

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

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

DRAFT

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Georgetown Civil War Armory

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 6259 Main Street

City or town: Georgetown State: California County: El Dorado

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A      \_\_\_ B      \_\_\_ C      \_\_\_ D

<p>_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p>_____ <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p>_____ <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____ <b>Title :</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span></p>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE: arms storage

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

brick walls, corrugated metal roof, concrete foundation

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The 1862 Georgetown Civil War Armory (Armory) building is located within a 0.07-acre parcel on the west side of Main Street in Georgetown, El Dorado County. The Armory was designed in a style popular during the mid-nineteenth century Gold Rush era, and constructed with local materials. The simple design encompasses elements of Greek Revival architectural details that include a symmetrical façade, front gabled roof, a gabled pediment with a wide band of decorative trim, and a recessed entry way. The Armory is a one and one-half story building with a rectangular plan that is constructed of brick along the north, east and west elevations. The south elevation is constructed of vertical cement board. The primary façade consists of a recessed front entry with double doors and a paired transom window flanked by two vertical, eight-light windows on each side. The double doors and windows are each fitted with iron doors. There is a shed addition and covered porch along the rear elevation that was likely added in the early 1940s, and appears to have replaced an older, smaller rear addition (Sanborn 1891). Overall, the Armory is in good condition and retains all aspects of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

The Armory is situated on a gently sloping parcel that contains sparse grasses and several oak trees. The parcel is encompassed by a fence that is constructed of wire mesh and wooden posts

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along the west, north, and south property lines, and modern decorative metal along the east property line. It is bound on the east by Main Street, on the west by Church Street, on the south by a vacant lot, and on the north by a circa 1852 masonry building and a wood-framed barn. The masonry building, situated approximately 60 feet north of the Armory, was originally the location of the Wells Fargo Bank and Stage Stop. Located approximately 150 feet southeast of the Armory is the 1859 Balsar House/I.O.O.F Hall, and directly across Main Street east of the Armory is the 1896 American Hotel.

## **Exterior**

### **East Elevation (Primary Façade)**

The east elevation of the Armory consists of a one and one-half story, front-gabled, symmetrically planned façade. The roof is steeply pitched and clad in corrugated metal over wood framed construction. The gabled pediment is clad in wood shiplap and includes a wide, decorative frieze. The pediment was originally triangularly framed, and the bottom trim is missing. The shiplap within the pediment still conveys the original feel of the triangular design. Below the pediment is solid red brick laid out in regular courses. The brick includes details such as decorative flat arches placed over the windows and along the front entry. The mortar consists of both the original and repointed mortar. The original mortar is grey and likely composed of sand and lime. There are areas along the east elevation that have been repointed. The colors within these areas vary slightly from the original grey mortar, and the differences are subtle from the street view.

Along the east elevation there is a recessed, centered front entry that consists of a wood double doors and a paired transom window. The double doors consist of two wood panels along the lower half and four divided-light windows along the upper half. There is a decorative flat arched brick header located above the exterior main entry laid out in a soldier pattern. The recessed entry floor is covered in thin sheet metal likely original to the building. The metal is showing signs of oxidation and rusting due to exposure, and is in fair condition. The entry is fitted with iron doors that measure approximately 12 feet in height and are original to the building. The iron doors are set within the recessed entry, in front of the wood double doors. The iron doors are a bi-folding design and each door consists of ten vertical panels that are divided by metal bars.

There are two fixed, eight-light wood windows along the east elevation that are not original to the building, having replaced two fixed, six-light windows around 1940. The wood windows are an appropriate replacement and are consistent with the building's architectural style. The window casings and trim detail are in good condition and both of the fixed windows are in good to fair condition. Along the bottom of the window to the right of the door there is a single glass pane covered with plastic and the window is bowing slightly. Both windows are fitted with iron shutters that were originally located along the exterior of the windows, and at some point the windows were positioned in front of the iron shutters. The shutters are a bi-folding design and each of the iron doors consists of ten vertical panels that are divided by metal bars. These shutters are identical to the iron doors along the entryway. Above each window is a decorative brick flat arch header laid out in a soldier pattern, and below each of the windows is a wood

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windowsill and decorative horizontal v-notched shiplap. A public utility meter has been affixed to the east elevation at the southeast corner of the brick wall and painted red to blend with the brick. Also along this elevation there is a bronze marker that is situated below and in front of the window that is closest to the northeast corner of the building. The marker was dedicated on August 28, 1976 by the Growlersburg Chapter 86, E. Clampus Vitus in honor of the Georgetown Home Guard.

### **South Elevation**

The south elevation consists of cement board siding, three windows, and a raised perimeter foundation. Two of the three windows are positioned along the original south elevation of the building, and one window is located within the shed addition, visible from the south elevation. Along the principal south elevation the windows are placed in an asymmetrical pattern. One window is centered and one is located along the lower section of the façade. The centered window is rectangular in shape and consists of an aluminum sliding window, a wood lintel, and a wood sill. The lintel extends beyond the window that is set in a recessed opening that measures approximately 4 inches deep. The lintel appears to have been repaired at some point, as it is constructed of two pieces of wood, instead of one continuous piece.

The lower positioned window is a smaller rectangular shape and consists of a single-hung wood window placed within the recessed opening that measures approximately 4 inches deep. There is a window mounted air conditioning unit within the lower sash of the window. The air conditioning unit is mounted along the exterior with metal brackets and is secured in place with plywood that frames the unit allowing the lower sash to remain open. There is a rear addition that is visible along the south elevation that is constructed of horizontal v-notch siding, and a small slider window that is framed in 3 inch casing. The addition appears to be pulling away from the original west elevation at the top of the shed roofline.

### **North Elevation**

The north elevation consists of exposed brick laid out in regular courses. The mortar along this elevation is concave with very little evidence of repointing. The mortar joints are showing signs of deterioration and some of the bricks are chipped and cracked. There is a section of brick wall along the lower portion of the north elevation that has been replaced with what appears to be a sand mixture. Also within this section are at least two cement boards as well as what might be a steel I-beam. Both the cement boards and I-beam were likely incorporated for structural support. There is a concrete perimeter foundation present along the north elevation, and due to the west sloping parcel, the exposed perimeter foundation increases in height near the northwest corner of the building. There is an aluminum exhaust pipe, added sometime after 2005, located near the center of the northwest corner of the north façade. The pipe has been vented directly out of the brick wall, although there is little damage to the brick. Overall the north elevation is in good to fair condition.

### **West Elevation**

The west elevation is constructed of exposed brick with a board and batten gabled pediment. There is a small door with a vent centered within the pediment that allows exterior access to the

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attic. There is a one-story; half-width shed addition and a covered porch that extends to the northwest corner of the elevation. The addition is raised approximately 3 feet from the ground level due to the sloped landscape, and is supported by a post and pier foundation. The addition is constructed of v-notched horizontal siding that is good to fair condition. The roof of the addition consists of exposed rafters and is covered with corrugated metal. There are two paired horizontal sliding windows within the shed addition. The windows are aluminum and are surrounded by wood casings. There is one vertical window located within the covered porch along the brick wall that appears to be original to the 1862 construction, as the brick soldier headers are present. The window opening has been modified slightly, as the window is framed below the original arched brick header. The single-hung wood window was likely modified circa 1940. There is a door along the shed addition that faces north and leads out to the covered porch. The door is not historic and was likely changed in the 1990s. There are simple wood porch railings and supports that were likely constructed in the 1940s. There is corrugated metal, wood, and lattice attached to areas along the porch railings that allow for privacy. There are stairs with handrails that are shaped at each end and lead to a small concrete landing. The shed and porch additions are in good to fair condition.

### **Interior**

The interior space is primarily one large room with a framed archway in the center that divides the space. The front room consists of the original wood floors with square-cut nails. Near the center of the building a portion of the floor has been tiled over. It is likely the original wood floors are underneath as the thickness of the floor is slightly raised in this area. A small framed bathroom within the front room was added in 2005. There are two bathrooms in the building, as well as an enclosed room located within the shed addition. The other bathroom is located at the rear of the building. It was likely added when the building served as a church, although the original fixtures and details have been replaced. The original five-paneled wood door that leads to the rear bathroom includes an original metal doorplate and doorknob. The interior walls of the building are a mixture of exposed vertical v-notch wood, and wood paneling likely added after 1881. There is a dropped ceiling, and original wide, wood trim along the baseboards in some areas of the interior. Overall the interior of the building is in good to fair condition.

### **Alterations**

Several fires affected the Armory since it was constructed in 1862. The Armory was first damaged during the Georgetown fire of 1869. During this fire it appears the south elevation may have been damaged, and this could be the reason for the change in material along the south façade. A historic photograph from circa 1881 and the 1891 Sanborn fire insurance map indicate that the south façade was constructed of weatherboard. Although there is no information that details the damage the building suffered from the fire of 1869, it is highly unlikely that the building was originally constructed of brick along only three elevations and weatherboard along another elevation, as similar brick construction during this time in the Gold Country does not support this idea. A second fire affected the Armory in 1939. This fire could be the reason for the replacement of the weatherboard along the south elevation with cement board. Also after the

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1939 fire it appears that other changes occurred including new windows along the east and west elevations. Although there is no documentation regarding the extent of the 1939 fire, the changes to the building during this period appear consistent with the material available at that time.

Other alterations that occurred to the Armory building were likely the result of a change in use. It is likely that sometime between 1881 and 1923 that the iron shutters were placed behind the primary façade windows during the time the building was used as a church. This would have allowed for a more inviting church-like atmosphere. Other changes that occurred to the building are associated with the shed and porch additions along the west elevation. Per the 1891 Sanborn map, a shed addition was present. Alterations such as aluminum slider windows, a covered porch, and porch railings and stairs were likely added circa 1940. These minor alterations at the rear of the building do not adversely affect its integrity.

### **Integrity**

The Georgetown Armory retains all seven aspects of integrity. The building has not been moved, and therefore the property retains integrity of location. The building has changed relatively little since it was constructed in 1862. The historically important elements of the building's construction such as the brick façade, the form, and the iron doors and shutters remain, and therefore the property has integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Change to the physical environment surrounding the property has been minimal and the setting of Georgetown continues to reflect the community's small-town mining character with one main street and brick buildings with false front façades that line the downtown. The isolated hilltop location of Georgetown made it difficult for industries other than mining to operate in the region. This challenging location has helped retain the integrity of the surrounding physical environment that has not been developed much beyond what it was during the Gold Rush Era. Therefore, the property has integrity of setting. The property has integrity of both feeling and association because its appearance and setting evokes the aesthetic and historic sense of the period of significance, particularly the iron doors and shutters. The Armory is an excellent example of building style during the Gold Rush in El Dorado County. Although no longer in use as an armory, the building clearly conveys all aspects of its historic significance.



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## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1862 to 1868

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1862

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Georgetown Civil War Armory is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Military and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Armory was associated with militia/military events that occurred during the California Gold Rush and American Civil War, and its design embodies vernacular California Gold Rush era brick construction with Greek Revival elements popular in the California Mother Lode during the 1850s and early 1860s. The period of significance is 1862 to 1868, the period the building was utilized for militia purposes.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Armory was built by public subscription in 1862 for an unattached militia company called the Georgetown Blues. An unattached militia refers to a volunteer unit of infantry raised for the defense of a local region. The Georgetown Blues militia was formed to protect the gold country community and businesses from crime associated with gold and mail robberies, as well as potential intrusion from the Confederates during the Civil War. The Armory served as the headquarters for the Georgetown Blues from 1862 until 1863 and then the building was formally attached to the official Georgetown Union Guard, Company A, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade that was formed in April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863. The Georgetown Union Guard used the Armory through June 9, 1868. The Georgetown Blues were a local defense force, while the Georgetown Union Guard was an official guard of California. The dominant front gable brick building with a recessed doorway, simple flat arches that are laid out in a soldier pattern above the front windows and doors, and the iron doors and shutters are all reflective of a period in California Gold Rush era architectural style that is unique to the region and was constructed to serve a function to protect the local community. The Armory is also the oldest brick building in Georgetown and the only extant armory building in El Dorado County.

## History

The Armory was constructed in a simple, regional architectural style, using local materials in a design that includes elements of the Greek Revival style that was popular during the Gold Rush era. The design is ubiquitous in the California Mother Lode during the 1850s and early 1860s, and the building served a unique function during the Gold Rush. Used as an armory from 1862 until 1868, the building was a place where the local men of the Georgetown Blues and later the Georgetown Union Guard marched and trained for battle, stored arms and uniforms for officers and men, and held meetings to serve and protect the community and the Union during the Civil War. The Armory builder and architect are unknown, which is typical of most brick commercial buildings in the California Mother Lode during this period. The building was vacant for about a decade after the Civil War ended. Since the 1880s it has served many other local uses.

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### **Criterion A: Gold Rush and Civil War History**

On January 24, 1848 James Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill, located approximately 10 miles south of present day Georgetown. The discovery sparked gold fever and soon men from all over the U.S. and abroad sought their fortune in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains where small mining camps soon sprang up. Located at the northern end of the Mother Lode, Georgetown played a significant role during the California Gold Rush. The area around Georgetown was first explored for gold in 1848 by a group of Oregon miners under the leadership of William Hudson (Sioli 1883; Rambeau 2010). The Hudson group worked primarily in two areas, Oregon Canyon and Hudson Canyon, situated approximately 1.2 miles north/northwest of present day Georgetown. Hudson and his team struck it rich in the summer of 1848, and returned to Oregon that same year with a large haul of gold.

In 1849, George Phipps arrived in the area around Georgetown. Originally from New York and a sailor by trade, Phipps set-up the first permanent mining camp that became known as "George's town," also nicknamed "Growlersburg" by the miners because of the sound that the heavy nuggets that "growled" in the miners' pans (Sioli 1883). By 1850, George Ehrenhaft had arrived in the area. Ehrenhaft is credited as the founder of Georgetown because he organized and laid out the town's Main Street that measured 100 feet wide, with 60-foot wide side streets (Davis 1976). Although Ehrenhaft is credited for founding Georgetown, it is not certain if Georgetown was named after George Phipps who set-up the first permanent mining operations in the area, or George Ehrenhaft who laid out town (Durham 1998). In 1850, Georgetown, for the most part, was still full of mining tents and shacks. The town was rapidly expanding in its effort to support the mining industry. In 1850 the Georgetown Cutoff road was opened that created a much-needed route from Georgetown to Sacramento. Georgetown Cutoff helped spur the growth of the town that included the construction of hotels, saloons, stores, and a school.

During this time, Georgetown was a thriving community. As the population of miners increased the area still required the support of the nearby town of Placerville. Known as Hangtown during this time, Placerville served as the supply center for El Dorado County and supported many small settlements (Kyle 1932). By 1851 the Georgetown Post Office was formed. In 1852, a fire, accidentally started by a visiting photographer who was documenting the gold miners, devastated the small mining town. In less than one-half hour the fire destroyed nearly the entire town (Sioli 1883). Residents were quick to rebuild Georgetown, and they decided to move the town just north of the original town site to the top of a hill surrounded by sugar pine trees.

Although Georgetown was still a rough place to live and was one of several lawless mining towns in the region, after the fire the local miners and those from many nearby mining camps came to Georgetown and donated their time and labor to clear the way for the new town site at the top of the hill. Georgetown was soon rebuilt and was again a thriving mining town. In 1853, the first church was built and by 1855 the town included general stores, banks, blacksmith shops, livery stables, saloons, hotels, carpenter shops, meat markets, and many other businesses. Social organizations such as E. Clampus Vitus, Odd Fellows, and Masons were also a part the growing community (Sioli 1883). As the town continued to prosper, criminal activity such as robberies

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and burglaries increased. During this time Georgetown was a stop on the main Overland Mail Route and was a target for frequent mail robberies, which eventually prompted Wells Fargo & Co. to discontinue service through Georgetown, as local officials were not able to bring the criminals to justice (Sioli 1883). This was also during the American Civil War (1861-1865) and California was viewed as a valuable asset to the Union due to its rich gold deposits. As a result, many towns formed state militias to help protect communities and businesses. In 1859, an elected military company known as the Georgetown Blues was formed to help preserve law and order in Georgetown.

### ***Georgetown Militia History***

For most of America's military history, from the Colonial period until the early twentieth century, a state lead militia of citizen soldiers formed the foundation of local armies. After California became a state in 1850, Article VII of the first California Constitution gave the Governor the power "to call for the militia, to execute the laws of the State, to suppress insurrections, and repel invasions" (Constitution of the State of California 1849). The Article resulted in some of the first militias in California. Then with the onset of the Civil War, state and federal funding increased and many new militias were formed. During the Civil War, California had over 17,000 volunteers in the state militia (California Military Museum).

The Georgetown Blues were first formed in 1859, prior to the start of the Civil War. The Georgetown Blues were initially formed to help protect one of the richest mining districts in the state from a plague of stagecoach robberies and criminal activity related to the thriving gold mining industry in the Mother Lode (Works Progress Administration 1940). However, the role of the Georgetown Blues militia soon developed into an official state militia organized to support the Union during the Civil War. Leading up to and during the Civil War, California, with its rich gold resources, was viewed as an important asset to both the Union and the Confederacy. Military leaders on both sides were well aware of the importance of gold in California to help fight their cause during the Civil War. Some of the Civil War's most important figures were stationed in California prior to the war including General William Sherman (Civil War Trust). Before California's statehood, in June of 1848 General Sherman accompanied his commander, military governor Colonel Richard Barnes Mason, during an inspection to confirm the presence of gold along the American River (Civil War Trust).

Once the Civil War began in 1861, the Confederacy soon started viewing southern California as a potential Confederate state, which would give the rebels access to some of California's gold as well as control over major ports and roads. On April 25, 1863, as ordered by El Dorado County Judge James Johnson, the Georgetown Union Guard was mustered in as Company A, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade. The official order saw sixty-two men offer their service to the militia. The Georgetown Union Guard received their arms and equipment the following September and the men began their official training at Camp Kibbe, in Yolo County in September of 1863 (*Sacramento Daily Union*, 21 September 1863). The Georgetown Union Guard served the state until June 9, 1868, when it was mustered out of service pursuant of Order No. 32 (Works Progress Administration 1940). At that time all arms and accoutrements were

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removed from the Armory building on Main Street in Georgetown and returned to the state arsenal.

### **Criterion C: Gold Rush Era Architecture**

The Armory embodies the brick architectural style popular in the region during the Gold Rush Era. According to Harold Kirker, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus University of California Santa Barbara, "The Gold Rush is the single most significant factor in the development of California Architecture" (Kirker 1959). This distinctive style, which often consisted of Greek Revival elements, arose in part out of a response to the danger and devastation associated with wood buildings that burned quickly during fires that were common in the Gold Rush era (Kirker 1959). The settlers seeking their fortune in gold first created mining camps that were constructed of canvas and frame shelters. There were open flame fires for heat, cooking, and illumination and that often destroyed entire camps. In 1852, Georgetown was destroyed by fire, as well as nearby Placerville in 1856 (Jenkins 1949). When the Armory was constructed in 1862, brick was a practical choice. Because the building served an official local government function, brick was also a material that conveyed a status. Since brick was not cheap, the material carried a considerable amount of prestige and it was often utilized on the façades and government buildings in towns throughout the Mother Lode.

According to the *Geologic Guidebook Along Highway 49, Sierran Gold Belt: The Mother Lode Country Bulletin 141*, 1948,

One of the most important structural materials in use in the Mother Lode region was brick. It was used throughout the area in the chimneys and fireplaces of wooden buildings, and to frame the doorways and windows of buildings whose walls were of rough stone. A few towns, located where good brickmaking lateritic clays were available, were the centers of the brick industry. In particular, Columbia, Grass Valley, Georgetown, and North San Juan are noteworthy as places in which brick is virtually the only fireproof building material employed.

During the Gold Rush it is estimated that buildings often included elements such as iron doors and shutters that are reflective of a unique architecture in the region. Such elements are present on the Georgetown Armory. The iron doors and shutters are utilitarian in design and reflect a period in California history when establishments were erected almost overnight in response to the mining booms and their attendant commercial, educational, social, and military needs.

### **Greek Revival Architecture**

Greek Revival architecture began in New England in the early nineteenth century and through the mid-nineteenth century the style was popular throughout the United States. Some of the earliest examples of the style appeared in Philadelphia, where it was especially common in the construction of government buildings. In the South, the style was popular on large homes that were often made of brick with full-façade porches. The discovery of gold in California soon

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brought the style west and Greek Revival architecture began to appear in the growing boomtowns and mining camps such as Georgetown. Greek Revival style is defined by symmetry and order with features that often include wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice line and porticos, and elaborate doorways. The Georgetown Armory includes Greek Revival features such as brick construction, symmetry, a recessed doorway, and decorative detail such as simple flat arches that are laid out in a soldier pattern above the front windows and doors. By 1860, the Greek Revival style began to fade away (Talbot 1944; McAlester 2009).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

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Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: California Historical Resources Information System  
North Central Information Center; El Dorado County Assessor's  
Office; El Dorado County Historical Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.906072

Longitude: -120.839745

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The parcel is situated within the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 10 of T12N, R10E, Mt. Diablo base and Meridian. in subdivision tract 996 of the original Georgetown town site within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 061-343-06. The Armory building is situated within a 0.07-acre parcel bounded by Main Street on the east, Church Street on the west, a vacant lot on the south, and a circa 1852 masonry building and a wood-framed barn on the north.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

APN 061-343-06 is historically associated with the property.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stacey De Shazo, M.A., Principal Architectural Historian

organization: Evans & De Shazo, LLC

street & number: 118 W. Hills Circle

city or town: Sebastopol state: CA zip code: 95472

e-mail: [stacey@evans-deshazo.com](mailto:stacey@evans-deshazo.com)

telephone: (971) 344-2826

date: May 2016; Revised May 2017

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Georgetown Civil War Armory  
City or Vicinity: Georgetown  
County: El Dorado  
State: California  
Photographer: Stacey De Shazo  
Date Photographed: April 14, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 15 East elevation, primary façade, camera facing northwest
- 2 of 15 East elevation, eight-light window on primary façade, camera facing southwest
- 3 of 15 East elevation, wood clad gable and brick primary façade, camera facing west
- 4 of 15 South elevation, camera facing north
- 5 of 15 South elevation, shed roof addition, camera facing northwest
- 6 of 15 North elevation, camera facing east
- 7 of 15 North elevation, west elevation porch addition, camera facing east
- 8 of 15 West elevation, shed addition, camera facing south

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- 9 of 15 West elevation, rear gabled roof and access door, camera facing east
- 10 of 15 West elevation, modified original window opening, camera facing east
- 11 of 15 Interior wood floor, metal plate within the windows, and metal window doors
- 12 of 15 Interior, camera facing east towards to primary front entrance
- 13 of 15 Interior of shed addition showing original double-hung wood window
- 14 of 15 Landscape, facing west from west elevation porch addition
- 15 of 15 Primary façade showing metal front entry plat, metal doors, and wood doors

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Figure 1. Location Map**

Latitude: 38.906072

Longitude: -120.839745

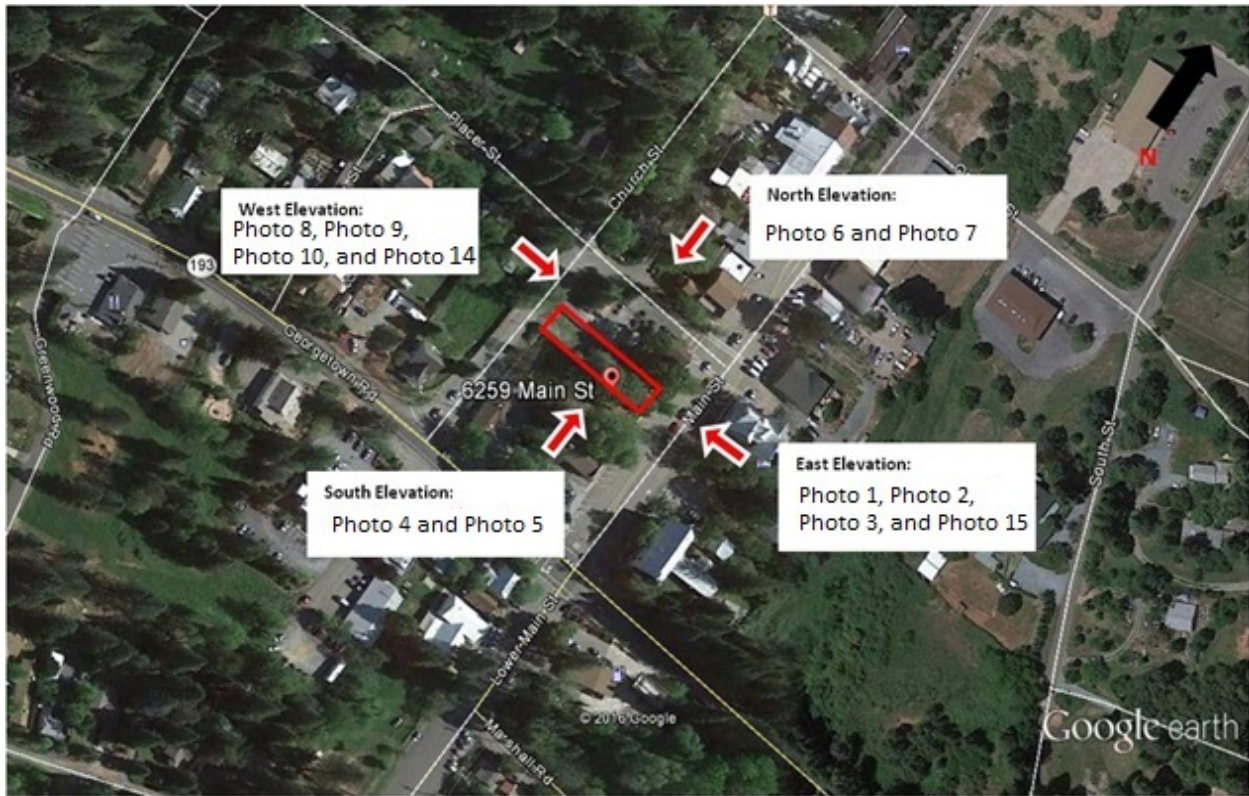




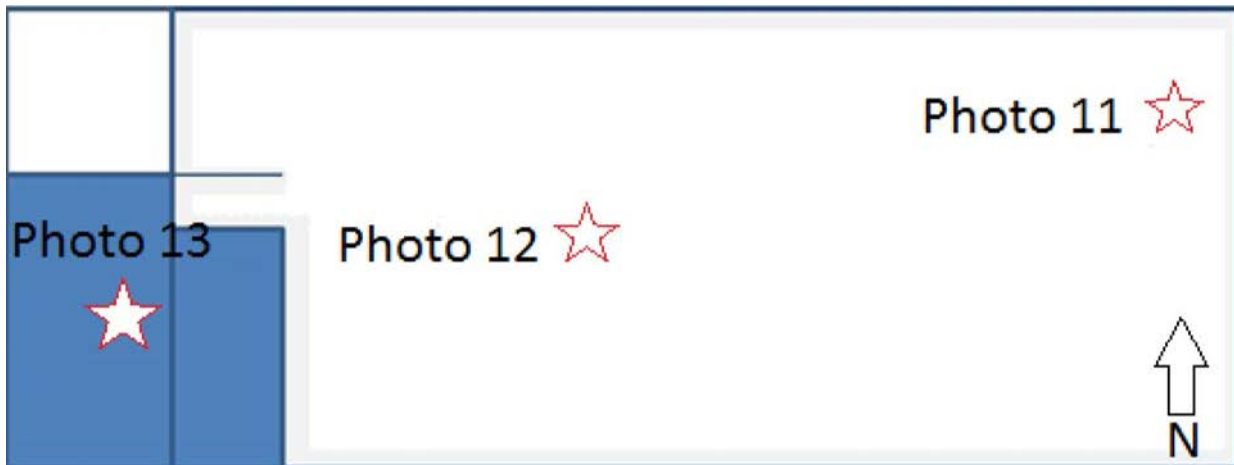
Georgetown Civil War Armory  
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**Figure 2. Sketch Map/Photo Key (Exterior)**



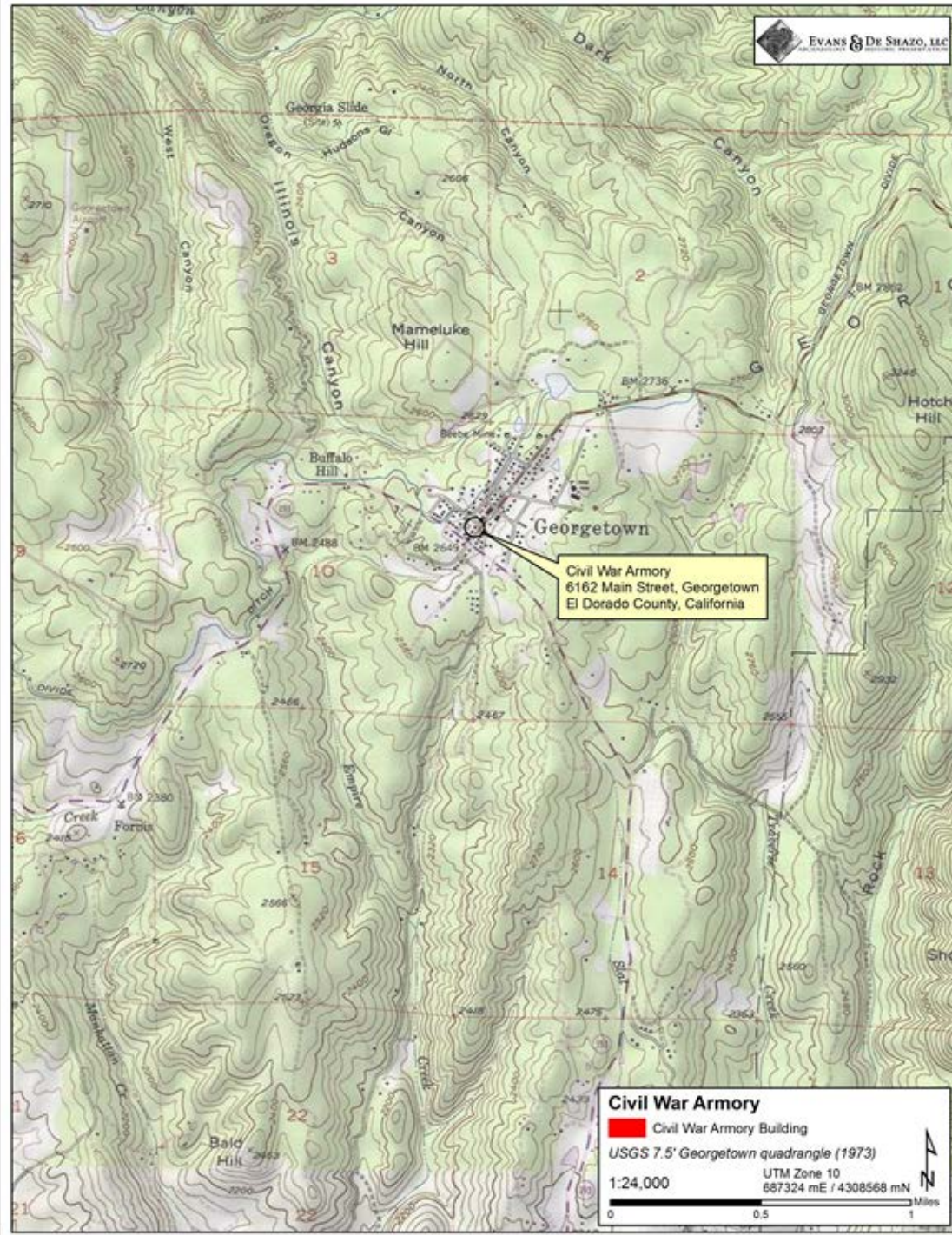
**Figure 3. Photo Key (Interior)**



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Figure 4. USGS 7.5' Georgetown Quadrangle Map

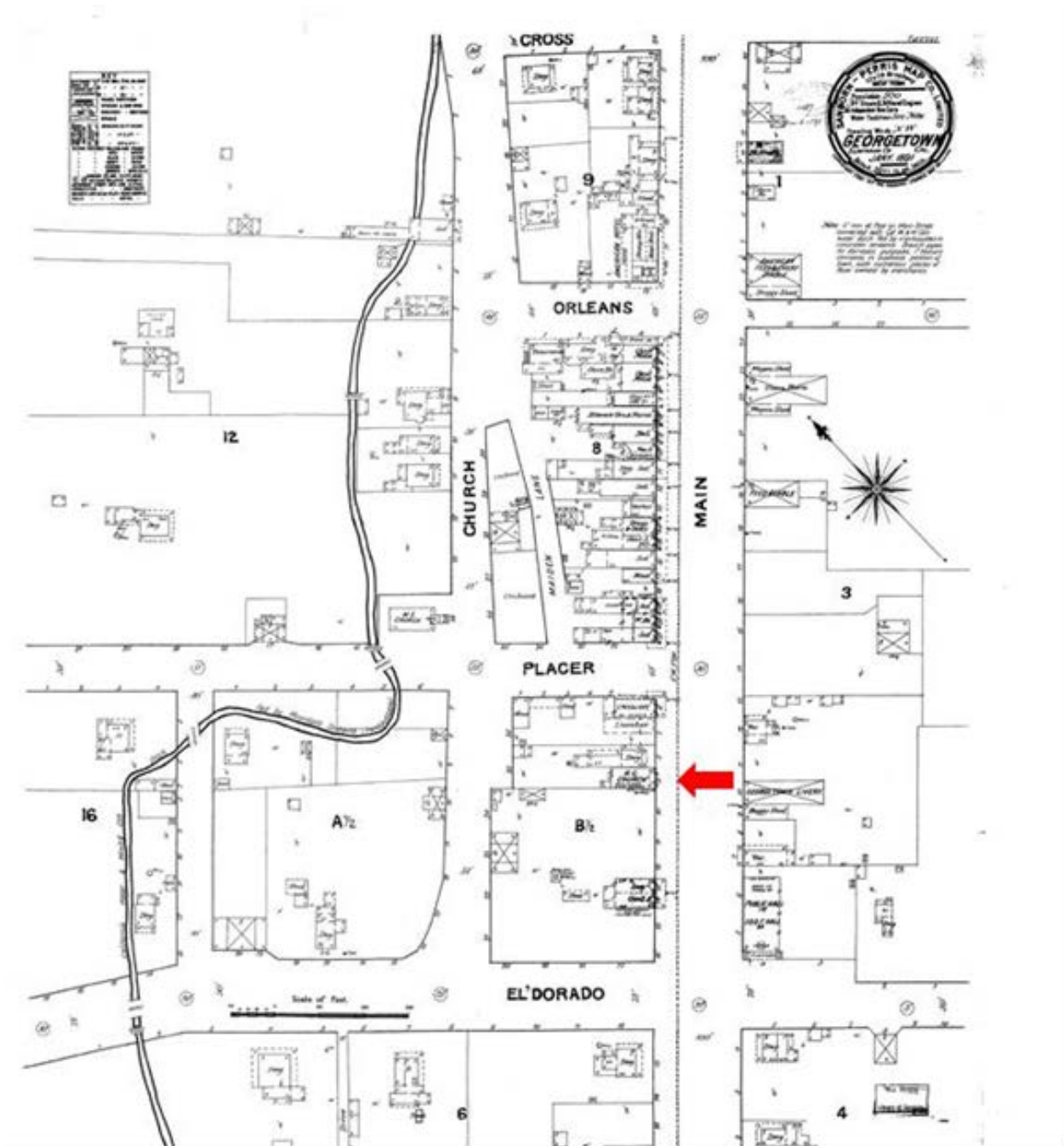




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Figure 5. Georgetown Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1891





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Figure 6. *Sacramento Union* Article, 21 September 1863, Fourth Brigade Encampment

Placerville City Guards, El Dorado—16 men, and several more expected in a day or two. Captain, J. J. Green; First Lieutenant, J. B. Hoop; Second Lieutenant, John F. Pechlan, G. W. Ray (absent). Uniform, light blue blouse and regulation caps. (United and attached with Baker Guards.)

Georgetown (El Dorado) Union Guards—31 musketeers. Captain, Aaron Bell; First Lieutenant, Geo. Hussey; Second Lieutenant, F. L. Smith, Chas. Buttrick. No uniform yet. Regulation caps expected by Wednesday next, when the company will wear blue shirts and black pants.

Woodland Guards, Yolo—45 guns. Captain, C. W. Lewis; First Lieutenant, M. D. Eaton; Second Lieutenant, Charles Gillett and W. R. Emery. Uniform, regulation caps and blue blouse. (Attached to First Battalion.)

Grass Valley Union Guards—27 guns, and more men coming. Captain, E. W. Roberts; First Lieutenant, James H. Wilson; Second Lieutenant, Charles Moore and J. J. Doby. Uniform, dark blue blouse, etc. (Attached to First Battalion.)

Nevada Light Guard—45 guns. Captain, N. W. Knowlton; First Lieutenant, W. S. Harrison; Second Lieutenant, Wm. H. Davidson and C. C. Leavelle. Uniform, regulation cap, dark blouse and pants.

Forest City Rifles—22 men. Captain, R. A. Lyman; First Lieutenant, Joseph Evans (absent); Second Lieutenant, Henry C. George and Henry Spaulding. Uniform, regulation caps and gray shirts. (Attached to First Battalion.)

Natural Guard, Downsville—26 men. Captain, John W. Huber (absent); First Lieutenant, William Wilbur, commanding; Second Lieutenant, Charles Burton and Abner Littlefield. Uniform, regulation caps, gray shirts, no trimmings, and dark pants. (Attached to First Battalion.)

Union Cavalry, of Yolo county—53 men and horses. Captain, Ellis Petersen; First Lieutenant, James Edgar; Second Lieutenant, J. V. Lewis and C. W. Pedler. Uniform, regulation cap and blouse. This is the oldest company in Yolo county, having been formed a few days before the passage of the Mills Bill.

Sacramento Hussars—18 men. Captain, Maron (reassigned); First Lieutenant, Steudeman commanding; Second Lieutenant, F. Eboer (absent) and A. Heilbron. Uniform, dachling and gray, but a fatigue suit worn while in camp.

There are two or three other companies belonging to the brigade, quite recently organized, which are not expected to be present.

The companies all arrived in camp Saturday afternoon, but no parade or military movements were undertaken except posting a guard at night and issuing rations, the latter business being transacted in so irregular and unsatisfactory a manner, owing to want of previous arrangements, that some of the tired and hungry soldiers christened the encampment "Camp Confusion." Some of the companies were only able to make coffee late in the evening, and were obliged to put up with no dinner, and no other supper than a quantity of bread, some of which was stale and sour. These uncalled for hardships will undoubtedly be avoided hereafter. Yesterday there were two dress parades, morning and evening, and guard-mounting in the morning. All things considered, the parades were creditably executed. The evening parade was witnessed by several hundreds of our citizens, many of whom were ladies. The brigade very much needs some good music, but this defect will be supplied after to-day, as a good band has been engaged in San Francisco, to come up on this evening's boat.

During yesterday General Collins issued the following orders, the first of which was read at the morning parade and the second at sunset:

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH BRIGADE, C. M.,  
General Order No. 1, September 19, 1863.

I. In all orders, official communications and documents, this encampment will be designated as Camp Kibbe.

II. The daily duties will be divided as follows:

- First—Reveille, 5:30 a. m.
- Second—Roll call, 6 a. m.
- Third—Surgeon, 6:15 a. m.
- Fourth—Company drill, 6:45 a. m.
- Fifth—Recall from drill, 7:15 a. m.
- Sixth—Breakfast, 7:30 a. m.
- Seventh—Dress parade, 8:30 a. m.
- Eighth—Guard mounting immediately after.
- Ninth—Company drill, 10 a. m.
- Tenth—Recall from drill, 12 m.
- Eleventh—Dinner call, 12:30 p. m.
- Twelfth—Orderly call, 1:30 p. m.
- Thirteenth—Police call, 2:30 p. m.
- Fourteenth—Company drill, 3 p. m.
- Fifteenth—Recall from drill, 4 p. m.
- Sixteenth—Fatigue call, 4:30 p. m.
- Seventeenth—Dress parade, 5:30 p. m.
- Eighteenth—Supper, 6:15 p. m.
- Nineteenth—Tattoo, 9 p. m.
- Twentieth—Taps, 9:50 p. m.

III. The General, on assuming command, embraces the earliest opportunity to impress upon the minds of the officers and soldiers the great importance of strict subordination and cheerful obedience to every lawful order and regulation of the camp, as the surest means of rendering the command respectable and efficient.

By order of the General commanding,  
THOS. BUCKLEY, Acting Ass. Adj. Gen.

Second Paragraph text from article:

*"Georgetown (El Dorado) Union Guards - 31 muskets. Captain Aaron Bell; First lieutenant Geo. Hussey; Second Lieutenants, E.L.Smith, Chas. Buttrick, No uniform yet. Regulation caps expected by Wednesday next, when the company will wear blue shirts and black pants."*

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**Figure 7. *Sacramento Daily Union*, Volume 35, Number 5372, 15 June 1868, Georgetown Union Guard is mustered out of service**

RETURNED.—Major W. A. Anderson, mustering and inspecting officer of the Fourth Brigade, N. G., returned yesterday from a tour of inspection, reports that he has mustered out of the State service and taken charge of the arms and equipments of the following named companies: Jackson Guard and Volcano Blues, Fourth Regiment, located in Amador county; Georgetown Union Guard, Fourth Regiment, El Dorado county; Auburn Grays and Pacific Guard, Fifth Regiment, Placer county; National Guard (unattached), Downieville, Sierra county. He also had orders to muster out the Howell Zouaves, in Nevada county, but these were countermanded and the company retained. The State property in possession of the several companies is reported in good condition. All the companies felt badly about giving up their organization, and in several instances formed independent organizations.

**Figure 8. Georgetown Civil War Armory circa 1891, photographer unknown (Courtesy of Sheryl Rambeau)**

