

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 24

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 The Geyserville Union (High) School
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
"Redwood Highway" (Main Street) no street no. NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Geyserville VICINITY OF 2 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Sonoma CODE 097

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sonoma Group c/o Kemp & Kemp Architects
STREET & NUMBER 1502 Walnut Street (Suite E)
CITY, TOWN Berkeley VICINITY OF STATE California 94709

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Recorder's Office, Sonoma County
STREET & NUMBER 2555 Mendocino Avenue
CITY, TOWN Santa Rosa STATE California 95401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Sonoma County Historical Site No. 32
DATE October 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Sonoma County Landmarks Commission
CITY, TOWN 2555 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa STATE California 95401

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Geyserville Union School is a poured, reinforced concrete structure of 10,400 square feet which includes six classrooms, three offices and a gymnasium/auditorium. The two story classroom/office block wraps around the double height gymnasium/auditorium.

The School was constructed during 1920 from plans prepared by architect Henry C. Smith, in 1919. Tiled roofs, arched windows, narrow slit vents and recessed entrances and plain stuccoed walls unite to convey a "Mission Revival/Spanish Colonial Revival" feeling. The blank end walls of the two classroom blocks recall the defensive nature of some of the earlier missions. The splayed bases acknowledge the heavy masonry imagery of buttressed mission walls. Major fenestration to light the classrooms is reserved for the less visible side walls with rows of casement windows. Extensive detailing (tile, trim, arched windows, and moldings) is reserved for the front facades. Side and rear elevations reflect internal functional uses and decoration is minimal.

The plan is a "T" shape with a slight indentation at the top center of the "T". The facade is composed of three major divisions; two end blocks and a central entrance block. This central block contains a recessed arched entrance door. Four indented arched wall panels frame first story and second story windows. The first story windows are presently boarded over; however, second story windows are paired casement windows which swing out from the center. The roof on this central entrance block is composed of several levels; a truncated gable over the entrance, two lowered shed-type roofs and a rear gable roofline which extends to the center of the end blocks. A concrete chimney sets slightly below the gable ridge behind the left facade end block. Tarpaper covers all but the false front portions of these roofs. The false front ridges are finished with red tile coping.

The construction material is poured concrete from foundation to eave line. The rear roof extension is also covered with asphalt paper. Exposed end rafters appear under the eaves of the central roof which houses the office block. The building is stepped into a low hillside so that the rear elevation is one story.

Several outbuildings stand within the boundaries of the nominated property. Directly to the east of the Geyserville Union School is a small one-room wooden structure used for tool storage. The structure bears no historic relationship to the school and will be torn down soon. Two outbuildings are situated to the south of the School; one is a one-story garage with a metal roof and large metal door. Since the building was added to the schoolgrounds at a date much later than the original Geyserville Union School construction and since the garage bears no historic value, there are plans to remove this structure. On the west side of the garage is another outbuilding used for storage. The date of this structure is uncertain, and although it bears no historic relationship to the School, it is in a state of good repair and will be retained. It is a one-story, gable roofed building with a stepped end gable and siding.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 21 1973
DATE ENTERED 4

CONTINUATION SHEET one ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The physical appearance of the Geyserville Union School has not changed substantially in the last sixty years. Specimen trees planted at the time of construction have matured. (They are shown in the sketch map.) Although the building has not been occupied for the past few years, only minor vandalism (broken windows) and lack of paint have affected its appearance. The proposed boundary lines are based upon the remaining integrity of the Geyserville Union School and encompass all historical resources associated with the School. Although the building is currently vacant, there are plans to repair the vandalism and use the building for office space and specialty shops. There will be few interior changes to the front classroom and office portion of the Geyserville Union School; the gymnasium will be divided into smaller spaces for specialty shop use. Exterior integrity will be retained throughout this adaptive use process.

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 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 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Community Center
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1919-1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry C. Smith, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From its completion in 1921 to its recent abandonment, Geyserville Union School served as a major social, cultural, and educational center for the town of Geyserville and the surrounding rural countryside. The building was the first poured concrete structure in Geyserville and is a fine example of a rather unusual method of construction so early in the twentieth century.

In 1919, the Geyserville Unified School District commissioned Henry Smith to develop plans for a building which could serve all major educational/community needs. The gymnasium served as a community center for social affairs and a program of lectures presented by the University of California. The school also provided post-high school educational opportunities for rural Sonoma residents. The construction of Geyserville Union School indicated the final years for the one-room school house in rural California. It represents a short-lived (half century) but dynamic transition from a rural agrarian Sonoma County to the current rapid suburbanization of that pastoral valley. The relationship between Geyserville Union School and the surrounding countryside was repeated throughout our then rural state in the 1920's. Changes in demographics, communications, and educational funding have made the rural unified school obsolete.

As previously mentioned, Geyserville Union High School was a fine example of poured concrete construction. This type of construction was often called "monolithic" concrete in reference to concrete poured in place in distinction to concrete made into blocks and then laid in the manner of brickwork.

Architect Henry C. Smith's Mission Revival/Spanish Colonial Revival design represented the first break with the still locally prevailing late Victorian vernacular architectural style. The Mission Revival/Spanish Colonial Revival style derived largely from the 1915 San Diego Fair and was quite popular by the 1920's when Geyserville Union School was constructed. This popularity can be seen throughout the State of California with many major institutional buildings of the late teens and twenties falling into a Mission Revival/Spanish Colonial Revival stylistic category. While numerous examples of this style are to be found in Southern California (especially Santa Barbara and Los Angeles) there are very few in Geyserville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Correspondence: Mrs. Robert (Bessie) Neil, July 27, 1978, Geyserville, California; Mr. Clement Vanoni, August 30, 1978, Geyserville, California.
2. Engineering Report November 11, 15, 1966; Brown & Smith, Structural Engineers, 1606 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, California.
3. Sonoma County Records; Santa Rosa, California; Book of Deeds 379, pg. 72; Book of Deeds 399, pg. 286.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.6

QUADRANGLE NAME Geyserville, California

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 508150 4284160
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see attached continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Office of Historic Preservation
 Staff revision: Carol Branan

NAME / TITLE

Andrew D. Beckerman

November 15, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Kemp and Kemp, Architects

DATE

(415) 549-0890

STREET & NUMBER

1502 Walnut Street, Suite E

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Berkeley

STATE

California 94709

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Kammella

TITLE

DATE MAY 31 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Branan
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10-24-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11-23-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 23 1979
DATE ENTERED	4

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

CONTINUATION SHEET one ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The Geyserville Union School when completed in 1921 was Geyserville's first school building. It is significant for its cultural and educational associations with the development of Geyserville and the adjacent wine industry in rural Sonoma County. The building was one of the first reinforced poured concrete structures in Sonoma County (and Northern California) and remains the only example of this type of construction in Geyserville.

In 1915 Geyserville citizens organized the first Union High School District in Sonoma County. While students initially met in an existing structure, the growing importance of Geyserville as a viticultural center mandated immediate planning for Geyserville's first school building. In 1919 the school district commissioned architect Henry C. Smith of San Francisco, to develop plans for a Union School that would serve as both educational institute and community center for the town and the surrounding countryside.

From 1922 through the 1930's (before the growth of California's junior college network) University of California Extension provided post high school education through a series of lectures in the gymnasium during the winter months. In addition to artistic, literary, and historic subjects, the Agricultural Extension offered technical classes in viticulture and farm management.

Viticultural education was particularly important as the area is a major American wine producing center. Pre-Depression G.U.S. graduates eventually succeeded to directorships at United Vintners, Geyserville Winery, Christian Brother Winery, Martini and Pratti Winery, Pedroncelli Vineyards, and Italian Swiss Colony Wines. In addition to post graduate courses, the Jr. Farm Bureau and Future Farmers of America sponsored courses funded by the Smith-Hughes Act that were attended by 60% of pre-Depression G.U.S. students. (Interestingly, early attendance records show 30% absentee rates during the grape harvest.)

In the pre-Depression years before television and widespread use of the automobile, Geyserville Union School (G.U.S.) athletic games were a major source of entertainment for the area. Relatives of the mainly Italian-American students came from the surrounding countryside and the weekly competitions with their post-game dinners in the gymnasium served as "family reunions."

In addition to the above cultural and educational activities, the school building served as the local polling place and as the site of bimonthly town discussions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 24 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET two

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Although the building is currently vacant, it remains in a fair state of repair except for minor vandalism and disrepair. Both Geyserville Union School and the surrounding schoolyard retain their original integrity, and although the semicircular drive at the front of the building is in disrepair, there are plans to restore it to its original condition.

The boundary lines are based upon a major portion of the original schoolyard; the most northerly portion of the schoolyard yard was not included in the boundary since a parking lot will be put on this land. There are future plans to repair the building and use it for office and specialty stores.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 23 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 24 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET two ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

As the first union high school building in Sonoma County, the construction of the Geyserville Union School marked the end of the one room rural school house era and the beginning of a more contemporary educational delivery system. This pattern which began in 1915 spread throughout rural California. The Geyserville Union High School District was the first Sonoma County district with a formal Board of Trustees to set educational and managerial policy. As a Union High School District, it was chartered to provide high school education for 2 or more elementary school districts within the same county. It was the precursor of today's sprawling unified school districts.

In Sonoma County and rural California, the educational transition discussed above was marked also by the change from wood frame to more durable (and monumental) buildings. As the first reinforced concrete school building in Sonoma County the Geyserville Union School is unique. However, because of the State of California's "Field Act" many of these early reinforced concrete structures have now been declared unsafe for educational use due to earthquake hazard and are now vanishing from the landscape.

Architect Henry C. Smith's Mission Revival design represented the first break with the still locally prevailing late Victorian vernacular. The Mission Revival style derives from the 1915 San Diego Fair and was quite popular when the school was constructed. The blank facade, buttressed walls and shallow pitched roof echo similar details of the nearby Mission San Francisco Solano in Sonoma. While many examples exist in Southern California (especially Santa Barbara and Los Angeles) there is none other in Geyserville. The Geyserville Union School in its original context and grounds stands in marked architectural contrast to the late Victorian wooden town.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 23 1979
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET three

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

1. Correspondence: Mrs. Robert (Bessie) Neil; July 27, 1978; Geyserville, California
Mr. Clement Vanoni; August 30, 1978; Geyserville, California
2. "Engineering Report: Nov 11, 15, 1966"; Brown and Smith, Structural Engineers; 1606 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, California
3. Sonoma County Records; Santa Rosa; California. Book of Deeds 379 , page 72; Book of Deeds 399, page 286.
4. The Geyser; 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931; Geyserville, California
5. "Wine Report"; Harvey Steiman; San Francisco Chronicle; October 7, 1979; San Francisco, California
6. Proposed Organization of Sonoma County Schools; William Elliott Baker; 1916; Stanford, California
7. Interviews: John E. Brown; Redwood Chapter American Society of Civil Engineers; October 3, 1979; Santa Rosa, California. Nancy Salzman; California State Department of Education; October 8, 1979; Sacramento, California.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JUN 21 1979	
DATE ENTERED	OCT 24 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET three

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Parcel One: Being in the Tzabaco Rancho in the town of Geyserville, and the grounds of the Geyserville Union High School District as per Book 379 of Deeds, page 72, and Book 399 of Deeds, page 286, Sonoma County Records, more precisely described as follows:

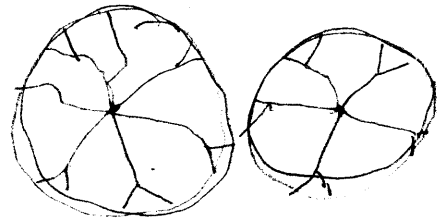
Beginning at a 6" x 6" concrete monument on the southwesterly right of way of State Highway 101 leading from Geyserville to Cloverdale marking Engineers' Station 774 + 40.58 as shown on the Record of Survey filed in Book 174 of Maps on page 5; then from said point of beginning southerly along said westerly right of way N 52 degrees 37' 44" W for a distance of 261 ft. then S 37 degrees 22' 16" W for 280 ft. then S 52 degrees 37' 44" E for 261 ft. then N 36 degrees 58' 16" E for 280 ft. to the point of beginning.

(261') S 52° 37' 44" E

(280') N 36° 58' 16" E

(280') S 37° 22' 16" W

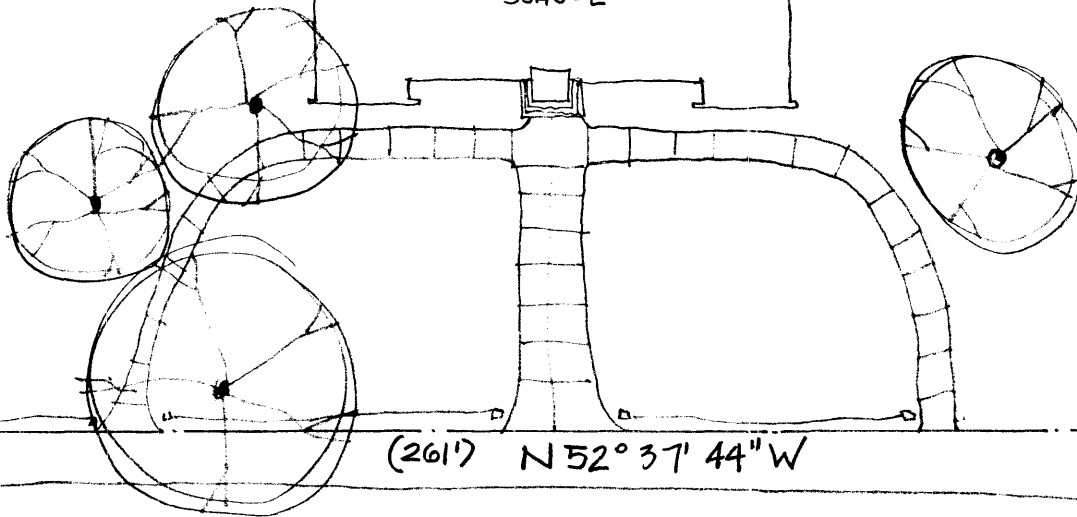
NORTH →



GARAGE

STORAGE

GEYSERVILLE UNION (HIGH) SCHOOL

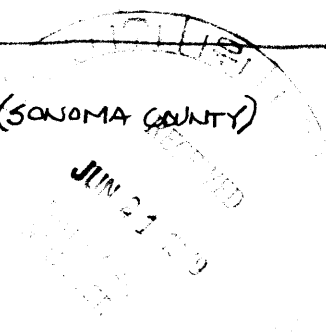


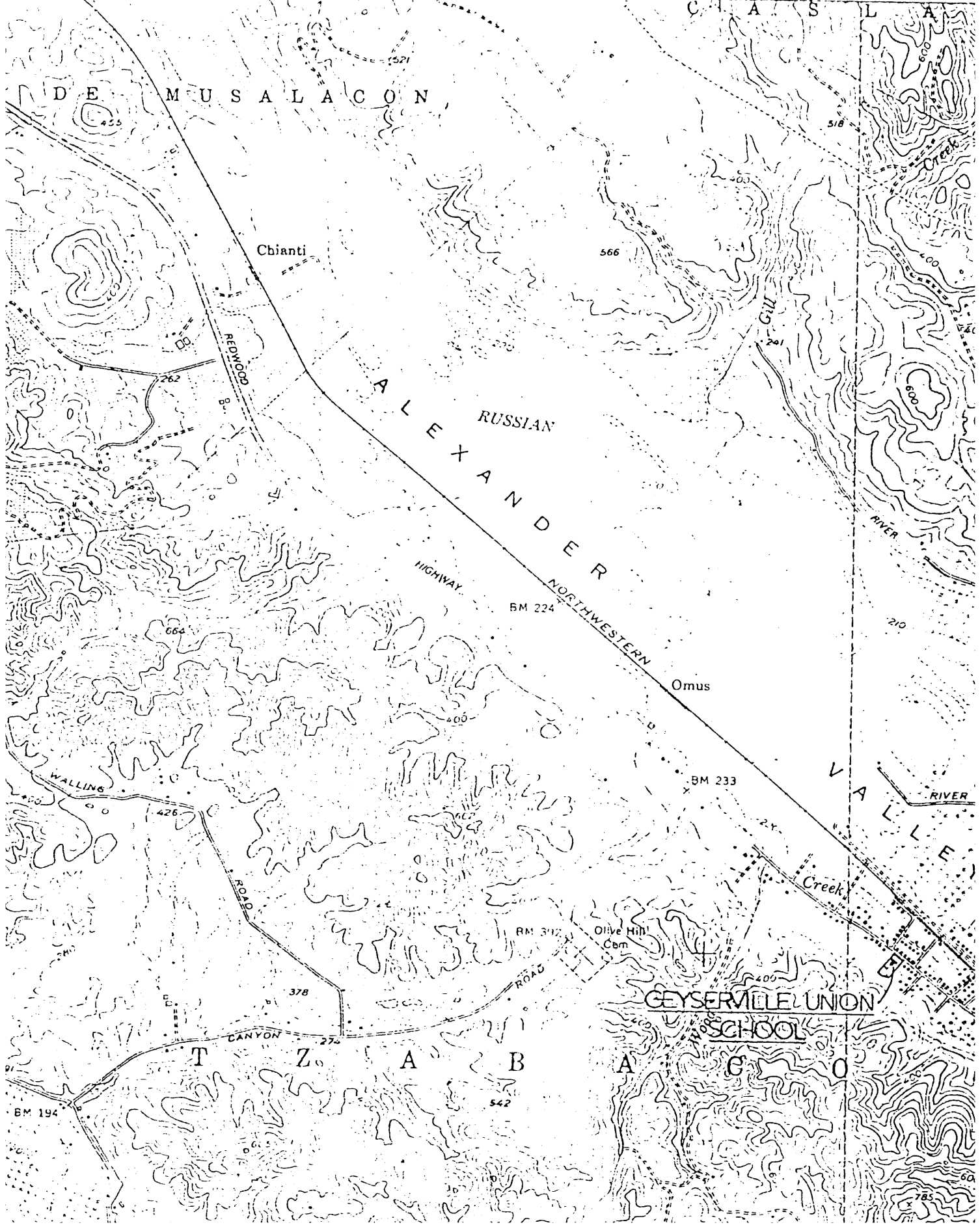
(261') N 52° 37' 44" W

REDWOOD HIGHWAY (MAIN STREET)

GEYSERVILLE UNION (HIGH) SCHOOL AP# 140140 37 (SONOMA COUNTY)

NOT TO SCALE





DE MUSALACON

Chianti

ALEXANDER
RUSSIAN
NORTHWESTERN
HIGHWAY

Omus

WALLING

T Z A B

GEYSERVILLE UNION
SCHOOL

VALLE
RIVER

BM 194

BM 224

BM 233

BM 312

Olive Hill
Cem

378

542

60

785