

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Sonoma Grammar School

RECEIVED

and/or common Sonoma Community Center

APR 07 1980

2. Location

OHP

street & number 276 E. Napa St.

not for publication

city, town Sonoma

vicinity of

congressional district

1st CA

state California

code 06

county Sonoma

code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social Serv.

4. Owner of Property

name The Sonoma Community Center, Inc., A Non-Profit Corporation

street & number 276 E. Napa St.

city, town Sonoma

vicinity of

state CA 95476

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sonoma County Recorder's Office

street & number 2555 Mendocino Ave., P.O. Box 6124

city, town Santa Rosa

state CA 95406

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sonoma Valley Historical Resources Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Completed May, 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records Sonoma City Hall, 1 The Plaza

city, town Sonoma

state CA 95476

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	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sonoma Grammar School is a free-standing, Classical Revival, two-story building situated on the front half of a two-acre parcel. The front elevation of the structure is about 50' from a main thoroughfare. The building is U-shaped, symmetrical, and in very good condition.

The front (south) elevation is 177' long and divided into 5 different vertical elements. The center element (30' wide x 36') is a Classical portico with pediment, cornice, and four free-standing terra cotta, Ionic columns 21' high and 2'6" in diameter at the base. These columns frame an entry that is 12' wide, 22' high with double doors, side-lites and a large top-lite composed of 28 panes. The entire entry is framed in American Oak.

At either end of the front elevation, two secondary entry points 34' wide and 33' high project out about 6' from the face of the building. These entry points have massive, rusticated, red brick pilasters and are topped by Neo-Classical parapets. The recessed alcove that protects the double-door is of light cream brick veneer with geometrical designs in the brick work.

Between the main entryway and the secondary entry points are two somewhat recessed areas approximately 37' wide and 33' high.

Windows on the front facade are grouped in 6 bays of five, and are double-hung, sash windows with fluted wood trim. Four bays are at the main floor level, and two at the basement level.

The brick exterior of the front elevation is laid in a common bond pattern with a syth every sixth row and a soldier course at the bottom, which rests upon a massive concrete base some 4' high. A belt course of cream-colored pressed brick runs the length of the facade. It is topped by a 2' wide cornice with dentils and ogee molding above and below. The cornice also runs the length of the front elevation, as does a 3' high brick parapet with a brick cap.

The east and west elevations are both 120' long and 33' high, and continue the belt course, cornice, parapet, and red brick veneer of the front elevation. On the west elevation, 4 recessed windows provide a decorative lighting for the auditorium that occupies the west wing. Each window has 3 vertical lites in the bottom sash, and an 8 lite star pattern in the top sash. An elaborate geometrical pattern of brick decorates the wall under each window. Beneath three of these at the ground level, are pairs of double-hung wood frame sash. Double-doors open out under the fourth design.

The east elevation does not have the decorative bay windows or geometrical brick work. Its windows are clustered in 6 groups of 5 windows each. (Continued on continuation sheets)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1990

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The rear elevation is 177' long, 33' high and U-shaped. Wings on either end of the building enclose a plain concrete courtyard. The frieze, cornice, and dentils continue for about 2/3 of the length of each wing of the U, and then are replaced by a red brick frieze and corbelled cornice. The parapet and massive concrete base continue for the entire length of the rear elevation. Thirty-seven wood frame, double-hung windows look onto the courtyard.

Notable architectural features of the interior include:

1. A 9' wide, 16' long concrete stairway with simple oak handrails, leading from the main entry to the main floor;
2. Massive oak staircases with newel posts, square balusters, and shaped hand rails at either end of the main hall;
3. Coved, 12' high, lath and plaster ceilings;
4. Lath and plaster walls with picture molding and wainscoting trim of vertical grain Douglas Fir;
5. Built-in corner cabinets of Douglas Fir with glass doors;
6. Vertical interior windows to light the main hallways upstairs and down;
7. Numerous white globe lights;
8. Panel doors of Douglas Fir with obscure glass transoms and brass fittings, with molding 6" wide of Douglas Fir;
9. 12" wide decorative base board of Douglas Fir.

A particularly outstanding feature of the interior is the theater-auditorium that occupies the west wing of the building. The auditorium's main floor is 30' wide and 60' long with a 24' high coved ceiling; it comfortably seats 200 people. The balcony is 30' x 30' with fixed wooden seats for another 100 people. The elevated stage has an ornamental arch of stucco water lilies culminating in 2 plaster cherubs. The arch is 24' wide and 16' high. Acoustics in the auditorium are excellent.

In 1924, the rear wings of the original building were enclosed in larger wings. Both the interior and exterior details and architectural features were duplicated exactly, and the additions were entirely compatible with the original structure. In all, 2800 sq. ft. were added both upstairs and down.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Except for some weathering, the rusting of sheet metal used to cover the cornice, and the painting of the oak trim on the outside of the entryways, the exterior of the building retains its integrity to its 1916 and 1924 appearance.. Some remodeling has occurred on the interior, including substantial rewiring, the replacement of some globes with florescent lights, and minor alterations in several rooms. These alterations are routine in nature and do not materially detract from the integrity of the building.

The building is situated in a neat, quiet residential area on a main thoroughfare, and is less than 2 blocks from the historic Sonoma Plaza, listed on the National Register of Historic pPlaces in 1975.

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916, Addit., 1924 Builder/Architect A. C. Lutgens

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Sonoma Grammar School possesses great architectural, historical, and educational significance for this area because of its structural uniqueness, its authenticity, its ease of accessibility, and its role in the development of the community. Moreover, in its present role as The Sonoma Community Center, it continues to be an important cultural, educational, and social institution, with a rapidly expanding program of community services.

Architecturally, The Sonoma Grammar School is significant because it is a splendidly preserved, large-scale example of a pre-World War I neo-Classical Revival school building of a kind increasingly rare in California. It is the only building of its kind in Sonoma, the largest brick structure in town and likely the last of its kind that will ever be built in this area.

Historically, it is significant because it signals the importance placed on education by this small, rural community. When it was constructed, it was the grandest building in Sonoma, and its construction must have strained the resources of the people. For over 30 years, until building code changes forced the building's abandonment as a school, the grade school children of Sonoma learned in this building the fundamentals of education, democracy, and Americanism. The school was, in fact, a miniature "melting pot", where the children of parents who often could not even speak English learned to work and play together and respect one another's differences.

Although it is no longer operated as an educational facility, the building continues to play an important part in the recreational, cultural, and intellectual life of the Sonoma Valley as the home of the Sonoma Community Center.



9. Major Bibliographical References

Miss Jerry Casson, Nov., 1979; Mr. Allen Bean, Nov., 1979; Sonoma Valley Historical Resources Survey; original blueprints, dated 1916; Vic Conforti, Architect; Marian Brackenridge, Nov., 1979; Richard W. Roth, Dec. 1979.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .86 Acre (37,260 sq.ft.)

Quadrangle name Sonoma

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

10	548000	4238120
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification That part of the original parcel (Lot 39 on the Official Plat Map of the City of Sonoma) occupied by the building and extending out from the East, West, and North elevations 15 feet, and extending from the South (front) elevation to the sidewalk that runs parallel to East Napa St. The total area is approximately 37,260 sq. ft.

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 LARRY G. KINCAID, Manager

organization SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER

date March 17, 1980

street & number 276 E. Napa St.

telephone (707) 938-4626

city or town Sonoma

state CA 95476

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Knox Miller

title

date 9/19/80



76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED 8

CONTINUATION SHEET

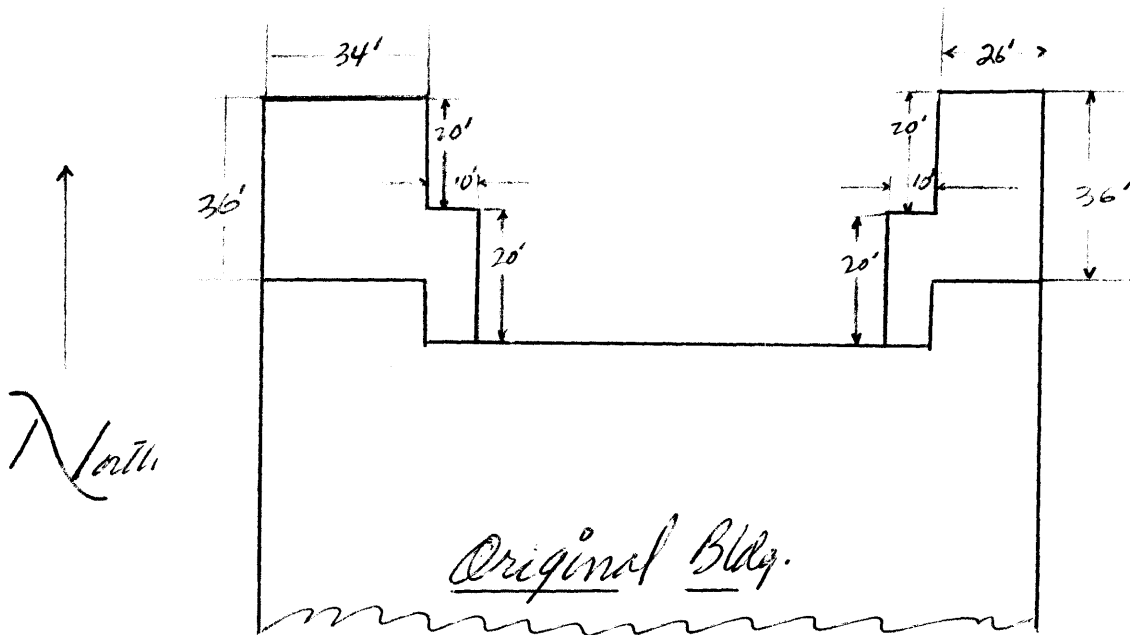
ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

The architect of the Sonoma Grammar School was A.C. Lutgens, a modestly successful San Francisco builder and designer who had grown up in the Sonoma Valley and attended the old grammar school his building eventually replaced. Among Mr. Lutgens other buildings, the most famous is the widely known Sonoma City Hall, which was constructed in 1905, and which has already gained inclusion in the National Register.

Sec. 7 (Description)

Shaded areas added to rear elevation
in 1924



Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma County, California



MAP #1

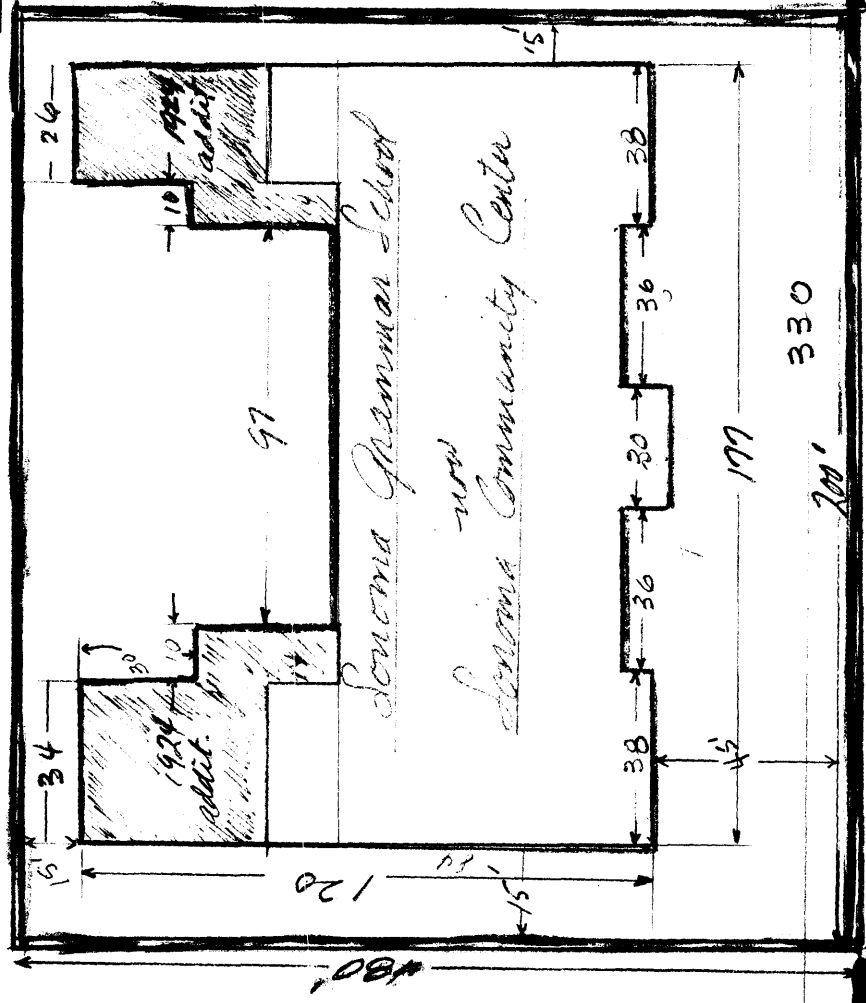
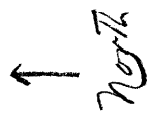
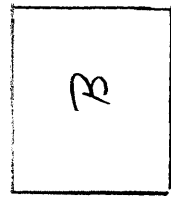
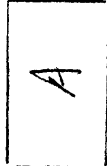
Episcopal Church

private residence

Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma County, California

Only the area outlined in red is to be included in the National Register listing. The total lot is outlined in heavy black.

Blgs. A, B, & C are not included in the application for recognition & designa. form.



303

private residence

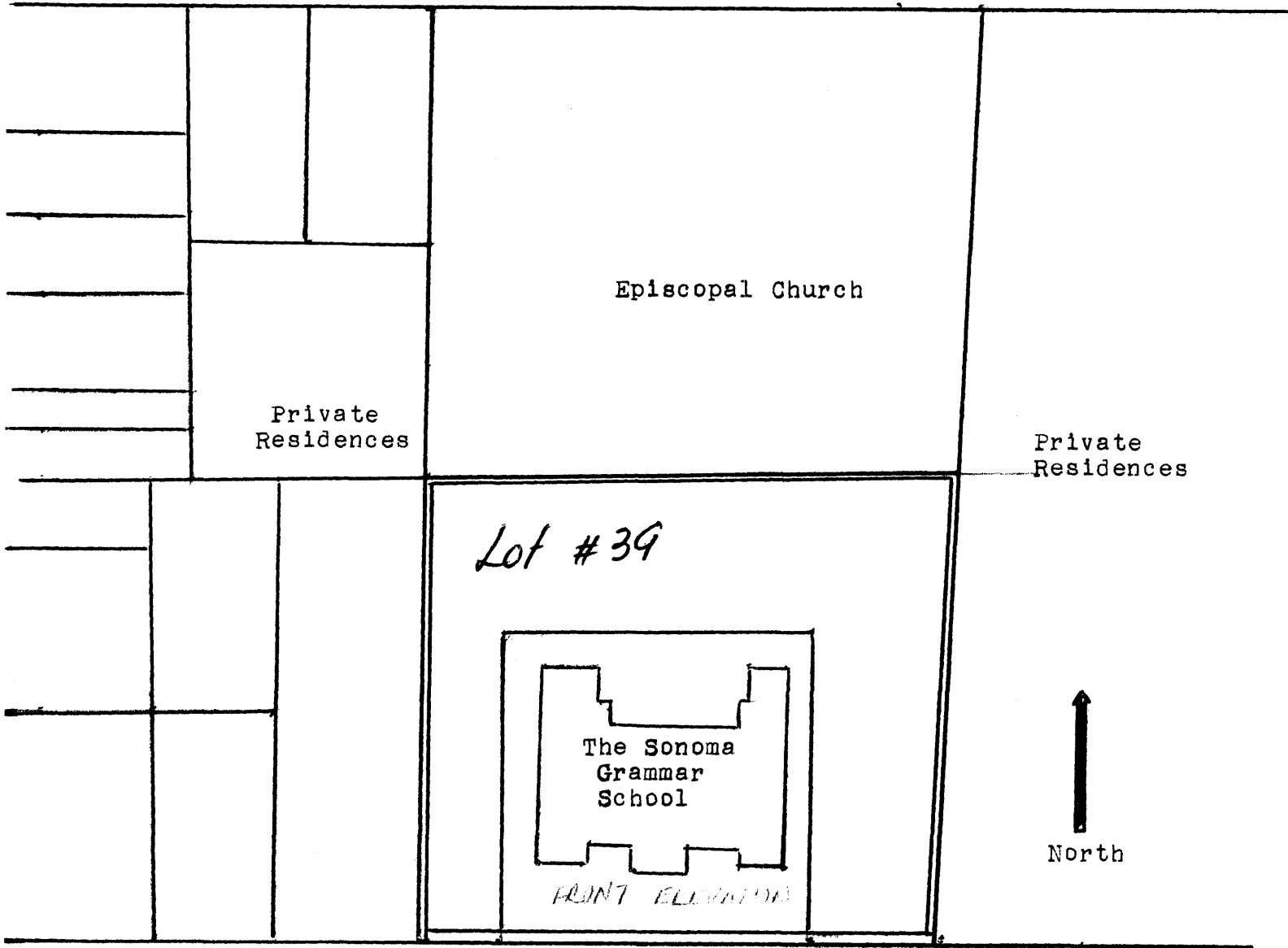
OCT 6 9 130
1981

Napa St., East

MAP #2

Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma Caounty California

The map below is a tracing of the page of the Official Map of The City of Sonoma showing the parcel occupied by the Sonoma Grammar School (Sonoma Community Center). The entire parcel is outlined in double black lines; the portion of the total parcel being considered for recognition is shaded in red.



E. Napa St.

3rd.
St.
East

OCT 6 1980

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	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

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FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .86 Acre (37,260 sq.ft.)

Quadrangle name Sonoma

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	10	5481000	42318120	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification That part of the original parcel (Lot 39 on the Official Plat Map of the City of Sonoma) occupied by the building and extending out from the East, West, and North elevations 15 feet, and extending from the South (front) elevation to the sidewalk that runs parallel to East Napa St. The total area is approximately 37,260 sq. ft.
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 LARRY G. KINCAID, Manager

organization SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER date March 17, 1980

street & number 276 E. Napa St. telephone (707) 938-4626

city or town Sonoma state CA 95476

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Knox Miller date 9/19/80

title _____ date _____

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol O'Shull date 11-28-80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patricia Anderson date 11/28/80
Chief of Register

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED 8

CONTINUATION SHEET

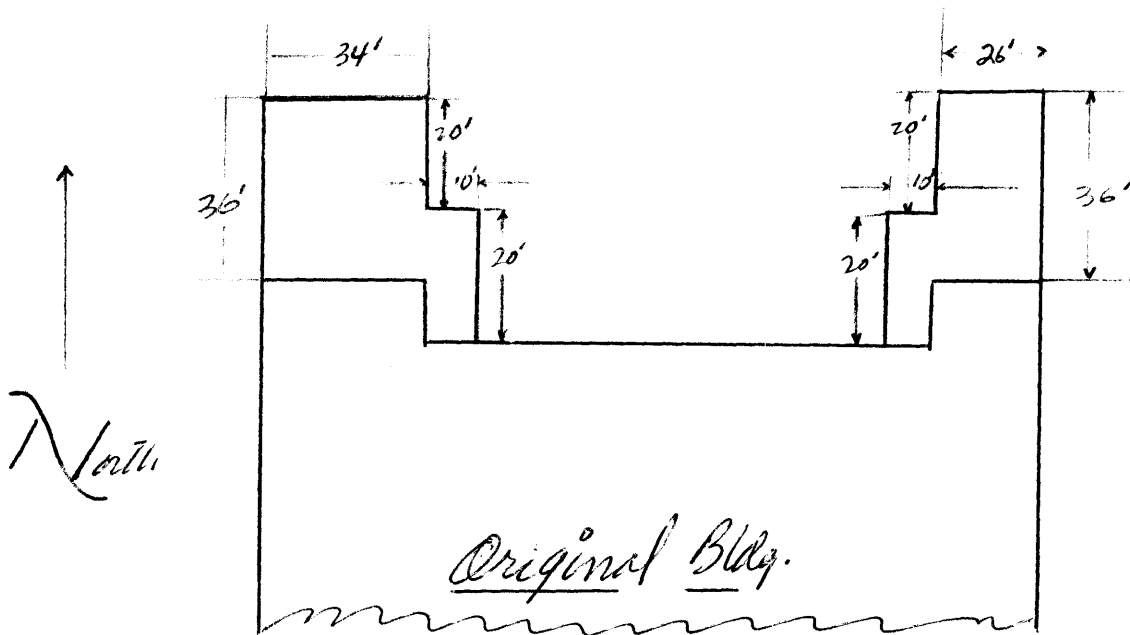
ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

The architect of the Sonoma Grammar School was A.C. Lutgens, a modestly successful San Francisco builder and designer who had grown up in the Sonoma Valley and attended the old grammar school his building eventually replaced. Among Mr. Lutgens other buildings, the most famous is the widely known Sonoma City Hall, which was constructed in 1905, and which has already gained inclusion in the National Register.

Sec. 7 (Description)

Shaded areas added to rear elevation
in 1924



Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma County, California



private residence

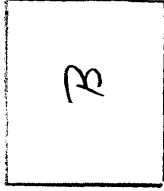
Episcopal Church

MAP #1

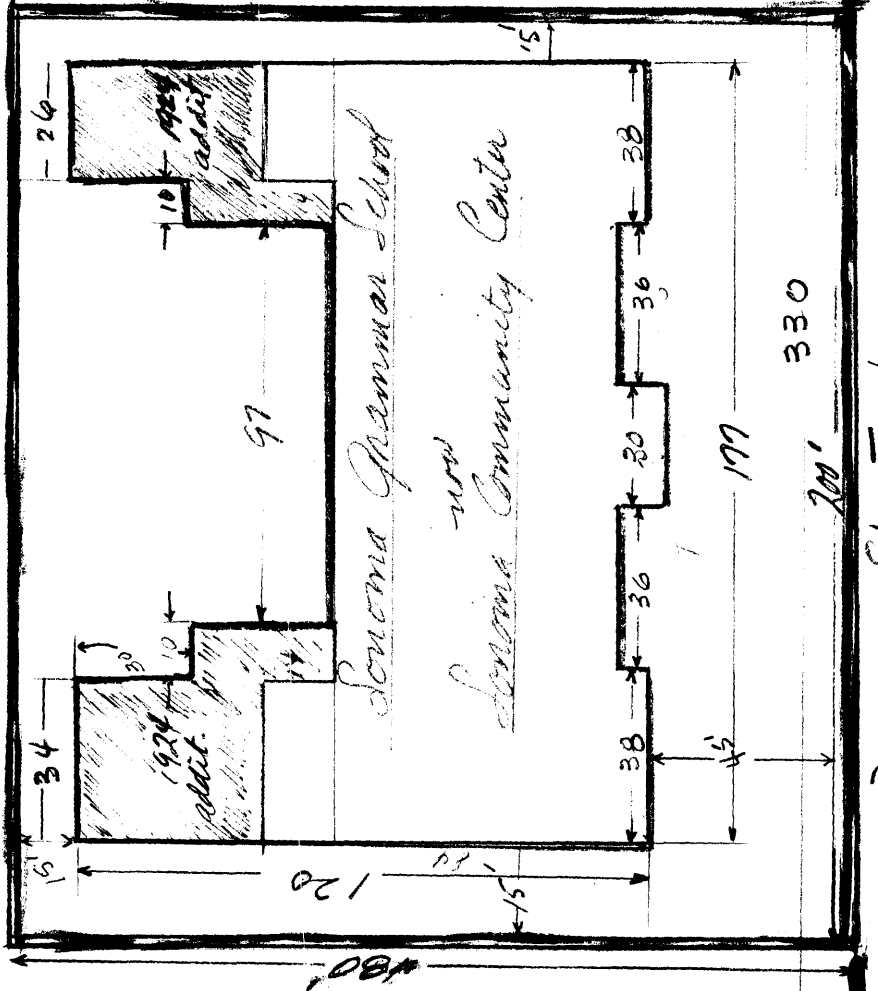
Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma County, California

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Blkgs. A, B, & C are not included in the application for recognition & designa. form.



North ↑



303

private residence

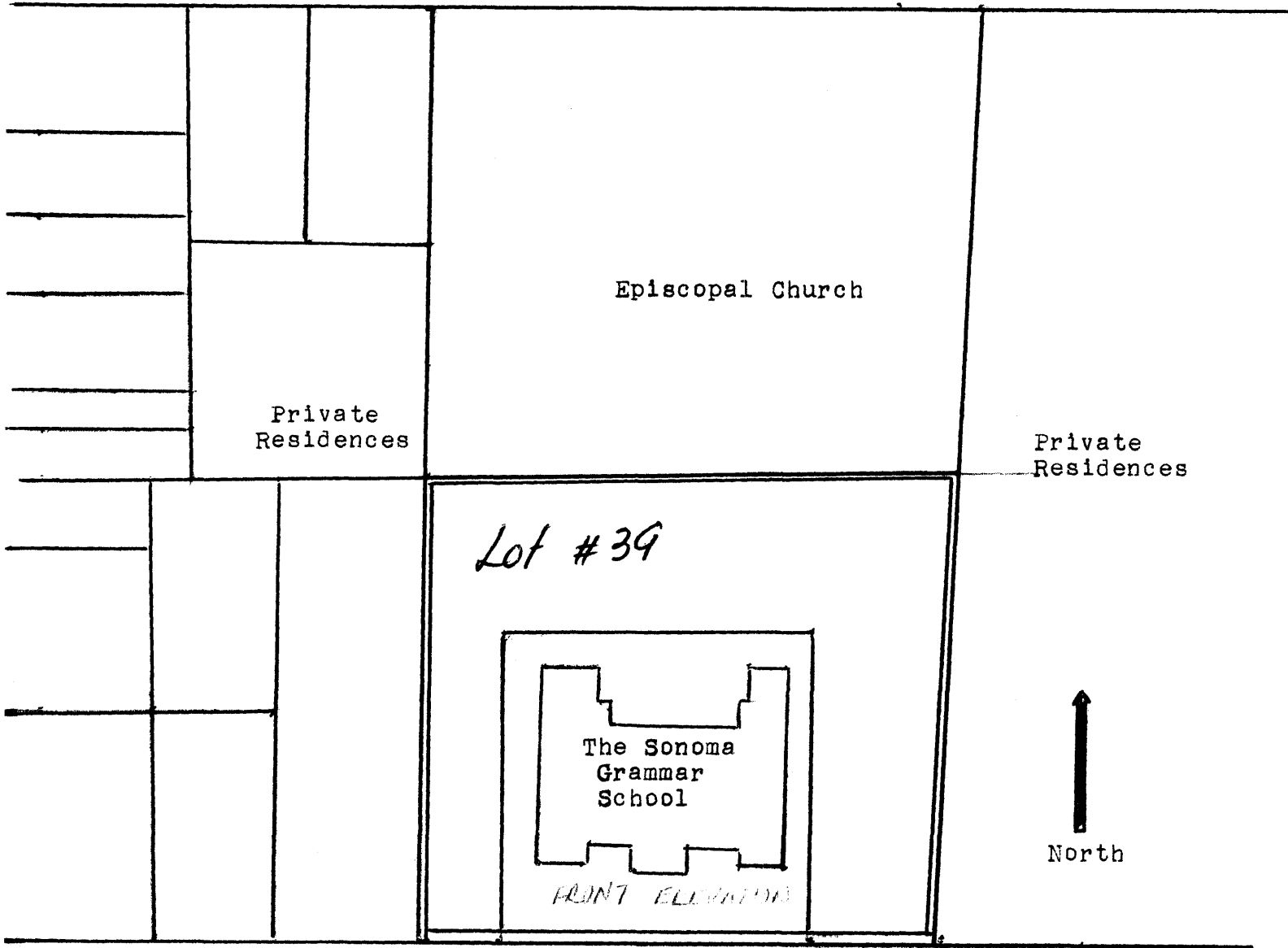
OCT 6 9 130
1981

Napa St., East

MAP #2

Sonoma Grammar School
Sonoma, Sonoma Caounty California

The map below is a tracing of the page of the Official Map of The City of Sonoma showing the parcel occupied by the Sonoma Grammar School (Sonoma Community Center). The entire parcel is outlined in double black lines; the portion of the total parcel being considered for recognition is shaded in red.



E. Napa St.

3rd.
St.
East

OCT 6 1980