

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL LETTERS - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC AND SIGNIFICANT
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

LOCATION

SHEET NUMBER Parcel and San Fernando Streets
CITY/TOWN San Jose
STATE California COUNTY Santa Clara
VINTAGE CODE 06 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 082

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDINGS	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<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 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"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Archdiocese of San Francisco
STREET NUMBER

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

SECTION 10th and San Fernando Streets
CITY/TOWN San Jose
STATE California

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL LETTERS - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

STATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
San Jose California

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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION: EXCELLENT DETERIORATED CHECK ONE UNALTERED CHECK ONE ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE _____

FAIR POOR UNRECOVERED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In style, St. Joseph's Church is related to the post-Civil War enthusiasm for the monumental classicism associated with the work of Alfred B. Mullet, Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury, although this building is characterized by a restraint seldom encountered in Mullet's French Second Empire manner. The architect of St. Joseph's Bryan Clinch, relied less upon Mullet's penchant for complicated wall treatment and excessive ornament and more upon the clear articulation of major and secondary elements for his architectural statement. Particularly impressive, on the exterior, is the dramatic massing of the major dome over the main sanctuary, the four minor domes over the shrines and the north and south bell towers on the west facade. The towers, in turn, flank an impressive pedimented portico with four giant Corinthian columns that give the entrance the grandeur of a Roman temple. The entire ensemble is loosely inspired by two masterpieces of 17th century Baroque architecture, Sir Christopher Wren's St. Paul's Cathedral in London and Francesco Borromini's Church of St. Agnese in Rome, treated, however, with the cool classicism of the late 18th century.

The interior of St. Joseph's is a splendid exercise in the manipulation of space. A large church occupying about 11,500 square feet with seats for some 1,100 people, it is based on a Greek cross plan with no interior subdivisions or partitions to break up the remarkably direct interior spatial flow. The four arms of the are vaulted by unusual coffered elliptical barrel vaults, and the crossing is surmounted by a broad pumpkin shaped dome on pendentives. The dome contains a large stained glass oculous top lighted by a lantern.

The church is in good condition. Minor damage, mostly to decorative embellishments and interior fittings (altars, etc.) was sustained in the 1906 earthquake. Cosmetic refurbishing took place in 1920 and again in 1926-7 on the occasion of the building's fiftieth anniversary. In 1952, serious structural defects were detected in the dome and supporting walls, resulting in a total restoration project that cost \$150,000. The wooden roof structure was stiffened and supplemented with steel members and the brick walls were strengthened with reinforced concrete elements. Interior mural paintings and decorations added in the 1926 project were also restored at this time, and the copper roofing was "aluminized," creating the present silver effect of the domes.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD: PREHISTORIC HISTORIC AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE

1400-1499 ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC COMMUNITY PLANNING

1500-1599 AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION

1600-1699 ARCHITECTURE ECONOMICS

1700-1799 ART EDUCATION

1800-1899 COMMERCIAL ENGINEERING

1900- COMMUNICATIONS EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

INDUSTRY INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES - 1877 (1803-present) BUILDER/ARTIST:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Josephs Church houses the cleast non-ornia. The present building is the fourth built present site. Built in 1875 and completed some excellent example of the heroic classicizing religious buildings in the decades following the style (sometimes called General Grant Classic numerous federal buildings constructed in the St. Joseph's, Bryan James Clinch of Hoffman and deviated somewhat from the French Second Empire Mullet's work and instead adapted rather freely Borromini's St. Agnese in Rome. Characteristic riod, Clinch handled these borrowed elements w a structure that is still the most imposing ch

Technically, St. Joseph's is significant for its sheet metal, probably prefabricated, for the fas as for other classically inspired decorative elements designed a number of similarly imposing Catholic notably in Oakland and the Cathedral of Sacra of these, however, and remains one of the best California.

located in the plaza area of downtown San to be the focal point in an Architecturally Signi

SIGNIFICANCE

CHECK ONE
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PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

19th-Century War enthusiasm for Alfred B. Mullett, Supervising Architect. The architect is characterized by a rare manner. The architect is particularly impressive, on the particularly impressive wall in the main sanctuary, the four pilasters on the west facade. The entire ensemble by Baroque architecture, Sir Francesco Borromini's Church of the Sacrament of the late 18th century.

in the manipulation of space. Seats for some 1,100 people, divisions or partitions to break our arms of the are vaulted by glass is surmounted by a stained a large stained glass

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
1500-1599	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
1700-1799	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
1800-1899	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
1900-1999	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE
2000-2099	ARCHITECTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	SCIENCE

SPECIFIC DATES - 1877 (1803-present) BUILDER/ARCHITECT - Bryan Clinch

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Josephs Church houses the oldest non-mission Catholic congregation in California. The present building is the fourth building to serve the congregation on the present site. Built in 1875 and completed some 10 years later, St. Joseph's is an excellent example of the neoclassical architecture that dominated public and religious buildings in the decades following the Civil War, the leading exponent of the style (sometimes called "General Grant Classic") being Alfred B. Mullett, the author of numerous federal buildings constructed in the Grant administration. The architect of St. Joseph's, Bryan James Clinch of Hoffman and Clinch, architects, San Francisco, deviated somewhat from the French Second Empire style which served as the model for Mullett's work and instead adopted rather freely elements from Wren's St. Paul's and Borromini's St. Agnese in Rome. Characteristic of the eclectic exuberance of the period, Clinch handled these borrowed elements with a grandness of scale that produced a structure that is still the most imposing church in the Santa Clara Valley.

Technically, St. Joseph's is significant for its use of a double-shell dome and for sheet metal, probably prefabricated, for the huge columns of the west portico as well as for other classically inspired decorative embellishments. Clinch subsequently designed a number of similarly imposing Catholic churches elsewhere in California, notably in Oakland and the Cathedral of Sacramento. The San Jose design is the earliest of these, however, and remains one of the best preserved examples of its type in California.

Located in the plaza area of downtown San Jose, St. Joseph's is ideally situated to be the focal point in an Architecturally Significant Preservation District.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bowman, Jacob, Salvadora Peralta and San Jose, Bancroft Library Berkeley, 1952

See continuation sheet

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .6 acrs.
UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located on the north east corner, St. Joseph's Church is bounded by Market and San Fernando Streets, the old St. Joseph's College and the Pacific Telephone Building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Bonnie Sandburg, President Bruce Radda, Commissioner
 ORGANIZATION: San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission
 STREET NUMBER: 2131 Patzler Dr. TELEPHONE: 408-264-8192
 CITY/STATE: San Jose California 95125

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATES:
NATIONAL IX STATE IX 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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: H. W. H. H. H. MAR 2 1977

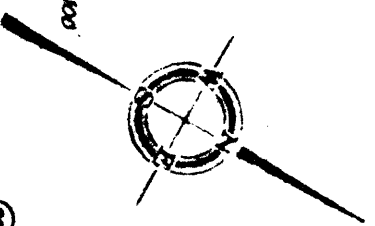
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FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER: DATE:

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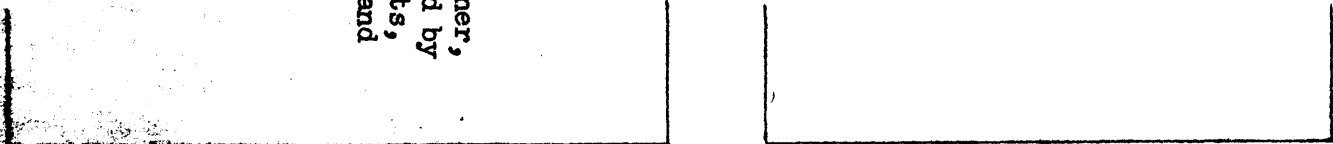
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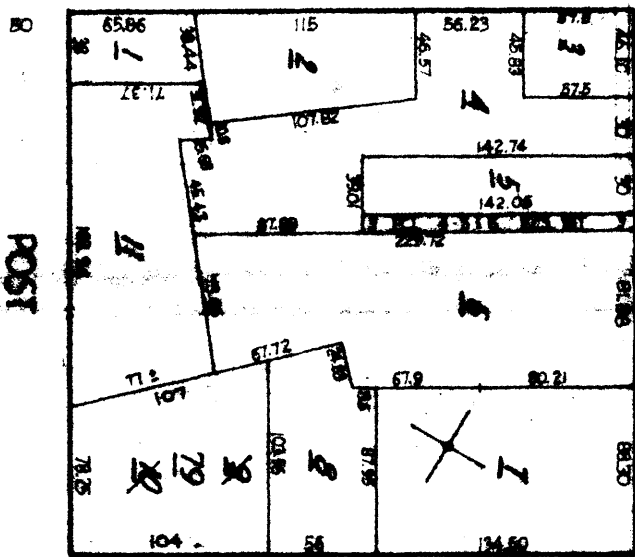
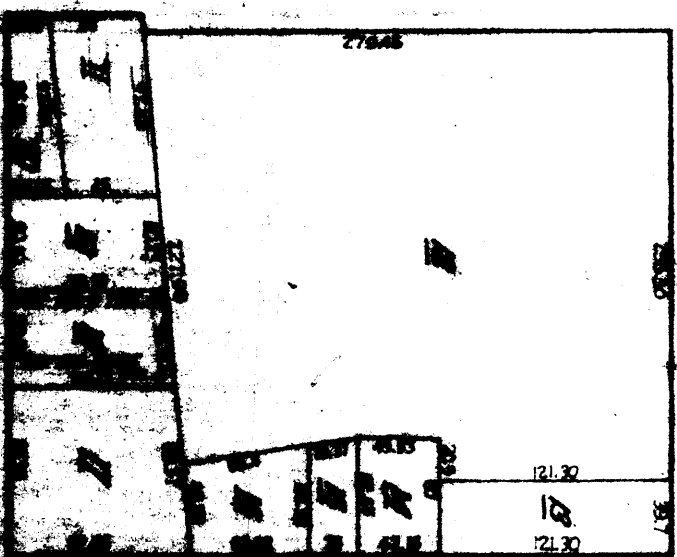
St. Joseph's Catholic Church

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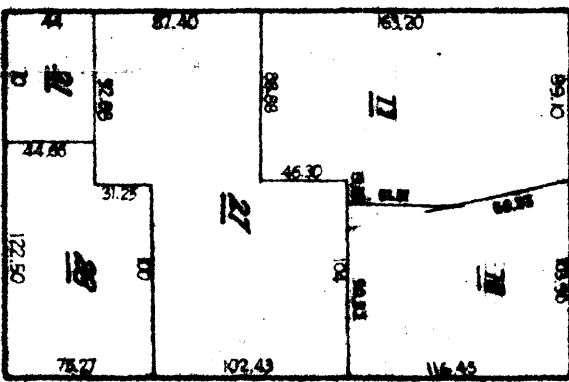
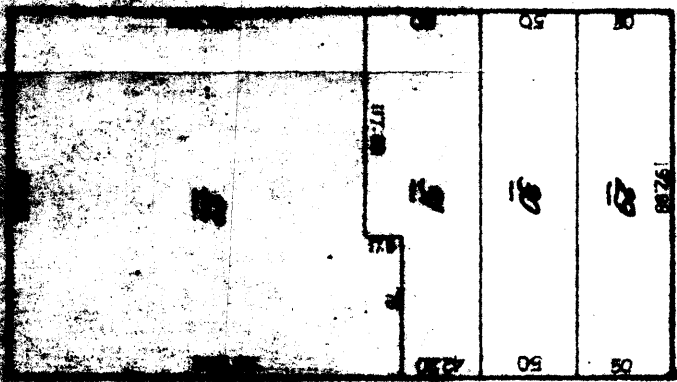
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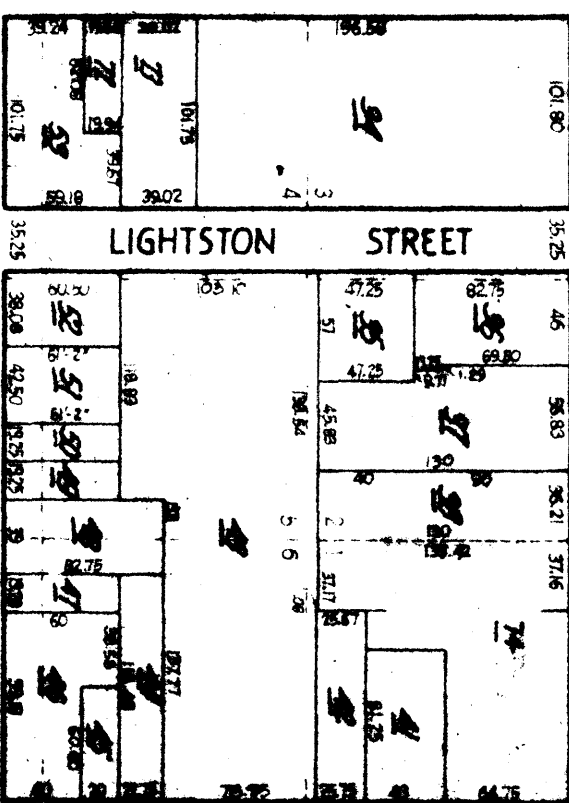
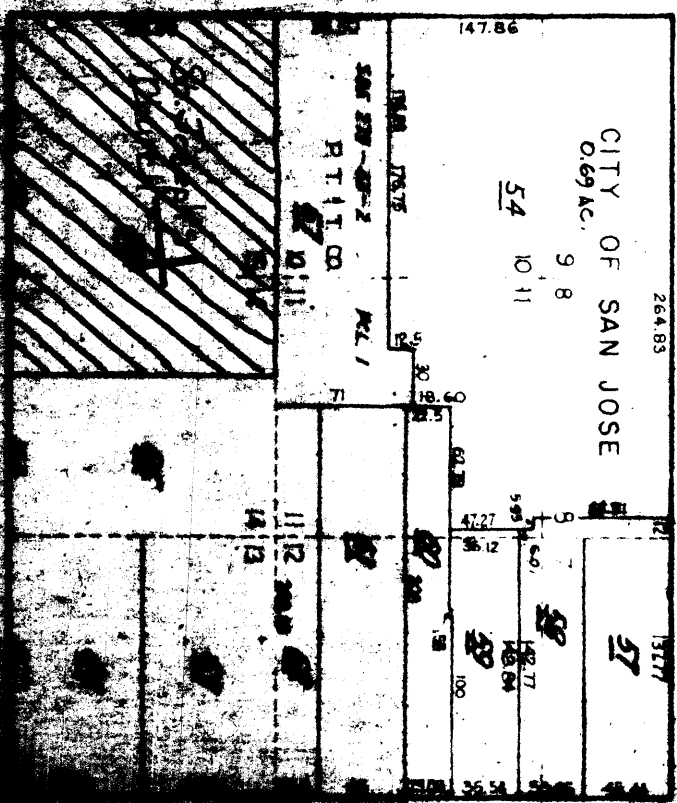
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