

PH0047287

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California	
COUNTY:	Calaveras	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 8	1973

1. NAME

COMMON: **Murphys Grammar School**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Jones Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Murphys**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	006	Calaveras	009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Vallecito Union School District**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Box 73**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Douglas Flat 95229	California	006

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Government Center**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
San Andreas	California	006

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Marked as State Point of Historical Interest**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **County Recorder**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Government Center**

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
San Andreas 95249	California

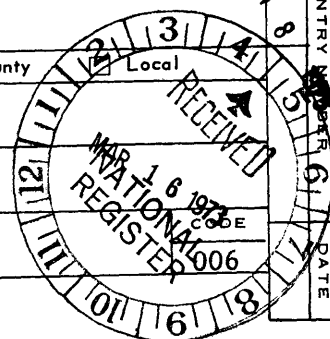
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California

COUNTY: Calaveras

ENTRY NUMBER: 006

DATE: JUN 8 1973



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building was constructed in 1860. Since that time there have been no architectural or structural changes in the facility.

The building is constructed entirely of wood with the exterior lumber of ship-lap painted white. The main entrance to the school is recessed to form a small entry area. Attached to the front of the building is a small porch supported by wooden columns. There are two rear doors to the building. A porch of very simple construction extends the width of the building to cover the rear entrance area.

According to Harold Kirker, the long classic tradition in American public building in the East set the trend for California's early American period architecture, with Greek and Roman derivative styles dominating civic architecture on the California frontier. Greek Revival was the primary vernacular until the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad. The California preference for classic style can be seen in the school house at Murphys. The facade of the building shows the symmetrical balance with a broad pedimented gable, and square corner pilasters supporting the cornice, giving the building a temple front appearance of Greek Revival forms. The small cupola above the entrance has a low pitched roof and square pilasters, supporting a cornice and separated by arches, adding Italian forms to the composition of the classic revival structure. The window framing is modified from Greek Revival, each window being capped by a small low-pitched flattened wooden pediment. The building's architecture shows the simplicity of classic styling brought to the Gold Rush country by pioneers from the East.

Located on a 1.75 acre site, the building overlooks the small community of Murphys.

The interior of the building has had no significant architectural or structural changes since it was originally constructed. There are two rooms of equal size and two storage areas. The only change from the original structure was the addition of electricity for lighting, plumbing, sinks and toilets, and a gas operated heating system. The chalkboards are original and are made of slate. The floors are the original material (pineboards), and are still treated with oil, and sweeping compound is used for cleaning the floors.

The building has been used for a school since its construction in 1860. A new school is presently under construction and, upon completion, the Murphys School will be retired as an educational facility.

In June, 1973 the building will be transferred to the Murphys Community Club and the Veterans Memorial District to be maintained as a community building and small museum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. SIGNIFICANCE

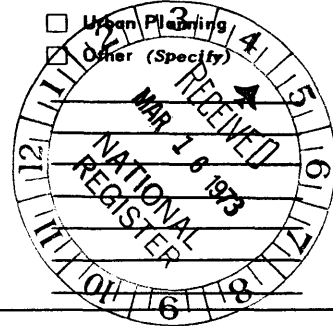
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This school, the oldest continuously used school building in California, is one of the few remaining landmarks in the area. The first public school to be operated in Murphys, it was constructed in 1860 following the formation of the Murphys Grammar School District. The original building has had no architectural or structural changes in the 112 years it has been used for a school.

The building is an excellent example of California's mid-19th Century architecture based upon the classic revival forms brought by its eastern settlers. The Greek and Roman based styles dominated California's civic architecture during the 1850's and early 1860's; California's preference for classic style can be seen in this 1860 structure. The structure is a composite of classic forms, primarily Greek Revival with its simple refined temple-like facade. It represents not only the architectural design of small schools of the 1860's but also represents an era of great historical significance.

This area, the Mother Lode Country, was instrumental through the discovery of gold to change the course of Western history and to excite men in every walk of life throughout the world. The lust for quick riches attracted men from every corner of the globe to this virtually unexplored region of America. Consequently the "Gold Rush" set the scene for a very rapid exploration and settlement never witnessed by any other area of this country.

The Murphys Grammar School building has been verified to be the oldest school in continuous use (1860-1973) west of the Mississippi River. Perhaps more significant is the fact that this building is a landmark that was an important factor in the development of the State of California. From an educational point of view, the structure, unaltered since its building, provides a true record of history for education, architects, historians and visitors alike. This building provided housing for thousands of children during its 113 years of service to the community. One student, who received all his elementary education in the Murphy School, gained international prominence upon reaching adulthood. He was Dr. Albert A. Michelson, the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Physics. He measured the speed of light, the elasticity of the earth and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dr. Richard Coke Wood, "Murphys, Queen of the Sierra"
 "Calaveras, the Land of Skulls"
 "Tales of Old Calaveras"

Kenneth M. and Doris Castro, "Murphys, California, History and Guide"

Archives of: Calaveras Prospect, San Andreas, California
 Calaveras Chronicle, Mokelumne Hill, California

Harold Kirker, "California's Architectural Frontier"

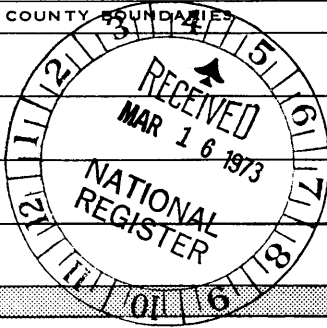
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 08' 07"	120° 27' 24"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.75 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UIMA
 10/72290
 422372L
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
B. M. Staffon, District Superintendent

ORGANIZATION: **Vallecito Union School District** DATE: **October 10, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 73

CITY OR TOWN: **Douglas Flat** STATE: **California 95229** CODE: **006**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>FEB 12 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>6/8/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>6 6 73</u></p>
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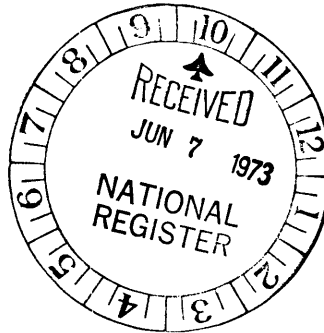
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Calaveras	
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(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

California State Historical Landmark No. 275
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811
Date of Survey: 1937



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Statement of Significance (Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

the diameter of the stars, and constructed the instruments to do so. At the time of his death, his close friend, Einstein, reportedly said he had gotten the idea for his theory of relativity from his close friend, Michelson. Murphys, home of the Murphys Grammar School, is designated by California Historical Landmark Number 275 (Murphys Township).

* National Survey conducted by B. M. Staffon for the Vallecito Union School District, December, 1972.

