

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 8 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Grace Episcopal Church and Rectory

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 1545 Franklin Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Clatsop code 007

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Grace Episcopal Church

street & number 1545 Franklin Avenue

city, town Astoria N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97103

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clatsop County Courthouse

street & number 749 Commercial Street

city, town Astoria state Oregon 97103

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
Parks and Recreation Branch Department of Transportation

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved

date N/A

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

The Grace Episcopal Church and Rectory constructed in a period between 1885 and 1955 are one of the most distinctive church complexes in the state. The Gothic Revival church was constructed between 1885-86 from the designs of Portland architect C. W. Leick by noted local carpenter-builder James Ernest Ferguson with the assistance of Louis Hartwig. To the east is the Arts & Crafts style rectory, erected in 1916 and designed by A. D. Gendron. Attached to the west is the 1955 parish hall, designed by an unknown architect. The complex is in good condition and will be painted in the near future.

Oriented to the north, the complex is located within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West, of the Willamette Meridian. The site occupies all of Lots 3 and 4 and the east 30 feet of the north 100 feet of Lot 5, Block 16 of Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

The Grace Episcopal Church itself is an almost textbook example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture with its steep gabled roofs, pointed arch windows, wood frame construction, and bargeboards, brackets and porch trims.

The all-wood building is built roughly in the shape of a cross with four gabled ends, each facing in a different direction and each surmounted by a cross. At the southwest corner is the square belfry tower with gothic arched louvered window openings facing in each direction, and with spires at each corner at the top. The upper portion of the tower is covered with patterned shingles while the lower story has channel siding. The bell which hangs in the tower has been recast from the original Grace Church bell which was removed from the original church building and which rang for the first time in 1867. There is an arched stained glass window facing north on the first floor of the bell tower.

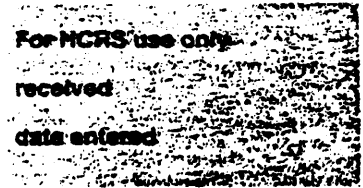
The majority of the siding on the main portion of the church is channel siding, but the gabled end to the north has board and batten vertical siding with a horizontal board trim. Also the south elevation and one wall of the east wing is shingled. The porch, facing north, has a gabled roof and a wooden stairway leading from the street and sidewalk below at ground level. The front doors are double with wooden panels.

There is a basement under the church which was not included in the original design. When the church was first built in 1886, the entrance to the church was below street level. But in 1891, the entire building was raised and placed upon concrete foundations surmounted by vertical wooden siding. This additional construction raised the entire building, giving the structure a loftier appearance. At the same time, the added room in the basement was used for a Sunday School room and for other purposes. The eastern wing was extended and enlarged at an unknown date.

The arched tracery stained glass windows appear on each side of the main building with two of them facing north, one on each side of the porch, while there are four along the east wall. The one facing south was originally a part of the first church which had been built in the downtown section of the city in 1867. There are four more windows along the west side. The west bay also has three of these arched windows, one on each side of the projection. On the gabled eastern projection, are two sets of windows. The one above is an adaptation of the Palladian window. Vigorously modeled square paneled corner columns are evident on the north, east and west elevations. Both the wide raking cornice and frieze are plain.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND RECTORY Item number 7 Page 2

The parish hall, connected to the main church building, was completed in 1955 and is a wooden building with horizontal siding, broken up by a series of multiple paned windows facing north, and with a gable end above, surmounted by a complex of square and triangular windows. There is a skylight running along the peak of the roof which gives natural light to the interior. Inside, there are exposed beamed ceilings with a steep slant. The floor is tiled and at the north end, there is an office area.

The rectory to the east of the main church building is a story and one-half wood frame building in the Arts and Crafts style with certain Gothic details. Connected to the church by an open wooden passage-way, the rectory was built in 1916 and took the place of the original rectory which was built on 16th Street, one-half block to the east, and which is still standing today. The rectory has a gable roof with a cross gable on the north end which has exposed board and stucco. It has a shingled exterior and is set on a concrete foundation in which is a garage connected by a concrete drive to Franklin Avenue. The many windows are mostly eight pane units or six-over-one units. It, like the other two buildings, is painted white.

The church may be entered from the front entrance facing Franklin Avenue or from the stairway leading up from the Sunday school area in the basement. Eleven rows of pews line each side of the carpeted aisle. These are all carved in natural wood with an arched motif. The altar is in front of and between two choir boxes. The big pipe organ is on the west side of the altar. Hammer beams support the ceiling which is built of horizontal tongue and groove one-foot wide natural finished boards. Lighting fixtures hang from the arches. The east wing contains the vestry with a stairway leading up to a rector's study above.

The rectory is a big pleasant house attached to the church by an open covered passageway. Facing Franklin Avenue is a big living room which runs the full width of the house with a fireplace in the center facing north. There is a modern kitchen area in the southwest end connected by a hallway to a study in the southwest corner.

Upstairs, there are four bedrooms, one in each corner, with a bath between the two bedrooms on the east end. There is an unfinished attic above with access through a trapdoor. The many windows in the rectory make this a very pleasant well-lighted residence.

The Grace Episcopal Church is one of Astoria's most stable institutions and the buildings complement each other even though they were built at various times during the church's existence and demonstrate a steady growth. This is one of the city's principal buildings of historical interest and well deserves a place in the National Register.

## 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** 1885–1886 **Builder/Architect** C. W. Leick, Architect (Church)  
 James E. Ferguson, supervising builder  
 Louis Hartwig, builder

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

The Grace Episcopal Church, the oldest church building in continuous use in Astoria, is located at 1545 Franklin Avenue. Erected between 1885 and 1886, it was constructed by significant local carpenter-builders James E. Ferguson and Louis Hartwig from the Gothic Revival designs of Portland architect C. W. Leick. The church, due to the fact that it is distinctive when compared to similarly styled churches in Oregon, circumvents the normal exclusion of ecclesiastic structures from National Register listing and is eligible under Criterion "c." The companion rectory, erected in 1916 in the Arts and Crafts style, is an integral and compatible part of the property and also meets Criterion "c." The non-compatible parish hall (1955), connected in part to the west elevation of the church, avoids any intrusive categorization due to its modest scale, similar materials and references to the multi-paned rectory windows and church's roof pitch on its elevation.

Even though the Grace Episcopal Church was as early as 1886, it was the second building erected by this Episcopalian congregation. The first, built in 1867, was replaced by the newer, bigger building on Franklin Avenue on Easter Sunday, 1886, when the service was held for the first time in the new building. To insure continuity, the church bell was recast and put into the new belfry tower, and the stained glass window was taken from the old building and installed in the new church directly above the altar.

Rev. Marden D. Wilson was the rector of the Grace Episcopal Church at the time it was dedicated. The property on which the church stands was a gift from Mrs. Susan Shively, wife of the first postmaster appointed west of the Mississippi River. This gift was augmented by additional gifts from Mrs. Shively's brother Judge Milton Elliott. James Ernest Ferguson, builder of many fine residences in the city, was chosen to execute the design of C. W. Leick, architect of the Flavel House, while Louis Hartwig received the contract to build it. Total cost of the new church was \$4,700. Construction was begun in 1885 and it was completed in the spring of 1886.

In 1887, Rev. William S. Short arrived to take over the spiritual leadership of the church. The first rectory was established by the church at this time on 16th Street, just east of the church. That building still stands today although it is no longer a part of the Grace Episcopal Church group.

It was also under the direction of Rev. Short that the church building was raised and a basement and foundation put in underneath the main structure in 1891. This was done to provide more useable space for Sunday schools and for other church work. It also served to give the church building a loftier and more impressive appearance.

Grace Episcopal Church became the hub of a number of parochial missions established in the surrounding areas of Astoria, lending additional significance to its part in developing the stable growth of the area. In 1873, the Holy Innocents Chapel was established in Upper Astoria, at that time a separate municipal entity. Reve. Mr. Hyland

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Astoria, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rogert T. Tetlow - Historian and writer

organization Clatsop County Historical Society date February 10, 1984

street & number 1832 Exchange Street telephone (503) 325-4083

city or town Astoria state Oregon

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

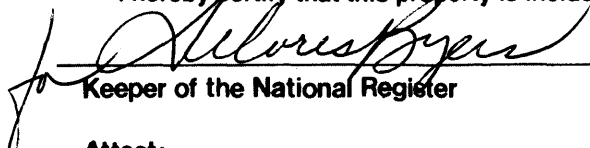
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date July 26, 1984

For NPS use only

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



Keoper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

9/7/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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For NCRS use only

received

date entered

GRACE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH AND RECTORY

Item number 8

Page 2

officiated at the first service. Eventually, Holy Innocents was closed and the communicants transferred to the Grace Episcopal Church.

St. Thomas by the Sea was set up as a parochial mission by Grace Church in 1892 at Skipanon but was later moved to Warrenton. Again, St. Thomas was later closed with the communicants transferring to the Grace Episcopal Church. Both Skipanon and Warrenton are located about seven miles from Astoria, but on the other side of Youngs Bay.

In 1901, Calvary in Seaside was set as a parochial mission by Grace Church and is now a flourishing parish in its own right. In 1902, a parochial mission was set up at Chadwell, and in 1903, St. Johns at Hammond. About six years later, both of these were closed and the members transferred to Grace Episcopal Church. Seaside, Chadwell and Hammond are all located within twenty miles of Astoria.

It can be seen that the influence of Grace Episcopal Church on the people of Clatsop County was profound. The establishment of these various missions did much to further the growth of stability and morality in the county during those hectic turn-of-the-century years.

The new parish house which today adjoins the church and which took the place of the old 16th Street parish house, was completed in 1916 at a cost of \$3,000. A. D. Gendron was the architect and the house was built by Houghton & Schackelford, Contractors.

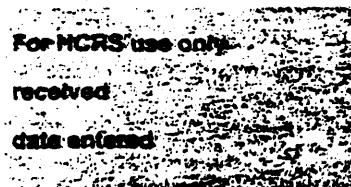
In 1955, the final addition to the Grace Episcopal Church complex was built just to the west of the church building. This new parish hall was a needed facility and was attached to the church to provide easy access.

Today, the Grace Episcopal Church still stands on the hill above Astoria, its tower and spires acting as a symbol of the stability and continuity of this oldest continuously used church in Astoria.

The architect, Carl W. Leick, was a Portland resident. Little is known of his career apart from the fact that he designed the Captain George Flavel House (1885), and that he was the assistant supervisor at the US Lighthouse Engineer's Office. Reputedly, he designed residences for lighthouse personnel along the entire Oregon coast. He was apparently a native of Germany, or received his education there. No birth dates are known for Mr. Leick, although it is supposed that a death notice in the June 12, 1939 issue of the Oregon Journal refers to the architect. An interesting note on Mr. Leick concerns an initialed statement on the original plans to the effect that he was never recompensed for his services to the church members. This has not been confirmed.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet GRACE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH AND RECTORY

Item number 9

Page 1

Gault, Vera Whitney, Walking Tour of Astoria, Oregon. Astoria: Clatsop County  
Historical Society, 1975.

Tri-Weekly Astorian July 1, 1873

Daily Astorian August 29, 1878  
June 2, 1879  
March 23; July 3, 1880  
August 29, 1882  
April 11, 1883

Weekly Astorian April 25, 1879  
April 2, 1887

Daily Morning Astorian September 15, 1885  
February 11, 1896  
July 15, 1898

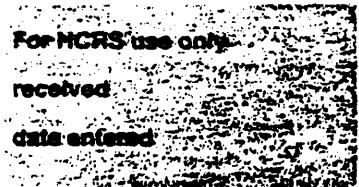
Astoria Daily Budget June 22, 1898  
December 12, 1904  
October 25, 1905  
March 19, 1909  
November 28, 1914  
February 12; October 2, 1915  
May 4; May 27, 1916

Morning Astorian February 6; May 25, 1920  
September 20, 1921  
April 16, 1922  
November 15, 1929

Astorian Budget December 30, 1927

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



GRACE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH AND RECTORY

Continuation sheet

Item number

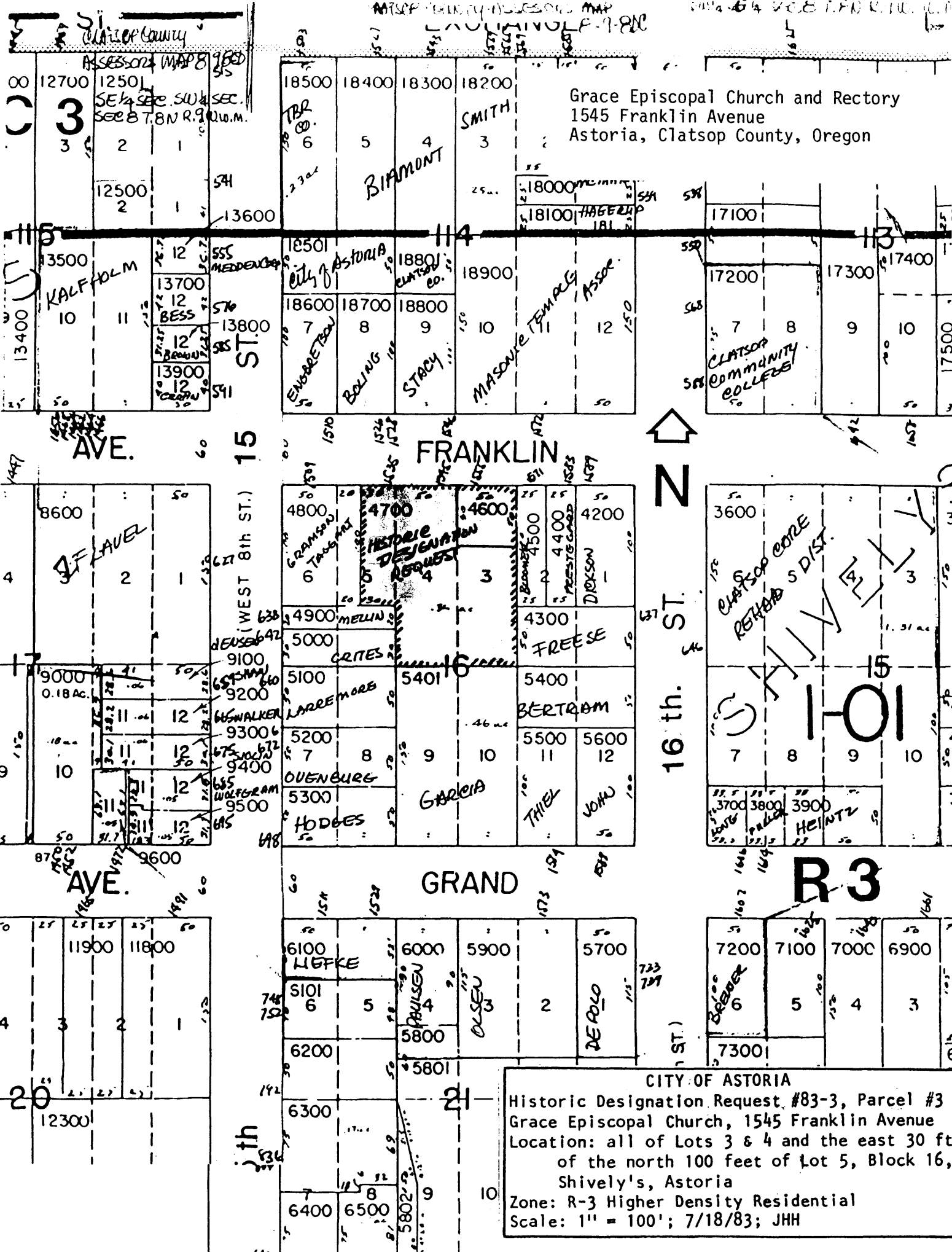
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Page 1

The Grace Episcopal Church and Rectory, located within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8, Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Willamette Meridian, occupies all of Lots 3 and 4, and the east 30 feet of the north 100 feet of Lot 5, Block 16 of Shively's Addition to Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon.

Beginning at a point which is the northeasterly edge of Lot 3, Block 16; thence southerly 150 feet to the southeasterly corner of said Lot 3; thence westerly 100 feet to the southwesterly corner of Lot 4; thence northerly 50 feet; thence westerly 30 feet; thence northerly 100 feet to the northern edge of Lot 5; thence easterly 130 feet to the point of beginning, the whole comprising less than one acre.





**CITY OF ASTORIA**  
 Historic Designation Request #83-3, Parcel #3  
 Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Avenue  
 Location: all of Lots 3 & 4 and the east 30 ft  
 of the north 100 feet of Lot 5, Block 16,  
 Shively's, Astoria  
 Zone: R-3 Higher Density Residential  
 Scale: 1" = 100'; 7/18/83; JHH

Historic photo, circa 1893 showing Grace Episcopal Church from NE just above ridge  
of roof of J.H.D. Gray House

Grace Episcopal Church and Rectory  
1545 Franklin Avenue  
Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon  
Church evident in middle ground



ASTORIA, OREGON, LOOKING WEST