

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: San Mateo
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Portola Valley School

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Primary School" of the Portola School District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
775 Portola Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Portola Valley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
17

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **San Mateo** CODE: **081**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Portola Valley School District

STREET AND NUMBER:
765 Portola Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Portola Valley

STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
San Mateo County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN:
Redwood City

STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Junior League of San Francisco Inventory, VII Palo Alto Quadrangle, #134

DATE OF SURVEY: **1963** Federal State County Local

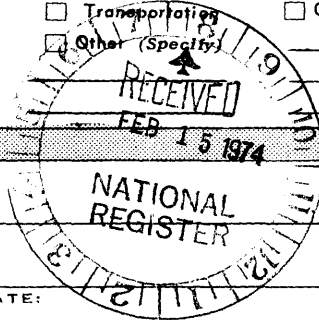
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Redwood City

STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: California	ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 28 1974	DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architectural drawings, the building contract, and photographs document the original appearance and indicate few changes have occurred.

The architect interpreted Mission Revival with false front gables with the typical segmented-circular arches, or scallops, faced with 1" x 4" redwood ship-lap. There are simplified quatrefoils. Arches, or fanlights, are used in the front transom windows. The columns, cornices, moldings, etc. are of redwood. Cedar shingles and 1" x 8" channel redwood are used for exterior walls. In the then-remote redwood country, wood construction was less expensive and was the typical mode.

Originally the exterior was painted a warm cream color with an earthy tile-red trim. This was probably to simulate the characteristic Mission Revival stucco with tile. In the 1950s a school trustee concluded all country schools had been red, and the scheme was reversed: barn red with white trim.

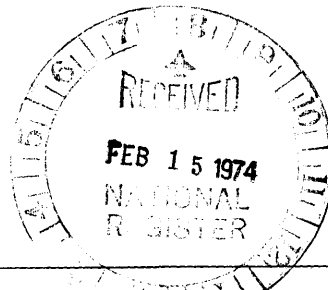
The panes of glass in the transom windows are/were prismatic with all corrugations placed horizontally. The east and west banks of windows provide an open, light interior. The interior pine wood was left natural originally. There was a raised rostrum for the teacher's desk near a coal stove at the end of the room. There was no plumbing, no electrical wiring, but there was a battery operated door bell! The segregated coat rooms in each front corner have entries to the "vestibule" (porch).

In later years an oil burning furnace was added in a shed-roof addition at the back of the school. The building was wired for electricity. Composition roofing was substituted for cedar roof shingles. The original gutters, downspouts, etc. exist in good working condition. Much of the antique copper finished bronze hardware exists throughout the building.

With the post-war population boom in 1950 the earlier "elementary" school, 75' east of the "primary" school, was abandoned, and a four-room school built back of the original schools. The Mission Revival building also was scheduled for demolition until demanded for a kindergarten class. In 1952 a partition created two classrooms out of the large one-room, in recent years it became a school office. For fire reasons a window on the east side was converted to an exit.

The charming building is in good condition and could have many years of continued usefulness. Recent fears because of the proximity to the San Andreas Fault threaten the building's existence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Portola (Valley) school building is one of the few remaining turn-of-the-century examples of Mission Revival styled schools.

It is a conspicuous effort to execute the style on a small scale in wood construction. Architectural historians consider the Mission Revival style developed in part from the shingle tradition. Therefore, the extensive usage of shingles in this interpretation is significant. The result was uniquely attractive. (There was an example of shingled Mission Revival in a store front in the 700 block of McAllister Street, San Francisco.) It was especially appropriate to use wood in the heart of virgin redwood country.

After a half century's existence the Searsville School District's attendance reached a peak in 1909. The census listed 76 children eligible to attend, even though only 53 enrolled. The same year the name was changed to the Portola School District. (A portion of it has been known as the Portola Valley School District since 1959.)

On June 14, 1909, a bond election was passed (21 votes for, 1 opposed) to provide a second school building. \$3,602.11 was actually spent for site, building and furnishings.

Portola taxpayers were affluent San Franciscans, who owned the large estates in the valley. They may have encouraged use of Mission Revival to compliment their summer showplace homes designed by the style's protagonists: A. Page Brown, Willis Polk, Julia Morgan. Mission Revival was most popular on the San Francisco Peninsula. The Stanford University Romanesque styled buildings had been a forerunner of the style; George Howard created the depot at Burlingame (Calif. State Landmark No. 846). LeBaron R. Olive, a Certificated Architect (licensed by the state), with an office at Palo Alto, was engaged to make the drawings and to superintend the school's construction. On October 4, 1909, the school trustees awarded a building contract for \$2,347 to Olaf Olsen and Jermone H. LaCroix of Mayfield (South Palo Alto). It was agreed the building be completed before December 14.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Original architectural plans and construction contract in possession of Regnery; portions of which are recorded in county recorder's office. Correspondence, Elliott Evans to D. Regnery, October 26, 1973. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969. pp. 213-216. Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier, N.Y.: Russell & Russell, 1970. pp. 120-126. Roger Olmsted, et al, Here Today. S.F.: Chronicle Books, 1968. p.312. Burlingame, Its Railroad Station, An American Classic, San Mateo County Historical Association, 1971.

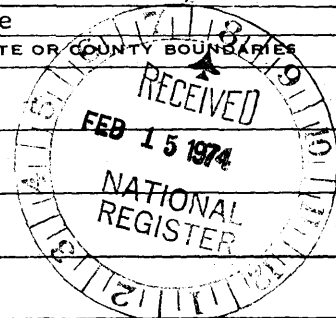
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "		37	22	55.5
SW	° ' "	° ' "		122	13	40

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



117M
10/56837
4137341
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorothy F. Regnery, Town Historian

ORGANIZATION: Town of Portola Valley DATE: Dec. 10, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 4141 Alpine Road

CITY OR TOWN: Portola Valley STATE: California CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: January 25, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/28/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-28-74