Oregon Churchman, October, 1957, p. 5.

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Architectural Plans, Trinity Church Parish Hall, John N. Tilton, Architect, Ithaca, New York, 1953.

- Architectural Plans. Remodeling of Trinity Church, Jack Edson, Architect, Medford, Oregon, 1958.
- Ashland <u>Tidings</u>: May 17, 1894, August 6, 1894, August 30, 1894, July 25, 1895, September 5, 1895, September 23, 1895 and November 2, 1899.
- Blue, Vern. Dr. Collection of Historical Notes, Archives, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ashland Oregon.
- Diocese of Oregon, Directory, 1982.
- Ellison, Charlene. Archivist, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, correspondence, July 9, 1983.
- Foster, Richard. <u>Discovering English Churches</u>, New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.
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