

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



980

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

1. Name

historic Methodist Episcopal Church at Half Moon Bay RECEIVED
and/or common Community Methodist Church MAR 11 1980
OHP

2. Location

street & number 777 Miramontes Street not for publication
city, town Half Moon Bay vicinity of _____ congressional district 11
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Community Methodist Church
street & number 777 Miramontes Street
city, town Half Moon Bay vicinity of _____ state California 94019

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. 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

<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Half Moon Bay is 30' x 50' with 20' high side walls. The architectural style is Victorian Gothic Revival. The center of interest focuses on the double-door entry with its interesting ogival arch and fanlight transom. There are windows on each side of the entry, and there are four bays in each side wall. Each window frame's simple curve arch has a small cross decoration with an inscription of a letter "M". The mullions of the windows create lancet arches. A small, modest bull's eye window in the front gable peak has been recently accentuated by contrasting brown paint. The belfry is unlike spires of other San Francisco Peninsula's churches built in a comparable period. It is an octagonal cupola with cut-out braces in the four arch openings. The cupola's roof is supported with a multitude of elaborate, small brackets. The bell is visually apparent. At the time of construction there were stringent efforts to economize on the building costs, but the bell tower certainly does not reflect the efforts. The eave brackets of the gable shingled roof are very simple above a plain fascia. The exterior siding of the church is wide tongue-in-groove and is painted white.

Originally the church may have faced west. The San Mateo County Gazette, April 20, 1872, reported that the church "will stand about 20 feet back from Johnston street, which it fronts the side facing Miramontes street on the south." After the 1906 earthquake the Redwood City Democrat, May 10, 1906, stated: "The Methodist church was thrown from its foundation and badly wrecked. More than a year after the 'quake, the same newspaper on June 20, 1907, reported:

The Methodist Church in Half Moon Bay has been rebuilt almost completely at a cost of \$525, including a new bell. The interior has also been decorated and so thoroughly renovated has it been that it would hardly be recognized.

If the 1872 reporter was accurate then when the building was placed on its foundation in 1906, it must have been turned 45° to face south on Miramontes Street. The original divided pews are still in use. The same wainscotting exists. The wood flooring is pine. The present crystal oil-burning chandeliers (which have been electrified) must have been installed at the time of the renovation.

The Ocean Shore Rail Road built a 26' x 68' one story, gabled roof freight depot in Half Moon Bay about 1908. In 1930 the Methodist church trustees acquired the by-then abandoned depot and appended it to the rear of the church to serve as a social hall. Very little was done to modify the interior or the exterior of the depot. The station master's bay window for ease in viewing the tracks was retained. Its utilitarian architecture is compatible with the church even though it is without much style itself.

During 1949 and 1950 a new foundation was provided for the church. The ceilings and walls were re-plastered. All new doors were installed. Translucent amber glass replaced the clear glazing. Within the past year the east side rear window has a modern art-glass interpretation inserted. The chancel was remodeled, and furniture for it was made of redwood by local parishioners. Concrete steps were poured. The buildings were completely re-wired. An effort was expended to improve the social hall interior. Modern lavatories were placed in the social hall. When the minister's study was removed to the classroom wing, the study in the social hall was

See Continuation Sheet, page two.

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"/> political/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1872 **Builder/Architect** Charles Geddes, architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph) John H. McKay, builder

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Half Moon Bay built during the summer of 1872 is an outstanding example of a vernacular adaptation of Gothic Revival style. Throughout the years its appearance has not been altered. None of the Catholic Churches of the community have survived fire and demolition. It is the only country church on the then remote coastside of the San Francisco Peninsula to thus far be documented as having had a commissioned architect. The church represents a long struggle to maintain a Protestant church in an area predominantly populated by Catholic oriented nationalities. It has always been used as a church.

The Methodist church had been organized in Half Moon Bay for about eight years when it was decided to build a church instead of continuing to meet in the schoolhouse or a lodge hall. The architect selected, Charles Geddes, is best remembered for his church designs which were all destroyed by the 1906 fire in San Francisco. He was an early architect who practised in San Francisco. When he died in 1903, at the age of eighty-three years, the San Francisco Chronicle, December 4, 1903, acclaimed him to be "the oldest architect in this city."

John H. McKay also of San Francisco was the successful contract bidder. His is known to have built several houses in Pescadero and may have been responsible for its churches. His \$2,275 contract was only for the wood work. The June papers in 1872 told how the lumber was being "carted from Amesport Landing." The total building cost was \$3,700. \$25 was deducted by eliminating any chimney. In other words, the building had no heating system. Often the satisfactory quality of the building is accounted for as due to the church's building committee composed of the coastside's ablest leaders: Alexander Gordon, W. A. Hammond, James Hatch and Robert I. Knapp.

The church was formally dedicated on 10 November 1872.

In 1931 the church appropriately became the Community Methodist Church by adopting a policy of accepting as affiliated members anyone wishing to make it their place of worship. This made the church in name what it had always been.

E. C. Tipton's plans for alterations and improvements are dated March 1949; the Cardinal Constructors, San Mateo, were awarded the bid for the work. A.C. Smothers, an owner of the firm and a Methodist in Burlingame, permitted volunteer help wherever possible in order to keep the costs down. It was later estimated that \$2,000 in labor was donated toward the \$6,000 cost. For example, volunteers helped remove the old plaster from the sanctuary walls.

In 1962 it was proposed that the landmark should be demolished to be replaced with a modern structure. The movement was not successful. The significance of the aged church had reached the community. With a new paint job in 1974 gilt numerals "1872" appeared over the church door.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, page three.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .459 acres

Quadrangle name Half Moon Bay, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	5	0	6	7	0	4	1	4	6	1	6	0
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 and social hall occupy Lots 11 and 12 in Block 7, Town of Half Moon Bay; the classrooms and a parking lot are on Lots 1 and 2. The latter are included because they visually abut the church. Assessor Parcel No. 056-177-050

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 12 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

Kenneth M. Nelson

title _____ date April 22, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Bruce M. Dwyer

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

Chief of Registration

date 4/19/80

date 10/31/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

09

CONTINUATION SHEET one

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

Title: H.A.B.S.
Date: 1975
Federal X
Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: Library of Congress
City, State: Washington, D. C.

Title: Junior League of Palo Alto
Date: 1973
County: X
Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.
City, State: San Mateo, California

Title: San Mateo County Historic Sites
Date: 1966
County: X
Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Planning Department
City, State: Redwood City, California

Title: Junior League of San Francisco
Date: 1964
County: X
Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.
City, State: San Mateo, California

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

PAGE 1

converted into a kitchen.

In 1955 a series of classrooms were built across the back of Lot 2. They are approximately 30' x 100' one story high with a flat roof. Its modern appearance detracts from the architectural character of the church. However, it is included in the nominated property because it is not visually separable from the church and the social hall. The roof of the depot extended over its end exit and stairs. There is no structural connection between the depot-social hall and the classrooms. Yellow plexiglass provides weather protection to the "stair hall" created by the proximity of the two buildings.

Landscaping is a casual minimum. In 1911 church members and friends donated \$264 to surround the street perimeters with a cement walk. On each slab the donor's name was imprinted in the concrete. Recently asphalt street paving carelessly oozed over some of the enduring slabs obscuring their names. The ones which are readable are like an early 1900's Protestant census of the coastside.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET four

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

-
- Cloud, Roy W. History of San Mateo County. 2 vols. Chicago:
S. J. Clarke, 19281
- Community Methodist Church archives. Half Moon Bay, California.
- County newspapers: Times, Times-Gazette, Democrat and Standard.
- Gebhard, David, et al. A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and
Northern California. Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1973.
- Huntington Collection. George Arents Research Library. Syracuse
University, Syracuse, New York.
- J. A. B. Fry Library archives. University of the Pacific. Stockton,
California.
- Methodist Episcopal Church archives. Pacific School of Religion.
Berkeley, California.
- Moore & DePue's Illustrated History of San Mateo County. San Francisco:
- Olmsted, Roger, and T. H. Watkins. Here Today. San Francisco:
Chronicle Books, 1968.
- Regnery, Dorothy F. An Enduring Heritage, Historic Buildings of the
San Francisco Peninsula. Stanford: Stanford University
Press, 1978.

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

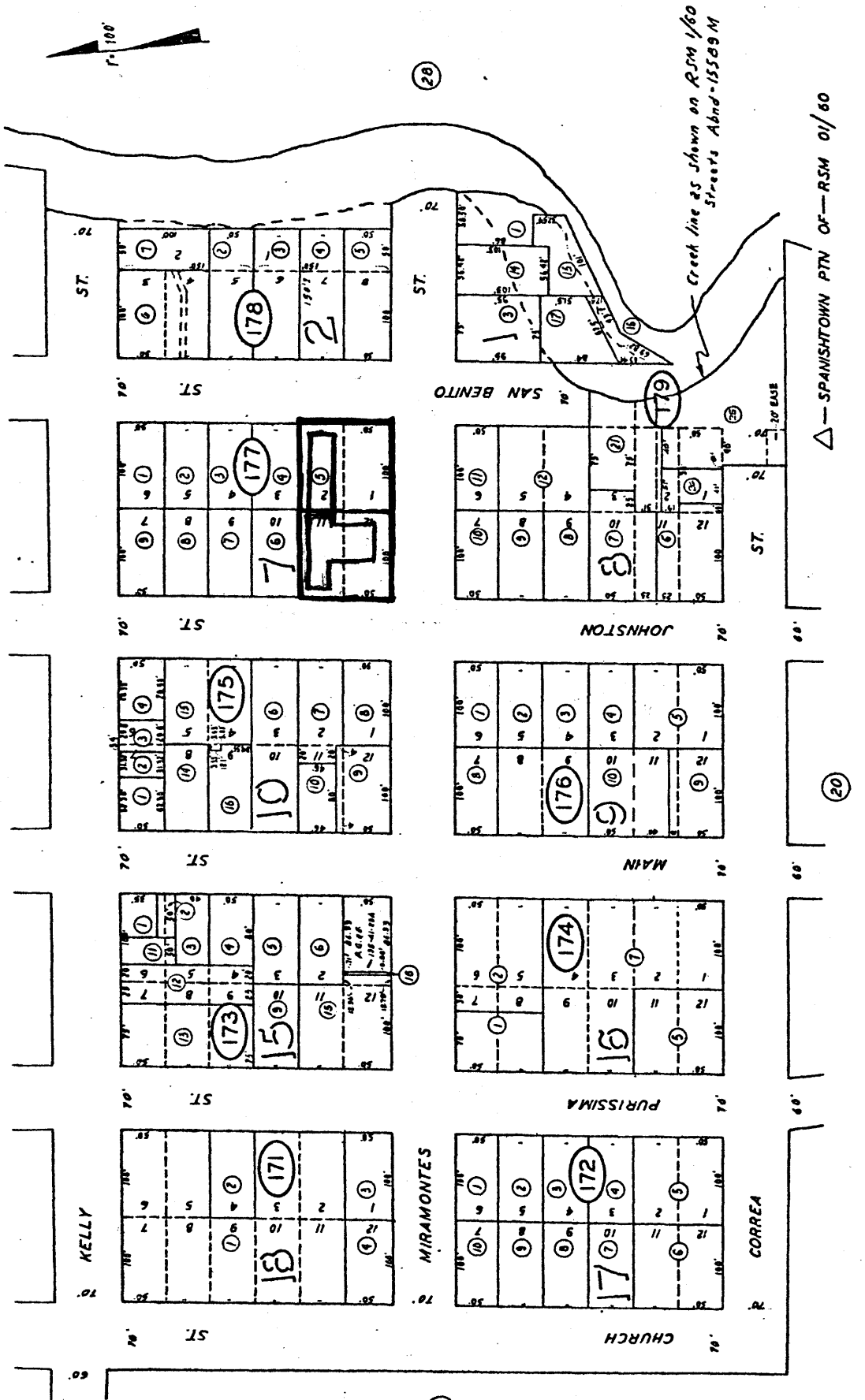
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CONTINUATION SHEET three

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

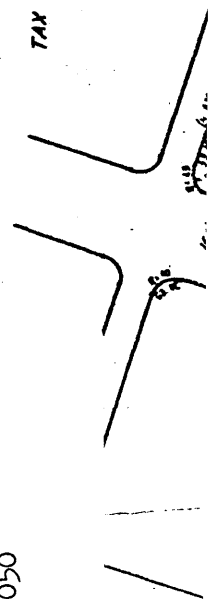
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- Cloud, Roy W. History of San Mateo County. 2 vols. Chicago:
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- Olmsted, Roger, and T. H. Watkins. Here Today. San Francisco:
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San Francisco Peninsula. Stanford: Stanford University Press,
1976.
- Stanger, Frank M. Half Moon Bay Community Methodist Church. Unpublished
manuscript, 1949.



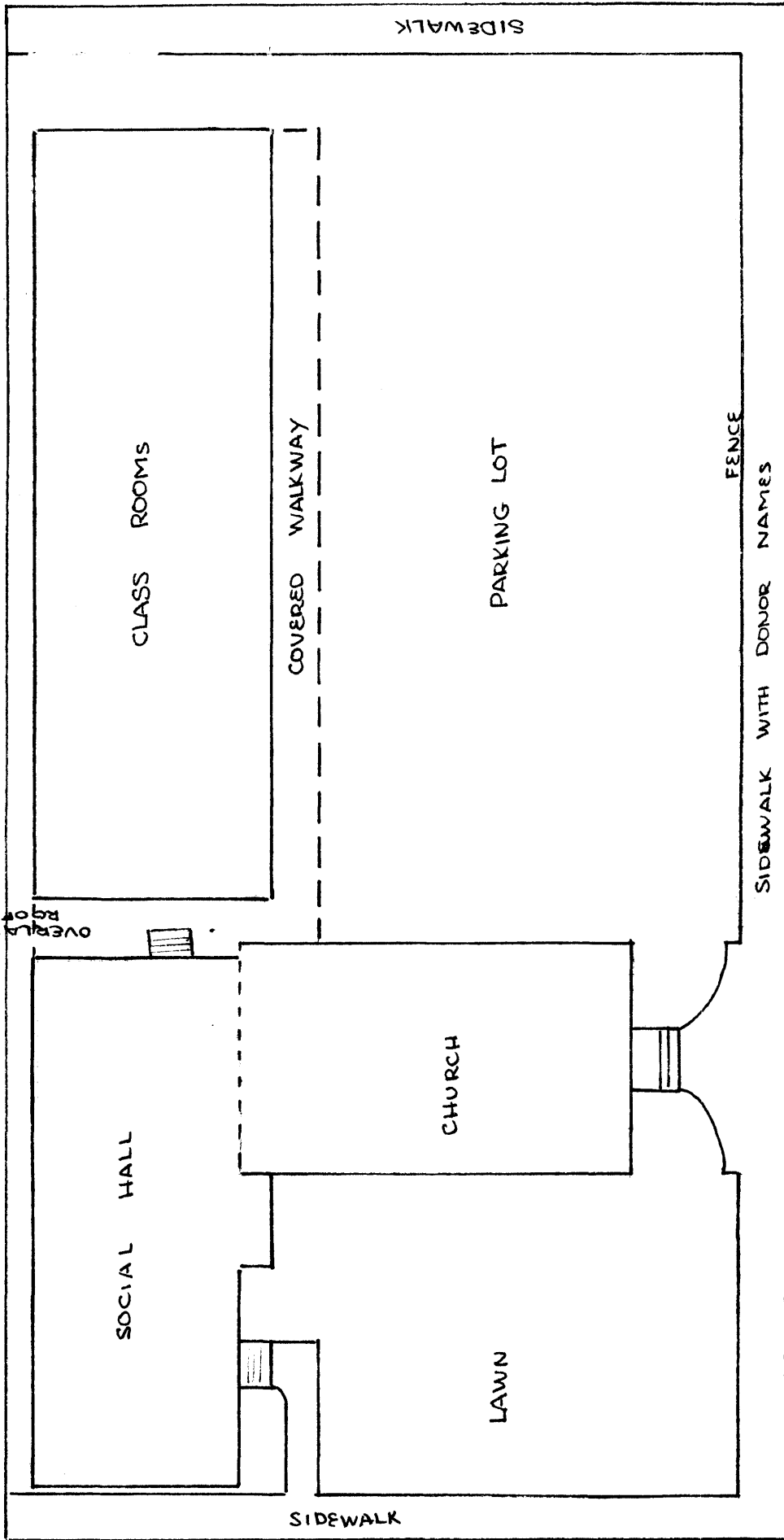
Methodist-Episcopal Church at Half Moon Bay
 777 Miramontes St, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo
 Co, CA

Assessor's Number: 056-177-050
 Lots: 1, 2, 11, & 12

TAX CODE AREA-----



OVERLAPPING



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT
 HALF MOON BAY, CA.

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'

