United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places **DRAFT** Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property	
historic name Harmony Grove Church	
other names/site number Harmony Grove Methodist Episcopal Church	
2. Location	
street & number 11455 East Locke Road	N/A
city or town Lockeford	_ vicinity
state California code CA county San Joaquin code	zip code <u>077</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,	
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meet for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the proceed requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:	a. I recommend that this property
national statewidelocal	
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	<u> </u>
July State of Co. m.y. ng C. mount in the Co. mount in th	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official Date	
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Gr	overnment
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the N	lational Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National	Register
other (explain:)	
Signature of the Kopper	

(Expires 5/31/2012)
San Joaquin, California
County and State

National Park Service / National Register	of Historic Places Registration Fo
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018
Harmony Grove Church	
Name of Property	<u> </u>

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)		urces within Propusly listed resources in	
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
private	X building(s)	1	1	buildings
X public - Local	district			_ sites
public - State	site			_ structures
public - Federal	structure object	1	1	_ objects Total
	03,000.	·	·	
Name of related multiple pro Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a		Number of contri	ibuting resources onal Register	previously
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Function (Enter categories from		
Religion: Religious facility		Community Hall, F	Religious Facility	
7. Description		N - 4 - 12 - 1		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions.)	
Greek Revival/Gothic Revival		foundation: Cor	ncrete	
		walls: Brick		
		roof: Composit	ion	
		other: Glass		
Narrative Description				
(See continuation sheet)				

Harmony Grove Church

Name of Property

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8. Sta	atement of Significance	
	icable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
	"x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property tional Register listing.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
	5	Early Settlement
X	significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	Religion
	history.	Architecture
	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
x	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or	
<u> </u>	represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance
	and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1859-1918
	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
		1859, Laying of Cornerstone
		1861, Completion of Church
0-11-	ata Osmat Israeltsus	1868, Remodeling of Church
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Cinnificant Paran
Pron	erty is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Пор	orty io.	(complete only in official 2 to marked above.)
X	A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
E	3 removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
	2 a hirthalaga ar graya	N/A
\vdash	a birthplace or grave.	
	D a cemetery.	
	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
		John Brakeman, contractor
H F	a commemorative property.	James Tallmadge, builder and brick mason
	less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The period of significance for the church dates from the laying of the cornerstone in 1859, through its completion in 1861, the 1868 Gothic Revival remodeling, and its final abandonment as a church in 1918.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

According to the 1938 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) recordation, the Harmony Grove Church is one of the few extant examples of the fusion of Greek and Gothic Revival styles in California.

Statement of Significance (See continuation sheet)

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NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Downing, Andrew J. The Architecture of Country Houses. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1850.

Gordon, Gary Louis. *An Investigation into the History and Preservation of Harmony Grove Church, Lockeford, California*. Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Art at Sacramento State College, California, 1971.

Locke, Delia. Daily Journal of Delia Locke, 1855-1928. 15 vols. Unpublished Journal, Locke House, Lockeford, California.

Kirker, Harold. California's Architectural Frontier, Style and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century. Salt Lake City; Gibbs M., Smith, Inc., Peregrine Smith Books, 1986.

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Wakefield, Mae. History of the Harmony Grove Church. Lodi, paper compiled for the Methodist Church Fiftieth Anniversary, 1912.

Woodbridge, Sally B. California Architecture. Historic American Buildings Survey. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1988.

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested) previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #				ry location of additional tate Historic Preservation bther State agency ederal agency ocal government Iniversity bther of repository:		
assigr	,	umber (if				
10. G	eographical Data					
	ge of Property One include previously listed res	e acre ource acreage.)				
•	References additional UTM references or	n a continuation sheet.)				
1 <u>10</u> Zoi	659,895 ne Easting	4,223,529 Northing	3 Zone	Easting	Northing	
2 Zoi	ne Easting	Northing	4 Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

APN 050-160-16. The area that has historically been associated with the church and its surrounding landscape.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the parcel historically associated with the church, minus the cemetery which is now separately owned.

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Name of Property

name/title Judith Marvin

organization Foothill Resources, Ltd. date 15 May 2010

street & number P.O. Box 2040 telephone 209/728-1408

city or town Murphys state CA zip code 95247

e-mail judithmarvin@goldrush.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Harmony Grove Church

City or Vicinity: 11455 East Locke Road, Lockeford

County: San Joaquin State: California

Photographer: Judith Marvin

Date Photographed: January 26, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Overview of church and grounds, camera facing southwest

1 of _9__.

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 6. Primary south façade and east elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 7. #2 of 9
- 6. Main entrance, south elevation, camera facing north.
- 7. #3 of 9
- 6. Northwest corner of church, camera facing southeast.
- 7. #4 of 9
- 6. Rear wall of church, camera facing southwest.

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NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018
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- 7. #5 of 9
- 6. Window detail, camera facing west.
- 7. #6 of 9
- 6. Interior view of church, camera facing north.
- 7. #7 of 9
- 6. Church organ in northeast corner, camera facing northeast.
- 7 #8 of 9
- 6. Church stove on east wall, camera facing east.
- 7. #9 of 9

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
Name San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation	
street & number 11793 N. Micke Grove Road	telephone <u>209/953-8800</u>
city or town Lodi	state CA zip code 95240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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DESCRIPTION

Summary

The cornerstone for the Harmony Grove Methodist Church, believed to be the first and oldest surviving Protestant church in California's Central Valley, was laid in 1859, with completion in 1861. Constructed originally in the Greek Revival Style, it was remodeled in 1868 in the Gothic Revival Style, abandoned in 1918, and restored in 1973. The church is a one-story brick building with a medium-pitched front gable roof, arched Gothic Revival windows, and a central Gothic arched entry on the primary south façade. It is one of the few extant examples of the fusion of Greek and Gothic Revival styles in California, with the windows altered to the pointed Gothic Revival style in 1868. The church is located at 11455 East Locke Road, Lockeford, San Joaquin County, California. It faces south towards Locke Road, on a one-acre site, surrounded by a cemetery to the north rear and east side elevations.

Exterior Description

The church is a single-story brick Greek and Gothic Revival building with a rectangular mass. Originally constructed in the Greek Revival style, it was remodeled in 1868 in the Gothic Revival style, with features of both styles extant on the exterior. The building has a medium-pitch front-gable roof covered with composition shingles. At the time of the 1868 remodeling, the roof was raised nine feet above the ridge of the original. The 1859 tarpaper roof was replaced with wood shingles in the 1868 remodeling, and replaced by a corrugated metal roof sometime prior to 1908.

The walls are of brick, locally quarried and fired, and affixed with lime mortar. The original brick foundation was fortified with a concrete slab floor in 1973. The building measures approximately 30 feet wide by 46 feet deep, and 20 feet to the ridge of the gable. The primary south façade has three bays, a modified pedimented temple front with four brick pilasters, simplified entablature, and dentil course. Entry is via modern double metal doors, centrally located on the primary façade, beneath a Gothic pointed trefoil arch window with five lights. Brick steps, with a modern metal railing, lead to the doorway.

The brick was made locally, by Chinese in one of the brick yards on the ranch of pioneer settler Dr. D.J. Locke. The bricks are of good quality, but vary in size, with the average size eight and one-half inches long, four inches wide, and two inches high. They range form a red-orange to a red hue and are 13 inches thick. The coloring and coursing of the bricks in the pointed arches over the door and windows is a darker red and less refined than the original brickwork, as is the brickwork in the pediment. Marble slabs were placed on both base corners of the front elevation; the slab to the right of the door being the cornerstone.

The dentil cornice and plain entablature continue around the side and rear elevations, broken by the pointed arches above the windows and door. Fenestration on the east and west elevations consists of three lancet clear glass windows, 6/6 light frame double hung sash beneath 2 lights in the pointed arch. Wood frame shutters are not original, but added for security purposes during the restoration.

Interior Description

The interior of the church has been totally restored, as the building was partially gutted in 1965 in anticipation of demolition. Its restoration, however, was based upon extensive architectural documentation conducted by Gary Gordon for his 1971 Masters' Thesis in Art at Sacramento State College (now University), and involved personal

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examination of the building, photographs, sketches, and drawings. Enough of the flooring and wainscoting remained, however, to replace it accurately. The main room, or sanctuary, is 28 by 36 feet, with the vestibule doors opening to the south. Small rooms are located to either side of the vestibule, probably for book storage and coats, and connected to the vestibule with dwarf walls. Flooring consisted of ¾" by 5 ½" fir tongue and groove on 2" by 8" floor joists. The original doors were no longer extant, but replaced with metal double doors during the 1973 restoration for security purposes.

The height of the walls is 16 feet, 8 inches, plastered above a redwood wainscoting 42 inches high. Wainscoting was originally painted in a blonde wood tone, but green in color when recorded in 1971. Wallpaper in the sanctuary appeared to date to a minor refurbishing sometime between 1900 and 1910, possibly when the wainscoting was repainted. The redwood double-hung cased window sash frames are eight feet, six inches high and three inches wide, with the pointed arch portion 34 inches high, with an overall height of 12 ½ feet. All windows were evidently of clear glass.

Furnishings in the interior of the church were devoid of any decoration. Plain wooden pews faced a raised platform and pulpit. A wood-burning cast iron stove which heated the building was removed but has since been located and reinstalled on the east wall. Kerosene or oil lamps probably lighted the building, as indicated by a ceiling hook. An organ was purchased in the early 1870s, and has also been restored to the building. A communion set, purchased from the Meriden Company of Connecticut in 1868, consists of a goblet, two plates, and a wine pitcher. Electric reproduction oil lamps, hanging from long chains, now provide light to the interior of the building. Simple wood pews face the raised platform, and historic photographs and photographs of the restoration line the walls.

The church faces south towards Locke Road, flanked by Italian cypress trees and foundation shrubbery, with a lawn in front. The cemetery, which dates to the founding of the church, surrounds it on the rear and east elevations.

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SIGNIFICANCE Statement of Significance Summary

The Harmony Grove Church is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Early Settlement and Religion. Believed to be the oldest extant church in California's Central Valley, the congregation was an outgrowth of a Sunday School established in 1854. Promotion of the church began in the late 1850s by the Reverend M.C. Briggs and the Reverend Sharp. The cornerstone was laid in 1859 by the Reverend C.W. Curry who served the Methodist Episcopal Circuit in the area. Completed in 1861, the church was remodeled in 1868, lost most of its congregation to a new church in the community of Lockeford in 1883, but struggled on for a few more years until regular services were discontinued. The church is also significant under Criterion C at the local level for its associations with the Greek and Gothic Revival architectural styles. The building embodies the characteristics of both styles, and is an excellent and rare surviving example of an early Protestant brick church in San Joaquin County and California's Great Central Valley.

Historical Context

The town of Lockeford is located in Elliott Township in eastern San Joaquin County, laid out three years after the formation of the county in 1850. Lockeford was named for the farm or ranch of Dr. Dean J. Locke, born in New Hampshire in 1823. Locke attended Harvard Medical School, and came to California in 1849 as the surgeon of the Boston and Newton Joint Stock Association. After practicing medicine in Sacramento and engaging in mining at Mississippi Bar on the American River with his brother George for a few months, the brothers came to the Mokelumne River in December of 1850, where their brother Elmer had already settled.

Locke settled on land reputedly claimed by the Pyle/Pile family, who sold to David Jackson Staples. With his brother Elmer, in 1851 Dr. Locke purchased 330 acres of land from Staples for \$360. Two other friends, Capt. G. C. Holman and Charles Massack, each also purchased 160 acres from Staples. In 1851, the Lockes erected a log cabin, known as "Bachelors Hall," on a knoll in the river bottom, where they resided until Dr. Locke built his fine home in 1855. Locke operated a ford there, hence the name "Locke's Ford," and the eventual name Lockeford, bestowed upon the town by Dr. Locke's wife Delia in 1859. Dr. Locke was very influential in the development of the new town, and was especially involved in the organization of schools, churches, and temperance societies.

George Locke was also part owner of the steamer *Pert* that plied the Mokelumne River at high water between San Francisco and Lockeford. The Locke brothers and other town founders envisioned the town becoming the head of navigation on the Mokelumne River, and The Mokelumne Steam Navigation Company was soon organized, carrying on some business for a few years. The scattering of the mining population, and the later advent of the railroad, ultimately ended all navigation on the Mokelumne River by 1865.

Located about one and one-half miles southwest of the community of Lockeford, the Harmony Grove Church was established on the ranch of David Jackson and Mary Staples. The couple, natives of Massachusetts, was married in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Newton Upper falls in 1848. The following year D.J. Staples and a company of men in Boston formed the Boston Newton Joint Stock Association (with Dr. Locke as physician) to purchase and ship much-needed supplies to the California gold fields. Arriving in San Francisco in September of 1849, the eight remaining men sold their ship and headed for the Southern Mines. They then began packing supplies and merchandise from Stockton to the mines, passing by the land of John Laird and John Pyle. In February of 1850, D.J. Staples and Company purchased the land of Laird and Pyle, where they established a ranch which became a stopping place for a newly established stage line between Sacramento and Stockton. A post office

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was soon established, and Staples Ferry over the Mokelumne River became an important route to the mines. At this time the Staples Ranch consisted of a cloth and frame structure school house, a hotel, general store, and the ferry, serving as a community center for the surrounding farms and ranches.

Church History

The first sermon in this part of the country was preached by the Reverend S.C. Simonds in the post office room on the Staples ranch. A year later, the Reverend H.B. Sheldon of the Methodist Episcopal Church began holding services in a large oak tree near the house. Organization of the first Sunday School took place in 1854, with classes held in the cloth school house. Instruction and management were conducted by Mrs. Staples and Mrs. G.C. Holman, assisted by the public school teacher, Mr. A.A. Wheelock. Organized as a union (non-denominational) Sunday School, children traveled from as far away as 15 miles to attend Sunday afternoon classes. In 1857 Sunday School moved into the new octagon school house, located closer to the Locke ranch. The circuit ministers who visited the Sunday School represented several denominations, sometimes with two services running consecutively, but primarily either Methodist Episcopal or Presbyterian.

The Methodist Episcopal Church membership was organized in the winter of 1858 by the Reverend M.C. Briggs, presiding Elder of the district, and the Reverend Sharp of Ione City in Amador County. As the ministers changed so often, Mrs. Locke objected to the practice, and the original congregation was formed by three persons: Benjamin Wallace and Mr. and Mrs. John Brakeman. Soon thereafter, the Reverend C.W. Curry, serving the circuit at Staples Ranch as successor to the Reverend Sharp and aided by the Methodist Society, began promoting the erection of a church building. Mr. and Mrs. Staples donated a ten-acre parcel of land on their ranch for a church, parsonage, and cemetery, and the Reverend Curry undertook the promotion of fund raising and of the recruitment for local citizens to donate their time toward construction.

Construction for the church began before the winter of 1858, under the supervision of charter member John Brakeman, and built by brickmason James Talmadge with bricks furnished by Dr. Locke from one of his brickyards. The cornerstone was laid on May 18, 1859, filled with current newspapers, pieces of coin, and some documents relative to the church and Sabbath School. Built by public subscription at a cost of \$6,000, the church took over two years to complete, with members giving five dollars per child in addition to previous subscriptions. A library of 200 volumes was collected to be housed in the church, and the Mokelumne River Ladies Sewing Circle changed its name to the Ladies Library Association, presenting a pulpit Bible and hymnal for the church dedication.

The name Harmony Grove originated from the name of the town of New Harmony, Indiana, the home town of Edward Tretheway, an early church member, and added to the "oak grove" in which the church was erected. In 1860 a one-year old girl was buried and a portion of the property became a cemetery. The church was finished and dedicated on June 30, 1861, with a dedicatory prayer and afternoon message. The previous day the title for the church was transferred by the Staples to the trustees of the Harmony Grove Church, with the stipulations that the property must forever remain in use for the church and cemetery and be maintained by the Methodist Episcopal Church. With the Sunday School moving to the church and in charge of the Methodists, the Congregationalist Locke Family and other members formed a Congregational Sunday School. The present Grace Congregational Church was erected on Elliott Road in 1869, on land donated by the Locke family.

In the years 1866-1867, the church was served by the Reverend Wassen Oliver, who held a religious revival during his second year which resulted in a large number of new members. As a result of the enlarged membership, the brick church was remodeled. A new roof was put on and changes made to the windows and door, resulting in

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the Gothic Revival style of the building, and a new communion set was purchased.

By the late 1860s, the population of Staples Ferry and the surrounding area had moved to the Locke family's new town of Lockeford, leaving the Harmony Grove Church somewhat isolated. Being the largest facility in the area, however, it continued to be used by the community for meetings, public school exercises, regular church services, Christmas festivals, and quarterly church meetings. In September of 1873, Harmony Grove became a separate charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the charge of the Reverend Belknap who had charge of three churches.

A second local Methodist Church was completed and dedicated in Lockeford in June of 1883, as it was anticipated that it would serve more people, being more centrally located in the community. The Harmony Grove Church continued to serve a small congregation for several years before regular Sunday services were discontinued. Funerals were held there as late as 1918, however, before the pews were sold and the building used for storage. Some furnishings were preserved and later returned to the church after restoration.

In 1965 the church and four acres of land were sold by the Northern California-Nevada Methodist Conference to a Lodi building contractor who intended to build houses on the site and use the brick in their construction. With the property in escrow, the Lockeford area residents waged a campaign for its preservation, circulating a petition, which gathered about 2,000 signatures, requesting that the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors designate the church as a county historical landmark to be maintained by the county. Significant contributions for restoration from the citizens of Lockeford and Clements, as well as a sizeable allocation from the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, resulted in the restoration of the church and the replanting of the grounds as they appeared in a 1908 photograph. A Ceremony of Restoration was held on May 27, 1973, and the building is now maintained by the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Department and rented out for use as a community hall, weddings, funerals, and Sunday church services.

Statement of Significance

The Harmony Grove Church is significant under Criterion A, as it is believed to be the oldest surviving church in the Great Central Valley of California, and serves as a visible link to the heritage of eastern San Joaquin County. The first school house, Sunday School, and social organization began there, and, although Staples Ferry is long gone, descendents of many of the original families continue to reside in the area and to use the church for meetings, services, and the cemetery for burials. The Staples and Locke families, who were involved in the Sunday School and church in its early years, were pioneer settlers in the area and important local businessmen whose names remain on the California landscape of today.

Under Criterion C, the Harmony Grove Church is one of a few extant examples of the fusion of Greek and Gothic Revival architectural styles in California. Built of brick quarried and fired locally by Chinese, and constructed by local builders and carpenter, it retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to its period of significance (1859-1916) to a remarkable degree. Although not the work of a master, it represents a significant and distinguishable entity that reflects the building practices of its era and of the community of Lockeford, a vernacular interpretation that does not conform to pure academic categories, combining elements from different design types. A more reduced and simplified form of decorative treatment is displayed compared to high-style examples. However, no matter how ambiguous the church may appear in terms of style, it is, nonetheless, an accurate reflection of taste at the time of its construction and remodeling as well as an important indication of the building techniques and materials of its day.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY

- 1. Harmony Grove Church
- 2. 11455 East Locke Road, Lockeford
- 3. San Joaquin County, California
- 4. Judith Marvin
- 5. January 26, 2010
- 6. Harmony Grove Church, overview of church and grounds, camera facing northwest.
- 7. #1 of 9

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 6. Primary south façade and east elevation, camera facing northwest.
- 7. #2 of 9
- 6. Main entrance, south elevation, camera facing north.
- 7. #3 of 9
- 6. Northwest corner of church, camera facing southeast.
- 7. #4 of 9
- 6. Rear wall of church, camera facing southwest.
- 7. #5 of 9
- 6. Window detail, camera facing west.
- 7. #6 of 9
- 6. Interior view of church, camera facing north.
- 7. #7 of 9
- 6. Church organ in northeast corner, camera facing northeast.
- 7. #8 of 9
- 6. Church stove on east wall, camera facing east.
- 7. #9 of 9