

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

JAN 7 1987

1. Name

historic Alta Mesa Farm Bureau Hall

and/or common Alta Mesa Hall; Alta Mesa Community Center Hall

2. Location

street & number 10195 Alta Mesa Road

n/a not for publication

city, town Wilton

vicinity of

state California

code 06

county Sacramento

code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Alta Mesa Community Center

street & number 10195 Alta Mesa Road

city, town Wilton

vicinity of

state California 95693

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sacramento County Recorder's Office

street & number 901 G Street

city, town Sacramento

state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			n/a

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alta Mesa Farm Bureau Hall is a single story medium gabled wood-frame building sheathed in horizontal wood siding. The 1913 building was rectangular in plan; it was expanded to its present "L"-shape with the addition of a kitchen wing in 1930. A covered porch was added to the facade in 1935. The building occupies its original corner lot in the rural Alta Mesa area of southeastern Sacramento County.

The Alta Mesa Hall was built by local volunteer labor in 1913 on land donated by Alta Mesa pioneer, T. Winey. The site was a corner lot, slightly larger than  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, at the intersection of the two major roads traversing the community: Blake Road in front, and Alta Mesa Road on the west side of the lot. It is a single story building, originally rectangular in plan, built near the crest of a low hill; the lot slopes away toward the north. The original paired main entrances were located in the principal (southern) facade under the end of the medium gable wood shingled roof; the roof at the rear of the building was hipped. Architectural detailing was minimal, consisting primarily of a boxed cornice, simple frieze and vertical endboards at the building corners. The exterior was sheathed in 2-1 rustic siding. A simple open wooden platform provided an entrance porch. Three large double hung windows on the east and the west sides brought light and ventilation into the large interior public assembly room; a small window at the northern end of each side opened into dressing rooms. The rear of the building was plain, with a small window in the center and an exit door with wooden steps at the eastern end.

The interior of the building consists of a large 49' 9" x 29' 6" meeting room with a 10' x 21' raised stage at the north end, flanked by two 4' 5" x 10' rooms which served as dressing rooms and stage entrances. The simple interior lacks any notable architectural detailing; the original painted redwood siding and the hardwood floors are still present.

In 1930, in order to make the hall adaptable to more community activities, a kitchen wing 15' 7" x 19' 4" was added on the north end of the east side of the building, converting the rectangular plan to an "L"-shape. This wing is compatible in appearance with the original building. The same type of horizontal siding has been used, and the roof terminates in a medium hip similar to that of the rear of the original hall. Two double hung windows appear in the south and the east walls of the kitchen wing; an exit door with wooden steps descending to ground level is on the north. The kitchen contains upper and lower cabinets across the entire north wall and a pass-through counter into the main hall for serving groups of people. Also in 1930, the two separate entrance doors on the facade were closed off and replaced by a central entrance with double doors. The previous entrances were infilled with siding to match the original. The major change to the appearance of the building occurred in 1935 when the wooden front porch was replaced with a cement slab and a truncated hip roof was added over the porch, creating a gable-roofed facade. The porch roof is supported by four simple posts; a plain balustrade of vertical slats encloses the two sides of the porch.

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The only other alteration is the replacement of wooden roof shingles with composition shingles, a result of continued maintenance over the years. Since the hall is not in use at the present time, several windows have been temporarily boarded over to protect the building from vandalism.

Other property features include a small restroom building behind the hall; it was built when the kitchen wing was added in 1930 and is a contributing structure. A collapsed wooden outdoor stage stands immediately east of the hall; although once used in conjunction with the Alta Mesa Fair, its deteriorated condition precludes its consideration as a contributing feature. A large eucalyptus tree, original to the property, stands at the southeast corner of the lot; a similar tree once stood directly in front of the building but was removed when the covered porch was added. Several elm trees are scattered throughout the rear of the weed-grown lot. A modern propane tank stands at the rear of the building. No other features are located on the property.

Resource Count: Two contributing buildings (hall and restroom buildings) and one non-contributing structure (collapsed outdoor stage).

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1913; 1930; 1935 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Aside from several scattered early farmhouses, the Alta Mesa Hall remains as the principal structure associated with the history and development of the rural community of Alta Mesa. The Hall served as the center of local community activities including social gatherings, school events, public meetings and Farm Bureau activities. From 1922 to 1976, it was the site of the Alta Mesa Fair, one of the last rural one-day community fairs in the state.

The community of Alta Mesa was established in 1903 and was previously known as the Don Ray Colony. A number of years later, the name of Alta Mesa was chosen to depict the high, dry area where large acreages of dry-farmed table grapes were experimentally planted. The Hall was built in a centralized location of the then-sparsely settled community to accommodate church services and community activities as well as serving as a meeting place for a literary group (formed in 1910), the Don Ray Improvement Club. The land was donated by T. Winey, while the building was financed by Winey, Charles Smith, Charles Partel and Mrs. Sara Green.

In 1917, the Alta Mesa Farm Bureau was organized and purchased the building from the local individuals who had financed the original building project. From then on, the building was used for monthly Farm Bureau meetings where reports, speeches, discussions and meetings were held concerning all topics of farming and community affairs, including business, government regulations and propositions, community planning and zoning, water conservation and irrigation district planning, road layouts, planning of new school districts and buildings, and fire department boundaries. During World War I, local women met at the Hall to roll bandages for wounded soldiers and the younger men who were not in active duty assembled for civil defense training.

In 1922, a committee of local residents voted to hold a one-day fair in the summer. Produce, handiwork and canned goods were displayed in the Hall and at noon a chicken dinner, which became a local tradition, was cooked and served by the local women. For many years, practically every item of food was donated, thereby raising enough money to assist in the upkeep of the Hall. This one-day fair, one of the very few such rural community fairs in California, was held continuously at the Hall until attendance grew to cause a parking problem; it was moved to another location in 1976.

In 1925, the Alta Mesa 4-H group was organized, followed in later years by other local 4-H groups. All set different meeting dates which they held at the Hall along with their various social affairs.

A serious fire swept through the Alta Mesa area in October of 1936;

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Elk Grove Citizen, 3/20/63

Sacramento Union, 3/17/63

"Communities in the Elk Grove Area," 1975. (Booklet produced by students of Joseph Kerr Junior High School, Elk Grove)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.61 acre

Quadrangle name Sloughhouse

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Building occupies its original 111.5' x 238.5' lot at the northeast corner of Alta Mesa and Blake Roads. Assessor's Parcel #136-0170-037-0000.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code   county n/a code  

state n/a code   county n/a code  

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Victoria Sturmer

organization Alta Mesa Community Center

(OHP Staff revision: 7/86)

date December 6, 1984

street & number 10195 Alta Mesa Road

telephone (916) 687-6638

city or town Wilton

state California 95693

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Kathryn Gualtieri*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/17/86

### For NPS use only

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

*J. Melrose B...*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in NHR  
National Register  
11/17/86

Attest:

**United States Department of the Interior  
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a relief fund committee was formed and held meetings at the Hall to formulate plans to aid 17 local farms which had suffered fire damage.

The Hall was used for a myriad of social events since it was built, including weddings, wedding receptions, wedding and baby showers, going-away parties, square dancing, class reunions, birthday celebrations, craft lessons and club meetings. Since local schools in the area were one or two-room buildings, the Hall was used for major school events, including holiday parties, plays and graduations.

In addition to social events, the Hall was used during World War II for state militia drills and work groups who made slippers and lap robes for wounded World War II soldiers; quilts were also made at the Hall for flood victims in the Marysville-Yuba City area in the winter of 1955-56.

Throughout its history, the Alta Mesa Hall served as the center of social activity for the local rural community. Although no longer in use, the building still stands as a tangible link with the area's past.

