

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH 0665967

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | DATA SHEET |
| RECEIVED | RECEIVED |
| MAR 29 1978 | JAN 17 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAY 3 1978 |

OHP

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Calvary Presbyterian Church (sanctuary and Christian Education bldgs)

AND/OR COMMON

Calvary Church and education building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2501 and 2515 Fillmore Street (corner of Jackson St.) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

San Francisco

CODE

075 -

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"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: (see cont. sh.) |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Calvary Presbyterian Church and Congregation

STREET & NUMBER

2501 and 2515 Fillmore Street (corner of Jackson St.)

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94115

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Architectural Inventory (S.P. Dept. of City Planning)

DATE

1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

100 Larkin Street

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco, California 94102 (see also continuation sheet)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE (see below)

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These two beautiful and stately buildings are located in the Pacific Heights area of San Francisco, and fit very appropriately into their Victorian neighborhood. They adjoin one another and are connected at front and rear, with the connecting facades on Fillmore Street done so skillfully that they appear to be one building. They were built in 1900-02 under the same contract (education building first), and were designed by a prominent San Francisco architectural firm (McDougall Bros.) along classical/Romanesque lines. Other examples of McDougall Bros. work are the S.F. YMCA on Golden Gate Avenue, many of the branch public libraries in San Francisco, and the Museum Bldg. (no longer standing) of the S.F. Midwinter Exposition of 1894.

The original (1901-02) church building is approximately 89' (front width) x 121' deep. The 1901 education building is three stories in height, and measures approximately 60' wide (at the front) x 100' deep, along with an extension at the SW corner in order to connect with the rear of the church building. The rear of the sanctuary was extended approximately 40' westward in 1928 in order to accommodate a new organ. This alteration is in harmony with the architectural style and details of the church building. A separate chapel and library building, designed along a different architectural concept, was constructed about 1963 immediately west of the church and education buildings. The general plan of the complex is shown in the sketch.

The church and education buildings are of brick and masonry construction, and include cast-iron columns and some structural steel. Stone for the new buildings came from sandstone quarries in Tinino, Washington. Much of the building materials came from the preceding church edifice (built in 1868-69 at Geary and Powell Streets on the site of the present St. Francis Hotel), including the window frames, the interior woodwork and pews, cast iron gallery (balcony) supports, and even the bricks of the old building. The 1900 building committee determined that every salvageable brick of the old church was to be used in the construction of the new church building at Fillmore and Jackson Sts., and accordingly dismantled the church building, transported the salvageable materials and re-erected them at the new location on a plan generally similar in dimensions and details to the 1869 building, except that the sanctuary appears to have been placed much closer to ground level in the new (present church building).

The 1928 extension of the church building was done under the direction of another prominent S.F. architect, Frederick H. Meyer, whose work includes the Rialto, Monadnock and Humboldt Bank buildings in downtown San Francisco. The sanctuary was also remodeled in 1928 and renovated in 1957. Another new organ was installed in 1969 and the entire choir loft was remodeled at that time.

There appear to have been no significant interior changes to the education building since its construction. Neither building appears to have had any significant exterior alterations, except for a balustrade along the top perimeter of the church building (and probably also the education building) which has been removed.

Public transportation to these buildings formerly included the Pacific St. cable car line (until 1929) and the Washington-Jackson cable car line (until 1955). The occasional rumbling of the cable cars and clanging of bells used to be a rather unique and not unpleasant minor distraction during church services or concerts in the sanctuary.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1900-02

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. H. McKay/McDougall Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of these buildings derives from the following factors:

1. The continuity of the dominant architectural feature in all three Calvary church homes in San Francisco (constructed 1854, 1868-69 and 1901-02), which has been the classical Greek pediment supported by four Corinthian columns. Thus, the "Greek revival" period of American architecture, popular well over 100 years ago, has carried through to the present church building. Another example of this type of church architecture, and one which bears some similarities to the Calvary church building, is the Arch St. Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia (1857). It is interesting to note that the Calvary minister under whose leadership the 1869 Geary-Powell church was built (Dr. Charles Cadsworth) was from Philadelphia, and came to Calvary in 1862.

2. The unusual architectural beauty of both buildings. This is due in no small part to the tall rounded stained-glass windows with delicate tracery in each bay and at the front of both buildings, and to the smaller stained-glass windows below them, which give the buildings character. The dentilated cornices and balustrades on both buildings, with the skillful blending of the facades so that they appear as one building, and the many other fine architectural details contribute to the unusual exterior beauty of these buildings and to the gracious atmosphere within.

3. The fact that much of these buildings is actually the old 1869 Geary-Powell church (transported and reconstructed) is very unique, and indicates the feeling that the congregation had toward their church. This is also evident from a portion of the minister's address at the opening service in the new church building on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27, 1902) "---we have in the construction a million bricks from the old church, we have the seats and the pews that were dear to us and we also have the old organ case and some of the pipes which have become mellowed by time. We have placed the old pews as nearly as possible to correspond with their position in the old church----".

The cornerstone for the church building was laid July 4, 1901, and dedication services were held February 7, 1904. The two buildings were virtually undamaged by the 1906 earthquake (except for some falling plaster). Due to the scarcity of buildings suitable for public functions after the 1906 earthquake and fire, the Calvary church buildings played an important part in the life of the community in the years immediately following the fire. Calvary church was host to several church congregations which had lost their churches. Sessions of the Superior Court were held in the buildings. Women of the church made clothing for quake refugees on sewing machines which were installed in the church buildings for that purpose.

The church has been host to numerous other groups over the years, such as Boy Scouts and similar organizations, choral groups such as the Loring Club and the San Francisco Bach Choir, and has served as Red Cross and draft board headquarter (to continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Calvary Through the Years" (1929) - on file in church library
 "Centennial Cookbook and Highlights of 100 Years (1953) - by Women's Society of Calvary church (on file in church library)
 S.F. Call: Nov. 28, 1902, July 4 & 5, 1901
 S.F. Examiner: Oct. 29, 1900 & Nov. 28, 1902
 S.F. Chronicle: July 5, 1901

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.5270 (22957 Sq. Ft.)

QUADRANGLE NAME San Francisco North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 | 5,4,9 | 8,6,0 | 4,1 | 8,2 | 8,7,0 ⁷⁹⁰

B | | | | |

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From NW corner of Fillmore & Jackson Sts., west 162 Ft., thence north 127.688 ft., thence east 62 ft., thence north 22.688 ft., thence east 100 ft. thence south 150.375 ft. (back to starting point). See also attached sketch. ("Approx. Gen. Plan")

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Winchell L. Hayward

January 15, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Victorian Alliance

DATE

January 16, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

208 Millard North

TELEPHONE

386-6544

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Knowlton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Wm. M. ...

DATE

5/3/78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Charles ...

DATE

5-3-78

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1

The following architectural description and statement of significance was prepared by architectural historian, Randolph Delahanty. It is taken from the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board case report for designation as a city landmark.

The church and hall are in the Edwardian style (circa 1900 to 1910) which combined Renaissance or Neo-classical forms with some Gothic elements (principally the stained glass windows). This was the style that succeeded the Victorian styles. The general proportions of the church and hall conform to classical canons of symmetry and proportions. The church facade is perfectly symmetrical; the hall's facade seems so at first glance but is actually asymmetrical, but in such a way as to appear symmetrical when seen next to the church. The design of the hall's facade is subordinated to, and integrated with, that of the church.

While the general proportions of the hall facade are classical, as is the dentilated cornice and other details, the most prominent feature of the hall is the large rose window over the entrance. The rose window is flanked by two lancet-shaped windows and smaller rose windows on one side, and a single lancet-shaped window and small rose window on the church side. The eye of the viewer tends to read this single lancet-shaped windows as part of a pair with the lancet-shaped and small rose window of the church building that adjoins.

The stained glass windows of both church and hall are predominantly of an opalescent lavender color. The sandstone facade of both church and hall are painted in light gray color. The iron fence, and now-unique cast iron street lamps in front of the buildings are painted black. The subtle colors of this part of buildings, gray, black and lavender, are an important part of the effect of the design.

The hall was built, and still serves, as a multi-purpose building. It connects with the church. The first floor has a vestibule, staircases, and offices and rooms. The second and third stories have classrooms, meeting rooms, and a large, two-story high hall. The hall has a large skylight and clerestory windows. Partially glassed-in classrooms allow light to enter the hall laterally. A band of finely executed plaster work embellishes the hall beneath the clerestory windows. The lighting fixtures suspended from the ceiling seem original.

Both the exterior and the interior of the hall seem to have been changed very little since their construction in 1904. Most fixtures and features appear to be original turn-of-the-century elements.

Between the church and the hall is a three-story high, skylighted space. This light well has open corridors along the hall side. Its bottom level is presently used for scenery storage.

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CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

The Calvary Church Hall embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Edwardian style of architecture in San Francisco. It also shows how turn-of-the-century architects, influenced by the Beaux-Arts, integrated buildings with one another and with whole block fronts. The hall is a transition building that links up the large church to one side with the row of well preserved Victorian houses to the other.

The Calvary Church Hall is also uncommon for its circa 1900 interior which has seen almost no unsympathetic change.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

3

1

"other" - also used as a meeting place for various community activities such as Boy Scouts, etc.

6

1

Also - the Junior League Survey (1965-66). Junior League of S.F. offices are located at 2226 Fillmore St., S.F. 94115

The Calvary church (sanctuary) building was made an official S.F. landmark by action of the S.F. Board of Supervisors on Nov. 21, 1977. However, landmark status for the education building, although recommended by both the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and the City Planning Commission, was rejected by the Board of Supervisors due to the strong opposition of church members, who wish to demolish the education building and replace it with a modernistic building. Implementation of these plans has been held up due to financing.

8

3

at various times in the past. Calvary played an important part in the original founding of San Francisco City College in 1856, which used the church facilities for classrooms for a number of years. An elder of Calvary church in those early days was H. H. Haight, governor of California from 1866 to 1872, who helped in the establishment of the University of California. Probably the most important political visitor was President Benjamin Harrison, who attended services at the Geary-Powell church in 1891. Members prominent in business, professional and civic affairs have been numerous over the years.

The church and education buildings fronting on Fillmore Street are considered to be worthy of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places not only because of their history, spanning as they do much of San Francisco's history and linked so far into its past by the continuity of architectural style and even the building materials themselves, but because of their unique, stately and graceful architectural features, with lovely rounded stained-glass windows whose soft rich light when the sun strikes them has to be seen to be appreciated.

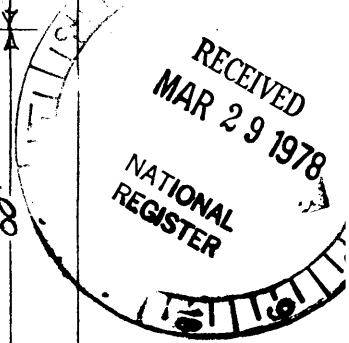
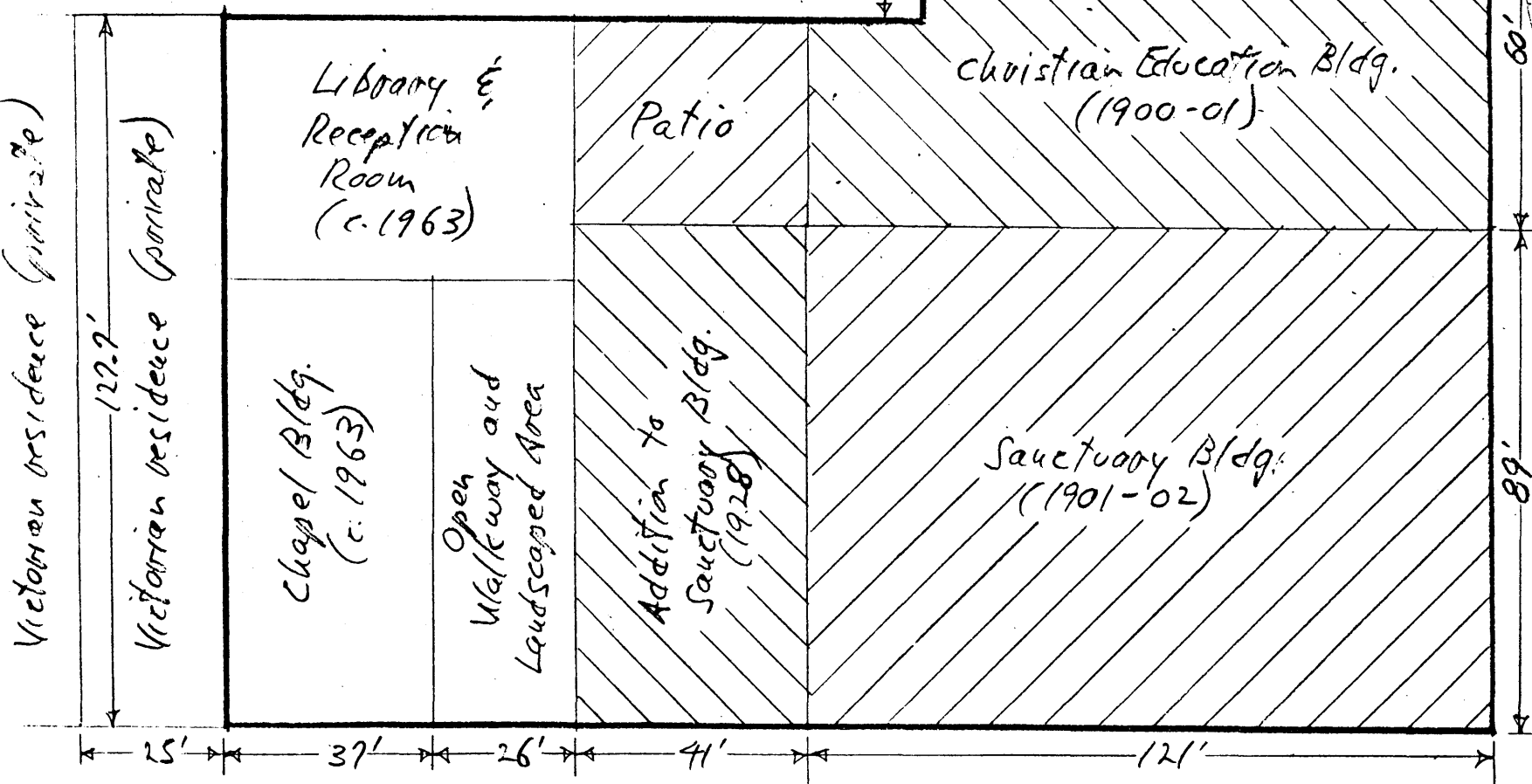
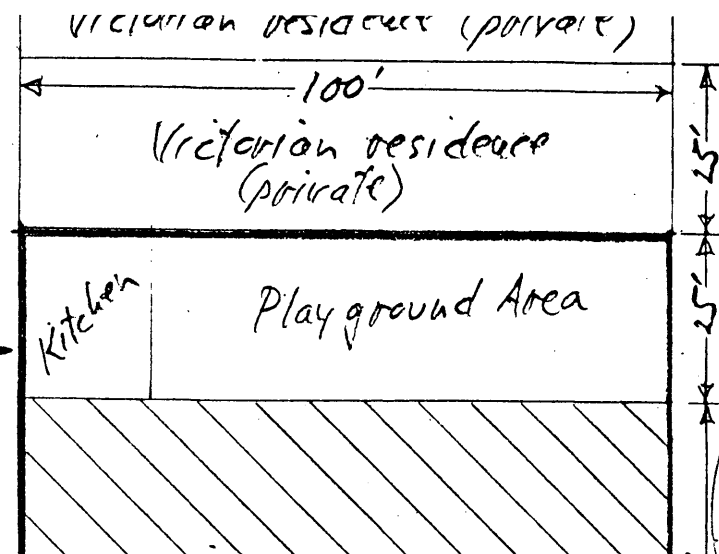
APPROXIMATE GENERAL PLAN -
CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COMPLEX

(outlined in heavy pencil)

Scale: 1" = 30'

(Nominated area shown cross-hatched)

Back yards of houses fronting
on Pacific Avenue



FILLMORE ST.

JACKSON ST.

W. T. Hayward
Jan. 16 1978

Photo #4

Photo #6

Photo #1 & 5