

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.

1. Name of Property

DRAFT

Historic name: California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone

Other names/site number: Julia Morgan Hearthstone

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: 0.28 miles southwest of Highway 254 (Avenue of the Giants)

City or town: Weott State: California County: Humboldt

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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

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

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Bungalow /Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/Limestone; WOOD/Shake, Log

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) Grove Hearthstone is located in the northeast corner of Humboldt Redwoods State Park, just east of Highway 101 and South Fork of the Eel River and west of the (North Fork) Eel River. The CFWC purchased a 106-acre property in 1931 and donated the land for inclusion to the park in 1933. Prior to the donation, the CFWC contracted architect Julia Morgan to design the Craftsman—also referred to as Arts and Crafts—architectural style Hearthstone to commemorate the donation. Set in a forest glade later known as the CFWC Day Use Area, the Hearthstone stands in an open area of less than one acre, bounded by large logs laid down on the edges. The Hearthstone is a four-faced fireplace with a central chimney, constructed in 1932 using native stone and timber. The CFWC funded the addition of a stone drinking fountain in 1940. The fountain is a noncontributing object due to its post-period of significance construction. The Hearthstone retains all aspects of historic integrity.

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Narrative Description

Setting and Site

Humboldt Redwood State Park was established in 1921 within one of the world's largest remaining contiguous old-growth coast redwood forests in Humboldt County. Humboldt Redwood State Park comprises 53,000 acres of protected redwoods, trails, the Avenue of the Giants, and the Hearthstone. The Hearthstone is located at the end of a one-lane paved road west of Highway 254, otherwise known as the Avenue of the Giants, and is marked by a wooden sign indicating, "California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone Humboldt Redwoods State Park."

The area of the state park known as the California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove is a small clearing surrounded by old-growth redwood trees, situated on the eastern side of a westerly bend of the South Fork Eel River. The Grove is bound at the east and the north by two large fallen redwood logs, an old traditional California State Parks' split rail wood fence with a CCC style quarter cut log bench to the west, and redwood stanchions along the road to the south. The construction dates for both the fence and the log bench are undocumented.

California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone (one contributing structure)

The Hearthstone is designed in a square footprint with four prominent open sections, each with a stone mantle and stone hearth extending from a central, communal chimney constructed of stone. The four façades face cardinal directions: north, south, east, and west. Significant features of the Hearthstone include a central, square-shaped, communal chimney constructed of rough-hewn local limestone; stone mantles with stone hearths lined with yellow brick and flanked by inglenook-inspired space, usually consisting of built-in seating on either side of a fireplace or hearthstone benches, and the stones of the chimney surround unique medallions of smooth stone with specific words placed above each of the four stone mantles. A hinged wrought iron fire hook is located within each firebox, and all remain operable.

Each mantle is centered below a four-point roof, with the central communal chimney extending through the center of the roof. The roof is a moderate-pitched, cross-gable with an exposed truss system. The roof is clad with wood shake shingles and is supported at each corner by wooden columns attached to the central chimney via iron anchor bolts.

South Façade

Set into the hearth of this façade is a bronze plaque with the words: "Erected by the California Federation of Women's Clubs 1932." The medallion reads, "FOR LO IN THE FOREST THERE COMES CONTENTMENT PEACE AND THE SWEET COMPANIONSHIP OF NATURE." The quote was coined by Mrs. Annie Little Barry, acting President of the CFWC during the inauguration of the Hearthstone and the years leading up to the project.¹ The tie-beam on the

¹ "Clubwomen Dedicate Grove," *The San Francisco Examiner*, May 7, 1933, <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed May 26, 2022).

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roof over this side has staples along the edges of the timber, making it a hollow timber, though the wood damage demonstrates that it is solid.

West Façade

The medallion reads, "WOULD THAT WE WERE GREAT AS THESE AND MEN WERE BROTHERLY AS TREES." Prior to the completion of the Hearthstone, a contest for the medallion inscriptions took place with over two hundred submissions. This inscription was coined by the first-place winner, Mrs. Wallace D. Miracle of Alameda.²

North Façade

The medallion reads, "HEARTHSTONE OF THE CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS." Both anchor bolts connecting the roof truss and mantle on this façade are missing.

East Façade

The medallion reads, "OLDEST OF LIVING THINGS WHAT WISDOM FORESTS TEACH STIRRING MAN'S HEART TO THOUGHT DEEPER THAN SPEECH." This inscription was a second-place submission by Mrs. Lillian M. Wrightson of Fresno.³

Drinking Fountain (one noncontributing object)

A drinking fountain constructed from native stone matching the Hearthstone was constructed in 1946. The drinking fountain stands four feet tall with a 4.75-foot square footprint. It has a rectangular back wall higher than the water basin and cut single-stone steps on each side and in front of the water basin. A concrete plaque inscribed, "Traveler go thy way refreshed Sept. 28, 1946" is above the drinking hardware on the back wall. A bronze plaque on the front wall of the base for the fountain immortalized the donation of the fountain by the California Federation of Women's Clubs.

Additional Day Use Area Features

Additional small-scale and/or moveable features surrounding the Hearthstone include fencing, tables, benches, and grills. Two 1960s concrete-based sixteen and a half foot long tables have thick wood table tops and benches each made from single spans of wood. A wood bench made of a tree trunk approximately six feet long with one quarter cut to make a wedge-like seat was added to the grove at an unknown date. Three segments of split rail wood fencing (possibly circa 1990) with large, milled log posts are located behind the CFWC fountain and log bench, separating the trail from the picnic area. California State Parks installed an additional drinking fountain circa 1990 consisting of a six-inch metal pipe with two narrow metal oblong basins on opposite sides and different heights located along the trail ten feet or so behind the CFWC water fountain, outside of the space marked by the tree trunks. Scattered in the grove there are four standard (1.8' x 1.3') grills and one larger grill (4.9' x 0.8') consisting of three-sided metal boxes attached to metal poles featuring metal grates. The grills were likely added to the picnic area in

² Ibid.

³ "Clubwoman Dedicated a Fountain for the Federation Redwood Grove," *Ukiah Republican Press*, October 9, 1946.

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the 1990s. Temporary wood picnic tables are moved about the park and are sometimes located near the metal grills. The number and arrangement of the movable picnic tables regularly changes.

Alteration History

The Hearthstone was constructed in 1932 and dedicated in 1933. Since its construction, it has undergone two restoration efforts—the first in 1999, which utilized inferior wood that failed requiring a second restoration in 2006.

In 1999, the roof repair included replacing the roof, roof truss system, and supporting columns. This repair led to a change in materials, as the live-edge logs were replaced with finished timbers, and the form of the truss system was altered. Despite this repair, in 2006, the roof required a second replacement due to dry rot present throughout the timbers. All the wood elements demanded attention and the masonry also needed upkeep. The square-shaped treated timbers were fitted with copper caps at the exposed ends to address the wet and humid conditions that naturally breaks down wood exposed to the elements in the Humboldt area. One of the stone bench backs was replaced, as it had broken loose from the mortar. The mortar joints throughout the Hearthstone were repointed, and some firebricks were replaced. The work order states alterations were necessary, and materials were replaced in kind. It appears the restoration work was designed to match the roof installed in 1999 and not the original 1933 roof. The new roof does match the original roof pitch and is constructed of similar materials as the original roof.

Integrity

The Hearthstone retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Location: The structure remains at the original location within the Grove and therefore retains integrity of location.

Design: While the structure underwent restoration, the Morgan design of the Hearthstone is mostly intact, including the four prominent open façades facing north, south, east, and west, each with a stone mantle and stone hearth extending from a central, communal stone chimney constructed of rough-hewn local limestone; stone mantles with stone hearths lined with yellow brick and flanked by inglenook-inspired space, usually consisting of built-in seating on either side of a fireplace or hearthstone benches; and unique stone medallions with specific words placed above each of the four stone mantles. Although the design was somewhat modified when the roof was replaced, and the truss system does not retain the original live edge timber, it remains the same pitch and is constructed of wood. As such, the property retains integrity of design.

Setting: The Hearthstone remains in a small clearing of trees within a preserved redwood forest containing some of the largest redwoods in Humboldt County. While the drive to the Hearthstone has been repaved and the bluff overlooking South Fork Eel River shows signs of erosion, the property retains integrity of setting.

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Materials: The stone chimney, hearths, wrought iron fire hooks, and unique stone medallions remain, thus retaining overall integrity of materials. Alternations to the Hearthstone, including removal of the live-edge redwood roof trusses and replacement of the supporting columns with finished and treated timbers, lessen integrity.

Workmanship: While the central stone chimney, hearths, mantels, and built-in stone benches exemplify the workmanship of the Hearthstone, the replaced roof does not convey the same integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The Grove and Hearthstone recall the work of the many women's club members and their forest conservation efforts memorialized within the forest. The Grove preserves the feeling of sacred space, consistent with the goals of the Federation, who desired that the Hearthstone would provide a connection to California's beautiful forests and stand as a testament to those who fought for its preservation. Thus, the property maintains integrity of feeling.

Association: While the materiality of the roof of the Hearthstone has been affected by restoration efforts, the association with women's clubs and architect Julia Morgan remains, as the roof can be restored in accordance with Morgan's original design. The Hearthstone retains its intended use as a hearth and place of respite for visitors to the Grove.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1932-1933

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Morgan, Julia

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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 California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) Grove Hearthstone is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a structure that embodies distinctive Arts and Crafts characteristics and is the work of master architect Julia Morgan, AIA. The period of significance is from 1932 to 1933 when the CFWC—founded in part for the purpose conserving California forests—constructed and dedicated the Hearthstone and donated the surrounding 106-acre property to California State Parks to ensure the protection of the redwood forest.

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

The conservation and preservation of California's forests began almost as soon as California attained statehood in 1850. The first act of legislation, implemented the same year as statehood, rendered starting forest fires a fineable offense: \$500 at the time, roughly equivalent to \$18,000 in 2022.⁴ While this legislation dissuaded the destruction of forests by arsonists and native burning practices, the logging industry remained unchecked. In the late 1860s, president of the State Board of Agriculture C. F. Reed argued that without proper legislation protecting the natural forests of California, the resources would be entirely depleted by the twentieth century.⁵

These sentiments were echoed by those who saw the tourist potential of California.⁶ Though this early pressure provided a foundation for the future of the conservation movement, conservation efforts were limited to research and awareness. Bolstered by these decades of concern, in 1896, the *Santa Cruz Surf* issued an announcement stating, "our Government has appointed a Forestry Commission to determine the best modes for forest conservation and protection, and what legislation may be needed."⁷ Although the government of California had made efforts to protect California's forests, conservation of forest land was often supported by donations from wealthy individuals or preservationists, such as John Muir, who fought to preserve forest land throughout California.

In 1900, the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) was founded By Mrs. Clara Bradley Burdette in Los Angeles, bringing together ninety-five women's clubs—including botany clubs, women's suffrage clubs, and those in community involvement—organizing like-minded women who supported each other in new endeavors outside of the household.⁸ Burdette,

⁴ Gerald D. Nash, "The California State Board of Forestry, 1883-1960," *Southern California Quarterly*, September 1965 Vol. 47, No. 3, (September 1965), 59. JSTOR (accessed June 21, 2022).

⁵ Nash, 292.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ *Santa Cruz Surf*, August 25, 1896, <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed May 26, 2022).

⁸ Dorothea Moore, "The Work of the Women's Clubs in California," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, September 1906, Vol. 28, Woman's Work and Organizations, 257. JSTOR (accessed June 7, 2022).

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the organization's first president, had the goal of uniting women's clubs across California for purposes too large for individual clubs, such as forest conservation. According to *The Los Angeles Times*, the conservation of California's forests was always part of the Federation's purpose, as they wrote, "when Mrs. Robert J. Burdette organized the [California] Federation [of Women's Clubs] in Los Angeles in 1900, in her address, she urged as one of the tasks of California Women the saving of the Redwoods."⁹ Although forest protection and conservation was one purpose of the Federation, they were involved in many social changes. One of their earliest civic successes occurred in 1903, with the introduction of a juvenile court that tried minors rather than trying them through the adult court.¹⁰ The Federation demonstrated its ability to invoke changes throughout California, though its conservation efforts did not come to fruition for several decades.

Twentieth century conservation efforts consisted of purchasing large swathes of forest land, protecting the land from logging, which they then donated to organizations such as California State Parks. Per the Atlas of Humboldt County, in 1921, the land belonged to The Pacific Lumber Company, slating the forest for eventual logging.¹¹ In 1923, the CFWC began purchasing the land later associated with the Hearthstone, an effort led by President Mrs. William J. Fitzgerald, followed by Mrs. John C. Urquhart.¹² The acquisition of the land in Humboldt County containing many ancient redwoods was their goal. It required a decade of organizing and campaigning to obtain the funds necessary for the purchase.¹³ Laura Perott Mahan spearheaded their efforts to locate a suitable acreage.¹⁴ While different areas of the redwoods were being considered, construction began on the Redwood Highway in 1917, creating access to the South Fork of the Eel River.¹⁵ Mahan and the Save-the-Redwoods League spent the next few years traveling around Humboldt County, with the location being determined in 1923.¹⁶ The women's club moved forward with purchasing a 106-acre tract of forest in 1931, with newspapers such as the *Oakland Tribute* writing the final survey, and the land was purchased at the total cost of \$90,000.¹⁷ The women's clubs, at this time under the leadership of President Mrs. Annie Little Barry, raised \$45,000 towards their mission and the state of California matched the funds, following a 1927 law, allowing for the California State Parks to purchase more forest land. The final installment was made by the CFWC through the Save-the-Redwoods

⁹ Myra Nye, "Altar Rites Impressive in Redwoods: Hearthstone Marks Grove that Women Saved for State," *Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 1933, <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed May 26, 2022).

¹⁰ "CFWC Historian Tells About California Women," *Ukiah Daily Journal*, November 13, 1974, <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed June 7, 2022).

¹¹ *Atlas of Humboldt County, CA*, Belcher Abstract & Title Co., 1921, [Online Archive of California \(cdlib.org\)](https://www.cdlib.org/) (accessed June 27, 2022).

¹² "Clubwomen Dedicate Grove."

¹³ Nye, "Altar Rites Impressive in Redwoods."

¹⁴ Binkley, 190.

¹⁵ Binkley, 192.

¹⁶ Binkley, 196.

¹⁷ "Survey of Grove Accepted," *Oakland Tribute*, October 4, 1931 <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed May 26, 2022).

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league in 1931. The Federation set aside \$4,800 for a Grove and Hearthstone as a permanent gathering place and a reminder of the women's effort in the conservation movement.¹⁸

Per the women's clubs, the desired lodge or memorial should consist of a large room with a fireplace and hearth, providing shelter for hikers and those visiting the grove, taken care of by a state park's commission.¹⁹ The women's clubs hoped that the lodge or shrine would incorporate names of the women involved in the process and act as a memorial. In October 1931, the *Los Angeles Evening Express* acknowledged that master architect Julia Morgan had been enlisted to design the shrine, even stating that "the building is to be under the supervision of Miss Julia Morgan, who is making a gift of the plans for the Federation."²⁰ Morgan designed the building as a memorial, honoring the CFWC and showing their support for preserving the surrounding redwood forest. The design symbolized "the untouched nature of the forest and the federation's scrupulous protection of this heritage."²¹

Morgan designed a four-faced Hearthstone, utilizing local materials of redwood logs and native stone and representing the glory of California womanhood and the American home.²² Each of the four façades has a unique stone medallion. Two of the inscriptions resulted from a contest led by Evelyn C. Caulton, the state Chairman of Conservation, with Mrs. Wallace D. Miracle the first-place winner and Lillian M. Wrightson the second-place winner.²³ In 1932, Morgan was hospitalized with an illness and a member of her staff, architect C.H. Lovell oversaw the construction.²⁴ The Hearthstone was completed in 1933, with a commemorative ceremony on May 15, when the women's clubs donated the 106-acre parcel, including the Grove and Hearthstone, to California State Parks.²⁵

During the ceremony, a time capsule was placed by Claire Guiberson, acting state chairman of Trees, within the Hearthstone.²⁶ The ceremony marked the completion of a decades-long campaign by the women's clubs. In 1946, the women's clubs installed a water fountain, continuing their care of the Grove.²⁷ The CFWC had additional plans for Julia Morgan to design picnic tables for the grove; it does not appear that the plan was ever executed as the tables were never installed.

¹⁸ "Redwood Grove Purchased by Women's Clubs," *The Fresno Morning Republican*, April 21, 1931, <https://www.newspapers.com/> (accessed May 26, 2022).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Federation's Redwood Grove Project Wins Sanction of California Group: Lodge Shrine Will Be Built on Wooded Tract Near Dyerville with \$5000 Fund," *Los Angeles Evening Press*, October 29, 1931, <https://www.ancestry.com/> (accessed May 24, 2020).

²¹ Sara Holmes Boutelle, *Julia Morgan: Architect*, (New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 1995).

²² Nye, "Altar Rites Impressive in Redwoods."

²³ "Clubwoman Dedicated a Fountain for the Federation Grove."

²⁴ "Clubwomen Will Build Beautiful Memorial in Redwood Grove," *Blue Lake Advocate*, Volume 45, Number 22, 1 October 1932,

<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=BLA19321001&dliv=userclipping&cliparea=1.8%2C3146%2C361%2C685%2C2133&factor=4&e=-----193-en--20--1--txt-txIN-%22Julia+Morgan%22-----> (accessed January 23, 2024).

²⁵ Nye, "Altar Rites Impressive in Redwoods."

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Clubwoman Dedicated a Fountain for the Federation Grove."

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The Hearthstone signifies the culmination of both the forest conservation movement of the early twentieth century and the CFWC's contribution to its success. What began as a concern for the deforestation of California in the early twentieth century became a thirty-year campaign led by women's clubs throughout the state and supported by patrons of the forest conservation movement. The Hearthstone exemplifies the forest conservation movement from 1923 to 1933, particularly the connections between the CFWC and the forest conservation movement of the early twentieth century. While the Hearthstone and associated 106-acre grove are potentially significant under Criterion A for association with the CFWC and the conservation movement, this nomination is focused on the Hearthstone under Criterion C only. As time and resources permit, significance under Criterion A may be addressed at another time.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Hearthstone represents an excellent and unique example of a structure designed in the Arts and Crafts architectural style. The Arts and Crafts movement emphasized harmony with nature, a simple lifestyle, social and economic reform, hand-crafted arts, and natural materials. The movement influenced landscaping, furniture design, wood carving, metalworking, weaving, painting, literature, and architecture—a lifestyle philosophy. Representative of this design, the Hearthstone utilizes native materials, including redwood timbers and limestone, creating a structure that blends into the surroundings while simultaneously demanding acknowledgment.

Following restoration, the Hearthstone remains mostly intact, including the four prominent open façades facing north, south, east, and west, each with a stone mantle and stone hearth extending from a central, communal stone chimney constructed of rough-hewn local limestone; stone mantles with stone hearths lined with yellow brick and flanked by inglenook-inspired space, usually consisting of built-in seating on either side of a fireplace or hearthstone benches; and unique stone medallions with quotations placed above each of the four stone mantles. Although the design was somewhat modified when the roof was replaced, and the truss system does not retain the original live edge timber, it remains the same pitch and wood material.

Distinctive Design

The four-sided structure with four poetic medallions above each mantel was given the name Hearthstone by architect Julia Morgan. Although there is no documentation as to why she called the structure Hearthstone, at its simplest understanding, hearthstone means stone forming a hearth. This structure is exceptional in its use of materials and in all design elements, including the rough-cut native limestone, the horseshoe arch of stone surrounding the brick fireboxes, and the four equal sides with distinct medallions. The Hearthstone is also the only known structure like this designed by Julia Morgan, and no other similar types of structures could be found in California.

Julia Morgan, AIA (1872-1957)

Morgan was born in San Francisco in 1872 and raised in Oakland, California. She was skilled in mathematics and was encouraged by her mother, Eliza Woodland Parmelee Morgan, in her studies. In 1878, when Julia was five years old, she traveled to New York to live with her

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mother's family for a year while her father, Charles Morgan, worked in San Francisco. During this time, Julia met her older cousin Lucy Thornton and Lucy's husband, Pierre Le Brun, a well-known architect in New York City. Julia was inspired by Le Brun, and after she returned to Oakland, she kept in contact with him. Throughout her youth, he encouraged her to pursue her education. Following graduation from Oakland High School in 1890, she enrolled in the undergraduate civil engineering program at the University of California (UC) at Berkeley, partly because there were no architectural schools on the West Coast at the time. While at the university, she was a Kappa Alpha Theta sorority member and often the only woman in her math, science, and engineering classes.²⁸

In 1894, she graduated with a degree in civil engineering, having studied under master architect Bernard Maybeck. With Maybeck's encouragement, she moved to Paris in 1896 to attempt to gain entry into the École des Beaux-Arts, at the time one of the most respected architecture schools in the world. Although women were not allowed to attend École des Beaux-Arts, in the fall of 1896, Morgan enrolled. She failed the entrance exam twice, only to learn that the faculty had intentionally failed her to discourage her admission. Other women were attempting to enter the École des Beaux-Arts during this time. Eventually, the faculty relented, allowing women to enter the school, with Morgan becoming the first female student. During her studies in France, she traveled throughout Europe in her free time, sketching architecture in watercolors, pastels, and pencil. While in Paris, Maybeck introduced Morgan to Phoebe Apperson Hearst, a wealthy philanthropist active in women's issues and education, who in turn introduced Morgan to her son William Randolph Hearst.

In 1902, Morgan received her certificate in architecture from the École des Beaux-Arts. She returned to Oakland, where she worked for well-known architect John Galen Howard. During this time, she worked on UC Berkeley campus buildings, including the Hearst Mining Building, the Greek Theater, and Sather Gate, which caught the attention of Susan Mills, co-founder of Mills College, a women's college in Oakland. In 1904, Morgan became California's first female licensed architect and started her own architectural firm, opening her office in the Merchants Exchange Building in San Francisco. In 1904, at the age of 32, Morgan designed her first reinforced concrete building, the 72-foot bell tower at Mills College, known as El Campanil (extant), which, at the time, could be seen from San Francisco. Two years later, El Campanil survived the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake without damage, helping build Morgan's reputation and career. She was then hired to rebuild the Fairmont Hotel, all but destroyed by the earthquake.

To reconstruct the Fairmont Hotel (extant), Morgan used reinforced concrete, and the hotel opened one year later. This solidified Morgan as one of the Bay Area's leading architects, dramatically increasing her business. People lined up to commission her to build houses, churches, clubs, banks, schools, hospitals, and stores. During this time, Morgan worked for Phoebe Apperson Hearst, redesigning the Hacienda del Pozo de Verona (no longer extant) in Pleasanton, California. In 1907, Morgan was hired to design the Asilomar Conference Grounds,

²⁸ Karen McNeill, "Julia Morgan: Gender, Architecture, and Professional Style," *Pacific Historical Review* 76, no. 2 (2007): 229-68, [Julia Morgan: Gender, Architecture, and Professional Style | Pacific Historical Review | University of California Press \(ucpress.edu\)](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2007-002) (accessed August 12, 2023).

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founded by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), an organization she worked with throughout her career. That same year, William Randolph Hearst hired her to design the main building and guest houses on his ranch in San Simeon, instructing her to build something "more comfortable" than the platform tents in use.

In 1914, Morgan assisted with the design of the Los Angeles Examiner Building for Hearst. In 1919, Hearst hired Morgan to construct Hearst Castle, which became her most famous work. By this time, she had become Hearst's principal architect, producing the designs for dozens of buildings, including the Wyntoon estate, and a studio and site work for the uncompleted project known as Babicora, Hearst's 1,625,000-acre ranch in Mexico. By 1932, Julia Morgan had designed more than 600 buildings. Although not finished until 1947, the castle at San Simeon was listed as Job Number 503 in Morgan's office records. Although Morgan is frequently recognized for her design work from 1919 to 1947 on the opulent San Simeon property, her projects encompassed many styles and distinctive designs. Though she often favored the natural materials associated with the Arts and Crafts movement, each of her designs had its own distinct style, with particular attention paid to the details.

She was client-focused and notable for her outstanding structural engineering skills. Many of the buildings she designed during her career involved her lifelong affiliation with what was known as the Women's Network. Of the nearly 700 buildings she designed during her prolific career spanning over forty years, close to one hundred buildings, including the Hearthstone, were in some way associated with women's organizations. Like the Hearthstone, many of these ventures were either unprofitable or entirely pro bono endeavors. Throughout her career, she continued to support women's clubs and women's opportunities. In 2014, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) posthumously awarded Morgan the Gold Medal, its highest accolade, acknowledging the enduring significance of Morgan's architectural career, the first time the AIA awarded a female architect the Gold Medal.

The Morgan-designed Hearthstone is an elegant and distinctive structure that draws visitors' eyes upward toward the redwood canopy overhead while also providing space for recreation. While many examples of the Arts and Crafts style incorporate other stylistic elements, Morgan's Hearthstone is unique and stands as a pure example of the typology of this design style and Morgan's success and mastery of Arts and Crafts design. It is the only known structure of this type designed by Julia Morgan.

California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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
- Local government
- University

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Other
Name of repository: California State Parks Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.341997 Longitude: -123.938152

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

The Hearthstone is situated on the eastern side of a westerly bend of the South Fork Eel River within an area of the state park known as the California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove, a small clearing surrounded by old-growth redwood trees. The Grove is bound by two large, fallen redwood logs to the east and north of the Hearthstone, with a fence to the west and redwood stanchions along the access road to the south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary consists of the area identified as the CFWC Day Use Area, the open area intended for picnicking and use of the Hearthstone.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Stacey De Shazo, M.A., and Nicole LaRochelle, M.S.
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telephone: (707) 823-7400
date: August 2022; Revised March 2023, August 2023; Further revised by Kathleen Kennedy, California State Parks, January 2024

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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: California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone
City or Vicinity: Weott (vicinity)
County: Humboldt
State: California
Photographer: Stacey De Shazo
Date Photographed: May 2022

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

- 1 of 10 North and east facades, camera facing southwest
- 2 of 10 Stone inglenook extending from the northwest corner of Hearthstone, camera facing south
- 3 of 10 South and east elevations of central, shared chimney, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 10 Brass "Erected by the California Federation of Women's Clubs 1932" plaque in hearth of south fireplace, camera facing down
- 5 of 10 Medallion of south façade, camera facing north
- 6 of 10 Medallion of east façade, camera facing west
- 7 of 10 Medallion of north façade, camera facing south

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- 8 of 10 Medallion of west façade, camera facing east
- 9 of 10 North façade, facing south
- 10 of 10 South façade of drinking fountain, camera facing north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

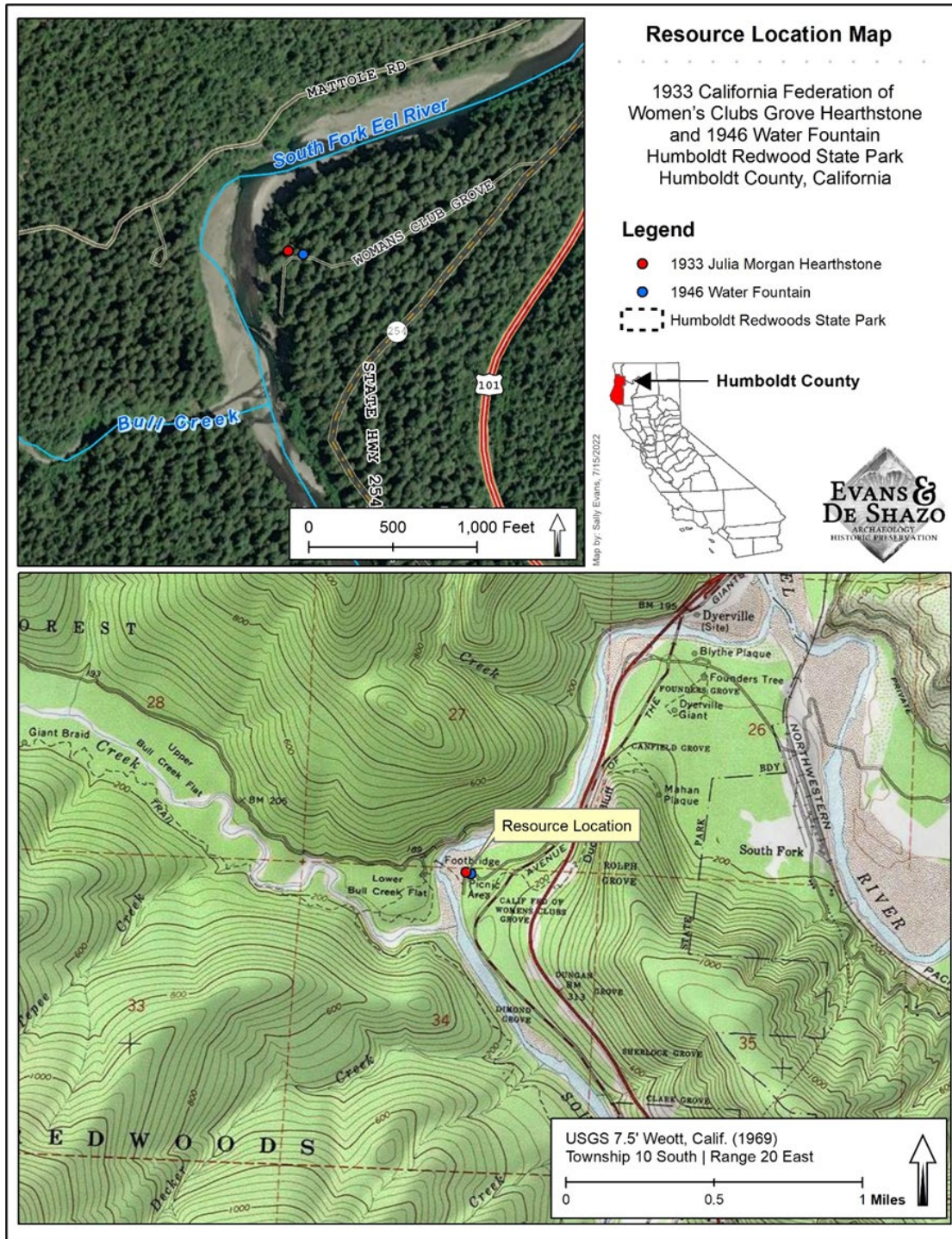
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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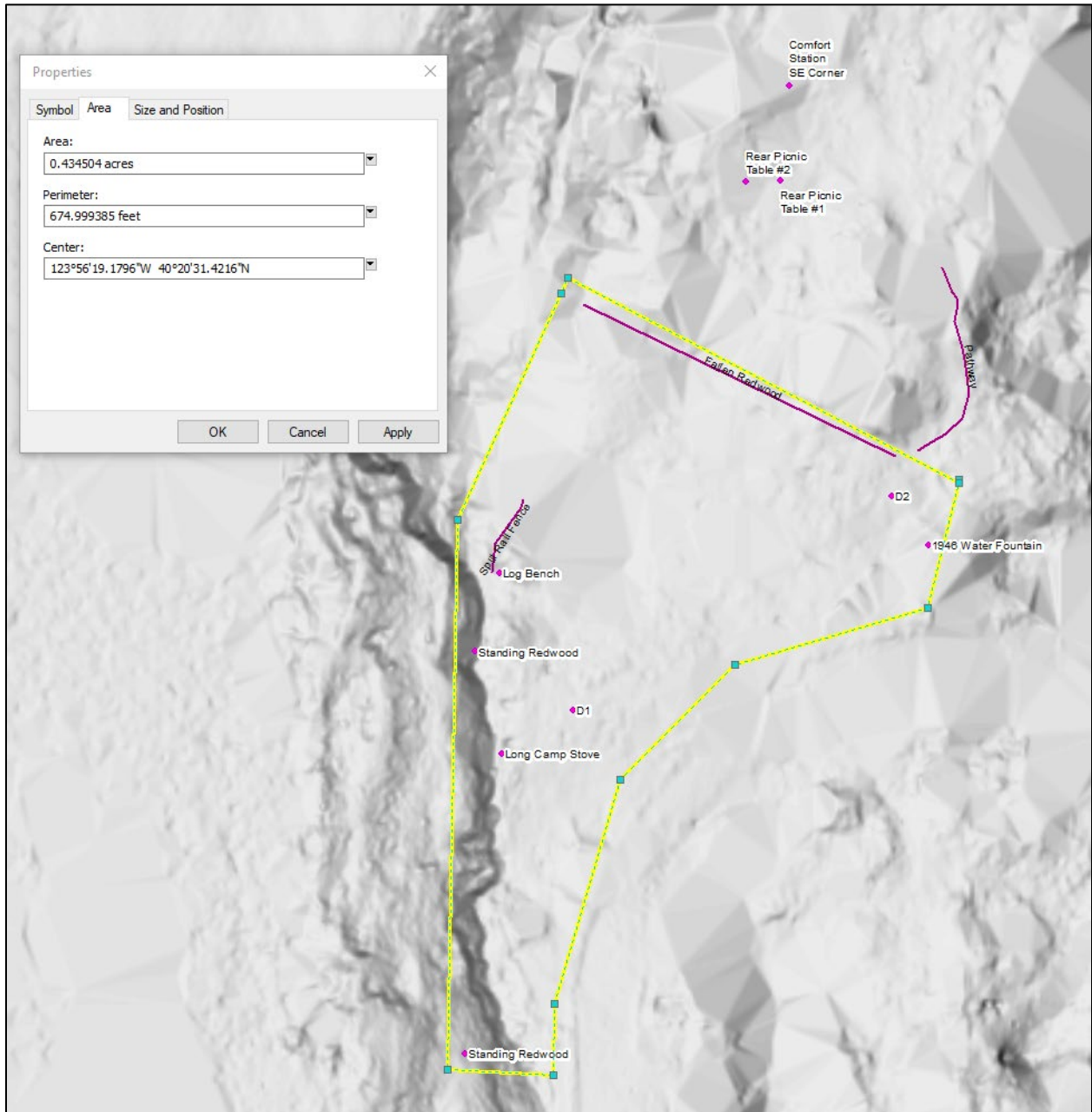
Location Map



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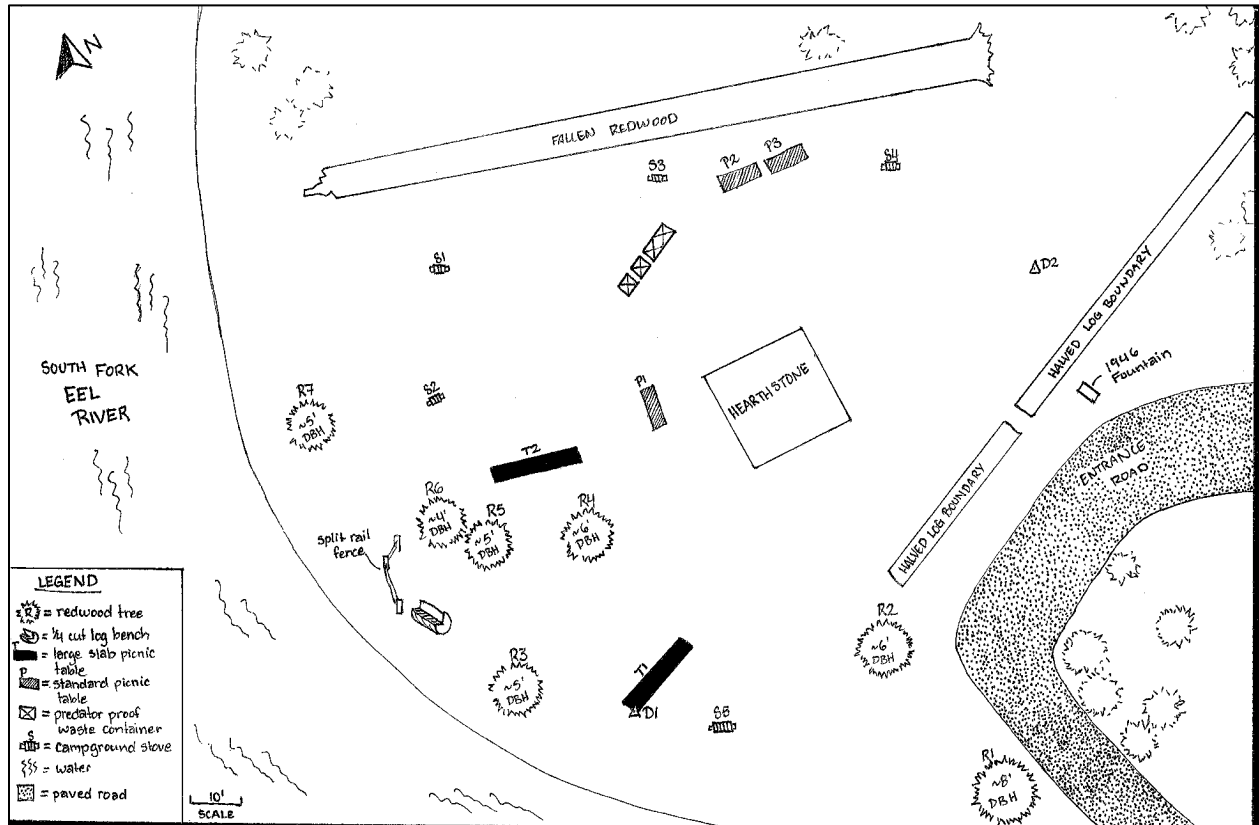
Boundary Map



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Sketch Map

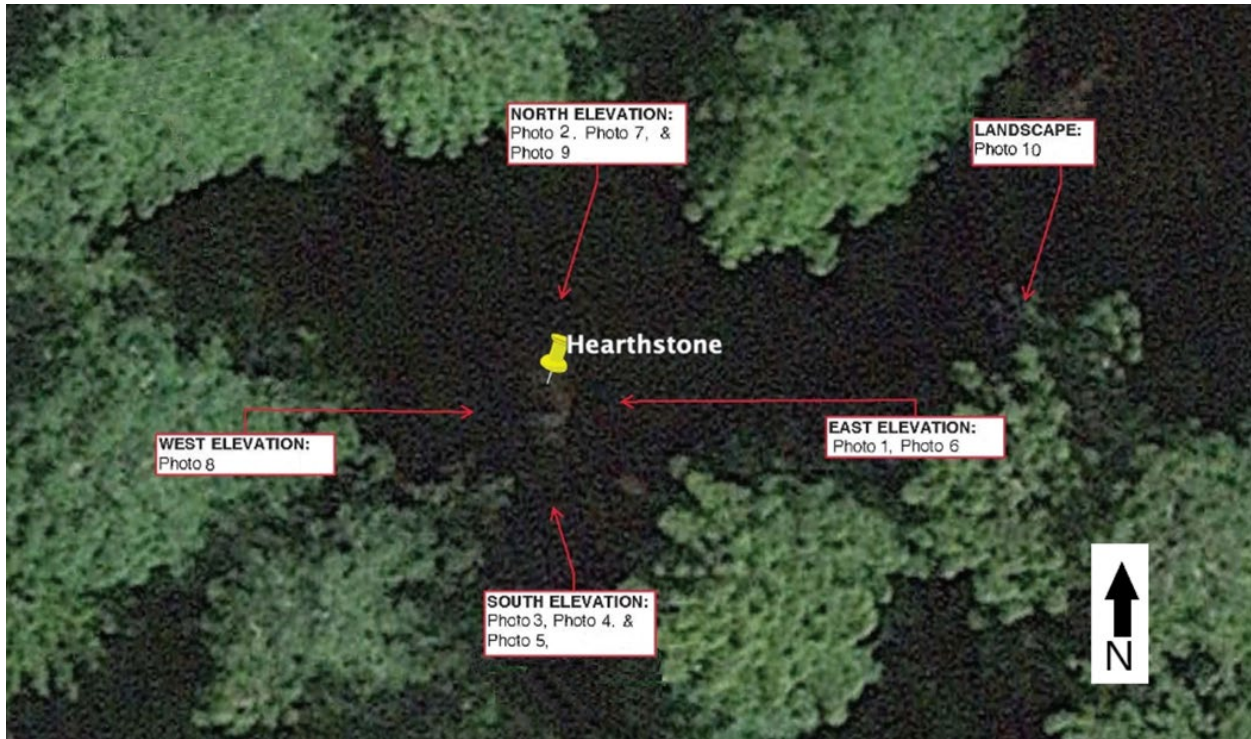


Prepared by Breezy Akeson, January 2024

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Photo Key



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Photo 1 North and east facades, camera facing southwest



Photo 2 Stone inglenook extending from the northwest corner of Hearthstone, camera facing south



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Photo 3 South and east elevations of central, shared chimney, camera facing northwest



Photo 4 Brass "Erected by the California Federation of Women's Clubs 1932" plaque in hearth of south fireplace, camera facing down



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Photo 5 Medallion of south façade, camera facing north



Photo 6 Medallion of east façade, camera facing west



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Name of Property

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Photo 7 Medallion of north façade, camera facing south



Photo 8 Medallion of west façade, camera facing east



California Federation of Women's Clubs Grove Hearthstone
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Photo 9 North façade, facing south



Photo 10 South façade of drinking fountain, camera facing north

