

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 29 1978
DATE ENTERED SEP 10 1978

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

RECEIVED
JAN 3 1977
OHP

HISTORIC
WATSON SCHOOL
AND/OR COMMON
WATSON SCHOOL WAYSIDE PARK

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
15000 BODEGA HIGHWAY
CITY, TOWN
BODEGA
STATE
CALIFORNIA
VICINITY OF
 VICINITY OF
CODE
06
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th
COUNTY
SONOMA
CODE
097 ✓
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED-BUILDING	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" 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
SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT
STREET & NUMBER
2403 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, SUITE 100
CITY, TOWN
SANTA ROSA
VICINITY OF
STATE
CALIFORNIA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
SONOMA COUNTY, COUNTY RECORDER
STREET & NUMBER
2555 MENDOCINO AVENUE
CITY, TOWN
SANTA ROSA
STATE
CALIFORNIA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
WATSON SCHOOL - POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST
DATE
1/19/71
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
CITY, TOWN
SACRAMENTO
STATE
CALIFORNIA
*CONTINUATION
SHEET
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Watson School is a one-room Greek Revival style schoolhouse, which is reported to have been built ca. 1856. The exterior is shiplap redwood siding. The construction of the building is with balloon framing, sitting on hand hewn floor girders around the perimeter. The girders are supported on hand hewn piers which have been set into the ground. The windows are double hung (six lights over six lights). The pair of entrance doors and bell tower are typical of the early one-room schools. The original amphitheater style classroom floor slopes toward the teacher's desk or teaching platform at the front of the class. At the front, the original slate blackboard still exists. The building is reasonably intact and has not undergone any major alterations.

The building is situated on a parcel less than one acre in size on the south side of Bodega Highway and east of the town of Bodega. The building is on its original site and is part of the historic and scenic highway environment from the town of Freestone (a Sonoma County Historic District) to the town of Bodega (earlier known as Bodega Corners).

DATE: _____

BY: _____

REVISION: _____

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1856 this part of Sonoma County was lacking educational facilities, except for a small private school organized by Captain Stephen Smith near Bodega, where classes were conducted mainly in Spanish. At this time, Sonoma County included all of Mendocino County and part of Napa County but was sparsely settled. The Gold Rush was subsiding, and the families who remained were mainly a desirable type of immigrant who planned to make California a permanent home. However, the struggling State and County governments, just recently organized, were in no financial condition to provide for school facilities.

Three pioneer families took a leading part in establishing Watson School: Watson, Purrine and Robertson. James Watson came to Sonoma County from Illinois in 1849. He worked for Jasper O'Farrell prior to purchasing land from O'Farrell for his own farm. A.S. Purrine left Indiana for the California gold fields. William Riley Robertson, a native of Missouri, fought as a Texas Ranger in the war with Mexico some years prior to his journey west.

Watson donated the land for the school. Everyone for miles around was consulted about the need to build a school and how the task should be undertaken. It was decided to ask each pioneer family for aid in some form--materials, teams to haul wood from the mill, labor, or financial assistance. A sawmill was located at what is now known as Joy Woods. Labor was plentiful and many of the settlers were good mechanics. In a short time, the building was ready, crude furniture installed, and Watson opened its doors. The total census of children in the newly formed Watson District showed 74 children from 4 to 18 years of age, with 11 attending and an average daily attendance of 10.

The building is a very good example of period school building design and construction. It represents a higher standard than the average schoolhouse of its day, this is borne out by its 111 years of service. Watson School is the only one-room schoolhouse in public ownership still on its original site and in a relatively unaltered condition in Sonoma County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"History of Watson School" by Mr. Vincent Gleason, presented at the Watson School graduation exercises, June 4, 1967.

"1960-61 Sonoma County Schools Report" by Dr. DeForest Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools.

"Historical Atlas of Sonoma County" by T.H. Thompson, 1877.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.85 Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

10	505440	4245100
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A trapezoid shaped lot 232 feet x 210 feet x 128 feet x 200 feet.
Assessors parcel number 26-130-01

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

DINO BONOS, PARK PLANNER

ORGANIZATION
SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS DEPARTMENT

DATE
DECEMBER 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
2403 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, SUITE 100

TELEPHONE
(707) 527-2041

CITY OR TOWN
SANTA ROSA

STATE
CALIFORNIA

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Henry M. Ellison

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Pettig

DATE 9/18/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William LeBouch

DATE Sept 14, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAR 29 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1978

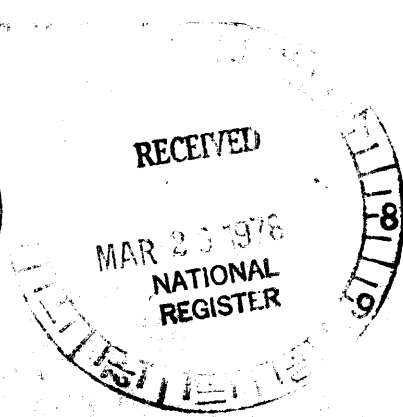
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Representation in Existing Surveys

B/S (Oct. 12, 1976)

Watson School Sonoma County Historic Site #23 by Board of Supervisors Resolution dated, October 12, 1976 Sonoma County Community and Environmental Services Santa Rosa, California.



BODEGA HIGHWAY

WATSON SCHOOL →

