

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

135

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: **Tassajara One Room School**

Other names/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1650 Finley Road

City or town: Danville State: California County: Contra Costa

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

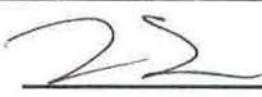
I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B C D

		Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer		2/18/14	
Signature of certifying official/Title:			Date		
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>					
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government					

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	

Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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Name of Property

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jon Edson K. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4-11-14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public - Local
- Public - State
- Public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

3

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

3

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School: Grammar School

Social: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian – Stick

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Walls: Wood weatherboard

Roof: Composition shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Tassajara One Room School is a simple wooden building built during the summer of 1889 in the Tassajara Valley, east of Danville, in a very rural setting surrounded by ranch settlements. It is a single story rectangular building containing one classroom which sets exactly where it was first built. At the east end of the classroom are three small spaces for nursing ill children, a library, and a teacher's room. The design/builder constructed it out of 2" x 4" pine studs to which he attached 1" x 8" tongue and groove redwood siding. Over the gable roof vestibule sets a belfry attached to the hipped main roof. Both sections of the roof are covered with cedar shingles. Originally the school set on a redwood perimeter foundation of 4"x 6" beams with posts to the subfloor.

Narrative Description

A school bell hangs in the belfry with a rope reaching down into the vestibule. The interior of the classroom is surrounded by slate blackboards. The walls are wood paneled with overlapping 4" wide "V" groove wainscoting rising from the floor to the bottom of the black board eraser ledge. The floor is polished yellow Douglas fir wood. An old stove sets off to the side of the classroom to provide heat and a black and white picture of President George Washington always hangs in the classroom. The original teacher's desk is in place. Adjacent to the school building are a stable, water tank house, and a handicapped accessible restroom all built in 2006 and which are non-contributing. Surrounding the school building are 49 black walnut trees planted by the first students in 1890. A flagpole sets directly in front of the school entrance. The school sat abandoned for over 25 years and vandals broke out all the windows which were replaced in the 1970s with non-period wood windows in anodized aluminum frames. The three doors to the spaces at the rear of the classroom were also replaced with contemporary 6 panel hollow core doors. The Museum is investigating restoring both features to materials common to the original

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period. The post and beam foundation had badly rotted and the building was tipping precariously so it was replaced with a perimeter concrete grade foundation with support posts running down the center rising up to the subfloor. Precise 1970's dates for these restorations are not known. The original school bell and the picture of President George Washington were both stolen. Also in the 1970's a replacement bell was donated and the thief who stole the president's picture anonymously returned it. In 1990 the leaky cedar shingle roof was replaced with cedar shingles. The remainder of the building is original material in excellent condition.

The three outbuildings (tank house, shed and restroom) were built after the period of significance and are thus non-contributors, but they are ancillary to the primary building. The black walnut trees are contributing features of the surrounding landscape.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) NA

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace, grave or cemetery
- D. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- E. A commemorative property
- F. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education – grammar school

Social - meeting hall

Period of Significance

1889 - 1946

Significant Dates

Construction and opening of school - 1889

School Abandoned – 1946

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weilbye, Julius L. (architect/builder)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Tassajara One Room School is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role in education and social history in rural Contra Costa County's Tassajara Valley, at the local level of significance. Period of significance is from 1889, the date of construction, until 1946 when the building ceased operation as a school.

As the chaos following the 1849 mad rush for gold gradually turned towards a search for normality and a more civilized life style, 49'ers who discovered their share of gold purchased land and settled into the familiar rhythms of rural agrarian America. California was transformed into a mirror of life back in the Midwest and Eastern states. Tassajara Valley ranchers too made their fortunes in the mines and stayed to set up housekeeping. With marriage and children they soon focused on a core American value: educate your children! To educate children they needed a school. Just like other Americans they formed a school district, voted to tax themselves, issued bonds through Contra Costa County, contracted with a design/builder who built a solid school in four months, hired a teacher, and sent their children to that school: the Tassajara One Room School. Over the next 57 years that school taught their children how to read, write, think, and live together successfully with other people. Their school was the anchor of their community. A United States Post Office served them from 1896 – 1922 and closed. Tassajara One Room School was the only enduring symbol of community in the Tassajara Valley and it faithfully educated their children from 1889 - 1946. They were part of the broad pattern of transformational California history reliant on a small building that dominated the lives of both children and their parents. Similar change was occurring across California.

But Tassajara One Room School played another important role as well. It was the center of social life for ranchers and their families. Parents came to the school to celebrate holidays and to applaud their children upon graduation. In fact the school was the focus of social life all year long. People voted at the school. The school board met there and the important decisions of the entire community were decided in that frame building. Over the years the community grew as emigrants from Portugal, Denmark, and Japan moved into the area. Their children went to school together. They ate each other's lunches and learned each other's customs. They celebrated American holidays. Over time immigrant children slowly became Americans without even recognizing the transformation in their lives. The Tassajara One Room School integrated immigrants with native born children and very few people even noticed. Tassajara One Room School was the cultural and social center of life in the Tassajara Valley.

That historic school house 124 years later still sets where it was originally built and it is still nearly surrounded with open ranch land. It looks just like it did 124 years ago. Most of it is original. It resembles hundreds of other one room schools across America all of which alike it, are treasure chests of memories and history.

(See continuation sheet)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Contra Costa Gazette February 9, 1889, August 21, 1889, September 11, 1889, August 2, 1890
Contra Costa Times September 27, 1970, September 25, 1989
Livermore Echo March 23, 1889
Lane, Beverly: "Tassajara School House" 2006
Oral Interviews by Jerry Warren:
Gordon Rassmussen Tassajara student 1940 – 1946 on April 22, 2013
Betty Matos Casey member of last Tassajara class in 1946 on May 1, 2013
Vera Reinstein Tassajara Fire Protection District Commissioner 1971 – 1990 on May 1, 2013
Berry, Blair AIA Danville, CA

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other: local media collection at Contra Costa County History Center, Martinez, CA
Name of repository: and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville, CA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA _____

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- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
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- Other: local media collection at Contra Costa County History Center, Martinez, CA
Name of repository: and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville, CA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 10 | Easting: 600450 | Northing: 4184400 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Contra Costa County Assessor's Parcel APN 204-070-001

This one acre parcel fronts to the west on 1650 Finley Road and is bounded on the south by Old School Road at its NE corner. Ranch property bounds the school on the north and east sides of the school. It is located in eastern Contra Costa County approximately two miles east of the Town of Danville and one half mile north of Camino Tassajara Road.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The school sets on the one acre parcel purchased by Tassajara School District for \$200 as recorded in the Contra Costa County Book of Deeds, April 20, 1889 Volume 55.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Robert Chandler, Retired Historian Wells Fargo History Museum, San Francisco and Jerry E. Warren, President, Board of Directors, Museum of the San Ramon Valley

organization: Museum of the San Ramon Valley

street & number: Box 39 (205 Railroad Ave.)

town: Danville

state: California

zip code: 94526

e-mail: srvmuseum@sbcglobal.net

telephone: 925 837 3750

date: July 22, 2013 Revised September 3, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **1996 7.5 minute Tassajara Quadrangle Map Attached See Tassajara One Room School in Section 34 of the map.**
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map **Sketch map attached**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Floor Plan attached.

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Continued from Section 8: Education and Social History in Tassajara Valley

For 57 years, the Tassajara One Room School in the larger San Ramon Valley area educated, enriched, and involved its community.

Tassajara Valley is isolated among the foothills of domineering Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa County's "initial point," that is the prime meridian for the survey of Northern California and Nevada. It has limited water supply, making it suitable only for cattle ranching or dry land farming usually producing barley and wheat.

Although remote, early settlers demanded education for their children. In September 1856, young poet Bret Harte became the teacher for the four sons of Tassajara rancher Abner Bryant in a "place as wild as the God of nature made it," Harte found. "Not caring to have them grow up like range-cattle," Harte wrote, the drover "decided to have a tutor." Thirty-five years later, Harte set here his novel, *A First Family of Tassajara* (1891) during the great flood of 1862.

"Whenever at least ten heads of families petition the County Superintendent for the organization of a new School District," the school law of March 22, 1864 stated, "that officer shall transmit the petition to the Supervisors." The Contra Costa board concurred, for during the next year as the Civil War closed, rancher Albert G. Wilkes built a small school on his ranch. Fifteen years later in May 1880, among the fourteen on the honor role for three grades, the families of Coats, Finley, McPherson, and Williams, contributed thirteen.

Time brings siblings. On January 12, 1889, ten voters unanimously agreed to sell \$1700 dollars of 7 percent bonds to purchase land and build a larger school. That spring, the school board bought an acre of land from Peter Anderson's ranch at 1650 Finley Road where it now joins Old School Road. The Old School came first and loaned its name to the road.

That September, architect and builder Julius L. Weilbye from nearby Sunol, finished the one room, high-ceiling, redwood frame building. The school opened in 1889, well furnished with double desks, a wood-burning stove, and two outhouses. The school and community had plans to plant trees, landscape the area, gravel the paths, and build a stable to house the one-horsepower student transportation. Over the years, nine sequential wells supplied water.

Beginning in August, 1889, teacher Richard D. Williams, a Tassajara graduate himself when the school was at the Wilkes Ranch, supervised from 32 to 41 pupils scattered in eight grades. He taught 14 students in the eighth grade and 8 students in the first grade. Ten families, Coats, Davina, Fergodo, Hanna, Koch, McPherson, Scott, Silver, Smith, and Webster, accounted for 70 percent of the attendees. Perhaps they were the ten voters approving the bond issue

To begin the 1890 school year, on July 25, their new teacher Albert J. Young spoke to the assembled multitude. He was a long time Valley teacher with service at San Ramon, Sycamore, Tassajara, and Danville schools. Their new flag, "a fine large one, was caught by the breeze and waved out over all, while the children sang *Flag of the Brave and the Free*."

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During that school year, the students took charge of planting the forty-nine surrounding black walnut trees. Six year old Roger Podva, as the youngest, got the last one. Due to its location by the outhouse, it became the largest. In the 1880s, Portuguese followed the earlier Irish, and Danes came in the 1890s, allowing for a real mix of food-swapping during lunch time. The school often took two-month mid-winter breaks due to muddy roads and added back the time during the dry, hot summers.

Imitating the stature held by Old Glory, the school house itself became symbolic. Not only did it educate children to better their lives, as the only public building in a very rural area, it became the local meeting house and polling place. About 10 miles from Danville, the settlement had no public transportation west. Buggy or wagon made a two to four hour ride into town. The Tassajara Post Office, in operation between 1896 and 1922, received mail by stage from Pleasanton, Alameda County, 10 miles to the south.

In the half century between 1889 and 1946, hundreds of Tassajara students entered ignorant and exited educated. Young, unmarried school mar'ns, boarding locally, either hoped for husbands among the ranchers, but more likely yearned to be in a large, exciting town, such as Danville.

During that time, the school and its community gathered around witnessed the depressing Panic of 1893, the excitement of the Great War, the horror of the flu epidemic, and celebrated during the flush times afterwards. Then came the Great Depression, followed by home front rationing to aid the boys to win World War II.

Meantime, the automobile took hold and counties paved roads. On August 2, 1946, "a majority of the electors residing within the Tassajara School District as shown by the teachers' registration" petitioned to be annexed to the Danville Union School District," the supervisors recorded. The number was not large, as another school related matter drew only forty votes.

Two large families had moved away and small farms combined into larger ones. During the last school year in Tassajara, 1945-1946, Mrs. Gertrude Arendt taught an average of 11 students, only a quarter of those enrolled fifty-seven years previous. She brought them to school in her car, or, as horses were gone, they charged in on bicycles. During cold weather, Gertrude Arendt cooked soup for all on a hot plate in the tiny Teacher's Room in the back.

One family, the Rasmussens, moved there in 1913, and contributed a quarter of the students in 1946. Ed Rasmussen, the father, attended in 1913, received chipped front teeth during a wild marble game, and graduated with eight in his class. One son Gordon, a pupil from 1940 to 1946, with only one other in his class, collected walnuts for 40 cents a bag, which Newton Arendt sold to bolster their meager income.

Every school morning, Mrs. Arendt lined up the children outdoors for the morning salute to the flag. During World War II passing farmers would stop and pledge their allegiance.

Those farmers and ranchers knew the Constitution. Their care for the Hikido family exemplified their devotion. As California prevented Japanese from owning land, the Hikidos rented from the

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Rasmussens to raise tomatoes during the winter, while their California-born sons Tatsuya, Katsumi, and Shogo attended the Tassajara School. After graduating from the one room school, Shogo Hikido moved on to Danville, where he starred on the high school Honor Roll in 1941.

Then came December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and Tassajara teacher Miss Olwen Jones prepared to suspend Japanese-American student Tatsuya Hikido. However, school board member Theodore Nissen promptly intervened, chastising her narrow-minded attitude toward an American citizen.

An inland relocation camp swept up the family in 1942, but they remained undaunted. Katsumi Hikido enlisted in the famed Japanese 442 Regiment, suffering severe leg injuries fighting in Europe. His large family never forgot the Tassajara School. They gathered there for his 80th birthday celebration in April, 2008.

With its very small enrollment Tassajara School District merged into the nearby Danville Union School and in September, 1946 students, desks, and accouterments moved into Danville, leaving the 1889 building abandoned.

After vandals trashed the derelict building breaking out all the windows and stole the school bell the worried residents of the Tassajara Valley asked the Contra Costa County Eastern Fire Protection District to take charge of the building in 1957.

Its modern history is as exciting as the old. The (Walnut Creek) *Contra Costa Times* headlined for its centennial story in 1989, "Old Building forms Nucleus of Community." That sums up the role of the Tassajara One Room School for the past 60 years.

In the early 1960s, rancher and school graduate Gordon Rasmussen formed the Tassajara-Highland Improvement Association, which organized work parties to clean up the area. The first annual barbecue picnic on the school grounds in 1968 raised money for the fire fighters and the school. The Tassajara Valley settlement had boomed to 65 residences and it wished more county services. One was better fire protection.

The next decade began with the new Tassajara Fire Protection District, composed of community volunteers. Chief Warren Reinstein took charge on July 1, 1970 and continued Rasmussen's work of refurbishing the school.

As in days gone by, the school became a polling place and meeting room for the firemen, 4-H Clubs, and a place to discuss items of community import. The surnames of the firemen show the diversity of the restoration workers. Besides Chief Reinstein and Assistant Chief Rasmussen, they were Raymond Basso, Henry Bettencourt, Jorgen Clausen, Albert Hansen, Dan Jones, C.J. Perry, and Dean Watts.

Following Chief Reinstein's untimely death in 1979, county supervisors acknowledged the importance of this historic building to the Tassajara community. The board appointed his widow Vera Reinstein to be a Fire Commissioner on July 21, 1979. Her responsibility lay with the one

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room school house and she led the Tassajara School Improvement Association. The Board for the Fire District recognized it on September 13, 1984, and it went to work.

Meantime, a remorseful thief returned the picture of George Washington, which originally hung behind the teacher's desk and gazed back intently at viewers regardless of where they stood in the room. Teacher Arendt donated a replica Liberty Bell in 1970 to hang in the school bell tower and her replacement for the stolen bell rang with history. The Government awarded it to her husband's father, German-born Pleasanton merchant Joseph Arendt in 1918 for the highest sale of World War I Liberty Bonds in the area.

A century after the first flag pole went up; the firefighters gave a new one, besides replacing the cedar shingle roof and refinishing the original Douglas fir floors. The Tassajara volunteer fire department merged in 1990 into the larger San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. Three years later, the Fire Department brought the building up to code, strengthening inner walls for earthquake safety and constructing a wheel chair ramp at the back of the school to broaden access to this historic building.

In 1996, the fire district allowed the Museum of the San Ramon Valley to establish a pilot living history program in their restored building. The Tassajara One Room School program became a local history component for San Ramon Valley Unified School District third graders. The next year the program became permanent, and since then, 33,000 students, teachers and parents have enjoyed a half day at the school.

Annually each spring, 2,500 or more students arrive to peruse McGuffey readers, do arithmetic with scratchy chalk on black boards, and perfect handwriting with quill pens. At recess, children play 1880s games, while lunch time at picnic tables brings forth delicacies common to that decade long ago. Use of the one room Tassajara School house returns full circle. Again it educates.

On September 11, 2012, making a black day brighter, the Board of Supervisors, with the enthusiastic backing of the fire department, transferred the deed to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

As part of the growing urban San Francisco Bay Area, Contra Costa County has few reminders of its rural past. Tassajara is its last remaining one room school. After 124 years, the old frame building still educates children and it continues to be a vibrant part of its greater valley and county community.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Tassajara One Room School

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Contra Costa

State: California

Photographer: Jerry Warren

Date Photographed: 3/17/12

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California

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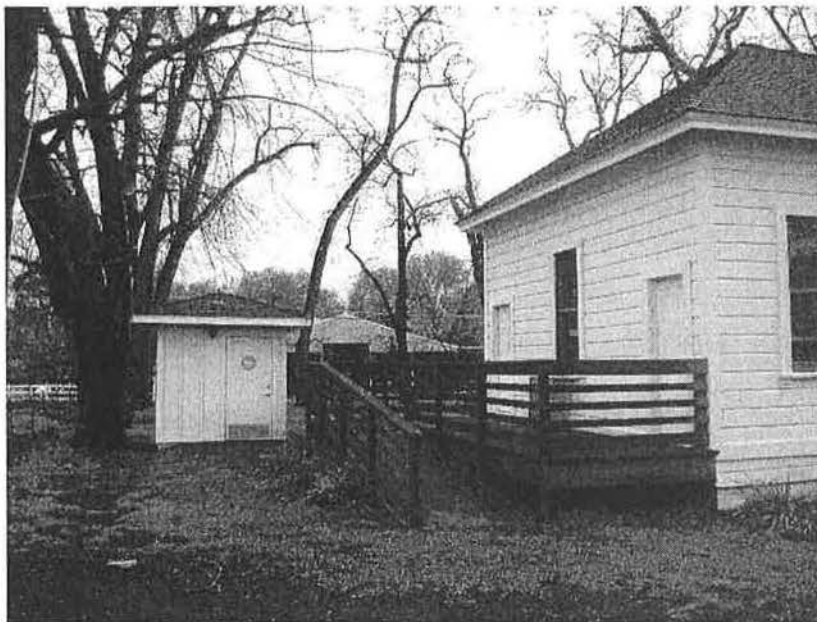
1 of 4.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east toward the school house (building 1) with water tank tower (building 4) at far left and stable (building 3) at left.



2 of 4.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south at handicapped ramp and restroom (building 2) at the back of the school (building 1).



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3 of 4.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Interior of school (building 1) looking to the back of the room at the east side of the property with slate blackboards on the walls and the teacher's desk in front of the room.



4 of 4.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east toward the wood stairs at the entry vestibule into the school (building 1).



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Figure 1. Tassajara One Room School Site Plan

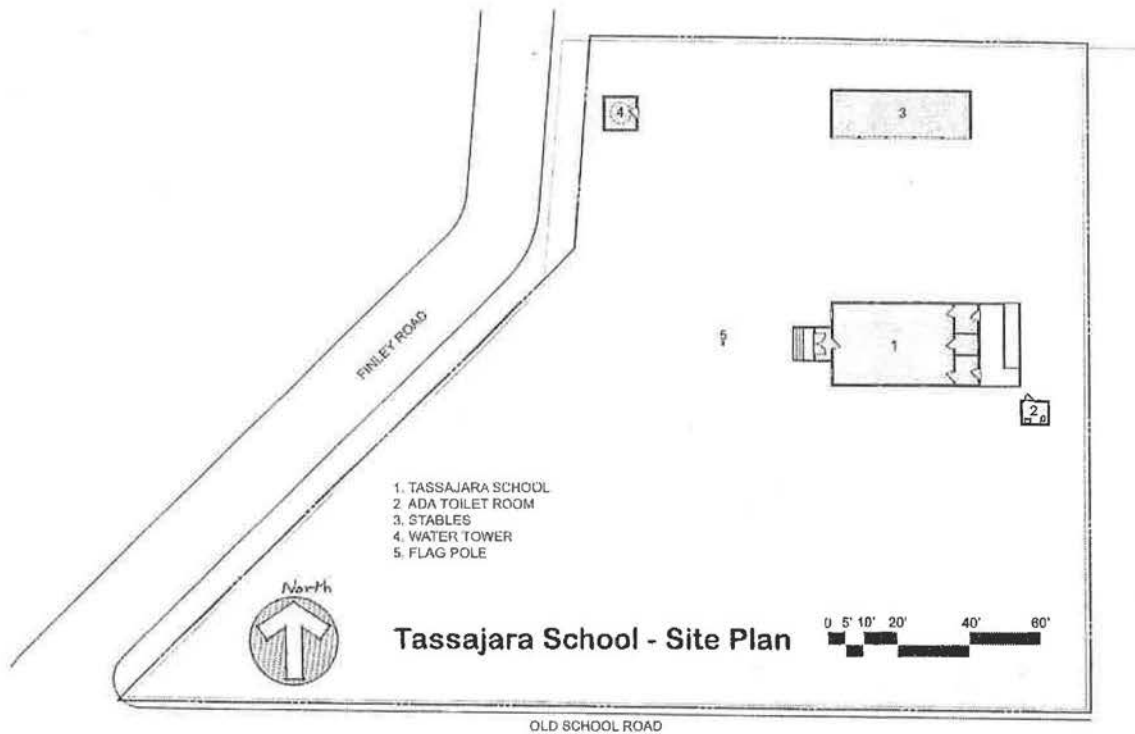
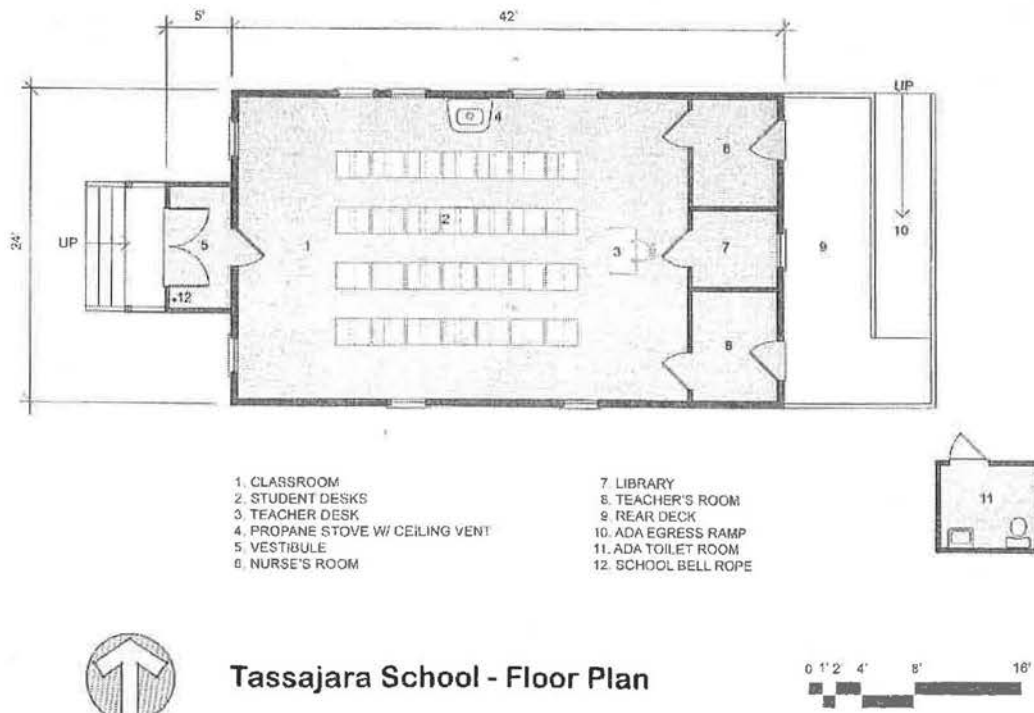
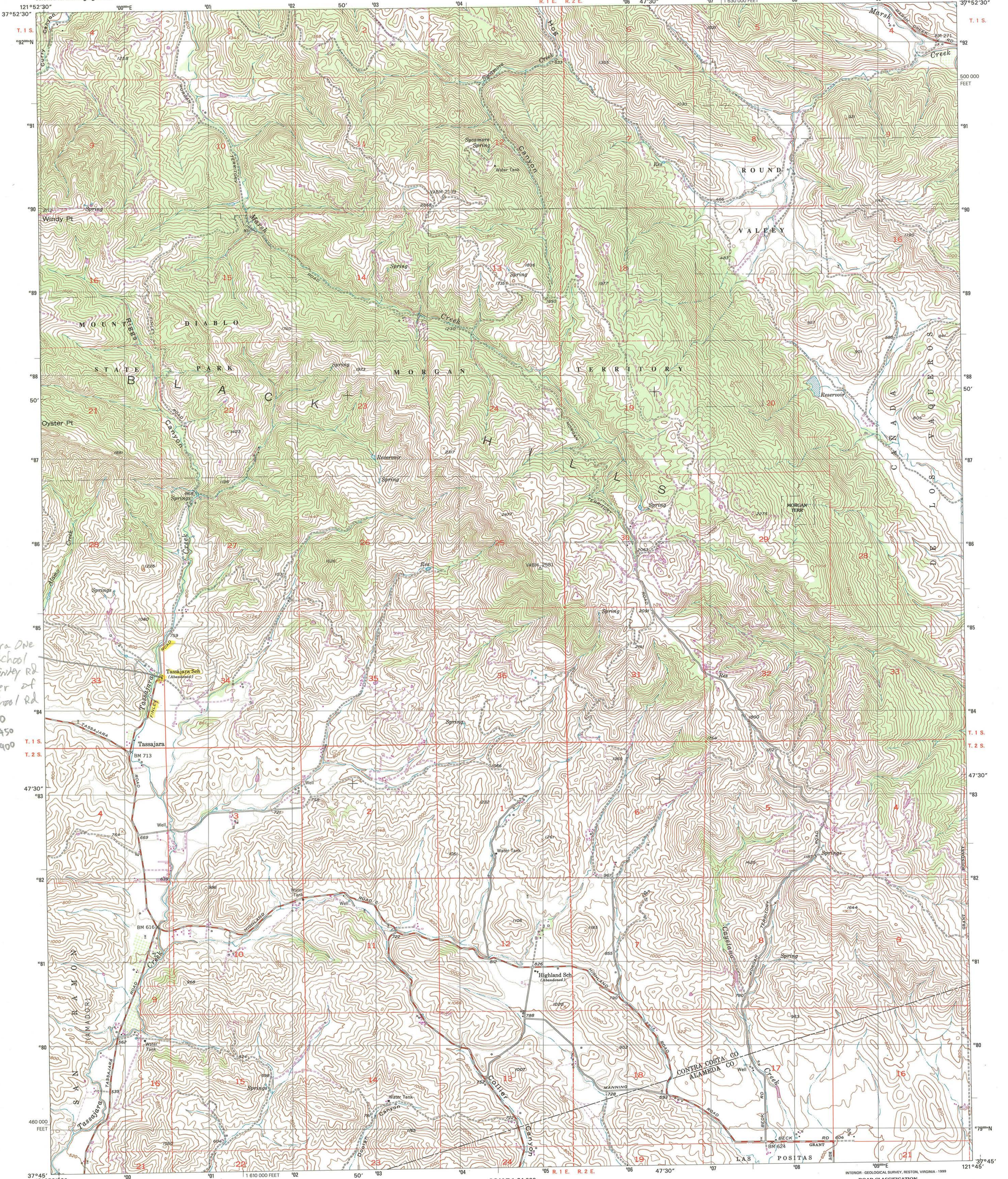


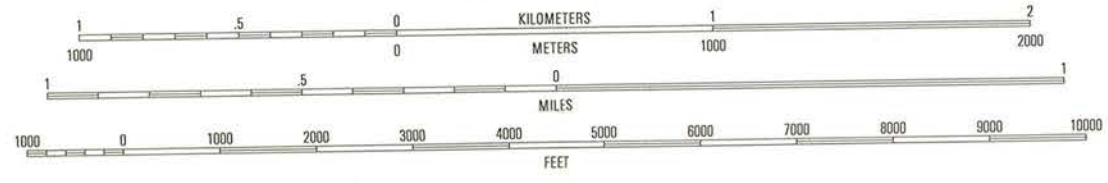
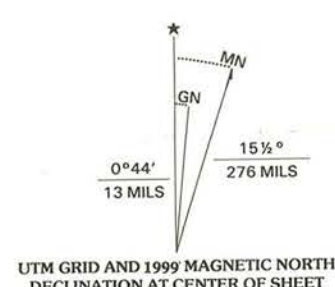
Figure 2. Building Schematic and Detail





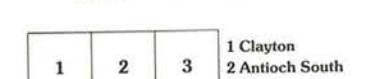
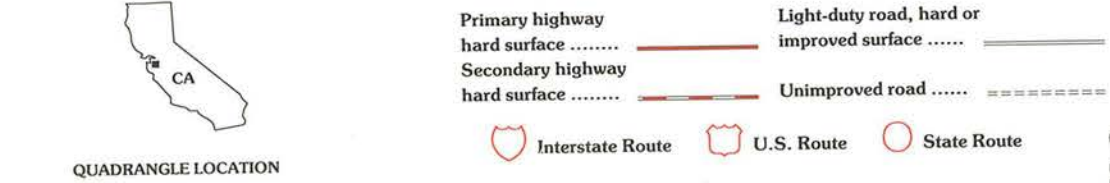
Tassajara One Room School
1650 Finley Rd
@ corner of Old School Rd
ZONE 10
ME 600450
MN 4184900

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1949-50. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1968 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1996; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1953. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1998.
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 10 10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System of 1927 (zone 9).
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1983
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway hard surface
Secondary highway hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

TASSAJARA, CA
1996
NIMA 1659 IV SE-SERIES V895









Love, Let Us Do Justice

Room Rules
1. Do not talk unless called upon.
2. Do not leave your seat unless you have permission.
- Remember to make your manners.
3. Do not disturb classmates when they work.

My Heart Is Full of Love

Zachary Taylor was here

Handwritten text on a chalkboard on the right wall, including the name "Zachary Taylor" and other illegible notes.





National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tassajara One Room School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Contra Costa

DATE RECEIVED: 2/24/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/27/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000135

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.11.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

CANDACE ANDERSEN

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TWO

309 DIABLO ROAD
DANVILLE, CA 94526
(925) 957-8860
FAX (925) 820-3785

email: Candace.Andersen@bos.cccounty.us
website: <http://ca-contracosta-bosdistrictii.civicplus.com/>



LAMORINDA OFFICE
LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION
3338 MT. DIABLO BLVD.
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
(925) 646-6067
FAX (925) 646-6068

December 10, 2013

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: TASSAJARA ONE ROOM SCHOOL

Dear Dr. Roland-Nawi,

I applaud your leadership in the consideration of the **Tassajara One Room School** nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. As the former Mayor of the Town of Danville and current Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor which includes Danville, I fully support this nomination.

The old schoolhouse is a historic treasure in the community of Danville, the San Ramon Valley, and Contra Costa County. This one room school house has been serving children for over 130 years now. On January 12, 1889, the Tassajara School District voters – all ten of them, approved the sale of construction bonds which amounted to \$1,700. That is all it took in 1889 to purchase one acre of Peter Anderson's ranch, build the school, and furnish it with necessary desks and school supplies.

After the school closed in 1946 it slowly became a forgotten piece of the community. Local residents, without anything but their own funds and willingness to work hard, completely replaced the foundation, the roof, the electrical wiring and the floors. The neighborhood took further steps to ensure that the Old

School House would be maintained by forming the Tassajara – Highland Improvement Association. It later became the responsibility of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

Today the Tassajara School House is owned and maintained by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. I serve on the Museum's Board of Directors and am very familiar with the great educational benefit it brings to the community. Hundreds of elementary school students visit it each year and through the efforts of volunteer school "marms," have the opportunity to replicate the life of a student in the 1880's, attending a day of school in this wonderfully preserved one room school house.

The Tassajara School stands as a tribute to the caring community which worked to preserve it. I whole heartedly support this proposal and urge your favorable consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Candace Andersen".

Candace Andersen, Supervisor
Contra Costa County, District 2



County Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, District III
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEES

- Legislation Committee, Vice Chair
- Transportation Water and Infrastructure Committee, Vice Chair
- Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, Joint Conference Committee and Professional Affairs Committee, Chair
- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
- Airport Committee, Vice Chair
- Delta Counties Coalition, Founder
- Delta Protection Commission
- Local Agency Formation Commission
- East Bay Economic Development Alliance
- Dougherty Valley Oversight Committee
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority
- East Contra Costa Regional Fee and Finance Authority
- eBART Partnership Policy Advisory Committee
- San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee
- State Route 4 Bypass Authority
- TRANSPLAN, East County Transportation Planning
- East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan, Executive Governing Board
- SERVING AS ALTERNATE
- Contra Costa Transportation Authority
- Association of Bay Area Governments
- East County Water Management Association
- Mental Health Commission
- City-County Relations Committee

December 12, 2013

State of California
 Office of Historic Preservation
 Department of Parks & Recreation
 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
 Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: Tassajara One Room School – National Register of Historic Places
 Nomination

Dear Commission,

I am writing to offer my recommendation and support for your consideration of the addition of the Tassajara One Room School House to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Camino Tassajara School House is viewed as a historical remnant of our community in which the students from Tassajara Valley ranches attended from 1889 to 1946. For over 100 years the School House has been an important feature of the Tassajara Valley community. It was a school, first and foremost, but it has also been a place for graduations, dances, 4-H and Fire Board meetings, church services, picnics, and voting place. Adding it to the National Registry continues its legacy.

Again, thank you for your consideration of adding the School House to the National Register of Historical Places.

Sincerely,

MARY NEJEDLY PIEPHO
 County Supervisor, District III

Thank you for your consideration!

MNP:jlq



RECEIVED
JAN 21 2014
OHP

"Small Town Atmosphere
Outstanding Quality of Life"

January 15, 2014

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
California Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: National Registration of Historic Places Nomination for Tassajara One Room School

Dear Ms. Roland-Nawi,

The Town of Danville is in receipt of your letter dated December 6, 2013 regarding the nomination of the Tassajara One Room School to the National Register of Historic Places and notifying the Town of the State Historical Resources Commission meeting to consider the nomination on February 7, 2013. Your letter also invites comments from local agencies.

The National Registration Form and the Historic Context - Narrative Description were reviewed and discussed by the Town's Heritage Resource Commission during its meeting of January 13, 2014. At that meeting, the Commission approved a resolution recommending that the State Historical Resources Commission approve the nomination and add the Tassajara One Room School to the National Register of Historic Places (see Attachment).

The Town feels strongly that the Tassajara One Room School meets the requisite criteria for placement on the National Register as the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution the broad pattern of our history. More specifically, the Tassajara One Room School was the only public building in a very rural area and served as a school house, local meeting house, and polling place for more than half a century.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this nomination.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF DANVILLE

Robert Storer
Mayor

Attachment

510 LA GONDA WAY, DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94526

Administration
(925) 314-3388

Building
(925) 314-3330

Engineering & Planning
(925) 314-3310

Transportation
(925) 314-3310

Maintenance
(925) 314-3450

Police
(925) 314-3700

Parks and Recreation
(925) 314-3400

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01

**RECOMMENDING THAT THE TOWN OF DANVILLE FORWARD A
COMMENT LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATE
HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION APPROVE
THE NOMINATION AND ADD THE TASSAJARA
ONE ROOM SCHOOL TO THE NATIONAL
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Danville has received a letter from the California Office of Historic Preservation notifying the Town that the State Historical Resources Commission intends to consider and take action on the nomination of the Tassajara One Room School to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) during their meeting on February 7, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the California Office of Historic Preservation's letter invites comments from local agencies regarding the eligibility of the Tassajara One Room School for placement on the National Register; and

WHEREAS, the Tassajara One Room School is located at 1650 Finely Road, within the Tassajara Valley, approximately two miles east of the Danville Town limit, within unincorporated Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, the Danville Heritage Resource Commission has reviewed the Historic Context and Narrative description for the Tassajara One Room School; and

WHEREAS, the Danville Heritage Resource Commission concurs that the Tassajara One Room School is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, especially as it was the only public building in a very rural area and served as a school house, local meeting house, and polling place for more than half a century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Danville Heritage Resource Commission supports the nomination of the Tassajara One Room School to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and, be it further

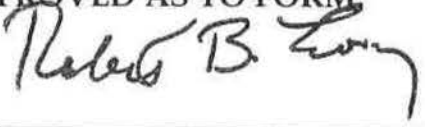
RESOLVED, that the Danville Heritage Resource Commission recommends that the California Historical Resources Commission approve the nomination and add the Tassajara One Room School to the National Register of Historic Places and recommends that the Town of Danville forward a comment letter to the State Office of Historic Preservation stating this recommendation.

APPROVED by the Danville Heritage Resource Commission at a regular meeting on January 13, 2014, by the following vote:


AYES: Halverson, Haberl, Powers, Stephenson, Warren
NOES: -
ABSTAIN: -
ABSENT: Dobbin, Farry, McQuillian



Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney



Chief of Planning

Tassajara One Room School
Danville, Contra Costa County, California
Staff Report

Tassajara One Room School is a vernacular Victorian era building constructed in 1889 to serve as a schoolhouse for the children of the rural community of Tassajara Valley, east of Danville. The redwood framed building features horizontal tongue-and-groove siding and a front-gabled porch supported by rectangular wooden posts with a decorative wooden balustrade and brackets above the entrance. The pyramidal roof is of moderate pitch, topped by a small, open-sided belfry with its own pyramidal roof. Windows are narrow double-hung wooden sash with nine lights in each sash. The main entrance is a pair of six-panel double doors topped with a pair of glazed transom windows. The schoolhouse includes some elements of Stick style architecture but is primarily vernacular in style. It was designed and constructed by architect Julius L. Weilbye for use as a school.

The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role as a rural community school, operating from 1889 until 1946. During the school's first year, students took charge of planting 49 black walnut trees on the site, many of which are still present on the school site. The school also served as a social hall for the community, including communities of immigrants from Portugal, Denmark and Japan, and functioned as a polling place and meeting house. The students of Tassajara were merged into the nearby Danville Union School in 1946.

The property has been restored to a limited extent. The cedar shingle roof was replaced in kind, but the front doors are modern hollow core doors. The property retains a high degree of integrity in all other aspects, including the rural setting of the Tassajara Valley.

The property is nominated by its owners, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and has received three letters of support.

Staff recommends the Commission determine the Tassajara One Room School eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1889-1946. Staff further recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg
State Historian I
January 16, 2014

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 18, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Tassajara One Room School
Danville, Contra Costa County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the **Tassajara One Room School** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Danville, Contra Costa County, California. On February 8, 2014, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance.

The property is nominated by the property owner, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. The nomination has received three letters of support.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

for Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures