

PH 0036561

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Alameda
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. John's Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2640 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Berkeley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
7

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Alameda** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
St. John's Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
2640 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Berkeley

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Alameda County Clerk-Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:
1225 Fallon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oakland

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: _____

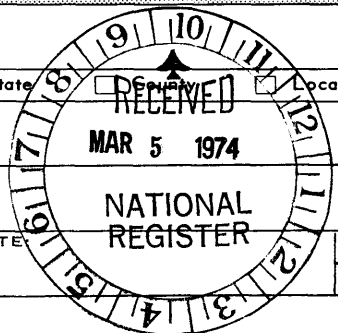
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____

STATE: _____

CODE: _____



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **California**

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ENTRY NUMBER: **AUG 7 1974**

DATE: _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Location: Property fronts on an arterial linking the University of California Campus to residential neighborhoods in Berkeley and Oakland. Neighborhood is primarily residential use, containing many excellent examples of San Francisco Bay Region Shingle Style residences. Many of the homes have been converted to multi-family use; others have been demolished for construction of low-rise apartment buildings.

Property: Three residential lots, with a number of additional portions of adjacent residential properties, totaling approximately 25,000 square feet, or 0.57 acre. Land slopes gently downhill from street. Residence located south of church at 2642 College Avenue is under same ownership.

Construction: Redwood and Douglas Fir framing exposed to the interior, with horizontal wood sheathing, board siding or shingles on exterior. Wood casement sash. Concrete foundations.

Fellowship Hall: Constructed 1908, north side of property. Single story, with partial basement, and caretaker's apartment on mezzanine level. 4,000 square feet main floor area.

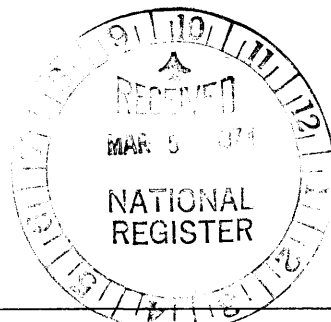
Sanctuary: Constructed 1910, south side of property. Single story, with partial basement. 7,000 square feet main floor area.

Education wing: Constructed after 1910, west of sanctuary at rear of property. Two stories, 2,500 square feet per floor, with partial basement.

Alterations: Altar area was enlarged in 1954 to provide a larger choir area, new pulpit, and to accommodate installation of new organ. Organ pipes are now concealed. New roof over altar area was built at level of sanctuary roof, eliminating clerestory windows above pulpit. New pulpit, choir rail, etc. are not in character with original construction.

Condition: Structural condition is excellent. There is minor termite and dry-rot damage in a number of areas. Wood sash are in poor repair. Exterior siding and trim requires maintenance, particularly on south and west facades. Interior finishes are original, and in excellent condition. Alterations, including an automatic fire sprinkler system and widening of exits, will probably be required to satisfy local code requirements if building is used for public assembly under a new ownership.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Presbyterian Church is an outstanding and irreplaceable asset to Berkeley's cultural and architectural heritage. It has long been cited as an exemplary work of one of the region's foremost designers, Julia Morgan. While it is one of the earliest major non-residential commissions of this pioneering woman architect, it was not typical of her work, and herein lies one of its most interesting aspects. The demands of the architectural program were such that a viable solution was extremely difficult to attain; essentially, the church wanted a sanctuary of more than 6,000 square feet but had a budget of less than \$10,000. Even at the time, this was an extraordinarily low sum. The result was a wood frame building of the least expensive sound construction possible, with virtually no extraneous parts or applied ornament. Studs, roof trusses, and other framing was left exposed; however, these and the other extremely simple elements of the church were given extremely careful and thorough study so that their form and proportion would produce a desirable visual effect.

There were very few occasions when Julia Morgan faced economic restrictions of this extreme sort. The significant point is that she regarded such a problem as a challenge, that small and inexpensive work deserved as much attention and could be made to be as interesting as could major commissions. This attitude she shared with several other contemporaries in the Bay Region, most notably Bernard Maybeck. However, this attribute was held by few of her distinguished colleagues elsewhere in the country at the time. Once established in the profession, most were primarily concerned with large and prestigious commissions; when small ones were accepted, it was often simply to tie the office over during a slack period, and few such designs received very much study. Maybeck's and Morgan's interest in a wide variety of architectural expressions for an equally diverse set of problems is one of the most important elements in the contribution of Bay Region architecture in the early decades of the 20th century. Each job was designed for its own inherent potential, not attempting to be what it could not be. St. John's can be compared with hundreds of churches throughout the country which are aesthetic failures due to the fact that they have emulated elaborate ecclesiastical structures without having the budget to do so.

(Continued. See entry No. 1, Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elinor Richey: The Ultimate Victorians, Berkeley, 1970.
 Robert Bernhardt: The Buildings of Berkeley, Berkeley, 1971.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

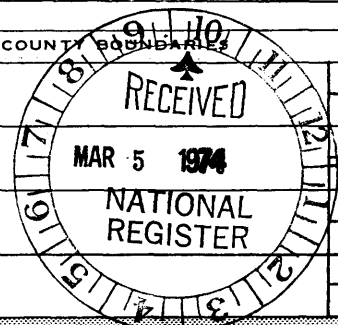
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 51 ' 44 "	122 ° 15 ' 08 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
10/565
-120
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.57 acre**

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bennett Christopherson AIA, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **The American Society For Eastern Arts** DATE: **December 7, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
425 Bush Street

CITY OR TOWN: **San Francisco** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**

Date: **January 25, 1974**

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/7/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7.26.74

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Alameda	
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	AUG 7 1974

(Number all entries)

Entry No. 1. Statement of Significance, continued.

While a large number of houses in the Bay Region follow a solution not unlike St. John's, very few buildings of this nature which can be readily seen by the public were ever built, and an even smaller number exist today. Berkeley has one of the richest architectural heritages of any suburban town in the country; the loss of St. John's would not only be a major one for the community, but would be a significant one for the country as a whole.

Statement of Significance prepared by:
Richard W. Longstreth
Department of Architecture
University of California
Berkeley

