

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First Congregational Church of Pescadero

RECEIVED

and/or common Community Congregational Church

MAR 31 1980

2. Location

OHP

street & number San Gregorio Street

___ not for publication

city, town Pescadero

___ vicinity of

congressional district

12

state California

code 06

county San Mateo

code 081

3. Classification

Category

___ district

 building(s)

___ structure

___ site

___ object

Ownership

___ public

 private

___ both

Public Acquisition

___ in process

___ being considered

Status

 occupied

___ unoccupied

___ work in progress

Accessible

 yes: restricted

___ yes: unrestricted

___ no

Present Use

___ agriculture

___ commercial

___ educational

___ entertainment

___ government

___ industrial

___ military

___ museum

___ park

___ private residence

 religious

___ scientific

___ transportation

___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Northern California Congregational Conference

street & number c/o Martin Binion

city, town Pescadero

___ vicinity of

state California 94060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Mateo County Hall of Records

street & number Marshall Street

city, town Redwood City

state California 94063

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet, page one has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

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 type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 dimensions of the church are 34' x 54'. The general silhouette of the present church with its steeple gives a feeling of a Victorian Gothic Revival style, but upon analysis one finds many details of Classical Revival. It is the massive spire which primarily suggests Gothic, but one must keep in mind that it was an after thought created nearly a quarter of a century after the basic church construction.

The roofline is characteristic of temple forms, and there is a classical entablature section with a broken pediment. Originally the gable roof was covered with wooden shingles; economy demanded the present asphalt ones. The board siding was carefully scored to simulate stone and to complement wooden corner quoins. The side windows and the door frame are headed with classical round arches. Above the double door there is a semi-circular, segmented glass transom. In the 1940's the high, decorative paneled entry doors were replaced with the present shorter and plainer ones. This was an energy conservation effort. The three side flanking windows and the smaller back windows on each side are double hung with an extra bar across the upper part in which to repeat the segmented glazed fan form. In 1940 when replacing the burnt study window on the south side a common rectangular window was installed.

Originally there was a square, louvred bell tower above the entry. The decorative "eared" circle over the door -- looking much like a Maltese Cross -- some contend was intended for a rose window. This seems unlikely because of the lack of direct relationship to the sanctuary. The 40' squared, Gothic style spire with bracket supports was appended to the bell tower in 1890. The spire is covered with shingles.

At the same time the foundation was repaired. The choir loft in the rear was removed and the choir thenceforth was seated in the side front. Otherwise there has been little tampering with the simple interior. The plaster rosettes were retained on the ceiling when electrical fixtures were installed. The mid-century divided pews are still in place.

There were two small rooms back of the sanctuary. The one on the left (south) served as the pastor's study and was entered from the sanctuary by a door similar to the one remaining on the right front. A fire in the study in 1940 did little damage to the sanctuary, but in the reconstruction the study was transformed into a small kitchen-service area opening onto the 34' x 30' social hall which was added at the rear. At the same time the area accessible from the right front door were renovated to accommodate modern restrooms.

The exterior of the church has been placed at a slight disadvantage by the repeated increased elevation of the bridge nearby. Each new bridge has demanded higher approaches. The raised road level in front of the church tends to give a different visual perspective than was probably intended. One is now beginning to look down on the church instead of straight on.

There is no formal landscaping. The area along the creek meandering along the west and north boundaries has been planted informally with Monterey pines, otherwise the triangular space north of the church is surfaced for parking. A propane tank is located next to the social hall at the north side and rear of the property. A small inconspicuous pump house is near the creek north of the church. The parking area, Lot 12, is included in the nomination because it helps to preserve the visual accessibility of the church.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1867 - 1890 -1940 **Builder/Architect** unknown; spire - Chas. F. Wilson

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The First Congregational Church of Pescadero is the first church building to be constructed in the town of Pescadero solely for religious purposes. It is now the oldest, surviving wooden church building on its original site and in continuous church usage and without major renovations in the San Francisco Peninsula and Santa Clara Valley region. The attractive church followed the prevailing Classical Revival style popularity of the era in the community and illustrates the interests and responses of an early provincial community isolated on the coastside. At the time the people's major contact with pioneer population centers although nearby in terms of miles had to be reached chiefly by ocean transportation. Throughout the Pescadero area in the 1860's and 1870's there was considerable house construction using the same devices to simulate stone construction. It is proposed that the Yankee immigrants to the area preferred the style as reminiscent of their origins in northeastern United States.

On 5 November 1865 Rev. Hiram Cummings preached for the first time in Pescadero, then a part of Santa Cruz County. On the present Lot 20, according to Certificate & Agreement, dated 7 July 1867, construction of the redwood frame church had begun in May 1867. At the building's dedication on 3 December 1867 Rev. J. H. Warren, Agent for the American Home Missionary Society of California & Nevada, revealed that \$1,100 of the \$1,170 construction cost had been donated by anonymous "friends in San Francisco."

Having three churches in a small rural community, which was predominantly Catholic, caused all to struggle financially to survive. Various proposals to consider uniting the two Protestant churches ended in dismal failures.

Following the 1888 stylizing of the local St. Anthony's Church (Catholic) and the prospects for building a Methodist church, the Congregationalists were spurred into attending to the appearance of their church building. In April 1890 member Charles F. Wilson, a local contractor and builder, drew plans for a steeple and by October it was built. The total costs of the 1890 addition, painting, foundation repair, new fence, etc. cost \$556 for which it was necessary to borrow \$200 at 6% from its Trustee member Carl J. Coburn.

After the turn of the century the Congregationalists suffered financial difficulties and in 1918 the property was deeded to the Congregational Church Association of California. The church has since been conducted as its mission. Women members did much to keep the church viable and active. During the depression of the 1930's the minister was co-pastor for the Half Moon Bay Methodist Episcopal Church. It was during this era that the more liberal, ecumenical policy began to develop and the church became a "community church."

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, page two.

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property .37 acres

Quadrangle name San Gregorio, CA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The church occupies Lot 13, acc. to original Town plat, but presently it is referred to as Lot 20 which is combination of Lot 12 (parking area) and 13 (church). They are the first lots south of the creek on the west side

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

of the road. Assessor's No. 086-020-200

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy F. Regnery

organization Junior League of Palo Alto

date 17 March 1980

street & number 488 Westridge Drive

telephone 415-854-5074

city or town Portolá Valley

state California 94025

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 22, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 10-31-80

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 6-3-80

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1980
DATE ENTERED	OCT 31 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET one ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Title: H.A.B.S.

Date: 1975

Federal X

Eligible: No

Depository for Survey Records: Library of Congress

City, State: Washington, D.C.

Title: Junior League of Palo Alto

Date: 1973

County X

Eligible: No

Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.

City, State: San Mateo, California

Title: San Mateo County Historic Sites

Date: 1966

County x

Eligible: No

Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Planning Department

City, State: Redwood City, California

Title: Junior League of San Francisco

Date: 1964

County X

Eligible: No

Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.

City, State: San Mateo, California

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Federal X
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Depository for Survey Records: Library of Congress
City, State: Washington, D.C.

Title: Junior League of Palo Alto
Date: 1973
County X
Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.
City, State: San Mateo, California

Title: Junior League of San Francisco
Date: 1964
County X Eligible: No
Depository for Survey Records: San Mateo County Historical Assoc.
City, State: San Mateo, California

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CONTINUATION SHEET two

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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S. J. Clarke, 1928.
- Congregation Church records. Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California.
- County Newspapers: Times, Times-Gazette, Democrat and Standard.
- Gebhard, David, et al. A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and
Northern California. Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1973.
- Moore & DePue's Illustrated History of San Mateo County. San Francisco:
G. T. Brown, 1878.
- Olmsted, Roger, and T. H. Watkins. Here Today. San Francisco:
Chronicle Books, 1968.
- Regnery, Dorothy F. An Enduring Heritage, Historic Buildings of the
San Francisco Peninsula. Stanford: Stanford University Press,
1976.

NORTH ST

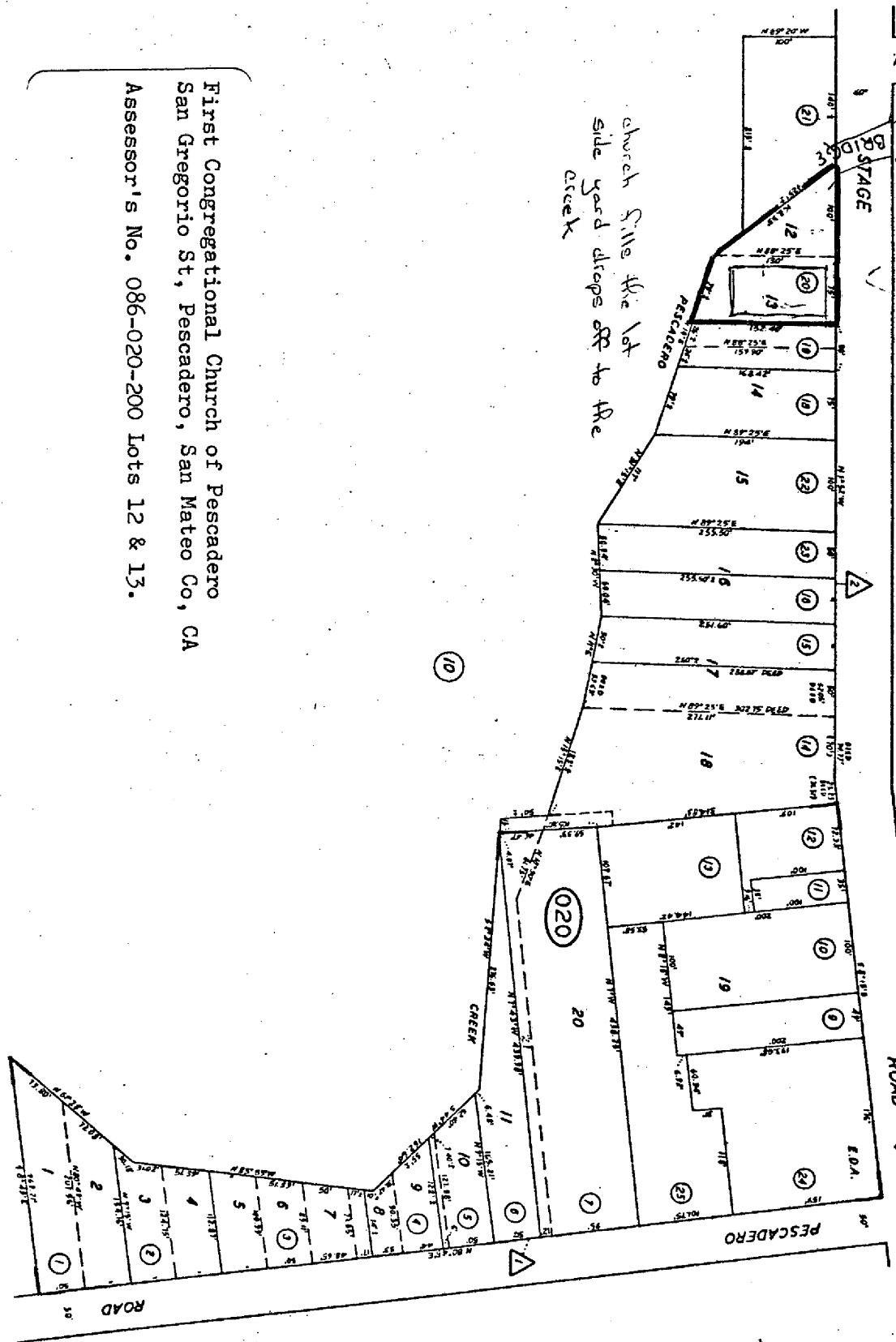
BRIDGE

church fills the lot
side yard drops off to the
creek

First Congregational Church of Pescadero
San Gregorio St, Pescadero, San Mateo Co, CA
Assessor's No. 086-020-200 Lots 12 & 13.

TAX CODE AREA
ZONING - - - - -

86-2



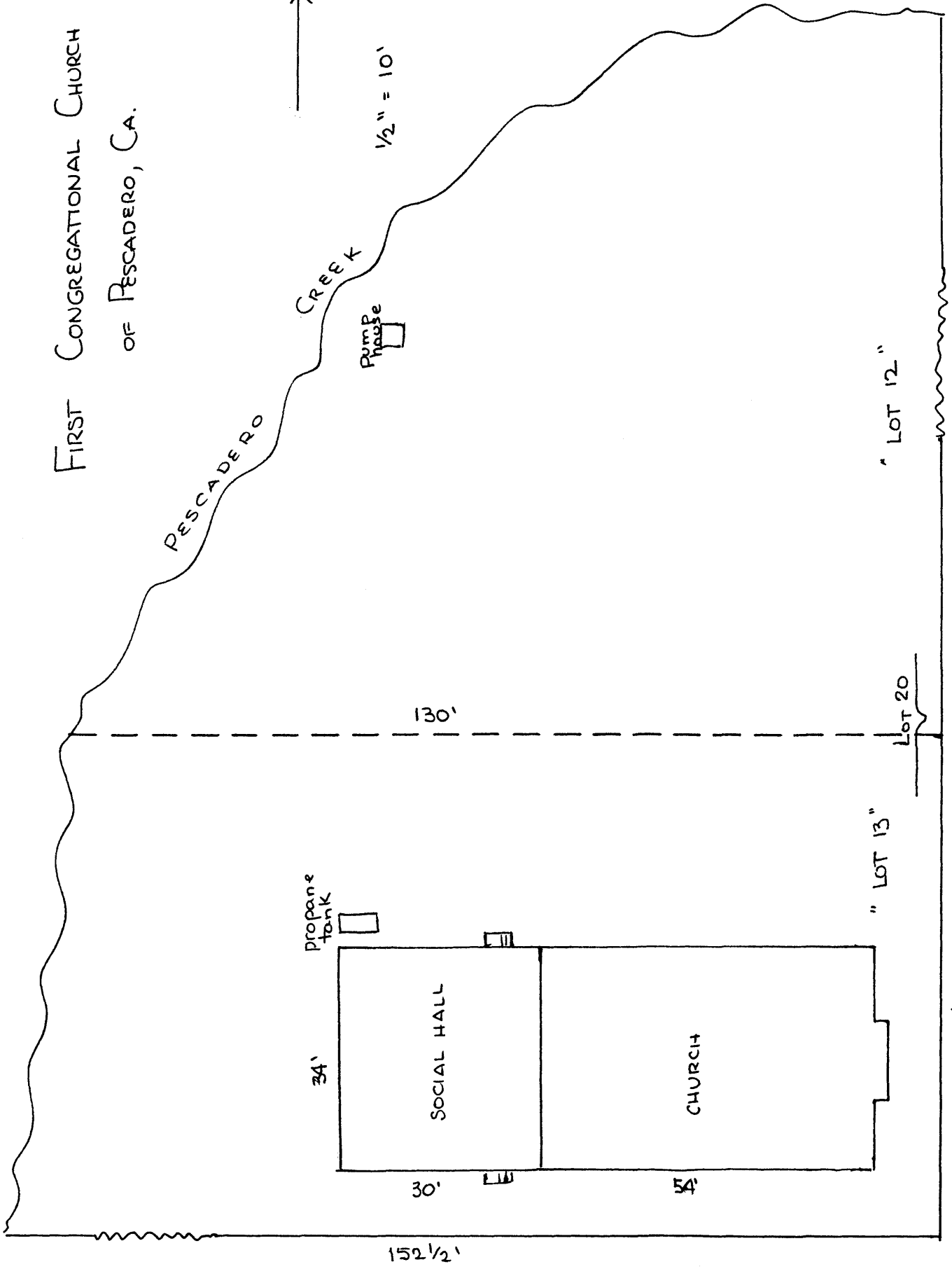
- △ ELVERTON DIAS ADDITION RSM 8/45
 - △ TOWN OF PESCADERO I PATENTS 83
- PESCADERO SCHOOL DISTRICT

ASSESSOR'S MAP COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CALIF.

1819

(5)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF PESCADERO, CA.



$\frac{1}{2}'' = 10'$

PESCADERO
CREEK

Pump
house

130'

" LOT 12 "

" LOT 13 "

Lot 20

BRIDGE

SAN GREGORIO STREET, OR STAGE ROAD

75'

$152\frac{1}{2}'$