

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: West Butte Schoolhouse
Other names/site number: Parcel #13-070-088
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 14226 Pass Road
City or town: Live Oak State: CA County: Sutter County
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B ___ C ___ D

State Historic Preservation Officer	
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>	Date <u>24 February 2016</u>
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain: _____)

Don Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4.19.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CRAFTSMAN

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Walls: WOOD

Roof: ASPHALT

Other: WOOD & GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The West Butte Schoolhouse is a rural one room school that sits on a 0.81 acre site in Sutter County at the base of the Sutter Buttes. It is wood frame and contains one large classroom, an entry and cloak room. The building and entry is set back slightly from Pass Road. The site is undistinguished with one lone tree in declining health remaining in what was once the playground in the open area behind the school. The building was constructed in 1909 on the site of a 1860 one room schoolhouse that was destroyed by a fire in 1908. The mostly level site was granted to the School District in 1860 by one of the area's earliest settlers, Frederick Hoke. There are two small accessory buildings, a well house and board & batten storage shed behind the building. The well house shares the hipped roof, protruding rafter tails and siding of the main school building, with wooden lattice attached to the upper portions of each well house wall. The storage shed has a front-gabled roof and board & batten siding. Both appear to date from the period of significance and are contributors. A seasonal drainage swale defines the southern property boundary and continues southward, flowing into the Butte Slough and the Sacramento River. The surrounding area is largely rural in nature, with many local farms, rangeland, open space and views of the Sutter Buttes (an extinct volcanic range). The West Butte Schoolhouse was designed by Architect James T. Narbett who became one of the most prolific architects of

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school and municipal buildings in Northern California. The school use ceased in 1943 after enrollment declined and rural students were bussed to larger, consolidated schools in nearby towns such as Meridian and Yuba City. After 1943, the Schoolhouse was converted to residential use. Residential interior finishes were later removed by the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (formally the Middle Mountain Foundation) in an effort to return the structure back to its original structural setting, with the exception of the original windows being replaced by horizontal aluminum slider windows. Most of the historic siding is present, with some plywood or manufactured board siding on the east and south sides.

Historic Integrity

The property's ability to convey its significance through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association has not been significantly altered by changes over time. Roughly 80% of the essential materials, workmanship, and physical features of the schoolhouse itself are intact and still represent the historic period and design of architect James T. Narbett. When the schoolhouse was converted to residential use, there were minor alterations to the schoolhouse exterior and interior. Slider windows replaced historic windows, some historic siding was removed and additional architectural features were added to the front and back porch. While there were minor changes made to the building, the majority of the historic siding is intact, historic window framework is still present and most of the residential changes to the interior of the building have since been removed to reveal the historic interior schoolhouse structure and design. Overall, a majority of the architectural features and design that contribute to the significance of the building remain intact.

The surrounding area and property itself have experienced very little changes or alterations, with 90% of the historic landscape remaining intact. The property's original plants have changed by natural process or substitute plantings but the overall historic appearance of the property's landscape is intact and new vegetation has not destroyed any historic qualities of the site. Other than a loss of structures that once represented the town of West Butte and a small orchard installed to the south of the site, the rural setting has not changed much in the last century (no development, visual intrusions or large land alterations have occurred in the surrounding area). The site is representative of what early American life was like in the town of West Butte. The physical characteristics that convey the historic qualities and the integrity of the setting, location and design, still have the ability to convey a sense of feeling and association. The ability of the schoolhouse to evoke a historic feeling and association from the surrounding community is still very much alive and evidenced by involvement from the local community to steward the property as well as frequent inquiries regarding the restoration of the schoolhouse. In addition, many families that went to the school and resided in the town of West Butte, such as the Tarkee's, Hill's and Ullery's still have descendants that still reside in the local area and have vocalized their personal attachment to the site and desire for it to be restored. Overall, the historic landscape and setting is intact.

Although the condition of the schoolhouse and site have experienced weathering, natural plant succession, minor alterations and deterioration, the essential physical features of the schoolhouse and surrounding area remain intact. The schoolhouse and surrounding area represent and convey the period of significance and historic rural character of the town of West

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Butte. The condition of the existing architectural features, relatively unchanged surroundings, established community connection and contribution to local education make the schoolhouse a viable candidate for historic nomination.

Narrative Description

The West Butte Schoolhouse sits slightly back from Pass Road. The schoolhouse consists of one large classroom about 23 feet by 28 feet with 13 foot ceilings. A tower on the west side of the building forms an entry vestibule with a ceiling height of about 8 feet. The tower cantilevers over the main room slightly. The 10' by 10' tower has large louvered vents on all sides with decorative balconets below. The front door is a typical 3/5 Craftsman glazed and paneled door with canted stiles and a transom over. A shed roof over the front door was added after the period of significance. A "cloak room" is located off the entry vestibule. There is a door with a gable end porch over at the rear that leads to an undefined area that once served as a playground. An historic photograph shows a small tree on the playground that appears to be in declining health. The main room and tower have moderately pitched hip roofs with extended eaves and exposed simple rafter tails. At the apex of the hip roof on the tower, there is a tall, tapered spire that once served as a flag pole. The historic siding was horizontal wood three bead siding. Most of the historic siding is extant; some on the east and south sides has been replaced by plywood or manufactured board siding. The original windows have been removed but filled in openings indicate that there were three large 4 foot by 8 foot windows on the east side and 2 similarly sized windows on the north side. A small, high hopper window was also located on the north side. From the siding patches, it does not appear that there were any windows on the south side. There are patched openings for two windows on the west side, one in the tower and one in the "cloak room". From historic photographic evidence, the windows in the main room appear to have been double hung with divided lights. A wood burning stove in the classroom provided heat. Electricity and electric lights were added in 1937. Until that time, the large windows provided the only illumination. Water was provided by a hand pump in a lattice well house behind the school. There was no indoor plumbing. Two out houses, one for boys and one for girls, were located on either side of the playground and removed when plumbing was installed. The school use ceased in 1943. The West Butte Schoolhouse was then converted to residential use, the ceiling was lowered and partitions installed in the interior. The original windows were replaced by horizontal aluminum slider windows and the siding patched. Indoor plumbing, a septic system, a pressurized water system with water heater were added. After acquisition by the Sutter buttes Regional Land Trust (formally Middle Mountain Foundation) in 2005, the residential interior finishes were removed to expose a sophisticated structural system that carries the offset load of the tower. Evidenced by holes drilled in the ceiling of the classroom in the area where the tower cantilevers, it appears that the architect designed the tower to be a component of a passive cooling system designed to draw cool air from the intermittent watercourse up and out of the building through the vented bell tower. The orientation of the windows to the north and east, the extended eaves, the lack of openings on the south side, the high ceilings, the massing of the "cloak room" on the western façade and the white exterior paint to reflect sunlight are all components of the climate control program. Architect Narbett's attention to building science sets the West Butte Schoolhouse apart from earlier pioneer one room schools still found throughout California.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1909-1943

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narbett, James T.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The West Butte Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the area of education because it was one of the earliest known school buildings designed by Architect James T. Narbett, and its role as an educational facility in rural Sutter County. The period of significance extends from the date of actual construction in 1909 to the date the school was closed in 1943.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Education

When the original West Butte Schoolhouse burned to the ground on April 2, 1908, circumstances had changed from early pioneer days. Landowners had prospered and entire North Sacramento Valley had grown increasingly interdependent and connected. A week after the fire, the community pulled together and a special school trustee election was held. The trustees included Ella Hoke and Mr. Louis Tarke. Classes were moved temporarily to George Straub's Town Hall while Architect James T. Narbett was retained to draw up plans for the new West Butte Schoolhouse. Narbett's plans were delivered to school superintendent L.L. Freeman along with an Architect's estimate of construction costs. A special election was held on May 17, 1909, and West Butte voters unanimously approved a Bond for the sum of \$1,500 to pay for the new school. Bids were opened on July 29, 1909. A contract for \$1,325 was awarded to Guy McMurtry and the new school house was ready for classes in the fall of 1909.

James Narbett, licensed as an architect in 1907, had the requisite experience. At the time of the West Butte fire, Narbett was involved in the construction of an addition to the State Normal School in Chico. In 1887, Chico had been selected by the State of California as the site of one of the accredited State Colleges dedicated to training and the education of teachers in the art of instructing and governing the public schools of the state. Capable teachers had been scarce on the frontier. As the State of California grew, a ready supply of teachers meeting uniform standards was deemed essential. The facilities under construction at the Chico Normal School at the time of the West Butte fire included an Experimental Teaching College, a children's' playground and a Model Rural School. These facilities were designed to provide a laboratory to test the effectiveness of new teaching methods and pedagogical theories on local children. The growing recognition about the importance of a physical environment conducive to learning is evidenced in the design of the Model Rural School at Chico and furthered at the West Butte Schoolhouse.

Pedagogical theories were not the only social changes. As women gained the right to vote, they became more independent, capable and confident. West Butte residents, Verona and Eleta Hill were among the emancipated women who chose teaching as a career. They may have been influenced by their next door neighbor, C. G. Kline or watching their mother raise 7 children.

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Verona and Eleta Hill never married and lived their entire lives with their bachelor brother Arthur in the tiny family home commuting to work first by horse and buggy and later by Ford Model T. The two Hill sisters were a far cry from the prim schoolmarms of popular legend. Burwell Ullrey remembered lessons taught outside, schoolyard pranks and rattlesnakes in the well house. A photograph of young Eleta Hill in bloomers standing jauntily on an orchard ladder reveals a thoroughly modern woman capable of handling rattlesnakes and mischievous boys. One West Butte School student, Burwell Ullrey recalls student pranks, lessons held outside and his fondness for teacher Verona Hill:

“We all lived right there, pert-near as one big family so we though a great deal about each other. There weren’t any problems. To my knowledge, I never saw Verona Hill raise her voice to anyone at school.”

.... Burwell W. Ullrey

The West Butte Schoolhouse fire provided an opportunity to replace an old one room schoolhouse with a new one that would support the latest trends in education. Although the 1909 West Butte School is only one room, it is distinctly different than pioneer one room rural schools. The building is illuminated by oversized windows oriented East and West to maintain even day lighting. Design elements for climate control reflect the concern for providing a hospitable environment to facilitate learning.

“If progress in education is observed from the time when it was dispensed within a small box-like building with its poorly lighted and badly ventilated rooms, to its present expanded and still expanding status as carried on within the modern complex structures completely equipped and embracing all facilities for education, health, and safety, it will be seen that architecture has kept abreast with each succeeding step of the educational program, in which the course of studies has become more and more extended to meet the requirements of the industrial, commercial and social life of the nation.”

.... John J. Donovan, Mar. 1921, “Architecture, Planning and Construction of Schools”

The period of significance ends with the change in use in 1943 when busing rural students to consolidated schools to allow grade segregation became the norm. After the school use ceased, land ownership reverted to the successors of the original grantee. The building was converted to a residence and the interior modified significantly. On August 21, 1979, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors declared the West Butte School to be an historical monument in order to invoke the State Historic Building Code for future work. In 2005, Sutter County conditionally accepted the donation of the building and the site with the explicit intent of transferring ownership to the Middle Mountain Foundation to be used for purposes consistent with its mission statement and goals. In 2013, The Middle Mountain Foundation became the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust thus expanding its purview to include additional properties.

The West Butte School is significant because it serves as a bridge between early frontier one room schools and modern pedagogy. The West Butte School is the only remaining one room schoolhouse in Sutter County and the only schoolhouse designed specifically for its site by an

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experienced architect incorporating building science such as climate control and daylighting. It is also one of the few remnants of the pioneer Town of West Butte.

James Narbett

Largely forgotten now, James Narbett (1874-1936) was in his day one of the busiest architects in Northern California according to Daniella Thompson in an article published in the Journal of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association entitled “Berkeley’s Two Campus Theaters”. Historical information is scanty and reveals little about his career development as an architect. According to a biography published in 1917, Narbett is described as taking up studies with unnamed “eminent architects” passing the architectural licensing exam in 1907 when he was 33 years old. When the West Butte School burned in 1908, Narbett was under contract to build the Experimental Teaching College at the State Normal School (now Chico State University) which was completed in 1909. While James Narbett qualifies as a master architect, the modest scale and workmanship of the West Butte School mean the property is not necessarily eligible as the representative work of a master architect under Criterion C. However, the design elements integrated into the school by Narbett, intended to facilitate the building’s role as an educational facility, are important to the property’s significance under Criterion A as a school.

Narbett was born on August 31, 1874 aboard a ship off the coast of Rangoon, British Burma. His parents, William and Eleanor Narbett were British citizens and his father’s profession was listed as “contractor”. No information about what types of projects William Narbett would have been involved with or his responsibilities is available but, at that time, Britain was extending its Empire into India and had undertaken a massive effort to create British monuments, civic improvements and infrastructure as a part of the Raj or British reign. Narbett’s father was likely one of the many skilled contractors sent to India on behalf of the British Crown to coordinate armies of Indian laborers.

The Narbetts moved to the United States in 1876 where his father conducted a summer resort at Fort Canby in the State of Washington. The family then moved to San Francisco, Oakland and Benicia before settling in Crockett in 1880 with William Narbett pursuing opportunities as a building contractor. During that period, Crockett had a deep water port connected to the Southern Pacific Railroad which was an ideal site for grain shipping facilities, flour mills (1886) and a huge sugar refinery (1896). There would have been lots of opportunities for contractors skilled in implementing major projects. James Narbett went to public school in Crockett and then to the Van der Naillen School of Practical Engineering in Oakland, California. In 1896, Narbett followed his father’s profession and took up contracting. He moved to Alaska for a year and returned to the Van der Naillen School of Practical Engineering finally graduating in 1900. The Van der Naillen School of Practical Engineering was a “for profit” trade school unlike the prestigious universities attended by architects such as Julia Morgan or John Galen Howard practicing in the area at the same time. It focused on practical applications in several engineering fields with the emphasis on gaining the skills necessary for entry into the workforce. An intensive 6 month course in structural engineering, mining engineering or civil engineering might cost \$125 for an individualized, pragmatic program and guaranteed employment. Albert Van der Naillen himself graduated from the University of Ghent as a surveying geometrician

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before coming to the U.S. and serving in the Civil War as a civil engineer. The school's prospectus offered:

"....a school where practical engineering should be taught and the principles of construction shown in their simplicity, disembarassed of all the technical bulwarks put around them by old-school fogyism".

.....Albert Van der Naillen

By 1904, James T. Narbett had relocated to Chico with his wife and son where he was responsible for Masonic Temples in Chico and Oroville, as well as buildings in Chico, Orland, Willows, Dunsmuir, and Sacramento including the Colonial Hotel in Biggs and the Shotover Inn in Hamilton City. Some of these buildings may have been Design-Build projects undertaken before he passed the architectural licensing exams in 1907. In 1911, Narbett moved to Richmond, California. His first project there was the La Selle Building where he set up his offices. During World War I, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where he designed buildings for an expansion of the Hercules Powder Plant. The Company successfully petitioned the War Department to release him from his commission so he might take charge of the construction work. After the war was over, Narbett continued his practice in Richmond and later moved his offices to San Francisco. He is responsible for numerous buildings in Richmond including the Elks Lodge, the Richmond City Hall, two fire houses, the Richmond Plunge, the Masonic Lodge and all but two of the City's schools. Other known Narbett buildings include the Calistoga National Bank, Brentwood Grammar School, the Captain H.S. Pond Residence in Alameda, Narbett's personal residence in Richmond, Oakley Grammar School, Campus Theater (Berkeley), Danville Veterans' Hall, the Syndicate Building in Oakland and the Nurses Dormitory at the Alameda County Hospital.

Narbett experimented with "modern" materials such as hollow clay tile brick and practical engineering such as long span trusses, daylighting and climate control techniques such as operable skylights. His deft use of a range of architectural elements and styles from Classical to Spanish Eclectic shows an understanding of architectural history that is unexplained by his modest education although his membership in the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects would have put him in contact with some of the most distinguished architects of all time. His son, Keith Narbett, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley's Architecture School and followed in his father's footsteps working on the award winning Acalanes High School as well as hundreds of dwelling units for the Richmond and Pittsburg Housing Authorities during World War II.

Narbett's work represents a sophisticated balance of style, ambitious structural engineering solutions and practical building sciences gleaned from practical experience, keen observation skills, and a lifetime of immersion in actual construction techniques. The West Butte Schoolhouse, although modest, is an example of Narbett's ability to marry program, site, design and practical engineering.

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West Butte Historic Development Pattern:

West Butte is so named because it is west of the Sutter Buttes, the jagged remnants of the core of an ancient volcano jutting out of the middle of lush, agricultural Sacramento Valley. The Maidu, who lived in its shadow for thousands of years, called it *Esto Yamani*, which means "the Middle Mountain" and considered it sacred. The area was first settled in the early 1850s as men seeking their fortunes during the Gold Rush decided that more dependable occupations such as farming, ranching or commerce might be easier and more lucrative. Following closely on the heels of Federal surveyors extending the Jeffersonian land grid into California, settlers moved onto lands they deemed undeveloped and claimed them under squatters' rights. These land claims were later formalized by the Federal government.

Frederick Hoke and Frederick Tarke were typical early settlers. Born in Germany they came to America in 1844. In 1850, they traveled together across the plains to California. When they arrived in Sacramento, they sold their teams and outfitted for the gold fields to stake their claims. In 1855, they headed back to Iowa to find brides and returned to settle in the West Butte area. By 1860, most of the lands west of the Sutter Buttes had been claimed. Records show that in 1879, Frederick Hoke owned 1,860 acres (about 3 square miles) of which 800 acres were cultivated. In that same year, records show that Frederick Tarke owned 2,500 acres (about 4 square miles) with 800 acres under cultivation. These two were good friends building two adjacent homes that served as the headquarters for their agricultural operations.

Frederick Hoke and his wife Louisa had 4 children, Frederick Tarke and his wife Mary had 3 children. Other people moved to the area to either work for the early settlers or to provide services. As more children became part of the population, it became apparent that a school was necessary so they could obtain a proper education. On February 28, 1860, the West Butte School District was established by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors. Frederick Hoke offered the use of a parcel of his land for the construction of a school building. Although no date for the construction of the first schoolhouse has been found, the schoolhouse was ready for classes in the fall of 1860. Photographic records show that the first schoolhouse was similar to other one room rural schools across America...a simple wooden rectangle with a gable end roof, windows on the long sides and a centered front entry door at one end.

A stagecoach road running from Marysville to Colusa traveled through a low pass in the center of the Buttes. Another pioneer road encircled the Buttes at the toe of the slope. Where West Butte Road intersected Pass Road, the stage coach made a stop to deliver the mail. In 1870, a U. S. Post Office was established with the official name of West Butte. Other services grew around this hub. A blacksmith shop, a Town Hall, a large general store, a telegraph office, the schoolhouse, the First Christian Church and several homes completed a small town. George Straub, a blacksmith, arrived in West Butte with his son W.A Straub in 1880 and the two built a commercial empire. George built a large blacksmith shop and the Town Hall. In 1890, Straub and Son took over ownership of the General Store which prospered until new roads and better transportation modes shifted commerce to larger, nearby cities such as Yuba City.

A map drawn at the direction of long-time West Butte resident Burwell Ullrey, shows the ownership pattern of the town around 1900. The general store, post office and the stage stop

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were located at the crossroads. Next to the commercial village center on the south side of Pass Road were the homes of George Straub, Frederick Hoke's son August, D.A. Stewart, Charles Hill and W.A. Straub with the West Butte Schoolhouse anchoring the eastern edge of town. On the North side of Pass Road were the homes of J.J. Carroll and the Stewarts. Adjacent to Straub's store on West Butte Road was the Santee home. Other families lived on their land outside of the town. West Butte families remained close for generations. They went to church together, they went to school together, they married each other and they served on the School Board together. The 1871-1872 West Butte School's Honor Roll published in the Sutter County Farmer included the names of 14 children from these pioneer families. An 1897 school souvenir lists W.A. Straub, Louis Tarke and W.M. Hoke as School Trustees and a pupil each from those families on the roll. In 1910, a school photograph includes four pupils from the pioneer Hoke and Tarke families among 12 total students.

Among early West Butte School students were Verona and Eleta Hill, two sisters who spent their entire lives in West Butte and became well known teachers in the Sutter County public school system. Charles and Louisa Hill moved to West Butte in 1887 where Charles was employed on various ranches. In 1905, the Hills purchased a three room cottage built in 1896 for his family of seven children. All of the Hill children attended school at the West Butte Schoolhouse. C.G. Kline, one of the teachers at the West Butte School, built a home in the town in 1887. It was unusual for a teacher to own his own home since it indicated that he planned to stay at a time when teachers usually moved about. After seven years teaching at West Butte, Kline taught at schools in Meridian and Live Oak before becoming Sutter County's Superintendent of Schools between 1895 and 1903. Verona and Eleta Hill went on to graduate from a private school for teachers conducted by Mrs. Kate M. Wilkins in Marysville. Verona Hill, born in 1887, transferred to teach at West Butte in 1919 and remained there until the school was closed in 1943. Verona's younger sister, Eleta, taught school in nearby Sutter for 27 years and at other schools in Sutter County. Verona, Eleta and their younger brother Arthur lived in the family home (just down the road from the schoolhouse) until it passed to a great granddaughter, Donna McMasters. This well maintained Victorian cottage is extant and has been owned by the same family for over 100 years.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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_____, The Architect and Engineer, July-Dec 1922, "James T. Narbett, Architect, to prepare plans for the Calistoga National Bank, residence for Captain H.S. Pond in Alameda and the Richmond Junior High School"

_____, The Architect and Engineer, July-Dec 1923, "James T. Narbett Richmond residence completed" p 116

_____, The Architect and Engineer, Nov. 1928, "Obituary: Albert Van der Naillen", p113

_____, Online Archives of California, "Architectural records for San Francisco Buildings 1924-1936", "Heating equipment blueprints for M.H. DeYoung Memorial Museum and the American Legion Memorial (Architect Jas. T. Narbett)" <http://www.oac.edlib.org/>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

West Butte Schoolhouse
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.81 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.18647° Longitude: 121.87893°

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The formal boundary determination was made in June 30, 2005 by Garry E. Laughlin, RCE 18003 for the transfer of the property to the Middle Mountain Foundation.

Metes and Bounds Description: Beginning at the North section line of Section 5 Township 15 North, Range 1 East MDB&M said point being on the line between fractional lots 1 & 2; thence along the north line of Section 5:

1. N 88° 34' 53" W, 258.00 FEET
2. S 01° 32' 11" E, 255.61 FEET to a ravine
3. N 47° 01' 33" E, 293.41 FEET
4. S 88° 34' 50" E, 35.93 FEET

To the section line between Lots 1 & 2 a distance of 50.00 FEET to the point of beginning containing 0.81 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The West Butte Schoolhouse site was originally part of a larger agricultural parcel. An easement for the use of the West Butte Schoolhouse site was donated by Frederick Hoke in 1860. The ravine forms a barrier which rendered the the small site between the ravine and the road unsuitable for farm operations. After the school use was discontinued and parcel reverted to the successors of the original owners it was sold for the residential use. The property lines were surveyed 2005 for the purpose of transferring the property to the Middle Mountain Foundation in order to protect the historic West Butte Schoolhouse. The property lines are congruent with the Section lines, Pass Road and the intermittent drainage.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alyssa Lindman, Stewardship Program Manager
organization: Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (formally Middle Mountain Foundation)
street & number: 750 Bridge Street, Suite A
city or town: Yuba City state: CA zip code: 95991
e-mail: stewardship@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
telephone: 916-549-2355
date: October 15, 2015

AND

name/title: Judy Irvin, Architect
organization: MPM Engineering
street & number: 363 Sixth Street
city or town: Chico state: CA zip code: 95928
e-mail: stewardship@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
telephone: 916-549-2355
date: November 1, 2013

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: West Butte Schoolhouse

City or Vicinity: Vicinity of Live Oak

County: Sutter

State: California

Photographer: Alyssa Lindman

Date Photographed: May 4-10, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001: Building exterior from Pass Road facing southeast, showing primary facade

Photo 0002: Building exterior from west, facing southeast, showing pump house

Photo 0003: Building exterior from west, facing northeast, showing tower and setting

Photo 0004: Photo from south of building facing northwest, showing pump house, rear porch

Photo 0005: Photo from south of building facing north

Photo 0006: Photo from south of building facing northeast, showing shed

Photo 0007: Photo from east of building facing west, showing shed rear and replaced siding

Photo 0008: Photo from north of building facing east showing setting (compare to Figure 8)

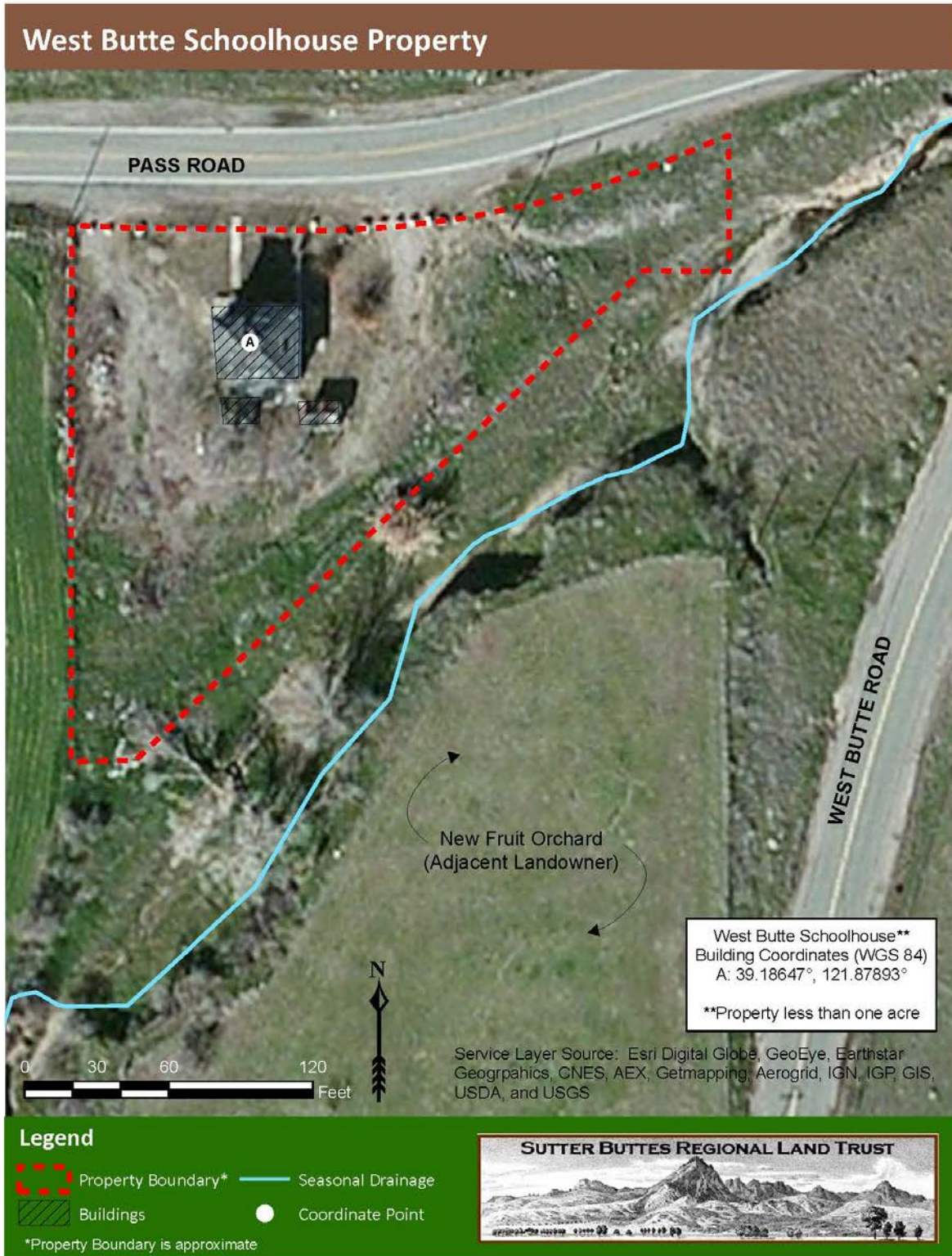
Photo 0009: Building interior, facing southwest

Photo 0010: Building interior facing northeast

Photo 0011: Building interior, facing northwest

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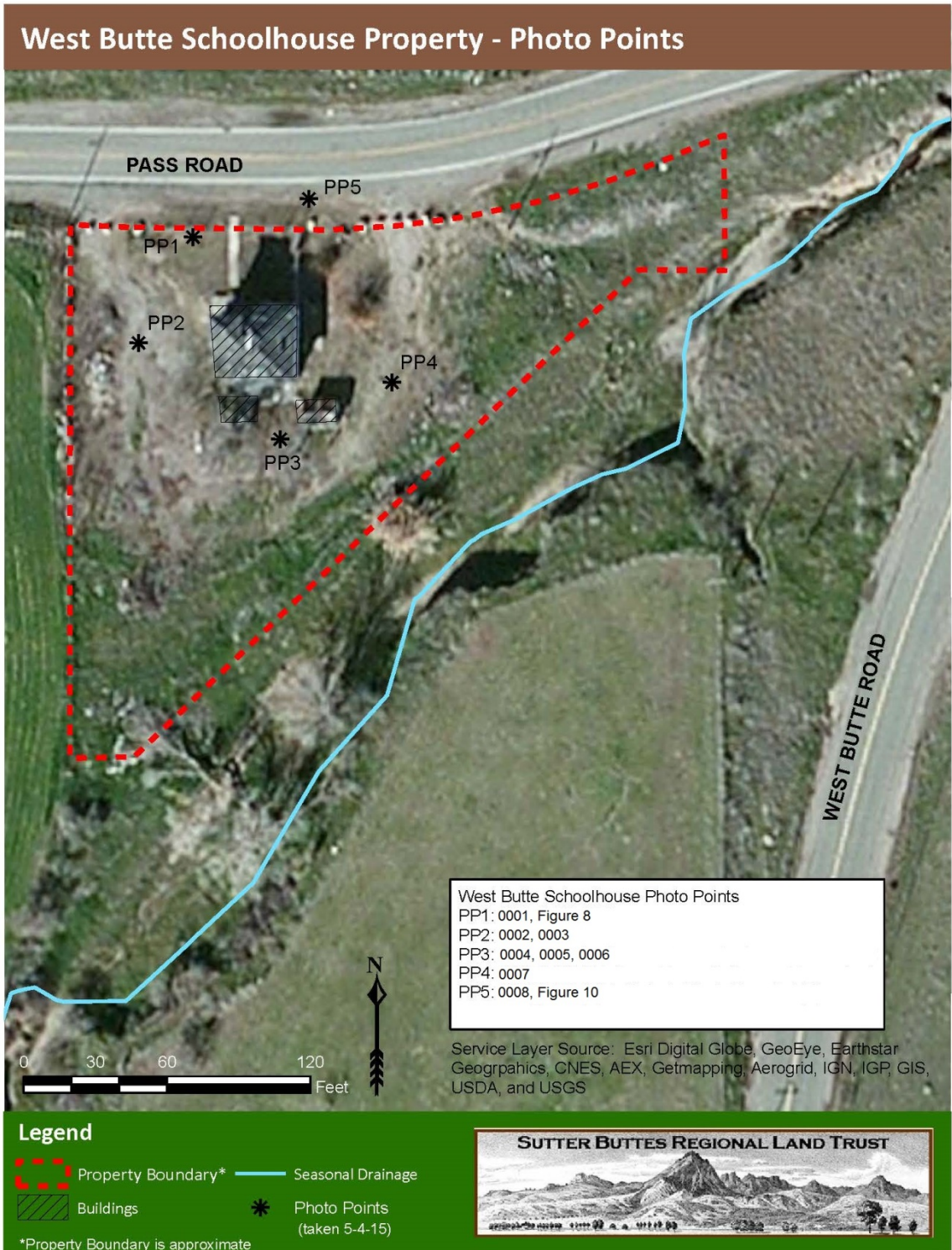
WBS Site_2015.mxd was prepared by Alyssa Lindman, Stewardship Program Manager, Oct 15, 2015

Figure 2

Figure 1: GIS map showing property location in decimal degrees.

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WBS Photo Points_2015.mxd was prepared by Alyssa Lindman, Stewardship Program Manager, Nov 10, 2015

Figure 3

Figure 2: Sketch map showing photo point locations, Photos 0001-0008

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Figure 3: Historic map of Sutter Buttes and vicinity.

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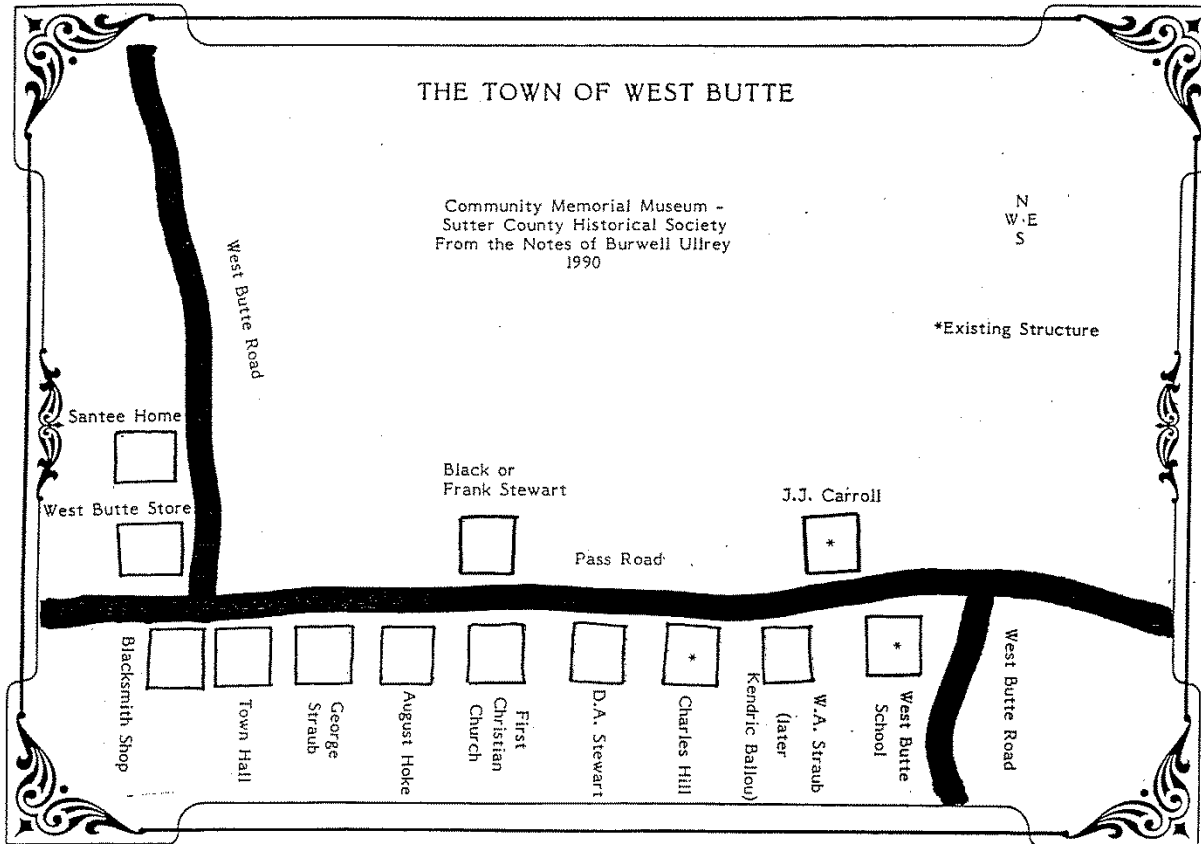


Figure 4: Historic map of Town of West Butte indicating school location.

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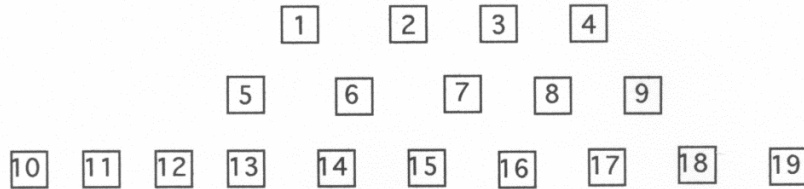
Figure 5: Historic photo of students in front of West Butte School, 1910. Verona Hill, front row, third from left, later became a teacher who taught at West Butte until its closure as a school.

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PICTURE OF WEST BUTTE SCHOOL PUPILS

PICTURE LAYOUT



- 1 -
- 2 - TEACHER
- 3 - William H. Brockman
- 4 - Laurence Hill
- 5 -
- 6 -
- 7 - Stella Hill
- 8 - Lulu L. Brockman
- 9 - Minnie Ella Brockman
- 10 -
- 11 - Verona Hill
- 12 - Hazel Hoke
- 13 - Vera Carroll
- 14 -
- 15 -
- 16 - Elizabeth _____
- 17 -
- 18 - Bessie Hill
- 19 - Irma Claire Brockman

Figure 6: Diagram identifying students and teacher in Figure 5.

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Figure 7: Historic photo of Eleta Hill, former West Butte student who went on to teach in a nearby school.

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Figure 8: Historic photo of West Butte School. Compare to Photo #0001.

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Figure 9: Historic photo of West Butte School students, 1910.

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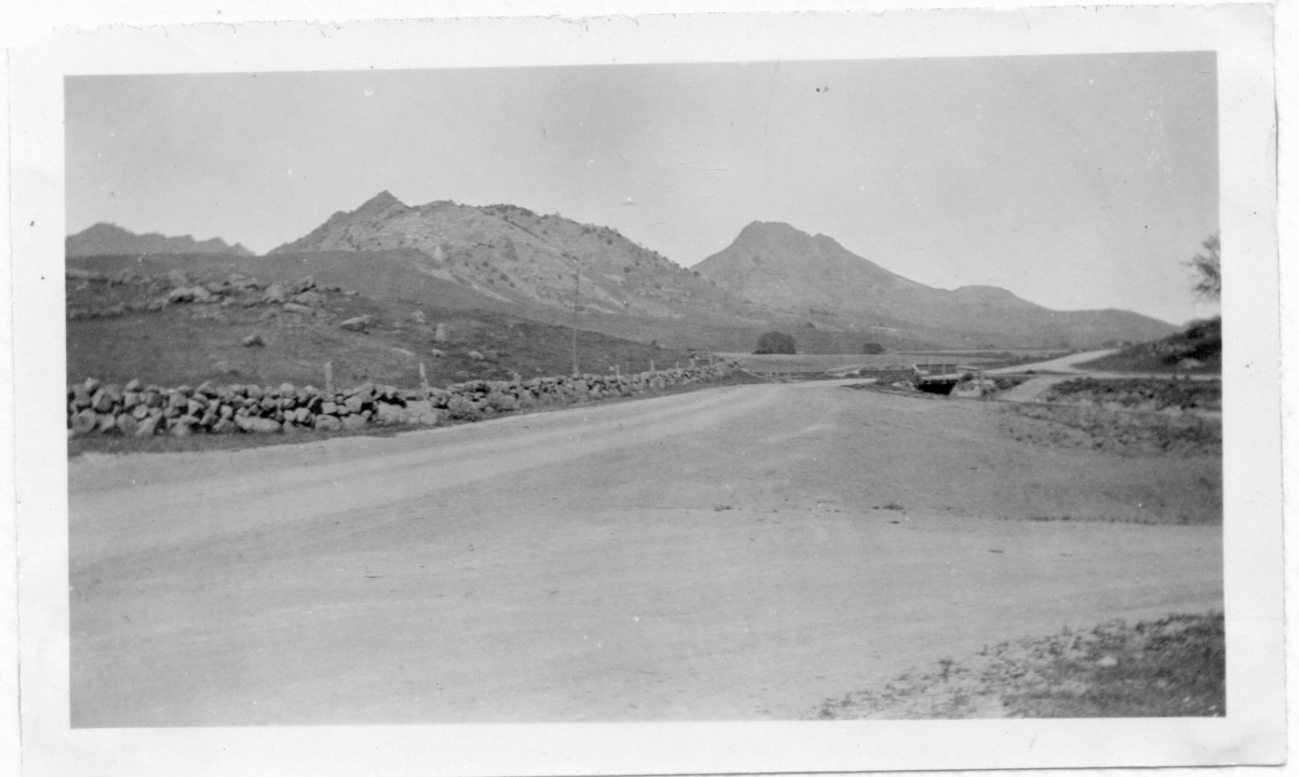


Figure 10: Pass Road circa 1910. Compare to Photo #0008, taken from same perspective.







NE

















&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY West Butte Schoolhouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Sutter

DATE RECEIVED: 3/04/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/15/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/30/16 &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/19/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000167

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.19.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

&a4L

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

West Butte Schoolhouse
Sutter County, California
National Register of Historic Places

West Butte Schoolhouse is a rural one-room school located near the base of the Sutter Buttes in Sutter County, near the town of Live Oak, but primarily associated with the rural farming community of West Butte. Designed by architect James T. Narbett, the schoolhouse has elements of Craftsman architecture including a low-pitched, hipped roof with unenclosed eaves and projecting rafter ends, and projecting gable ends on porches. A prominent bell tower with hipped roof projects from the main roof and west side of the building. Siding is primarily false bevel drop siding with some portions replaced with shiplap siding, including vertical wooden siding on the eastern wall. Windows are a mixture of double hung wooden sash windows, some of which have been replaced with aluminum sliding windows. The building was designed by Narbett to incorporate design features that facilitated its use as a schoolhouse, including passive cooling, window orientation to allow natural light and ventilation, and building layout based on early 20th century pedagogical principles. A pump house and storage shed located on the site are also contributors; the pump house shares the general architectural style of the main schoolhouse while the shed is a more utilitarian wood frame building with front-gabled roof and vertical board-and-batten siding.

The building is significant under Criterion A for its association with rural education in Sutter County. The school opened in 1909 and closed in 1943, defining its period of significance. The building was constructed to replace an earlier building destroyed in a 1908 fire. The landowners of West Butte hired architect James Narbett, designer of new facilities at Chico State Normal School, including an Experimental Teaching College. These facilities included a "Model Rural School," and the West Butte schoolhouse provided an opportunity to use the lessons learned from the college's model experiments to design a functioning schoolhouse. Once the school was constructed, these theories were put into practice. Two early students of the West Butte Schoolhouse were Verona and Eleta Hill, both of whom became schoolteachers; Verona became the schoolteacher of West Butte School from 1919 until its closure in 1943, while Eleta taught at another school nearby.

The nomination was submitted on behalf of the property owner. No letters of support or objection have been received.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the West Butte Schoolhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1909-1943. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg
State Historian II
February 23, 2016

Nomination Submittal to Keeper Checklist

NOMINATION: WEST BUTTE SCHOOLHOUSE

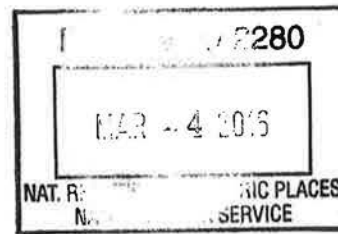
DATE: FEB. 26, 2016

REVIEWER: WILLIAM BURE

- Reviewer electronically marks appropriate elements of certification with an X, and by request for (R.N.), enters SHPO Title and State Agency in Section 3 on first page of nomination form.
- Reviewer writes cover letter for SHPO's signature.
- Executive Secretary copies cover letter, original nomination, and supporting documentation including staff report onto archival paper (Keeper copy).
- SHPO signs cover letter, and signs and dates first page of nomination on Keeper copy.
- Executive Secretary copies signed cover letter and signed first page of nomination onto regular copy paper.
- Executive Secretary returns original nomination, signed copies, and Keeper copy to reviewer for final approval.
- Reviewer checks quality of archival copy, recycles unsigned cover letter and unsigned first page of nomination, and returns Keeper copy to Executive Secretary with photographs, photography CD, and map(s).
- Executive Secretary prepares label and sends materials via overnight service to the Keeper.
- Reviewer returns original nomination to accordion file.
- Reviewer updates Due List with date nomination was sent to NPS.
- Reviewer completes this sheet and files accordion folder with pending nominations.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 26, 2016

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **West Butte Schoolhouse
Sutter County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the West Butte Schoolhouse to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Sutter County, California. On January 29, 2016, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner. No letters of support or objection were received.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julianne Polanco".

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures