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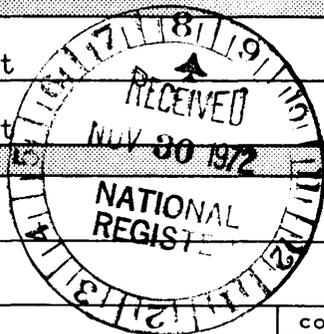
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

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:	Nevada
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Malakoff Diggins - North Bloomfield Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Malakoff Diggins - North Bloomfield Historic District

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Graniteville Star Route

CITY OR TOWN:  
North Bloomfield

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Nevada	CODE 057
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#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of California

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento

STATE: California	CODE 06
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#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 - 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento

STATE California	CODE 06
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#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey (Cal-1537)

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11
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COUNTY:	Sacramento
ENTRY NUMBER:	APR 11 1973
DATE:	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The simple middle-nineteenth century frame homes and business buildings of North Bloomfield exemplify the characteristic non-masonry architecture of the California gold regions. Coupled with these, eroded cliffs and gullies resulting from hydraulic mining operations carried out over half a century remain as stark and dramatic reminders of the massive impact upon the original landscape. Today, erosion left by the miners is somewhat camouflaged by the softening aspect of vegetation as nature slowly seeks to reclaim her own.

Hydraulic mining was practiced along the entire San Juan Ridge of which Malakoff is a part. Besides the North Bloomfield Mines, two of the other major companies working in this area were the Eureka Lake and Yuba Canal Company, with headquarters at North Columbia, and the Milton Mining and Water Company, with headquarters at French Corral.

Largest bar of gold cast from the Malakoff Diggings by the North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Company weighed 512 pounds and was valued at \$114,000. Models of this famous gold bar have been exhibited elsewhere for many years. The Sierra Nevada hydraulic operators were required by bitterly contested legislation to cease all hydraulic mining by the Sawyer decision of 1884.

It is the colossal excavations at Malakoff and the town of North Bloomfield, however, with which we are most involved. Enclosed pictures will testify to the scope of these hydraulic operations, and the types of buildings which remain today in the area.

Among the most interesting of the latter is the McKillian and Mobley store. This structure built in 1852, and occupied for nearly 100 years, is today a house museum. It is one and one-half stories in height, of frame construction, and is approximately 30 ft. wide and 60 ft. in length. The building is in relatively good condition, though will require some carpentry repair within the next few years. The interior and exterior has been recently painted in colors characteristic of its earlier days, and the building has been furnished with general store merchandise of the 1880 period.

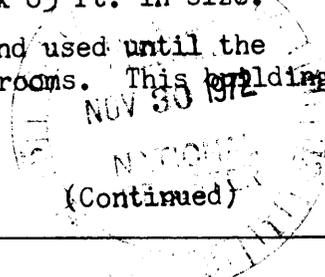
Other structures common to that period are:

Ostrum's Livery Stable: Two story frame of circa 1880-1890; restored, repainted and in good condition.

Cummins Hall: Two story frame, formerly a saloon and dance hall, now a park office and museum. This building has been repaired and painted and is now in good condition. Approx. 30 x 65 ft. in size.

School: Frame, built between 1855 and 1860 and used until the early 1940's. One and one-half stories, two main rooms. This building is in fair condition, but will require work.

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7. Description (Continued) Page 2

Church: This church sits on the site of the original Catholic Church in North Bloomfield. It is not, however, that which formerly served the town. Originally it was built circa (1859-1860) for use as an armory, in which capacity it served during the Civil War. Later it was moved from Bridgeport, Nevada County, to Birchville, a mining community, where it served a Catholic Parish. Abandoned when the town declined, it was finally moved a year or so ago to North Bloomfield. Public subscription has completely renovated the building, making it one of the most attractive structures representative of the Gold Rush period in the state. Though furnished as a Catholic Church, it is now occasionally used by churches of all denominations, as well as for weddings. The building is in excellent condition. Its construction is frame, its size is 30 x 50 ft.

Landsburg - Sherwood Home: Built circa 1880-1890. This building, frame, 1 1/2 stories, is in fair condition and is occupied. The size of the structure is 32' x 36'. At one time its site was occupied by Simon Hieronimus' New York Brewery. Later was owned by Landsburg, Millwright, who operated the Snow Tent Sawmill.

R. D. Skidmore Home: This building is in poor condition, but considered reclaimable. It is 1 1/2 stories in height, approx. 35 x 45 ft. in size. Skidmore ran a bakery in North Bloomfield; later ran a saloon.

Dr. Du Millieu House: Frame, single story structure, approx. 30 x 40 ft. in size. Du Millieu was one of a number of French people who settled in North Bloomfield, others being Benoit Fauchery, Francis Blain, Madame Auguste, Antone Mayhew, James Marriott, Pettitjean, Du Bour, Frank Qu'quodon, Souchet, and many others. It is no surprise that the Malakoff Diggins were named after Jean Jacques Pelissier the hero of the battle of Sevastopol, who during the Crimean War took Fort Malakoff for the French.

The Mattiola House: Frame, circa 1880; one story, size approx. 30 x 45'. In fair condition.

Francis Blain House: Frame, circa 1880; one story; approx. 25 x 30 ft. In fair condition.

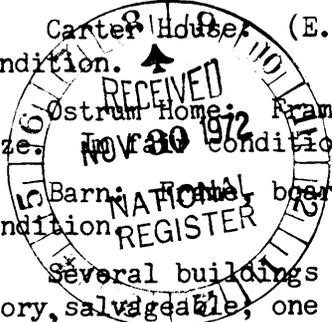
Victor House: Frame, built 1880's, 1 1/2 stories high. Fair condition.

Carter House (E.C.V.) Frame, one story, approx. 10 x 15 ft. In fair condition.

Ostrum Home: Frame, 1 1/2 stories, built circa 1880's; 33 x 46 ft. in size. In fair condition.

Barn: Frame, board and batten; 48 x 70 ft. in size. In fair condition.

Several buildings of poor construction, one about 26 x 36 ft.; one story, salvageable; one a shed structure approximately 10 x 15 ft. Poor condition.



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7. Description (Continued) Page 3

Shingle Mill: Circa 1870's - 1880's; frame, in poor condition. Some of the equipment missing.

A similarity in construction is noted throughout North Bloomfield characteristic generally of the period 1880's. With timber plentiful, the buildings are all of wood, board and batten, clapboards or channel rustic, high roofs, all originally shingled, some today sheet iron.

Little architectural decoration is noted, most of the structures being plain, rectangular in form, with canopied porches, some screened or glassed in, others open.

The mining area is primarily an environmental resource, with a few trails leading to overviews. Spectacular color lends picturesqueness to the crenellated spires which fringe the canyon, creating what amounts to a miniature Grand Canyon or Bryce Canyon. Here the California State Park System has set aside an area testifying to the irresistible force of water when played against banks of earth as much as 600 ft. in height. What has resulted is a monument that will be a unique attraction and abiding interest for years to come.

Charles Gaus House: Circa 1880; frame, 1 1/2 story-frame--good condition. Residence of town's oldest citizen.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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                        | <u>Mining</u>                            |
| <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 checked="" 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

A tipsy Irish prospector stumbled into a Saloon on lower Broad Street in Nevada City on a late Spring day of 1851.

He dumped a handful of nuggets and dust on the bar and ordered drinks for the house.

The bar patrons pricked up their ears in hopes of learning the location of this rich prospect.

But the Irishman, although somewhat garrulous, declined to disclose the location of this rich find.

After several hours of tippling he departed, but was not alone.

He purchased supplies, mounted his mule and led his pack animal down the trail to the northwest of Nevada City.

Fifteen miles northwest of Nevada City he tethered his mule and pack animal near the banks of a small creek.

Close behind him, but at a safe distance, were twenty or more Nevada City prospectors. When he stopped they stopped.

They watched him unload the provisions and join two friends, washing gold from the creek gravels.

They unpacked their gold pans and went to work. They found nothing. They declared the project a "humbug". Prospectors who came later however struck it rich.

The small shanty and brush shack community which grew up became known as "Humbug" and the creek was named Humbug Creek.

Within months the shanty community had grown to several hundred persons, including saloon keepers, gamblers, dance hall girls and merchants.

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8. Significance (Continued) (Page 2)

Almost overnight the citizens became respectable and decided Humbug was not a proper name for a dignified placer camp. At a mass meeting they changed the name to "Bloomfield".

Within weeks the citizens were notified that the name Bloomfield already was on the post office listing of communities and could not be duplicated. There was only one answer. They changed the name to North Bloomfield.

The community grew apace, along with other Mother Lode towns.

Two years later hydraulic mining came into the picture. Millions of gallons of water under high pressure was blasted against the towering gravel banks which held the precious gold flakes and nuggets.

Then came disaster for the community of North Bloomfield which had grown to a community of 1,800. Anti-debris laws which forbade dumping of mining debris into streams emptying into the Sacramento Valley were enacted. Death to the hydraulic mining industry came later despite years of litigation.

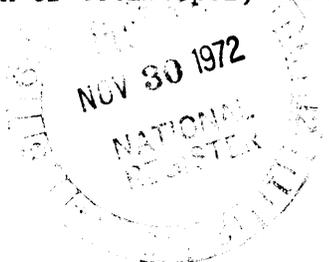
Land use history of the area indicates that hydraulic mining when in full operation between 1866 and 1884 grossed \$3.5 million from 30 million yards of gold bearing gravel.

North Bloomfield at its peak in 1880 boasted a population of between 1200 and 1800. In 1972 it has approximately nine permanent residents.

Best available information indicates the name Malakoff is to be interpreted as a salute to Jean Jaques Pelissier, a commander of French Forces in the Crimea. He laid siege to Fort Malakoff overlooking Sevastopol which fell under attack in 1855.

Pelissier became a national hero and was made marshal of the French Armies. He became a member of the French Senate and was given the title of duc de Malakoff.

It is reasonable to believe early French residents of North Bloomfield could have named the area the Malakoff. Twelve miles south of the Malakoff is the ghost town of Sebastopol, named for a Russian community near Fort Malakoff.



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8. Significance (Continued) (Page 3)

Present facilities at the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park include a family campground with 30 individual sites, a group area to accommodate 80 persons. Two small picnic areas are available. The Clampicnic Area is located at the edge of North Bloomfield. One can stop here and enjoy their picnic and take a leisurely walk through the old town of North Bloomfield. The Blair area itself is a man made reservoir in which water was stored for use by the hydraulic miner. It later became the town swimming hole.

