

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



MAR 10 1982

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1982

1. Name

historic Methodist Episcopal Church of Pescadero

and/or common Native Sons & Daughters of the Golden West Parlors

2. Location

street & number 108 San Gregorio Street

not for publication

city, town Pescadero

vicinity of

congressional district

12

state California

code

06

county

San Mateo

code 081

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal club

4. Owner of Property

name Native Sons & Daughters of the Golden West

street & number 108 San Gregorio Street

city, town Pescadero

vicinity of

state California

94060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Mateo County Hall of Records

street & number Marshall Street

city, town Redwood City

state California

94063

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet, page one has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Pescadero had all the elements of Victorian-Gothic style with a very high pitched roof form with a lacy ridge crest trim and pointed finials at the apex of each gable. The trim and finials have long ago disappeared. Built on a cruciform plan the open ceiling truss construction was the work of craftsmen. The various sized lancet windows have modified hood molds. Originally there was a squared, louvred bell tower with a bracketed spire. Immediately under the bell space must have been a very open room with paired lancet windows on every side. The bell tower was removed in the 1940's. The exterior side walls are sheathed in wide horizontal redwood boards. The gables have notched shingles with vertical boards in the upper portions. The interior open ceiling is constructed of intricate redwood trusses. The interior natural redwood is intact and is moderately undisturbed. Much of the hardware is the original, probably more for economical reasons than for appreciation. The entry porch has retained its display of elongated trefoil and quatrefoil designs in the pierced wood ornamentation.

The best source for a description as the church appeared when new in 1890 is to be found in the annual report written by the preacher Rev. M. V. Donaldson, the one most responsible for its construction:

The auditorium is in the form of a Greek cross, 53 x 38 foot. Choir alcove back of pulpit, 14 foot [side] walls, the whole open to the peak, the roof boards forming the ceiling, rafters and truss work all exposed. The lower woodwork is finished in oil...The classroom is divided from the auditorium by sliding doors -- the whole being available when needed. [The addition of lavatories has modified this.] The church is nicely carpeted and seated with Andrew's opera chair No. 47, placed in amphitheatre style -- this seating being cheaper and more comfortable than pews. The building has four gables beside class room and alcove annex with a seventy foot tower on north west corner. In the front gable Rev. George W. and Dr. [Benjamin F.] Beatty of San Francisco have placed a beautiful rose memorial window in honor of their mother...On the south side another has been placed by Mr. S. P. Patterson, of the Chicago Globe, in memory of his uncle Sheldon Purdy Pharis, who presented our church with \$1,000 at his death...The building is lighted by four large, nickel, porcelain-gloved Rochester lamps...Search where you will no prettier, more convenient and symmetrical little church can be found.

Damage caused by the 1906 earthquake was negligible. Some plaster in the front classroom was shaken loose, the only place plaster had been used. The building withstood the shake so well that it was considered safe enough to substitute as public elementary school classrooms until the local two-story schoolhouse could be repaired.

After the church was put up for sale in 1915, its two art glass windows were sold in 1916 and were removed. The rose window space was crudely closed with regular shingles and was left unpainted for years. The tall window on the south was replaced with clear glass.

During its non-church tenancy prior to 1941 pictures document that the leasees apparently did little, if any, maintain work to stabilize or retain the building's exterior appearance.

After World War II the present owners demolished the bell steeple See Continuation Sheet, page two.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET two

ITEM NUMBER 7

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because of its dangerous, deteriorated condition. The innovation of modern plumbing caused the biggest modification made in the structure's lifetime and produced the unbalanced front elevation. The small lancet window on the right front facade was inserted to provide light for one of the new toilet rooms. Though functional, the present hanging gas furnace in the center of the ex-sanctuary and the electrical fixtures detract from and are in no way compatible with the interior beauty. Another innovation of the last owner was the addition of a 10' x 10' kitchen facility with shed roof on the rear. It has not disturbed the interior and does not detract from the general exterior appearance.

There is a small shed, 3' x 5', on the rear south corner of the property. There is no landscaping or grounds care.

Although the Native Sons & Daughters seem to be proud of the building, it is being allowed to slowly disintegrate. Only its sturdy construction has kept it in existence for so long without more attention. During 1978 the building was repainted white and some architectural features were highlighted in green.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1890, 1920's, 1930's **Builder/Architect** unknown; from a church pattern book

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The architecture of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Pescadero is an interpretation of a design presented in a pattern book published by the church. No other Methodist Episcopal churches built from the same plan exist in this region. And, it is doubtful that any less renovation or changes have been made to any which may have been built elsewhere. The building functioned only briefly in its intended religious purpose, but during its life span it has had three more differing phases: a Community Center, a Japanese cultural school and a fraternal hall. Each of these phases demonstrates the economic conditions, the philosophy, etc. of the local community.

The first Protestant denomination to formally organize on the coast-side south of San Francisco was the Methodist Episcopalian with its first base in Pescadero in 1861. A church was formally organized there in 1864. In 1867 the church in cooperation with the Independent Order of Good Templars purchased land and constructed a two-story building, which was generally referred to as the Good Templars' Hall. The two levels arrangement made it difficult to hold church services whenever a lodge meeting was in session overhead.

The receipt of a thousand dollars from the estate of lumberman Sheldon Purdy Pharis initiated a concept of the possibility of building a new church. George Rice, Executor for the Will, concluded that on the strength of the gift the church was "committing themselves to a debt... an offense against common sense and sound business principles." In May 1889 the church Stewards sold their interest in the first building to the Good Templars and purchased Lot 3 about one block south. Before vacating they removed the 1876 bell to peal from their new church. When the bell tower on the second building was dismantled, the bell was placed on the floor in the entry hall below where it had hung for a half century.

By 1 August 1889 sufficient subscriptions were promised to warrant the adoption of plans and to award a contract. The plan costing \$30 was an adaptation of Church Extension Plan No. 6. The total building and furnishings costs were \$4,537.99. Only \$355.99 was donated by their own members; \$827 of the total was secured from gifts of non-members in Pescadero and vicinity; and "Friends abroad" donated the remaining sum. Rev. Donaldson reported:

What a struggle it has been God only knows. It seemed that every possible barrier was thrown in the way of success...unskilful (sic.) carpenters, rains, flood, etc. Delaying, discouraging and adding to the expense...When all seemed dark and hopeless, a letter from Mr. C.[ollis] P. Huntington, of New York, in answer to a letter from the pastor [Donaldson], that had been delayed three months, brought three hundred dollars; and again word came from Capt. Chas. Goodall of San Francisco asking how the work was progressing, followed soon after by a cheque for \$100. So the Lord has provided the means.

See Continuation Sheet, page three.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, page four.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .086 acres

Quadrangle name San Gregorio, CA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,5,4,8,4,0</u>	<u>4,1,2,2,7,3,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church occupies most of Lot 3, Map of Town of Pescadero, east side of most southerly block, referred to as San Gregorio St. Stage Road and Main Street. Assessor's No. 086-032-030.

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 Dorothy F. Regnery

organization Junior League of Palo Alto date 18 March 1980

street & number 488 Westridge Drive telephone 415-854-5074

city or town Portolá Valley state California 94025

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenn Miller

title _____ date April 22, 1980

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William H. Braxham date 3.10.82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The revelation of Huntington's donation is distinctly intriguing. One puzzles as to what persuaded him to make a gift to this outlying, poor country church.

The first service in the new church was held on 1 March 1890. When all the bills were paid, the building was formally dedicated on 24 August 1890. But the new building did not stimulate the membership nor the income. In 1899 services reverted to circuit rider fashion when once a month they were conducted by the Half Moon Bay preacher. Even this ceased after 1906.

The building substituted briefly for the local school damaged by the 1906 earthquake. The abandoned church became a "white elephant," and at the July 1915 local Conference meeting it was agreed to try to sell it.

Edward Heavy, Pescadero school principal, was the leader to establish a new concept of a community center. In September 1920 the Pescadero Social Center Corporation converted the vacant church into a social center. It was open every afternoon. Card tables, a billard table and various games were provided for all ages. There were a player piano and a moving picture machine. Each Friday and Saturday there were dances. It also served comparable to a local library. Madeline Ginola, a local girl and graduate nurse, served as the Director of the Center, in addition to being in charge of its Health Center. This community spirit soon dissipated.

Beginning in the 1920's Japanese farm laborers secured employment on the truck farms in the vicinity of Pescadero. In 1928 through the efforts of Asa Weeks, the town's pioneer landowner who employed several Japanese men, about thirty Japanese-American residents secured a lease of the vacant church building. A qualified woman from San Francisco was hired to teach about two hours each week day after regular public elementary school sessions. Classes were to instruct children in Japanese language and cultural traditions. No one recalls that the school had a special name. In one photo there is a sign with six characters posted on the right of the church entry porch. No one remembers what it stated nor can anyone decipher the sign. Classes were abruptly interrupted by the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was during the 1930's Depression that H.A.B.S. investigators first photographed the building.

Subsequently the Native Sons of the Golden West, Pebble Beach Parlor, and the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Año Nuevo Parlor, purchased the building. The organization had long been active in Pescadero.

86-3

1820

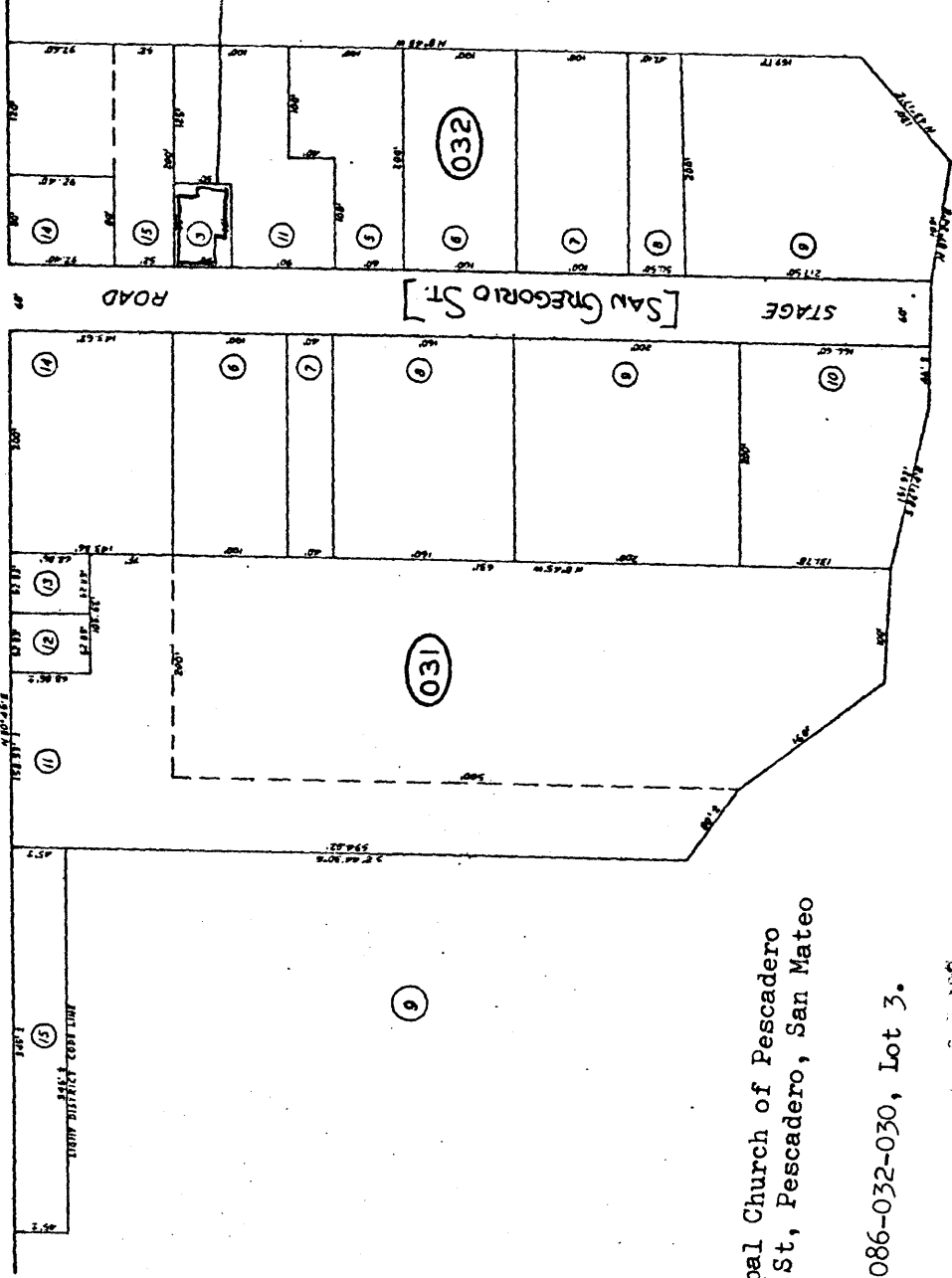
TAX CODE AREA
ZONING

4

2

PESCADERO
(MAIN ST)

ROAD



ASSESSOR'S MAP COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CALIF.

PESCADERO SCHOOL DISTRICT M.N.

Methodist-Episcopal Church of Pescadero
108 San Gregorio St, Pescadero, San Mateo
Co., CA

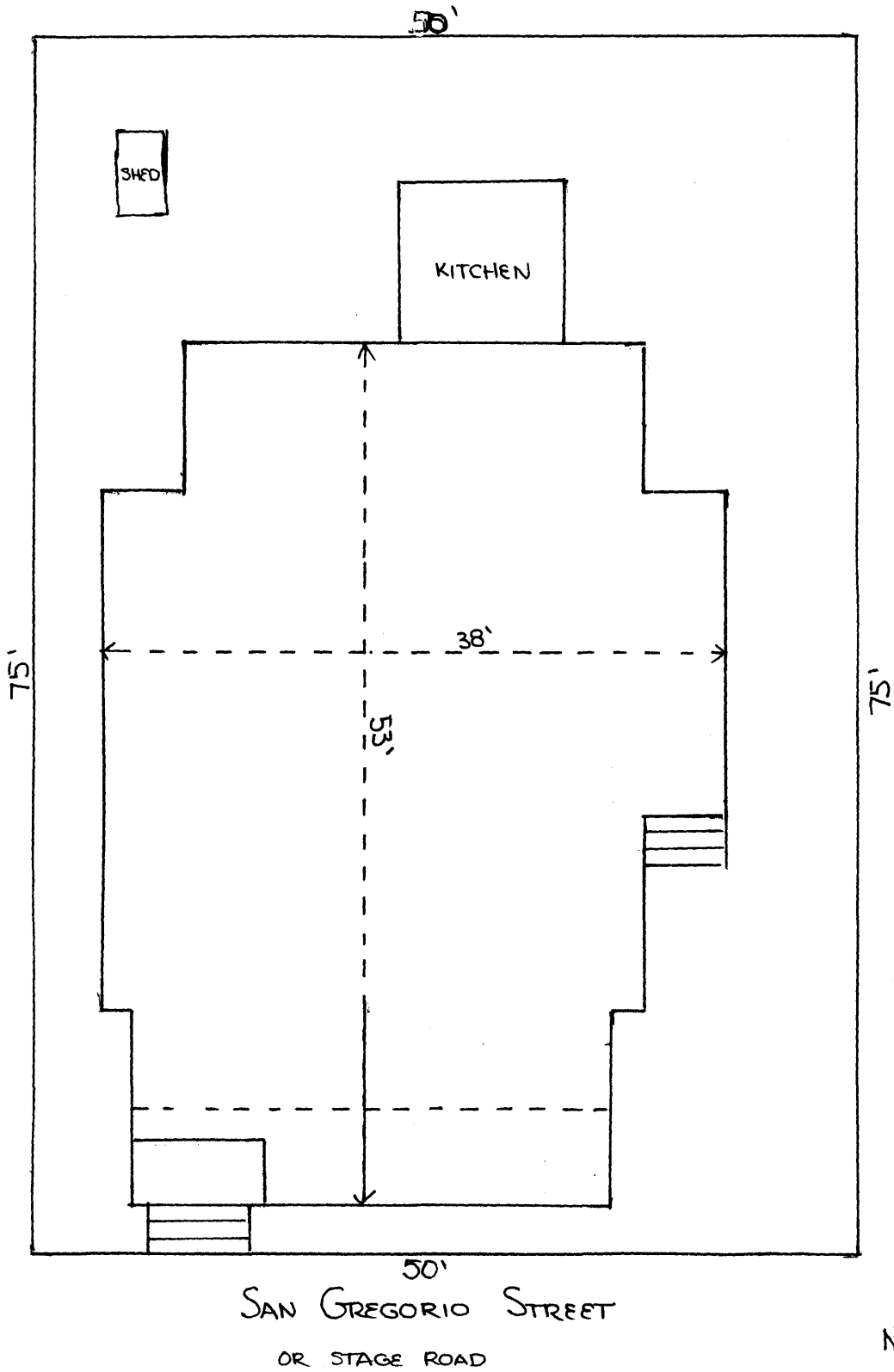
Assessor's No.: 086-032-030, Lot 3.

TAX CODE AREA
ZONING

86-4



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PESCADERO, CA.



1" = 10'