

PH0036633

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: Colusa
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
"The Little Shrine at Sycamore"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Grand Island Shrine

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~State Route #45, Approx. 8 mi. south of Colusa~~ ^{on CA 45} ~~(1.8 mi. south of Sycamore)~~

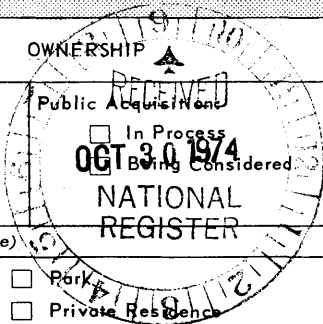
CITY OR TOWN:
Colusa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
4

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Colusa** CODE: **011**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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:
Catholic Diocese - Bishop of Sacramento, Alden J. Bell

STREET AND NUMBER:
1017 11th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Book 1 (one), Page 444, Colusa Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
546 J Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Colusa

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Point of Historical Interest

DATE OF SURVEY: **May 15, 1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
**Department of Parks and Recreation
California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California
COUNTY: Colusa
ENTRY NUMBER: 1017
DATE: DEC 31 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Robert E. Mackensen, Architect, AIA, submitted the following description.

This is a very small brick chapel with a beautiful and sensitively proportioned entrance facade. The roof structure is also masonry, now sealed over and painted with aluminum paint. Iron tie rods at the springline of the arch restrain the thrust of the masonry roof. Inside, well painted plasterboard of considerable age has been installed at walls, and flat across the ceiling below the tie rods. The space is only big enough for an old carpenter's gothic altar and kneeler.

A concrete floor is uncracked, and the interior plasterboard, although old and somewhat deteriorated, is well painted, as is all the wood work. Two small Gothic windows are currently boarded up.

The overall dimensions of the building are approximately 10 ft. x 14 ft. x 14 ft. high.

There is a brick foundation with poured concrete floor.

The wall construction is 12 inch thick brick masonry, with a vaulted roof.

Two buttressed towers crowned by wooden crosses frame the door.

There is a double wood plank door with wood transom, framed by corbelled brick Gothic arch.

It has a vaulted masonry roof with iron tie rods, covered with bituminous roofing material, and aluminum paint.

The interior is a single room 8 ft. wide, 11 ft. long, and 9 ft. to ceiling.

Other than maintenance and repairs, the exterior is exactly as it was constructed in 1883.

About ten yards to the north stands a concrete memorial cross.

Italian cypress flank the Shrine, and two old live-oaks, 20 yards to the rear, complete the setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The structure is a unique example of vernacular or folk architecture. The initial impact of suddenly sighting a small Gothic structure 100 yards off the highway in the middle of an open barley field lends to its uniqueness.

It is a small brick chapel with a well proportioned entrance facade. The roof structure is also masonry, now sealed over and painted with aluminum paint. Iron tie rods at the spring-line of the arch restrain the thrust of the masonry roof. Inside, well painted plasterboard of considerable age has been installed at walls, and flat across the ceiling below the tie rods. The space is only big enough for an old carpenter's gothic altar and kneeler. Small sprays of flowers, mostly artificial, attest to the Shrine's continuing use as a quiet refuge in the fields.

Two Italian cypress flank the Shrine and three old valley oaks complete the setting. The bricks were hand kilned by the architect-builder, Father Wallrath in 1883. The structure was erected as a Shrine to Our Lady of Sorrows, and commemorates the site of the First Mass in Colusa County.

Religion

In 1852 Andrew and Jacob Myers, with their families, settled on Grand Island, an area south of the present city of Colusa. It later became known as Sycamore Grove, then Sycamore; now a ghost town. Together with several other families, they formed a small Catholic settlement. There was no Catholic Church nearer than Marysville and no priest visited this area until May 1856. At that time, Jacob Myers went to Marysville and brought back Father Peter Magagnotto to say the first Mass in Colusa County. This Mass was said in the open under the oak trees. Mass was said on this site thereafter on occasional visits from the Marysville clergy.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(1) Colusa County Hall of Records, Book C, pages 235 and 592. (2) Hand written records of Father Michael Wallrath (1877 to 1912) Office of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Colusa, California. (3) Colusa County, California Will S. Green, page 116; Elliott and Moore, San Francisco, California 1880. (4) Hallowed Were the Gold Dust Trails: Henry L. Walsh, S.J. pages 354, 355, 358, University of Santa Clara Press. (5) Not Authoritative, but reliable: Msgr. John J. McGarry, Pastor emeritus, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Colusa; Frank Schleich, Grand Nephew of Jacob Myers. (6) Word of mouth -- generation to generation of the ancestors of Jacob Myers.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

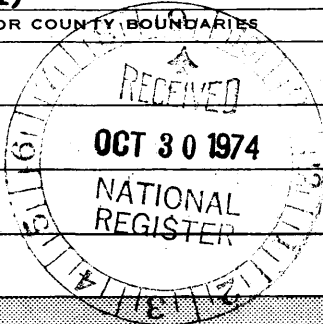
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 06' 56"	121° 56' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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10/59198C
4329950
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/2 (one half)**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Claire L. Reynolds		Gary F. Wirth	Msgr. John J. McGarry, Pastor Emeritus
ORGANIZATION	CVCAIA Preservation Off. Schaefer & Wirth Architects & Planners	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church	DATE July, 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 847	666 Dead Cat Alley	745 Ware Avenue Colusa	
CITY OR TOWN: Williams	Woodland	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

OCT 16 1974

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

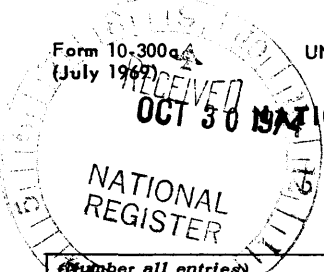
[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/31/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12/31/74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	California	
COUNTY	Colusa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

In September 1864, a Father Lafauber conducted the first Catholic mission on this site within the Colusa County area. He then made arrangements for building a church at this location and secured a deed to the property from E. Chapin and wife. A mission cross of eight by eight inch timbers, twenty seven feet high, with cross piece twelve feet long, was erected here. In 1922, the old cross, having rotted, was replaced with a large white cement cross.

The project of building the church on this site was found impractical and abandoned in favor of a church at Colusa. The land reverted to the former owners, as per condition of the deed. The property then passed into the possession of A. Montgomery and was purchased from him by Ann Myers, wife of Jacob Myers in 1867.

Masses, pilgrimages and visits continued to be held at this site with just the cross until 1883. Other than the churches in Colusa, this was the only spot in Colusa County where religious services were held for many years.

In 1883, Father Michael Wallrath, a man of much historical significance in this area, decided that the Grand Island Cross site needed something more to preserve its identity. He secured a deed to the property from Ann Myers and using left over brick from the construction of the Colusa Church (brick which he himself had kilned), he erected a small edifice, containing only an altar. He dedicated the Shrine to "Our Lady of Sorrows".

Mass has been said continually since that time, at least once a year in the past fifty two years during the first part of May at the Shrine. The doors are always unlocked. A register book is left there and names appear from throughout the United States and Canada. It is also used as a place of worship quite frequently by the many Mexican laborers in this area. Small coins, trinkets, and flowers of all descriptions are found there when the local priest inspects the building.

By word of mouth and handed down by tradition to this generation of the many ancestors of Ann and Jacob Myers, who still reside here, whenever a priest was available, Mass was said at the Shrine. The congregation sat in the open, while the priest celebrated Mass in the little building. After mass, everyone had a picnic. Shortly after construction of the Shrine, an open wooden building was built to shelter the congregation in inclement weather. Evidence of this wooden structure has long disappeared, but a grand nephew of Jacob Myers, Frank Schleich, a gentleman of ninety years, attests to this fact.

On May 13, 1957, Colusa Parlor No. 194, Native Daughters of the Golden West, placed a bronze plaque, commemorating the site as that of the First Mass in Colusa County.