NPS Form 10-900 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 advector being fistoric Places documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance and any ark Service categories and subcategories from the instructions.

MP-1384 OMB NO DE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Earl Crabbe Gymnasium

Other names/site number: Placer High School Gymnasium, Placer College Gym, Agard Street Gym

Name of related multiple property listing: <u>Architectural and Historic Resources of</u> <u>Auburn, California</u>

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

2. Location

Street & number: <u>Agard Street</u>

City or town: <u>Auburn State:</u> <u>California</u> County: <u>Placer</u> Not For Publication: Vicinity:

n For Fublication.

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

D

I hereby certify that this \underline{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:

<u>x</u>A <u>B</u><u>x</u>C ____

State Historic	c Preservation Officer 9 Why 2017
Signature of certifying official/Title: California Office of Historic Preservation	
in my opinion, the property meets d	does not meet the National Register criteria
Signature of commenting official:	does not meet the National Register criteria Date

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Earl Crabbe Gymnasium Name of Property Placer County, California County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

U 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

х

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

Placer County, California County and State

Category	of	Prope	rty
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(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing <u>1</u>	Noncontributing	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility, Gymnasium

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility, Gymnasium

Placer County, California County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property:

Concrete foundation, stucco walls, synthetic rubber roof, glass windows

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

Placer High School's Earl Crabbe Gymnasium, built in 1937, is located on Agard Street in Auburn, California, represents an excellent example of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Moderne style of the Modern Movement in architecture. The horizontal lines, flat roof, stucco exterior wall finish, and bands of windows with metal frames create a distinctive look characteristic of that style during the era that it was built. The construction of the gymnasium was a separate WPA project built independent of the rest of the high school improvements.

Narrative Description

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is three stories high on the northeast side while the southwest end is two stories. The stucco-covered building has straight lines with rounded corners. The building is divided into three distinct sections. The upper portion of the building serves to accommodate guests to view sport activities. The middle section the floor where sport activities take place, and includes hallways that lead to men's and women's lockers and public concession area, along with Placer High School's Athletic Hall of Fame. The lower section of the building is accessed from the north east side at ground floor level includes a weight, training, coaches and rest rooms. Windows with metal frames placed in a row form a solid line of light stretching along the top floor with fewer windows on the middle floor most in and around the concession area.

The southwest (front) and northeast (back) side of the gym is approximately 157 feet across, and the southeast and north west side is 96 feet.

Placer County, California

Name of Property County and State With the exception of painted windows, the physical and historic integrity of the structure is intact, and the historic quality of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association is evident.

WPA Moderne buildings were completed during the Great Depression as part of various government relief projects creating jobs for architects, designers, and builders by putting them to work on government buildings. Denoting a sense of authority, WPA Moderne has several key features, classical balanced and symmetrical form, windows arranged as vertical recessed panels, and surfaces sheathed in smooth, flat stone or stucco.

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium building has excellent structural and stylistic integrity, surviving with little apparent modification. The building originally housed the district bus fleet below the gym floor. Later, part of the downstairs was converted to the Cadet Corps rifle range. With the demise of the Cadet Corps at Placer High School, the rifle team was discontinued and the area was converted to showers and the football locker room.

There was a civil defense bunker near the weight room in the basement or lower floor of the building. When first established, civil defense workers had stored canisters of water, hard-tack biscuits and toiletries in anticipation of an attack from the skies that never came. Stacks of biscuit containers, tongue depressors, bandages, commode liners, plastic cups, and even containers of clear water had been neatly stacked, all seemingly awaiting the day students would be rushed from their classes to escape a nuclear attack.

The building is in good condition. Little has occurred to disrupt the integrity of the interior. There have been no apparent architectural modifications to the building. Its historic integrity makes it an exemplary representative of the architectural style found in public buildings of the period.

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is a three story, steel framed, stucco veneered structure with poured concrete foundation. The flat roof is protected by a rubber EPDM membrane. The exterior has strong Art Moderne lines.

The front of the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is approached by a concrete walkway with a narrow grass median that connects to both entrances on the Agard Street sidewalk. At its two front entrances, poured concrete extends from the building to the street to accommodate pedestrian and fan traffic in and out of the gym including ADA handicap access. Trees surround the structure. Wide concreate walkways are on either side of the building; one to the baseball field and the other side extend down stairs toward the back of the building between Student Services and the so-called Lower Gym behind the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium. There is a wide alley and concrete walkway in the back of the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium to the Weight Room located in the basement and stairs to the baseball field and track. The concession/reception room has an entrance on the west side of the gym. There are also offices along the outside wall facing Agard Street. The school campus is within an established, well-maintained residential neighborhood.

Placer County, California

Name of Property County and State The main facade is oriented to face toward Agard Street and is organized into the following two sections:

- A wide central portion with two flanking entries with marquee overhangs
- A narrow portion of the building with a separate entrance was designed for a reception and concession area.

The interior of the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium retains key historic spaces and finishes. The interior is arranged around the main ball court, with concessionaire/reception room and corridors to two sets of boys and girls lockers divided by the main ball court.

There is seating only on both sides of the court in fixed upper balcony wood bleachers. There is no seating at the floor level. The hardwood court floor is original, but goals are modern replacements. The original massive steel trusses that allow the clear span are exposed to view. HVAC duct work has been added among the ceiling trusses as well.

Dozens of league, section and state pennants hang above the original wooden bench-style bleachers that rise high above the court on both sides. Even more line the walls at each end of the gym, which has hosted hundreds of basketball games, volleyball matches, wrestling tournaments and school dances.

The main floor court is capable of seating approximately 300 persons when not in use for an athletic event and the wooden bleachers approximately 1,000, which adds to the aesthetics and uniqueness of the building.

Nearby rock walls, sport fields, and other school buildings were either constructed prior or subsequent to when the gymnasium was built and, as a result, are not included in the nomination. For example, the adjacent sport field and neighboring rock walls east of the gym was added in a WPA project constructed in 1940. The football stadium further east was constructed in the early 1970s.

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Placer County, California County and State

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture Education

Period of Significance

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Earl Crabbe Gymnasium Name of Property Placer County, California County and State

<u>1936</u>

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

<u>n/a</u>

Cultural Affiliation

<u>n/a</u>

Architect/Builder

Coffman, W.F., Architect Meyers, J.C., Contractor

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 Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C at the local level of significance in the area of education and architecture. The period of significance is 1936-1961. The building is nominated under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California Multiple Property Submission as an eligible example of the Public Institution/Civic Buildings building type (Page F 42-43).

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

Criterion A: The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium meets Criterion A for its role in education with Placer High School and Placer Junior College, today known as Sierra College. The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium building has served as Placer High School's primary gymnasium for school sports and general community events along with a full range of school-related physical education and recreation activities since 1936. The building has been the venue for both school sports and general community events in the past to the present, including hosting the oldest northern California high school basketball tournament.

First known as Placer College Gym and Agard Street Gym during the 1940s, this building was ultimately named in 1951 as the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium, to honor the teacher and legendary basketball coach who led some of the best squads in Placer High School history during the late teens and 1920s. As an educator at both the high school and college, Earl Crabbe, is credited for creating their journalism program.

Placer County, California County and State

The Kendall Arnett basketball tournament has been a cultural focal point for over 74 years.¹ The gymnasium has not only supported sporting events but a full range of school-related physical education and recreation activities. At the time of its construction, the gymnasium met a significant need for the more and larger indoor public space in the community, reliving space problems, as original structures were outmoded and dated. Hardwood floors would replace dirt courts for the schools teams.²

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is located on the present day Placer High School campus on Agard Street in Auburn, California, between Student Services building (North West side) and the baseball/track field and stadium (South East side). A separate, modern gym building is located behind the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium. The site sets back from Agard Street and slopes downward toward the Lower Gym and rest of the campus, which is a few blocks from the commercial/business district of Auburn, California.

Placer High School is two parcels divided by Agard Street. One side was the location of the original Sierra Normal College centered between High Street, College Way, and Agard Street. Placer Junior College occupied the adjacent parcel between the railroad tracks and was originally Auburn's historic recreation park. Sierra Normal College began operations in January 1, 1883 being the first of its kind on the Pacific Coast and a precursor of all preceding collegiate instruction bodies in California. The five acres of land were donated by Jo Hamilton, Attorney General of California, in 1870. In 1901 half of the campus became the home of Placer County High School followed by the Placer High School District formed in 1914. The parcel located to the north held the Placer Junior College with classroom instructions beginning in 1914 on the recreation park site. After a few years, the construction of new buildings became part of the high school campus. This construction would include the now venerable Earl Crabbe Gymnasium. The building erected by the Junior College are all Mission Revival style retaining charm of the overall architecture, being fine examples of a style closely associated to California.

After the college district formed, the Placer Junior College was renamed Sierra College and moved into the schools current facilities located in Rocklin in 1961. On May 15, 1937, the Placer Herald noted: "Trustees of the Placer Union High School and Junior College District have accepted the new \$85,000 gymnasium, completed under direction of W.E. Coffman, architect, by J.C. Meyers, contractor. The new edifice is declared by experts to be the finest of its type west of Berkeley, where the University of California has its multi-million dollar plant."³ Difficulties were discovered when planning for the new building and obtaining the \$85,000. G.W. Brundage, former chairman of the board of trustees determinedly tried to obtain federal assistance to help finance the construction of the gymnasium via direct appeal to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.⁴ The gymnasium when completed made it possible for young women of

¹ Mark Lee, Athletic Director, Placer High School (interview)

² Fujita, Tom. *New Placer Gymnasium, Best in the North, Will be ready for Fall Semester*. Year book Potpourri 1937. Page 39.

³ http://auburnjournal.com/detail/107145.html

⁴ Fujita, Tom. *New Placer Gymnasium, Best in the North, Will be ready for Fall Semester*. Year book Potpourri 1937. Page 39.

Placer County, California

Name of Property County and State both schools to have separate sports facilities available to them for school athletic events. Allowing for the first time in the community a sporting opportunity for young women attending both schools to cross gender boundaries previously closed.⁵

Criterion C: The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium also meets Criterion C as an excellent example of a well-preserved specimen of Art Moderne architecture, often expressed in New Deal buildings of the time. This style of building became associated with the federal government's New Deal construction programs of 1920-30s eras.

One of the primary relief programs to arise out of the New Deal was the Public Works Administration (PWA). The Roosevelt Administration determined that a large infusion of Federal funds into depressed communities would provide an economic boost by creating work and improving local infrastructure. The PWA was organized in 1933 to provide Federal matching grants to local communities for the construction of new public facilities. Thousands of public buildings and other improvements were funded during the course of the PWA program from 1933 to 1942. One of the primary goals of the PWA was to improve educational facilities.⁶ Works Progress Administration (WPA) Moderne buildings were completed during the Great Depression as part of various government relief projects creating jobs for architects, designers, and builders by putting them to work on government buildings. Denoting a sense of authority, WPA Moderne has several key features, classical balanced and symmetrical form, windows arranged as vertical recessed panels, and surfaces sheathed in smooth, flat stone or stucco.

Placer High School's Earl Crabbe Gymnasium that was built in 1937 represents the WPA Moderne style of architecture. Construction began in 1936 and was designed by architect W.E. Coffman of Sacramento, California, which was funded by the WPA federal PWA program. The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium was patterned after the old Harmon Gym at the University of California Berkeley. Except for a few minor renovations the footprint and exterior of the structure have remained integrally intact displaying original design, materials, and workmanship. The small amount of renovation to the gymnasium does not compromise its essential architectural characteristics. The gymnasium clearly conveys its association with this depression-era program through its use and design.

The architectural style referred to today as WPA/PWA Moderne did not originate with the PWA or the WPA, and was used for many construction projects both public and private. This style did, however, become associated with the federal governments New Deal construction programs of 1920-30s eras. WPA Moderne is sometimes referred to as Starved Classicism because of its modern style with unambiguous features that distinguished it from Art Deco architecture of the 1920s. Art Deco itself is a term used to describe all phases of the modern movement of the 1920s, similar to how the term "Victorian" is used to apply to a wide range of styles of architecture. Another term of a similar offshoot to WPA Moderne is "Streamline Moderne,"

⁵ Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources Inventory, Historical Narrative.

⁶ Leighninger, Robert D.. 1996. "Cultural Infrastructure: The Legacy of New Deal Public Space". *Journal of Architectural Education (1984-)* 49 (4). Taylor & Francis, Ltd.: 226–36. doi:10.2307/1425295. Accessed November 20, 2015, <u>http://www.jstor.org/stable/2744973</u>

Name of Property

Placer County, California County and State

containing features of aerodynamic curvilinear styles emerging in the early 1930s. Often sources describe any new forms of architected design that appears as "modern" or "modernistic." A 1940 architectural journal stated that the new forms of architecture within the profession had generally, but grudgingly, accepted modernism as a legitimate form of architecture. The journal declared that "the average layman is still unconvinced," and that it "is functionally unmodern in design."⁷ Art Deco and WPA Moderne are the same interchangeable terms that differ only by timeframe recognition. Often the many buildings built that are today considered WPA/PWA Moderne are vernacularly considered to be "modern" in the 1930s. As a particular form of Art Deco Moderne is sometimes described as "the styles between the wars," as it emerged between the two world wars. Fading from popularity the style receded in the immediate years preceding the Second World War. International participation of twenty one nations in the 1925 Paris *Exposition International Arts Decrafts*, the event that showcased the latest in modern decretive art, making the style global.⁸ The origins of art deco are diverse, imitations of ancient techniques of the Mayans and at that time the futuristic *Buck Rogers in the Twenty-first Century*.

In seeking to abandon traditional styles, architects of the 1920 ironically turned to past civilizations of Egypt Mayan and Aztec for inspiration. Byproduct features of Pueblo Hopi and Navajo were also incorporated into the style. Typically, the American art deco design of the 1920s is expressive of a "zigzag" geometry, emphasizing the vertical and the angular. Often a building of this style is accented or covered in a hued terra cotta coating to give the building a bright appearance. This flamboyant aspect of the art did not last as the optimistic spirit of 1920s Art Deco was dashed by the 1929 Great Depression. After which a more reserved and stark form of the architecture formed with the fragrance of the American Depression. Government building projects boomed employing thousands of contractors, engineers, and architects. Historian and architect David Gebhard and Robert Winter stated that many of these new government building projects, "were fundamentally classical and formal, but just enough Moderne details were injected to convey a contemporary Moderne feeling as well as the traditional authority of the classical."⁹ WPA Moderne retained much of the vertical emphasis of the Art Deco style; however, it was stripped of its ornamentation and energetic colors. Far starker and more imposing than befor, e additional smooth concreate surfaces painted in mute shades of cream. The whole structure is centered on a large central doorway with towering symmetrical windows. The effect of the buildings utilizing WPA Moderne was a reassuring sense of strength and solidity. California had a well-established modernist tradition prior to the New Deal and was very receptive to the projects. A survey of the government's architectural achievements, Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933 to 1939, documented these projects in 1939.¹⁰ In the survey, several buildings within California are listed as outstanding

⁷ Short, et al., <u>Public Buildings.</u> 1;Allen R. Kramer, "Modern Versus Modernistic," <u>Pencil Points,</u> XXI (December 1940):14

⁸ Alastair Duncan. <u>American Art Deco</u> (New York: Thames and Hudson, Inc., 1999) 20-21. Germany, one of the foremost proponents of the movement, was not represented.

⁹ David Gebhard and Robert Winter, et al., <u>Architecture in Los Angeles: A Complete Guide</u> (Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., 1985): 490

¹⁰ Short. C.W. and R. Stanley Brown. <u>Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933 to</u> <u>1939</u>. Volume I. Washington DC. Government Printing Office 1939.

https://archive.org/details/publicbuildingss00unitrich. Online, accessed November 20, 2015.

Name of Property

Placer County, California County and State

examples of the PWA and other agencies, as building and are now considered to be Moderne architecture. One is Hollywood High School an excellent example of the 1930s joint agency projects and on the National Register of Historic Places, reference number 11000989.¹¹ The only other structure in Placer County known to be WPA Moderne style of architecture is the Auburn City Hall and Fire House. The firehouse building is a WPA Moderne project and this building is on the National Register of Historic Places, reference number 11000935.¹² Placer High School's Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is an excellent example of the WPA Moderne and is possibly the best in the county displaying all the features emphasized within the parameters of the style.

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium meets the registration requirements for Criterion C. The building retains significant architectural character on both the exterior and interior. The small amount of renovation to the gymnasium does not compromise its essential architectural characteristics. The gymnasium has been home to many of the most significant high school athletic competitions in the community for over fifty years. The gymnasium is also one of the best examples of Art Moderne in the city of Auburn, California. The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium was designed by architect W.E. Coffman, a local of Sacramento who had participated in other WPA projects in the State. ¹³ One project specifically constructed by Coffman's firm in WPA Moderne is the Pierce Joint Union High School, in Arbuckle, California. Coffman was part of the team of architects that designed the Eastern Star Hall in Sacramento, listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture and its association with the Eastern Star women's organization.¹⁴ The architectural firm was Coffman, Salsbury & Stafford, designed the building in the Romanesque Revival style. Coffman was a significant local architect chosen for numerous WPA projects in the late 1930s.

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium features, and the overall original design, evidence the workmanship that went into its construction by the contractor, J.C. Meyers. For example, the physical integrity of the structure is intact by evidence of the quality of construction.

Reporters noted that the school's gymnasium is "Venerable, Awe-inspiring, Nostalgic."¹⁵ While portions of the interior of the gymnasium retain high integrity, the overall plan of the historic building has been maintained and remains on the original foundational footprint. Additionally, educational activities were underway within the period of significance in this part of the building; though, minor aspects have been altered.¹⁶ The significance of the school is singular, being the only historic high school within the city limits. The complex has good overall integrity.

The Earl Crabbe Gymnasium was heralded in the 1937 issue of the Placer Junior College yearbook, the Phoenix, as "... the finest of its kind in California, east of the million dollar

¹¹ NRHP Reference # 11000989

¹² NRHP Reference # 11000935

¹³ Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources Inventory.

¹⁴ NRHP Reference # 92001757

¹⁵ Thomson, Gus. *Placers built-in-1936 gym still awes*. Auburn Journal 30 December 2014

¹⁶ Original building blue prints by W. E. Coffman, located: Placer Union High School District, Mr. Jeff Patton, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

Placer County, California

Name of Property County and State structure at the University of California..." Also, the new edifice was declared by experts to be the finest of its type west of Berkeley, where the University of California has its multi-million dollar plant."¹⁷ Today, the wooden bench-style seating is worn smooth, the wooden interior walls that separate the fans from the athletes, are chipped and cracked in spots.

In summary, the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium qualifies for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A as a response to the need for public institutions and its association with the WPA under the New Deal. The gymnasium also qualifies under Criterion C as an example of WPA Moderne of architecture, designed by architect W.E. Coffman.

¹⁷ http://auburnjournal.com/detail/107145.html

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Thomson, Gus. Placers built-in-1936 gym still awes. Auburn Journal 30 December 2014
- Original building blue prints by W. E. Coffman, located: Placer Union High School District, Mr. Jeff Patton, Director of Maintenance and Operations
- NRHP Reference # 11000935, Auburn City Hall and Fire House, Auburn, 1103 High Street, Auburn, California.
- http://auburnjournal.com/detail/107145.html
- Mark Lee, Athletic Director, Placer High School (interview)
- Fujita, Tom. *New Placer Gymnasium, Best in the North, Will be ready for Fall Semester.* Year book Potpourri 1937. Page 39.
- Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources Inventory, Historical Narrative.
- Fujita, Tom. *New Placer Gymnasium, Best in the North, Will be ready for Fall Semester.* Year book Potpourri 1937. Page 39.
- Leighninger, Robert D., 1996. "Cultural Infrastructure: The Legacy of New Deal Public Space". *Journal of Architectural Education (1984-)* 49 (4). Taylor & Francis, Ltd.: 226–36. doi:10.2307/1425295. Accessed November 20, 2015, http://www.jstor.org/stable/2744973
- Short, et al., Public Buildings. 1;Allen R. Kramer, "Modern Versus Modernistic," Pencil Points, XXI (December 1940):14
- Alastair Duncan. American Art Deco (New York: Thames and Hudson, Inc., 1999) 20-21. Germany, one of the foremost proponents of the movement, was not represented.
- David Gebhard and Robert Winter, et al., Architecture in Los Angeles: A Complete Guide (Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., 1985): 490
- Short. C.W. and R. Stanley Brown. Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933 to 1939. Volume I. Washington DC. Government Printing Office 1939. https://archive.org/details/publicbuildingss00unitrich. Online, accessed November 20, 2015.
- NRHP Reference # 11000989, Hollywood High School Historic District, 1521 N. Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, California.
- Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources Inventory
- NRHP Reference # 92001757, Eastern Star Hall, 2719 K St., Sacramento, California.
- Burg, William. Eastern Star Hall Fundraiser. The Sacramento Press, Apr 26, 2012. http://sacramentopress.com/2012/04/26/eastern-star-hall-fundraiser/

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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Earl Crabbe Gymnasium		Placer County, California
Name of Property designated a National Historic La recorded by Historic American E recorded by Historic American E recorded by Historic American L	Buildings Survey # Engineering Record #	County and State
Primary location of additional data:		
State Historic Preservation Offic	e	
Other State agency		
Federal agency		
Local government		
University		
Other		
Name of repository:		
Historic Resources Survey Number 10. Geographical Data	(if assigned):	
Acreage of Property Less than an ac	re	
Use either the UTM system or latitude	/longitude coordinates	
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (de Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)		
1. Latitude: 38.894953	Longitude: -121.070362	
2. Latitude:	Longitude:	
3. Latitude:	Longitude:	

4. Latitude: Longitude:

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

The property belonging to the Placer Union High School District on which the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium stands does not have a separate legal description.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the existing city lot on which the building was constructed and includes only the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium. The surrounding walkways and other grounds, while adding to the overall functionality and attractiveness do not contribute to the building's architectural or recreational significance. Since there was another gymnasium on campus prior to the

Placer County, California County and State

Name of Property

construction of the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium, the adjacent sports fields were not included as they were constructed later.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Quinn R. Hall</u> organization: <u>Placer County Historical Foundation</u> street & number: <u>385 Robie Drive</u> city or town: <u>Auburn state: California</u> zip code:<u>95603</u> e-mail: <u>quinnrhall@sbcglobal.net</u> telephone: <u>530.885.1165</u> date: <u>December 15, 2016</u>

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.

Refer to Google Earth Map – Earl Crabbe Gym on NPS Form 10-900a Continuation Sheet 8, included with this form

• **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Refer to Sketch Map on NPS Form 10-900a Continuation Sheet 9, included with this form.

• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Refer to building dimensions on NPS Form 10-900a Continuation Sheet 10, included with this form.

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.

Name of Property

Photo Log

Placer County, California County and State

Name of Property:Earl Crabbe GymnasiumCity or Vicinity:AuburnCounty:PlacerPhotographer:Hal V. HallDate Photographed:September 30, 2016

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

Refer to the following photographs, included with this form:

CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_1 of 12: interior view of wood bleachers and main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_2 of 12: interior view of main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_3 of 12: exterior view of the back of the gym CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_4 of 12: exterior view of the back of the gym CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_5 of 12: interior view of main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_6 of 12: interior view of main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_7 of 12: interior view of main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_8 of 12: interior view of main floor CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_8 of 12: interior view of Hall of Fame wall in concession area CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_9 of 12: exterior view of Agard Street entrance #1 CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_10 of 12: exterior view of Agard Street entrance #2 CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_11 of 12: exterior side view of gym CA_Placer_Earl Crabbe Gym_12 of 12: exterior south side view

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

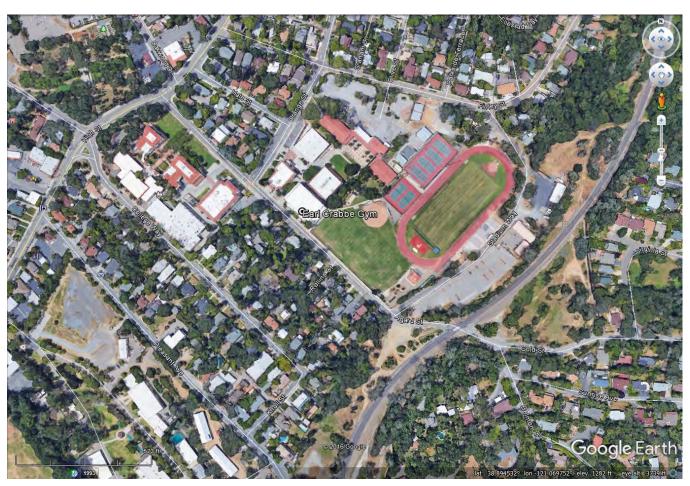
Name	Placer Union High School District		
0	1 12000 Novy Airport Bood	(530) 886-4400	
street &	number 13000 New Airport Road	telephone	
city or to	own Auburn	state California zip code 95603	

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.

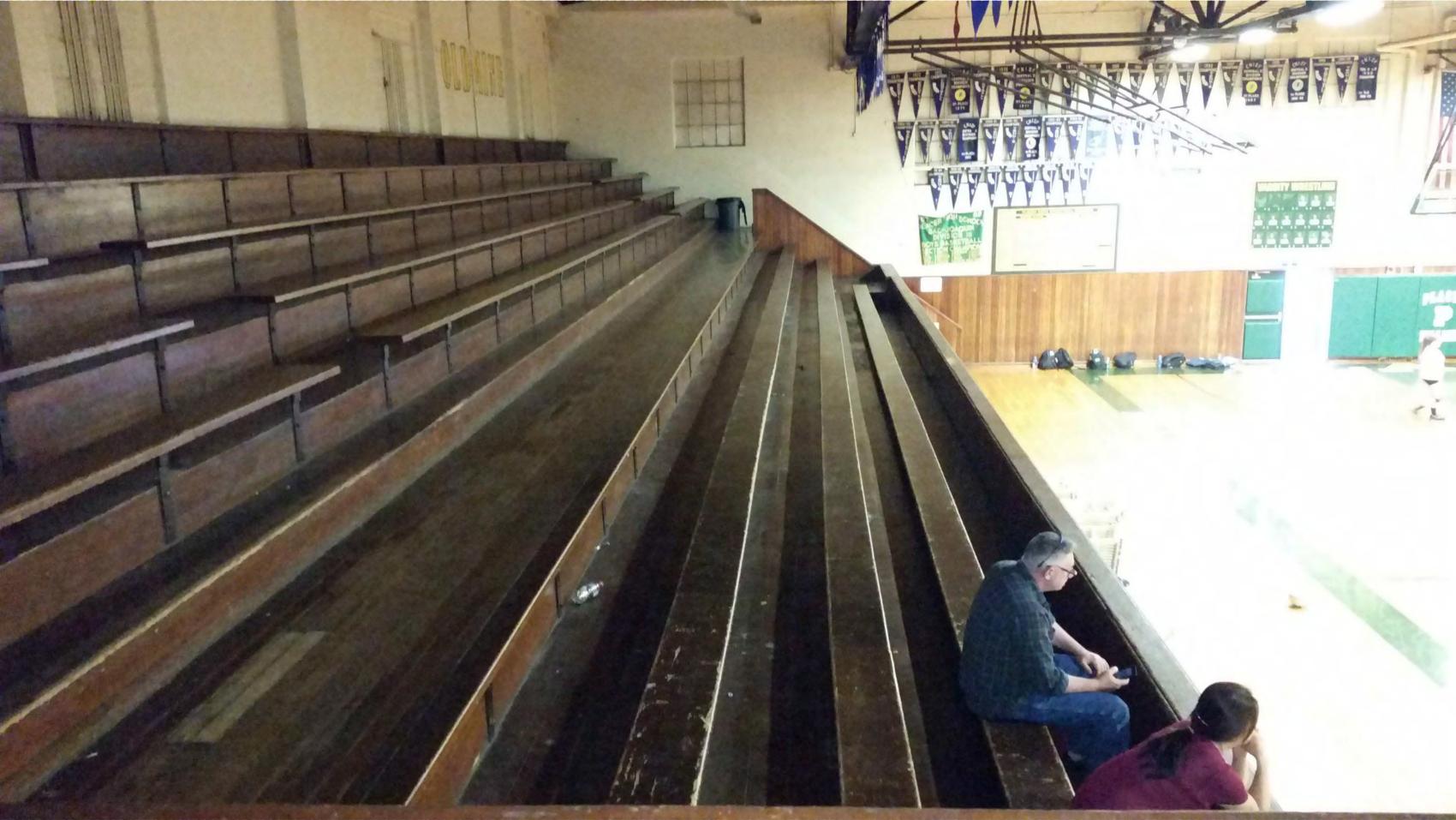
Placer County, California County and State

Map 1: Google Earth Map showing Earl Crabbe Gym location



Latitude: 38.894953

Longitude: -121.070362















ATHLETES

★ 2015 ★ JEFF BLAUSER GARY ANDERSON OLA LEE MURCHISON RON HYATT LINDSAY HYATT BARR BERNHARD PEAT STACY MIKAELSEN

* 2016 *

JAMES HARDEY CAROL FRENCH JEFF HAMILTON CATY O'CONNOR

VARSITY TEAMS

190 GIRLS BASKETBALL 7 2016 * 2016 * 2016 SIRLS) CROSS COUNTRY TEAM 2027 TOTO CABET RIFLE TEAMS



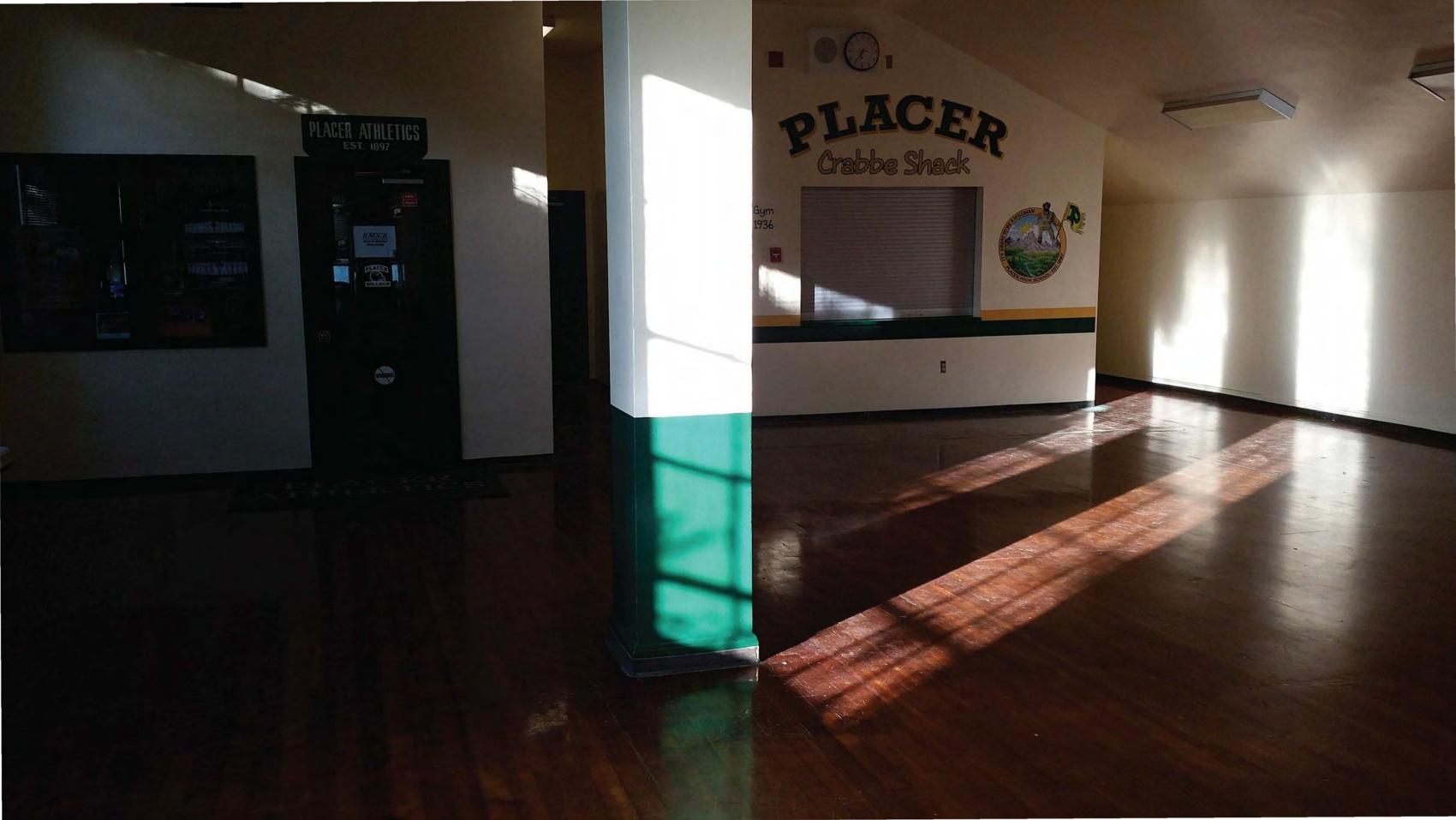












UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination		
Property Name:	Crabbe, Earl, Gymnasium		
Multiple Name:	Auburn, CA MPS		
State & County:	CALIFORNIA, Placer		
Date Rece 6/16/201			
Reference number:	MP100001384		
Nominator:	State		
Reason For Review			
X Accept	Return Reject 7/31/2017 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	Meets Registration Requirements		
Recommendation/ Criteria			
Reviewer Edson	Beall Discipline Historian		
Telephone	Date		
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No		

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Earl Crabbe Gym (Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPD) Auburn, Placer County Staff Report

Earl Crabbe Gym is a gymnasium located on the campus of Placer High School in Auburn, California. Built in 1937, the steel-framed, poured concrete building has a stucco exterior and a flat roof. Located on a hillside, the building is three stories high on the northeast side, while the southwestern corner has two stories. Funded by the Works Progress Administration, the building is a locally significant example of "WPA Moderne" style. The property is nominated under cover of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS.

The horizontal lines, flat roof, stucco finish, and bands of windows with metal frames create a distinctive look characteristic of the WPA Moderne style, with straight lines and rounded corners. The gym is divided into three distinct sections. The upper portion of the building accommodates guests to view sport activities. The middle section is the main sporting area with hallways that lead to lockers, concessions and the Placer High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The lower section includes weight training rooms, coaches' offices, and restrooms. Windows are metal framed in rows to form a solid line of light along the top floor of the building.

The property is eligible under Criterion A under Education for its role as a physical education center for both Placer High School and Placer Junior College. The college was founded in 1936 as an outgrowth of Sierra Normal College, founded in 1882. Co-located between campuses, the gym served both high school and college students until the junior college moved to Rocklin in 1961, under its current name, Sierra College. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as a locally significant example of WPA Moderne architecture, as executed by architect William F. Coffman.

The property is owned by Placer Union High School District and is nominated by a third party, Placer County Historical Foundation. The property owner has submitted a notarized letter of opposition. Because the owner is a public entity, not a private property owner, the letter does not prohibit listing. One letter of support has been received.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine the Earl Crabbe Gym eligible under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1937-1961, meeting the registration requirements of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS as an example of the Public Institutions/Civic Buildings property type. 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 April 17, 2017 GEORGE S. SZIRAKI, JR. Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT MR. PETER EFSTATHIU ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

MR. JEFFREY TOOKER DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

MR. ERIC VEREYKEN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES



BOARD OF TRUSTEES LYNN MACDONALD AREA 1/ COLFAX & FORESTHILL MAUREEN WARD AREA 2/PLACER DAVID UNDERWOOD AREA 3/PLACER RON OATES AREA 4/DEL ORO KATHLEEN GEARY AREA 5/DEL ORO

April 19, 2017

California State Historic Preservation Officer Office of Historic Preservation 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Earl Crabbe Gymnasium Objection to Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Polanco,

The Placer Union High School District ("District") is in receipt of your letter dated December 21, 2016, advising the District that the Office of Historic Preservation ("OHP") received a nomination packet in support of listing the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium ("Gym") on the National Register of Historic Places ("National Register"). The District, as the owner of the Gym, has reviewed the underlying packet submitted by the Placer County Historical Foundation. While the District appreciates the Foundation's efforts, after careful consideration by the District's governing board at its April 18, 2017 board meeting, I have been authorized to submit this notarized letter of objection to the nomination.

First, we note that Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is part of the existing Placer High School campus. Placer High School is an operating school site serving nearly 1,400 students each year. While the District certainly concurs that many nostalgic events have occurred within the confines of the Gym, the primary purpose and function of the facility is to serve Placer High School students. In so doing, the District is charged with ensuring the safety and security of not only the facility, but also the students, teachers, families and fans that occupy the facility every day.

There are a multitude of mandates and regulations that govern public school facilities construction, maintenance and repair. School districts throughout California must comply with building standards set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations ("Title 24") and the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), as well as the requirements of the Division of the State Architect ("DSA"), the California Department of Education ("CDE"), the Department of Toxic Substance Control ("DTSC"), the Office of Public School Construction ("OPSC") and the State Allocation Board ("SAB"), just to name a few. These stringent guidelines and regulations are in place to ensure the health and welfare of students and teachers. To the extent modifications or alterations are required for an operating school building, a school district must adhere to the then applicable building and construction standards outlined by one or more of the above-referenced regulatory agencies. In this case, the District is very concerned that placing the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium on the National Register will impede its ability to comply with mandated guidelines that govern public school construction, maintenance and repair. Further, school districts must maintain maximum flexibility as to how school sites and school buildings are utilized and operated. For example, school districts are heavily regulated by the State of California and applicable regulations and statutes regarding educational programming, including the types of classes that must be offered, as well as limitations on the number of students in particular classes. Similarly, Title IX mandates that there be parity and equity in girls' and boys' athletic programs and offerings. School districts are the agencies vested with the obligation to ensure that these mandates are implemented across school sites within a district. Accordingly, school districts are consistently balancing programmatic needs with available and suitable facilities to accommodate the programming.

Here, the District is facing many growing facilities needs as was highlighted in the District's most recent Facilities Master Plan, dated January 6, 2016. A few of the key guiding principles the District considered when preparing the plan were addressing capacity, including enhancing utilization of space and right-sizing undersized classrooms, as well as remediating aging buildings and infrastructure. At Placer High School specifically, the District has determined that Earl Crabbe Gymnasium is in need of restoration. As noted in the Facilities Master Plan, "[t]he Earl Crabbe Gym restoration is a high priority with community and site stakeholders. The aging building will require significant upgrades to meet accessibility standards as well as to preserve its heritage." (PUHSD Facilities Master Plan, p. 36). While the restoration plans have not been fully vetted, the District must maintain the ability and latitude to make appropriate and necessary modifications to its facilities to accommodate the needs of its students, as well as to meet applicable state-wide safety and educational standards.

Finally, as noted in the Facilities Master Plan, the District has every intention of preserving the essence and heritage of the Earl Crabbe Gymnasium. The District views this facility as a valued asset, and understands its place in the community. The modifications under consideration for this site would not alter the cherished features of the facility. In addition, once the proposed restoration is better defined, the District would be required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). It is our understanding that impacts to cultural and/or historic resources is studied as part of the CEQA process. Thus, members of the community and the public at large would have the opportunity to weigh in on any significant proposed addition or modification to the Gym. To the extent mitigation measures could be undertaken to lessen the impacts on such resources, those too would be studied as part of the CEQA process. Therefore, we believe that even if the Gym is not placed on the National Register, there will be opportunities for community input and feedback regarding preserving historic features should the District seek to modify the Gym.

In closing, we note again that we appreciate the nomination made by the Placer County Historical Foundation, and acknowledge the sentiment of its members to recognize Earl Crabbe Gymnasium as an important community resource. However, as custodians of some of the community's most valuable assets, our children, we must object to placement on the Gym on the National Register. In short, the District must: (1) ensure that its facilities meet all applicable health and safety standards for public schools and (2) maintain maximum flexibility in how it utilizes and operates its facilities. Listing the Gym on the National Register could significantly jeopardize the District's ability to meet these critical objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of the information contained in this objection letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

George S. Sziraki, Jr., Ed.D. Superintendent

APPROVED by the PUHSD Board of Trustees on . Certified by L. Burlison, Exec. Asst. to Supt.

CHANA HIGH SCHOOL | COLFAX HIGH SCHOOL | DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL | FORESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL | MAIDU HIGH SCHOOL | PLACER HIGH SCHOOL | PLACER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

The Placer Union High School District, an equal opportunity workplace, and committed to student learning by providing teaching excellence in a supportive environment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT	
A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.	
State of California County ofPLACER)	
On <u>April 20, 2017</u> before me, <u>S. ARCURI, NOTARY PUBLIC</u> (insert name and title of the offic	er)
personally appeared <u>George S. Szira Ki</u> who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose na subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they execu his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the ins person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instru	ame(s) is/are ted the same in trument the
I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that paragraph is true and correct.	the foregoing
Сомм.	ARCURI #2083065 z plic - California
Place	er County pires Sep. 25, 2018

. '

From:	OHP, CALSHPO@Parks
To:	<u>Correia, Jay@Parks; Crain, Amy@Parks; Burg, William@Parks</u>
Subject:	Fw: Earl Crabbe Gymnasium for National Register of Historic Places
Date:	Tuesday, May 02, 2017 4:20:26 PM

Please see message below regarding Earl Crabbe Gymnasium.

From: Michael Otten <otten@ssctv.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2017 8:41 AM
To: OHP, CALSHPO@Parks
Subject: Earl Crabbe Gymnasium for National Register of Historic Places

May 1, 2017 State Historical Resources Commission %Julianne Polanco Office of Historic Preservation 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 445-7000; fax: (916) 445-7053

Re: Earl Crabbe Gymnasium for National Register of Historic Places

Dear Commissioners,

I would cordially urge you to reject the objection the objection of the Placer Union High School District and its trustees to placing this unique structure on the National Register.

Clearly, the superintendent and the trustees misinterpreted the role that public entities have in successfully challenging such placement.

As reflected in the minutes of the meeting in which the trustees unanimously concurred with the staff's recommendation to object, the objection is based on granting the district the same privilege a private property owner might have in avoiding a listing. See minutes on the consent calendar for the board's May 2 meeting.

"6.6. Objection to Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places: Placer High School's Earl Crabbe Gymnasium [TIME ESTIMATE: 7:10 P.M.] Quick Summary: Pursuant to federal law outlined in a letter dated December 21, 2016 (attached) from the California Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation,..."a privately owned property may not be listed in the National Register over the objection of its owner..." Further, Objecting to a National Register Nomination (outlined in letter from the California Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, "NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES HOW TO SUPPORT OR OBJECT TO LISTING": If you object to the listing of your property, you will need to submit a notarized statement certifying that you are the sole or partial owner of the property, as appropriate, and then you object to the listing. Owners who wish to object are encouraged to submit statements of objection prior to the meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission at which the nomination is being considered. However, statements of objection may be submitted and will be counted up until the actual date of listing."The PUHSD received a letter dated (attached) March 7, 2017, from the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, of the State Historical Resources Commission's Quarterly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Pasadena City Hall in Pasadena, California. "

In reading the two-page objection letter of Supt. George S. Sziraki Jr. that there is no quarrel over whether it is a proper listing but that somehow in doing so it will "impede" the district's ability to do whatever it wants in complying with other mandated guidelines over safety, construction, maintenance and repair.

Here is a photo to give you a sense of the historical Wow factor today from inside a WPA-built gym. What a historical reminder of the height of the Great Depression when times were tough, food in short supply and any job was hard to find.



I strongly urge you to approve this well researched nomination by the Placer County Historical Foundation.

Michael Otten

Conference of California Historical Societies

1st Vice President and Region 8 Vice President (Sierra Gateway) Placer, Nevada, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra Counties 10140 Snowy Owl Way Auburn, CA 95603-5932 (530) 888-7837 <u>otten@ssctv.net</u>



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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

June 9, 2017

JUN 1 6 2017 Natl. Reg. of Historic Places National Park Service

J. Paul Loether Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program National Register of Historic Places Mail Stop 7228 1849 C St., NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: Earl Crabbe Gym (Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPD) Auburn, Placer County, California National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of nomination for the Earl Crabbe Gym to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Auburn, Placer County, California. On May 10, 2017, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1936-1961. The property is nominated under the cover of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn Multiple Property Document.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner. The property owner, the Placer Union High School District (a public/government entity), sent a letter of objection. One letter of support was also received.

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

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures