
Register of the Harmony Grove Church (Lockeford, Calif.) Restoration Papers, 1967-1996

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Collection number: Mss288

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Descriptive Summary

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corporate name

Harmony Grove State Historic Park (Lockeford, Calif.)

subject

Methodist church buildings -California -Lockeford

Historic buildings -Conservation and restoration

Lockeford (Calif.) -History

San Joaquin County (Calif.) -History

Biography

In 1965, a century-old abandoned Methodist Episcopal Church, located at Harmony Grove Cemetery near Lockeford, Calif., faced demolition after a developer purchased the land.. Recognizing the historical significance of the structure and

property, many interested people, including members of the Lockeford-Clements Woman's Club, successfully circulated a petition both to stop development and to restore the old brick church. The Lockeford-Clements Woman's Club received state and national citations for spearheading the campaign to save the church. In September 1967 County Supervisors and property owner, Lloyd Dawson of Lodi, reached an agreement whereby Dawson deeded the church and part of the surrounding property to San Joaquin County, retaining a portion for cemetery purposes under the condition that restoration would be started within five years or the land would be returned to him. The County Parks & Recreation Department, working with the San Joaquin County Historical Society, set up a trust fund, obtained Federal monies and restored the Harmony Grove Church and grounds. The restored building was dedicated in 1973. An annual "Homecoming" and open house take place at the old church serving as a reminder of the church's heritage and the remarkable efforts made to save it. The papers in this collection document the activities and people who undertook the mission to save the Harmony Grove Church.

Scope and Content

The Harmony Grove Church Restoration Papers consist of correspondence, reports, clippings, architect's drawings and unpublished histories pertaining to the restoration of the Harmony Grove Church, Lockeford, Calif. (1967-1996).

BOX 1: HARMONY GROVE CHURCH COLLECTION

- 1.1: **PETITION to preserve and restore HG Church, 1965-66**
- 1.2: **CORRESPONDENCE: Lockeford/Clements Woman's Club 1967-1969**
- 1.3: **CORRESPONDENCE: Misc. Correspondence, memos, progress reports, 1968-1974**
- 1.4: **Do., 1975-1976**
- 1.5: **Do., 1977-1990**
- 1.6: **Do., undated**
- 1.7: **HARMONY GROVE CHURCH TRUST FUND:**
 - a-Resolution, 1966
 - b-Policy re: use of HG Endowment Trust.
 - c- Solicitation letter.
- 1.8: **HARMONY GROVE CHURCH TRUST FUND: Deposit Receipts and Donor lists.**
- 1.9: **HARMONY GROVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (aka HG Church Committee): Minutes, 1974-1975**
- 1.10: **Do., 1976-1979**
- 1.11: **Do., 1984-1989**
- 1.12: **Do., 1991-1996**
- 1.13: **Lester Gann application to construct church at corner of Tretheway & Brandt Rd**
- 1.14: **ARCHITECT PLANS/RENDERINGS: Patio**
- 1.15: **ARCHITECT PLANS/RENDERINGS: Plantings/landscaping**
- 1.16: **ARCHITECT PLANS/RENDERINGS: Restroom**
- 1.17: **ARCHITECT PLANS/RENDERINGS: Storage areas**
- 1.18: **CHURCH FURNISHINGS, 1974-1976 & Piano, 1994**
- 1.19: **HOMECOMING PROGRAMS: 1973-1995**
- 1.20: **HOMECOMING PROGRAMS: Music Used (mostly undated)**
- 1.21: **PHOTOGRAPHS**
 - a-dedication ceremony (1973) [5 b/w 8 x 10]
 - b-church & grounds before restoration [2 b/w 3 x 5]
 - c-church w/ committee members, etc. [8 color 3 x 5]
 - d-flowers on grave [1 b/w 5 x 7]
- 1.22: **PRESS RELEASES, 1973-1978.**
- 1.23: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: 1960's**
- 1.24: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: 1970's**
- 1.25: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: 1980-88**
- 1.26: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: 1989-90**
- 1.27: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: 1991 -**
- 1.28: **CLIPPINGS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: undated**
- 1.29: **SCRAPBOOKS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: white oversize**
- 1.30: **SCRAPBOOKS re Church history, homecomings, etc.: green oversize**

- 1.31: **SCRAPBOOKS** re Church history, homecomings, etc.: scrapbook inventories
[prepared by Peggy Engh]
- 1.32: **HARMONY GROVE CEMETERY**
 - a-Records maintenance report
 - b-Plot maps
 - c-History
 - d-Letterhead
- 1.33: **Materials pertaining to Church operated as State Historic Site: San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Department Parks and Areas descriptions & brochures**
- 1.34: **Materials pertaining to Church operated as State Historic Site: Site Tour Guide**
- 1.35: **Materials pertaining to Church operated as State Historic Site: Inventory Procedures & Criteria**
- 1.36: **EARLY HISTORIES OF CHURCH:**
 - a-Edna S. Pierce. "History of Grace Church of Lockeford," 1961.
 - b-May Wakefield. "History of Harmony Grove Methodist Church," 1912.
 - c-Mrs. Chas. Wakefield. [Untitled talk prepared for Lockeford Woman's Club], 1920.
 - d-"David J. Staples" [Possibly by a member of the Hammond-Locke family].
 - e-Mrs. N.H. Locke. "Early Landmarks," n.d.
 - f-Mrs. H.L. Demangeot. "Churches and Sunday Schools in Early Days in the Vicinity of Lockeford, Calif.," n.d.
- 1.37: **NOTES - undated**