

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **JL 30 1986**
date entered **8-28-86**

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

1. Name

historic Bardsdale Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Bardsdale United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 1418 Bardsdale Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Fillmore vicinity of

state California code 06 county Ventura 93015 code 111

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bardsdale United Methodist Church

street & number 1498 Bardsdale Avenue

city, town Fillmore n/a vicinity of state California 93015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ventura County Government Center, County Recorder's Office

street & number 800 S. Victoria Avenue

city, town Ventura state California 93009

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ventura County Cultural Heritage Land—has this property been determined eligible? yes no
mark

date 4/24/79 Landmark #50 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ventura County Courthouse

city, town Ventura state California 93009

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Carpenter Gothic in style, the original L-shaped portion of the church features a tall entrance tower with a steeply pitched roof at the intersection of the wings; steps descend to the street. The high-pitched intersecting gables, one at each corner, contain decorative large, rectangular, stained glass windows topped with applied Gothic lancet-shaped wooden arches. The additions to the rear and side of the building are compatible with the original structure using similar materials, roof shapes, and scale of the original building. Located in a rural setting, surrounded by orange groves and mountains, and dotted with turn-of-the-century farm houses, this church building is a major contributor to the historic character of its surroundings.

The roofing is slate shingle. The exterior of the building is drop siding, and the framing and siding is of virgin redwood on an 18 to 20 inch thick foundation of Sespe brownstone, quarried near Fillmore. The entrance tower is topped with a high-pitched flared roof and finial. The vents, access openings, and entryway openings are Gothic lancet shaped.

The special touches to this otherwise beautifully plain church building are the 10 x 10 and 12 x 14 foot leaded stained glass windows, which are non-representational late-nineteenth-century patterns and dominate the two main facades of the building. Their shape is rectangular (almost square). Flat 1 x 4 inch molding trim above them creates intersecting lancets within a larger Gothic arch. Similar trim creates dripstone moldings around the lancet openings of the tower and entrances. There is plain stickwork at the apex of the gables. Scrolled decorative brackets are at all of the corners under the eaves.

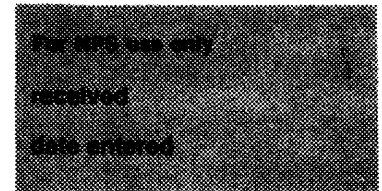
In 1915, two stories and a basement were added to the rear of the building. This 25 x 42 foot addition is contained under an extension of the main gable. Two dormer windows punctuate the roof on the south. This addition includes an entrance on the north side, whose porch and wooden stairs are covered by a shed roof on the west side, adjacent to the main entrance steps. A small gable covers steps down to the basement meeting hall. The sides of this entry are concrete capped by a turned balustrade. This was probably added in 1915, when the basement was extended.

In 1926, a 14 x 60 foot addition was made to the south side. It consists of one story and basement. A large cross gable projects from the main roof of the church. The southeast corner of the addition has a flat roof. On the east end, a covered entrance ramp leads down to the kitchen. Shallow bay projecting gabled with a round leaded glass window, flanked by a long narrow lead glass window in each side under the main cross gable.

A recent alteration in 1983 was a change in the main entrance under the tower. The single door was replaced with an oak door, and the double doors were replaced with a stained glass window. Both of the replacements came from the recently razed Los Angeles First United Methodist Church, built in the 1920s.

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2 of 2

The additional buildings on the property are not historically or architecturally significant. The parsonage was built in 1911 and is California Bungalow in style. The majority of residences in Bardsdale are California Bungalows, and many are more architecturally distinguished than this residence. The chapel was originally the parsonage garage and was converted to a chapel. A modern garage stands adjacent to the parsonage. Boundaries have been drawn to encompass only the historic church and its immediate setting.

B-2863H

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bardsdale United Methodist Church is the only community building remaining from the original town settlement, and one of the few remaining examples of Carpenter Gothic architecture in the county. Representative of Southern California's boom and bust period of the late 19th century, Bardsdale was laid out by Ventura County's most prolific and colorful promoters of that period, Roys G. Surdham. Land was purchased from his good friend, Thomas Bard, the most powerful force in the development of Ventura County during this period and the only man ever to become a U.S. Senator from Ventura County.

A Methodist congregation began meeting in Bardsdale as early as 1892, and by 1898, it had grown large enough to need its own church. Senator Bard's generosity was prevailed upon, and he contributed the lot for the church and the north art-glass window. The congregation matched that with their labor, which included hauling the Sespe brownstone for the foundation and providing the west art-glass window. The building is of virgin redwood construction with the siding brought by wagon from the harbor at Port Hueneme.

Although Bardsdale never materialized as a town, it became a satellite ranching community of its neighbor across the Santa Clara River, Fillmore, where growth of that city began with the building of the railroad depot in 1887. Bardsdale's slow but steady growth began in the 1890s with the gradual development of ten-acre citrus ranches laid out in the original grid plan. Bardsdale joined the other Santa Clara Valley ranches as a major contributor to the production of citrus, which continues to this day.

The church is a fine example of late Carpenter Gothic Revival and is representative of many of Southern California's and the nation's late-19th century churches. The design, no doubt, came from a pattern book, and the construction was done by the minister and his parishioners. The church remains intact as a reminder, not only of the town that might have been, but of the people who settled the area, many of their descendants are Bardsdale ranchers today.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Gebhard and Winter A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California
2. Ventura Free Press April 15, 1898
3. Church booklets: 50th and 100th year celebration, at Bardsdale Church
4. BARSDALE - Fairbanks, Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly Vol. I, No. 2:9-12 Feb '56 - Map

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property .24 acres
 Quadrangle name Moorpark Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A	<u>1 1</u>	<u>3 2 2 3 5 0</u>	<u>3 8 0 4 8 3 0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification AP# is 046-214-01. The nominated property includes the church and its additions. Beginning on the northwest corner at the intersection of Bardsdale Avenue and Ventura Street, the boundary extends 105' east along Bardsdale Avenue, then 100' south. The boundary is one of convenience drawn to encompass only the hisotirc church and exclude later non-contributing buildings.

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 Judy Triem & Peggy Wilber, Historical Consultant/Historical Chairperson
 organization n/a date 1/28/84
 street & number 3218 Grove telephone (805) 648-5538
 city or town Ventura state California 93003

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local

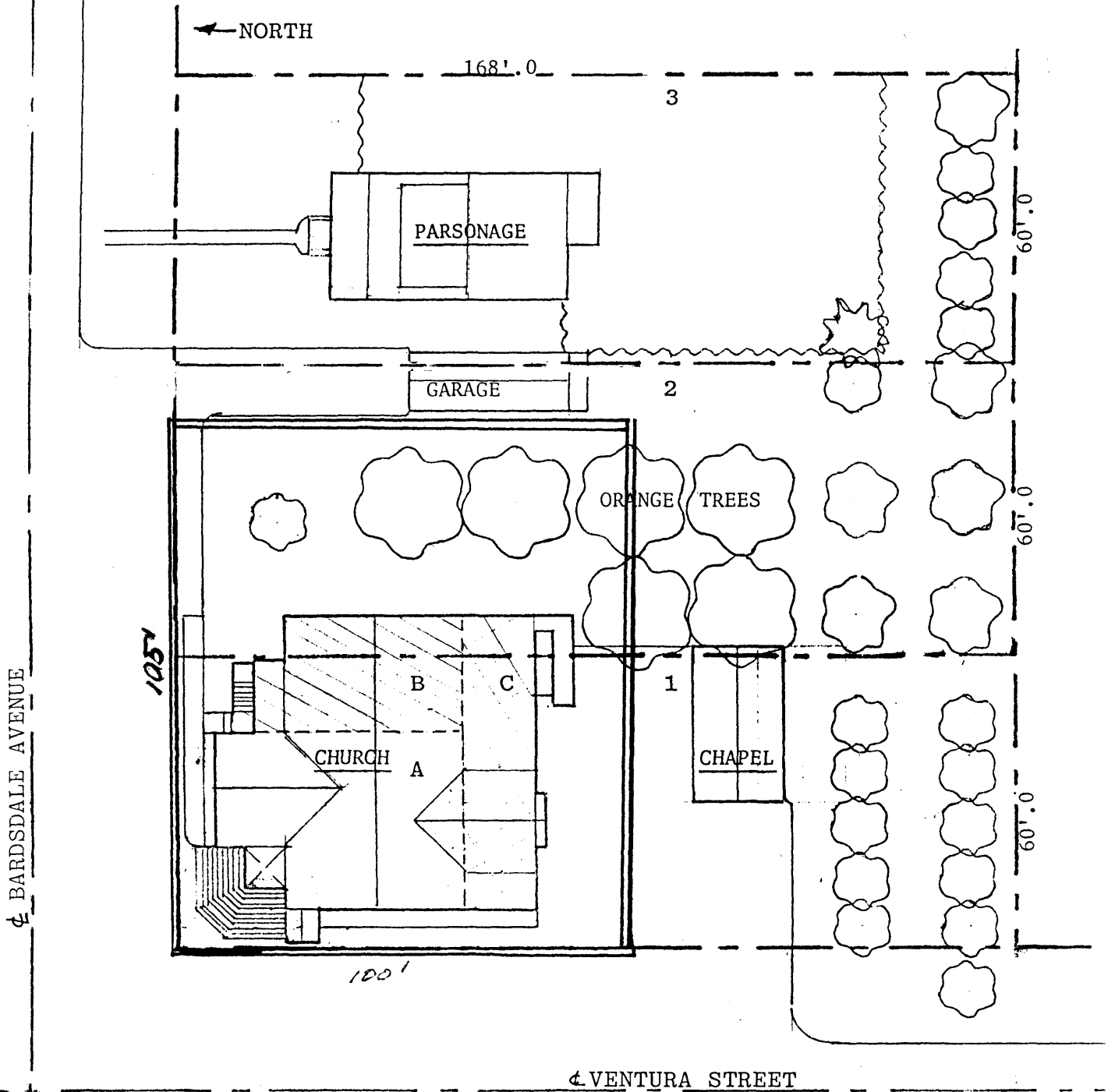
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kathryn Galetta
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/21/86

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.
 [Signature] Keeper of the National Register date 8/28/86
 Attest: [Signature] Chief of Registration date

BARDSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1498 Bardsdale Avenue
Fillmore, CA 93015



KEY

- 1. Original Church Lot
- 2-3. Additional Lots Aquired in 1915
- A Original Church Building 1878
- B 1915 Addition to Church
- C 1926 Addition to Church

Scale: 1"=30'

Double line is nominated property

RANCHO SESPE

Tax Rate Area
62005

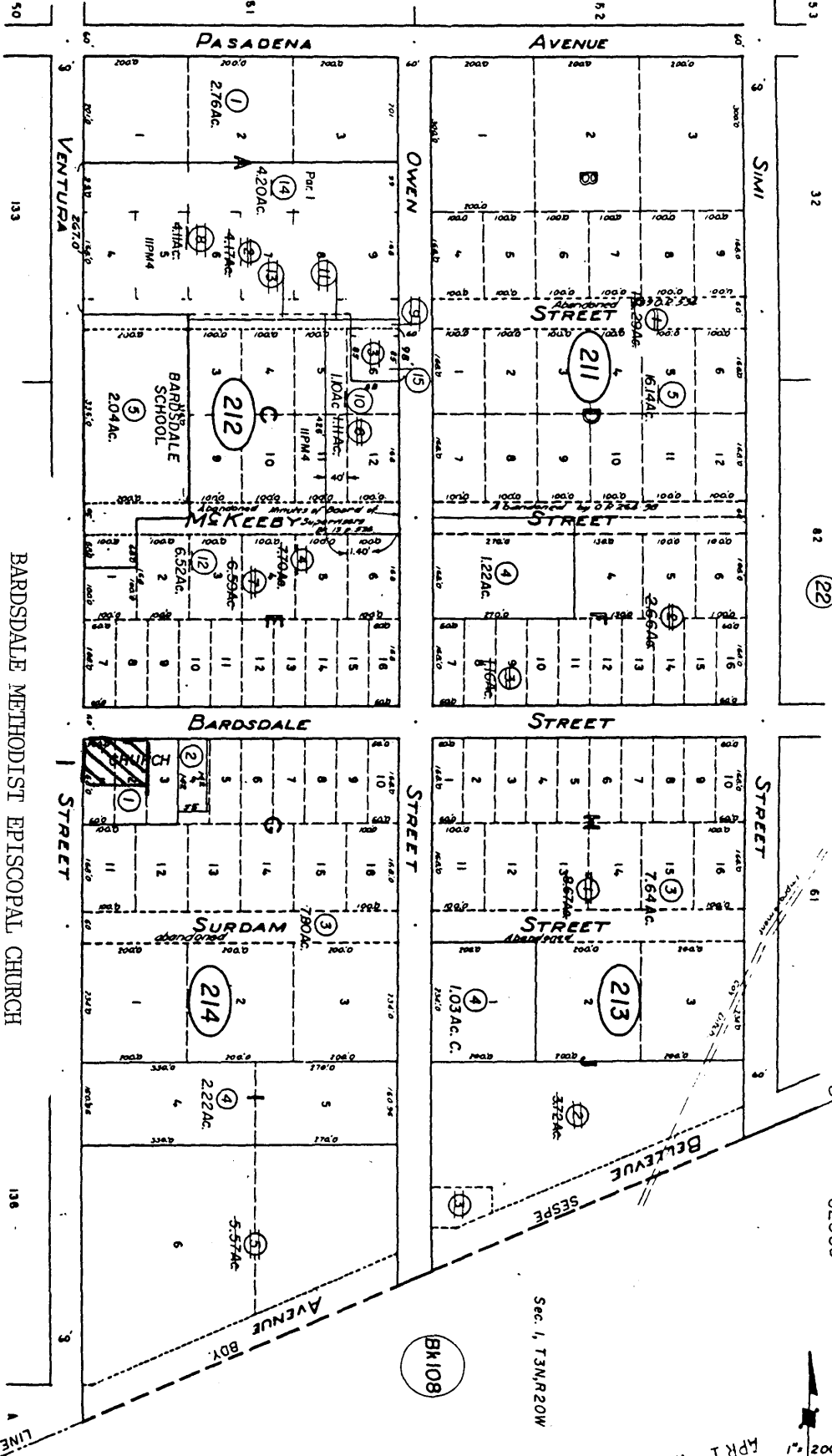
46-21

APR 1 1983



Sec. 1, T3N, R20W

BK 108



NOTE: ASSESSOR PARCELS SHOWN ON THIS PAGE DO NOT NECESSARILY CONSTITUTE LEGAL LOTS CHECK WITH COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE OR PLANNING DIVISION TO VERIFY.

Town of Bardsdale Main, R.M. Bk. 3, Pg. 31

BARDSDALE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1498 Bardsdale Avenue
Fillmore, Ventura County, California

Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles
Assessor's Mineral Numbers Shown in Squares

Assessor's Map Bk. 46, Pg. 21
County of Ventura, Calif