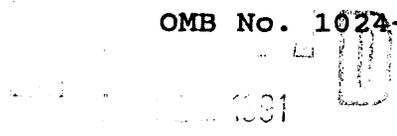


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL  
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rectory and Cemetery

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 4983 and 4985 Bullion Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mariposa

vicinity: N/A

state: CA county: Mariposa code: 043 zip code: 95338

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private & Public-Local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_ 2 _	_____	buildings
_ 1 _	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_ 3 _	_ 0 _	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7   St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rectory, Cemetery Page 2  
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The Catholic Cemetery is located directly behind St. Joseph Catholic Church and Rectory. Internment began in the 1860s and continues to the present, although most of the plots date from the nineteenth century. Headstones are comprised of marble and native stone, with motifs typical of the mid to late nineteenth century. Many of the grave plots are surrounded by decorative iron fencing. The cemetery and grounds contribute to the historical character of the church and rectory and retain the feeling and setting of a nineteenth century cemetery.

See Continuation Sheet

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : A and D

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Religion  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1862-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates : 1862, 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Rectory: Deschne, Fredrick J. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rectory, and Cemetery characterize the importance the Catholic religion played in the growth and development of Mariposa and contribute to the architectural heritage of the old town of Mariposa. The church, built in 1862, and the rectory, built in 1927, retain integrity and reflect the community's desire to establish a permanent place of worship.

St. Joseph Catholic Church was built in the fall and winter of 1862, and was dedicated by Archbishop Joseph Sadoc Alemany January 18, 1863. St. Joseph was to be the first permanent Catholic Church in Mariposa County, but Catholic priests had worked in the county - saying Mass, baptising and marrying Catholic people - almost from the time gold had been discovered in the area (Walsh 1963: 5).

The Rt. Rev. Joseph Sadoc Alemany became the Bishop of Monterey in 1850 and Archbishop of San Francisco in 1853. When California was divided into two dioceses, San Francisco and Monterey, Mariposa was included in the San Francisco Archdiocese and so remained until under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Alemany. Rev. Alemany was first assigned to Sonora in 1851 and made regular trips to the surrounding gold mining towns including Mariposa.

See Continuation Sheet x

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rectory, Cemetery Page 2  
=====

The construction of new churches throughout the gold country was an important goal of Alemany and his successors.

On November 4, 1862 the Mariposa Gazette reported that:

"The Catholics of this place (Mariposa) were putting up a fine building at the lower end of town for a place of worship. This is the first and only we believe in the County. As a sufficient amount of money has already been subscribed to erect a handsome cathedral, sufficiently large for all of that particular creed and as many others who may wish to attend, all expect to see something that will be an ornament to the town" (Walsh 1963: 9-10).

After the dedication of the Church in January 1863, the Gazette and other newspapers reported the special importance and beauty of the new church. The site selected lay between First and Second Streets, fronting on Main Street, on little knoll, with its steeple rising over the town. The ground behind the church was set aside as a cemetery. The property was donated to the church by R.S. Miller and Alex Deering, owners of the Mariposa gold mine, which was directly in back of the property. In 1941 a half acre of the property along Charles Street was taken by the State of California for a new highway.

In 1958 it was decided that the church was getting too small to take care of the growing number of people attending Mass. It was decided to lengthen the church eighteen feet adding five more pews and three more feet to the Sanctuary, which provided an additional fifty more seats. At the same time the interior was painted and a new carpet put in.

Prior to 1927, the priests of St. Joseph lived in rented houses near the church. When Rev. Frederick Deschesne was appointed pastor in October 23, 1926, he decided it was time for the church to have its own rectory. The rectory was built sufficiently large to take care of assistant priests and any number of guests at one time. In fact the rectory was one of the largest houses in Mariposa at the time and today is certainly the largest and most elaborate of the homes reflecting the Craftsman-Bungalow style.

In 1963, the church's centennial was celebrated with a dedication and the publication of its history written by the church's pastor Rev. Francis E. Walsh. The church continues to be significant as the town's only Catholic church. However, significance has not been shown to be exceptional, thus the period of significance has been concluded at 1941, fifty years ago.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design 1870-1940. Ames: Iowa University Press, 1988.

Walsh, Francis E. The First Hundred Years Plus Twenty-Five of St. Joseph Church, Mariposa, California. Fresno: Academy of California Church History, 1963.

Mariposa Gazette, Mariposa, Ca

\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other --

Specify Repository: Mariposa Museum and History Center, Inc.  
P.O. Box 606, Mariposa, Ca 95338

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 3.10 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	11	238240	4152330	B
C				D

\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Parcel Map 187, Lot 7, Assessor's Map Book 13-200. The lot is bordered on the east by Jones Street, on the north by 2nd Street, on the south by Quartz Street, and on the west by State Highway 49.

\_\_ See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rectory, Cemetery Page 2

Boundary Justification: The justification for establishing the boundary of the property is based upon the legal boundaries described in the Assessor's Map Book 13-200. The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the properties.

     See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Dana E. Supernowicz/Historical Consultant

Organization: Mariposa Museum and History Center, Inc. Date: 12/3/90

Street & Number: P.O. Box 606 Telephone: 209-966-2924

City or Town: Mariposa State: Calif Zip: 95338

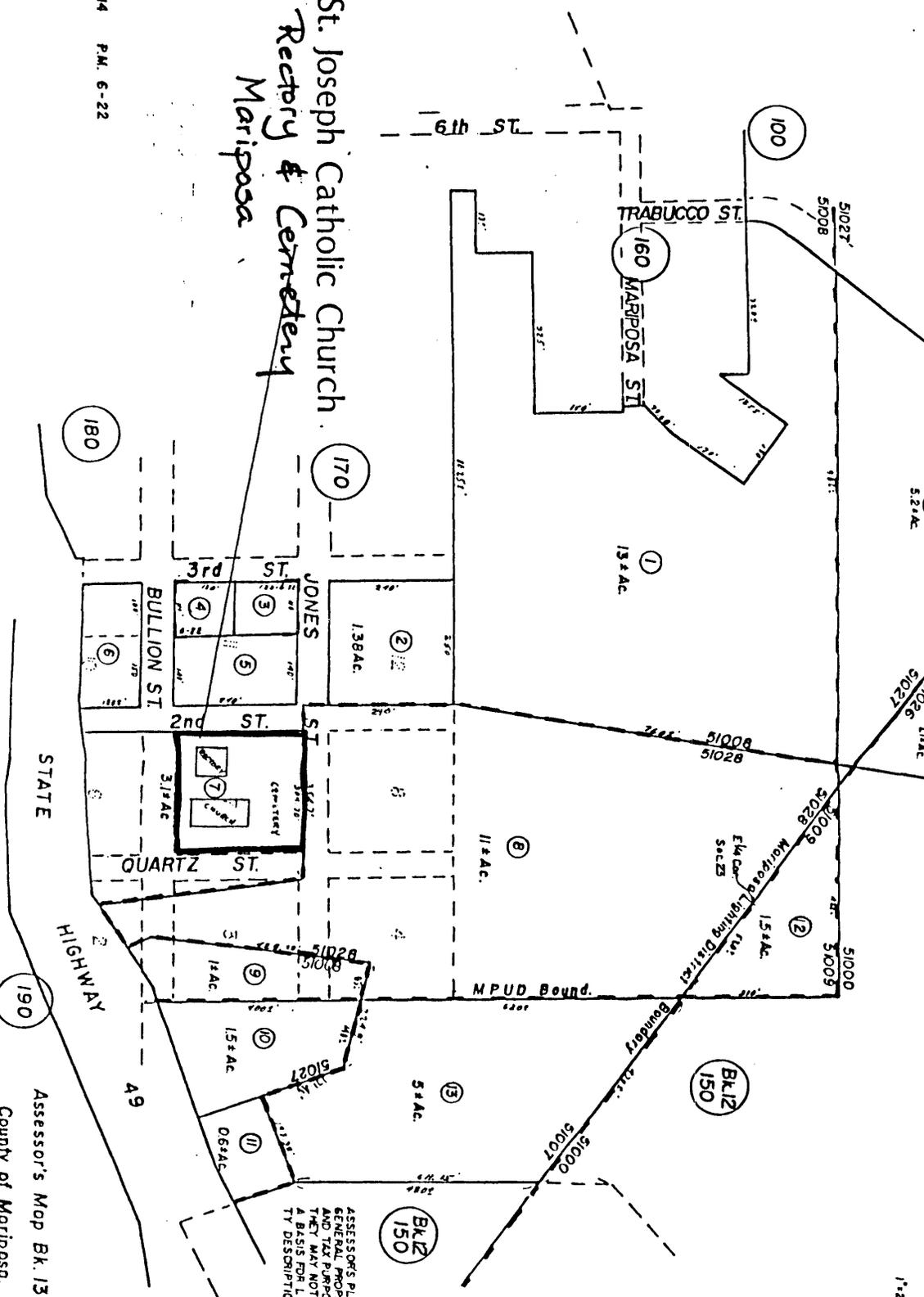
PORTION TOWN OF MARIPOSA  
T.S.S., R.18E., M.D.B.M.,

B PART. PROJ SECTIONS 22 & 23,  
RANCHO LAS MARIPOSAS

Tax Area Code  
51007  
51008  
51009  
51027  
51028

13-200

1"=200'



St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Rectory & Cemetery  
Mariposa

R.S. 314 P.M. 6-22

NOTE - Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

Assessor's Map Bk. 13 - Pg. 200  
County of Mariposa, Calif.  
1989

ASSESSOR'S PLATS ARE FOR  
GENERAL PROPERTY LOCATION  
AND TAX PURPOSES ONLY.  
THEY MAY NOT BE USED AS  
A BASIS FOR LEGAL PROP-  
ERTY DESCRIPTIONS.