

PH0351938

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 1 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Old Sutter Creek Grammar School**

~~XX~~

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Between Broad & Cole Streets**

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sutter Creek

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14

STATE

California

__ VICINITY OF

CODE **06**

COUNTY
Amador

CODE
005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Oro Madre Unified School District**

STREET & NUMBER

54 Spanish Street

CITY, TOWN

Sutter Creek

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder, Amador County

STREET & NUMBER

108 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Resources Inventory (Amador County)

DATE

March 9, 1976

__ FEDERAL __ STATE COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation (Dept. Parks & Recreation)

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE **California**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present "old" Sutter Creek Grammar School faces Broad Street to the west; extends east to Cole Street, Sutter Creek, California. (Appendix 1 & photographs)

This school building is "T" shaped. The vertical bar of the T is oriented east-west (Building A or West Wing in the diagram). The horizontal bar of the T is oriented north-south (Building B or North-South Wing in the diagram).

The west wing was constructed in 1870-71¹. The north-south wing was constructed several years after the erection of the west-wing. Both wings are two stories. (Photo RL2-11)

The roof framing consists of widely spaced carpenter-type trusses being carried by the exterior brick walls and interior wood-framed corridor walls. Spaced, one inch boards span between the top chord or the roof trusses and carry wood shingles covered with corrugated metal roofing. The space between the ceiling joists in the west wing is filled with earth reportedly used for insulation. (Appendix 4)

West wing (exterior)--Dimensions: 37 feet by 49 feet. Roof shape: low gable, covered with corrugated metal sheeting; belfry with bell; two chimneys (metal & brick) extend above roof ridge; plain boxed cornices; metal gutters. Walls are reinforced with horizontal tie rods; brick laid up with sandstone mortar. Windows are double hung sash type; some window openings are covered with ply board. Plain concrete stairway leads to porch elevated above ground level; simple pillars support medium gable porch roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting; plain boxed cornices. Main entrance door is a single, five-panel wood door; rectangular, two panels, glass transom.

North-south wing (exterior)--Dimensions: 35 feet by 70 feet. Roof shape: low hip, covered with corrugated metal sheeting; two brick chimneys: northwest chimney (exterior wall) extends from ground level to above ridge of roof; the other chimney on east side of building, extends through roof. Cornices are plain, boxed with brackets; metal gutters. Brick walls laid up with sandstone mortar and covered with a plaster; walls reinforced with horizontal tie rods; some exposure of bricks due to

¹Appendixes 2 & 3; Mason, 1881: 271/272.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1976	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-1956¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The predecessor of the "Old Sutter Creek Grammar School" was built about 1857²; destroyed by fire, 1870. (Appendix 3)

The present (old) two-storied grammar school was constructed in 1870-71. It is one of the last surviving buildings of its kind. The building is significant not only for its excellence of craftsmanship, but in its reflection of the tastes and preferences for fine educational facilities in a flourishing setting of mining lode gold; that is, the old Sutter Creek schoolhouse shows the concern of a small California mining center for a quality educational facility in the latter part of the 19th century. With growth of hardrock mining in California's major gold producing region, the Mother Lode, a condition of economic prosperity favored the construction of this impressive two-story brick edifice for the education of the town's young. Strong East Coast ties can be seen in the design of the original schoolhouse (the present west wing) with its classical revival lines and symmetry, along with its low gabled roof, simple unornamented cornice and frieze, and small wooden belfry over the entrance. The addition at the rear (present north-south wing), constructed shortly after the original building, reflects the community's growth and continuing prosperity as a mining and supply center. Although only a few years younger than the original building, it shows strong Italianate influence in its tall, segmentally arched windows and doors, and its bracketed, paneled cornice.

The building, one of the last remaining two-story brick schoolhouses in the Mother Lode, is a strong statement of its type and

¹Teacher's Daily Attendance Register, 1956. Sutter Creek School Dist.

²"Schools had been established in 1853 in ...Sutter Creek... (Mason, 1881: 268".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation sheet Item 9 Page 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.7 + or -

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0	6	9	2	1	9	0	4	4	5	1	7	7	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at SW corner of Parking Area A (Appendix 1) approx. 150 feet east of Broad Street, proceed east approx. 270 feet to Cole Street; thence 280 feet along Cole Street to NE corner of property (about 280'); thence west along North property fence about 270'; thence south along chain link fence to point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Edyth Perovich, President

ORGANIZATION

Sutter Creek Woman's Club

DATE

May 31, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

11 Badger Road (PO Box 2000)

TELEPHONE

(209) 267-5358

CITY OR TOWN

Sutter Creek

STATE

California 95685

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE XX

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Heleen Meadows

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

AUG 13 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/6/76

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weathering. Windows are the double sash type; some window openings are covered with ply board. Doors: wood doors, plain surrounding detail, recessed in walls, transoms: arched, radiating brick above. Doors are delapidated.

Annex east end of north-south wing (exterior)-- Construction date: unknown, but probably between 1925 & 1930. Wood frame construction. Dimensions: 14 feet by 45 feet. Roof shape: center structure is low gable, flanked on north and south sides by shed-like buildings. Roofs are covered with corrugated metal sheeting. Walls are covered with shiplap (deteriorated). Windows: double sash type. Doors: wood doors, plain surrounding detail, panel type.

Foundation (school building)--Stone; brick sills. (Photo RL3-12)

Floor plans (buildings A & B)-- See Appendix 5.

Accessory buildings (D, E, F & G)-- There are four accessory buildings. Dates of construction are unknown; perhaps, in the 1930s.

Building D: Wood frame construction. Outside dimensions: 20' by 30 feet. Roof shape: medium gable; covering: corrugated metal sheeting. Exterior walls are covered with composition shingles. This building served as a class room; now a meeting place for a rock and mineral group.

Buildings E, F & G: Wood frame construction. Overall dimensions: 42 feet by 53 feet. Roof shape: medium gables; covering: corrugated metal sheeting. Exterior walls are covered with shiplap. Condition: deteriorated.

Buildings E & G¹ were used for toilets. Building F was used for storage.

¹Outside toilet facilities were used probably in this area from the inception of the old school until improved conveniences were installed in the Annex (C); perhaps, about 1925-30.

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Environmental-- The Old Sutter Creek School House (about 1,200 feet sea level) sits on a slope facing west commanding a central view of the town of Sutter Creek, California. Farther to the west and south of Main Street the terrain rises to about 1,500 feet from sea level: homes, oaks and other trees and grass are interspersed on these hill sides.

Landscaping-- The approach to the main entrance (west) of the old school building is a lawn terrace, ringed in a semi-circle with elm trees (9) about 10-15 feet apart. The next terrace below slopes gently downward to the east side of the new elementary school building and grounds. This same area continues up and eastward, north of the old school to Cole Street. There is a row of elms (8) and an oak adjacent to the north property fence; on the west side: elms (8) and a deodar cedar, other trees and some shrubbery. The grounds are maintained--the landscaping provides an aesthetic appeal.

To the south and southwest of the old school: spacious parking areas (oil mix) slope gently to the new elementary school. The west side of the parking area and new school grounds are separated by a chain link fence.

Alterations-- In general, alterations to the old Sutter Creek Grammar School building have been minor. The original building, which is now referred to as the west wing, retains its basic integrity; the addition at the rear which forms the north-south wing was made within a few years after the construction of the original building, and is of similar materials and scale, although it shows Italianate influence in the design in contrast to the simple Classical lines of the original building. Together, the original building and this major addition represent the form of the building as it appeared in the early 1880s and continued to serve as Sutter Creek's schoolhouse for over 75 years until its closure in 1956. A small wooden addition, built at the rear, does not detract from the overall quality of the building.

The major change appears to be the modernization of the interior and the remodelling of the windows in the north and south

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walls of the north-south wing. Eight tall, segmentally arched windows originally appeared on each end, four windows on each floor. These were modernized in the 1920s, enlarging them to form two large windows per floor. The original windows still remain along the front of this early wing. See photos**

The building still retains much of the integrity of its original site, and alterations to the setting have been minor. The area immediately south of the building was not part of the original grounds; this area, formerly bare ground, has been paved for playground use. The new Sutter Creek school has been constructed about 150 feet downhill in front of the old schoolhouse. The old school still stands on its original landscaped grounds surrounded by elm trees planted when the building was first constructed.

Other alterations to the exterior are minor and do not detract from the overall quality of the building. The original white paint over the brick exterior has weathered, revealing much of the underlying red brick. A sheet metal roof has been placed over the original wood shingles, and the original double front door has been replaced by a smaller single door. Some of the windows of the building have been temporarily boarded. The building is now being leased to the Sutter Creek Woman's Club & funds are presently being raised to perform code work necessary to reopen the building as a community center. (Appendixes 3 & 6)

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Old Sutter Creek Grammar School, ca. 1876

Old Sutter Creek Grammar School, ca. 1880

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period. Most schoolhouses in the region were small, simple wood frame structures; few were as imposing or substantial as that in Sutter Creek. To our knowledge, only one other extant school building in the Mother Lode, the old two-story brick school house in Columbia, can compare in terms of size, scale, materials and quality. The old Sutter Creek schoolhouse still remains as an outstanding example of its type and period, and, with relatively minor alterations, retains a strong feeling of its original character.

The Classical Revival architectural style evident in the school building has caused it to stand out among all other contemporary learning institutions as an enduring monument dedicated to the education of county youth. This school was planned and erected by residents of Sutter Creek, who demonstrated an unusual interest and pride in educational affairs (Mason, 1881: 219).

Thus, better facilities were provided to educate their children, who later took their places in the affairs of the county, the state; made their contributions to society.

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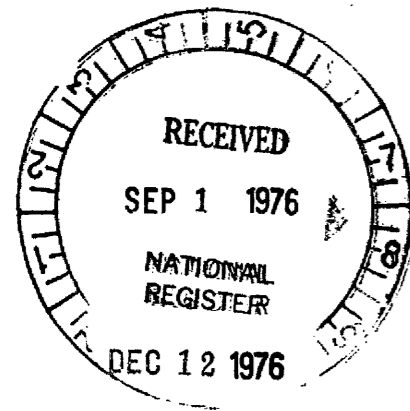
All Year Trans-Sierra SCENIC 88 FUN TIMES, "Community Center Plan for Sutter Creek School", March 1976, page 7.

Cheesebrough, Fred W., Chief Structural Engineer, Office of Architecture & Construction, Sacramento, California. Letter to Mrs. Edyth Perovich, President, Sutter Creek Woman's Club, Sutter Creek, California, March 22, 1976. Attached: copy of structural study (Old Sutter Creek Grammar School, Sutter Creek, California) of August 15, 1966.

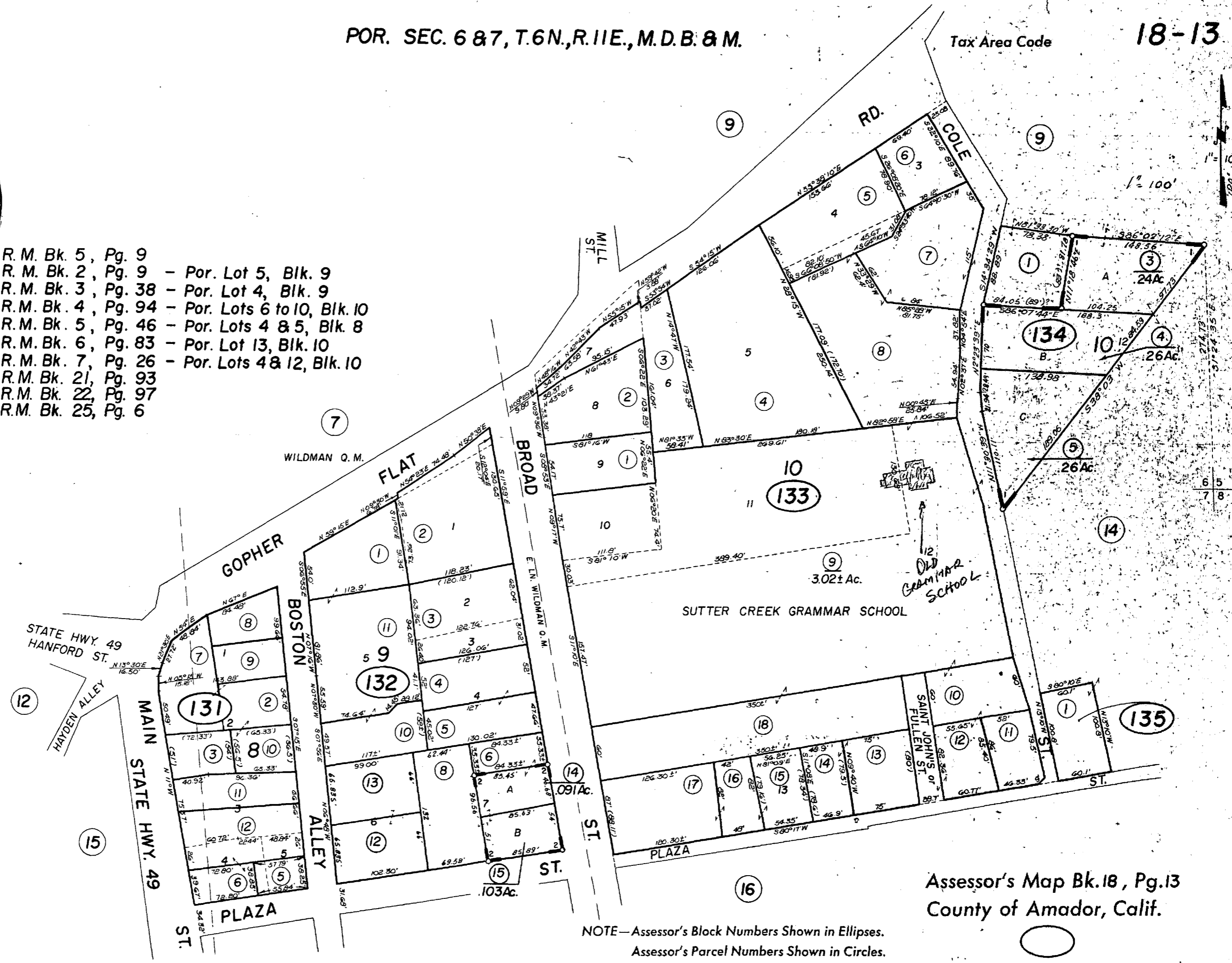
Davis, W. N., Jr. Letter to Clyde R. Berriman, April 23, 1976.

Mason, J. D. History of Amador County, California. Thompson & West, Oakland, Cal., 1881. (California Traveler reproduction).

Oro Madre Unified School District, Sutter Creek, California. Minutes of the meeting of February 26, 1976, paragraph 7.



- R. M. Bk. 5, Pg. 9
- R. M. Bk. 2, Pg. 9 - Por. Lot 5, Blk. 9
- R. M. Bk. 3, Pg. 38 - Por. Lot 4, Blk. 9
- R. M. Bk. 4, Pg. 94 - Por. Lots 6 to 10, Blk. 10
- R. M. Bk. 5, Pg. 46 - Por. Lots 4 & 5, Blk. 8
- R. M. Bk. 6, Pg. 83 - Por. Lot 13, Blk. 10
- R. M. Bk. 7, Pg. 26 - Por. Lots 4 & 12, Blk. 10
- R. M. Bk. 21, Pg. 93
- R. M. Bk. 22, Pg. 97
- R. M. Bk. 25, Pg. 6



NOTE—Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

Assessor's Map Bk.18, Pg.13
County of Amador, Calif.

12.12.76
Sutter Creek Grammar School
Amador Co., California
Assessor's Map

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Community Center Plan For Sutter Creek School

Will the former Sutter Creek School, 106 years old this summer, be restored and converted into a community center?

All those who support preservation and restoration of old structures, as well as their everyday use, can only hope so.

According to our sister publication, the *Amador Dispatch*, the Sutter Creek Women's Club is sparking the campaign, with the complete cooperation of trustees of the Oro Madre Unified School District.

Used by the district for stor-

age now, the two story brick was last used as a school house in the mid 1960s before being abandoned for that function because it could not meet school-house earthquake standards.

TRUST FUND

According to its president Edyth Perovich, the club is establishing a trust fund to hold contributions for the project and is soliciting support from other groups and all citizens in Amador County.

Among them, the Amador County Historical Society and the Amapola Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West have tendered their support.

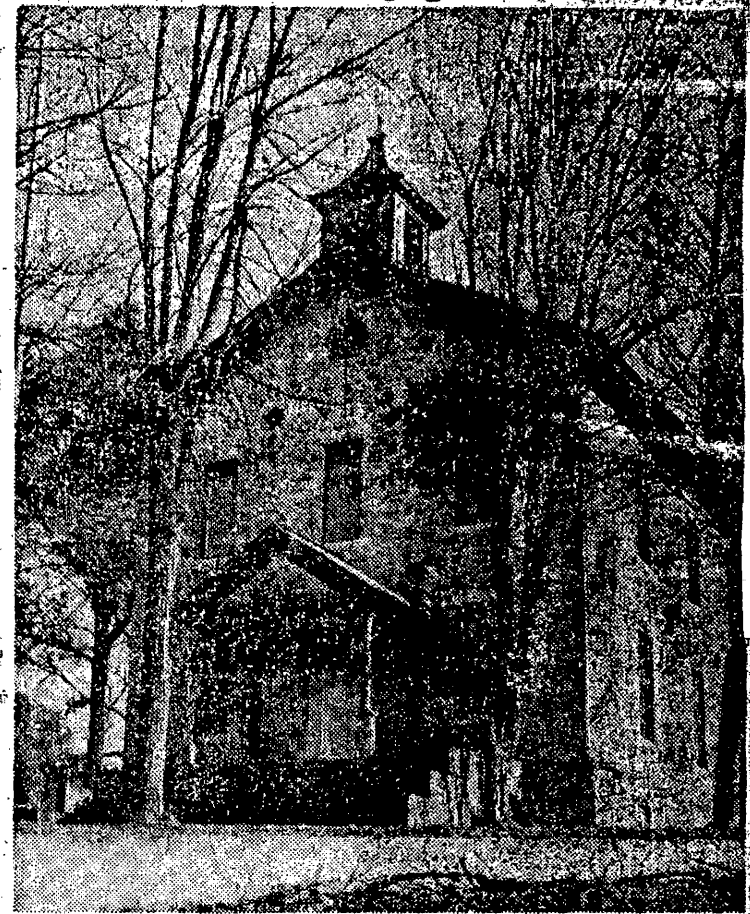
"This is a project requiring concerted community effort, but the Sutter Creek Woman's Club members are confident it can be accomplished with the strong support of Amador County citizens," Mrs. Perovich said.

By undertaking the project, the club could qualify for up to \$10,000 in prize money awarded by Sears Roebuck & Co. to civic groups which pursue community improvement.

IN 1870

It was on May 16, 1870, when Sutter Creek's first frame schoolhouse was torched by an unknown arsonist and burned down. That July the *Dispatch* carried a small item which indicated the community would rebuild the school with brick.

1870



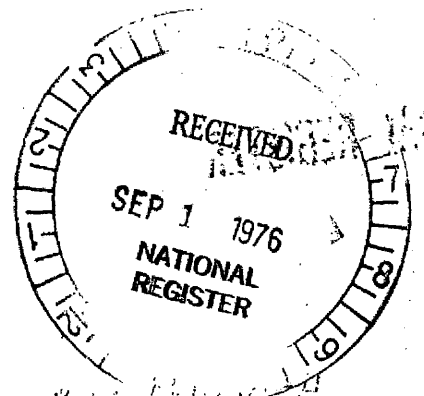
The next year a traveling correspondent for the *Scientific Press* wrote that Sutter Creek "... is the largest town in the county. Its citizens have completed one of the finest school-houses in the county, if not in the interior of the state..."

"The structure is 35x55 feet, two stories high, and cost \$10,000. Two hundred pupils are in daily attendance, and two competent teachers are in charge."

That description was written in April, 1871, the spring following the probable erection in the summer of 1870 of the school-house that may become a community center.

ALL-YEAR TRANS-SIERRA
SCENIC 88
FUN TIMES

March, 1976



NPS Number 12.12.76
Title: Sutter Creek Grammar School
Amador Co., California
Loc. _____

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