UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Mariposa
ENTRY DATE: DEC 12 1973

1. NAME
COMMON: Yosemite Valley Chapel
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Yosemite Valley 200 Creek Rd
CITY OR TOWN: Yosemite National Park
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
STATE: California

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
DISTRICT | BUILDING
SITE | STRUCTURE
OBJECT
OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
PRESERVATION WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
Yes:
No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
AGRICULTURAL
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUSEUM
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
RELIGIOUS
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)
COMMENTS

4. AGENCY
National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: California

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Box 577
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: California

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Buildings Inventory, NPS
DATE OF SURVEY: 1961
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Yosemite National Park
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: California
This board and batten, steep roofed building was erected in 1879 as a chapel. It was a simple structure, small in size and with a steeple. Since its building, the chapel has been enlarged with the addition of rear rooms. It is now L-shaped. It was moved from its original site at the beginning of the Four Mile Trail in 1901 to its present location, and at that time it was apparently placed on a stone foundation. Around 1965 this foundation was raised about 3 feet to its present height. The building contains 1,470 square feet.

The chapel, which seats 250, was sponsored by the California State Sunday School Association and built at a cost of three to four thousand dollars. Funds were raised by voluntary donation from children and prominent members of the Association.

Mr. Charles Geddes, a leading architect of San Francisco, made and presented the plans. The building was erected by Mr. E. Thompson of San Francisco in the summer of 1879.

The organ was donated in memory of Miss Florence Hutchings, the first white child born in Yosemite, who died September 22, 1881.

The chapel was established for the free use of persons of every faith and has been in continuous use since its dedication.

Boundary:

Begin at Benchmark 3965 (500' SW of Sentinel Bridge) travel 200° for 400', then 302° for 100', then 32° for 100', then 32° for 100', then 122° for 100' then 212° for 100'.

Significance: 2nd Order

Acreage: 1.0 acre

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: When accomplished, the Historic Resource Study for Yosemite National Park may indicate the need for a Historic Structure Preservation Guide for the Yosemite Valley Chapel.
### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [X] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [X] Architecture
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

2nd Order

This chapel, now the oldest building in Yosemite, was erected in 1879 as a chapel and has been used as such since that time. It is still used for church services on Sunday.

The simple architectural design of the structure represents a particularly fine example of the early chapels constructed in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is well preserved.

2. In the Heart of the Sierras, J. M. Hutchings, 1886

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>° 44' 28&quot;</td>
<td>° 35' 28&quot;</td>
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<td>° 44' 28&quot;</td>
<td>° 35' 28&quot;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>° 44' 28&quot;</td>
<td>° 35' 28&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** (Class VI)

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>Mariposa</td>
<td>043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian**

**October 1971**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**November 2, 1973**

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**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

**Associate Director, Professional Services**

**December 2, 1973**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**December 12, 1973**
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Common: Yosemite Valley Chapel)

And/or Historic:

Location:

Street and Number: Yosemite Valley
City or Town: Yosemite National Park
State: California

Photo Reference:

Photo Credit: F. R. Holland, Jr.
Date of Photo: Oct. 1971
Negative Filed At: HHA-WSC, San Francisco

Identification:

Describe View, Direction, Etc.: View of front and side.

Property of the National Register