

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM  
RECEIVED 2280

1438

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or 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 information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 Trinity Episcopal Church

other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number New York State Route 23 [n/a] not for publication

city, town Ashland [n/a] vicinity

state New York code NY county Greene code 039 zip code 12407

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

J.W. Adams  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
Signature of certifying official

9 Oct. 96  
date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby, certify that this 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.

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of keeper Date of Action 12-6-96

Entered in the  
National Register

[ ] removed from the National Register.  
[ ] other, (explain:)

Trinity Episcopal Church

Greene County, New York

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**

(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**

(do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listings (enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Property

**Current Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Property

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/ Gothic Revival

**Materials**

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

Board-and-Batten

roof Asphalt shingle

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Trinity Episcopal Church is prominently situated in the town of Ashland, Greene County, on the south side of New York State Route 23. The church occupies a small parcel of land, which is bounded on the north by Route 23, on the east and west by residential development and on the south by open land and the Batavia Creek.

Contributing Buildings: 1

Trinity Episcopal Church is a three by three bay, wood frame building clad with vertical board-and-batten siding. The building rests on a cut stone foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle clad gable roof. A 1957 parish hall wing extends from the rear of the building.

The north facade of the church features a central entrance, which is composed of a pair of plank doors set within a Gothic arched frame. The entrance is flanked by two lancet windows containing diamond paned stained glass panels. Centered above the entrance, beneath the gable, is a single lancet windows also containing a diamond paned stained glass panel. The west corner of this elevation is dominated by a three story bell tower/entrance vestibule. The first story of the tower features a single entrance on its north elevation. The entrance is also composed of a pair of plank doors set within a Gothic arched frame. A small rectangular window is located above the entrance. The belfry or third story portion of the tower is marked by Gothic arched openings on the north, west and south elevations. These openings are filled with wood louvers. The tower is crowned by pyramidal roof clad with standing seam metal roofing. This low pitched roof is inturn surmounted by a tall octagonal wood spire, which is sheathed with wood shingles. The corners of the tower and the facade are defined by wood buttresses.

The west elevation of the church is divided into three bays. The northernmost bay is dominated by the west elevation of the tower. Each of the three bays are defined by wood buttresses and contain a single lancet window with diamond paned stained glass panels.

The east elevation of the church is divided into three evenly spaced bays. Each bay is defined by a wood buttress. Centered within each bay is a single lancet window. Each window contains a diamond paned stained glass panel.

The rear (south) elevation of the church is dominated by the 1957 parish hall wing. The wing is connected to the church at the rear wall of the original sanctuary, which extended from the rear wall of the church. In the new construction new rooms were added to the east and west sides of the sanctuary wing. This addition incorporated the same roof pitch and siding material as found in the original building. The new construction also made use of Gothic inspired window and door details to complement the original architecture. The west gable end of the wing features a central entrance flanked by two windows. The north elevation features three windows and a rear entrance in its easternmost bay. The east gable end wall features a single window.

The interior of the church features wood wainscotting below smooth plaster on lath walls. The nave is organized in a center aisle plan. The ceiling is sheathed with

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narrow beaded boards. Slender arched trusses support the roof. The sanctuary is separated from the nave by a Gothic arched opening. The rear wall of the sanctuary is highlighted by a finely crafted stained glass window. Altar furnishings, pews, lighting fixtures and the small pipe organ all date from the period of construction.

A door located on the south wall of the nave provides access to the sacristy portion of the modern addition. The parish hall addition contains a large gathering area and kitchen.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C Property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

[X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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): Primary location of additional data:

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[ ] previously listed in the National Register

[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register

[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark

[ ] recorded by Historic American Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1879

Significant Dates

1879

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Mr. Stitts, Builder

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 8 Page 2

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The Trinity Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as a distinguished example of the Gothic Revival board-and-batten churches erected in small New York State towns in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. The church reflects the influence of the designs of Richard Upjohn, one of the leading church architects of the nineteenth century and the architect who first popularized the use of board and batten for rural churches, and of his son, R.M. Upjohn, who continued to use board-and-batten forms after his father's retirement. Although the architect of Trinity Episcopal Church is not known, it is a representative example of a small frame village church and contains such characteristic features of the type as vertical board and batten siding, pointed arched windows, a projecting entrance porch, a modest belfry rising above the peak roof, interior carpentry work done by local craftsmen, carved wooden pews, and stained-glass windows. The building retains its integrity to a high degree.

The parish of Trinity church was established on May 11, 1799 under the direction of the Reverend Philander Chase (who was later named as a Bishop). The incorporation document states:

We, whose names are hereunto affixed, do profess ourselves to belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, and do hereby solemnly agree to associate ourselves together, to promote the same, in the towns of Windham, Freehold, and vicinity.

On February 5, 1817 the wardens and vestry of the church met "to take into consideration the building of a house for Public Worship," and resolved " that we build a church after the model of the church at Rensselaerville, length 45 by 34 feet." [1]

In March of 1878 the church vestry appointed a committee to study the costs of repairing the the old church building. It was decided to demolish the original building and erect a new church on the site. The last services were held in the original building on July 21, 1878. On August 14th of the same year the corner stone for the new church was laid by the Rev. H.C. Hutchings and the Rev. E. Webster. The building was completed in 1879 and the first service was held on June 27th.

As built, Trinity Episcopal Church is an excellent example of a wood frame board-and-batten church, a type of church construction that was popular for rural and small town churches beginning in the 1840s. Board-and-batten siding is a simple method of providing a strong, weather tight facade for a building. In this technique, boards are connected to one another by the tongue-and-groove method. The joints formed by the boards are then covered by projecting battens that are nailed to the facade. The first significant use of board-and-batten siding was in 1836 when Alexander Jackson Davis designed the Blithewood Gatehouse in Barrytown, New York. Soon, residential buildings constructed with board-and-batten siding were being erected, particularly under the

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1. Although no images of this original church survive, the Trinity church at Rensselaerville does survive and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Rensselaerville Historic District (1983).

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influence of Andrew Jackson Downing who published examples of board-and-batten houses in his Cottage Residences (1842) and The Architecture of Country Houses (1850).

As early as 1845, board-and-batten siding began to appear on churches. Architect Richard Upjohn pioneered in the use of board-and-batten siding for churches with the design of the First Parish Congregational Church in Brunswick, Maine (1845-46). Of greater importance to the design of the small Episcopal church was Upjohn's St. Paul's Church, Brunswick, also built in 1845. The simple Gothic Revival design of St. Paul's was the prototype for the small board-and-batten Episcopal churches that were erected throughout America during the succeeding three decades. The form of this simple church adapted itself perfectly to the needs of Episcopal congregations. St. Paul's has clearly delineated parts (nave, chancel, porch, etc.) and the entire structure is an honest reflection of wood construction.

In 1852, Upjohn published a book entitled Upjohn's Rural Architecture, in which he illustrated a board-and-batten church with a corner tower. Upjohn's purpose in publishing this book was "simply to supply the want which is often felt, especially in the newly settled parts of our country, of designs for cheap but still substantial buildings for the use of parishes, schools, etc." This popular book spread the idea of the small board-and-batten church throughout America. Following the publication of this book Upjohn, and later his son R.M. Upjohn, continued to receive commissions for small board-and-batten churches. In New York State, examples of documented Upjohn-designed board-and-batten churches can be seen in Copake Falls, Hamilton, Linlithgow, Kinderhook, Clermont, Eltingville (Staten Island), and elsewhere.

The interior of the church is extremely simple and undoubtedly was completed by local carpenters, as were many rural churches. The interior is clad entirely in wood and has a beamed ceiling resting on elongated brackets. The interior contains original carved pews and several of the original geometric stained-glass windows.

With its substantial integrity of design and materials, Trinity Episcopal Church is a fine example of a board-and-batten church, and a rare example of this type of building in the Catskill Region of New York.

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### 9. Bibliographical References

Combination Atlas Map of Greene County. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign & Everts, 1876;  
reprint ed., Churchville, NY: Martin Wehle, 1973.

Dear Old Greene County. Catskill New York: 1915; Reprint ed. Cornwallville, N.Y., Hope  
Farm Press. 1986.

Beers, J.B. The History of Greene County, New York. New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884;  
reprint ed., Cornwallville New York: Hope Farm Press, 1969.

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Greene County. New York: F.W.Beers, A.D. Ellis & G.G. Soule, 1867.

Ross, Claire L., and Kozacek, Edward R. Greene County, New York. Catskill: Greene County  
American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Vedder, Jesse Van Vechten. The History of Greene County, New York 1651-1800. 1927;  
reprint: Hope Farm Press, Cornwallville, New York. 1985.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Table with 4 columns: Reference Number, Zone, Easting, Northing. Contains data for references 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Explain 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 John A. Bonafide, Historic Preservation Program Analyst
organization NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation date July, 1996
street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

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 n/a
street & number
city or town state zip code

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## 10. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

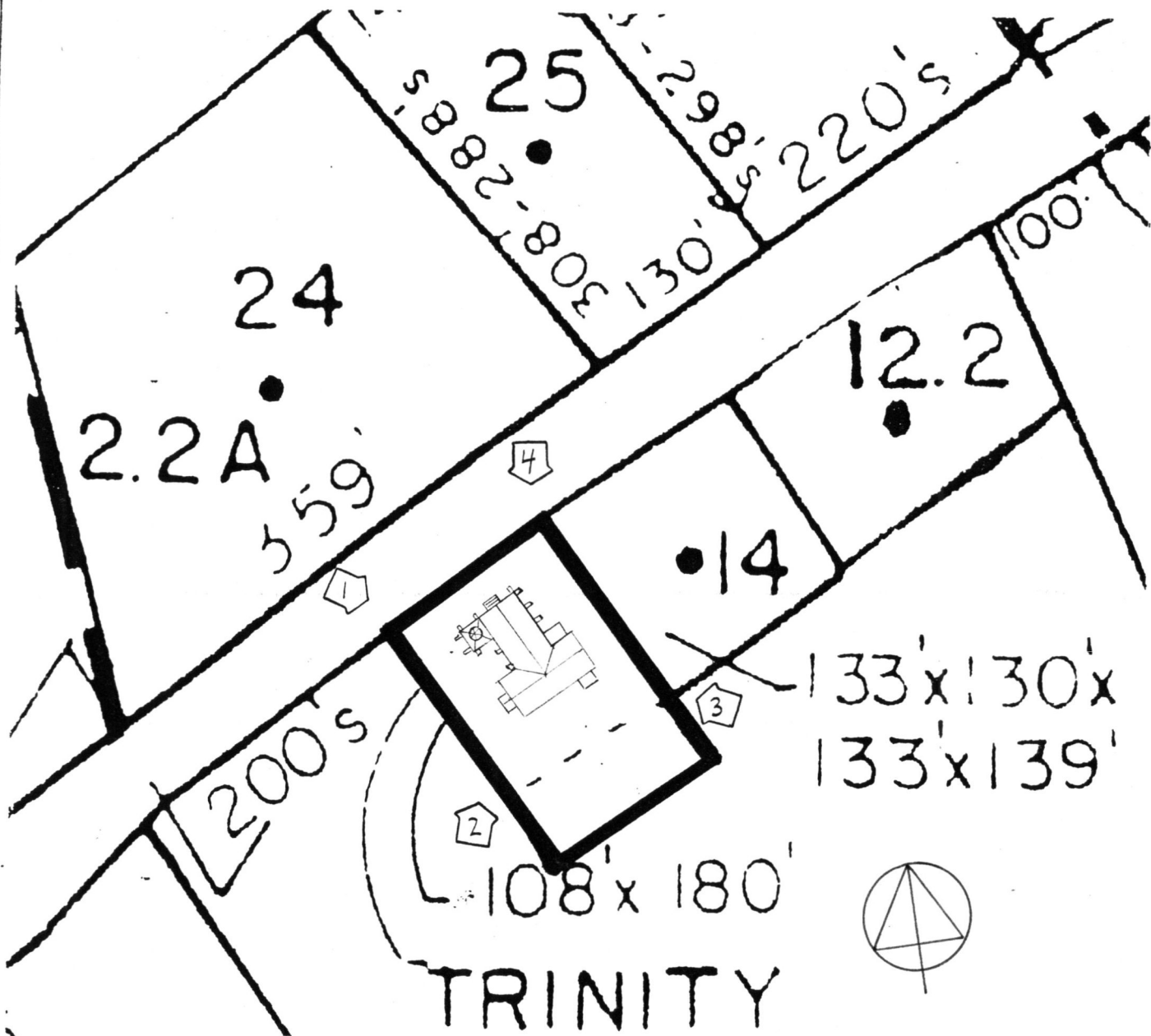
The boundary for the nominated property is shown as the heavy black outline on the accompanying map entitled "Trinity Episcopal Church, Ashland, Greene County, New York."

### Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nomination has been drawn to coincide with the current legal lot for the property.

# Trinity Episcopal Church

Ashland, Greene County



KEY  
 PHOTO ANGLE  
 BOUNDARY  
 NON-CONTRIBUTING



EPISCOPAL  
 CHURCH

SCALE 1 INCH EQUALS 100 FEET

A(c)

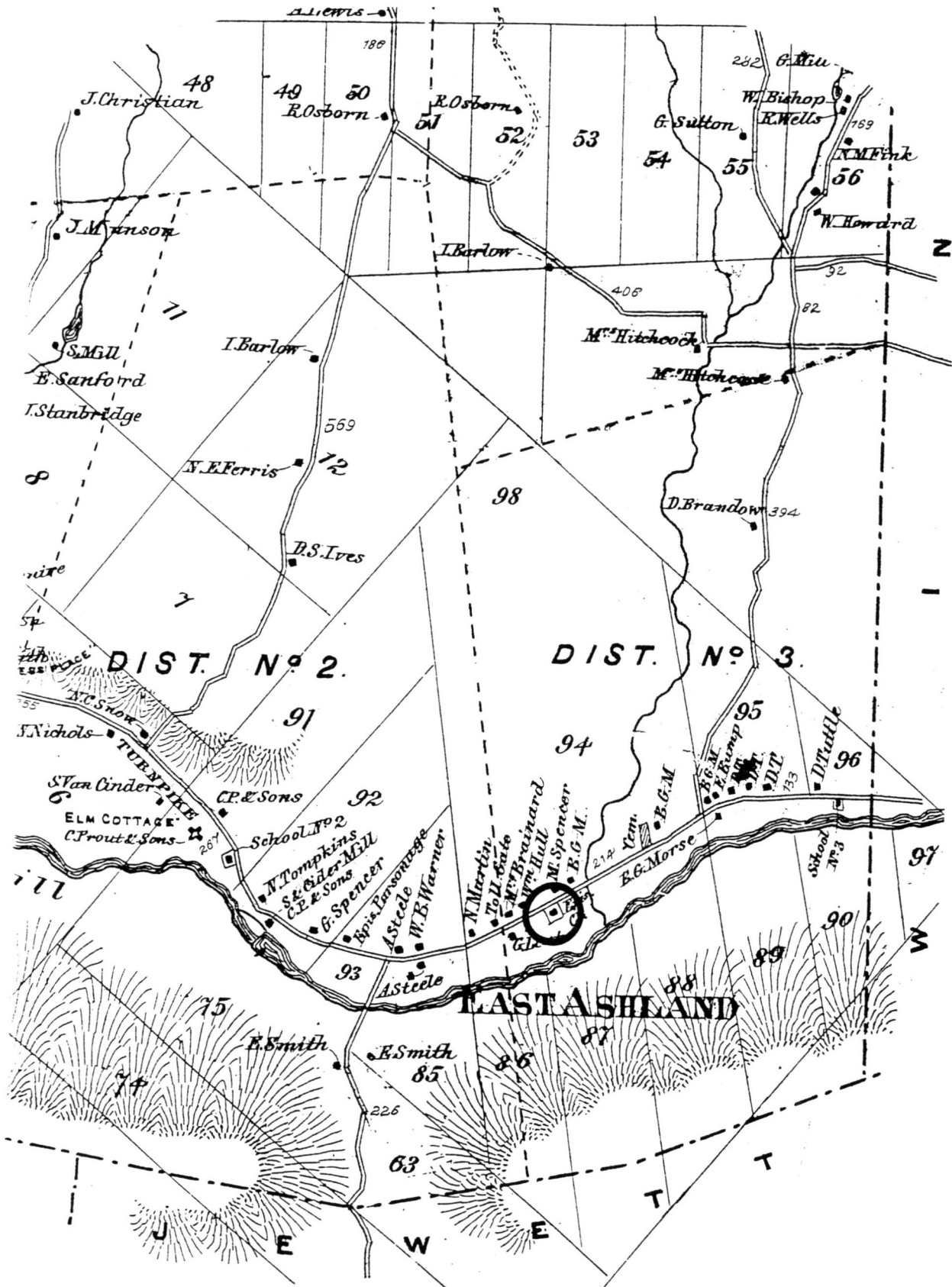
# Trinity Episcopal Church

Ashland, Greene County

Historic map detail taken from:

Atlas of Greene County, New York

F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis & G. G. Soule: New York, N. Y., 1867.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Trinity Episcopal Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Greene

DATE RECEIVED: 11/01/96      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/14/96  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/30/96      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/16/96  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96001438

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12.6.96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.

J. A. Bonafide, 1996

NYSOPR HB Albany

Photo 1, North Facade



TRINITY Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
J.A. BONAFIORE, 1996  
NYSOPRHP, ALBANY  
Photo 2, West elevation



TRINITY EPISCOPAL Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
J.A. BONAFIDE, 1996  
NYSOPRHP, Albany  
Photo 3, South elevation



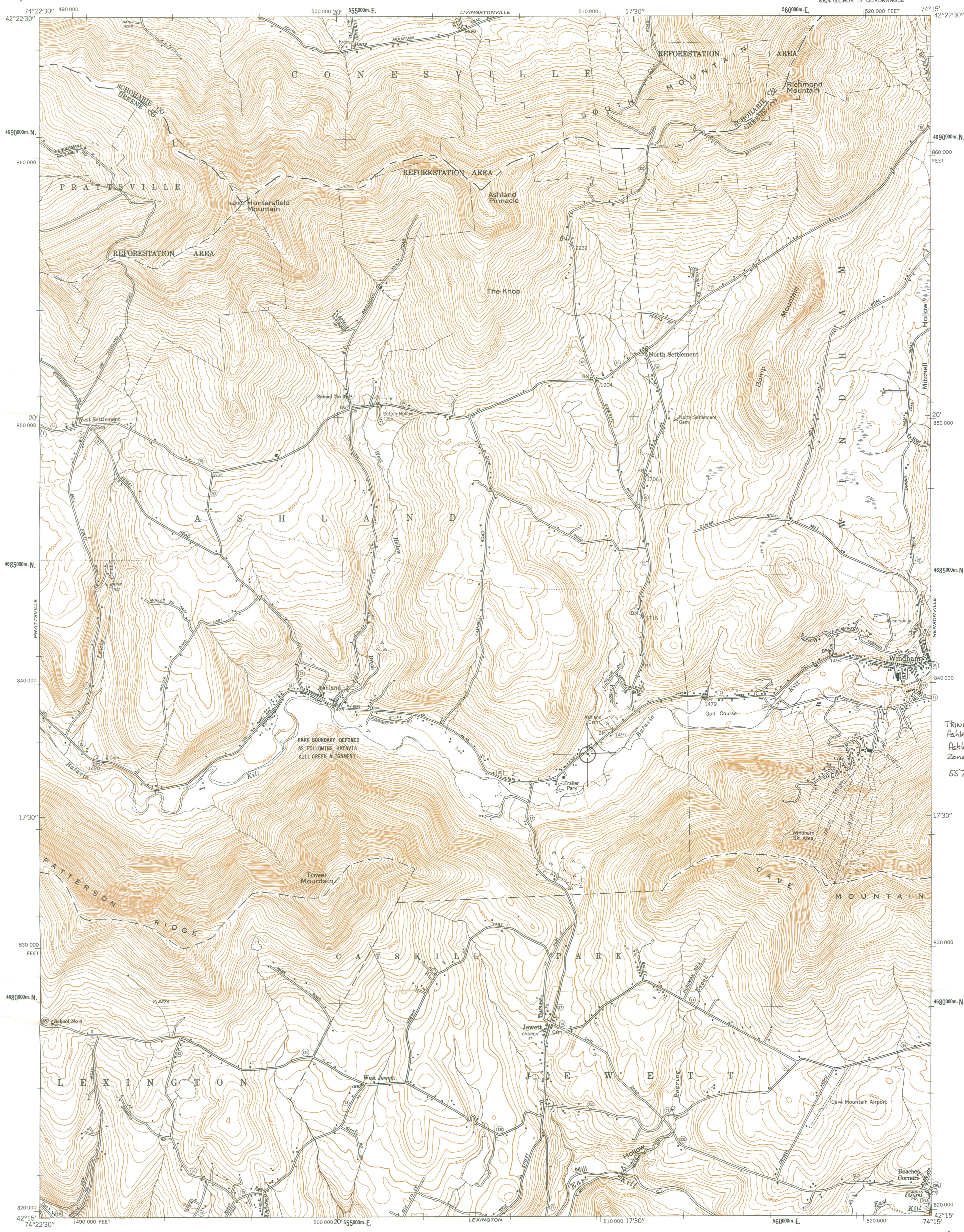
TRINITY EPISCOPAL Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
J.A. Bonafide, 1996  
NYSOPRHP, ALBANY  
Photo 4, East elevation + north facade



Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
J.A. BONAFIDE, 1996  
NYSOPRHP, Albany  
Photo 5, INTERIOR



Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
J. A. BONAFIDE, 1996  
NYSOPRHP, Albany  
Photo 6, INTERIOR



Trinity Episcopal Church  
Ashland, Greene Co.  
Ashland Quad  
Zone 18 Scale 1:24,000  
557830 / 4682908

Prepared and published in 1976 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1945 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using 1974 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensively developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

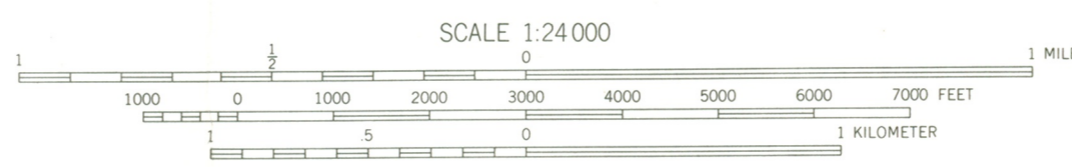
Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.

1976 revisions by F. G. Califano

SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION

Contours, at 20-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1945 U.S. Geological Survey map. Datum is mean sea level.



Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum.

1,000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid. Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.

10,000-foot ticks based on the New York Plane Coordinate grid, East Zone.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BOUNDARIES:

- State.....
- County.....
- Town or City.....
- Incorporated Village.....

ROADS:

- Touring Route markers.....
- Interstate.....
- U. S. ....
- State.....
- State Highway number and limit.....
- County road.....
- Interchange number.....
- Divided highways and streets:  
Wide mail.....
- Narrow mail or barrier.....
- Undivided highways and streets:  
4 or more lanes.....
- Less than 4 lanes.....
- Vehicle track; trail.....