

PH036235X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 21 1976
DATE ENTERED AUG 13 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
* * Colusa High School and Grounds

AND/OR COMMON
Colusa Junior High School Main Building and Grounds

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
745 Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN
Colusa

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF
4th Congressional District

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Colusa

CODE
011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <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: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Colusa Unified School District

STREET & NUMBER
745 10th Street

CITY, TOWN
Colusa

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Assessor's Office, County of Colusa

STREET & NUMBER
547 Market Street

CITY, TOWN
Colusa

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE <u>6-15-76</u> |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Mediterranean Revival style structure comprises 28,000 square feet, on two floors - its overall dimensions are 252 x 82 feet, with a 60 foot tower over the main entrance.

The physical condition of the structure is excellent, having been maintained since its erection in 1926 as a high school, then a Junior High School until June of 1976. The only significant deterioration is in the wood framed windows which are repairable and restorable.

Footings are concrete, 6 feet wide at the tower, 3 1/2 feet wide at the two storey elements and 2 feet wide at the single storey elements. There is a small basement (whose walls and floor are reinforced concrete) under the stage area of the auditorium.

Each of the two storeys is 11' - 6" clear height. The first floor framing is full size 2 x 10's at 16" centers over a pier and girder system. The second floor is full 2 x 16's at 16" centers and has a double floor separated by 2 x 2's at 12" with "deadening felt" between layers. The roof framing is principally 2 x 6 trusses at 28" with 7/8" sheathing, covered by mission tiles.

Exterior and some interior walls are fabricated of solid hard-fired brick masonry with cement (not lime) mortar. Even the south walls, subject to the harshest weathering conditions, show no evidence whatsoever of deterioration. Masonry wall thickness, depending on location, varies from 20" to 8". Interior partitions are principally wood studs, with wood lath and plaster. The lath and plaster also occur over furring at the masonry walls. Wainscots and other high use areas are finished with Keenes Cement Plaster for additional hardness and durability.

The dimensions of the auditorium are approximately 40' x 60'. There is a balcony. The ceiling height varies from 22' to 25' with the slope of the floor. Large, round arched windows penetrate the side walls and a shallow segmented arch forms the proscenium over the stage. Large cast plaster rosettes decorate the ceiling, acting as lighting fixture canopies as well as ventilation grilles.

Along with the main school structure, a gymnasium and a shop building, both wood framed with plastered exterior, comprised the 15.5 acre campus. These two latter structures have been destroyed to provide playground space for a new school building complex recently completed to the east of the original building on the same six-block site. The preservation proposal is for lease of the old school site of about three acres and the purchase of the building for either a private or a county office building complex. Now that the building has been vacated by the students, the unsightly "dog-house" entrance canopies have been dismantled, restoring the exterior to its original appearance. The "dog-houses" were added as a safety measure after the Oroville Earthquake of August 1, 1975. Inspection by structural engineers indicated, however, that no damage was suffered by the structure during said earthquake. (See reports of Sauer, Marr and Associates, Consulting Engineers, dated July 17, 1975 and October 3, 1975, Exhibit A and Exhibit B respectively)

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" 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 September 6, 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George C. Sellon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural Significance. The old Colusa High School building is one of the few intact pre-Field Act schools of the Mediterranean Revival type of architecture that swept the Nation, particularly California, in the decade following World War I. It is the product of a boom era and reflects a degree of quality, in construction, materials and workmanship, we are unlikely to ever see again.

Architecturally, this structure represents one of the most outstanding examples of this period. It boasts a richness and diversity of detailing unexcelled in a school building of its size. The virtuosity of the salmon colored brickwork ornamentation is splendid, with variations in bonding, soldier coursing, arches, oriels, bevels and fillets all beautifully and imaginatively executed. The richness of the terra cotta ornamentation is evident at each major entrance and opening which is enthusiastically embellished. In addition, there are screens and grilles at selected windows, ornately fabricated of wrought iron or wood turnings, as well as original lunette decorated wood shutters at other small windows. The composition culminates in a sixty-foot tower, and the entire structure is roofed with heavy mission tiles.

The total result is highly decorative and highly romantic. It represents an enthusiastic and high-spirited dedication to beauty for beauty's sake that now rarely exists. The structure is an irreplaceable artifact in the heritage of Colusa and the entire surrounding North Valley area.

Historical Significance. The structure commonly referred to as the old Colusa Junior High School main building stands as a continuing demonstration of how a rural, agricultural community can provide an aesthetically attractive, yet economical, efficient and durable education facility within a limited budget dictated by the people's ability to pay.

This school was built during 1925-26 as the third building used by the then Colusa Union High School District and replaced a structure erected in 1903. This latter school, designed to accomodate 75 pupils had become outmoded when district enrollment had reached 144 in 1925. The new school building and the nearby gymnasium and shop structures were planned for 300 students.

The high school built during 1925-26 was financed by a \$200,000. bond issue approved by the voters of the district on April 11, 1925 by an overwhelming majority of 670 to 166. The amount of the bond issue represented a compromise between the district's farmers, who through a Committee of 10, had sought an issue of \$150,000. and the school trustees' desire for a facility costing \$250,000. The agricultural community, which provided the district's economic base then as it does now, was experiencing hard times

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Colusa Weekly Sun - 1882
- Daily Colusa Sun - 1891-92-93
- Colusa Daily Sun - 1925-26
- Kenneth Marr, Sauer, Marr & Associates, Consulting Structural Engineers - 1975
- Robert L. Johnson, Editor, Colusa Sun Herald - 1976
- Robert E. Mackensen, Wadley, Martin & Mackensen A.I.A. - 1976

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.03

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1,0 | 5 8,5 0,4,0 | 4,3 4,0 3,6,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The westerly 3.03 of blocks 98 and 111 as said blocks are shown on the map of plot of Colusa on file in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder of the County of Colusa. Bounded on the west by 10th Street, on the south by Fremont Street, on the north by Webster street, and on the east by the Colusa Intermediate School grounds.

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

David Bobb - Vice President

June 10, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Concerned Citizens of Colusa County Inc.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 114

916-458-5527

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Colusa

STATE

California 95932

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

Herbert Rhodes

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 7-12-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William J. Mustath

DATE 8/13/76

Charles A. ...

DATE 8.13.76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST
 Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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| | |
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| DATE ENTERED | AUG 19 1976 |

CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

and thus demanded economy as well as functional utility. That the school trustees and architect could also produce a building of such beauty that a significant and substantial cross-section of the community today desires that it be preserved for posterity is testimony to what can be done given the will, the inspiration, and the skill in designing buildings within limited budgets.

The architect who designed the structure was George C. Sellon of Sacramento who, the Colusa Daily Sun reported, had constructed the California Security Life Building where his office was located, a number of high schools including those in Yuba City, Newman and Wheatland, and the Tehama County Courthouse at Red Bluff.

But not to be overshadowed is the fact that much effort was put into the building's planning and construction by community leaders serving on and with the district's school board. A dentist, Dr. E. S. Holloway, gave much of his time as a volunteer consultant to the school trustees during the planning and construction period. He had previously in 1918 given nearly all of his time to overseeing the construction of the Colusa Elementary School built that year and thus had valuable experience to offer.

The school board acted as the contractor for the project and on August 17, 1925 received bids and awarded contracts to eight different firms for various phases of the construction work.

By October 24, 1925, the initial phases of the project had reached a point that the cornerstone could be laid by the Grand Lodge of Masons in California with the traditional rites being conducted by The Most Worshipful Albert E. Boynton, grand master, and other grand officers.

The principal speaker following the cornerstone ceremony, was the Honorable William M. Finch, formerly of College City, who was then the presiding justice of the District Court of Appeals.

Construction of the school progressed through the winter and into the spring. It was hoped that the last senior class to use the 1903 high school could be graduated from the new high school. However, the finishing work was not completed in time and the new high school was not opened for full use by the students and faculty until September 6, 1926. On this same day the facility was dedicated in impressive ceremonies conducted by the Grand Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The principal address was delivered by Judge Fletcher A. Cutler of Burlingame.

A plaque was placed proclaiming that "This Building (is) Dedicated to TRUTH, LIBERTY, TOLERATION by the Native Sons of the Golden West, September 6, 1926." The sand used in

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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

mixing the mortar for placing the plaque came from each of the state's 58 counties and the water was taken from old wells at the missions of the state.

In describing the new school structure to the district's Parent-Teacher Association on October 27, 1925. Principal Noel H. Garrison termed the facility "a plant of which Colusa may well be proud.....the building will be efficient and thoroughly up-to-date." And at the dedication, Principal Garrison, according to the Colusa Daily Sun, "stressed the fact that the Board of Education has earnestly and conscientiously tried to make the \$200,000. appropriated go as far as possible and to get the most out of every dollar."

The building has served the community as a public school during the 50 years of its life time. In 1964 it was converted from a high school (grades 9 through 12) to a junior high school (grades 6 through 8) with no structural modifications.

Today the old Colusa High School stands majestically on Tenth Street (State Highway 20), the main entrance to the City of Colusa from Interstate 5. It is situated among stately old elm trees and offers a scene of beauty and tranquility to all who pass by.

For fifty years visitors and county and city residents have all enjoyed the building's architectural beauty. It is a fitting introduction to Colusa, a symbol of heritage and tradition in which, and for which, residents have always had pride and respect. It is a fine old school which many citizens and their children and their children's children have attended. It is difficult to imagine Colusa without it.

Landscape Architectural Significance. The landscape design employs an expanse of green grass lawns to provide a park-like setting for the dominant red brick school building. This park-like setting continues beyond the two blocks of the school site on Tenth Street to the adjacent Will S. Green park on the north.

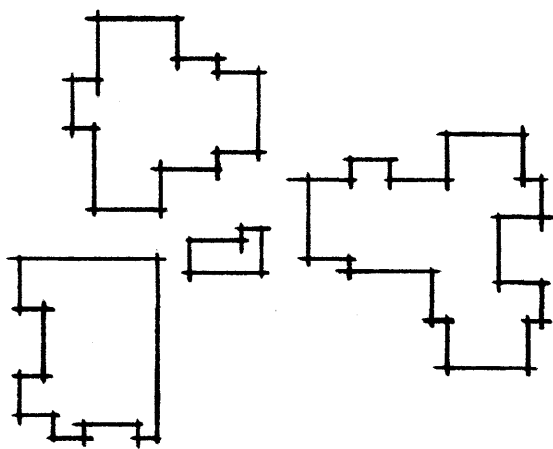
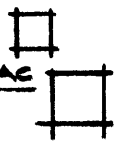
Large, stately old elm trees which line Tenth Street on the west side of the site are an integral part of the image of Colusa and are protected, as are all the old trees of Colusa, by a special City Tree Commission. These trees frame the picturesque setting of the old brick school situated in the center of the spacious lawns which are dotted by a few additional mature trees.

The grounds have been well-maintained over the years. Informal shrubberies form the foundation planting surrounding the building, and the total effect is one of harmony between structure and environment. The scene is reminiscent of the grace, beauty and dignity of former days long past.

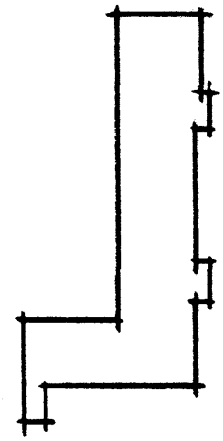
FREEMONT

220'

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SITE ~ 12.5 AC



600'



OLD JUNIOR HIGH SITE ~ 3.0 AC.

SEVENTH

TENTH

WEBSTER

SITE PLAN



SHOWING
OLD JR. HIGH,
NEW SCHOOL
& CITY PARK

4-20-76

WADLEY - MARTIN
MACKENSEN, INC.
ARCHITECTS AIA
COLUSA, CALIF.

WILL S. GREEN
CITY PARK ~ 5.0 AC