

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: CALIFORNIA	
COUNTY: TRINITY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.10.06.0064	DATE 10/4/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Weaverville : Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Weaverville

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Historic District

CITY OR TOWN:
Weaverville

STATE California	CODE 96093	COUNTY: Trinity	CODE 105
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" 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:
Various

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Trinity County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main and Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE
Weaverville California 96093 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Weaverville Townsite Plot Map

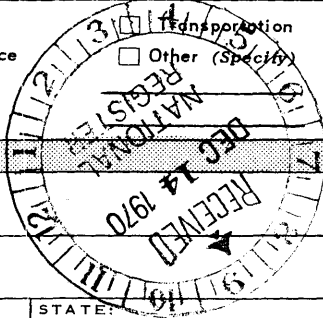
DATE OF SURVEY: **1966-Sept.** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Planning Commission Trinity County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE
Weaverville California 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY: Trinity
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.10.06.0064
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED LIST OF BUILDINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS. ^{"A"}

The Weaverville Historic District comprises an area of approximately 11 acres bounded by Center Street on the east and South Miner/Oregon Streets on the west, bisected longitudinally by Main Street and running about 1800 feet south from Garden Gulch. Representative buildings within the Historic District, in all about 25 buildings - include most of the architectural styles common to the Northern California gold mining towns of the 19th Century. Wood two story residences, wooden church, brick single and two story commercial building and lodge halls - some of the latter possessing the unique spiraling iron stairways to give access to second floors in separate ownership - a Chinese tamped earth structure and the frame and brick Chinese temple, together present a pleasantly nostalgic atmosphere reflecting a past era.

Some of the brick buildings have been stuccoed on the exterior and the minor modifications and adaptations to suit needs of the owners are evident, but in the main buildings of the Weaverville Historic District retain the feeling and associations of their heyday. Most are in good to excellent condition; some require restoration.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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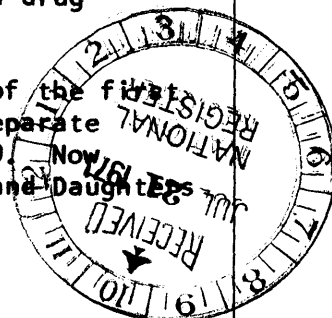
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	California
COUNTY	Trinity
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1110.06.0064	10/14/91

(Number all entries)

- Whitmore house built in 1899 after the disastrous fire of 1890. Private.
- Congregational Church built in 1891 after the fire which destroyed the building built in 1880. Doors, windows and furniture were saved and used on new church. Public.
- The Highlands Art Center, Snyder-Highland Foundation. Building is old residence built in early 1890's. Open to public June through September.
- McDonald-Files Chapel remodeled. Chinese tamped earth building. Built in 1860's. Now privately owned funeral chapel.
- Brewery, last remaining brewery building. Built in 1855. Now used as Trinity County Chamber of Commerce Information Center.
- Larkin's Store, Moon Lee's Store, Old Fire House; a group of five Chinese buildings remodeled and now used as commercial businesses. Tamped earth walls built in 1860's.
- Western Auto Supply, was Comstock & Martin building built in 1856. Originally two stories was gutted by fire and remodeled into one story building.
- Trinity County Library building was built by John Carr in 1856. Originally a Black Smith Shop. Original except modernized front.
- New York Hotel built by Morris and Brady in 1859. Modernized and still maintained as hotel and bar.
- Edgecombe and Magnolia buildings built in 1856. Now combined and remodeled to house a modern Telephone Company-Golden West Telephone Company. Upper floor of Magnolia Building housed North Star Lodge #61 I.O.O.F. 1856 to 1860, then Masonic Trinity Lodge #27 F & A M, bought the second floor. They moved in 1967 when the Lodge sold their interest to the telephone company.
- Anderson building built in 1855 by Davidson and Harris Drug Store. Now occupied by the Weaverville Drug Store. It has been a drug store since 1855.
- Clifford building (Native Sons Hall) built in 1855. One of the first condominium in the state with different floors owned by separate parties. The entire building came under one owner in 1970. Now occupied by a Dress Shop on lower floor, the Native Sons and Daughters still have use of the upper floor.



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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
California	
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1110-06-0064	10/14/71

(Number all entries)

13. The Hocker Store building built in 1855. Now occupied by Trinity County Title Company.
14. Weaverville Hotel is the site of the Miner's Hotel built in 1860. Changed to Empire Hotel. Fire destroyed the upper floor, rebuilt in 1915 and became the Weaverville Hotel. Modernized in the interior.
15. Band Stand built in 1902. Before radio and television, it was the major source of entertainment and pleasure ushering in the twentieth century.
16. Trinity County Courthouse built by Henry Hocker in 1856. Various commercially (including a saloon). It was purchased by the County in 1865. Still being used as a Courthouse.
17. J. S. McCain and Gettleson & Co. Buildings both built in 1854 combined into one building owned and operated as the Morris Hardware. The McCain Building has been operated as general provisions and hardware ever since.
18. D. M. Eder and Rhodes & Company buildings. Built in 1854. Now combined into one store, Van Matre's. Eder building was the first brick building in Weaverville.
19. Tinnin building built in 1856 as a hardware store and tin shop. Now the office of Estrellita Estates, a Land Development Company.
20. John Cole building built in 1856. Now occupied by Ryan's Store on the first floor, the Odd Fellows Lodge on the second floor. The last of the condominium ownership buildings in Weaverville.
21. R. A. Fagg built in 1856 to house the City Drug Company. Now occupied by Heffington's, a flower and gift shop.
22. A. Solomon building 1856. First occupied as a stove and tinware store by S. Markewitz. Used after 1858 by various banking firms. Presently occupied by Hill & Lowden, Surveyors.
23. F. W. Blake building, built by Moss, Mabie & Co. in 1856. Used for F. W. Blake Bank and Wells-Fargo Express. Now occupied as "The Diggins" Bar.
24. The Joss House built originally by the Chinese as a place of worship in 1850. This building was destroyed by fire. In 1874 the present building was started. Was presented to the State in 1956 and dedicated in 1961. Now a State Historical Monument.
25. J. J. "Jake" Jackson Memorial Museum and Trinity County Historical Park. Started August 1967. Was dedicated June 23, 1968. Source of funds being State Bond Act Grant; County Funds; Historical Society Funds. Building houses early day Trinity County artifacts.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 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 checked="" 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

SEE ATTACHMENT "B"

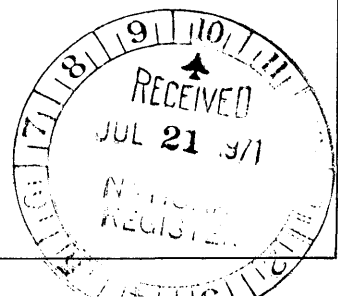
The Weaverville Historic District is established in a community effort to encourage preservation of an area that is probably one of the best preserved of all the old towns of the Shasta-Trinity Gold Rush era. As a central commercial hub, the business establishments of Weaverville supplied the needs for staple foods, tools and equipment and clothing for the thousands of prospectors and miners and their associates over a large section of Northern California.

Named for John Weaver in 1850, the camp of "Fortyniners" was the political as well as the commercial and entertainment center of Trinity County. Early wood buildings lost in a series of disasterous fires were replaced with brick construction. By 1858 there were about 25 brick buildings along Main Street. A large and active Chinese population centered in a two block area dubbed inevitably, "Chinatown". Their temple (Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park) and one or two earth-walled houses remain.

With its original furnishings of 1854, said to have come from China, in a temple built about 1874 to replace one destroyed by fire, the Joss House is a unique feature of old Weaverville. Another unique feature prevails today in several of the brick buildings within the Historic District: separate ownership of upper and lower stories of a single structure, with access to the second floor by a circular iron stairway from the sidewalk.

The Weaverville Historic District essentially represents the central historic zone of pioneer Weaverville. Through the cooperative efforts of property owners, businessmen, residents and local organizations, many buildings within the Historic District have been retained in a reasonably original condition, although adapted to contemporary needs. Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park is included in the southerly end of the Historic District.

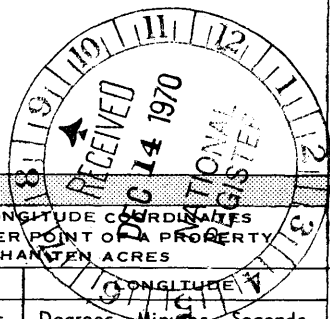
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Spots in California - Rensch, Hoover, Abeloe, Stanford, 1966.

Trinity County Historical Society



NW 11/501250
 4509160
 NE 10/505130/4509250
 SE 10/505370/4505440
 SW 10/515170/4502350

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	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	40°	44'	06"	122°	56'	34"						
NE	40°	44'	10"	122°	56'	22"						
SE	40°	43'	43"	122°	56'	12"						
SW	40°	43'	39"	122°	56'	24"						

11 plus acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
		Shasta	
		Tehama-Mendocino	
		Humboldt	
		Siskiyou	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Historical Landmarks Committee

ORGANIZATION: Trinity County Historical Society DATE: June 24, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 333

CITY OR TOWN: Weaverville STATE: California 96093 CODE: 06

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

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:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: August 3, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 14 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: SEP 21 1971

The fallen headboard had the following inscription: "Col. H. Seeley, September 2, 1852, aged 54 years." The grave was fenced and at one time had been well cared for.

Canon City, located above Junction City on Canon Creek, was one of the first mining camps, originally known as Jackass Bar. It became one of the largest gold-producing settlements in the county. The last trading post there closed its door in 1885.

At the mouth of the North Fork of Trinity River was formerly an important town and trading post called North Fork, now renamed Helena. Here Herbert Hoover worked for a time as a young mining engineer. Until 1926 this was the end of the road; from here the traveler had to ride a trail. In that year the state highway was opened all the way down the Trinity River.

Big Bar, eight miles below Helena, was an important mining center in the 1850's. Weaver and Company, who mined there in 1850, spent \$10,000 diverting water from Little Weaver Creek and took out \$100,000 in gold.

The canyon of the Trinity River between North Fork and Big Bar was once the scene of much mining activity in the bed of the river. Chinese miners were the last to "clean up" there. Manzanita Flat, worked for many years, had a twentieth-century revival with the use of the water of Manzanita Creek.

Cox's Bar was quite famous in the early days, but nothing remains to show for the extensive mining done there except moss-covered tailing piles and scarred banks. Mosses have been taken from the rock there and burned, the ashes yielding fine "flour" gold. At Big Flat, near Cox's Bar, was a large settlement—450 people in 1856.

The largest gold nugget ever found in Trinity County, valued at \$1,800, was discovered on Digger Creek by Georg Van Matre. Minersville, near the mouth of Stewart's Fork, was a center of rich pocket mines. In 1880 the noted Brown Bear Quartz Mines were discovered on Deadwood Creek; they have produced more than a million dollars' worth of ore. Crow's Bar, of 80 acres, was mined by water brought from Rush Creek through a ditch eight miles long, built at a cost of \$20,000.

Since the 1850's much gold has been taken from the banks and bed of the Trinity River and its tributaries, but none of them has been worked completely. During the depression of the 1930's, a large number of men worked along the bars with appliances such as were used by the early miners, the pan, the rocker, the sluice. Many earned enough to live on.

La Grange Mine

In Oregon Gulch, four miles northwest of Weaverville, is what was for years one of the most important hydraulic mines in California, the La Grange Mine (SRL 778), opened in 1851. It was being operated in 1890 by the Trinity Gold and Mining Company, which had bought up claims totaling 432 acres.

Water for washing the gravel in this tremendous deposit was first obtained through ditches

from Weaver Creek. As this supply proved inadequate, a water right on the East Fork of Stewart's Fork 30 miles away was acquired. The mine had an ideal dumping ground. The tailings were run into a narrow valley owned by the company and from this valley drained directly into the Trinity River. Since this stream is not navigable and the surrounding country is not farmland, little damage resulted from this disposal of mine waste.

For many years the La Grange Mine was known as the largest operating hydraulic mine in the world, but it has been closed since World War I. A vast quantity of low-grade gravel is left, but the cost of reopening the works would be considerable because of the necessity of driving tunnels and cuts.

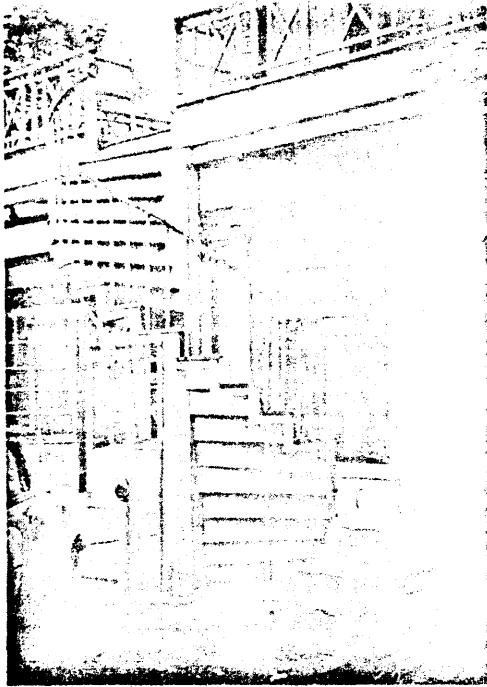
Bridge Gulch Massacre of 1852

When the first settlers came to Trinity County, depredations from Indians were a constant source of annoyance. A number of expeditions were organized to drive them out. In 1852 the killing of a man named Anderson aroused high feeling among the white settlers. Anderson had gone alone to the range to bring in some of his cattle, when he was attacked and killed by the Indians, who drove off the cattle. When Anderson failed to return to Weaverville and his riderless mule appeared at the corral, a searching party was formed, who found his arrow-pierced body. A portion of the party set out after the Indians, while the remainder went back to Weaverville to spread the alarm. Soon afterward 70 men were ready to start, and, joining the advance party whose position was relayed by messengers sent back to Weaverville, they again picked up the Indians' trail. After tracking them to their camp at Bridge Gulch in Hayfork Valley, the whites surrounded the camp and, in an attack from four sides, massacred 153 Indians. Only two little Indian girls, who were overlooked, survived. These children were brought back to town and reared by white families. One of them was Ellen Clifford—long a resident of Weaverville. At a later date Indian Bob of Douglas City claimed that he was a boy of nine at the time of the massacre and had hidden behind a log until the whites had left the scene. There is no one to verify or discredit his story.

The natural bridge where the massacre took place is located on Hayfork Creek, about nine miles above the town of Hayfork and a mile from the Leach Ranch-Wildwood road. Carved from limestone by the action of the water, it has a span of 150 feet and is 30 feet high. The highway to Hayfork makes this point easily accessible.

Weaverville

The old mining town of Weaverville, named in 1850 for John Weaver, a gold prospector who arrived in the vicinity in 1849, is located in what was one of the wildest and most inaccessible regions of California. Now it is easily reached by the state highway from Redding. It was the center of great mining activity in the days of '49, and in 1850 it became the county seat of Trinity County. Many old buildings, some with iron shutters and



*Spiral Staircase,
Native Sons' Building, Weaverville*

winding outside stairways leading to upper balconies, give charm and romance to the narrow streets of Weaverville today. It is probably one of the best preserved of all the old towns, and for many years was far from the beaten path.

Like many other towns of the county, it has suffered heavily from loss by fire. The first fire, in March 1853, destroyed 35 of the 41 buildings in the town, but immediately the inhabitants started reconstruction, this time replacing the wooden and canvas buildings wherever possible with brick ones. On the site of the present County Library was the first brick structure, formerly used as a blacksmith shop for many years. During the summer of 1853, the first courthouse and jail were built; and the Masonic Lodge, chartered in the summer of 1852, was for a time housed on the second floor of the courthouse building.

Early in the winter of 1853 fire once more swept the town, but again the citizens began rebuilding immediately. More brick buildings were constructed in 1855, some of red-burnt brick and some of adobe, and by 1858 there were 25 brick buildings on Main Street. Some of these were two-story structures, and nearly all were equipped with the iron doors and shutters which many believe were necessary for the protection of the gold stored within but which were in reality for protection against fire.

In 1963 there were 16 of the old brick buildings, erected between 1855 and 1859, still standing and in use in Weaverville. One of these is the courthouse, built in 1856 as a saloon, store, and office

building. It was purchased by Trinity County in 1865 and has been used continuously as a courthouse ever since. Three buildings, including the halls of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the International Order of Odd Fellows, have outside spiral staircases from the sidewalks to the overhanging balconies of the second floors. These iron staircases were handmade by the town blacksmith. When the buildings were erected, they had the distinction of having two owners, one for the lower floor and one for the upper. Since space was at a premium and all the buildings were wall to wall, the only solution was an outside front stairway. The old wooden sidewalks are deemed a fire hazard and are being replaced as rapidly as wear and tear make it necessary.

The Chinese population of Weaverville in those early days numbered at one time about 2,000, and Chinatown was a busy two blocks on both sides of the street—stores, laundries, gambling houses, and other places of business. After the toll taken by repeated fires and the changes wrought by time, there are now remaining only a few adobe houses, one tong house, and the famous Joss House. The present Joss House (SRL 709), situated back from the street on a knoll across the bridge over Weaver Creek, was built in 1874 to replace the one that burned. The carefully preserved building is now Weaverville Joss House State Historical Monument and is open to the public. It is still a place of worship. Burning incense and carved figures give a decided Oriental atmosphere to the place. The furnishings, for the most part, are those saved from the fires and are the very ones brought from China in 1854. In a small room there is a sort of frieze near the ceiling, on which are the names of hundreds of Chinese who once constituted a part of Weaverville's Chinatown.

The Chinese Tong War of 1854 occupies quite a place in the town's history. About 600 Chinese took part in the battle on a flat near Five Cent Gulch, about a mile east of town on the East Weaver Road that leads toward Trinity Alps. The site of the battle has since been mined, so that little of the 1854 contours remains. However, in the collections of the J. J. Jackson Memorial Museum, which is in the basement of the courthouse, there are sword, pike, and spear relics of this war between the tongs.

Among other possessions of the town is one of the early fire engines brought to California. This, one of three originally brought to San Francisco, came around the Horn in 1858. Weaverville acquired it about 1905, and it was in use there for a time.

Historic Townsites and Stopping Places

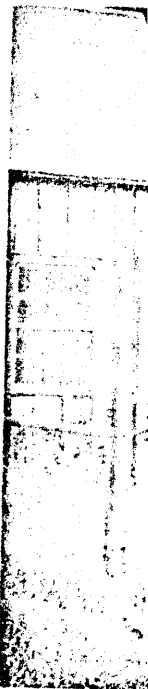
Aside from the historic landmarks preserved in the town of Weaverville, there are very few early structures in Trinity County that have come down to the present day. There are two brick buildings at Helena, constructed in 1859; the public schoolhouse, built near Junction City in the early 1860's, still stands, and a few old residences are intact.

In the 1850's and 1860's, settlements equipped

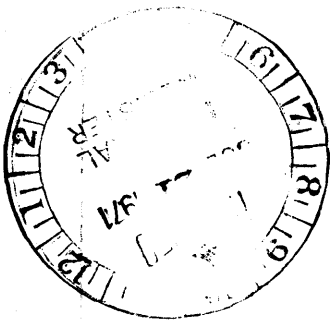
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Old Town of He



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AT 40°45' 22" S 122°50' 00" W



AT 40°45' 22" S 122°50' 00" W

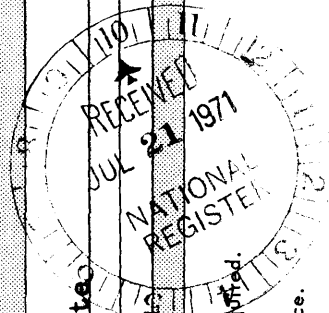
Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		California	
COUNTY		Trinity	
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		
11.10.06.0064	10/24/71		
1. NAME			
COMMON AND/OR HISTORIC: Weaverville Weaverville			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Weaverville			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	.06	Trinity	105
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Weaverville Townsite			
SCALE:	DATE:		
1"=200'	1970		
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS