

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 6 1979
DATE ENTERED NOV 27 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grizzly Bluff School

AND/OR COMMON

Grizzly Bluff School

LOCATION

E of Ferndale on

STREET & NUMBER

Grizzly Bluff Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ferndale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

California

X VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Humboldt

CODE

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Grizzly Bluff School District

STREET & NUMBER

Grizzly Bluff Road

CITY, TOWN

Ferndale

VICINITY OF

California STATE 95536

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Humboldt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

825 Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1880

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grizzly Bluff, is located in the Eel River Valley, six miles east of Ferndale, California. Settled in 1853, the community grew to include a number of commercial and public buildings, but of those, only a much-altered church and this school remain. The school was built in 1871-72 by local carpenters Tom Dix and J. Davenport. Rotting foundation timbers in 1880 prompted a move ninety feet north of its original site. The Grizzly Bluff School is a vernacular interpretation of Greek Revival styling, and has retained a high degree of integrity. The one-story building has a wide, medium gable roof, central entrance, and plain frieze and end boards. The original entrance was recessed with a modest bracketed shelf above the door. A wide hipped-roof porch was added to the front, probably at some point early in the 20th century. The building is 30 by 40 feet with 16 foot ceilings; this addition was present in the 1880's, when the enclosed historic photograph was taken. Five six-pane double hung windows with projecting architraves line the sides of the building. A small bell tower remains at the apex of the gable above the front entrance. The school's clapboard siding was always white, until a recent application of red paint.

After withstanding over one hundred winters of Humboldt County rain and several major Eel River floods, the little school is threatened today by human decision. With the end of the 1977-78 school year, the school district has abandoned the building and it will either be torn down for its lumber, moved, or disfigured by alterations as has happened to the old church across the road.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-72 (construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Tom Dix and J. Davenport

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The school building at Grizzly Bluff has achieved a remarkable record: it is recognized as the oldest school building in the county of Humboldt. It operated continuously as the community's only educational facility from 1871 to 1978, when it was closed by the local district. It is the only recognizable link with the early settlement of Grizzly Bluff, and remains a focal point of community identity. In addition to local historical significance, the building is an excellent example of its type and period. Although Greek Revival styling had generally passed from popularity at this time, its vernacular variations were still utilized in this remote northern section of the state. The Grizzly Bluff School represents the small one-room school building typical of 19th Century rural California, executed by local builders in an appropriate classical-based architectural mode.

At Grizzly Bluff, the earliest settlers came in 1853. They built cabins, cleared the land, and planted crops. Joseph Barber took the lead in establishing a school in the neighborhood. This earlier school is said to have been located on the Lemuel Church property near the corner. A large number of children received their entire education at this little school. The Grizzly Bluff School District was established on May 23, 1871, and the present building was constructed during the 1871-72 school year by Tom Dix and J. Davenport. The people of Grizzly Bluff took pride in their school and in 1878, a hedge of 105 ornamental cypress trees were planted around the schoolyard to protect the building from stormy winds. The cypress hedge no longer remains.

One of the early teachers was A. H. Day, who taught at Grizzly Bluff from 1880 to 1882. He taught sixty-eight pupils in nine grades for a salary of eighty dollars a month, probably for a term of eight or nine months. During the years 1884-1885, there were two teachers at Grizzly Bluff School, L. M. Burnell and Anna Wible. This was probably when a partition was put down the middle of the room to separate the two groups. There were two teachers for the next several years. By 1889, there were seventy students in attendance and again one teacher handled the school.

In 1894, there was need of considerable repair work to be done on the school building. There was to be an election in March for the purpose of voting a tax to raise money for repair work. Some taxpayers raised the question of building a new schoolhouse, and having two teachers. The school was so crowded that some children were forced to attend other schools. The result of the election must have been to repair and keep the same building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA Issues For: 1878-1910
Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA February 14, 1947 -- "Elementary School
 at Grizzly Bluff Claims Age Record"
 Interviews with Iola S. Young, 1977

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES Quadrangle Name: Fortuna, CA Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

A	<u>10</u>	<u>40,09,10</u>	<u>44,9,06,7,0</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Layend north of the county road leading from Eel River to Ferndale, commencing at Stake directly opposite the junction of the said Grizzly Bluff road with said county road running thence east on the north line of said road 82 1/2 feet thence north at right angles with said county road 264 feet, thence west on a line, parallel with said road 165 feet thence south at right angles with said road 264 feet to the north line of said road, thence east on the north line of said road 82 1/2 feet to the place of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Staff Revision by Office of Historic Preservation

NAME / TITLE

Denis Paul Edeline, Historical Researcher

June 15, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1085 Buttermilk Lane

TELEPHONE

(707) 822-5448

CITY OR TOWN

Arcata

STATE

California 95521

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

Kenneth M. Edeline

TITLE

DATE 6/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Chester D. Schulz

DATE

11-27-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

11-21-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JUL 6 1979	
DATE ENTERED	NOV 27 1979

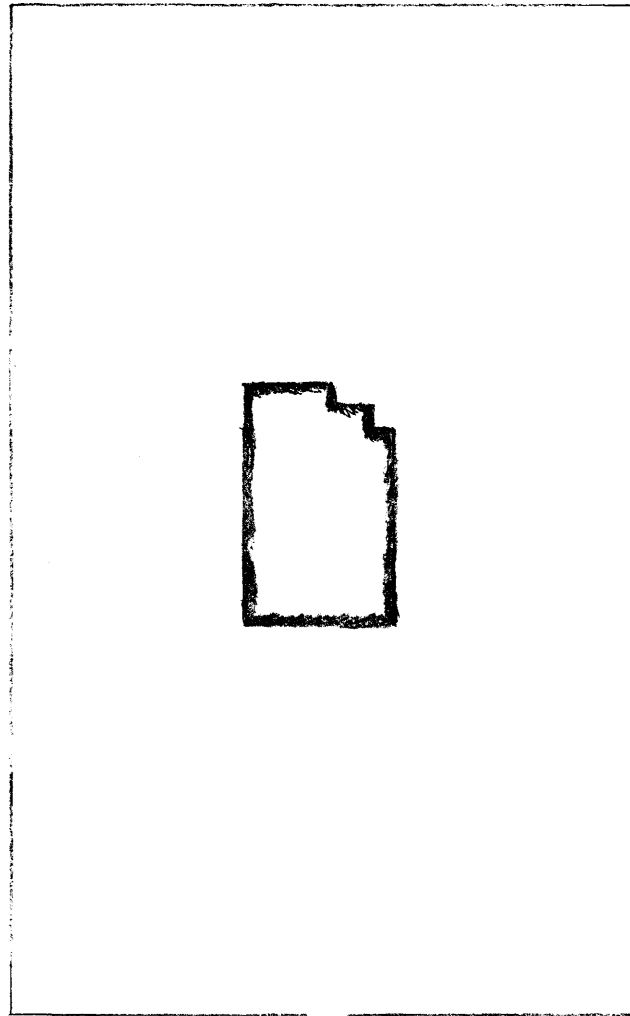
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Grizzly Bluff School seems to have always had a large attendance, too many for one teacher to handle. So in the year 1908-1909, Theresa McDonough was hired to teach the primary grades. The library room was used for the activities of the 34 pupils in the first four grades. Kate Slingsby was principal that year with 42 pupils in the upper grades.

This country school has always been a center in the community. It was the social and educational heart of Grizzly Bluff throughout its existence, and still remains as an important visual element tying the community to it's past.

165 feet



264 feet

Grizzly Bluff School
Grizzly Bluff Road
Ferndale, CA

JUL 6 1979

Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet

NOV 27 1979

Grizzly Bluff Road

JUL 6 1979



GRISBY BLUFF SCHOOL.