

PH0076562

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>California</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Shasta</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUL 16 1970</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>Cottonwood</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Cottonwood</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Southern boundary of Shasta County</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Cottonwood</b>			
STATE <b>California</b>	CODE <b>06</b>	COUNTY: <b>Shasta</b>	CODE <b>089</b>

**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 <b>Community</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>Varied</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:

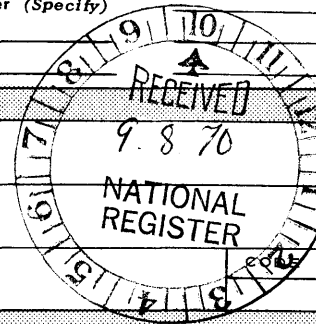
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Shasta County Courthouse, Book of Old Plats, Page 70, recorded 10/15/1886</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>1500 Court Street</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Redding</b>	STATE: <b>California</b>
	CODE <b>06</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>HISTORICAL PLACES INVENTORY</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1970</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>SHASTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Box 30</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>PAJO CEDRO</b>	STATE: <b>CALIFORNIA</b>	CODE <b>06</b>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: <b>California</b>
COUNTY: <b>Shasta</b>
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<b>JUL 16 1970</b>
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Cottonwood was founded as the second post office in Shasta County in 1852. Originally on the south side of Cottonwood Creek (the present Tehama-Shasta county boundary), Cottonwood started as a creekside store and ferry crossing for early day miners and settlers, where one could buy "a plug of tobacco and get a bite to eat." Legend has it that Capt. John C. Fremont named the creek in 1846 for the numerous cottonwood trees in the vicinity. In 1872, as the Southern Pacific Company was building its line north to Oregon, it purchased a strip of land from Jacob Foster, an early settler on the north side of the creek, and built a depot, thus prompting the moving of the community to its present location.

Today, downtown Cottonwood (Front Street) looks much as it did in 1872. The railroad depot (now a storage building) faces west on the street. A number of 19th century brick buildings still stand on each side of the street. Front Street itself is very wide, a fact occasioned by the need for teamsters in the last decades of the 19th and first decades of the 20th century to turn around their wagons loaded with lumber or farm goods. During those days Cottonwood was a leading northern California shipping point for lumber and cattle. Hitching rings still are available on high curbs on each side of the street.

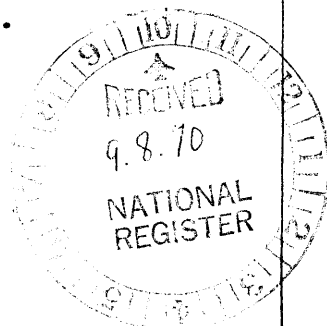
Gradually the town expanded from Front Street to the north and west. A number of early buildings evidencing pre-20th century design still stand. These include the old Cottonwood school (now the Grange Hall), the old sanctuary of the First Baptist Church and several old homes.

Today the town has expanded to 2500 population with sub-divisions dotting the hinterland. Nevertheless, the interior historic core remains evidencing Cottonwood's early and colorful history.

District consists of:

1. Both sides of Front Street from and including old railroad station to junction of Front Street with Old Highway 99.
2. Old Cottonwood School - Bush Street.
3. Old Sanctuary of First Baptist Church - Bush Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1852; 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☒ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cottonwood's early significance came in the 1850's as a gold miner stopping point and ferry crossing. Gradually with the development of lumbering in the nearby foothills and agricultural development in the adjacent Cottonwood Valley, the town became a significant northern California trade center. At the turn of the century, the Shasta County Directory called Cottonwood "one of the county's most important towns." Besides serving as an embarkation point, a large flour mill and creamery emphasized the communities agricultural centrality in the early years of the 20th century. As the town grew, lumbering, bee shipping and the raising of persimmons and the transmission of electricity through one of the largest sub-stations in the west added to the town's economic base. By 1970 the growing community could look with pride on an eventful nearly 125 year history along the banks of the creek from which it received its name.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Giles, Rosena. A Centennial History of Shasta County  
 McNamer, Myrtle. Way Back When  
 Petersen, Edward. In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Short History of Shasta County

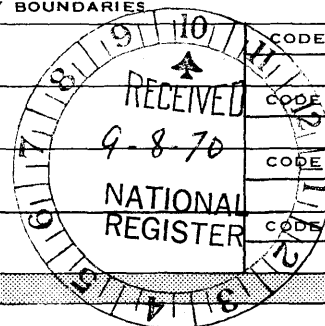
# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		122° 16' 49"	40° 22' 57"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 (-0.07-)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California		Shasta	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <b>Edward Petersen, Instructor, Shasta College</b>	
ORGANIZATION <b>Shasta Historical Society</b>	DATE <b>June 16, 1970</b>
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Rt. 2, Box 2098</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Cottonwood</b>	STATE <b>California</b> CODE <b>06</b>

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 *Ben M. J.*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 3, 1970

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/16/73

ATTEST:  
*W. S. Smith*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7 9 73

LITM  
 10/561110,  
 4470250  
 CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

122° 16' 49"  
40° 22' 57"

# Interstate 5

Dotted lines encompass proposed  
Cottonwood Historic District  
Cottonwood, Calif.

