HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: St. Louis Catholic Church

2. Historic name, if known: St. Louis Catholic Church

3. Street or rural address: La Grange Road/Floto Road
   City: La Grange                  ZIP: 95360          County: Stanislaus

4. Present owner, if known: St. Mary’s Catholic Church
   Address: 1225 Olive St.
   City: Oakdale, CA               ZIP: 95361          Ownership is: Public [ ] Private [x]

5. Present Use: Occasional church services
   Original Use: Church
   Other past uses: __________________________

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

   A simple mid-nineteenth century vernacular rendition of the Greek Revival. The facade of this wood frame church is delineated with a central pedimented entrance way, corner pilasters and boxed gable end roof. Simple pedimented six over six double hung windows are symmetrically placed on both sides of the building. A small rear addition repeats the classic form and cornice detailing. An original stone foundation is replaced by a concrete foundation.

   The church retains its original setting -- a 19th century cemetery of individual family plots enclosed by elaborate Gothic style cast iron fences. Headstones date back to the mid-nineteenth century.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

   NORTH

8. Approximate property size:
   Lot size (in feet) Frontage 215' x 185'
   Depth ------------
   or approx. acreage ________

9. Condition: (check one)
   a. Excellent [ ] b. Good [x] c. Fair [ ]
   d. Deteriorated [ ] e. No longer in existence [ ]


11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)
   a. Open land [x] b. Scattered buildings [ ]
   c. Densely built-up [ ] d. Residential [ ]
   e. Commercial [ ] f. Industrial [ ]
   g. Other [ ]

12. Threats to site:
   a. None known [x] b. Private development [ ]
   c. Zoning [ ] d. Public Works project [ ]
   e. Vandalism [ ] f. Other [ ]

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 5/3/78
NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

    b. Brick  
    c. Stucco  
    d. Adobe  
    e. Wood  
    f. Other

15. Is the structure: a. On its original site?  
    b. Moved?  
    c. Unknown?

16. Year of initial construction 1854  
    This date is: a. Factual  
    b. Estimated

17. Architect (if known):

18. Builder (if known): People of La Grange

    b. Carriage house  
    c. Outhouse  
    d. Shed(s)  
    e. Formal garden(s)  
    f. Windmill  
    g. Watertower/tankhouse  
    h. Other  
     Cemetary

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

    The St. Louis Catholic Church, dating from 1854, is the oldest church in Stanislaus County, and probably one of the oldest, excluding the Missions, in California. Architecturally it is significant as a venacular Greek Revival structure, and remains as evidence of a style which dotted the towns and hillsides of Gold Rush California.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture  
    b. Arts & Leisure  
    c. Economic/Industrial  
    d. Exploration/Settlement  
    e. Government  
    f. Military  
    g. Religion  
    h. Social/Education

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

23. Date form prepared:  
    By (name):

    Address: ________________________________  
    City ________________________________  
    ZIP: __________

    Phone: ________________________________  
    Organization: ________________________________

    (State Use Only)