

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 GRACE BLAIR/DEPUE HOUSE AND INDIAN MUSEUM BUILDING

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 215 Court Street not for publication

city, town Jackson vicinity of congressional district 14th

state California code 06 county Amador code (005)

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mildred Burns

street & number 215 Court Street

city, town Jackson vicinity of state California 95642

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Amador County Courthouse

street & number 108 Court Street

city, town Jackson state California 95642

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		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered *	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	* (major addition 1900; major alteration 1950's; restoration 1980)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Grace Blair DePue House is a one and a half story home exemplifying residential architecture in California's Mother Lode country. The house faces south from Court Street, is a half block from the Amador County Courthouse and a block from Main Street, Jackson. The Indian Museum Building is directly north of the house on the same parcel.

Built in 1872, the house has gained several appearances over time. Additions in 1900 added five rooms, front and side porches, and enlarged the kitchen, pantry, and storage area (see Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps for 1898 and 1903). Alterations in the 1950's resulted in the enclosure of the side porches and interior cosmetic changes, primarily sheetrocking over redwood paneled walls and several interior doors. Restoration in 1980 restored Grace Blair DePue House to the 1900 appearance short of reopening the side porches. The Indian Museum Building, built in the 1930's remains as it was.

Viewing the house from a southern elevation facing north, the room to the left of the front entrance and the one behind it, the dining room, comprise the original frame residence built in 1872 by Edward Muldoon. At this time the house had an east side and rear porch and an intersecting gabled roof. The gabled two story wing to the right of the front entrance and the front roof dormer window were added in 1900 by the Blair family. The kitchen was enlarged opposite and at the north end of the front entrance hall. Storage and pantry areas were added north, east and west of the kitchen along the entire northern edge of the 1900 property line. A half story room was added over the pantry. The eastern part of the storage area has subsequently been removed. The western storage area was transformed to living area in 1980.

Prior to the 1950's, the front porch extended into east and west side porches. Architecturally consistent porch posts and railing were installed in 1980 replacing inconsistent wrought iron railing of the 1950's. Two pairs of French glass doors were relocated in the 1950's and again in 1980 where they now open from the dining room and west wing area onto a side porch.

The house is covered by an irregularly shaped shingled roof, a composition of three intersecting gables surrounded by veranda and shed roof areas.

Both 1872 and 1900 portions of the house have tongue and groove redwood siding. The second story gable was finished in 1980 with fishscale shingles of the 1900 period. Double hung windows of the facade and the front entrance door are trimmed with the

(continued)

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original shutters. A brick and quarry tile outdoor stairway was added in 1900 when the street entrance to the house was realigned. Date of origin of the iron gate and coursed masonry wall is unknown although it is aligned to the 1872 residence entrance. Two brick chimneys, one on the east and one on the west are from interior brick fireplaces in the two front rooms.

Dominating the front entrance hall is a massive redwood stairway and paneled staircase. A small vertical skylight was added in 1980 at the second floor landing. An original lighting fixture of elaborate detail also hangs in the entrance. This same detail is carried throughout the house on the original interior doors and door and redwood cabinetry hardwood. All the interior floors are soft pine and several of the rooms have original decorative ceiling and baseboard moldings.

The Indian Museum Building is on the northeast corner of the Grace Blair DePue property proper on a plot of land originally acquired by Emily Blair from the adjacent Jackson Methodist Church. Grace Blair DePue erected the building in the 1930's to house her extensive collection of Indian artifacts. The Indian Museum Building, now a residence, is a rectangular two story masonry structure with a shed roof of Spanish roof tile. The building has metal casement windows, a Spanish quarry tile floor, and is surrounded by a concrete retaining wall.

The landscaping of the Grace Blair DePue House was also restored in 1980. By removing a foot of weedy top soil, a flourishing carpet of dichondra was revived. During this phase of the restoration, an extensive system of water pipes was unearthed. The system, installed by Grace Blair DePue during her ownership of the Jackson Water Works, includes a fire hydrant which through property line changes, is now in the neighbor's yard to the west.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1872; 1900; 1930 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Grace Blair DePue House and Indian Museum Building are significant to the local community because of Mrs. DePue's position as a prominent local business person and her philanthropic activities that resulted in a collection of Native American artifacts preserving aspects of the local Miwok cultural heritage. The house has long been a home of other prominent Amador County business people, among them, saloon keeper and gold miner owner, Edward Muldoon and Jewish merchant, Isaac Peiser. The architectural style of the house is typical of the Mother Lode while the style of the Indian Museum Building is unique. Architectural features of the house remain nearly as they were in 1900 when the house attained its present design. Three features distinguish Grace Blair DePue House in the California Mother Lode country architectural style: the porch, the double-hung shutter-trimmed windows and the use of French glass doors. Variations on this theme are found throughout the Mother Lode, examples of which are documented in John Carden Campbell's Houses of Gold. Most similar to Grace Blair DePue House are the row of houses on the south end of Main Street in Sutter Creek, six miles north of Jackson. These houses have a consistent character and each displays a varied combination of porches, double hung shutter-trimmed windows and French glass doors.

The Indian Museum Building is historically linked to the house. Even though only Mrs. DePue and a companion lived in the seven room house, she sought a separate area in which to display her Native American artifacts. The construction of the building suggests one of its major purposes was also fire protection. It was exquisitely furnished, perhaps to receive those who came to view the collection.

Edward Muldoon built and occupied the original residence in 1872. The location was convenient to his saloon and cattle business. When gold was discovered on his cattle grazing land north of Jackson, he sold the house in 1874 to Isaac Peiser, his Main Street business neighbor. The Muldoon Gold Mine Shaft later became famous in the Argonaut Mine Disaster of 1922. Peiser and his family arrived in Jackson from New York in 1868 and were among many Jewish pioneer families who came to the Mother Lode. Peiser was a successful dry goods merchant and member of the synagogue until his death in 1877. His widow retained ownership of the house until 1900. Nothing remains of the Jewish settlement in Jackson except a plaque where the synagogue stood, a half block from Grace Blair DePue House, and the Jewish cemetery where Isaac Peiser and his family are buried.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES
UTM NOT VERIFIED

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .26 acre

Quadrangle name Jackson

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See enclosed deed)

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

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie P. Barrow January 1982

organization Mainstreet Company date November 1981

street & number 70 Rockridge Drive telephone (415) 753-3644

city or town San Francisco state California 94116

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. Ollm

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2-26-82

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I hereby certify that this property is

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]

Chief of the National Register

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Emily and George M. Blair and their widowed daughter, Grace Blair DePue bought the house and moved to Jackson from Oakland in 1900. Emily Blair's sister was Celina Van Netter Richtmeyer. Since the 1870's, her husband, Benjamin Richtmeyer, had been the Wells Fargo & Company agent and proprietor and manager of the Jackson Water Works which both operated from the same Main Street office. Upon Richtmeyer's death in 1926, the Water Works passed to his wife and later to George Blair. Subsequently, Grace Blair Depue inherited both the house on Court Street and the Jackson Water Works.

Grace Blair DePue was an unusual woman. She is remembered as both an eccentric recluse and a philanthropist. Her appearance was accentuated by her striking white hair contrasted with the black clothes she always wore. She socialized with only a few close acquaintances who showed her good will and often had her employees perform daily domestic errands which she commanded from the Court Street house. She owned and managed the Jackson Water Works, including franchise and operating equipment, which today is still the area's sole source of water for domestic and industrial uses.

Mrs. DePue spent much time in charitable work among the local Miwok Indians. She purchased Indian art and craft wares and other items from persons she believed in need of financial help. Because of this, Miwok men would often be seen sitting in front of the Jackson Water Works. Her entire collection of Indian artifacts was far more extensive than just those from Amador County, however, Mrs. DePue collected over 2,000 baskets, shell ornaments, mortars and pestles, implements of war, games, wampum, household sticks, feathered headdresses and other similar items from Miwok people throughout the Central California area, there being Plains, Northern, Central and Southern Miwok groups. Her collection also included several thousand similar items from Indian tribes in neighboring states and the southwest, several of which were prize winning pieces from tribal fairs. These included Navaho rugs and blankets, baskets, household items, Yuma pottery, and Hopi pottery jars. Her collection also included over a thousand native items from Asia and South America and other parts of the world.

Ultimately, she (re) purchased the parcel of land adjacent to the house (records show the same parcel purchased twice, once by Emily Blair and once by Mrs. DePue) and constructed a building to be a museum for her Indian artifacts. At the time of her death in 1944, the collection as appraised at \$35,500.

Leaving no heirs at her death, Mrs. DePue willed the Court Street house to a companion who also received her collection of Indian jewelry. She left the Jackson Water Works to two employees who had shown her loyalty and kindness. She willed the collection of Native American and Indian artifacts to be called the "Blair Memorial", to the Lowie Museum of Anthropology, at the University of California at Berkeley where it is now.

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Barrett, S.A. and Gifford, E.W., Miwok Material Culture: Indian Life of the Yosemite Region. Yosemite National Park, California: Yosemite Natural History Association, Inc., 1933.

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Campbell, John Carden. Houses of Gold. San Diego, California: Howell-North Books, 1980.

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McLaughlin, Jesse. Former employee, Jackson Water Works, California. Interview 28 July 1981.

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Sanborn-Perris Map Company. Fire Insurance Map: Jackson, California. San Francisco, California, 1898.

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Thompson and West. History of Amador County with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers. Oakland, California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1880.

Wagner, Jack R. Gold Mines of California. Berkeley, California: Howell-North Books, 1970.

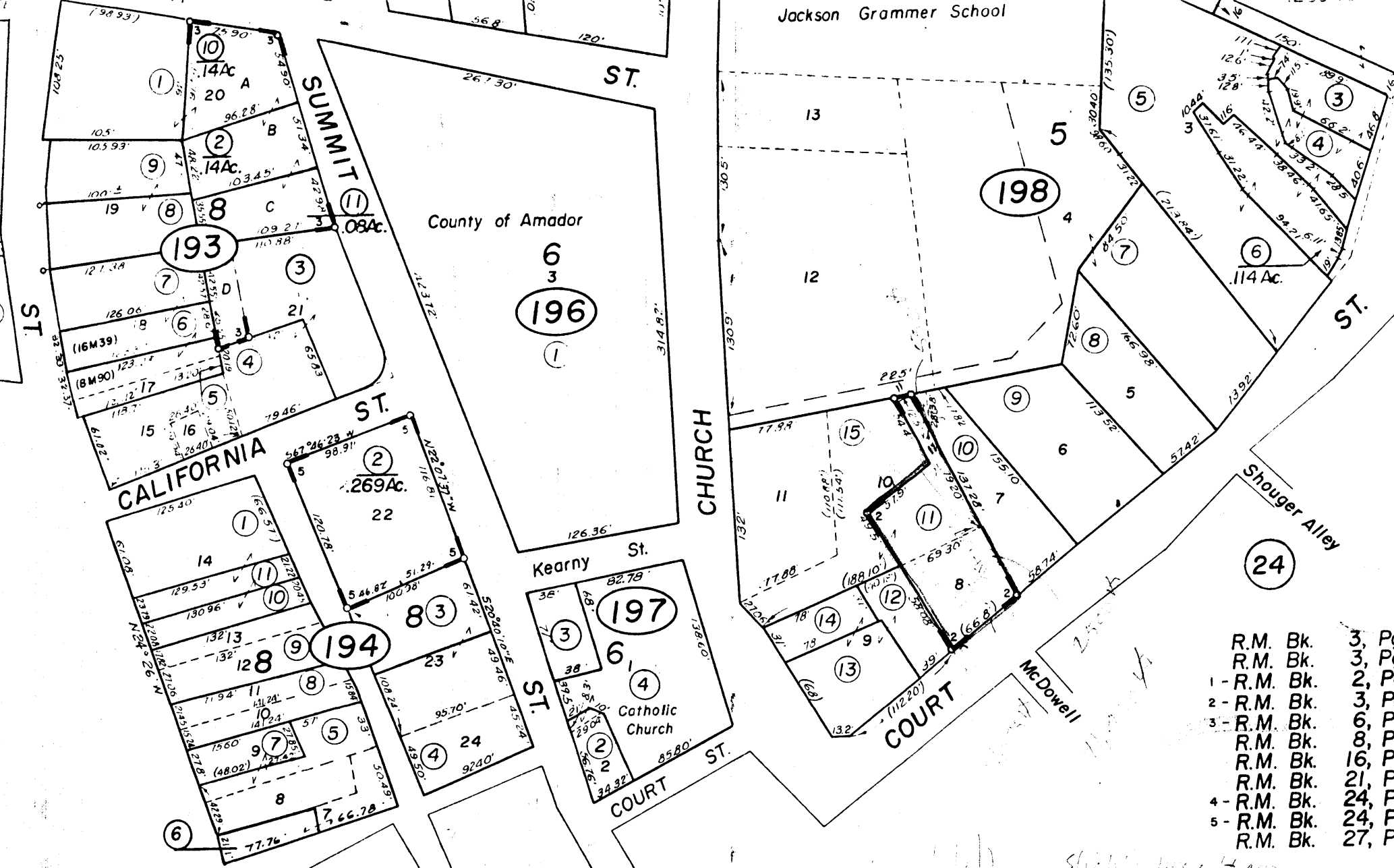
"EXHIBIT A"

Lot 8 and a portion of Lot 10, in Block 5 of the Townsite (now City) of Jackson, as shown on that certain Record of Survey filed October 14, 1946, in Book 3 of Maps and Plats, Page 89, Amador County Records, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning on the North line of Court Street, at the Southwest corner of Lot 7 in said Block 5, marked by a concrete retaining wall designated on said plat; thence;

- (1) South 55° 00' West 66.8 feet along a rock wall to the Southeast corner of Lot 9 of said Block 5;
- (2) North 30° 10' West 75.1 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 9, marked by a pipe 4 inches in diameter;
- (3) North 26° 49' West 49.5 feet to a pipe 4 inches in diameter marking the Northwest corner of a parcel of land described in Deed from First Methodist Episcopal Church to Grace B. De Pue, dated September 25, 1925, of record in Book 47 of Deeds, Page 252, Amador County Records;
- (4) North 58° 27' East 57.9 feet to a post 6 inches in diameter
- (5) Continue said course North 58° 27' East 1.5 feet to a fence corner in the West line of a parcel of land described in Deed from the First Methodist Episcopal Church to Emily V. Blair, dated September 6, 1902, of record in Book 36 of Deeds, Page 341, Amador County Records;
- (6) North 26° 32' West 54.4 feet along fence line to North line of Lot 10 of said Block 5;
- (7) North 83° 00' East 12.5 feet to the most Westerly corner of a triangular shaped parcel of land described in Deed from Iola P. Reeves to Emma E. Williams, dated February 26, 1949, and recorded in Book 36 of Official Records, at Page 320;
- (8) thence South 27° 05' East 170.1 feet along a fence line within said Lot 10, and continuing along the West line of said Lot 7 to the point of beginning.

Jackson Grammer School



	R.M.	Bk.	Page
1	R.M.	Bk.	3, 2, 3, 6, 8, 16, 21, 24, 24, 27,
2	R.M.	Bk.	
3	R.M.	Bk.	
4	R.M.	Bk.	
5	R.M.	Bk.	
6	R.M.	Bk.	
7	R.M.	Bk.	
8	R.M.	Bk.	
9	R.M.	Bk.	
10	R.M.	Bk.	
11	R.M.	Bk.	
12	R.M.	Bk.	
13	R.M.	Bk.	
14	R.M.	Bk.	
15	R.M.	Bk.	
193	R.M.	Bk.	
194	R.M.	Bk.	
196	R.M.	Bk.	
197	R.M.	Bk.	
198	R.M.	Bk.	
24	R.M.	Bk.	

Assessor's
County of

NOTE— Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM



INDIAN MUSEUM BUILDING

The site plan shows two buildings within a larger boundary. The Indian Museum Building is a large, roughly rectangular structure at the top. The Grace Blair Depue House is a larger, more complex structure below it, featuring a prominent rectangular extension on its left side and a smaller rectangular extension at its bottom. The buildings are outlined with solid black lines.

GRACE BLAIR DEPUE HOUSE



215 Court Street
Jackson, CA