

PH 0047244

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Butte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 24 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Centerville Schoolhouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Centerville School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Humbug Road 13 miles NE of Chico

CITY OR TOWN:
Centerville

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Butte	CODE 007
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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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Centerville Recreation and Historical Association, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Nimshew Stage, Box 200

CITY OR TOWN:
Chico

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Butte County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner Lincoln and Bird Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oroville

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Paradise Fact and Folklore Inc.

DATE OF SURVEY: **March 1966** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mrs. Ruby Swartzlow

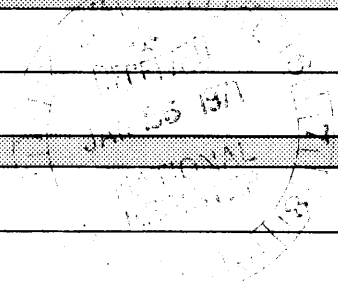
STREET AND NUMBER:
6346 Diamond Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Paradise

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: California
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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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Building faces directly west, in scenic Butte Creek Canyon, with lava bluffs both front and rear. Humbug Road passes directly in front, while a drive circles parking facilities on the south, a picnic area being developed on the north, and playground at the rear. Native oak, pine and maple trees with toyon berry, manzanita and other shrubbery provide a natural setting.

Originally the Centerville Schoolhouse erected in 1894, was a rectangular shaped, 20 x 40 feet, one room building with a covered porch across the front. After several years porches were extended full length on both sides. In 1935 the north porch was removed and a small building erected on the south side, providing restrooms. In 1945 a kitchenette and cloak room were added, using a portion of the south porch area. No additional changes have been made since.

The building is constructed of shiplap lumber and originally had a shake roof. Recently it was recovered with composition shingles. Both roof and siding are a soft green color.

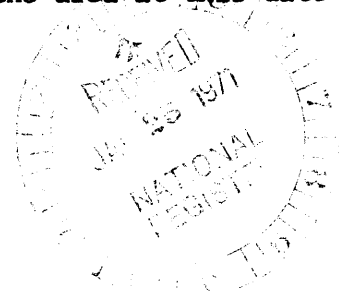
A large old-fashioned bell with a pull rope still hangs in the belfry located on the roof over the front door.

Since the building is located on a sloping hill site, the back rests only inches from the ground, while a dozen steps provide entrance to the front door. A rock wall of native stone provides a barrier between the grounds and the public highway.

A large flag pole stands at the edge of the porch on the right hand side of the door.

A few Juniper shrubs and Nandina bushes have recently been planted around the front area. Two large live oak trees shade the southern portion of the building, while many other native trees and shrubs provide a natural background.

The schoolhouse is the only public building of its period in the vicinity, and is the only public building in the area at this date (1971).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>An additional</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>museum building</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>is planned</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<u>adjacent to the</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<u>schoolhouse</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Centerville dates from the mid 19th century when gold discovery brought men flocking to the area in quest of fortunes. Butte Creek proved to be very rich in gold and soon had numerous settlements along its banks. Chief among these were Helltown on the north, Diamondville on the south, and Centerville, so-called because it was in the center. These are now all included in the area embraced by the Centerville Recreation and Historical Association, Inc., formed for the purpose of acquiring and preserving from demolition the historic, one room, Centerville Schoolhouse.

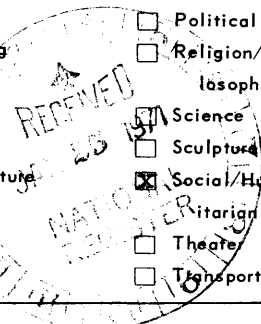
Like other early day mining communities the area has a rich and interesting historical background which we feel should be preserved. From Diamondville to Helltown the population shifted as new gold strikes were made. Stores, hotels, saloons and a post office soon followed.

A private school started in the 1860's and the first public school opened in December, 1871. That building was replaced in 1894 by the present schoolhouse. Classes were discontinued in 1966 due to unification.

Indians and whites jointly occupied the territory for a time. Later Chinese miners arrived in large numbers. Gradually miners were replaced by homesteaders with farming as their aim. In 1900 one of the state's first hydroelectric power plants was built on the banks of Butte Creek as part of the nucleus of the present day P. G. & E. Company. Today's "back to the country" trend is bringing many new families into the district.

Currently our association has two main projects. First is to build a museum, adjacent to the schoolhouse, for housing the antiques and artifacts of this locality. We feel the significance and value of these items would be greatly enhanced by locating them permanently where they could be viewed by the public in the area from which they originated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Places of Historic Interest - Paradise Fact and Folklore, Inc., 1966

Letter dated June 14, 1971, Lois H. Colman, President, Centerville Recreation and Historical Association, to Jules E. Gerhardt.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 47' 15"	121 ° 39' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 1/2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jules E. Gerhardt, Chairman of the Historical Monuments Committee

ORGANIZATION: **Butte County Historical Society** DATE: **10-2-70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 3448

CITY OR TOWN: **Chico** STATE: **California** CODE: **1490 - 007 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 Liaison Officer

Date January 22, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

MAR 9 1972

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
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8. Significance

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The second project is to collect and publish a history of the area emphasizing the period between 1848-1900.

Preserved, the Centerville School will provide a focal point for interpreting the area's rich pioneer-historical heritage.

Centerville's public school district began functioning 100 years ago next month (July 1871) and since that date has been the hub upon which the community rotates.

Family social activities have always been centered there. These have included dinners, teas, dances, student programs, holiday entertainments, etc. Singing parties were always great favorites with musicals a close second. For these the school organ was pressed into service with residents bringing in their own violins, banjos or even harmonicas! Candy pulls were also popular.

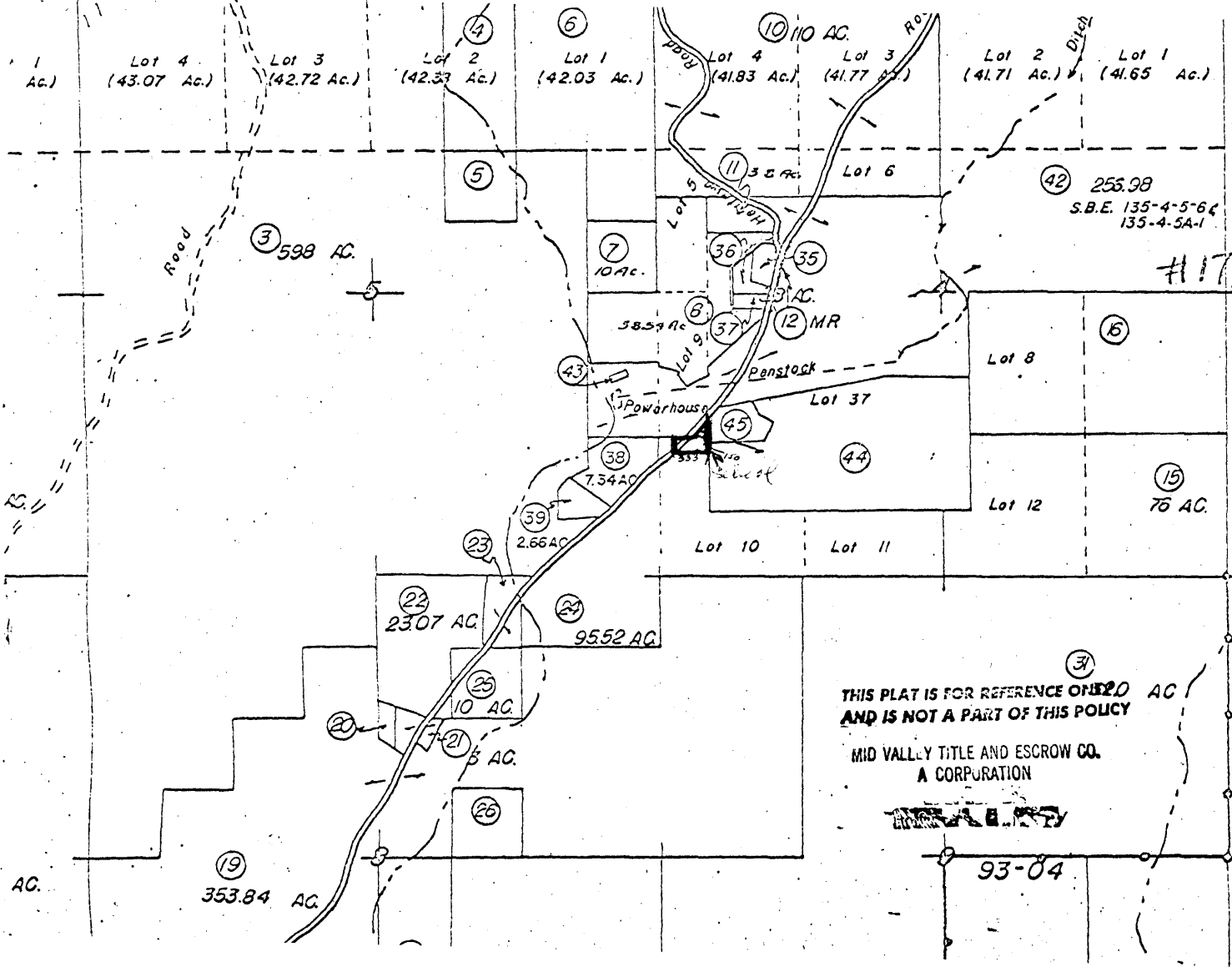
Political rallies and parades have stemmed from, or been held in, the building with many campaigning politicians fairly making the rafters ring! Until very recently all elections were held within its doors.

As early as 1880 sports contests were held on the school grounds. Local young men formed a ball team which met alternately at Centerville, Paradise or other neighboring communities.

Since the formation of Centerville Recreation and Historical Association in 1968 we have held regular monthly meetings at which times programs presented have been equally divided between educational, cultural and recreational. Special picnics, playdays, workshops and other activities are scheduled as desired.

One of our most successful projects is our yearly Arts and Crafts Show held in May. Since our first one three years ago participation has increased yearly. Paintings, crafts and antiques are displayed. This year's attendance was over four hundred. The number of paintings displayed has grown from 39 the first year to 159 this year.

Briefly, the schoolhouse has always meant to the community a place to bring their problems for solving, to fill the need for companionship and relaxation, and to grow and develop mentally and spiritually. The wide response from former students when we announced our plan for acquiring alumni membership was evidence of their continuing interest.



#17701

THIS PLAT IS FOR REFERENCE **ONE 20 AC**
AND IS NOT A PART OF THIS POLICY

MID VALLY TITLE AND ESCROW CO.
 A CORPORATION

93-04

AC. 353.84 AC.

3 598 AC.

42 255.98
 S.B.E. 135-4-5-6
 135-4-5A-1

22 2307 AC.
 24 9552 AC.

15 76 AC.

8 3859 AC.
 9 31 AC.
 12 MR

38 7.54 AC.
 39 2.66 AC.

Lot 4 (43.07 Ac.)
 Lot 3 (42.72 Ac.)
 Lot 2 (42.37 Ac.)
 Lot 1 (42.03 Ac.)

Lot 4 (41.83 Ac.)
 Lot 3 (41.77 Ac.)
 Lot 2 (41.71 Ac.)
 Lot 1 (41.65 Ac.)

7 10 AC.

11 3.5 AC.

36
 35

37

Lot 37

Lot 10 Lot 11

Lot 8

Lot 12

5

42

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AC.