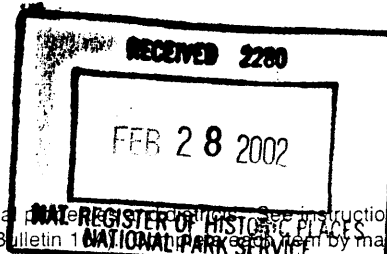


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



329

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15). Mark the appropriate box by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington School

other names/site number Humboldt Senior Resource Center

2. Location

street & number 1910 California Street NA  not for publication

city or town Eureka NA  vicinity

state California code CA county Humboldt code 023 zip code 95501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

K. M. Egan 2/20/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 2/12/02

Washington School  
Name of Property

Humboldt County, CA  
County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Education: Grammar School**

**Defense: Military Facility**

**Other: School Bus Facility**

**Other: Woodworking and Storage Facility**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Other: Community Senior Center**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Colonial Revival**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **concrete**

roof **asphalt shingles**

walls **wood**

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Education**

**Social History**

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**Period of Significance**

**1902 - 1952**

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**Significant Dates**

**NA**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**NA**

**Cultural Affiliation**

**NA**

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**Architect/Builder**

**Stone, Lewis D. - architect**

**Stimpson, D.P. - contractor**

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Washington School  
Name of Property

Humboldt County, CA  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .05 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	401200	4515980	3		
2				4		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Beth Wolford, Ed. D., Executive Director

organization Humboldt Senior Resource Center date 4-12-01

street & number 1910 California Street telephone 707-443-9701

city or town Eureka state CA zip code 95501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name same as applicant

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

**DESCRIPTION**

The Washington School, constructed in 1902, is a two-story wooden school building approximately 80' by 70' with a full basement accessible from a rear entrance. It is constructed of standard wood, stud-to-floor framing, with a concrete perimeter foundation. The exterior walls are horizontal wood siding with 9" boards for the lower 10' and 3 1/2" strips on the remainder of the building. The building sits facing east to California Street on a .051 acre corner lot in a residential neighborhood. (1)

The Washington School building has a hipped roof and symmetrical façade. The building is a basic rectangular mass built in the classic school building vernacular with Colonial Revival detailing. (2) One enters through a two-story square pavilion with double one-story columns flanking the arched front entrance. Stained-glass sidelights and transom surround the double entrance doors. Windows are distributed in bands and are composed of two-over-two double-hung sash. (3)

In 1953, the building received "new gutters and asbestos siding," and the roof was "coated and repaired." At that time, the building was stripped of remaining ornamentation and the siding applied over the original siding. This was done to prevent what was seen as a fire hazard. It was the fear of fire that had prompted the closure and demolition of the five other wooden square school buildings in Eureka in 1938. (4)

In 1983, the Washington School was renovated to serve as a community senior center. Steel moment frames were added as part of an extensive seismic retrofit of this all-wood structure. The asbestos siding was removed to reveal the original wood siding. The original windows and frames were left in. (5) An arched entrance with columns on either side, the balcony and balustrade,

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

and a pedestal were installed on the front of the building as in the original.

In 1996, with approval of the Eureka City Planning Commission, a 106 sq. ft. addition was built on the southeast side of the existing structure. (6) The addition is a walk-in freezer necessary for HSRC's food preparation activities. The addition is sided and painted to blend with the rest of the building. From the front it is camouflaged by a large shrub growing on the east side of the addition. In 1999, the Historical Preservation program at College of the Redwoods restored the original second-story balustrade which reintroduced one of the prominent historic decorative elements to the front.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Washington School is significant as the sole remaining school of its generation in Eureka and the last remaining square school building in Humboldt County. The building retains sufficient historic integrity of features necessary to convey its significance for that period. It is a two-story rectangular mass with a hipped roof and symmetrical façade. As in 1903, one walks up the front steps through double columns flanking the arched front entrance into a two-story pavilion. The original stained-glass sidelights and transom surround the original double entrance doors. The original fenestration is in place, as is the original siding. The second-floor balustrade looks as it did when the school was built. Washington School's general massing and design configuration remain intact. It clearly possesses the defined characteristics required to strongly represent the local historic context. By making an adaptive use of the Washington School from school building to community

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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**Washington School**  
**Eureka, Humboldt County, CA**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

senior center, it maintains its historic integrity and provides continuity and solace to the seniors who attended school here. As students, they attended neighborhood gatherings, Christmas plays and carnivals here when the school was a center for family and holiday activities. Now as seniors, many come to the Washington School to meet old friends for lunch, attend language and exercise classes, and enjoy other senior programs. People who attended school here immediately recognize the building and proudly call it “my old school.”

The first grammar schools in Eureka were started in the early 1850’s when families began settling in the Humboldt Bay area. There are records of the Pioneer School, Adams, Bancroft, Brown and Franklin Schools, which were one room schools that were demolished by the early 1900’s. Six public grammar schools were built in Eureka in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were all square, two-story wooden schoolhouses: Franklin, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lincoln, Marshall and Washington. (7) Washington School was built in 1902 and opened in the Fall of 1903 with 86 students in grades 1 through 6. (8) There were 8 classes in the building, four on each floor. The full basement was used as an exercise area for the students during inclement weather.

San Francisco architect Lewis D. Stone drew up the original plans and specifications. It cost \$12,860 to build the Washington School. The superintendent of construction was D.P. Simpson. (9) The wood for the building was milled by John Austin Cottrell’s molding mill and cabinet shop, which turned out most of the millwork for houses and buildings in this area. (10) Between 1903 and 1938 these six schoolhouses served as the Eureka School District. The total enrollment between 1910-1923 ranged from 246-334 students per school per year. (11) The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fires, the Santa Barbara County earthquakes of 1925 and 1927, and an earthquake in

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Washington School**  
**Eureka, Humboldt County, CA**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Eureka in 1932 prompted public officials to review the schools in light of earthquake safety standards and fire hazards. By 1938, the square schoolhouses were deemed “fire traps” and condemned. (12) All but the Washington School were demolished and replaced by “modern” one-story buildings. The new, replacement schools were built on the playgrounds of the old schools, after which the old buildings were demolished. Only the Washington School was left standing. “Its replacement was built at another location across town, possibly helping the old building escape the wrecker’s ball.” (13)

When it was no longer used as a school, the Washington School continued to serve the community. In 1943, during World War II, U.S. Army’s were housed there. This included the 114<sup>th</sup> Infantry, (14) the 107<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and other troops patrolling the North Coast or preparing to go overseas. Eureka resident Leslie Westfall of the 107<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was billeted overnight at the Washington School. (15) There is some speculation that the Washington School was spared the wrecking ball because WWII began and the building was needed as a barracks for the troops. (16) The building was also used by the Coast Guard, the Red Cross, and as a courthouse. After WWII, part of the basement was used as a boxing ring where the Elks and Lions boxing clubs held matches. (17)

From the 1950’s to the 1970’s, the Washington School was used as a warehouse and woodshop by the Eureka School District. The parking area was a school bus lot. In the late 1970’s, the Eureka city government had a plan to improve the neighborhood and build low-income housing on half the block occupied by the Washington School. The City of Eureka acquired ownership of the building and helped the school district locate another site for its operations. City Councilman Fred



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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (continued)

Moore, soon to become mayor of Eureka, had been a student at the Washington School and was a strong advocate for making the building into a senior center. (18)

In 1977, the city offered the now-vacant Washington School to Humboldt Senior Resource Center, Inc. (HSRC). A Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Small Cities Block was used to renovate the Washington School into a senior center. (19)

Roger Smith, of RESCO Construction, was the contractor for the remodeling. The Washington School opened its doors as the Humboldt Senior Resource Center in November 1983. It continues as a senior center today.

In 1996, with approval of the Eureka City Planning Commission, a 106 square foot addition was built on the southeast side of the existing structure. The addition is an exterior walk-in freezer necessary for HSRC's food preparation activities. It is 8' x 12' with a flat roof. The addition is sided and painted in the same siding style and color as the rest of the building. From the front it is camouflaged by a large shrub growing on the east side of the addition.

After renting from the City of Eureka since 1983, HSRC took ownership of the Washington School in a ceremony on September 17, 1998. HSRC paid the city a 1902 silver dollar in its Silver Anniversary year. (20)

The Washington School continues to serve the Humboldt County community, as a senior center offering a wide array of programs and services to thousands of seniors, families and caregivers each year.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9 Page 6

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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Books:*

- ∞ Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Homes, Knopf, 1984
- ∞ Eureka Heritage Society, Inc., Eureka, An Architectural View, 1987
- ∞ William T. Murtagh, Keeping Time, The History and Theory of Preservation in America, Wiley, 1997
- ∞ Alan Gowans, Styles and Types of North American Architecture-Social Function and Cultural Expression, Icon Editions, 1992
- ∞ History of Humboldt County Schools, Volume 2, Eureka Area, edited by the California Retired Teachers Association, North Coast Section

*Other sources:*

Humboldt County Library – Humboldt Room, newspapers on microfiche  
Humboldt County Historical Society – Matina Kilkenney, Director  
Humboldt State University Library- Edie Butler, Librarian; Humboldt Room  
State Superintendent of Public Education, School Facilities - Brenda Scott, Archives Division  
United States Geological Society – Denver, CO

*Interviews:*

Cowan, Dane – Associate Faculty at College of the Redwoods, renovated 1983 baluster and spindles with students of Architectural Millwork. Interviewed by Roz Keller, February 2000, Eureka

Herskovic, Arnie- Senior Community Development Planner, 1974-1984, Eureka: wrote the HUD grant to renovate the Washington School into the Humboldt Senior Resource Center, personal and phone interviews by Roz Keller, June 2000, Eureka

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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (continued)

- Hess, Si – Lifetime Eureka resident, local historian and author, worked for demolition company of his father, Louis Hess; interviews with Roz Keller, April-June, 2000, Eureka
- Hillman, Grant- Former Eureka resident who boxed in the Washington School basement in 1946-47, interviewed by Roz Keller, June 2000, by phone from Orleans, CA
- Hillman, Ray- Local historian, phone interviews, June 2000
- Kilkenny, Matina- Director, Eureka Historical Society, interviewed May 2000, Eureka
- Lambert, Everette- billeted at Washington School during WWII, interviewed by Roz Keller, June 2000, by phone from North Carolina
- Loring, Jr., Ted- Local historian, phone interviews, June 2000, Roz Keller
- McDonald, Jill – Local historian and teacher, interviewed by Roz Keller, September 2000, Eureka
- Pugh, Fred - Window contractor, *Classic Designs*, interviewed by Roz Keller, June 2000
- Smith, Roger- owner of RESCO Construction, contractor that remodeled Washington School 1982-1983, interviewed by Roz Keller, July, 2000, Eureka
- Mid Westfall – wife of Leslie Westfall, member of 107<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, billeted in Washington School during WWII, interviewed by Roz Keller, May 2000, Eureka
- Weiss, Anne- Executive Director of the Humboldt Senior Resource Center from 1984-1987, interviewed by Roz Keller, June 2000, Eureka, CA

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Continuation Sheet

Section number **9, 10, footnotes** Page **8**

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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Block 80, Lot 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> enlargement of Clark's Addition to City of Eureka.

**Boundary Justification**

These are the boundaries of the property owned by the Humboldt Senior Resource Center.

**Footnotes**

1. Eureka Heritage Society, Inc., Eureka, An Architectural View, Knopf, 1987
2. Ted Loring, Jr., phone interview, June 2000, Eureka
3. Fred Pugh, Window Contractor, *Classic Designs*
4. Times-Standard newspaper article, 8/81
5. Roger Smith interview, July 2000, Eureka
6. Eureka City Planning Commission Meeting, August 12, 1996 - Staff report V-18-96
7. Glen Nash, Humboldt Historian, "A Look at Eureka Schools Constructed in the 1900's," Sept.- Oct. 1986
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Glen Nash, Humboldt Historian "John Austin Cottrell and his Mill left an important mark on Eureka." March-April 1982
11. "A School Building Survey and Schoolhousing Program for Eureka, CA." directed by FW. Hart and L.H. Peterson, January 1924
12. Glen Nash, Humboldt Historian, "A Look at Eureka Schools Constructed in the 1900's." Sept.-Oct. 1986

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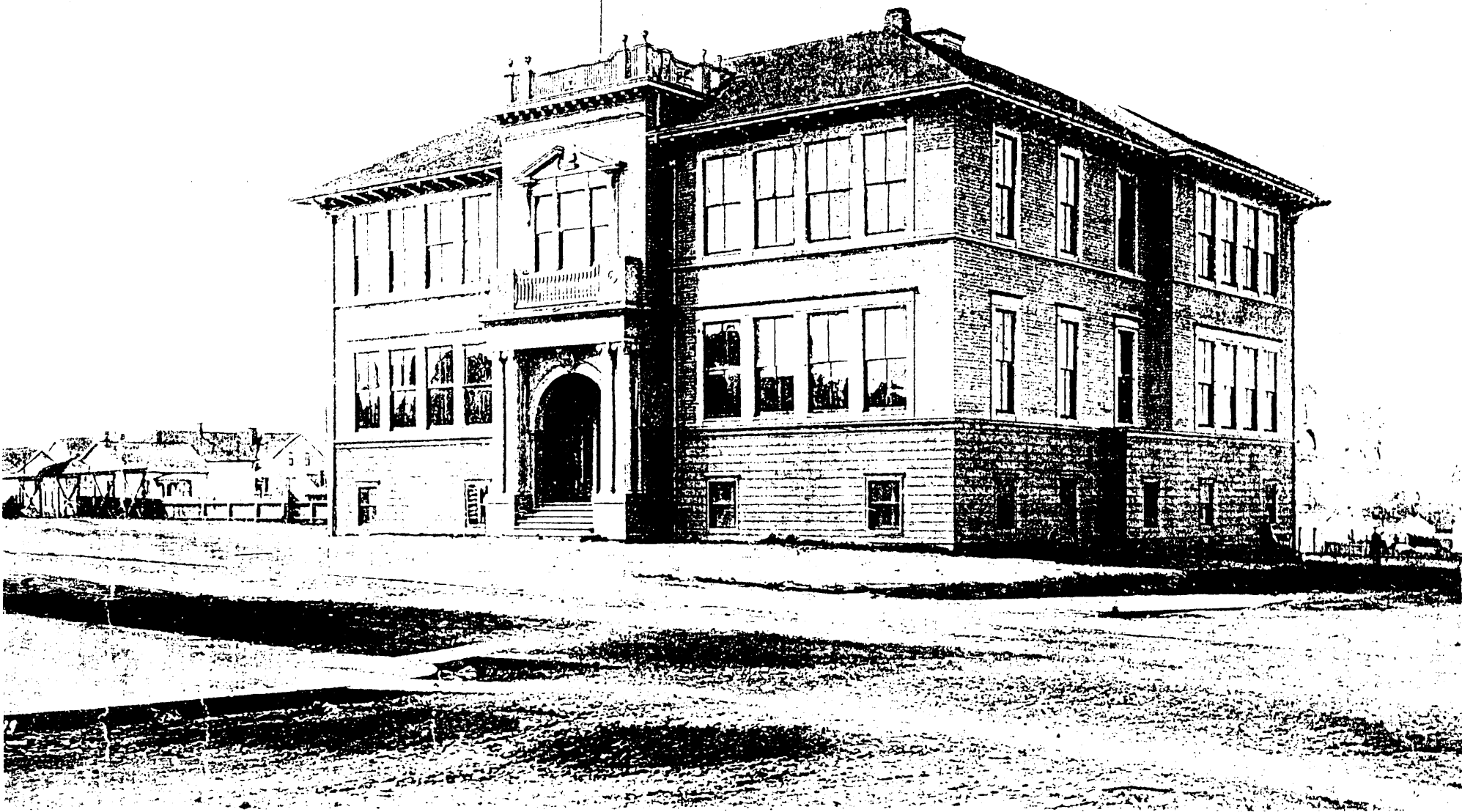
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Washington School  
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

Footnotes, (continued)

13. Phone interview with Ray Hillman, June 2000, Eureka, quoting Martha Roscoe, Washington School teacher and local historian
  14. Si Hess phone interview, April-June 2000
  15. Mid Westfall phone interview, May 2000
  16. Phone interview with Si Hess who worked with his father, Louis Hess, owner of demolition company that wrecked the old school buildings, April-June 2000
  17. Grant Hillman phone interview, June 2000
  18. Arnie Herskovic interviews, June 23-24, 2000
  19. Anne Weiss phone interview, June 2000
- Times-Standard article, 9/22/98

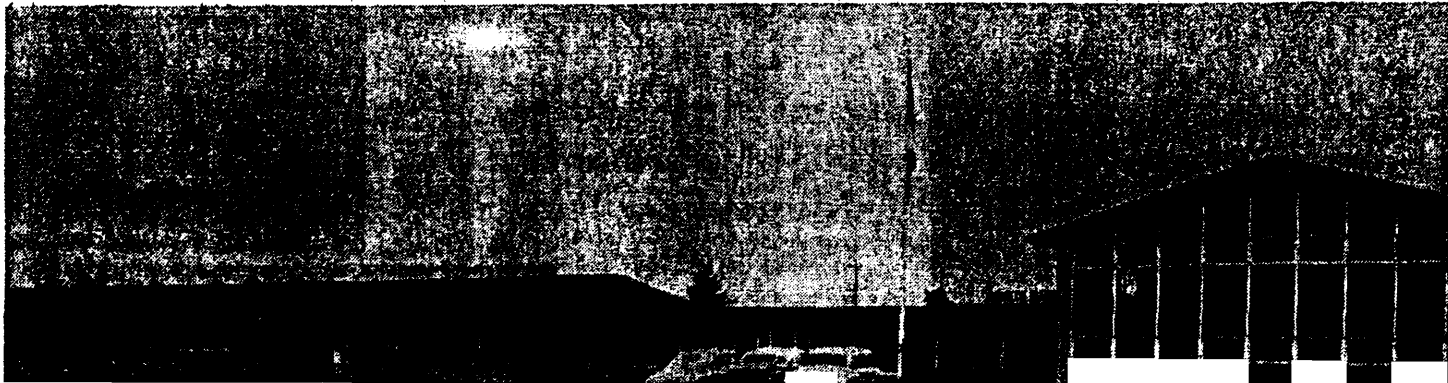
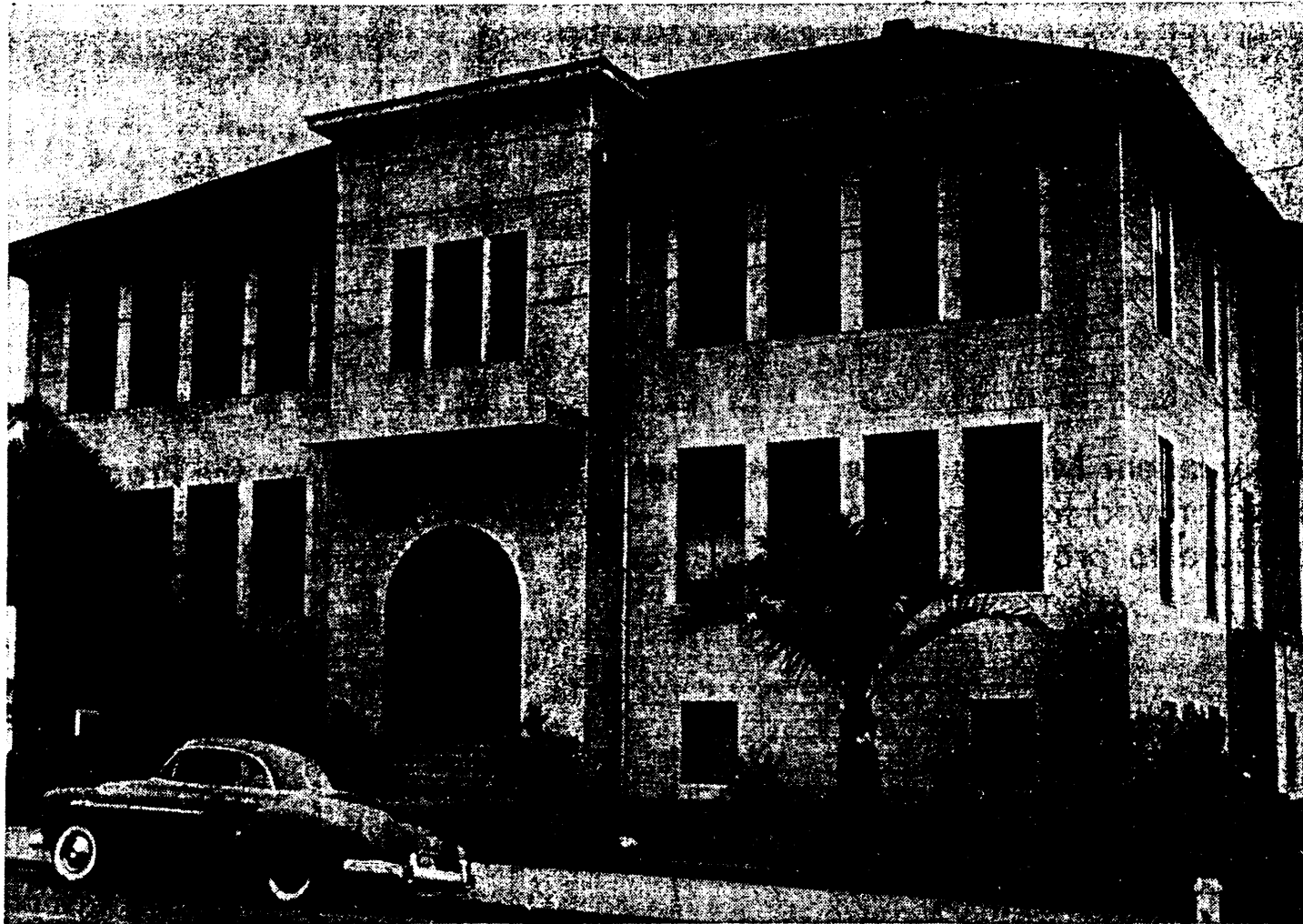
Washington School, Eureka, Cal.  
*Humboldt County*



*Washington School  
Eureka, CA, Humboldt County*

N

2  
story



W W

M A

W W

1  
'45