

**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 St. John's Episcopal Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 230 Salem Street ___ not for publication

city, town Chico ___ vicinity of congressional district X 1

state California code 06 county Butte code 07

3. 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"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. John's Episcopal Church

street & number 230 Salem Street

city, town Chico ___ vicinity of state California 95926

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Butte County Recorder

street & number 25 County Center Drive

city, town Oroville state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Chico Historic Site Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1979 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records City of Chico Planning Department

city, town Chico state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1912</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. John's Episcopal Church is a picturesque composition of red brick, red shingles, peaked roof and stained glass windows. It occupies a corner lot one block from the center of town at a point of transition between commercial and residential neighborhoods. The property is landscaped with shrubs, several small trees, small areas of lawn, and flowers. The parish house stands on an adjacent lot to the north, but is not included in this nomination because of its relatively recent date of construction (1945).

According to church records, the site for an Episcopal Church was bought in 1899. Groundbreaking occurred on February 1, 1904 at the original site at 5th and Broadway. The building was completed in January of 1905. In July of 1910, the Vestry voted to sell the property to the U. S. Government for the construction of a new post office. The church building remained on its **original site** until 1912, when it **was moved three blocks to its present location** at 3rd and Salem.

St. John's is a T-shaped (or cruciform) type with a flat termination for the choir and transept arms to the west, and a small apse to the east facing Salem Street. The main vessel roof (or the nave and choir) is slightly higher than those of the transept arms. The left (south) arm of the transept is longer than the right (north) arm. A square tower is added to the south east corner of the nave. The fabric is in an excellent condition overall. This is significant considering the relocation involved as mentioned above.

Brick foundation walls are built up to the height of about 2.5 m. from the street level. There is evidence that not all of the original bricks were reused at the time of the relocation. The mortar is typical of the early twentieth century. The lowest courses of the foundation walls are thickened slightly in an inverse corbel or stepped fashion. The square tower is also of brick. The original tower was **lower** than the present one; the date when the height was increased is uncertain, but it was probably at the time of the relocation. The entrance vestibule in the base of the tower has two semicircular arch openings facing east and south. Steps from the east and south to the archways are connected to the landing under the tower, the level of which coincides with that of the interior floor. The tower has two buttresses on the southeast and southwest corners; they are planted at 45° angles with two offsets of granite coping on each buttress. (The buttresses resemble those used in the 13th century Gothic, particularly in England.) The tower is crowned with four corner turrets and a pyramidal spire roof.

Above the foundation walls, the structure is timber with shingle siding for the walls. A veranda-porch runs the entire length of the nave on the north side. A small, pointed doorway leads directly from the porch into the sanctuary. Both the nave and the porch are under one long pitch of the roof. Screens and braces of the upright posts of the porch are decorated with pointed trefoils in a "Carpenter Gothic" fashion. The posts are chamfered at the four corners. The semicircular apse on the east is a pleasant feature of the church. Unlike the semicircular socle wall, the upper portion is a five-sided polygon. Each panel of the polygon is filled with a large pointed trefoil window of wood. The roof over the apse is half-conical.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Windows on all four sides are in multiple lancets (two to three) enclosed within larger pointed arch frames. The lancet shapes are determined by using the principles of intersecting tracery of the 13th to 14th centuries. The window on the south arm of the transept, however, has three lancets divided into two levels by quatrefoil panels, giving a tall appearance (that is somewhat reminiscent of the Perpendicular window).

The nave has three windows on either side, in groups of two lancets within a larger pointed frame. The level of window sill coincides with the top of the foundation walls. All the windows but one (the easternmost window of the south side of the nave) contain original stained glass. The window frames as well as the timber beams and screens of the north porch are all painted white, while the rest of the exterior is covered with red paint.

The level of the interior floor is much higher than the street level. The interior is one unobstructed, cruciform space from the nave to choir with transept projections providing a volume to the choir and the small apse to the east. (The apse contains the original alabaster marble font standing on an octagonal shaft with flamboyant trumpet moulding for the base.) As there are no side aisles, the nave space is a simple rectangle with rows of pews, which are decorated with Gothic details. The ceiling is open timber rafterworks with double braces rising up to the tie beams, which in turn support the king posts and diagonal struts for the rafters. The crown beam is doubled, and continuous from the nave to choir.

Unlike the strong red and white contrast of the exterior, the interior glows with a rustic amber quality of light especially with the late afternoon sun streaming into the church.

The original altarscreen built flush against the termination wall on the west is Gothic Revival with a series of pointed arches decorating the frontal, but the upper part is enclosed by pilasters of the Tuscan order on either side.

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

Specific dates 1904–05, 1912

Builder/Architect Arthur B. Benton

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

St. John's Episcopal Church is significant to the local community under Criterion C as an example of its type and period, and as the work of a master architect. The building is a sophisticated design statement which demonstrates the architect's skillful integration of Gothic Revival and Shingle Style elements; the high quality of its design and workmanship set it apart as an outstanding example of ecclesiastical architecture of the period.

The building was designed by Arthur B. Benton, an important California architect at the turn of the century. Benton's practice was located in Los Angeles, and most of his work was executed in Southern California. He was one of the state's leading proponents of the Mission Revival, designing a number of important buildings in the style, including the state's grandest surviving example, the Mission Inn in Riverside. He designed numerous public and private buildings in Southern California, including the second Arlington Hotel in Santa Barbara (which was destroyed in the 1925 earthquake), the Mary Andrews Clark Memorial Home in Los Angeles, the Arrowhead Springs Hotel near San Bernardino, the country estate ("Anoakia") of Anita Baldwin at Santa Anita, and the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. In addition, Benton was engaged by the Episcopal Church to design a number of churches in California. His designs show the architect's skill at working in a "picturesque" mode. His Episcopal churches convey the feeling of English country parish churches; they are charming, yet sophisticated, utilizing Gothic Revival elements in combination with redwood shingles, stone and brick. His design for St. John's Episcopal Church in Chico shares many similarities with his noted All Saints by the Sea (1900) which still exists in the Southern California community of Montecito. The architectural significance of St. John's is recognized in the authoritative guidebook, A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, which states, "Almost invariably the most distinguished 19th century church in Northern California towns is the Episcopal. This brick and shingle Gothic Revival structure with Eastlake details follows the rule."

St. John's Episcopal Church was first organized as a mission on May 1, 1896. Services were held in the Masonic Hall. In 1899, the church had raised enough money to purchase a site for the construction of its own building. Funds were raised for the new building, and construction began on February 1, 1904. The opening service was held on January 1, 1905. On October 15, 1910, the church was incorporated as a parish under the name, "The Church of St. John the Evangelist." Two years later, the building was moved from its original site to make way for the construction of a new post office. St. John's was rededicated in 1912 on its present site, where it still continues to serve the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Dennis Berkla, 19th Century Chico, Chico, 1977.
 David Gebhard, et. al., A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City, 1976.
 Henry F. & Elise R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased, Los Angeles, 1956.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.13 acre
 Quadrangle name Chico, California Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are drawn to encompass the limits of the lot occupied by the building since 1912. Lot is 66' x 86' at the west corner of West Third and Salem Streets in the City of Chico, Butte County, California. Assessor's Parcel Number 004-06-1-007.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy J. Hill (St. John's Episcopal Church)
Giovanna Jackson & Yoshio Kusaba (Dept. of Art, CSUC)
 organization Chico Historic Preservation Ad-hoc Committee date March, 1980 (OHP Staff Revision March 1981)
 street & number P. O. Box 3278 telephone (916) 342-8461, 895-5859
 city or town Chico state California 95927

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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 1/24/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: [Signature]
 Chief of Register

RECEIVED

JAN 27 1962

NATIONAL REGISTER

CITY OF CHICO T. 22N. R. 1E. N.D.B.G.M.

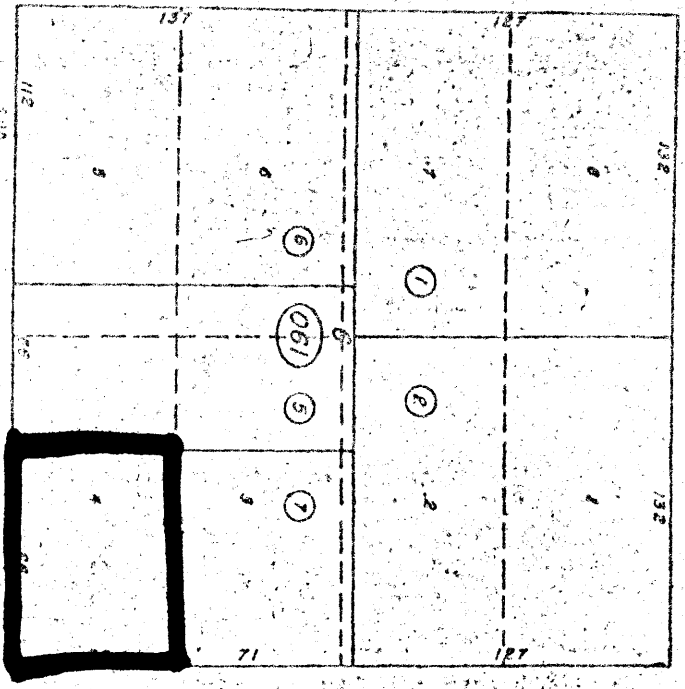
(05)

For Area Code 2-01

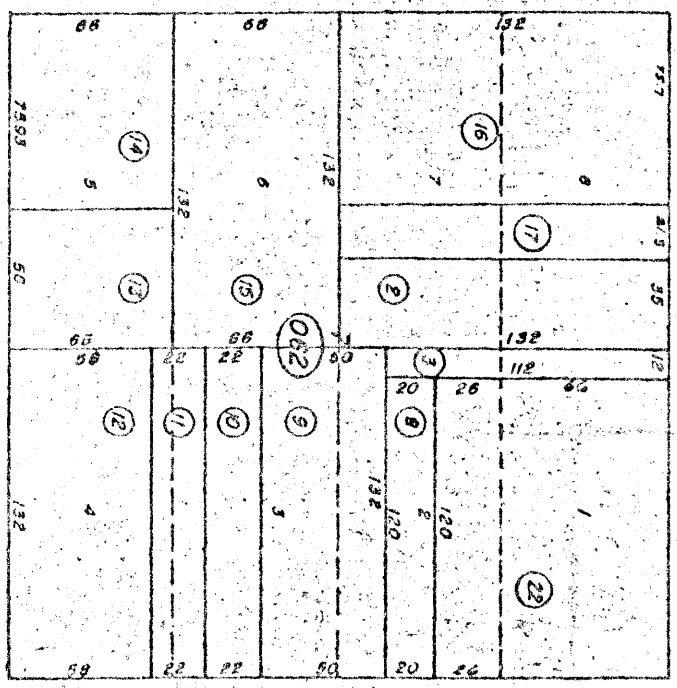
4-06

WEST SECOND

ST. 82.5



SALEM ST. 82.5



BROADWAY ST. 82.5

CITY OF CHICO N.O.R. WALL MAP NO. 11

(13)

NOTE-ASSESSOR'S PARCEL LOCK & LOT NUMBERS SHOWN IN CIRCLES

Assessor's Map No. 4-06

County of Butte, Calif. March, 1954