

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCPS use only
received 4 SEP 1979
date entered OCT 18 1979

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Con Creek School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number On Highway 128, 2 miles North of Boonville, CA not for publication

city, town Boonville vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state California code 06 county Mendocino code 045

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Anderson Valley Community Service District

street & number

city, town Boonville vicinity of state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mendocino County Courthouse, Records Office

street & number Corner of Perkins and State Street

city, town Ukiah state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1965</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This building is a typical little red school house, a one-story, one-room structure, in a vernacular Greek Revival style. Except for minor exterior alterations, porches and storage sheds, the building retains its integrity of design and location. Interior alterations are in the process of being removed and the condition of the building returned to the original. The building sets on approximately 1.6 acres of well kept lawns and is shaded by a large fir tree.

The school is a rectangular redwood ship-lap sided structure located near Highway 128 in Anderson Valley. This simple, 1870's, classically styled building has dimensions of 20 feet by 50 feet. A rear storage area was constructed at the same time as the school; its dimensions are 10 feet by 12 feet. A full porch of 8 feet by 20 feet was added at a later date to the front; it replaced the original shed-roofed hood, supported by brackets, over the front entrance.

From the front, a porch consisting of a hipped roof with asphalt shingles is supported by 4 square wooden posts. The door is reached by a 4 step tripartite wooden porch with a balustrade of square posts. The front facade has no windows. The door is flanked by electrical equipment and pipes. The front gable end is framed by an undecorated frieze band. A hipped roofed rectangular cupola, with louvers on each side, and a ship-lap base, caps the front. This bell tower still contains the old school bell.

The side elevations consist of 6 windows with a central grouping of 3 windows. These 3 share a common sill. The windows are 6 over 6 double-hung 2-sash framed in redwood. Flat lintels and sills painted white surround the frames. The eastern side of the school has a small, wooden, shed-roofed outbuilding in a design compatible with the school. This is located close to the building and partially obscures the two windows to the front of the central grouping. (No use was given for the structure.) Continuing toward the rear, a gabled roofed entrance porch, supported by 2 wooden posts and reached by 6 steps, was added to the school in 1965 per order of the State Fire Marshall.

At the rear, the former wood storage area extends from the building and has a shed roof. Three double-hung two-sash single-pane windows share a common sill and face the north. A five-panel molded door opens from the east side of the shed to the porch.

The interior of the school has been altered through the use of paneling, accoustical tile, and carpeting to update the appearance. The owners plan to remove these modern decorative elements. Restrooms were added to the old cloak room.

The style of the Con Creek School demonstrates stylistic elements of the Greek Revival. The bilateral symmetry of the building has been altered through the addition of the side porch, but the entrance way reflects the former order of the building. The wall surfaces are as flat as the material would allow. There is little decoration other than the use of paint in contrasting colors to mark the end boards, the window surrounds, and the plain frieze band. As with most Greek Revival style buildings, the school was originally painted white. Later the color was changed to red with white trim. Although the building has no pediment, the contrasting colored end boards appear to support the gable end of the school, lending a strength to the simple block structure.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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In 1965, the State Department of Highways built a new road through Anderson Valley to eliminate the numerous curves. The Con Creek School was moved to a new concrete foundation 20 feet due south of the original site. The school also was reoriented from East-West to North-South. The move did not effect the integrity of the site and the location. The building still retains the dignity of its design and is located on the grounds where it has stood for 102 years.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1877 **Builder/Architect** J. D. Ball

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Con Creek School is significant as an example of a building type and a period in our country's architectural development. As the grammar school in this rural area of California, the building possesses an extreme historical importance to the local population. In use for 102 years, the school is the focal point of the town. The history of the town and the area explains the presence of a Greek Revival style building at a later date than the stylistic period. (1)

The Anderson Valley is a long, narrow strip (15 miles by 2 miles) between two mountain chains. The first settlers entered the valley in 1851; there was no market for the valley's products, so it remained rather isolated. J. D. Ball, an early pioneer, arrived with his large family (8 children) in 1852. By 1876, there was a need for a "real" school house and the local residents petitioned for a new school district to be established in Anderson. After receiving approval for the district, the trustees paid \$3.00 in gold for a two acre parcel located next to Con Creek. Mr. Ball constructed the school in a style with which he was familiar. (Ample lumber was available from the redwood groves in the valley). The school opened in October 1877 and served the local community until the spring of 1979. In this area, alumni ranging in age from 94 to 5, retain fond memories of the school. A description of Boonville, written in 1914, (and still very accurate), conveys the importance of the school to the town. "Boonville, about the center of the township, is the oldest village in it. It consists of two hotels, two stores, two blacksmith shops, post office, drug store, and eight or ten residences, a church and school house and barber shop. There used to be two saloons, but the school district voted dry some years ago and they are things of the past." (2) Used as a gathering place for the community, Boonville was and is proud of its' little red school house.

Architecturally, the building is an example of a vernacular adaption of the Greek Revival style in a country school house. The Greek Revival in the United States was popular from 1820-1860. The use of it in Boonville, reflects the conservatism of architectural tastes, the isolation of the community, and the popularity of the style with residents. This style was of particular importance to California and to school house design. Harold Kirker wrote in California's Architectural Frontier that the Greek Revival was the primary style of rural architecture in California until the advent of the railroads. Barbara Wriston stated in "The Use of Architectural Handbooks..." that the two styles most frequently used in school houses from 1840-1860 were the Greek Revival and the Gothic Revival. Although the school house was built in 1877, the local carpenter had emigrated to this area of California in 1852; he built the school in the style with which he was familiar-- a style popular when he left the east in the 1850's. This carpenter's use of the Greek Revival is explained by William Pierson: "Adopted by the common man as well as the professional, it became the first style in American history to be consciously understood and embraced as a truly national mode of building." (3) The local carpenter built the school in a manner which was fitting to the dignity of a public structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References see continuation sheet

Title of Ownership--Book 689, P. 631 in Mendocino County Courthouse Office of Recorder
 Excerpts from Official Records of Con Creek School District, Minutes of Mendocino
 County Board of Supervisors, November 9th, 1876, Volume 3, p. 273.
 Interviews with Alva Ingram and Blanche Brown--former students.
 Book of Deeds 22, p. 208, Mendocino County Recorders Office.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.6
 Quadrangle name Boonville SW, Mendocino County, CA

NOT RECORDED
 Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 1 0 4 6 6 6 5 0 4 3 1 9 9 5 0
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Portion of Parcel 23 on Map 46-17, Mendocino County Assessor's Map, March 1971.
 From NW corner of entry gate 213 ft S to SW corner then 107 ft. E to SE corner, then
 223 ft N to NE corner and 71 ft W to starting point. See continuation sheet.

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	J. Robert Mathias, Chairman	Revised by State Historic Preservation Office, MN-L 8/28/79.
organization	Anderson Valley Historical Society	date 8-22-78
street & number	18500 Alpine Meadows	telephone 707-895-3645
city or town	Yorkville	state California 95494

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 Kenneth M. Ellen

title _____ date 8/29/79

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

Carol Skellern date 10-18-79
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 10-17-79
 Chief of Registration

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Footnotes:

1. Because of the isolation of Anderson Valley, little historical information is available. The information that has been found indicates that the area was/is extremely conservative and traditional.
2. Carpenter and Millberry. Page 39.
3. Pierson. Page 417.

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Carpenter, Aurelius O. and Percy H. Millberry, History of Mendocino and Lake Counties, California. Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA. 1914.

History of Mendocino County, California. Alley, Bowen and Co., Publishers, San Francisco, CA. 1880.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. Dover Publications, Inc., New York. 1944, 1964.

Kirker, Harold. California's Architectural Frontier. Peregrine Smith, Inc. Santa Barbara. 1973.

Pierson, William H., Jr. American Buildings and Their Architects, The Colonial and Neo-Classical Styles. Anchor Books, Garden City, New York. 1970, 1976.

Wriston, Barbara. "The Use of Architectural Handbooks in the Design of Schoolhouses from 1840 to 1860". Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. October 1963. Volume XXII, Number 3. Pages 155-160.

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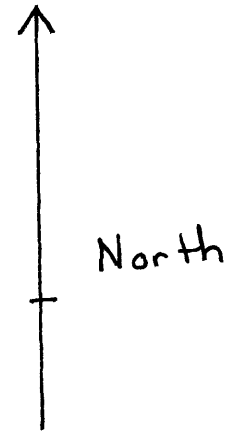
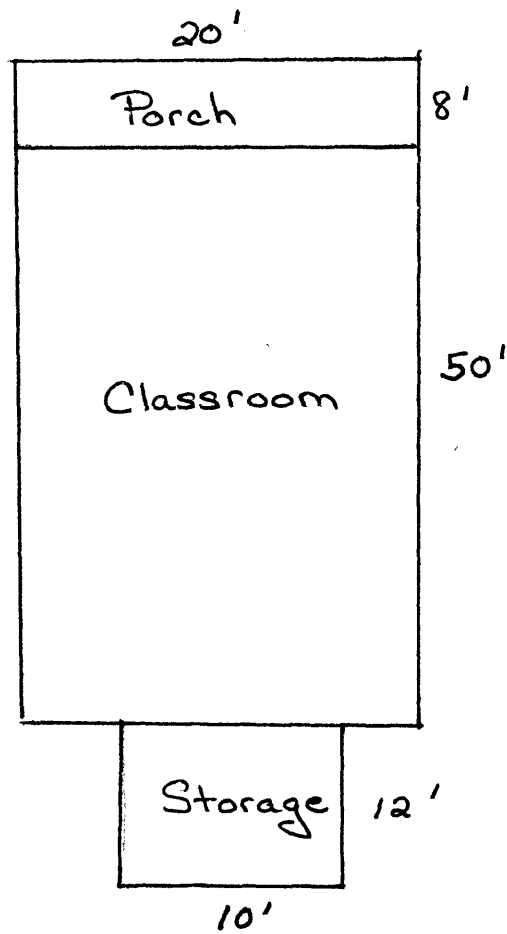
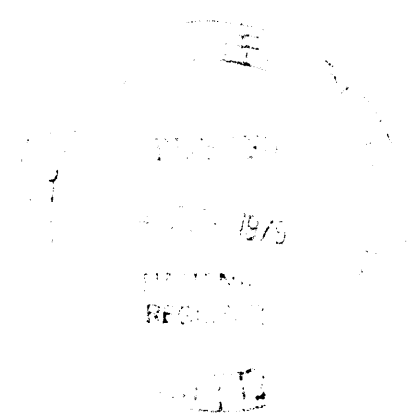
PAGE 1

The legal description of the Con Creek School is North $\frac{1}{2}$ and a portion of the Southeast $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 34, T. 14N. R. 14W., Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.

Attachment 1

Con Creek School, Boonville, Mendocino County, California

Dimensions of the building. This does not include the lot.



N 1/2 and a por. of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 34, T14N, R14W, MDB84M

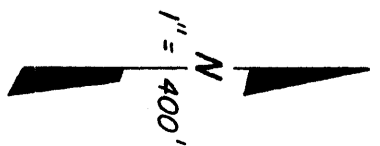
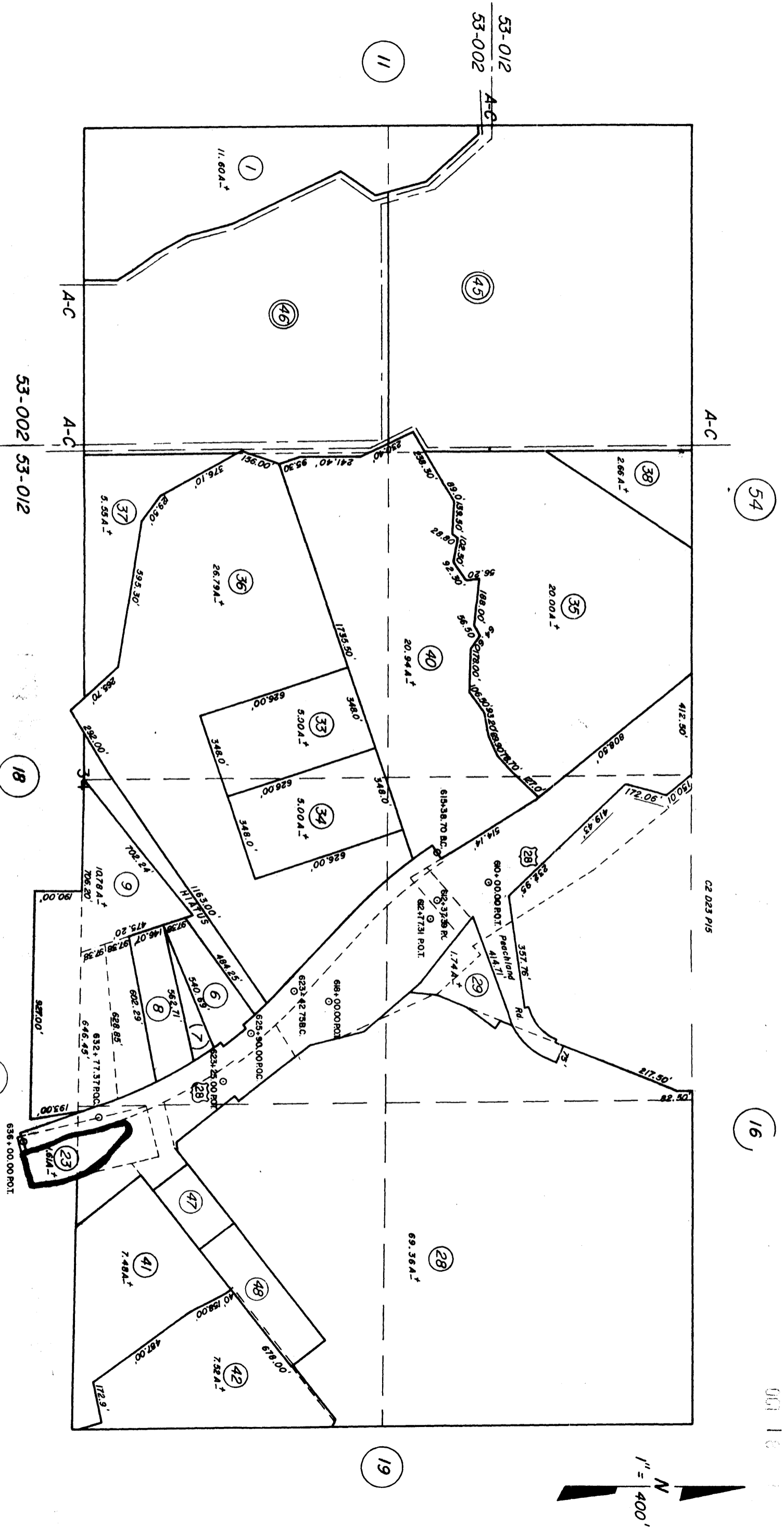
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A-C

46-17

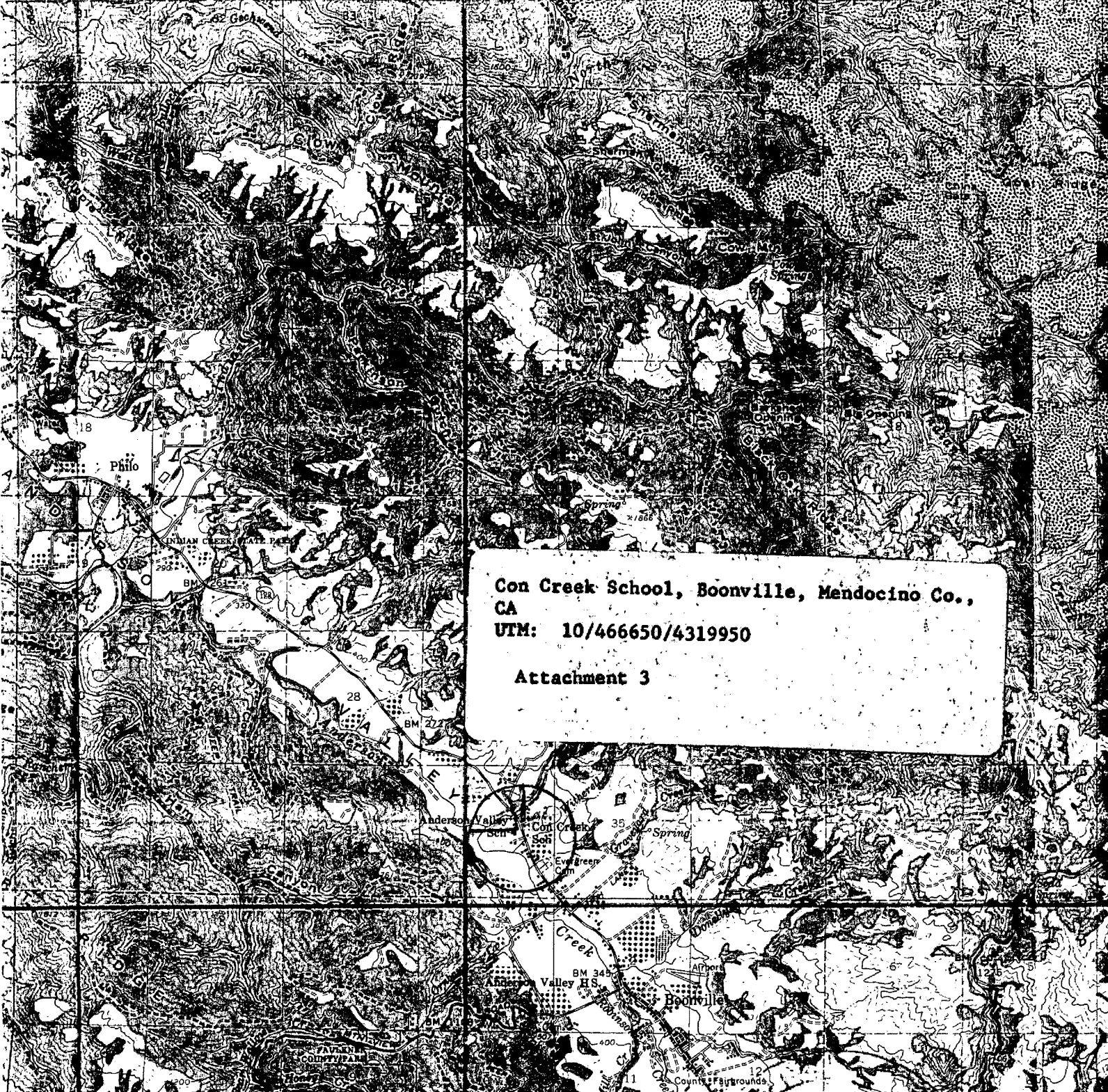
Con Creek School, Koonville, Mendocino Co.,
CA
Assessor's Map, property marked in red

Attachment 2

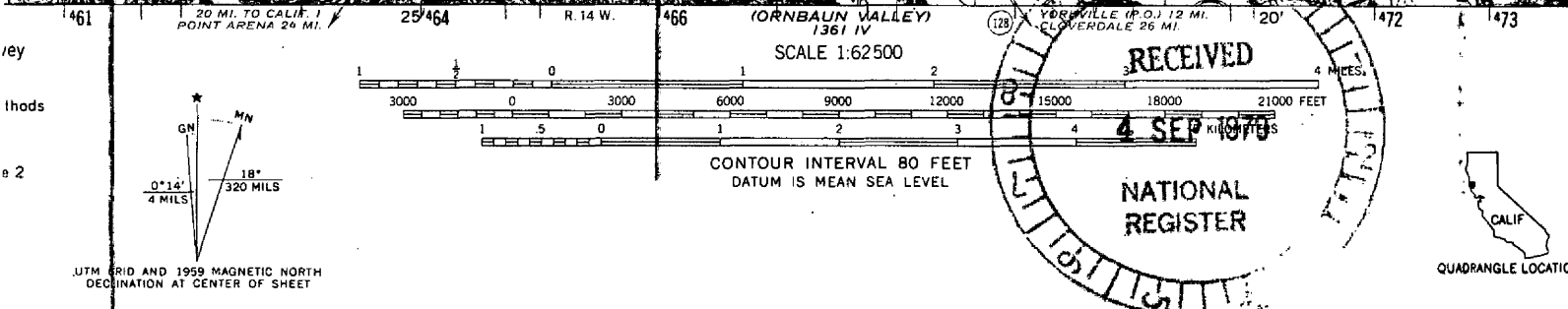
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Assessor's Map
County of Mendocino, Calif.
March, 1971



Con Creek School, Boonville, Mendocino Co., CA
UTM: 10/466650/431950
Attachment 3



FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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OCT 18 1979