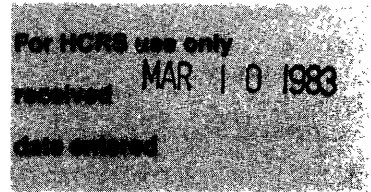


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



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

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

1. Name

historic BUHACH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

and/or common Presently known as "BUHACH PRESCHOOL"

2. Location

street & number 2606 N. Buhach Road. n/a not for publication

city, town Merced, Ca. X vicinity of congressional district 016

state CA code 06 county Merced code 047

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Greg J. and Deborah Barrios-Lema

street & number 3011 N. Station Avenue

city, town Atwater n/a vicinity of state CA 95301

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 2222 "M" Street

city, town Merced state CA

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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Buhach Grammar School is an example of Mission Revival architecture. It is of wood frame and clapboard construction, resting on a concrete foundation. (It is interesting in this respect, because a more typical Mission Revival building is usually stuccoed.) Although recently converted into a preschool, great care was taken by its owner to repair and upgrade the structure with an eye to maintaining its original structural integrity.

Square shaped and one-story high, the school has a hip roof with an espadana front. On the front above the doorway is a decorative quatrefoil with spindle work. Windows on the front and along the sides of the school are a two-paned sash type. Windows on the back wall are one paned and fixed.

Cement platform steps (repaired and now covered with brick-colored tile) lead to an arched entryway. Entrance is through double oak doors with rectangular glass windows. The doors are framed with glass side panels and a five-paned rectangular transom.

Interior walls consist of wainscoting constructed of stained pine car siding with plain baseboard and molded top trim. (All interior woodwork is matching stained pine.) Above the wainscoting, the walls are white painted plaster. Ceilings are of the coved type, plastered, and highlighted with picture molding. All interior doors are five-paneled pine, framed with molded pine posts and high lintels with molded cornices. In the two classrooms, several of the original slate blackboards are in place, while a couple have been moved to make room for cork bulletin boards.

Both cloakrooms (see original floor plans) were converted into bathrooms in the 1940s. A partition has been recently built in the right-hand cloakroom to form a separate restroom for teachers. The teachers' room has been converted into a modern kitchen. New linoleum has been laid on the floors. The interior is illuminated with matching milk glass electric globes, suspended by chains from the ceiling. Several of these globes are the original electric fixtures. Both classrooms were provided with back doors in the '40s (according to local sources). These doors have been recently provided with ramps for handicapped access (Bowman 1982: personal communication).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Ethnic history: Portuguese-American

Specific dates 1907 **Builder/Architect** William Bedesen, Surveyor - County of Merced

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This building served as the school for the small community of Buhach, an agricultural colony populated largely by Portuguese immigrants. Buhach was one of several colonies of foreign immigrants in Merced County at the turn of the century. These colonies were a direct result of the work of early land promoters. Buhach was a product of the Merced Land and Fruit Company (Outcalt 1925:368). The school is a notable example of Mission Revival architecture popular in California during the early 20th century.

The Buhach Plantation was developed in 1871 to grow pyrethrum and wine grapes. The pyrethrum was a small bush-like plant with a daisy-like flower from which "Buhach", an insect powder, was made. The company acquired additional lands and planted orchards of peaches, pears, and almonds. New arrivals in the area often worked at the Buhach Plantation until they could afford to buy land and build a home. The first Portuguese immigrants arrived in 1896 or 1897. The land south of the railroad was opened for sale by the company and subdivided into farms of 20 to 40 acres. This area became known as the Buhach Colony. Many of the early settlers of the Buhach Colony were Portuguese direct from Portugal, the Azores, and the East Coast. By 1903, the predominance of Portuguese citizens was evidenced by the construction of a large I.D.E.S. hall for their social activities. The Buhach School was built in 1907 and served the educational needs of the predominately Portuguese community. Many of the people who attended the Buhach School are still living today. The school itself outlasted the colony of Buhach and continued to serve school children of the area until the Buhach School District merged with the McSwain District in 1950 (Stanfield 1958:69). The Buhach School was closed. It was later used for storage of sweet potatoes but was purchased by the current owners in 1981 and restored for use as a preschool.

The Buhach School is a notable example of rural school design of the early 20th century. The designer chose Mission Revival, a style which was important in the imagery of California in the first two decades of the 1900s. The building retains its original design integrity; with its curvilinear espadana parapet, it stands as a strong statement of popular California design of the early 20th century.

Although Buhach and other colonies have disappeared, their contribution to local lore and the cultural diversity of Merced County can still be seen today. The Buhach Grammar School is a relic of what may be referred to as the "golden age" of California land speculation and is practically the only remaining structure of what was one of Merced County's largest ethnic enclaves (Bowman 1982: personal communication).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowman, Paul D.
1982 Personal Communication.

Stanfield, Mary E.
1958 Brief History of Atwater.
Crown Ptg. & Lithograph Co.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre
Quadrangle name Atwater

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	7	1	4	6	4	0	4	1	3	3	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Book 5, Page 17, Block 0, Parcel 10

The Buhach School occupies its original 208.7' x 208.7' lot on the east side of Buhach Road at its intersection with Fleming Road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	n/a	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Barrios-Lema

organization Buhach Preschool date April 16, 1982

street & number 2606 N. Buhach Road telephone (209) 358-0177

city or town Merced state CA 95340

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

K M Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/28/83

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/7/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Major Bibliographical References

Outcalt, John
1925 History of Merced County, California. . . . Los Angeles:
Historic Record Co.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

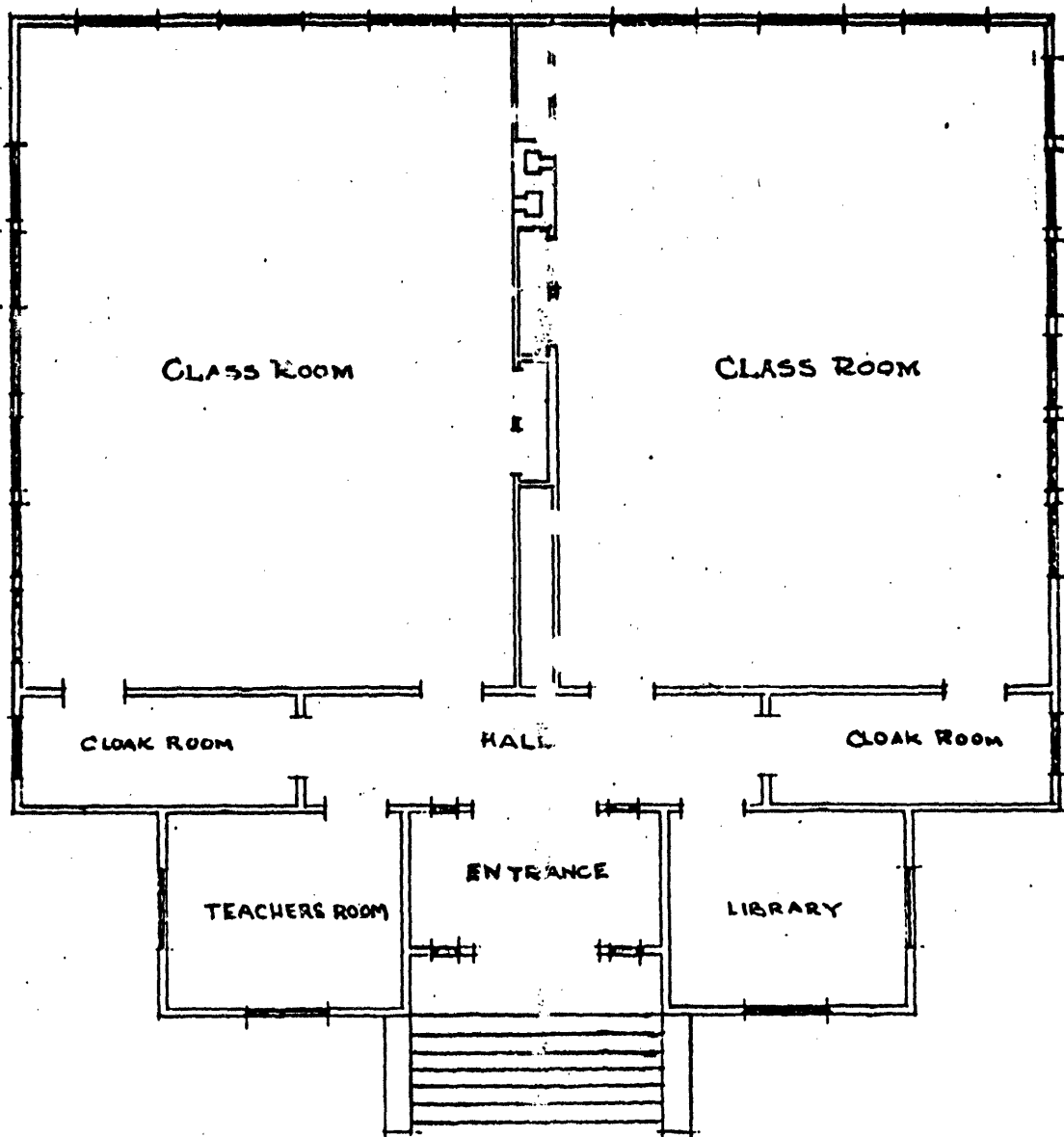
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

7. Description, cont'd.

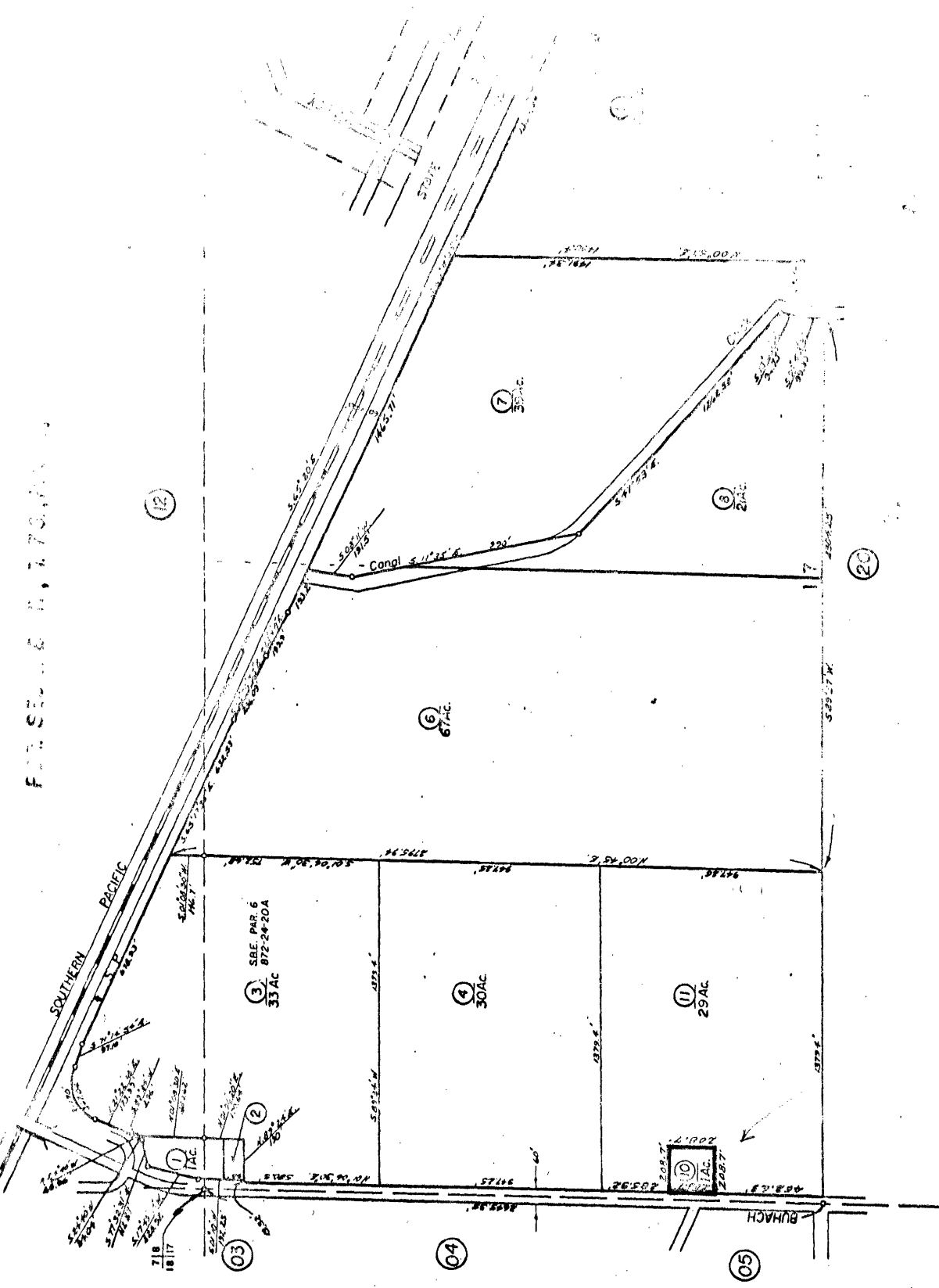


BUHACH GRAMMER SCHOOL

SLIGHTLY REDRAWN FROM A FADED
PHOTO COPY OF THE ORIGINAL FLOORPLAN
DRAWN BY W. E. BEDESEN, SURVEYOR
COUNTY OF MERCED. NO SCALE PROVIDED.

PAUL BOWMAN, MUSEUM TECHNICIAN
MERCED CO. PARKS & RECREATION DIV.
1982

PARCEL NO. 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100



NOTES

MERCED COUNTY ASSESSOR'S
 PARCEL NO. 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

BUHACH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
 2606 N. Buhach Road
 Merced, Merced County, California

MERCED COUNTY ASSESSOR'S
 PARCEL NO. 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP THIS
 MAP AS A PERMANENT RECORD

DAVID A. CARDELLA