

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 16 1983
date entered

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

Final

1. Name

historic COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GONZALES

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 301 ~~Fourth Street~~ ^{4th St.} N/A not for publication

city, town Gonzales N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Monterey code 053

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

4. Owner of Property

name Community Church of Gonzales

street & number 301 4th Street

city, town Gonzales N/A vicinity of state California 93926

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office - Monterey County Courthouse

street & number 240 Church Street

city, town Salinas state California 93901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco
title and Northern California has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Dr. David Gebhard, Art History Department
University of California

city, town Santa Barbara state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Community Church of Gonzales, a wood frame building with a gabled roof and square corner belltower, sits on the eastern corner of Fourth and Day Streets in a residential neighborhood. This simplified Victorian Gothic church, completed in 1884, retains much of its historic appearance, although a modern entrance portico has been added at the front. The major alteration occurred with the addition of several rooms at the rear in 1954.

The building is of wood frame construction sheathed in channel rustic siding. The original plan was T-shaped, with a corner tower nestled into one arm of the T. The roof is a medium gable with its main axis NE-SW, intersected on the west by a secondary gable. The simple cornice is boxed, with a plain frieze. Open braces occupy the apex of each gable. The roof is covered with composition shingles. Narrow endboards mark each corner.

The front elevation faces southwest: It is dominated by the gable end with its centrally placed pair of lancet windows. The squared corner belltower is located on the left side, with an entrance vestibule in its base. The tower rises above the peak of the roof; it contains the entrance door on the southwest, and a lancet window on the northwest side. The tower is encircled by a boxed cornice with simple frieze, punctuated by gablets on the southwest and northwest in a bellcast mansard roof with bands of patterned shingles. The tower roof is capped by a squared cupola with louvered lancet-shaped vents on each side. The composition is capped by a boxed cornice with dentils, surmounted by a crenelated parapet and four corner finials. The facade has been altered by the addition of a modern entrance canopy in front of the doorway.

The northwest side faces Fourth Street, is composed of the corner tower at the right, and a centrally-placed wing containing the cross-gable and paired lancet windows. The northeast side is no projecting wing or cross-gable; its only features are two widely spaced lancet windows.

The rear of the church was treated like the other two gable ends. A medium gable had a boxed cornice with plain frieze and open braces at the apex. A pair of lancet windows was centrally placed in the endwall. This elevation is now obscured by the addition of 1954. The addition consists of a small library, a choir room, and two classrooms. The exterior sheathing was duplicated to match the siding of the original church. The interior consists of the nave which fills the major rectangle of the building. The northeast wing under the cross gable contains a parlor with access from the vestibule; it serves as overflow space, opening into the nave by retracting a folding wall. The nave has a high ceiling with beams placed roughly at 10 foot intervals; they rest on shaped brackets and meet at the ridge. In the southwest and southeast walls of the nave are four stained glass memorial windows. The interior of the nave was altered in 1954. Fixed oak pews were placed to create a single aisle down the center. Amber glass chandeliers were hung on both sides of the nave.

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 1883 - 1884 **Builder/Architect** Sommer & Montgomery

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Community Church of Gonzales is one of the oldest functioning churches in Monterey County. It is a major 19th century landmark in this small community, one of the last tangible links with the early years of its settlement. The simple Victorian Gothic building is a notable example of its type and period, typical of the religious architecture of small towns of late 19th century California.

The town of Gonzales was established in 1872 with the extension of the Southern Pacific Railroad's line down the Salinas Valley from San Jose. Alfred and Mariano Gonzales, sons of Teodoro Gonzales, and owners of the 15219 acre Rancho Rincon de la Punta del Monte, laid out the townsite and deeded a 100 foot right of way to the advancing railroad. As the town grew, it became a local supply and dairying center. The land for the church was deeded to the church group by Alfred and Guadalupe Gonzales. The building was a result of the labor and resources of a small band of 14 Protestants. Construction began in November of 1883, and was completed in June of the following year; the church was debt-free upon its completion.

The building is the fifth oldest in Monterey County to be used exclusively for religious purposes. It has been in continuous use since its dedication in 1884 as a Baptist Church. It is a major visual landmark in the community, and is an important link with the early history of the Salinas Valley. In addition, it has been recognized in the popular architectural guidebook, A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California. It is a notable local expression of Victorian Gothic ecclesiastical design; with its impressive crenelated bell tower, it stands as the community's major architectural landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Augusta Fink, Monterey County, The Dramatic Story of Its Past, Valley Publishers, Fresno, 1978.
 David Gebhard, et. al, A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Salt Lake City, 1973

10. Geographical Data

Robert B. Johnston, Old Monterey County, A Pictorial History, Monterey Savings and Loan Association, 1970.

Acreeage of nominated property .31 acre Records of the Community Church of Gonzales.
 Quadrangle name Gonzales, California Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1,0	639650	4041320	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Property occupies its historic lot on the eastern corner of Fourth and Day Streets, in Gonzales; it extends 98.20' Eastward on 4th St. and 137.70' Southward on Day St. (See Assessor's plot map attached.) Assessor's parcel No. 20-122-01.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rev. Thomas E. Patten and Howard Carter (OHP Staff Revision, 5/83)
 organization N/A date August 15, 1982
 street & number 301 Fourth Street telephone (408) 675-3881
 city or town Gonzales state California 93926

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

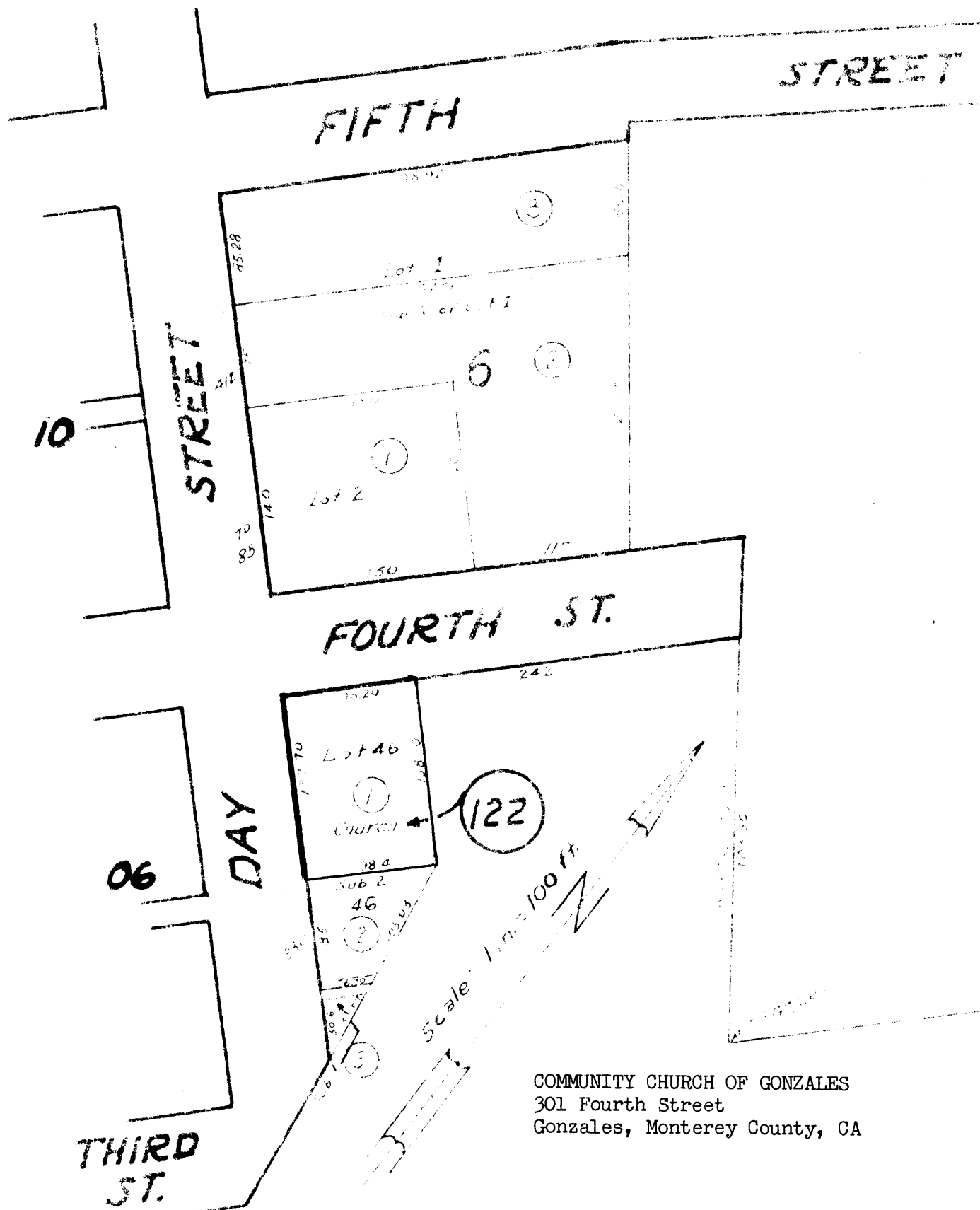
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 *K. Killen*
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 9, 1983

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 9/15/83
J. Alvares Byers
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration



FIFTH

STREET

STREET

10

FOURTH ST.

DAY

06

THIRD ST.

Lot 1

Lot 2

Lot 46

Church

Sub 2

46

122

Scale 1 in. = 100 ft.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GONZALES
 301 Fourth Street
 Gonzales, Monterey County, CA