

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0183041 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 16 1975
DATE ENTERED	AUG 1 1975

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old School Presbyterian Church and Protestant Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON



Tomasles Presbyterian Church and Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11 Church Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tomasles

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Five

STATE

California 94971

CODE

06

COUNTY

Marin

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Presbyterian Church of Tomasles, an incorporation

STREET & NUMBER

(Office address) 7063 Bodega Ave. Highway

CITY, TOWN

Petaluma

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94952

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marin County Recorder's Office, Civic Center

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

San Rafael

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Tomales Presbyterian Church was built in 1868 at a cost of \$3500 to replace the one which burned just prior to its dedication in 1866. The white frame building has a simplicity of design, measuring 53 by 35 feet with a bell tower above the front narthex. The ceiling was lowered several feet at one time, but still has an inside measurement of over 20 feet. The height of the attic at the highest peak is about 10 feet and the belfry is over 16 feet. From the floor of the church to the top of the belfry on the inside is over 50 feet. The bell has a three-foot wheel and measures 33 inches, inside diameter. There were three windows on each side and two in front. The opening for the divided front door is 5 by 10 feet. The church faces the east. Mock pillars frame the front of the building.

The church bell was made by Rumsey and Company in Seneca Falls, New York and is thought by many to be the one purchased for the original church built in 1866. Three sides of the belfry have been boarded up inside to prevent the rain from blowing in. At one time the belfry was declared unsafe but was repaired in 1949.

The building has been redecorated a few times and some changes have been made on the inside--specifically to the pulpit platform and choir seating. The old wood-burning stove was replaced with an oil stove and then a gas furnace. The quaint pulpit chairs and lectern have been retained, plus the solid board divider down the center section of pews which are constructed of unjoined heart-redwood. There are two aisles leading from the narthex to the platform.

In 1958 a Fellowship Hall was added to the south and west sides of the church building without changing the original building other than to replace one side window with a doorway into the sanctuary. This gave Sunday School space and a kitchen for the benefit of the on-going mission of the church. A patio on the south side is an extension of the cement floor of the Fellowship Hall.

About 1864 Warren Dutton, one of the early settlers in Tomales opened a Protestant Cemetery adjoining the location of the present church building. It was officially deeded to the Presbyterian Church by descendants of Warren Dutton in 1944. Warren Dutton had deeded the property for the building in 1868 to "the Old School Presbyterian Church of Tomales", as it was then called.

The landscaping has been added in recent years. The building and cemetery, together, comprise about 2 acres.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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	Cemetery 1864 Church 1868	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The township of Tomales, Marin County, California, was the first intensively developed agricultural section in northern California. Half the population of Marin County was at one time centered around Tomales. Tomales' post office is second in years only to San Rafael (county seat). The name Tomales comes from the Indian tribes living around Tomales Bay. The story of the Tomales Presbyterian Church and its cemetery is inseparably tied to the history of the Tomales community and surrounding area. Through the years there has been only two churches and their cemeteries...one Catholic and the other Protestant. The early settlers were primarily Swiss-Italian or Scotch-Irish.

By 1850 some pioneers who had poor luck in the gold fields of California sought a place to raise agricultural products for which there was great demand. The prime land in Marin and Sonoma Counties was quickly acquired for that purpose. John Keys and Alexander Noble began farming the rolling hills near Tomales in 1850, raising potatoes and grain. Warren Dutton located next to the Keys and Noble tract in 1852. A profitable and noteworthy shipping business was set up, transporting potatoes and dairy products from the Tomales wharf on Keys Creek to San Francisco. The shipping came to an end when the estuary and creek filled in with top soil from the farmed hills making shipping unsafe. It was in 1875 that the narrow gauge railroad was completed from Sausalito to Tomales. This railroad hauled the produce and brought vacationers from San Francisco and southern Marin County for about 50 years.

Luther Burbank, whose brother George was one of the first trustees of the Tomales Presbyterian Church started his experimentation on potatoes in the Tomales area. Captain Allen, a model dairyman of the area, invented a butter churn, butter mold, and butter worker; also a fracture bed and a whale lance.

Prior to 1860 religious services had been held in Tomales, but a regular ministry began May 1, 1865 under the leadership of Rev. Alexander Fairbairn. It was in 1866 that the first Protestant Church building was erected in Marin County. That first building burned just prior to dedication and a second was immediately built on the same site, being completed April 1868. The 1906 earthquake and two different fires did much destruction to homes and buildings in Tomales but the church still stands and is today the oldest Protestant Church building in Marin County. The Protestant cemetery (adjoining) was opened by Mr. Warren Dutton in 1864 and later deeded to the church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pamphlets:

1. Shell, Rev. Elton E.; Marin's Historical Tomales and Presbyterian Church; pub. 1949.
2. Tomales Presbyterian Church; A Century of Service 1865 - 1965; written 1965
Newspaper clippings saved through the years

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,0 | 5,0,8 | 2,2,0 | 4,2 | 3,2 | 8,4,0 |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Lois Parks, elder

ORGANIZATION

Tomales Presbyterian Church

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

27955 State Route 1

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tomales

STATE

California

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Deborah Rhodes

JUN 3 1975

TITLE

Director

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE 8-1-75

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE 8-1-75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

1975 marks 110 years of service for the Tomales Presbyterian Church and Cemetery. It has been a perpetual lighthouse on the Pacific coast from the Bolinas parish to Bodega through these many years. One by one the pioneers have passed on and many are buried in the church cemetery. There are a number of communicant members of the church of the third and fourth generations, descendants of these pioneers. The church now has 82 members. The minister is Rev. Henry N. Rankin who serves the yoke-parish of Tomales and Two Rock Presbyterian Churches.