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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL IIF KNOWNI PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Church of Cur Saviour is a two-story frame building, approximately 80 ft by by ft., and is 52 ft. high at its highest point. The roof itself rises  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from saves to peak. The building is situated on a hilleide so that the second floor is at ground level in the rear of the building, and the first floor at ground level in the front. It overlooks downtown Placerville and Highway 50, and by use of a highway overpass for pedestriant is only a short block from downtown.

Like many Episcopal churches, it is constructed in the shape of a cross. The peaked roof is surnounted by a large wooden Celtic cross. A belltower with its own separate peaked roof rises to the same height as the main roof, and contains a working tell with a rope pull. The bell was cast in Boston in 1850 and was brought around the horn to San Francisco where it was used for a time before being brought to Flacerville and installed in Church of Cur Saviour. The roof is <u>aluninum</u> sheeting, and the exterior walls are covered with gray asbestos shingles. There is a red brick <u>enimery on the north side.</u> (In the west, or front, there is a rather steep flight of broad worden stairs with outside, center and inside naminails, leading to a covered purch which in turn leads through double wooden doors into the Narthex of the church. The tase of the purch and stairs is red brick. There is also a ramp, part concrete and part wood construction, leading up the slope on the north side to a door in the worth transect.

The first floor contains an assembly room, approximately 30 x 50, with a fireplace. The walls are tongue and groove wainscoting with plaster on the upper portion. There is a furnice room on the east end, a storage room are kitchen on the north, and a bathroom built under the front steps at the west end. The only inside access from the first floor to the second is an old circular staircase built into the east section of the belitewer.

On the second floor the Narthex, approximately 10 x 10, has a vaulted wood-beamed ceiling and leads through double worden doors into the main body of the church. With the exception of the Sanctuary which is panelled in mahogany, all the church walls are brown painted wainscoting topped by off-white celotex squares. The floor is wood, with red carpeting in the aisles and Sanctuary. The pews are wood with wooden cushioned kneelers. In the north transept there is a balcony (no longer used) with a carved wooden railing. There is an electronic organ in the south transept along with a large brown wooden "box" which contains the organ components. Wooden choir stalls face each other in two sections between the transept aisle and the Sanctuary, in the chancel. The wooden pulpit is on the north side of the chancel, and the lecturn on the south. A plain wooden cross, 8 ft by 4 ft, hangs over the Sanctuary, Eight lantern-type lights of brass and glass also hang by long metal chains from the ceiling, four on each side of the aisle and spaced the length of the church. There are 3 beautiful leaded stained glass windows babind the altar in the sanctuary. These 3 definitely are originals. There are 17 other stained glass windows of various shapes, some of which appear to be Victorian era. There are to windows of transparent glass in the church. All the furnishings in the Sanctuary, as well as the altar fail and the altar are of mahogany and oak. One of the most beautiful aspects of the church is its high vaulted ceiling which is made of dark wooden beans and braces in an intricate pattern similar to the inverted hull of the old clipperships. The only other rocm on the second floor is the Sacristy in the northeast corner of the building, and this room has an outside exit to encound laval

# SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Architectural significance:

William Patton, the architect, was an authority leading architect of his day in California. He his apprenticeship in architecture there. He s in the early days of the Gold Rush and spent so which he moved to San Francisco where he openemany prominent buildings in Alameda and San Fracisco City Hall for which he was the Supervisicisco by the time he designed Church of Cur Sa-

The whitch is an example architecturally of the Mother Lode church construction during the perhas a real understanding of the Gothic elegents cathedrals in Europe, but not having the Europy the local timber supply to create the Gothic et light and delicate vaulted roof. The shape of scissor trusses with a long top cord. By doined roof and in order to provide a continuous at trusses at  $3^{\circ} - 0^{\circ}$  on center. Structurally to r was built about 3 ft inside the exterior wall. appearance of being openings in a thick stope w at the apex to form a quadraplate waulted roof

It is our understanding that this type of roof United States only in New England and the Calif a few other examples still standing in Cal in excellent physical condition and is particular

## Religious Significance:

The Episcopal Church of Qur Saviour in Placervil toric sites in the California Gold Country. It El Dorado County which has been in continuous use construction.\* The cornerstone was laid on Jurend of the Civil War, and the Church was opened It has remained open ever since. It was a large around 200 confortably, and its cost of \$10,500 w. UNITED STATENDEPAR IMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Ever the 112 years of the church's life there have, of course, been alterations, but there have never been any major design changes. The roof originally was shingle and and 10 dorner style vents which have been renoved. The outside walls were of wooden lar siding. The bell tower was one story taller ... it is believed that it was lowered for safety reasons. A door to the south transept has been blocked off and covered with siding, and the outside steps leading to it have been removed. Another outside door at the rear of the south transept has also been blocked off. The interior walls above the weinscoting were originally plaster, and the church was lit by ras lamps which were replaced when electricity was connected. There was originally a stairway from the floor of the church to the balcony, but this was removed and the Sacristy built in its place. The carved wooden railing of the balcony has been raised by a second section added above the first. Fortions of some of the windows are replacesents due to breakage. The outside rang to the north transept is an addition, as are the wooden cross, the organ, and the present double doors from the porch to the harthex. There are no early photographs available of the interior, but we feel sure that the overall effect of the changes has been minor.

On the first floor, the bathroom was added and the kitchen changed or added when when plumbing was installed. An original wood stove has been replaced by a furnace. Several sections of new concrete footingshave been added, although parts of the structure still rest on the small stones placed there in 1865. Steel "I" beans have been installed under the church floor and a new ceiling installed in the assembly room. The brick fireplace has been painted white.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## CHECEONE Zorio Halsit Mosso Date anno 11

# PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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approximately 80 ft by 4J ft., teelf rises 17% ft. from saves to it the second floor is at ground for at ground level in the front. it by use of a highway overpass for

the shape of a cross. The peaked A bolltower with its own sepain roof, and contains a working in 1550 and was brought around ine before being brought to Flahe roof is alurinum sheeting, and thingles. There is a red brick there is a rather steep flight of a naniralls, leading to a covered was into the Narthex of the church. are is also a rang, part concrete to the north side to a door in the

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x 10, has a vaulted wood-beared > the main body of the church. iled in mahogany, all the church -white celotex squares. The floor ctuary. The pews are wood with there is a balcony (no longer used) onic organ in the south transept ins the organ components. Wooden een the transept aisle and the on the north side of the chancel. as, 8 ft by 4 ft, hangs over the d glass also hang by long metal aisle and spaced the length of glass windows behind the altar ls. There are 17 other stained pear to be Victorian era. There 1. All the furnishings in the ir are of mahogany and oak. One ts high vaulted ceiling which is cate pattern similar to the invertroom on the second floor is the , and this room has an outside exit

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... INVE'ITION

# SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1665 BUILDER ARCHITECT Fulders C. Taylor of Flacerville Architects Va. Fattor of SanFrancisco

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

# Architectural significance:

William Fatton, the architect, was an authority on Anglican Church Architecture and a leading architect of his day in Valifornia. He was born in England in 1821 and took his apprenticeship in architecture there. He sailed around the Horn to San Francisco in the early days of the Gold Rush and spent several years in the Mother Lode after which he moved to San Francisco whore he opened an architectural office. He designed many provinent buildings in Alaceda and San Francisco, including parts of the San Francisco City Hall for which he was the Supervising Architect. He had moved to San Francisco by the time he designed Church of Cur Saviour.

## The church is an example architecturally of the <u>Gothic Revival</u> that took place in Mother Lode church construction during the period from 1850 to 1890. The architect has a real understanding of the Gothic elements that were used in the original Gothic cathedrals in Europe, but not having the European materials available to him, he used the local timber supply to create the Gothic effect. With the timber he produced a light and delicate vaulted roof. The shape of a vaulted roof was created by using acies or trusses with a long top cord. By doing this he created the form of the vaulaed roof and in order to provide a continuous appearance to the roof, he placed the trusses at 3° -0° on center. Structurally to support the km s brace, a Second wall was built about 3 ft inside the exterior wall. This gave a'l the tall windows the appearance of being openings in a thick stone wall. The tru'ses are brought together at the apex to form a quadraplate vaulted roof over the Sanctuary.

It is our understanding that this type of roof construction was used in churches in the United States only in New England and the California Nother Lode. There are said to be a few other excaples still standing in California, but the Church of Cur Saviour is in excellent physical condition and is particularly lofty and intricately designed.

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## Religious Significance:

The Episcopal Church of Gur Saviour in Placerville belongs on the roll call of historic sites in the California Gold Country. It is the only church still standing in El Dorado County which has been in continuous use as a house of worship since its construction.\* The cornerstone was laid on June 22, 1865 just two months after the end of the Civil War, and the Church was opened to the public on December 23, 1865. It has remained open ever since. It was a large church for those days, built to sent around 200 confortably, and its cest of \$19,500 was a considerable sum for 1865.

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Ine early history of the church is inextricably bound with the life and story of the first rector, Fr. Charles Caleb Feirce, under whose leadership the church was built. He served the church for 43 years from 1501 to 1903, and many legends have grown up around this saintly and much beloved man. He was the sole Episcopal clergyman in the County (and the Churchwas the only Episcopal clurch, as it still is today). In addition to serving at the church itself, the devoted priest traveled (always by foot) throughout the foothills holding services and ministering to those of his 'flock' who could not attend in Flacerville. At his death in 1903 it is said that schools and shops closed so that everyone could attend his funeral and pay their last respects. On the 75th anniversary of the church, Marguerite Farlor #12 of the Mative Daughters of the Golden west placed a bronze plaque on the west wall of the church which says ""Edicated to the memory of Fr. Charles Caleb Feirce, 'the Apostle of El Dorado County'.....," -- a fitting tribute to a man who did so much, through his church, for the early day pioneers.

There were few large buildings in Cld Hangtown (Flacerville) in these days, and the church provided shelter for many community gatherings as well as religious services. An old safe built into the east wall of the assembly room has yielded many documents of the church in the 1800's -- financial records, as well as records of the baptisms, marriages and funerals which took place. These old records, though faded, are very well preserved and include many of the manes associated with the development of the California Kother Lode. Descendants of many of these old-timers still live in the area today. The graceful and serene old church provides a visible link with the past and a tangible symbol of the pioneers' determination to build their communities with good will and devotion to God.

Designated in the memory of Fr. Charles Galab Pierce, 5the Amostle of El Dorado County" form in Cincinneti, Onio on November 2, 1825 / Died in Flacerville on March 16, 1903

Rector of Church of Our Savior 1861-1903

Erected by Marguerite Farlor #12, Native Daughters of the Golden West June 23, 1940 The 75th anniversary of the founding of the Church of Our Savior

\* Three older churches still stand in El Dorado County. The Kethodist-Spiscopal Church in Pl\*cerville (California State Landmark #767) has been used as a private residence, and for many years has not been used at all. The two old churches in Coloma for many years now have been used only on special occasions and for sightseeing.

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is life and story of the In the church was built, / legends have grown up cisconal clergyman in the till is today ... In adraveled (always by foot) those of his 'flock' who said that schools and ay their last respects. of the Native Laughters f the church which says postle of \$1 Dorado h, through his church, in those days, and the 2 as veligious services. is yielded many documents ; records of the haptisas. though faded. are very 1 the development of the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	RECEIVED APR 1 8 1977	
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

RESTORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

The old Eviscovel Church on Coloma Street has been a House of Worship, a community meeting place and a toy, landmark for the greater part of the history of Placerville. Now the old building is in dire need of a complete restoration or it will shortly by lost to the community. Over the years many repairs and modifications have been undertaken but the time has now come when halfway measures will no longer suffice and complete reconstruction is essential if the building is to survive. The church is the oldest House of Worship in continyous use in El Dorado County and one of the oldest church buildings in Northern California. Its cornerstone was laid on June 22, 1865 just two months after the gine of the Union and Conferate armies fell silent at Appomattoz Court House. The church, which was termed "new and elegant" in the local press of the day, was opened to the public on December 22, 1865 and thus began its long witness of both small and momentous events which have made up the history of Placerville and El Dorado County. The old church saw the departure of local militia for the Spanish-American War and the return of their depleted numbers at the turn of century; services were held for the doughboys as they left for France in 1917 and again and again as the youth of El Dorado left for the battlefields of world war II, of Korea and Viet Nam. while perhaps less newsworthy but just as important to the life of the community, the old church as seen hundreds of babies baptized, young couples take their marriage vows and the departed sent to their final rest. Its roof has sheltered inumerable meetings and gatherings of importance to the community: social events, high school graduation services, meetings of civic organizations and the passover celebration of the local Jewish community, to name a few. The committee for the restoration of the Church of Our Saviour feels that it is essential to preserve this link with the past, not only to hand down to our children and grandchildren a unique and historic structure but also a tangible symbol of our forefathers' determination to build a community based on good will among men and devotion to God.

#### SOME NOTES ON THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

The church was designed by San Francisco architect William Patton and built by Placerville contractor O. Taylor at a cost of \$10,500.00 which was a considerable sum in 1865. The most unique feature of the church is its vaulted ceiling. This particular type of high wooden roof support is found only in the Mother Lode country of California and is the result of employing former shipwrights from San Francisco. The ceiling structure is actually an inverted clipper ship frame with joints and bracing following the marine building practices of the day.

#### Farm No. 10, 500 v 1944, 10, 14,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATI'N SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The colored glass windows of the Apse are original out the remainder of the church windows are replacements; however, those on each side of the Nave arrear to be of the Victorian period. The bell was cast in Boston. Massachusetts in 1850 and was shipped around the Horn to San Francisco where it was used for some years before being brought to Placerville. The treasent alter rail and the waulted sancturay were installed in 1957. Early photographs show that the bell tower became weakened and was reduced in height as a safety measure but the exact date of this work is unknown. Numerous other modifications have been undertaken during the over one hundred years that the building has stood and many devoted xen and women have given of their time and money toward preserving the structure and halting the ravages of age. Some of these changes were necessary structural repairs but some, such as the celotex laid over the original lath and plaster and the asbestos shingles on the outside, hide much of the beauty of the original church. Current restoration plans will restore the buildings to their original form inmofar as possible while still meeting the safety standards of the modern building code.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF F INVENTORY -- NOMIN

#### CONTINUATION SHEET

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On the first floor, the bathr when plumbing was installed. Several sections of new concr ture still rest on the small installed under the church fl The brick fireplace has been

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Conver, Hensch & Rensch. <u>Historic Spots in Colifornia</u> . Stanford: Stanford University France, 1966.		n national autorian
Patton, Ellian. "The Anglicar Arrangement of Gourchet", <u>lic Florence</u> , E <u>California Monthly Kagazine</u> , Vol. 4, July 1855. (see continuation page for addtl Bibliography)		(101) 1010) 342244 (1) (916) 61
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STREET & NOMBER 2-79 Colopa St. (Unurch)     TELEPHONE 622-2441 (church)       F. O. Box 712 (home)     (916) 622-1993 (Home)		
CITY OF TOWN STATE Flacerville California	<b>Q</b>	
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As the designated State Historic Preservatice 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.		μ. Ε. 
-State Historic Preservation Officer DATE PUR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER		
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