

PH 0047279

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Calaveras
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 24 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Douglas Flat School

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Douglas Flat

STATE California	CODE 006	COUNTY: Calaveras	CODE 009
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Valecito Union School District

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 73

CITY OR TOWN:
Douglas Flat

STATE: California	CODE 06
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registrar of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Government Center

CITY OR TOWN:
San Andreas

STATE: California	CODE 06
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Historical Landmark No. 272

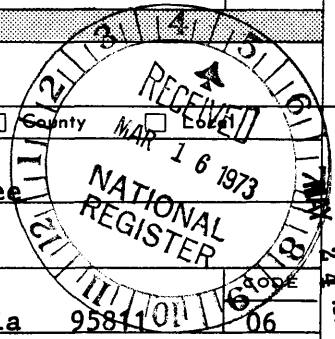
DATE OF SURVEY: **1956** Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE: California	CODE 95841
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

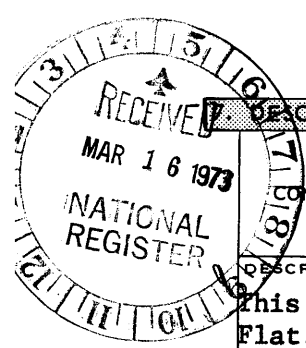
STATE: California

COUNTY: Calaveras

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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DESCRIPTION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
CONDITION	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building was constructed in 1854 by the miners residing in Douglas Flat. The original 20' x 24' structure resulted due to a need for a meeting hall and church. By 1856 families began moving to the area and the need for a school building was evident. At this time it was realized that the structure had been constructed on ground that was fertile with gold deposits and it would be profitable to move the building to a new location. A site was selected on a hillside approximately one-quarter mile from the original site to relocate the building. The building was re-located to a 3-acre site which was designated to be used as a school church, community center and cemetery.

Examination in 1971 revealed that the original building was constructed of European cedar and utilized a fabric comparable to cheese cloth for the interior wall surfaces. The building was constructed of lumber in its entirety with windows and the finished lumber, judged by architects and builders to have been imported from Europe.

The building is a simply designed example of contemporary building vernacular of the gold rush period. Its simple, unobstructed lines suggest the classic styling familiar to the builders in the East before coming to California. Classic styling, based upon Greek and Roman revival forms, was the preferred form for public buildings of the 1850's. The building is classic revival at its simplest. The temple front of Greek revival is merely suggested by the classic pedimented gable. The elements of the cornice have been reduced to a band of wide horizontal boards and a strip of moulding below the eaves. The treatment of the entrance is suggestive of early classic forms with an architrave supported by flat pilasters. The composition is capped by a small rectangular belfry.

In 1856 the first school was held in Douglas Flat according to the record of the County Superintendent of School. It is concluded that shortly thereafter an addition was constructed adding sixteen (16) feet to the length of the building. There is evidence to indicate that the exterior lumber was also imported as the texture is not indicative of native lumber. In addition the exterior clap-boards are narrow in width and smooth finished. It is concluded that at the time of constructing the addition the interior was all finished in a tongue and grooved pine lumber.

The interior, as it appears today, was one large room. The finish, both ceiling and walls, are of tongue and grooved pine. The floor is made of soft pine and is very dark colored from the treatment of oil to preserve the wood. Until the early 1950's a wood burning stove was used for heat. The original opening for the stove pipe is still visible in the center of the room and was apparently not changed when the addition was built.

This school was used until 1956 when it was closed due to the lack of students. In 1971, the school was re-opened to be used for a kindergarten class. When the need was known for an additional classroom, residents of the district came together and placed the building in a usable form. The renovation consisted of small repairs, repainting the exterior and in-

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7. Description cont. (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

terior, the installation of an approved electrical system to replace the inadequate service and the repair of the existing heating system. There were no structural changes in the work completed.

Upon completion of the new Michelson school in Murphys it will be transferred to the Douglas Flat Community Club to be maintained as a museum and community hall.



SIGNIFICANCE

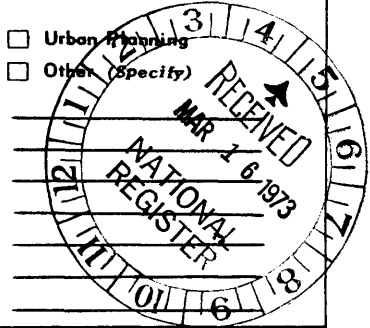
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854 (construction), 1856 (moved)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Douglas Flat School shows the simplistic classic styling of Gold Rush architecture, based upon forms familiar to its builders in the East. According to Harold Kirker, the Greek and Roman based classic styles were preferred for civic architecture in California in the 1850's.

Built by local labor, the schoolhouse combines the builders' recollections of "proper" styles known in the East and the elements of frontier construction, resulting in a composition of classic styling at its simplest - the elements of classic styling are suggested, but not strongly developed along formal Greek or Roman Revival lines.

This building, in addition to being architecturally significant, is important for its role in the history of the State of California. With the discovery of gold in 1848 at Douglas Flat came many settlers to seek their wealth. To enable each miner a fair share of the prospects for gold, a system was devised to allot an area eight feet by eight feet as the surface boundaries of the claim. All that came, however, were not actually engaged in mining for gold. Tradesman and merchants established businesses to provide the miners with the goods and services needed to carry on the mining activities.

Early records indicate that the only area not available to the miners pick and shovel was the Douglas Flat school site. The first teachers, in addition to a small salary were granted exclusive rights to mine gold on the school site.

As the community grew into a large settlement, families began arriving to make this area one of permanent buildings to replace the tent city that had developed so rapidly. The school, with its variety of uses, played an important role in the development of this area.

The trustees of the Vallecito Union School District have declared its intention to arrange for the preservation of the structure for historical purposes. This site at the present time is visited by many people annually as it is part of the history of this region. From a national interest this building played a significant role in the development of California as a state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dr. Richard Coke Wood - Murphys, Queen of the Sierra Calaveras, the Land of Skulls Tales of Old Calaveras.
 Harold Kirker - California's Architectural Frontier
 Kenneth M. and Doris Castro - Murphys, California, History and Guide
 Archives of : Calaveras Prospect, San Andreas, California
 Calaveras Chronicle, Mokelumne Hill, California

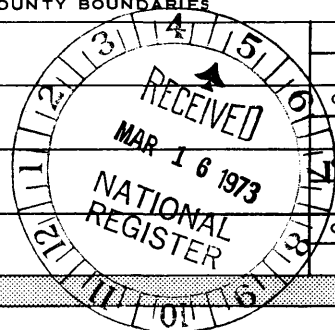
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38	07	02
NE	° ' "	° ' "		120	27	11
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
B. M. Staffon, Superintendent

ORGANIZATION: **Vallecito Union School District** DATE: **12/22/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 73

CITY OR TOWN: **Douglas Flat** STATE: **California 95229** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name *[Signature]* Title State Liaison Officer Date FEB 12 1972

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/24/73 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5 23 73

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8. Significance (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

It is the opinion of the trustees that, if the site and building are not preserved, the nation will lose a valuable contribution to the history.

The community of Douglas Flat is California State Historical Landmark 272.

