

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 33). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 OLIVENHAIN TOWN MEETING HALL

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road not for publication

city or town Olivenhain vicinity

state California code CA county San Diego code 073 zip code 92024

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Steady R. Craig 11.3.93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

Paul R. Ferguson 12/17/93
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
Name of Property

San Diego County, California
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	0	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)

Social - Meeting Hall, Clubhouse, Civic Recreation & Culture - Auditorium

Government - Town Hall

Recreation & Culture - ~~Mar~~, agriculture

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social - Meeting Hall, Clubhouse, Civic Recreation & Culture - Auditorium

Government - Town Meetings

Recreation & Culture - 4-H Meetings

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation redwood pillars

walls redwood boards & bat

roof corrugated tin

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 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social history

government

recreation

Period of Significance

1894 - 1943

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Olivenhain Town Council
Name of Property

San Diego, California
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	1
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4	7	8	1	2	0
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3	6	5	5	9	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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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 Neil C. Hokanson, President, Olivenhain Town Council, 1993-1994

organization The Olivenhain Town Council date 10-17-93

street & number 365 Cole Ranch Road telephone (619)753-1798

city or town Olivenhain state CA zip code 92024

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name The Olivenhain Town Council

street & number P.O. Box 3005 telephone (619)753-1798 (President/daytime)

city or town Olivenhain state California zip code 92024

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**OLIVENHAIN TOWN MEETING HALL
San Diego County, CASection number 7 Page 1

The Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall is a small one-room, wood framed building with vertical wood siding and front-gabled roof plan, constructed between 1894 and 1895. A centered double door entry is reached by a short flight of steps. In 1916 a shed roof addition was added to the rear. In 1949 the shingle roof was replaced with corrugated tin. The stone planter boxes were added to the front in the early 1970's. A concrete foundation was added to the building in the 1980's.

The property is set in a 2.5 acre eucalyptus grove which is a State of California Historical Landmark. The site is in the Olivenhain Valley, built on the banks of the Escondido Creek some three miles upstream from the San Elijo Lagoon which borders the beach at Cardiff-by-the-Sea in North San Diego County.

The Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall was built by local settlers, in a community endeavor, of wood shipped by rail to the area. The first meeting was held on March 22, 1985. The site has remained in use throughout the period of its historic significance.

The Old Hall measures 28 feet wide by 36 feet long, with a large front double-door, a small rear door opening to a rear stairway, and eight windows. The structure has no foundations as such, other than the redwood pillars which were used to frame it. The original shingle roof needed replacement every so many years. Therefore the settler decided to replace it with a permanent corrugated tin roof. This was done in 1949, and this action also reduced the danger from fire damage. Gradually the redwood foundation began to lose stability due to moisture rot and natural soil erosion. Thanks to a State Historical Grant in the 1980's, concrete footings were added to stabilize the structure. The redwood building has never been painted and continues in its natural wood color to this day.

The original interior of the building was a large one-room hall with a fixed bar and stage in one corner of the room. A wood-burning stove was placed in the middle of the north side of the same room.

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
San Diego County, CA

Section number 7 Page 2

Since its construction in 1895, three visible changes have taken place. The first is the afore-mentioned tin roof, added in 1949. The second is the planter box, added by a civic group in the early 1970's, while the last and most significant change was the addition of space in the form of an annex built in 1916.

The wood from the addition came from a competing meeting hall built by the "youngsters" many years prior to 1916. As this structure was falling apart and in disrepair, the youngsters asked permission to use the Town Meeting Hall in exchange for offering their wood (the same redwood) to add on to the main hall. The addition was built, consisting of a small kitchen on the north side and two bathrooms with a small amount of closet space on the south side. This extension allowed for the addition of a storage area underneath the back (east) side of the meeting hall below the addition.

As author Richard Bumann writes in The Colony of Olivenhain (1981), "The hall became the nerve center of Olivenhain. Community gatherings included dances, picnics, business meetings and Fourth of July celebrations...". The latter was especially well attended - "all the local residences were represented, as well as many people from neighboring communities." Bumann observes that the most common use of the hall was for dances. He writes, "The exact number of dances at the hall is unknown, but there were enough to wear out two dance floors." The present floor dates from 1928.

To this day the Old Meeting Hall is used constantly in community functions such as the Fourth of July Celebration, the Beer and Bratwurst Festival, weddings, town meetings, and so on. However, to some extent it could be argued that the Building's role as the nerve center of the town diminished somewhat following Olivenhain's incorporation into the City of Encinitas in 1986.

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
San Diego County, CA

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The Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall is significant under Criterion A in the areas of social history, government, and recreation for the important role the building has played in the tiny community of Olivenhain. From the time of its construction in 1895, the building was the "nerve center" of Olivenhain, where holidays and weddings were celebrated; and where dances, picnics, business and political meetings were held.

The significance of the Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall during the period 1894-1943 rests with the pivotal role the hall played in the social history of Olivenhain and the surrounding area. The Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall is synonymous with "community", as virtually all of the important civic and social decisions in this colony of immigrant farmers were made in the Meeting Hall. Political decisions were made here; planting, irrigation, and other agricultural subjects were discussed, dances were held, weddings occurred, disputes were resolved, and new ideas were debated. To a rare degree, virtually all of the important community events took place at the Meeting Hall. An unusually close community developed and grew, with the Meeting Hall as the stage on which the history and culture of this immigrant farming community was played out.

Olivenhain ("Olive Grove" in German) was founded by a group of German colonists who arrived from Denver, Colorado in May of 1884. The settlers found that a more economical use of the land would be the raising of fruits and vegetables rather than olives. A variety of fruit trees were ordered, vegetables such as corn and lima beans were planted, and the raising of beef cattle was undertaken.

Olivenhain is a quiet community, now part of the city of Encinitas which borders the Pacific Ocean some twenty miles north of the limits of the city of San Diego. The Escondido Creek flows through the Olivenhain Valley and empties into the San Elijo Lagoon on the Pacific Ocean just a few miles downstream. The original inhabitants of the Valley were Native American Indians who migrated to the area from Asia at least 10,000 years prior to the arrival of the Europeans. Small bands of San Dieguito Indians settled in the area, with some presence of La Jolla and Diegueno tribes existing in archeological form as well. The land which later became Olivenhain was made available when the Rancho Los Encinitos was sold in 1860. "Los Encinitos" had been a Mexican land grant to the Ybarra family in 1842 and was

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
San Diego County, CA

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worked primarily as a cattle ranch. The property to be known as Olivenhain (4,431 acres) sold for \$3,000 in 1860 and changed hands twice before it was offered for sale in 1884.

In summary, the Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall's significance is in being, as author Bumann puts it, "the nerve center of Olivenhain". Virtually all of the significant historical events in the Colony Olivenhain took place at the Meeting Hall. It was at the hall where the town's social and cultural life flourished in the form of dances, music, weddings, card games, pot luck dinners, and picnics. More than anything or anyone, the Town Hall was (and in many ways still is) Olivenhain, the epicenter of a rich and unusual history and a strong sense of community which exists to this day.

The property has continued as an important meeting area for the community, however nothing of exceptional significance has occurred within the past fifty years. Therefore, the arbitrary date of 1943 is chosen as the ending date.

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
San Diego County, CA

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Colony Olivenhain, by Richard Bumann, 1981.
2. Recipients of California Department of Parks and Recreation Grant under California Wildlife Coastal and Park Conservation Act, 7-1-89 to 6-30-92, DPR Contract No. 619.0-HP-88-37-011, Item No. 3790-101-786 (1). Funds were used to restore the structural integrity of the Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall.
3. "Old Days in Olivenhain" - a narrative history of the early days of Olivenhain and the history and uses of the Meeting Hall, provided by a number of "old timers", presided over by Dan Wiegand, son of one of the original settlers, Herman Weigand. September 2, 1992.
4. Conversation with Harley Denk who donated the land on which the Meeting Hall is situated to the Olivenhain Town Council.

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall is found at 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road, lots 97 through 108 and 121 through 132, block 36. The parcel number is 265-022-20-00.

In order to exclude areas which have lost their historical integrity (see "Boundary Justification"), the aforementioned lot is further reduced to the following boundary description:

Standing on the northwest corner of the above parcel, the first corner of the area under consideration is 25 feet south on Rancho Santa Fe Road, then extending in a straight line east to the boundary limit on Cole Ranch Road. This delineates the north boundary. The south boundary begins 35 feet north on Rancho Santa Fe Road from the southwest corner of the parcel. It then extends in a straight line east in similar fashion to the north boundary, terminating at Cole Ranch Road. The west and east boundaries are limited by Rancho Santa Fe Road and Cole Ranch Road, respectively.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The aforementioned boundary does not include the entire lot owned by the Colony of Olivenhain Town Council. The area we have chosen to include comprises the entire area of the items of historic significance and excludes buildings and land which have lost their historic integrity.

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
423 Rancho Santa Fe Road
Olivenhain, San Diego Co., CA

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Olivenhain Town Meeting Hall
scale: 1 inch = 36 feet

Rancho Santa Fe Road

