

PH0661112

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 25 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

RECEIVED
OCT 4 1977

1 NAME

HISTORIC

OHP
The Greek Orthodox Church

AND/OR COMMON

of the Assumption (Assumption: The commemorating of the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9th and Castro Sts.

920 Brush Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oakland

VICINITY OF

3

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Alameda

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dept. of Transportation. Business and Transportation Agency. State of Calif.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 7791 Rincon Annex

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

California 94120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Please refer to continuation sheet page 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Please refer to continuation sheet page 1

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The physical condition of the exterior of the building is excellent. It is historically intact, and has not been altered since its construction.

The interior is also in excellent condition. Minor additions have recently been made, such as elevated theater seats, and a large baptismal font; both of which can be removed at a minor expense. The interior can be made historically intact in regard to the building's original furnishings--and again at a minimal expense. Of its original furnishings, only the chandelier remains in the church. However, almost all of the other furnishings have been relocated in Greek Orthodox churches in nearby cities and can easily be brought back into the church. These items would be two, five-foot single pedestal brass candelabrae; Byzantine paintings; the full Byzantine icon screen (iconostasis) which was originally in front of the altar. The original pews, or "stasidia" (unique to this country, but still found in small churches in Greece) were located along the sidewalls. They consisted of arm rests to be used while a worshipper stood erect, and a hinged seat that was lowered to sit on. The only other seating in the church was chairs located both on the main floor and upstairs in the gallery, where the women sat.

Construction: Concrete walls, wood floors and ceilings
Stories: One story with a mezzanine and basement
Style: Beaux-Arts with a Neo-Greek mode. The floor plan and many interior features are from the Byzantine tradition

The stylistic description of the church was given by and quoted from Loren Partridge, Ph.D., who is currently a professor of Art History at the University of California at Berkeley, and who is also a member of B.A.H.A. (Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assoc.). He visited the building on May 13, 1977 and gave to this committee the following description and opinions:

The style of the church is in the Beaux-Arts manner. The church is the clearest example of the Neo-Greek style within the category of Beaux-Arts classicism. This Neo-Greek style is expressed by the Greek temple facade which is characterized by a triangular pediment above, supported by fluted Doric columns. The facade however has an unusual temple front, as the two Doric columns are in "antis". This means that the columns are within the block of the building. This is a definite classical Greek feature; evidenced today at the Treasury of Delphi, and also found on top of the Acropolis. This particular feature is very rare in terms of the Beaux-Arts style, especially as that style exists in the Bay Area. This feature of two columns in antis is very rare: Professor Partridge states that he knows of no other such building in the Bay Area having this feature. The exterior of the building is

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) music
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Burrell (architect)

Palmer & Peterson (builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early Greek Orthodox churches built by immigrant communities in this country were more than places of worship. They were also cultural centers. A place where a heritage of Greek art, music, and language were constant; where human values, morals, friendship, devotion flourished. These churches became the hub for all social activities in the immigrant communities. They were a place for rejoicing, for dialogue, for language schools, for dancing and the learning of folk dances that were centuries old. They were places where tradition was learned, cherished and most important, preserved. From the arrival of the first Greek immigrant to the East Bay in Vallejo in 1890, until 1920, the Greek immigrants of the Oakland vicinity lived together in the same part of town, struggling for survival, bound together by the same language, religion and traditions. They were hard working, poor people, many of whom were illiterate with an obligation to their faith and a simultaneous desire to establish themselves in their new country. From these humble beginnings a new community began to develop. A turning point occurred in the lives of these pioneers of Oakland with the construction of the church. This building provided them with a permanent structure in which to congregate. The building of this church represents a landmark in the development of the Greek community, as it solidified the migration of the Greeks to America with a sense of permanence and belonging in American society. With this sense of permanence the cultural and social life which the church provided, rendered to the pioneers the means by which the next generation was able to contribute to the community at large. The next generation provided the larger community of Oakland with a nucleus of men and women who contributed to the professions of the arts, of state and city government, of the judiciary, of the business world and of education.

This building is a symbol of struggle and survival in America. It is the symbol of the struggle to fulfill the "American Ideal", in that the spirit and direction of the nation are founded upon and reflected in this building's past. It is a tangible reminder of the making of the past history of the United States. The building should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation of the American people. Its preservation as an historical site is a visible continuity with the past.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please refer to continuation sheet, page 3

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	56,351,0	4,18,412,0	B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to continuation sheet page 4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Please refer to continuation sheet page 4

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

Kroy M. Egan

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *Lawrence Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-22-78

DATE 5-17-78

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 5&6 PAGE 1

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Southeast corner of 10th and Brush Sts. All of lots 4,5,6,7,&8 and portions of lots 3,9, &28. It is in block 113 of the Kellersberger Map of Oakland.

County Code: Map 2 Block 113 parcels 19 & 35. AKA: 920 Brush St.

Found location of legal description in Block Book Division, Street and Engineering Dept. of Office of Public Works, City Hall, County Recorders Office, 13th and Oak Sts., Oakland, Calif.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1. Architectural and Historical Survey of Jan. 1976. Report prepared by Environmental Planning, District 4.

2. Depository for Survey Records. Cal-Trans. San Francisco

3. Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. City of Oakland. 14th and Washington Streets. Oakland, Calif. 94612. 6-20-77

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

decorated with Neo-Greek motifs. There are Doric cornices going around the building. There are also stylized Greek palmettes and meander designs which decorate the exterior of the church--all elements of Neo-Greek tradition. The white painted exterior of the church assimilates the likeness of an ancient Greek marble temple.

The floor plan of the church is Byzantine. The plan is in the shape of a Greek cross. This means that the church was centrally planned with equal arms. The central plan is crowned by an hemispherical dome. The sanctuary is tri-partite; that is, divided into three parts to accommodate the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. A transept is present, which serves to separate the clergy from the laymen during the liturgy. At the entrance of the church there is the semblance of a narthex, where the laymen would light candles, preparing themselves before entering the main body of the church. All of these features derive from the Byzantine tradition. Within the church there is a gallery (mezzanine). The galleries as such are almost always found in the village churches of Greece today. This is where the women would go during the religious services, while the men stayed below.

This church is the oldest Greek Orthodox church in the East Bay Area. It is the second to the oldest in the entire state of California, and for these reasons should be given a place in the state registry of historical landmarks.

Professor Partridge concluded that artistically, stylistically, and architecturally this structure has merit, and as such should be preserved. Its distinction derives from its very pure Neo-Greek elements. He also recommends that the building be preserved for its very pure and clear-cut Neo-Greek characteristics. Although there are several examples of Beaux-Arts architecture in the Bay Area, this particular structure is outstanding for its purity and clarity.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance & ITEM NUMBER 8⁹ PAGE 3

Major Bibliographical References

8 Significance

This building is a cultural property worthy of historical preservation for its historic and artistic (please refer to item number 7 Description) value, and should be included in the protective inventory of irreplaceable resources of this country. In building the future, the past acts as a guide to create a richer environment, thus, this building would serve as a visual reminder of the struggle for the American Ideal.

9 Major Bibliographical References

Oakland 1852-1938
Editors Hinkel Vol. 1 p.409

History of Alameda County
Editor F.C. Meerritt

A Design Framework for Oakland
Editors: Demais, Wells, Sidener June 1969

Oakland Tribune
Sept. 28, 1977 p.m. ed.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10&11 PAGE 4

10 Geographical Data

The size of the building, quoting from the original building permit is 50 feet by 70 feet.

The building is bounded on the south by 9th St. on the north by 10th st. and faces Brush St.

The building does not overlap state or county boundaries.

11 Form Prepared by

Mrs. Mary Mousalimas
504 Crofton Avenue
Oakland, Calif. 94610
451-3008 Sept. 25, 1977

Mrs. Eugenia Ahlas
2973 Piedmont Avenue
Berkeley, Calif. 94705
841-5961 Sept. 25, 1977