

PH0065749

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: San Diego	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
521 E. 8th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
National City

STATE California	CODE 92050	COUNTY: San Diego	CODE 073
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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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Parish of St. Matthew - A non-profit corporation, operating under a charter issued by the Secretary of State of the State of California**

STREET AND NUMBER:
521 E. 8th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **National City** STATE: **California** CODE: **92050** **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of San Diego County

STREET AND NUMBER:
1222 First Street

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

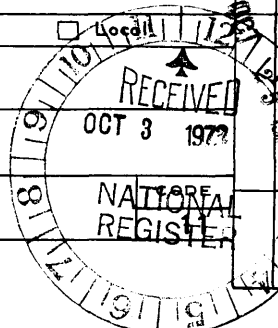
DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington STATE: **D.C.**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **California**
COUNTY: **San Diego**
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DATE: **10/25/73**



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Too late for
just "Gothic"
with

Stick above
too

The architectural style is simple Gothic with strong influence of the English country church. The steep straight gable roof covers the altar, nave and the entrance with a smaller intersecting cross gable occurring at the entrance end. The tall attached side bell tower, octagonal in plan, dominates the composition and is noteworthy in its articulation as well as the unusual "broken" roof line.

The walls are frame with painted board siding laid horizontally above the sill line, vertically below. Window trim are flat boards, painted. Windows, with simple colored glass, are paired. Many are in the form of lansets in rectangular openings, while the main nave windows are paired in rectangular openings.

Trim of flat boarding, reminiscent of half timbering, in gable ends, with lanset patterns used in the tower panels.

Roofs are covered with asphalt shingles (originally wood) and are slightly flaired at the eaves. Turned rafter tails are exposed at the eaves while a simple barge board closes the gable ends.

The design is attributed to Mr. Crocker of Chula Vista and is presumed to have been influenced by pictures of another church, located in England.

The present fabric is in good condition and has been lovingly maintained by the parish.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is of the same appearance now as when it was completed in July of 1887, except for these minor changes:

1. THE ROOF was originally covered with wooden shingles and is now covered with wood-colored composition shingles.
2. FOUNDATION, not very visible, originally made of red brick, replaced with concrete blocks on a continuous poured cement foundation.
3. FRONT PORCH AND STEPS were originally of wood, and have been replaced with poured cement.
4. FIRE DOOR on West side of Church, towards the rear of the building, has been installed to comply with Building Code requirements.
5. WOODEN STEPS to sacristy door have been replaced with a cement ramp, which serves this door and the fire door above. The ramp has been installed to meet Safety Requirements.
6. Electric lights have been installed.
7. Gas space heaters have been installed. Both the electrical wiring and the heaters and their apparatus have been installed in such a manner as to be as unobtrusive as possible.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

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) **7-3-1887**

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/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

HISTORICAL

The beginning of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was the Episcopal Society which was formed in National City on January 30, 1882, and Mr. Frank Kimball, who was the founder of National City, was the Secretary of this society. On May 13 of the same year this society was changed to become St. Matthew's Parish Episcopal Church, and Mr. Kimball remained as the secretary. The Church arranged for services to be held on Sundays, depending upon Priests from San Diego, and meeting at first in homes, and later in 1886, in the Grange Hall.

In 1872 Frank Kimball and his brother, who was associated with him in the development of National City, deeded a piece of property to the St. Matthew's Church. This property was held in trust by the Rev. Wilber. The trust stipulated that the Church should be incorporated under the laws of California, in accordance with the Canon Law of the Episcopal Church, and that the Church was to be built within the City Limits of National City. This property was sold in 1886 for \$20,000.00.

Mr. Elizur Steele donated the site for the Church, where the Church still stands, and the building of the Church was started. There are no records of the cost of the Church, but it was less than the \$20,000.00, because the sum remaining, after the Church was paid for, was invested in real estate in Otay, and was lost in one of the business recessions that followed the building.

The Church was designed by a Mr. Crocker, of Chula Vista, who was inspired by pictures of a small church in the South of England. Newspaper accounts of the dedication of the Church state that the Church was of a Gothic design. The timbers in the Church are of Georgia Pine and the rest of the wood is California Redwood. The necessary millwork for the lumber in the Church was done at Mr. Frank Kimball's sawmill in National City.

The first services were held in St. Matthew's at 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 3, 1887, and the Church was consecrated by Bishops Nichols on October 24, 1890. From the date of the first services until today, services have been held regularly in St. Matthew's Church. The fortunes of the Church have fallen and risen with the economic conditions of the times, but there have always been faithful Laymen and loyal Priests who have kept the doors open.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National City, Pioneer Town, Irene Philips.

Historic American Buildings Survey

AIA Guide/San Diego, San Diego Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1970.

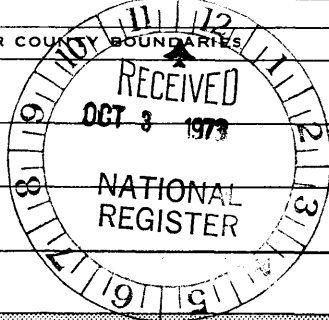
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"
	32	40	40	117	06	01

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.43 acres

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



UTM
11/490560
3615310
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Carolyn M. Ross, Clerk of the Vestry

ORGANIZATION: **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church** DATE: **31 July 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
521 E. 8th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **National City** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: **SEP 11 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: **OCT 25 1973**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **10.17.73**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORICAL (Continued)

As a tribute to those many people who in past years have contributed so much to the success of St. Matthew's, the Vestry of todays feels St. Matthew's Episcopal Church should be designated as a Historical Building.

ARCHITECTURAL QUALITIES

These qualities are unique and beautiful, and are not often seen today. These qualities have been considered sufficient by Historic American Buildings Survey, who have surveyed and recorded the building in their archives. [Enclosed are copies of plates which were prepared by the artist of the above survey, and which illustrate some of these qualities]

CRAFTSMANSHIP

The craftsmanship displayed in the fitting of the wood used in the interior of the Church is a splendid example of a nearly lost craft. The walls are wood half way up, with plaster above, and the open ceiling is all of wood. The wood of the Church was covered with a clear varnish at the time of building, which shows the beautiful grains in the wood, and there is no record, nor do members who have attended this church for over 50 years, recall the interior being refinished. This finish and the patina acquired over the years has given the interior of the Church a warm and mellow appearance.

AGE

St. Matthew's Church building is the oldest remaining church building in National City, and very likely, is the oldest Protestant Church building in San Diego County.

SITE

St. Matthew's Church stands on the site it was erected on in 1887, and there have been no major alterations to the exterior of the building, and only minor alterations to the interior. The building to all intents and purposes is nearly identical to what it was when first erected.

USE

St. Matthew's Church building is used by its congregation for the usual Sunday and Weekday services, and it is shared by a Samoan congregation who hold their Sunday and Weekday services there.

(Continued)

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- 8. A balcony has been built at the south end of the building. This is over the foyer, and is reached by stairs against the east and west walls of the building.
- 9. The Altar, which was originally against the north wall of the building has been moved forward, so there is now passage way all around the Altar. This is keeping with the present day Altar arrangement in the Episcopal Church.
- 10. A pipe organ has been installed, and to provide a place for pipes and other parts of the organ, a false north wall has been built several feet in front of the original wall.
- 11. Original pews have been replaced with more comfortable pews.

It should be noted that St. Matthews was documented by the HABS team in 1970 and is listed as CAL-1959. It also is included in the AIA Guide/San Diego, published in 1970 by the San Diego Chapter, the American Institute of Architects and has been declared a Historic Site by the City of National City.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

LOCAL HISTORICAL EVALUATION

St. Matthew's Church building has been declared a Historical Building by the City Council of National City. A supporting letter from the National City Historical Committee has been included in this presentation. The National City Historical Committee is a citizens advisory committee, assisting the City Council on the matter of sites with historical value in the City.

