

First Christian Church Parsonage
3575 Vine Street
Riverside
Riverside County
California

HABS No. CA-2302

HABS
CAL,
33-RIVSI,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH PARSONAGE

HABS No. CA-2302

Location:

3575 Vine Street, Riverside, Riverside County, California
Riverside East Quadrangle
Zone 11, Easting 4 66 085, Northing 37 59 870

Significance:

The structure is historically significant as the Parsonage for the first church in the City of Riverside. The First Christian Church Parsonage is architecturally significant as one of the most intact structures of its age and style in the City of Riverside. The style is identified as the pyramidal family of National folk houses (Mc Alester 100-101). Several examples exist in Riverside which have been altered in varying degrees. The First Christian Church Parsonage retains a considerable amount of its architectural integrity on both the interior and exterior.

Description:

The First Christian Church Parsonage measures approximately 28'-4" by 28'-4" square. It is a one-story wood frame building on a concrete foundation. The exterior is covered in wood tongue and groove siding. The roof is pyramidal (equilateral hipped with a flat area at the top) with asphalt shingles. A covered porch with chamfered wood columns and decorative wood brackets is located at the front elevation. Typical windows are wood 2/2 double-hung. Typical doors are wood four panel. The interior contains five rooms with wood floors and plaster walls and ceilings. An addition (demolished) had been built at the rear of the building.

History:

The First Christian Church Parsonage was constructed in 1889. The address of 3575 Vine Street was known as 575 Vine Street until 1930. The following account of the building's history is quoted from *Report on the Origin and Historical Significance of 3575 Vine Street*, by Janet Tearnen.

In November 1872 the Southern California Colony Association deeded lots 4 and 5 in block 5 range 2 to Riverside's first church, the Congregational Church (1). This property is located at the northwest corner of Sixth and Vine Streets. The Congregational Church built a wood frame building 25 x 41 feet on Lot 5. By 1886 the Congregational Church decided to build a larger structure on another lot closer to the center of town. In February 1887 the First Congregational Church deeded a lot 65 x 110 feet to the Trustees of the Church of Christ also known as the Christian Church (2). According to the Congregational Church "Report of Committee on Building Site and Sale of Church Property - 1886" they arranged a trade with the Christian Church to include "our 65 feet on 6th Street lot running back to about the row of pepper trees - that is about the depth of the lot we get in exchange [110 feet]...". This description corresponds to the size of the lot containing the church and adjoining structure as indicated on the 1895 Sanborn Map. By mid-1887 the Christian Church occupied the lots at the northwest corner of Sixth and Vine.

According to Christian Church records, a parsonage was built for Rev. H.D. Connell between 1887 to 1889. "The parsonage was built on the church lot facing Vine Street (3)". Although an extensive newspaper search could not confirm a specific construction date, the Riverside Daily Press Annual covering the year 1890 notes that "the parsonage was built a year ago [1889] at a cost of \$1000. The value of the entire property is \$3000 (4)."

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In the 1887 and 1889 Riverside City Directories, Christian Church Rev. H.D. Connell is listed as living between 7th and 8th Streets. This is not surprising, however, in that if the parsonage was built during the year 1889, it would not have appeared in the directory for that year. The next city directory available [1893] shows Christian Church Rev. Cal Ogburn living at the address of 571 Vine Street. The address of 571 Vine is somewhat of a mystery as it is not within the standard address sequence.

In 1891 the Christian Church spent \$5500 to remodel and enlarge their church (5). This increased the base dimension from 41 x 25 feet to approximately 41 x 60 feet, as indicated by the size of the structure on the 1895 Sanborn Map.

In May 1897, after a period of trying to raise funds to pay the church mortgage and Rev. M.J. Ferguson's salary, church members decided to sell the parsonage (6). Riverside County Recorder records show a 65 x 35 lot beginning 75 feet from "southeast corner of block five range two" as being sold to J.J. Yeakle in August 1897 for a sum of \$900. Given land prices of the time (unimproved lots routinely sold for as little as \$10) it is likely that the lot contained a structure.

By 1898 the Riverside City Directory lists the Christian Church Rev. M.J. Ferguson as living at 414 S. Date Street. In 1901 no one is listed as residing at 571 or 575 Vine Street. In 1902 Miss and Mrs. Hower are listed as residing at 575 Vine Street.

By early 1904, with the impending completion of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, the Christian Church began planning to move to another location at Seventh and Lime Streets. In March 1904 the Railroad purchased the lot containing the Christian Church. Riverside County Recorder's records show the dimensions of this lot to be 75 x 65 feet - which is the size of the lot owned by the Church after the adjacent lot and structure were sold - and specifically exclude the church structure and contents. The church building was moved from the Sixth and Vine location in April 1904 and was dedicated in October 1904.

The 1908 Sanborn Map shows the structure previously adjacent to the Christian Church as 575 Vine Street, with identical dimensions to the structure appearing on the 1895 Sanborn Map. The 1908 Sanborn Map also shows two additional structures located at Sixth and Vine Streets where the Christian Church was previously located.

Subsequent alterations to the house are described in Building Permits from the City of Riverside. A 16'-0" x 8'-0" bedroom was built at the rear in 1946 at a cost of \$300. Unknown interior alterations and an 8'-6" x 13'-0" porch at the rear were built in 1949 at a cost of \$2000. These additions were demolished in 1972, when a 24'-0" x 26'-0" addition was constructed at the rear of the house. This addition was later demolished.

The property at 3575 Vine Street was, until recently, incorrectly believed to be the house of John Brodhurst, one of Riverside's first settlers. Research done in preparation for the restoration of the house has uncovered the above history. The structure is slated to be moved to an as yet undetermined location in Riverside.

Notes

- (1) *Woozencraft Abstracts 1872-1893*, Volume 2.
- (2) *Ibid.*
- (3) *100 Years of Service: First Christian Church, 1885-1985*. (Riverside: Privately printed, 1985), p.8-9.

- (4) "Christian Church". *Riverside Daily Press Annual*, 2 Jan 1891, p. 33.
- (5) "Building Operations". *Riverside Daily Press Annual*, 9 Jan 1892, p. 18.
- (6) *100 Years of Service*, p.10-11.

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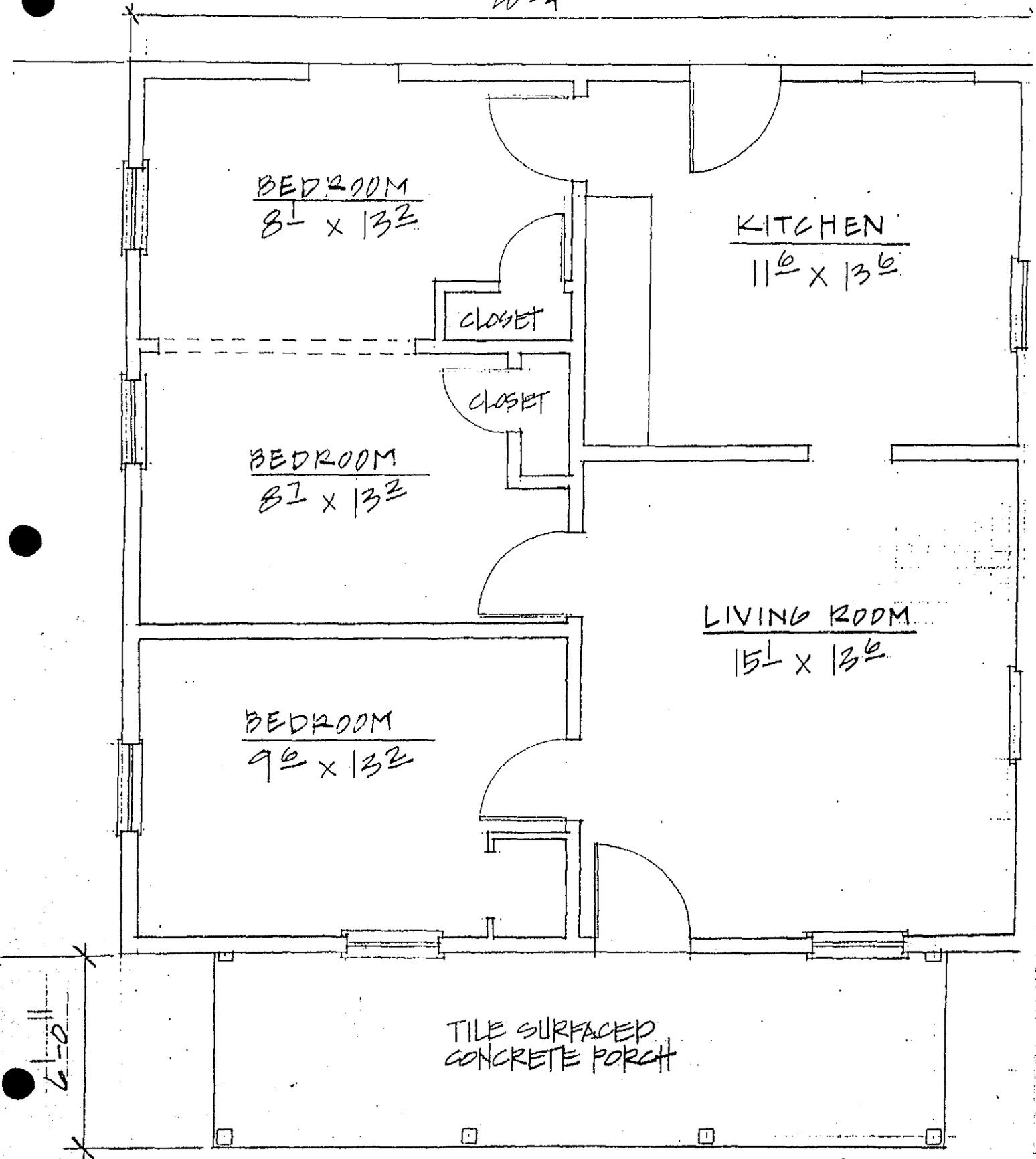
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Woozencraft Abstracts. 1872 - 1893, Volume 2.

20'-4"



BEDROOM
8'-1" x 13'-2"

KITCHEN
11'-6" x 13'-6"

CLOSET

CLOSET

BEDROOM
8'-1" x 13'-2"

LIVING ROOM
15'-1" x 13'-6"

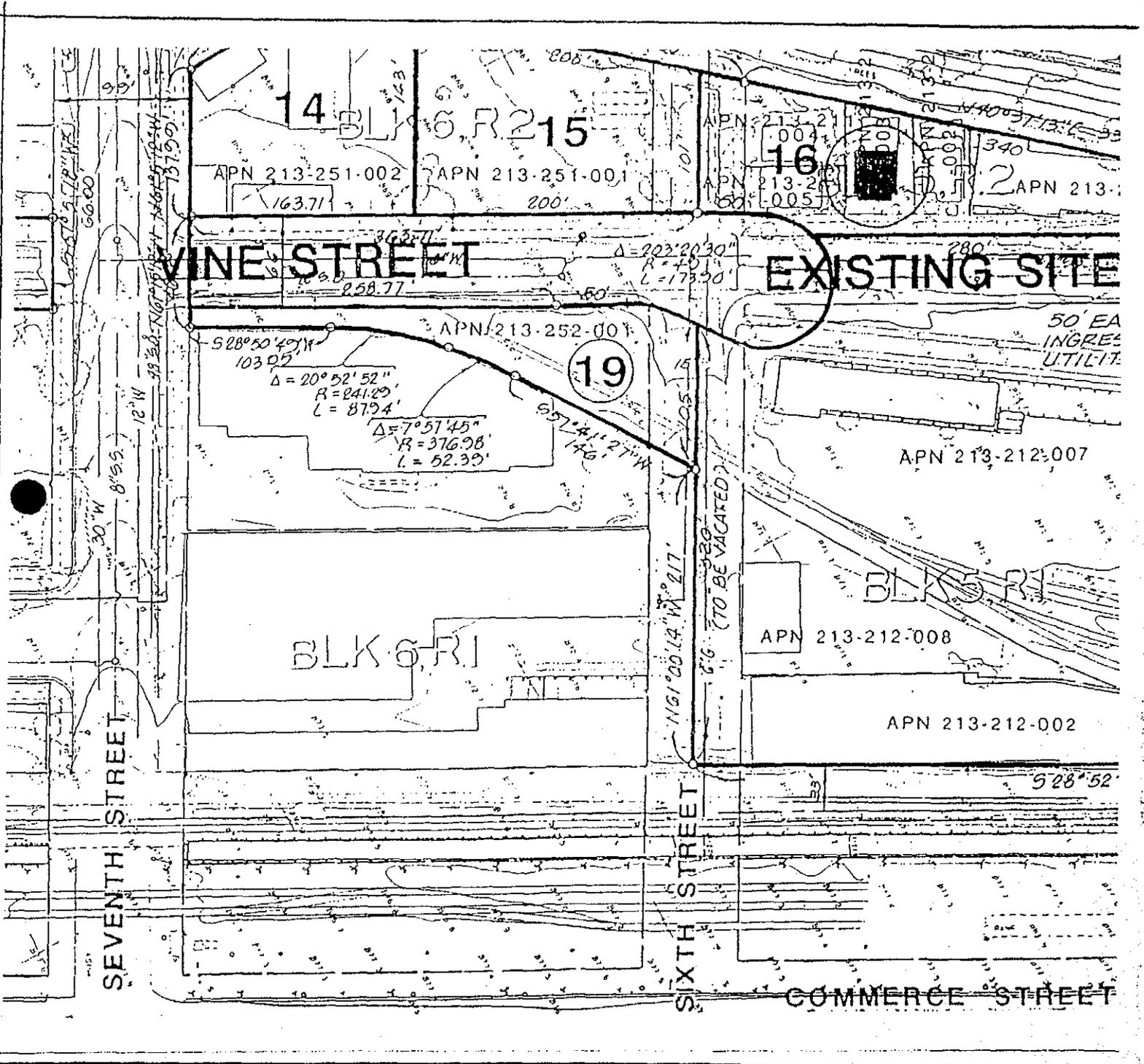
BEDROOM
9'-6" x 13'-2"

TILE SURFACED
CONCRETE PORCH

FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"





LOCATION MAP

SCALE : 1" = 100'-0"

