

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07000695

Date Listed: 9/19/2007

Tuolumne County Courthouse

(Boundary Increase)

Property Name

Tuolumne

County

CA

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

9/19/2007

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The Resource Count is revised to read only: *one contributing site.*
[The courthouse building noted under Previously Listed Contributing Resources is not included in the Boundary Increase area and should not be included in the count as part of this nomination. The associated monuments and shelters (historic and non-historic) located in the park are not of sufficient scale or design to merit individual resource counts; they are effectively considered part of the one contributing site.]

Historic/Current Functions:

The functions are amended to read: *Landscape--Park.*

U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct U. T. M. Coordinate for the boundary increase area is: *10 729850 4207240*

Verbal Boundary Description/Justification:

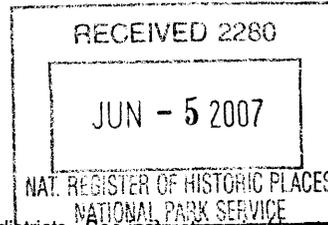
The verbal boundary description is amended to add: "The boundary increase area also includes that portion of the North Green Street right-of-way that separates the site of the courthouse proper from the landscaped park."
[The inclusion of the right-of-way is necessary to create a contiguous property. While the street contains no particularly significant contributing resources, it effectively links the two component pieces of the historic courthouse complex and represents an elemental part of the historic site and setting of the property within downtown Sonora.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



695

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number Courthouse Square

2. Location

street & number Square block bounded by N Washington St (SR 49), W Yaney Ave, N Green St, W Jackson St N/A not for publication

city or town Sonora N/A vicinity

state California code CA county Tuolumne code 109 zip code 95370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9/19/2007

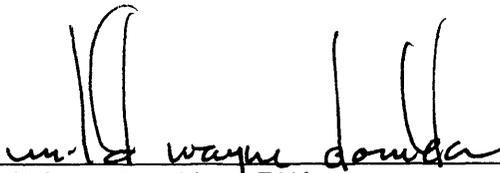
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 3 Page 1

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, CA

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this Amendment meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that the boundary for this property be increased to include Courthouse Square, APN 001-180-01-00, and consider the property significant at the local level in the areas of social history and landscape architecture with the periods of significance, 1936-1956 and 1936.



1 JUN 2007

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State and Federal agency and bureau

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
N/A
Other stone, concrete, earth

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape Architecture _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1936-1956 _____

1936 _____

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ralph, Frank J. _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- X Other

Name of repository:

Tuolumne County History Center _____

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Tuolumne - CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.26+

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	729880	5402400	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Marovich

organization Tuolumne Heritage Committee

date 30 October 2006

street & number 24 S. Washington St. telephone (209) 532-6937

city or town Sonora state CA zip code 95370

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Craig Pedro, County of Tuolumne

street & number 2 S. Green St. telephone (209) 533-5511

city or town Sonora state CA zip code 95370

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Narrative Description

Courthouse Square in the heart of Sonora's historic, Gold Rush commercial district is a square block in size and is bounded by N. Washington St. (SR 49), W. Yaney Avenue, N. Green Street, and W. Jackson Street. Since its construction in 1936 it has been used continuously by the public for rest and relaxation, various political and civil gatherings, and as a short cut between the Tuolumne County Courthouse, Veterans Memorial Hall and other nearby historic buildings. It retains virtually all of its original appearance except for the addition of a commemorative monument on the north edge, a small wooden shelter for people waiting for public transportation on the south edge, a brick fountain (replacing an original fountain of unknown design) on the east edge, the substitution of plant materials in the center circle to replace those that did not thrive, a small stone plaque flush with the ground in the center circle, an above ground electrical panel near the southwest corner, three parking meter poles along N. Green Street, a stop sign and two parking limit signs also along N. Green Street. While the above may seem like many changes, they are small in scale, thus enabling Courthouse Square to retain its original integrity of appearance, feeling and historical associations with the community.

Courthouse Square measures 101.7 feet on its north side, 114.8 feet on its east side, 101.4 feet on its south side and 120.2 feet on its west side. Four diagonal pathways composed of 10-inch by 20-inch marble pavers (local, Columbia marble) laid lengthwise begin at each of the four corners of Courthouse Square and terminate 8½ feet from a center circle that is 14 feet 6 inches in diameter. The space between where the pathways end and the 4-inch rounded concrete curb around the circle is a larger circle paved with the same material. Original plant materials in the circle died as trees in the four sections created by the pathways matured and reduced available sunlight. Various attempts over the years to successfully re-vegetate the circle have failed and today a few ferns and a rose bush are there.

A monument to the square's designer, County Supervisor Frank J. Ralph, is located on the north edge of the square. Mineral specimens collected by the public from throughout Tuolumne County compose most of the monument which has a marble plaque on its north face which reads:

"In Honor of Frank J. Ralph, Loyal Son of Old Tuolumne. Faithful public servant, ardent lover of nature, who designed and created this restful spot known as the Courthouse Square for the pleasure and enjoyment of future generations. Dedicated by the County of Tuolumne as a loving memorial to a worthy son. 1943."

The monument with pedestal on top for a potted plant was designed and made by Lewis A. Nesler whose name appears in the lower right corner of the Columbia marble plaque. Supervisor Ralph died in 1941 and this monument was erected and dedicated in October 1943.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Two original cast iron light poles on blocks of Columbia marble 22 inches square and 8 inches tall are near the circle in the center of the square and a tall, wooden original flagpole is also nearby. A water fountain of unknown design was centered along the east edge of Courthouse Square but repeated vandalism caused it to be replaced in the 1970s with a brick water fountain.

The four sections of the square created by the diagonal pathways feature green grass beneath trees selected by Supervisor Ralph and planted in 1936. The western section of the square has two London Plane trees (*Plantatus acerifolia*) next to the pathways in the north and south corners; a blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca') centered on the western side; an incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) near the circle. The northern section has two London plane trees at each corner, a Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) on each side of the Ralph monument and a Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) near the flagpole. On the eastern side are three London plane trees indented from the east edge, a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) near the circle and a Burkwood viburnum (*Viburnum burkwoodii*) left of center. On the southern side there are two London plane trees next to each end of the pathways, an Atlas or Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' or *Cedrus libani*) near the center of the south edge of this section and a giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) near the circle. Two xylosma tree shrubs flank the Atlas or Lebanon cedar. Original dwarf privet hedges (*Ligustrum ibolium* 'Variegata') line each side of all of the pathways in the square and are trimmed to about 3 feet in height. At the edge of all of the pathways is a 3-inch high rounded concrete curb. Original metal benches (6 feet long) and painted green are located midpoint along each pathway. The pathways end 8½ feet from the concrete curb of the circle. At that point the pathways (6'5" wide) meet marble pavers (24" by 26" by 12"-each of two edges) which circle around in several courses until they reach the circle's curb. In summary, four diagonal, original marble paved pathways begin at each of the square's corners, divide the square into four roughly equal compartments which are landscaped with London plane trees around the four edges of the park and evergreens closer to the circle. Some of the trees are native to Tuolumne County and were collected by Supervisor Ralph, the square's designer. All trees and shrubbery are original to the park; no trees have been removed or added. Sonora resident Louis Antonini was the mason who laid the marble pavers, and all marble pavers are original.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Summary Paragraph

The Tuolumne County Courthouse was listed in the National Register in 1981 at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of government, and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The periods of significance were 1875-1899, and 1900-1924. In 1981 the applicant for the Tuolumne County Courthouse was only interested in nominating the courthouse and had not considered nominating Courthouse Square. With this nomination, the applicant is increasing the boundary of the Tuolumne County Courthouse to include Courthouse Square, located across the street from the Courthouse in Sonora, Tuolumne County. Including Courthouse Square within the boundary also gives two additional periods of significance, 1936 and 1936-1956 (an arbitrary cut-off date), and two new areas of significance – landscape architecture and social history. The level of significance will remain the same as when the Courthouse was listed in 1981.

Statement of Significance

“In the United States, the public square traces its roots to early eighteenth century settlements along the east coast, but these typically did not contain courthouses. The courthouse square serves a number of purposes both past and present. In addition to being a showcase for memorials...the square serves as a gathering place for festivals, demonstrations, and commerce.”¹ County courthouses usually stand in, or face some special, designed open space.² The antecedents of Tuolumne County’s Courthouse Square can be found in many county seats. The courthouse square as a designed, public open space gives shape to the center of the county seat. The close proximity of the courthouse to the square demonstrates the square’s central role in the life of the county.

The first Tuolumne County Courthouse (1853) was located exactly where the current, National Register listed courthouse (1898) is located. However, when these buildings were constructed the block directly to the east (Courthouse Square site) was occupied. From 1853 until 1861 the elegant Placer Hotel occupied the northern half of the block and the Union Saloon occupied most of the southern portion. A fire in 1861 wiped out both buildings. A wooden social hall, Turn Verein Hall, was moved onto the former location of the Placer Hotel from another site and a two-story brick building rose where the Union Saloon had stood. The first mention in the Board of Supervisors’ minutes of County acquisition of the property for a park or “court house yard” occurred at the supervisors’ August 2, 1915 meeting, however, the Courthouse Square project languished for a number of years. The Board approved purchasing Turn Verein Hall, a small vacant parcel and the Union Saloon building, thus becoming the owner of the future Courthouse Square site. The Board sold the Turn Verein Hall for \$57 to an individual who tore it down. The tenants of the two-story brick building—the Union Saloon and the First National Bank—were asked to leave in

¹ Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, “About Courthouse Squares,” available online at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc/museum/virtual-tours/courthouse-squares.html>, accessed January 10, 2007.

² Edward T. Price, “The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat,” in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: University of George Press, 1986), 125.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Section number 8 Page 2

1917. In 1920 the local American Legion post received permission from the supervisors to build a wooden platform where Turn Verein Hall had stood for dances and other events. The platform was completed in time for the 1920 Fourth of July parade. Supervisors voted in 1921 to move the county history exhibit and the Agricultural Commissioner's office into the two-story building, also referred to as the Armory building because it was a meeting place of the Home Guard during the Civil War. These activities in the early 1920s began the site's association as a community gathering spot.

Supervisor Frank J. Ralph was elected to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors in 1920, representing the Sonora district. In 1932 he took charge of developing the site across the street from the courthouse as a public open space, the Courthouse Square. Supervisor Ralph first spearheaded construction of Veterans Memorial Hall to provide the veterans of The Great War a meeting place. The Veterans Hall is located directly across N. Washington Street from Courthouse Square and it took considerable local fundraising and a special tax to complete the project in 1932. County offices and the history exhibit were relocated to the Veterans Memorial Building, thus emptying the Armory building. With the latter building now vacant, the supervisors ordered the demolition of the 73-year-old brick building. Courthouse Square was then constructed to Supervisor Ralph's specifications—locally quarried Columbia marble for pavers (a detail he specified for Veterans Memorial Hall), trees, some of which he gathered locally, a wooden flagpole, two cast metal light fixtures, benches and a water fountain with chilled water. Following Supervisor Ralph's death in 1941 a monument to him was placed on the northern edge of the square. Built by Lewis A. Nesler from mineral specimens collected by the public from throughout Tuolumne County, the monument was dedicated in October 1943 in ceremonies conducted by Superior Judge J.T.B. Warne and attended by 200 people.

As a designed open public space Courthouse Square has been a natural and functional adjunct to the Tuolumne County Courthouse. Even though Tuolumne County's two courthouses (1853 and 1898) were built without a separate square or inside a square with surrounding parkland, the construction of Courthouse Square in 1936 added a designed open public space to the east of the 1898 building, which had minimal landscaping. Courthouse Square's location in historic downtown Sonora is only two blocks from the geographical center of the original townsite which was incorporated on May 1, 1851 and is the eleventh oldest incorporated city in California. The view from east to west from the square is the three-story, Roman pressed brick courthouse built on a knoll. At three stories it towers over the square. With the completion of Veterans Memorial Hall in 1932 and the location of county offices there, the square's design, with diagonal pathways, linked the courthouse and the hall. The town's legal community was located in offices primarily east of the courthouse so Courthouse Square was a convenient and shorter way to get to the superior court and such offices as county clerk, assessor, recorder and sheriff. With its diagonal, Columbia marble pathways, Courthouse Square was designed to enable the public to get from the courthouse and other buildings to N. Washington Street and vice versa. Its other main purposes were to provide a pleasant place to sit in the shade and pass the time, and visually complement the courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Section number 8 Page 3

Courthouse Square follows the Block Square type for courthouse squares. Using a block of the grid is the easiest type to lay out, and is the most frequently encountered, often with the courthouse being placed in the center of the square.³ Businesses and other civic buildings usually develop along the streets lining the square. The courthouse was a magnet that attracted many people and the placement of squares having a major corridor running along one side, as is the case of Tuolumne County. Since the square is bordered on the east by SR 49 (N. Washington Street), a Heritage Corridor as designated in California Public Resources Code §5077.6, Courthouse Square is a feature of that highway which links virtually all of California's Gold Rush counties from Mariposa to the south to Sierra in the north. SR 49 still connects virtually all of the major gold camps, now either ghost towns or living communities. The geometry of the square governs the access to the various stores and offices in their places around it. Their clustering or scattering guides the steps of those who seek their goods or services.

Courthouse Square evokes a feeling whether you are inside or outside its one square block space. If you are outside, you can easily enter and use a diagonal pathway to your destination or sit on a bench to rest or visit. The small bus shed on the south edge of the park (6' x 6' x 8' tall) is another resting place for people awaiting public transportation. And, if it is a hot day, the park is a welcome respite from the heat. The park is well-maintained by the County of Tuolumne's Facilities Management Department and many groups take advantage of the square's setting and neat appearance for events and activities. From the inside, Courthouse Square remains one square block where nature rules and provides pleasant relief from the city's hardscape such as buildings, concrete sidewalks, asphalt, rock walls and other typical urban components. Although the noise level is higher today because of increased traffic on SR 49, there is enough quiet in Courthouse Square to provide some escape from that aspect of city life.

The design of Courthouse Square is attributed to Supervisor Frank J. Ralph, but in examining its elements, it resembles a formal or geometric style with ancient roots in Europe. During America's Colonial period (1620-1775), public and private landscaped spaces followed a design that can best be described as formal, geometric and compartmentalized, design features that our colonial ancestors knew from their own lives, especially those from England and Holland. There was some relaxation of this austerity in design during Victorian times, but following the turn of the 20th century this formal division of spaces separated by shrubs or walls continued. Courthouse Square is unique in Tuolumne County and this region for its formal, stylized design.

Public landscapes are living entities, which the community utilizes and enjoys in the present and holds in trust for the future.⁴ "Courthouse squares bring together those who work there, those who come to do business, and those who come merely to visit...The square provides more room for socializing and a more attractive setting...And it belongs to everybody. Different sides of the square often became meeting places for different social groups."⁵ Since it was opened to the public in the Fall of 1936, Courthouse Square provided a shorter transition from the courthouse to offices and businesses on N. Washington

³ Price, "The Central Courthouse Square," 133.

⁴ Patricia Gebhard and Kathryn Masson, *The Santa Barbara County Courthouse* (Santa Barbara: Daniel & Daniel, 2001), 57.

⁵ Price, 140-141.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Street (SR 49), and was a place to sit on a bench to read or pass the time. Courthouse Square was a gathering place for the community where Tuolumne County residents serving during World War II were honored by the local community. In April 1943 during Easter Sunday rites, the "Tuolumne County Honor Roll" was dedicated. The large billboard measuring 16 feet high and 47 feet long was built by the Sonora Lions Club and placed along the eastern edge of the park facing N. Washington Street (SR 49) listed the names of 800 local residents serving in the armed forces at home and abroad were lettered on its face. As the war progressed, additional names were added and deaths were noted. Courthouse Square was likely chosen for this observance because it was located in the county seat of Sonora and was the city's only park. The billboard's size made it very visible to the many passersby, especially since Sonora was then the commercial, financial and social center of Tuolumne County. There was no place else in Tuolumne County with such visibility. Thus, with the Union Saloon being a gathering place for pro-Northern home guards, the American Legion having a platform built on the site in 1920 after World War I and placement of the World War II honor roll, three wars had touched this site, two of which were fought before Courthouse Square was built.

In the 1979 the first "Take Back the Night March" ended at Courthouse Square with speeches and a program addressing the issue of violence against women. The march continued for many years and always ended at Courthouse Square with a program. In the late 1990s a plaque was placed in the circle relating to this national issue. It measures 16" by 30", it is made of polished granite and lays flush with the ground. It reads: "VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE One of the Greatest Crimes of all—is to stand silent in the face of wrongdoing. Santayana"

In the early 1980s the Union Democrat newspaper (est. 1854) sponsored the first Pop Hudson Christmas Sing. The idea of two young reporters on the staff, Teresa Baggot and Diane Nelson, the Sing is a community gathering where Christmas carols are sung by audience members and organized groups which lead the singing while standing on the steps of the Courthouse. The Sing is a Courthouse Square tradition which continues. With its open space and focal point in the heart of historic downtown Sonora, Courthouse Square is a natural location for peace rallies. In 2003 over 400 people marched in an anti-Iraq War parade which ended at Courthouse Square. Numerous speakers urged an end to the fight while across the street, members of veterans groups, in front of Veterans Memorial Hall, voiced opposing sentiments. Additional anti-Iraq War programs have been held in the square and every Thursday night, starting about three years ago, the Tuolumne County Citizens for Peace conducts a one-hour vigil there. Courthouse Square is also the site of events put on by local merchants.

Courthouse Square is a designated historic landscape that retains its integrity, setting, feeling, design and association. It appears much like it did when completed in 1936 except the trees are more mature; the landscaping in the center waits refurbishing. Modern additions such as a small, wooden shelter on the southern side for people awaiting public transportation, three parking meter poles along the N. Green St. side, a stop sign and 2 parking signs (also along N. Green Street) have been installed after 1936, but Courthouse Square retains its integrity of appearance and feeling as well as its historical associations with the community. Its setting is almost identical to the day it was completed. The Tuolumne County Courthouse (1898) is across N. Green Street to the west, the Davidson Building (ca. 1926) is across W. Jackson Street to the south, the Veterans Memorial Hall (1932) and several Gold Rush-era brick buildings

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

with iron shutters are across N. Washington Street (SR 49) to the east and a plaster covered, brick Gold Rush building with iron shutters is across W. Yaney Avenue to the north. Two new county office buildings at 2 S. Green Street and 48 W. Yaney Avenue are visible from the square but they are far enough away not to intrude. All of these buildings are at the north end of Sonora's historic downtown business district which gained prominence in 1853 when the board of supervisors decided to locate the county's first courthouse there.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9__ Page 1__

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Major Bibliographic References

De Ferrari, Carlo M., "The Tuolumne County Courthouses," *Chispa* 39(1):1369-1376. 1999.

Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, eds., *Common places – Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*,
Geographical Review, January 1968.

Favretti, Rudy J. and Joy Putnam, *Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings*, 1978 (Nashville, American
Association for State and Local History).

Marovich, Sharon, "Courthouse Square, Sonora's First Park," *Chispa* 27(3):917-924. 1988.

The Banner, August 1, 1941.

Tuolumne County Assessor's Office, 2 S. Green St., Sonora, CA 95370.

Tuolumne Independent, July 31, 1941.

Interviews

Dambacher, Milton (Punny), November 29, 2006, Sonora, California.

De Ferrari, Carlo M., November 27, 2006, Sonora, California.

De Ferrari, Harriet B., November 27, 2006, Sonora, California.

Hardin, James R., November 27, 2006, Sonora, California.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Section number 10_ Page 1__

Verbal Boundary Description

Courthouse Square occupies a square block in downtown Sonora bounded by N. Washington St. (S.R. 49), W. Yaney Ave., N. Green St. and W. Jackson St. These have always been its boundaries. Its dimensions are:

N. Washington St.	114.8 feet
W. Yaney Ave.	101.7 feet
N. Green St.	120.2 feet
W. Jackson St.	101.4 feet

It is described in Tuolumne County Assessor's records as Lots 1 and 2 of Block 35; APN 001-180-01-00.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Courthouse Square.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation - Photographs

Photo Log

Page 1

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

The following is true for all photographs:

1. Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
2. Tuolumne County, CA
3. Sharon Marovich, Photographer
4. October 29, 2006
5. Tuolumne Heritage Committee, 24 S. Washington St., Sonora, CA 95370

<p><u>Photo #1:</u> View: North side of Courthouse Square, west to east.</p>
<p><u>Photo #2:</u> View: South side of Courthouse Square, east to west.</p>
<p><u>Photo #3:</u> View: East side of Courthouse Square, east to west.</p>
<p><u>Photo #4:</u> View: West side of Courthouse Square, west to northeast.</p>
<p><u>Photo #5:</u> View: Looking west from Courthouse Square to National Register Tuolumne County Courthouse.</p>
<p><u>Photo #6:</u> View: Looking east from Courthouse Square, camera pointing southeast.</p>
<p><u>Photo #7:</u> View: Looking north from Courthouse Square, camera pointing northeast.</p>
<p><u>Photo #8:</u> View: North side of Courthouse Square, west to east.</p>
<p><u>Photo #9:</u> View: Light standard on Columbia marble base, flagpole behind, camera pointing north.</p>
<p><u>Photo #10:</u> View: Close up of light standard base, with flagpole base behind.</p>
<p><u>Photo #11:</u> View: Columbia marble pavers of walkway from southeast to center</p>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation - Photographs

Photo Log

Page 2

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

circle.
<u>Photo #12:</u> View: Center circle with surrounding Columbia marble pavers, southeast to northwest.
<u>Photo #13:</u> View: Monument to Supervisor Frank J. Ralph, park designer, north to south.
<u>Photo #14:</u> View: Bench, southwest.
<u>Photo #15:</u> View: Fountain, east to west.
<u>Photo #16:</u> View: From center circle to southeast.
<u>Photo #17:</u> View: From center circle to northeast.
<u>Photo #18:</u> View: From center circle to southwest.
<u>Photo #19:</u> View: From center circle to northwest.
<u>Photo #20:</u> View: From northeast edge of property to southwest edge.
<u>Photo #21:</u> View: From northwest edge of property to southeast edge.
<u>Photo #22:</u> View: From southeast edge of property to northwest edge.
<u>Photo #23:</u> View: From southwest edge of property to northeast edge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation - Photographs

Photo Log

Page 3

Tuolumne County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)
Tuolumne County, California

Historic Photographs were taken from the Tuolumne County Museum, Sonora, Tuolumne County, CA

Photo #24 (historic):

Courthouse Square, Tuolumne County, California.

Date: 1936

Location of original: Tuolumne County Museum
158 W. Bradford Ave.
P. O. Box 299
Sonora, CA 95370

View: East to west view with Tuolumne County Courthouse.

Topic: Courthouse Square under construction.

Photo #25 (historic):

Courthouse Square, Tuolumne County, California.

Date: 1943-1945

Location of original: Tuolumne County Museum
158 W. Bradford Ave.
P. O. Box 299
Sonora, CA 95370

View: Southeast to northwest view.

Topic: Courthouse Square with Tuolumne County Honor Roll and
Tuolumne County Courthouse.

Photo #26 (historic):

Courthouse Square, Tuolumne County, California.

Date: 1943-1945

Location of original: Tuolumne County Museum
158 W. Bradford Ave.
P. O. Box 299
Sonora, CA 95370

View: East to west view.

Topic: Wartime observance at Courthouse Square.