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# Old Felton Presbyterian Church Makes National Historic Register

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The old Felton Presbyterian Church, built in 1893, has been included in the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Monterey, has announced.

The white, steepled church building is still in use as Felton's branch of the city-county library system and is known as the Faye Belardi Memorial.

As a member of the register, the church building joins thousands of buildings throughout the United States

that have been specially noted for their historical or architectural significance.

"It's really something to be placed in the register," Al Schadel, coordinator of the county's Octagon Museum, commented.

Placement in the national register also marks the

building for preservation and makes it eligible for restoration funds under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The state Historical Resources Commission last November decided the building had enough local historic significance to nominate it for inclusion in the national register. The building now joins other spots with local, state and national significance in the register.

The church, located on a hillside overlooking the town of Felton, was built on land donated to the church in 1869. Its construction was inspired by the Rev. Alexander Eakin, a Presbyterian missionary to the Valley in pioneer days.

The congregation spent \$1,500 to build the church that was completed in 1893. The quaint chapel served church-goers for 63 years until January 1955 when the last service was held.

A new church was built down the road to house the increasing congregation, and the old church was abandoned and soon sold to Nick and Faye Belardi who planned to dismantle the building and build a home on the site.

But this wasn't to be the fate of the old Presbyterian Church. Felton was faced with losing its small library housed in a cloakroom at the Felton Community Hall and townspeople proposed to buy the church for \$1,000 from the Belardis and move it to another site to house the library.

An unfortunate occurrence, the death of Faye Belardi in an auto accident in August, 1955, brought the old church to the townspeople. Mr. Belardi decided to donate the building and the site to the community as long as it would be known as a memorial to his wife.

So is the story of how the old Felton Presbyterian Church became the library, the Faye G. Belardi Memorial and, today, a part of the National Register of Historic Places.



The old Felton Presbyterian Church