

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

Historic name: Sierra City School
 Other names/site number: The Old Schoolhouse
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 418 Main Street (California Route 49)
 City or town: Sierra City
 State: California 96125 County: Sierra
 Not For Publication: Vicinity: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>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</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:) _____

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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE - Schoolhouse Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Wood: horizontal drop siding (also known as Dutch lap German lap or cove siding)

Historic Windows: Wood

Roof: Metal - corrugated galvanized steel

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Sierra City School is located at the east end of the unincorporated community of Sierra City, California, which is a former mining community established in the northeastern area of the State between the Sierra Buttes and the North Yuba River and located within Sierra County. The rectangular, wood-frame building stands with its narrow gable end front wall facing generally north toward Main Street (California State Route 49) – the two-lane primary road through the community. The immediately surrounding properties are predominantly late nineteenth-century single-family residential, except for a storage building at the east. The site slopes down toward the south with landscaping (trees and wildflowers), paved drive and flat gravel area at the north, a fenced-in summer kitchen garden at the east, and the remainder of the site primarily consisting of flowers, stacked rock walls, grass, trees, and natural rock outcroppings. The east, undeveloped portion of the parcel close to the adjacent property line, features a flat gravel surface. The one-story-over-partial-basement building occupies the west half of the parcel and is approximately 2,640 square feet in size. With no defined architectural style, the vernacular schoolhouse's wood structure with wood cladding sits on a concrete foundation and is protected by a steep, corrugated metal roof with a flagpole. At the north half, the gable roof extends out to the east and west, protecting the side porches and entry vestibules that protrude to each side at the building's midpoint – originally the separate boys' and girls' entrances. Painted wood siding clads all four facades, which also feature numerous original double-hung wood windows (now fixed), replacement entry doors and one large sliding wood barn-type door and circular vent at the front. A non-original deck and stair extends off the rear, south end. The building remains in excellent condition and retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance. The primary changes have occurred to the front façade openings, the south end fenestration patterns, and the roof – with the change in material and the removal of the belfry. The schoolhouse's original distinctive *design, setting, materials* and *workmanship* remain largely intact. The structure still has the *feeling* of an old schoolhouse, and it is recognized by the community for its *association* with the history of Sierra City as a thriving mining town.

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Site

The Sierra City School stands on the west side of a rectangular parcel that slopes to the south and faces the Sierra Buttes to the north. Located at 418 Main Street (Route 49) on the south side of the street, the approximately 0.75- acre lot is located at the east end of the small unincorporated community of Sierra City, California. Sierra City is located uphill of the North Yuba River and features one primary thoroughfare – Main Street – with approximately three central blocks lined by commercial structures and single-family residences extending to the east and west. North of the site beyond the residential structures are National Forest lands and the Sierra Buttes; south of the parcel are more houses with the North Yuba River beyond. The site's simple landscaping consists of flowerbeds framed by stacked rock walls, a paved U-shape drive, and level gravel parking area at the north end; an undeveloped level gravel area and a kitchen garden along the east side; a narrow, side yard with grass and trees at the west; and informal flowerbeds, stacked rock walls, grass, trees, and natural rock outcroppings to the south. No fences divide the subject property from its single-family residential neighbors to the south and west.

Overall

The simple wood-frame structure with a gable roof stands toward the north on the west side of the parcel and covers an area of approximately 30' wide and 88' deep. Essentially rectangular in plan, with two entry vestibules extending to either side midway between the north and south ends, the building maintains approximately 2,640 square feet of usable space plus a partial basement and small loft. Painted, horizontal drop wood siding clads the entire building and corrugated metal covers the steeply pitched roof. The vernacular schoolhouse does not exhibit a defined architectural style, but does illustrate the common schoolhouse typology of the late 1800s. A metal flagpole stands atop the gable at the north end and the original bell tower has been removed. Two covered porches flank the front end and extend the length of the northern half of the building. A wood-framed deck and stair continue off the south end toward the back yard. Original double-hung wood windows punctuate the east and west facades.

The foundation was originally stone but was replaced with concrete along with the pony wall framing in 2010 to stabilize the building. There is a basement/crawl space that ranges from 4'-0" high in the front to 8'-0" high in the rear. The framing is all sawn lumber, typically 2" x 6" wall framing at 16" on center and 2" x 8" floor framing at 24" on center. Since there is no ridge beam as part of the roof structure, there are steel tie rods at the gables. Exterior siding is 1" x 8" drop pattern with a bead. The floors are 1-1/4" thick tongue and groove wood. The original windows, fourteen of which remain, are wood. The distinctive classroom windows, 8-lite, 2'- 3" wide x 8'- 5" high, were originally double hung but are now fixed. Some new window openings have been added at the rear, using vinyl windows. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles but like typical historic buildings in the vicinity, is now covered with corrugated metal with a pitch of 12:12.

Exterior

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North (Front) Façade

The front, entry façade faces approximately north toward Main Street and the Sierra Buttes and features a centered gable end wall flanked by two side porches and two shed-roofed recessed entry vestibules. The gable end wall maintains a large sliding 10'-0" x 10'-0" wood barn door centered below the circular four-foot diameter wood vent and the gable peak. A one-light-over-panel wood door with a screen door punctuate the east side and serve as the primary entrance. Two covered porches extend to the east and west with exposed rafters and wood decking. Flat wood trim surrounds the door openings and completes the corners. Profiled over flat wood trim make up the eave and eave returns. The north façade is clad in a combination of the original 1" x 8" drop siding and newer 1" x 8" V-rustic siding infill at the former window openings destroyed in the 1952 avalanche. Each side vestibule maintains a simple contemporary door at the end of the porch.

East Façade

The east façade features one of the two side porches used as original entrances. The porches have been partially replaced at least twice in the last 140 years. Drop wood siding clads the wall with the original cladding largely intact above the floor line and having been replaced in-kind below. The porch and roof overhang feature exposed rafters and are supported by 8" x 8" square wood posts 8'-0" on center with a horizontal wood guardrail between each post. The porch decking is 2" x 6" wood, unpainted. The facade features four original eight-over-eight-light double-hung (now fixed) 2'-3" x 8'-5" wood windows at the north end into the original classroom, a six-over-six-light double-hung (now fixed) 3'-2" x 5'-4" wood window centered in the protruding entry vestibule, a two-over-four-light double-hung (now fixed) 4'-2" x 3'-4" window at the south addition looking into the kitchen, and three vinyl single-hung windows punctuate the remainder of the south addition with one at the main floor and two at the basement. All windows have painted, flat wood trim. A double door of horizontal wood boards provides access to the basement beneath the south end of the entry porch. Three small rectangular vents are located beneath the eave and visible wood blocking provides structural support for the steel tie rods. The rear deck and stair at the south end complete the east façade and a flat, vertical trim board demarks the 1888 south addition from the original schoolhouse.

West Façade

The west façade features the other of the two side porches used as original entrances on the north end and the protruding side entry vestibule at the center. Wood siding above the floor line is largely the original 1" x 8" shiplap drop siding, while below the floor line the cladding has been replaced in-kind. The porch and roof overhang feature exposed rafters and are supported by 8" x 8" square wood posts 8'-0" on center with a horizontal wood guardrail between each post. The porch decking is 2" x 6" wood, unpainted. At the north end, the west facade features a single six-over-six-light double-hung (now fixed) 2'-8" x 5'-0" wood window, a single one-over-one-light double hung (now fixed) 3'-0" x 4'-6" wood window, and eight original eight-over-eight-light double-hung (now fixed) 2'-3" x 8'-5" wood windows opening into the original classroom. Five contemporary vinyl windows have been added in the 1888 south addition to accommodate the room layout of the apartment and basement; one sliding window centered at the vestibule extension, a single-hung and narrow slider at the south end at the first floor, and two paired

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single hung windows at the basement. All windows have flat wood trim and the historic windows also have wood sills. A flat, vertical trim board demarks the 1888 south addition from the original schoolhouse.

South (Rear) Façade

The south rear façade consists of a centered two-story high gable end wall flanked by the two recessed shed-roofed vestibule volumes and a wood-framed deck and stair. Drop wood siding clads the façade with the siding above the original ceiling line largely consisting of original 1" x 8" drop siding, and the rest having been replaced in-kind. The center gable end wall features flat wood corner boards and flat wood trim at the eaves, with a small decorative section of bargeboard. A square wood vent pierces the wall just below the gable. Three contemporary vinyl windows punctuate the center section at the first floor; one narrow slider, one square single-hung, and one tall slider. A fourth window – single-hung vinyl - punctuates the recessed east wall. A three-panel wood door opens into the first floor at the east end of the center volume and two original wood stile and rail doors provide access to the basement. Flat wood trim surrounds all windows and doors on the south façade. An 11'-6" x 16'-0" elevated wood framed deck has been added across the east half of the center façade section with a stair at the east extending south to the back yard.

Interior

First Floor

The interior at the first floor occupies an area of approximately 2,640 square-feet plus a small mezzanine. This main level contains all the usable space of the building and includes at the front end: a large combination living and dining room (the former classroom) and a sleeping loft over a work room and small toilet room; at the rear half: a laundry, kitchen, living room, full bathroom, three bedrooms and closets.

The original schoolroom, which is largely intact, features 1" x 4" tongue and groove horizontal wood clad walls and ceilings painted off-white. The original blackboards, which still exist, are simply painted on the walls and framed with wood trim, as was typical for the time. There are two extant interior stile and rail wood doors, frames and trim, which have what appears to be the original grained finish. There is a distinctive 4-foot diameter round vent to the attic in the ceiling that matches the exterior attic vent on the front façade. The only alteration is the addition of an 8-foot-deep mezzanine in the rear of the room that extends from the east wall across three-quarters of the south wall.

The second schoolroom, added in 1888, was altered c. 1960 to become an apartment with a kitchen, living room, bedrooms and bathroom. It was later upgraded in the 2010s with more contemporary fixtures and finishes. The ceilings were lowered to 8-feet, and all the walls are finished with gypsum board. The floors are carpet, sheet vinyl and pine. Evidence suggests that much of the original construction is intact behind, over and under the contemporary finishes.

Basement

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The basement is unfinished and encompasses the entirety of the south addition and the south end of the original building until becoming an inaccessible crawl space. It maintains concrete slabs and areas of raised wood frame construction. The space is used for storage.

Building Chronology

- 1868 First public schoolhouse built in Sierra City (not the subject building).
- 1883 Sierra City Schoolhouse Building constructed (the subject building).
The front façade was originally constructed with two four-over-four-light, double-hung paired at the center and flanked by two stile and rail doors each with sidelights and transoms.
- 1887 Election held that authorized the raising of \$3,000 with which to build a 30' x 36' addition to the Schoolhouse.¹
- 1888 The Primary Room was added at the south end.
- 1896 Money raised to purchase the bell and construct the belfry.
- 1899 Money raised for repairs to the schoolhouse - exact nature of repairs is unknown.
- 1917 A new porch around the schoolhouse was constructed.
- Between c. 1930 and c. 1952 Two windows inserted at the front (north) façade and roof material changed from wood shingle to corrugated metal. See Figures 11 and 18.
- Jan. 10, 1952 An avalanche caused significant damage to the schoolhouse, all but destroying the front (north) façade. Repairs were completed immediately following, but the front four windows flanked by two doors were never reconstructed. Instead a large 10' x10' sliding barn door and single pedestrian door replaced the original configuration.
- Children were relocated to a temporary school site at the Masonic Lodge.
- 1954 Schoolhouse operations ceased in Sierra City and the students were permanently relocated to Downieville.
- c.1961 It is unclear exactly when the building was sold by the school district for use as a lumber supply store run by Donald Nelson. Nelson moved to Sierra City in 1961

1. "100 years Ago...1887," *Feather River Bulletin*, (July 29, 1987): 4; and James J. Sinnott, *A General History of Sierra County*, (Fresno: Mid-Cal Publishers, 1978): 32.

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- and then is noted to have moved to Camp Yuba in the same year. At some point prior to 1964 Donald Nelson started a lumber and supply and tool rental business located at the former schoolhouse. It is likely that during this period the loft and toilet room were constructed in the original building.
- 1964 Donald Nelson's wife Elsie dies in a car accident in April 1964. In August 1964, Donald Nelson marries Arlene Shafer and the couple make their home in the old Sierra City School House next to the tool rental business – Sierra City Tool Rentals.² Likely the rear apartment was installed at this time.
- 1972 Don and Arlene Nelson divorce. The Sierra Booster writes that Sierra City Tools Rentals “may have been sold by owner Arlene Nelson”³
- 1972 Arlene Nelson sells the schoolhouse to Raymond and Lucy Prince⁴
- c. 1970s Back deck and stair added; the belfry and bell were removed, and the bell was relocated to the nearby Kentucky Mine Museum.⁵
- Post-2000 Eave returns restored to the front façade.
- 2005 West side porch reconstructed
- 2010-2011 Schoolhouse Gallery in operation during the summer months.
- Nov. 2011 Stone foundation replaced with new concrete foundation
- Feb. 2020 The Sierra County Historical Society voted that if the belfry were reconstructed, the bell would be loaned for installation at the school.⁶
- 2022 Sold to the Butt Family Trust

Initial Construction

Although there is some inconsistency in pertinent documents, 1883 appears to be the correct date of construction. Figure 6 is a photo in the *Sierran*, showing the Schoolhouse and the caption, “Julius A. Wixson was the teacher at the Sierra City School in 1870, when this photograph was taken,” but the same caption states, “The schoolhouse, built in 1883, was in use until 1954.”⁷

2. “A Concord Wedding” Sierra Booster (August 21, 1964, Vol. 16, No. 17) : 1.

3. Sierra Booster, 1972...

4. Nora Prince email to Tom Butt, March 29, 2023.

5. Ibid.

6. Cory Peterman, email to Tom Butt, February 17, 2023.

7. Sierra County Historical Society, *The Sierran*, “History of the Early Schools of Sierra County,” (Fall 1982): 2.

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The *Illustrated History of Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties*, Farriss & Smith, includes:

In 1868 the building now used for education purposes was erected by the people...
The building was then in an unfinished state, rude benches being used for seats....
In 1869 the district began to draw state money, and a public school was opened,
which has continued to the present time.⁸

The Farriss & Smith source was published in 1882; therefore it is assumed the schoolhouse discussed in their work was the school building that existed before the Sierra City School at 418 Main Street was erected in 1883. Sinnott also supports the existence of a previous schoolhouse noting that, "[t]he first public schoolhouse was built in 1868..."⁹ (emphasis added).

Further, Sinnott writes:

The school building, which in recent years for several years after the remodeling of the interior to become the Building Supplies and Equipment Rental business of Donald Nelson, was erected in 1883. In 1888, a large section, which became the Primary Room, was added.¹⁰

And that:

The school trustees in 1886 held a successful election that authorized the raising of \$43,000 with which to build a 30 by 36-foot addition to the Schoolhouse...¹¹

Many of the photos of Sierra City from the 1870s don't show a building at the subject location. These early photos were taken on the hillside north of Main Street, looking south with a clear view to that location of the present-day building. Also, the areas of Sierra City in the vicinity of the schoolhouse and down on Busch's Flat (the playground) weren't fully developed until the 1880s. Therefore, it appears that the original 1868 school was located in a different building until the subject building was built in 1883.¹²

Integrity

8. *Illustrated History of Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra Counties, with California from 1513 to 1850* (Farriss & Smith, San Francisco, 1882): 471.

9. Sinnott, *A General History of Sierra County*, (Fresno: Mid-Cal Publishers, 1978), 11.

10. Sinnott, 109.

11. Sinnott, 32.

12. Corey Peterman email to Tom Butt February 17, 2023. Cory Peterman, a sixth generation native of Sierra County, is the former secretary of the Sierra County Historical Society and served on the board of directors. He was a former assistant-curator of the Kentucky Mine Museum in Sierra City, is a regular contributor with his Sierra County History column to the *Mountain Messenger*, California's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper, as well as to the Sierra Booster newspaper and The *Sierran Newsletter* published by the Sierra County Historical Society.

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Overall, the Sierra City School maintains sufficient historic integrity to convey its historical significance. The property remains at its original site and retains the integrity of location. The property retains its integrity of design with very few significant alterations having been made to the building. Some of the alterations that have occurred include: the loss of the original door and window openings on the north façade, the reconstruction of the foundation in concrete, the loss of the belfry, the change in roofing material, the conversion of the back addition to an apartment, and the reconfiguration of the fenestration at the southern addition. Even with the few alterations, the building still is able to clearly convey a design that is consistent with a simple schoolhouse design of the 19th century.

The building was constructed during the heyday of the Sierra City community and little development has occurred since. It remains situated on the south side of the main thoroughfare and is located within a predominantly single-family residential area of homes dating to the same era. The only modern building in the vicinity is a storage structure dating from the mid-20th century on the adjacent lot to the east, which is substantially screened by mature vegetation. The building also retains its integrity of materials. The schoolhouse retains its original wood structural framing, exterior wood siding (with some replacement in-kind), numerous original wood windows, original wood floor, blackboards, interior wood wall and ceiling finishes. Additionally, the building retains the general integrity of workmanship, because the craftsmanship of the original construction is still evident within the building's character defining features such as the drop siding, the wood windows, and the original interior finishes. The property maintains its integrity of feeling, as it clearly illustrates its aesthetic and historic nature as a vernacular schoolhouse from the end of the 19th century and it maintain its integrity of association with the community of Sierra City during its thriving gold rush era.

Additional analysis of each aspect of integrity is outlined below:

1. Location: The Sierra City School is in its original *location*.
2. Design: For the exterior and most of the interior, the Sierra City School maintains its original simple *design* as first, a one-room, and later a two-room, schoolhouse. It is a simple rectangular building with a gable roof, originally topped with a small belfry.¹³ The second classroom added to the rear of the building has been converted to a small apartment, and the front north) façade was altered after it was damaged in the avalanche of 1952. The four center windows, which were destroyed, were replaced by a horizontal sliding "Barn door" of the same size. The two pairs of flanking windows were also destroyed in the avalanche. The west pair was replaced with wood siding, and the east pair was replaced with a door.

Porches have been repaired or replaced at least twice in the last 40 years. The *Grass Valley Morning Union* newspaper of August 31, 1917, reported:

¹³ Although the belfry has been removed, the bell resides at the Kentucky Mine Museum, just a short distance away. If the belfry is ever replaced, the Kentucky Mine Museum Board of Directors has committed to return the bell.

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M. L. Morrison is putting a new porch around the schoolhouse. The trustees and townspeople have been busy this summer giving the school house and grounds a much-needed cleaning up. Both rooms have been painted and grained and new doors put in.¹⁴

At an unknown time, the belfry and bell were removed, but the bell is located at the Kentucky Mine Museum, and in February 2020, the Sierra County Historical Society voted that of the belfry were reconstructed, the bell would be loaned for installation at the school.¹⁵

Following the avalanche of 1952, students were relocated to the Masonic Hall until 1954 when the students were sent to Downieville for school, and the building became a building supply store run by Don Nelson in the early 1960s and Don converted the back portion to a home for himself and his third wife in 1964. The couple divorced in 1972 and shortly thereafter, it was purchased by Raymond and Lucy Prince, the parents of the Nora Prince, who grew up in the house and inherited it from her parents following their deaths in the early 2000s.

The following was provided by Cory Peterman:

The schoolhouse went through many renovations over the years, most notably on its front (north) elevation. The original cornice returns were removed at some point but restored by Nora Prince's son some years back. The original front facade had two windows at the center, which was later expanded to four windows.¹⁶ In the 1952 avalanche, the front of the building was heavily damaged. Instead of restoring the front elevation, the locations of the previous openings were enclosed, siding added, and an entry door created at the east side (as seen today). The large sliding barn door was added by Don Nelson for his lumber business.¹⁷

3. Setting: The Sierra City School remains in its original location and *setting* adjacent to and on the south side of State Highway 49. Since Sierra City has experienced the opposite of growth in the last 140 years, there are minimal modern intrusions in the vicinity.¹⁸ The adjacent home on the west and the home across Highway 49 both predate the Sierra City School and remain in substantially their original configuration, so the "neighborhood" also remains substantially unchanged. The only "new" building in the vicinity is a storage building dating from mid-Twentieth Century on the adjacent lot to the east, which is substantially screened by mature vegetation.

14. *Grass Valley Morning Union*, (August 31, 1917).

15. Cory Peterman email to Tom Butt, February 17, 2023.

16. See Figures 11 and 18.

17. Cory Peterman email to Tom Butt, February 17, 2023.

18. Census Bulletin No. 134, November 2, 1891,

<https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1890/bulletins/demographics/134-population-of-ca.pdf>
(Accessed July 22, 2023) The 1880 population of Sierra City was 632, and the 2020 population was 84.

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4. **Materials:** Much of the original *materials*, including the original exterior wood siding are substantially intact, with some replacement in kind, probably due to deterioration or decay of the original. The twelve distinctive large double hung 8-lite windows in the original schoolroom are intact, although they are now fixed. The original wood floor, blackboards, wood wall covering and wood ceilings in the original schoolroom are intact.
5. **Workmanship:** Because of the critical need for large amounts of lumber for structures to support the mining industry, there were many sawmills in the area. The framing and structure are of sawn lumber, and the siding is milled drop pattern with a bead. The original windows are of milled wood sash. The *workmanship*, which remains substantially intact, is not remarkable but is of high quality with little ornamentation.
6. **Feeling:** Because the exterior materials and shape and the original schoolroom are substantially intact, the building retains the *feeling* of a simple rural schoolhouse.
7. **Association:** Compared to neighboring residential structures built in the same era and to nearby commercial structures also from the same era, the Sierra City School, has a distinctive design that conveys its purpose as the community school and its *association* as the venue for public education in Sierra City over seven decades.

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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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Period of Significance

1883 - 1954

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Significant Dates

1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 Sierra City School, built in 1883, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of education in the community of Sierra City, a Gold Rush boomtown and a center of gold mining beginning in 1850. The school served as the only school for the Sierra City community from its construction in 1883 until it was damaged by the avalanche of January 10, 1952. The period of significance ends in 1954, when the children of Sierra City were permanently relocated to the nearby community of Downieville. In addition to being the center of education, the school also served as a local community center.

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

Historical Context

Sierra City

The unincorporated community of Sierra City was established as a Gold Rush town in 1850. Located in the shadows of the Sierra Buttes in northeastern California, Sierra City was one of the many mining towns established following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1849. Philo A. Haven and Joseph Zumwalt are credited as the first white men to set up camp and prospect in area. Soon after a man named Murphy is thought to have discovered the quartz ledge at the what would be the future site of mine.¹⁹ Founded as a mining town in 1850, life was more challenging in Sierra City than in other new settlements because it was located farther up the Sierra slope at a higher elevation and in closer proximity to the mountains, leading to harsher winters and more difficult treks for bringing in mining equipment. An avalanche in 1853, thwarted the first

19. Back Country Explorers <http://www.backcountryexplorers.com/sierra-city-california.html>

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attempts of developing a permanent settlement and would be several years before the area was repopulated and reconstructed at a somewhat lower elevation.²⁰

The Sierra Buttes proved to be a prosperous location for gold mining and the Sierra County population peaked in 1860 with 11,867 inhabitants.²¹ The Sierra Buttes Mine, owned by the British-based Sierra Buttes Company, was active for 80 years as the second largest gold producer in the county as well as one of the best managed quartz mines in the state. At its height in 1873, the mine employed as many as 290 men, but typically averaged around 250 miners, mostly living in Sierra City.²² The mine contained a massive operation with nine tunnels and two stamp mills, and was the site of the discovery of one of the largest gold nuggets in California.

Within Sierra County the primary settlements established during the late-19th century included Downieville, Loyalton and Sierra City.²³ The second settlement of Sierra City was longer lasting, and included a post office in 1865 followed by a Wells, Fargo & Co. express office in 1871. The three-story Busch Building which housed the Wells, Fargo & Co. office, also included a general store, a residence, and a public hall. By 1974, the settlement had a telegraph line and a stage that came from Downieville three times a week. In addition to fraternal halls, saloons, hotels, and general stores, several breweries and sawmills also cropped up in the booming mining town. At its peak, nearly 3,000 people lived in the vicinity of Sierra City and soon this area was in need of additional services as it transformed from a rugged mining camp to a town with families and children.²⁴ In the early 1880s two churches were constructed and funding was authorized to construct a schoolhouse.²⁵

As mining activity dwindled, so did the population of Sierra City. In 1950, the population was only 285²⁶. In the 2020 Census, the population was down further to 84, although there are a large number of seasonal vacation homes and several lodging establishments. The current permanent population consists primarily of retired persons and persons working in the hospitality and tourist industry.

Sierra City School History

The first attempt at establishing a school for children in Sierra City occurred in 1863, when Hannah Riley – who would later marry John Scott – established a private school in the Masonic Hall with ten pupils. Her school lasted for only six months due to the small enrollment. Five

20. Western Mining History (<https://westernmininghistory.com/towns/california/sierra-city/>) (Last accessed March 20, 2023)

21. Sierra County Historical Society, History of Sierra County (<https://www.sierracountyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/General-History-of-Sierra-County.pdf>) (last accessed March 20, 2023)

22. Sierra County Chamber of Commerce (<https://sierracountychamber.com/page-18102>)

23. Sierra County Historical Society, History of Sierra County (<https://www.sierracountyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/General-History-of-Sierra-County.pdf>) (last accessed March 20, 2023)

24. Back Country Explorers <http://www.backcountryexplorers.com/sierra-city-california.html>

25. Farriss & Smith, Illustrated History of Plumas, Lassen & Sierra Counties, San Francisco, 1882, p. 470-472. It is believed that the school referred to predated the Sierra City school building that is the subject of this nomination.

²⁶ <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1950/population-volume-1/vol-01-08.pdf> (last accessed August 7, 2023)

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years later, now as Hannah Scott, she again became the town teacher with the opening of a public school. Now with upwards of sixty pupils, the first school was temporarily housed in an existing building in town, until funding was approved in 1882 to construct a schoolhouse for the Sierra City community.²⁷

The building was constructed in 1883 as a gable-roofed, one-room schoolhouse, with separate entrances on each side for the boys and the girls. By 1887 the community voted to spend money to construct the addition of a primary room on the south side of the building. There is documentation of the community commonly using the building to gather for events, such as on February 20, 1892, when a large number of town's people gathered at the schoolhouse to hear the question, "Which is the Superior, Modern or Ancient Intelligence" argued.²⁸ In 1896, funds were raised from the performance of a play to purchase a bell and erect a belfry for the schoolhouse.²⁹ And again the community raised funds in July of 1899 for general repairs to the Sierra City schoolhouse.³⁰

On April 4, 1951, A Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District Governing Board meeting was held at the Sierra City School.³¹

The schoolhouse continued to be a thriving and central community space for the Sierra City residents until the morning of January 10, 1952, when a powerful avalanche poured into the front, north wall of the building, making it unusable. Fortunately, no children were in the building at the time, thanks to the foresight of the teacher, who had cancelled classes. The avalanche destroyed the front windows and doors, and shifted the building slightly to the south. Today, the original windows in the front schoolroom lean to the south as a result of the avalanche. An adjacent residence, the Wade house, was destroyed in the same slide.³²

Dan S. Wallace of Sierra City purchased the damaged school building and lot in August, 1952 for \$2,050. He donated all playground equipment and any usable supplied to the school district.³³ While sites for the construction of a new elementary school building were explored, the idea for a new building in Sierra City was eventually abandoned. By 1953 there were only six children left in the Sierra City school and they were meeting regularly at the Masonic Hall.³⁴ In 1954, the elementary students were permanently moved the school facilities in Downieville, where the Sierra City High School students had been attending since 1943.³⁵

27. Sinnott, 107.

28. Sinnott, 103

29. Ibid.

30. Ibid, 108.

31 *Sierra Booster*, April 20, 1951

32. First person account by Lydia Cartwright Rosen of the 1952 Sierra City avalanche published in the Fall 1991 edition of *The Sierran*. Lydia Rose Cartwright was born March 21, 1942. Her parents were Calvin and Mabel Morrison Cartwright. She also wrote "<https://www.sierracountyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/Vol20No2-1992Oct.pdf>" in *The Sierran*, Fall 1992

33. "Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District," *Sierra Booster*, (August 22, 1952) 11.

34. "Governing Board of the Sierra-Pluma Joint Unified School District," *Sierra Booster*, (February 20, 1953) 17.

35. Sinnot, 109.

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The Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District was formed in 1954 by amalgamation of districts including the Sierra Valley Joint Union High School District, formed in 1908 out of ten school districts in the region and responsible for creating the first high school in Sierra County, at Loyalton; Butte School District, at Sierra City; and Alta School District, at Goodyears Bar, and the Downieville School.³⁶

It is unclear what Dan Wallace did during his period of building ownership, but he was noted in the local paper as a builder about town, so he may have just completed some projects to stabilized the structure. Don Nelson moved to the area around 1961, following the death of his second wife and a subsequent marriage, Don converted the back portion to a home for himself and his third wife in 1964. He also ran a building supply store and equipment rental shop out of the front half of the building. At one point even renting out snow mobiles. The couple divorced in 1972 and shortly thereafter, it was purchased by Raymond and Lucy Prince, the parents of the Nora Prince, who grew up in the house and inherited it from her parents following their deaths in the early 2000s.

Nora Prince and her husband, Don Hemphill, made extensive repairs in the decades following her parents' death, including constructing concrete foundations, updating the interior of the 1888 addition portion that had previously been converted to a two-bedroom apartment, and adding a rear deck. Nora Princes operated an art gallery in the building for approximately two years and offered short term rentals for a period.

Since ceasing to be a school in 1952, the property has been a store, art gallery and a venue for public meetings, as well as a private home. Nora Prince, relates that in 2020 the Sierra County Search and Rescue volunteers would meet at the Schoolhouse during COVID because with the front sliding barn door open, the meeting venue was technically "outside."

In 2022, the property was sold to Tom and Shirley Butt (Butt Family Trust) for continued use as a single-family home.

Criterion A

The Sierra City School is significant for its association with the development of early educational facilities in Sierra County during the mining boom of the late 19th century.

The Sierra City School illustrates its association with the rapid growth of the mining community from a makeshift camp to an established townsite with families, children and a need for education. The building was built during the period of rapid growth for the Sierra City community and sustained wealth from the mining industry. Constructed with public funds, the school represented the acknowledgment of the State of the growth of the area. The building stands as a good representation of the American schoolhouse typology...

36. Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra-Plumas_Joint_Unified_School_District#:~:text=The%20district%20was%20formed%20in,Sierra%20City%3B%20and%20Alta%20School (Last accessed August 7, 2023)

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In addition to serving the children of miners and others in mining industry-supporting businesses, the building was used as a community meeting space.

The design is consistent³⁷ with simple schoolhouse design in the 19th century, as described below in a Heritage Alliance paper:

Early one-room schools in America were small and made of thick hand hewn logs or blocks of sod. By the mid- to late-nineteenth century, progress allowed for much larger buildings covered in clapboard siding, board-and-batten siding, stone, or brick. Wooden buildings were unpainted before the 1870s and painted white afterwards. It was during the 1870s that planned designs became the source of information used to build one-room schools. The majority of one-room schools were rectangular, though some were square. The buildings ranged from 20 to 30 feet wide by 30 to 40 feet long. Many were built on stone foundations located on the least fertile ground, particularly in a farming community, and were within walking distance of the pupils. Located a short distance behind the school was the outhouse. Occasionally, two outhouses existed, one for the boys and one for the girls.

Roofs were usually simple gabled structures made of shake shingles, tin or as used later in the nineteenth century, mass-produced shingles made of materials available in a particular geographic area. A belfry was usually placed above the entrance to the schoolhouse. This became a status symbol for many nineteenth-century school districts. The tower was both decorative and practical. The bell was used to call children to school, to warn the community of dangers such as fires and accidents, and to ring in the holiday and special occasions.

Most rural one-room schools had one entrance door, although a few had two doors, one for the girls and one for the boys. Floors inside the schools were usually made of plank wood or tongue-and-groove wooden flooring. The wood was painted with a light coat of raw linseed oil. Many students spent after-school hours “oiling the floor.”

Two to four small-paned windows were widely spaced on one or both of the long sides of the school.

Blackboards ran across the front of the room and sometimes down the sides. Several wooden boards from the wall were simply painted black for most one-room schools.³⁸

The Sierra City School has much in common with the Old Webster Schoolhouse in Markleeville, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (along with at least 25 other historic

³⁷ The Sierra City School matches this description with the following: rectangular in shape with stone foundations, gabled roof, belfry, two entrance doors, plank wood floors, windows along both long sides and blackboards painted on the walls.

³⁸ “The Late Nineteenth-Century One-Room School,” Heritage Alliance website. <https://www.heritageall.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Americas-One-Room-Schools-of-the-1890s.pdf> (Accessed August 2023.)²

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California schools from the same era)³⁹ and was built almost the same time as the Sierra City School (1882). From the Old Webster Schoolhouse National Register Nomination:

The Old Webster Schoolhouse, a one-room, wood framed restored schoolhouse property, meets National Register Criterion A due to its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history as it is a very well maintained representation of the more than 200,000 one-room schoolhouses that were built nationwide during the 1800's through the early 1900's. These one-room schoolhouses were important to the country as they provided the first opportunity for rural communities to provide structured education, available to all, rather than the informal home schooling that preceded them. As teachers were scarce, and transportation limited, these one-room schools were built within a central location and children of all ages and educational levels attended. For more than a hundred years of our nation's history, these one-room schoolhouses were the mainstream of education, before the centralized schools of today were developed. Among these schoolhouses, few of the original wood frame buildings remain intact. The Old Webster School is one remaining original wood framed one-room schoolhouse that served the community of Markleeville for 46 years. It is also significant for its social history, for these schools often served as meeting rooms and locations for community recreation and social events. The Old Webster School was utilized when school was not in session for many such community events, including box socials, dances, musical events, student recitations and dramas and even the rare traveling evangelist sessions.⁴⁰

The investment in the Sierra City School building and support for the school reflects the importance of the Sierra City School as a focal point of community and is an outstanding representation of a vernacular rural American schoolhouse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Ancestry.com website. www.ancestry.com. Accessed August 2023.

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California Register of Historical Resources: The Listing Process, California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Series, no. 5. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Parks and Recreation, n.d.

³⁹ <https://noehill.com/alpine/nat2005000071.asp> (Last accessed August 2023)

⁴⁰ National Register of Historic Places completed nomination form.

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Corey Peterman email to Tom Butt, February 17, 2023.

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Kyle, Douglas E. *Historic Spots in California*. Revised edition. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.

Poppeliers, John C. et al. *What Style is it? A Guide to American Architecture*. Washington D. C.: The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1983.

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Accessed August 2023.

Sierra Booster, Sierra Valley Area & Sierra County Vol. 3-19, 1951-1967.

Sinnott, James J. *History of Sierra City and Goodyears Bar*. Fresno: Mid-Cal Publishers, 1978.

Western Mining History website. <https://westernmininghistory.com/towns/california/sierra-city/>
Accessed August 2023.

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:

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- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.73 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 39°34'00.61"

Longitude: 120°37'48.29"

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

PARCEL ONE: LOT 24, PORTION OF LOT 25, AND PORTION OF LOT 26, SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET, AS SAID LOTS ARE SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL "MAP OF THE SIERRA CITY TOWN-SITE, IN SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," MADE BY I.G. JONES IN OCTOBER, 1879, WHICH MAP WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA ON THE 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1880, ALL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT 23 SAID SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET BEING A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF MAIN STREET SAID SIERRA CITY TOWN-SITE, AND THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 24 AS SHOWN ON "RECORD MAP OF THE SURVEY FOR ROBERT P. MASON IN LOT 26, SOUTH OF MAIN STREET, SIERRA CITY, SIERRA COUNTY, CALIF.," MADE BY D.S. SNYDER IN THE YEAR 1950, WHICH MAP WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ON THE 7TH DAY OF MAY, 1951, IN BOOK "1" OF MAPS AND SURVEYS, AT PAGE 31; THENCE FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING: ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY LINE OF MAIN STREET NORTH 68° 07' EAST 124.00 FEET AND NORTH 50° 39' EAST 11.06 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID SOUTHERLY LINE NORTH 67° 12' EAST 85.77 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 25; THENCE ALONG SAID EASTERLY LINE SOUTH 19° 47' EAST 174.08 FEET TO THE MOST EASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 25; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 25, SOUTH 56° 41' WEST 154.31 FEET TO THE MOST SOUTHERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 25; THENCE SOUTH 62° 42' WEST 70.55 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 26; THENCE NORTH 19° 47' WEST 106.68 FEET TO THE MOST SOUTHERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT

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24; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 19° 47' WEST ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 24, 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIPE 1 INCH IN DIAMETER MARKING THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE HIGHWAY SIGN ROUT 49 AND THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 25, AS DELINEATED AND SO DESIGNATED ON THAT CERTAIN MAP OF SURVEY FOR ROBERT P. MASON, ON FILE IN VOLUME 1 OF MAPS AND SURVEYS, AT PAGE 31, RECORDS OF SIERRA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTH 19° 47' EAST ALONG SAID EASTERLY LINE OF LOT 25 A DISTANCE OF 174.08 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE 1 INCH IN DIAMETER MARKING THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 25; THENCE SOUTH 56° 41' WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 25 A DISTANCE OF 61.71 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE 1 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER, THENCE NORTH 19° 47' WEST A DISTANCE OF 185.36 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE 1 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER SET ON THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID STATE HIGHWAY; THENCE NORTH 67° 12' EAST ALONG SAID HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 60.08 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL TWO: RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT 6 FEET IN WIDTH ADJACENT TO AND SOUTHERLY OF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE PARCEL EXCEPTED AND AS HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED, SAID RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT BEING FOR A TWO (2) INCH WATER PIPE LINE.

APN: 009-112-021-000⁴¹

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the extent of the property on which Sierra City School is located.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Tom Butt, Architect, FAIA
organization: Butt Family Trust, Owner
street & number: 117 Park Place
city or town: Richmond State: CA zip code: 94801
e-mail: tom.butt@intres.com
telephone: 510-220-1577
date: March 15, 2023

Additional Documentation

⁴¹ CLTA Preliminary Title Report dated August 30, 2022, First American Title Company, 768 Taylorsville Road, Suite B, Grass Valley, CA 95949

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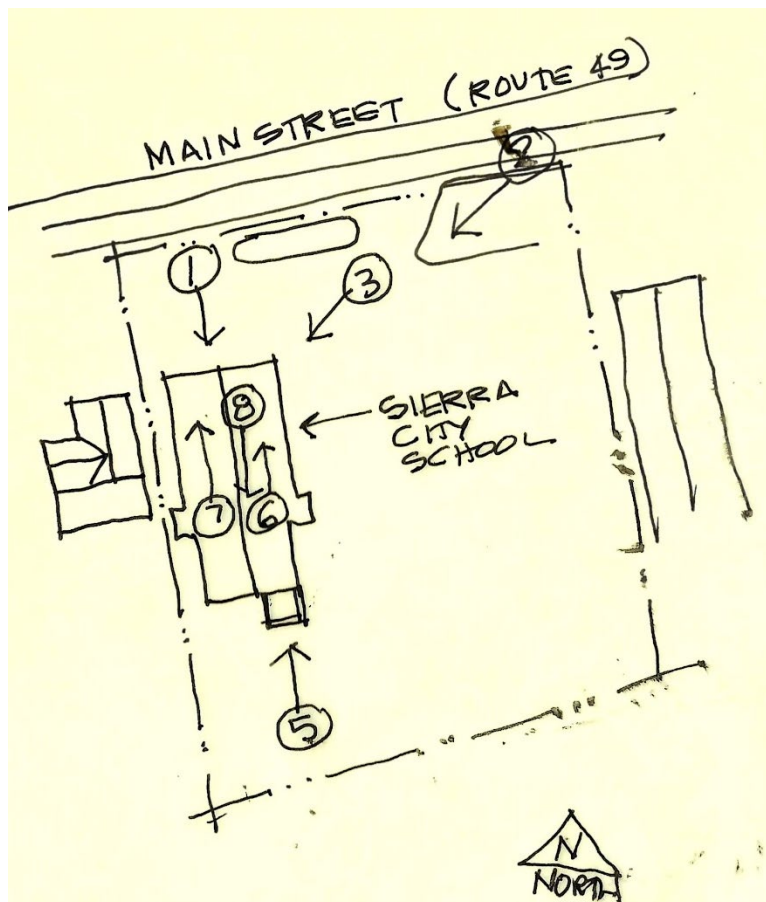
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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.



Key to Photographs

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

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Photo Log 0001

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County

State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Front (north) Elevation of Sierra City School

Photo Log 0002

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County

State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: December 29, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking at NE cornet of Sierra City School or Highway 49 (Main Street)

Photo Log 0003

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County

State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: NE Corner of Sierra City School

Photo Log 0004

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County

State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Side Entry Deck on east side of Sierra City School, looking north.

Photo Log 0005

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

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Name of Property

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County: Sierra County State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: South elevation of Sierra City School

Photo Log 0006

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Interior of original School Room looking north.

Photo Log 0007

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Interior of original School Room looking north.

Photo Log 0008

Name of Property: Sierra City School

City or Vicinity: Sierra City CA

County: Sierra County State: CA

Photographer: Tom Butt

Date Photographed: August 26, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Interior of original School Room looking south.

List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all documents should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page).

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Figure 1 - General Location Map



Source: Google Earth, accessed March 13, 2023

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Figure 2 – Property Boundaries



Property boundaries (Source: Sierra County Assessor)

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Figure 3 – USGS 1:62500-scale Quadrangle for Sierra City, CA 1955

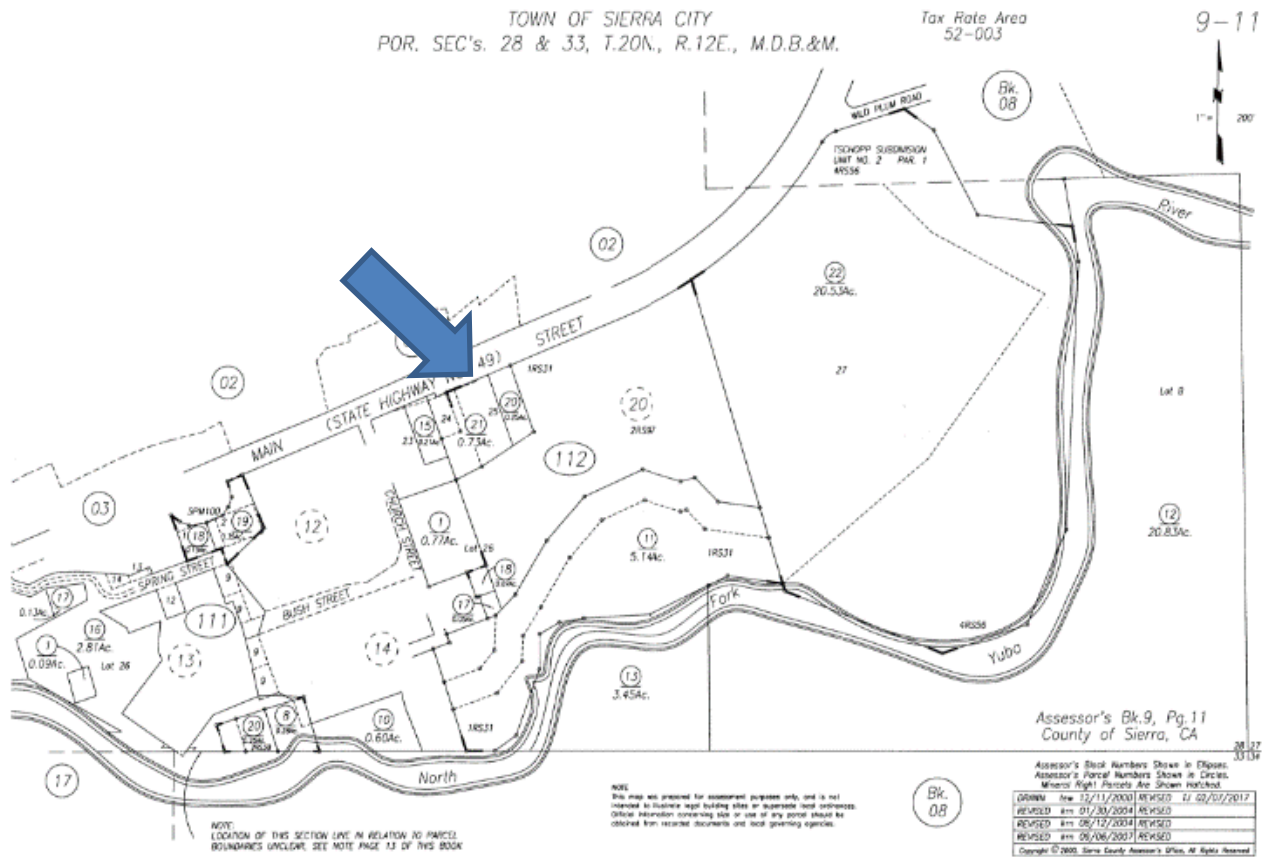


USGS 1:62500-scale Quadrangle for Sierra City, CA 1955

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Figure 4 – Assessor’s Parcel Map 2022



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Figure 5 – Sierra City School, 1870s



Sierra City

Source: The Sierran, Sierra County Historical Society, Fall 1982, page 1. The date of this photograph is mislabeled as 1870 (see note on page 5). The residence in the background was not constructed until the 1880s.

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Figure 6 – Sierra City School About 1915

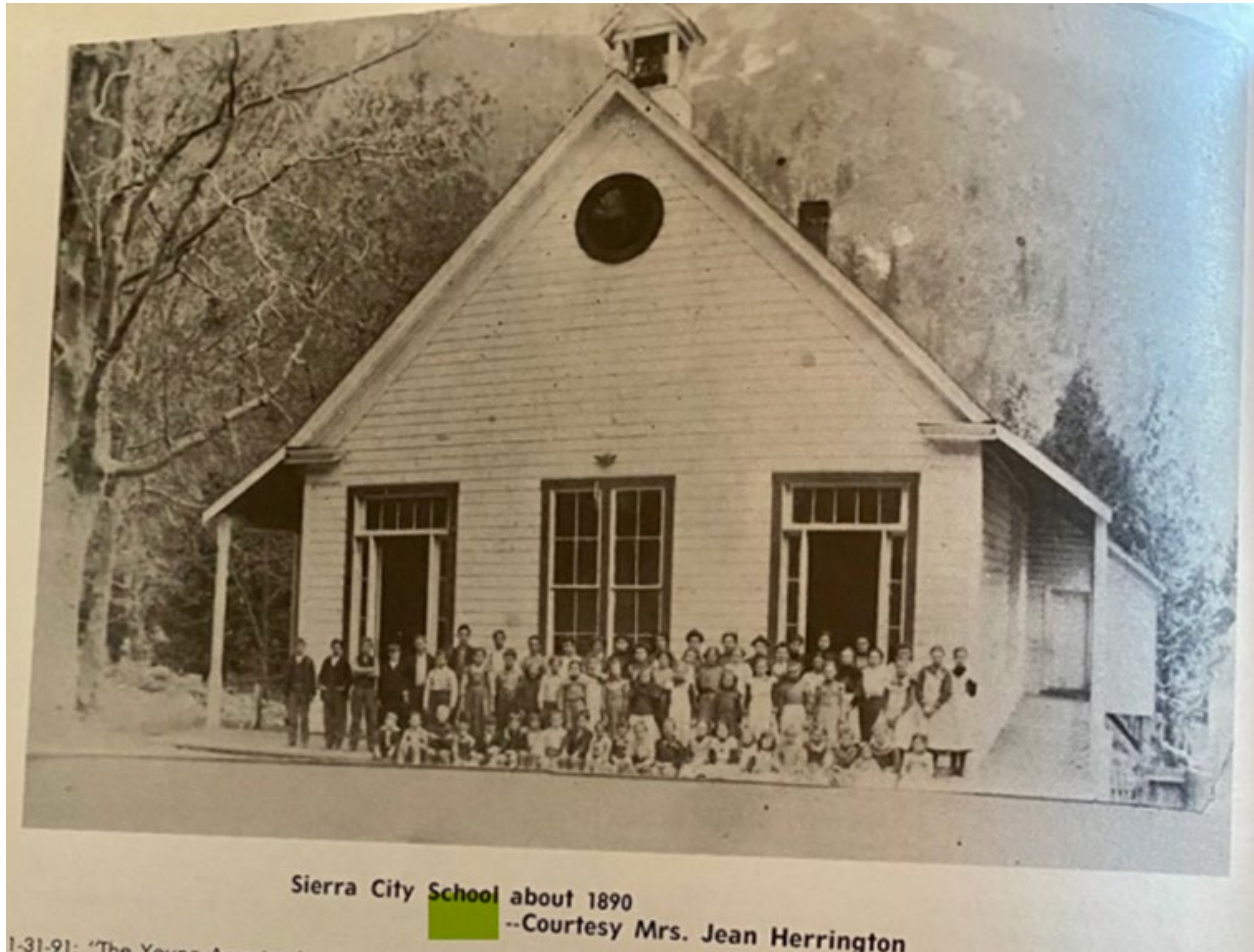


James J. Sinnott, "Sierra City and Goodyear's Bar," page 94

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Figure 7 – Sierra City School About 1890



James J. Sinnott, "Sierra City and Goodyear's Bar," page 94

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Figure 8 – Sierra City School Approximately 1931



Caption on back: "Far left - Charlee Smith, approx. 1931? John H. Rose (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

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Figure 9 – Sierra City School

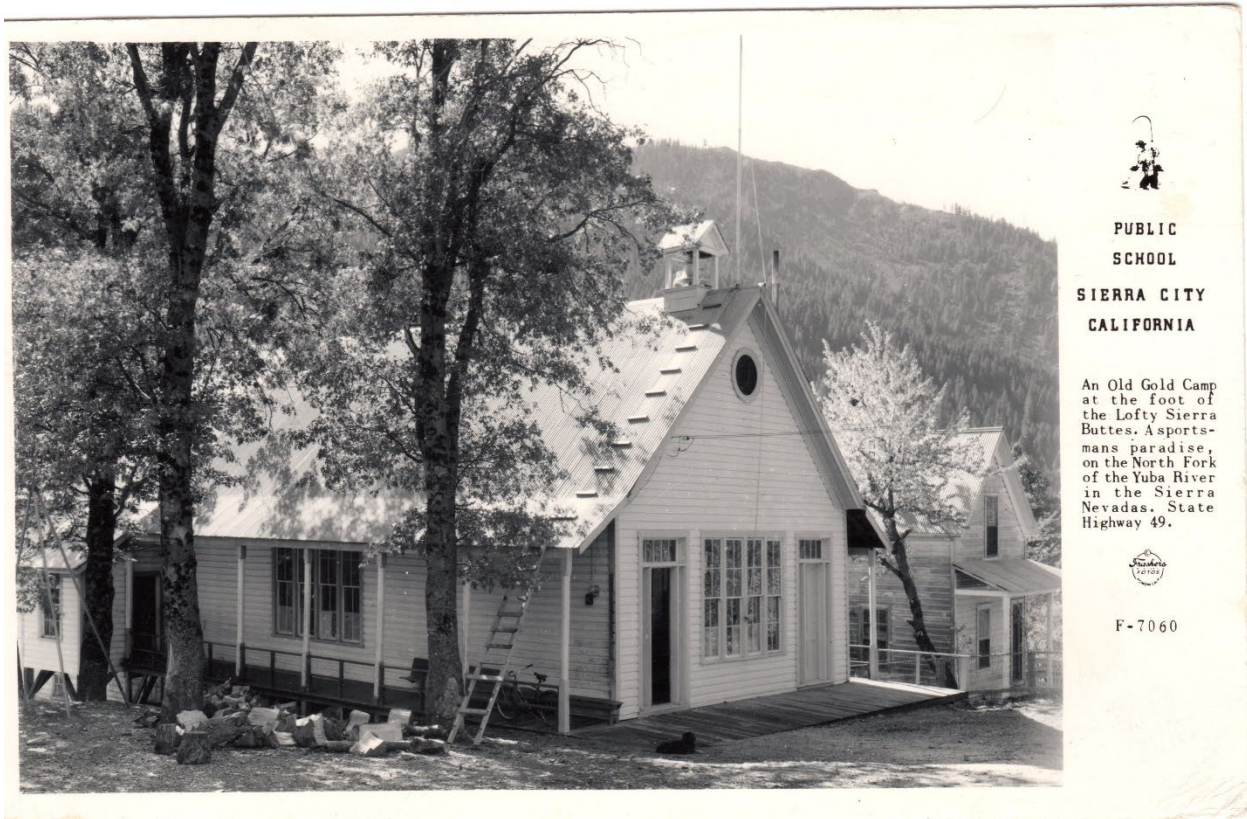


Sierra City School, Date Unknown (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

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Figure 10– Sierra City School



Date unknown (Source: Nora Prince Collection). This photo shows four windows in the front façade.

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Figure 11– Sierra City School



Date Unknown. Caption on back: “The Old School House in Sierra City. Wonder about the date and how many years the school house was there and if it is still there?” (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

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Figure 12 – Sierra City School



Caption on back: "School House Sierra City, Calif." Stamped with "Bunnell Photo Shop, 1033 Sixth St., San Diego, Feb, 20, 1933." (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

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Figure 13 – Sierra City School



Date unknown. (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
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Figure 14 – Sierra City School

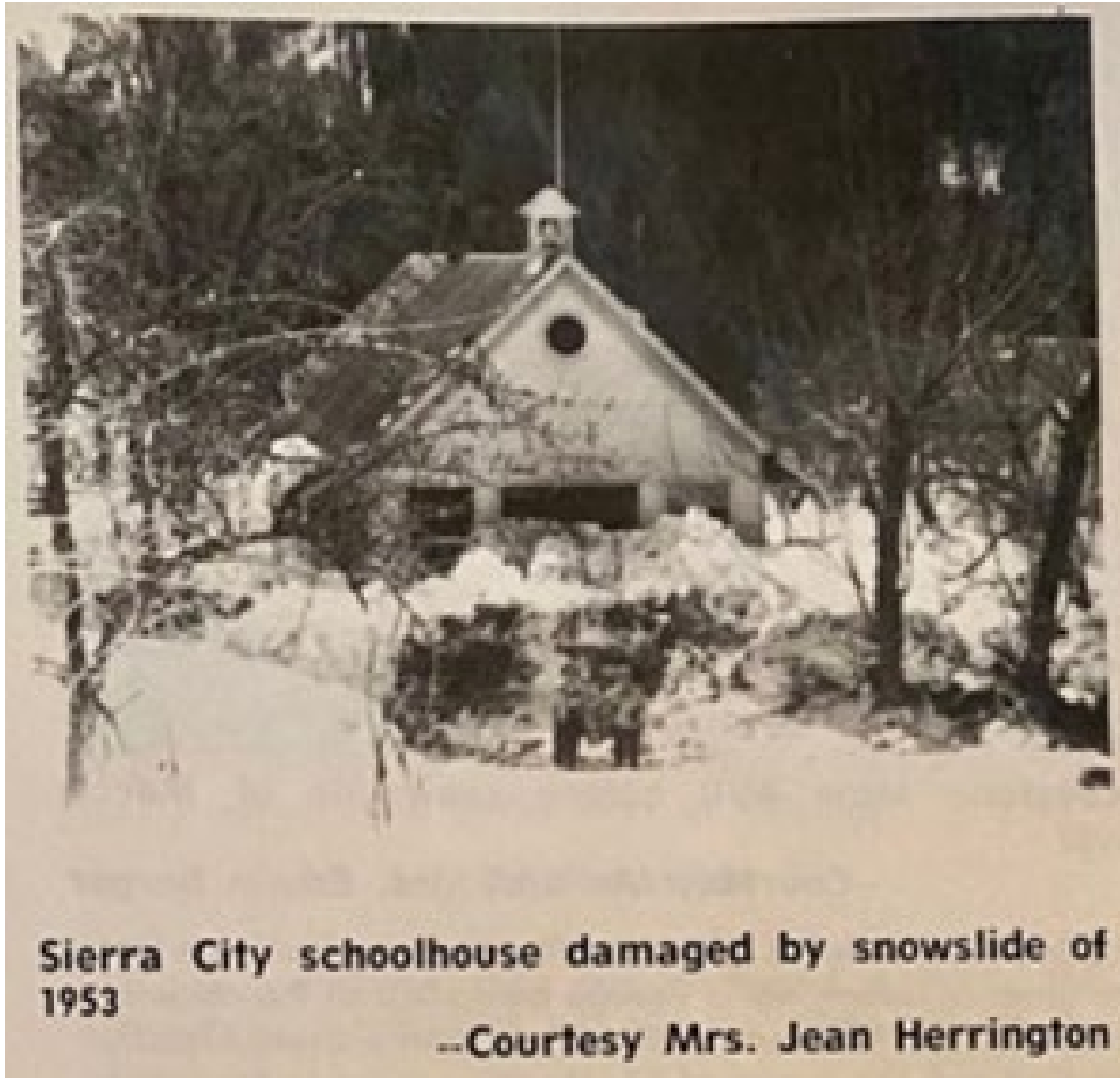


Date unknown. (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
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Figure 15 – Sierra City School After 1954 Avalanche

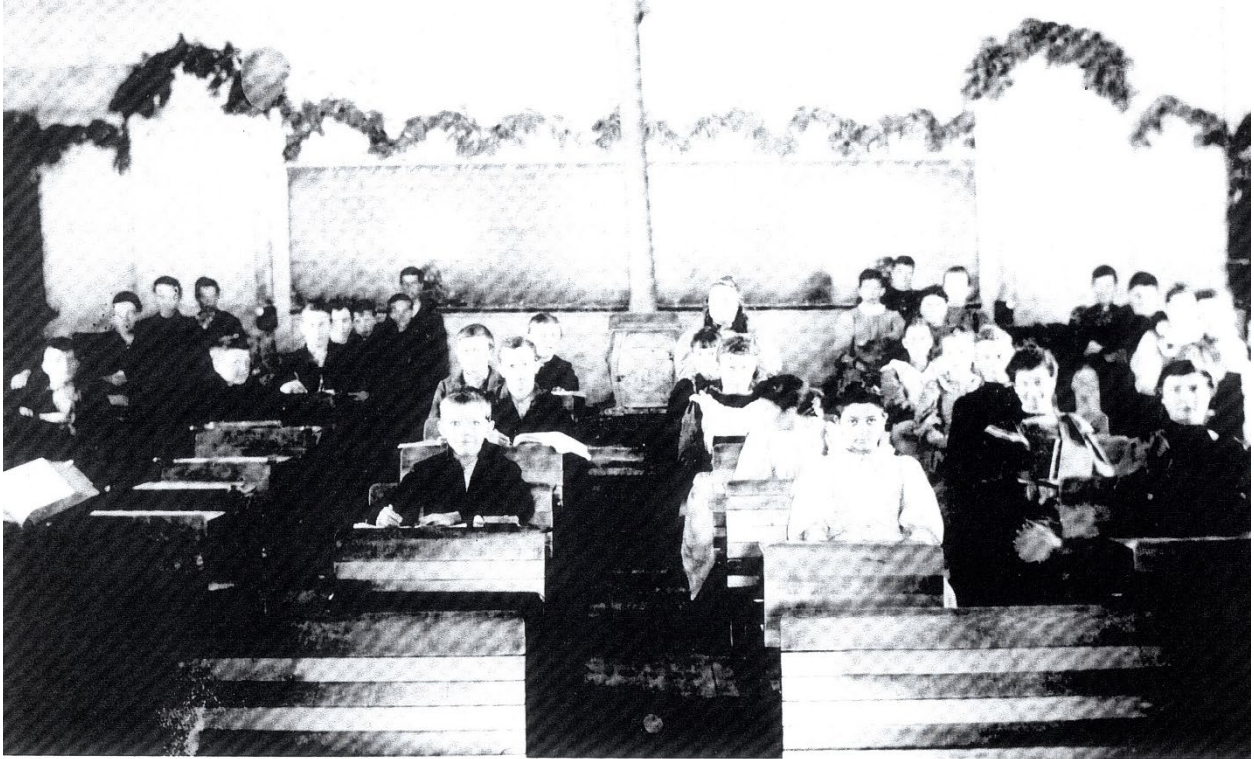


Sierra City schoolhouse damaged by snowslide of 1953 (Source: James J. Sinnott, *Sierra City and Goodyears Bar*, page 43. In this photo, the front façade appears to have four windows. The caption is mislabeled. The avalanche was in 1952, not 1953.

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Figure 16 – Classroom Interior



Sierra City School Interior

Date unknown. (Source: Nora Prince Collection)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Figure 17 – Sierra City School

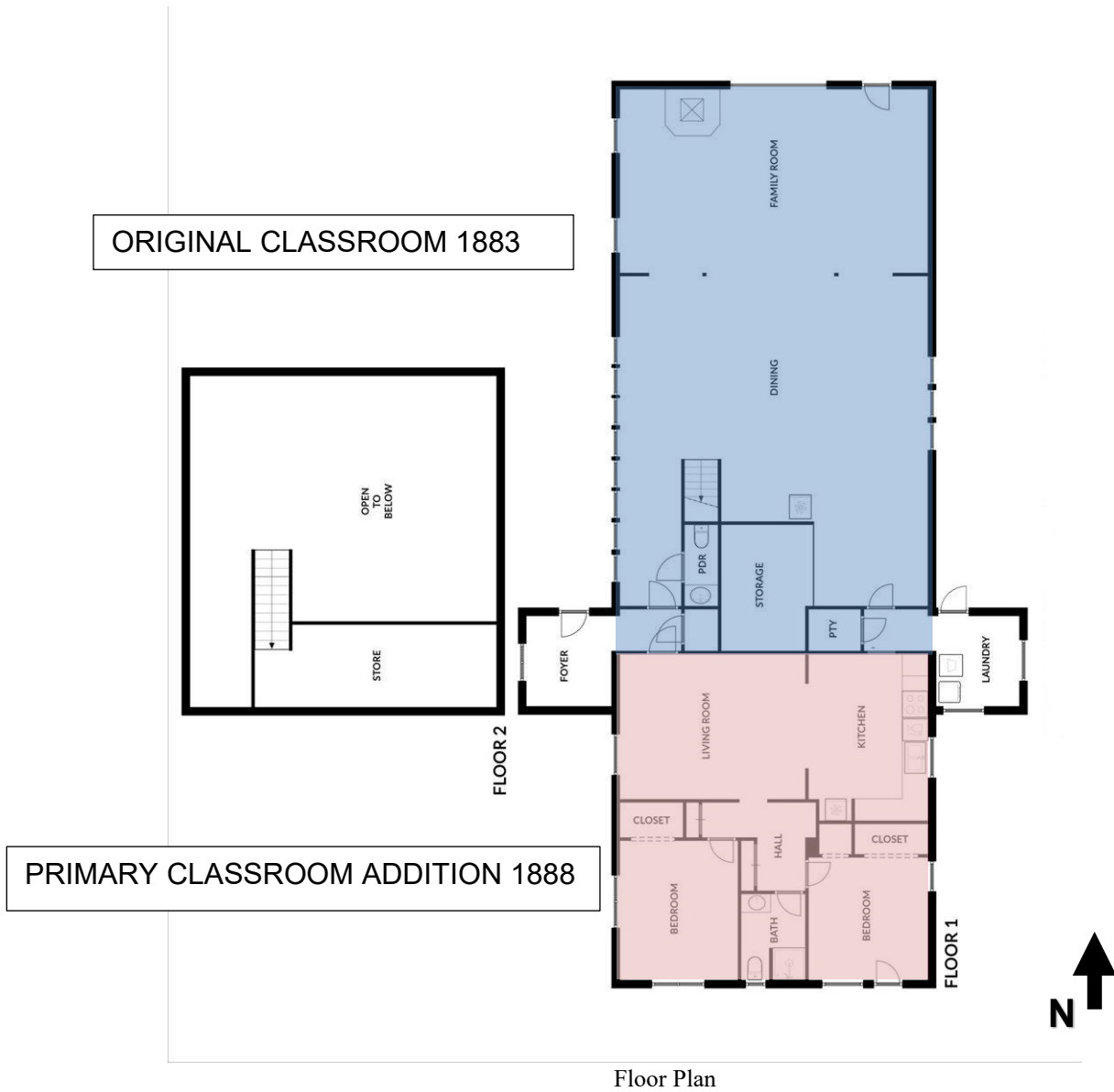


Undated (Source: Nora Prince Collection) This is one of several photos that show four windows in the front façade.

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

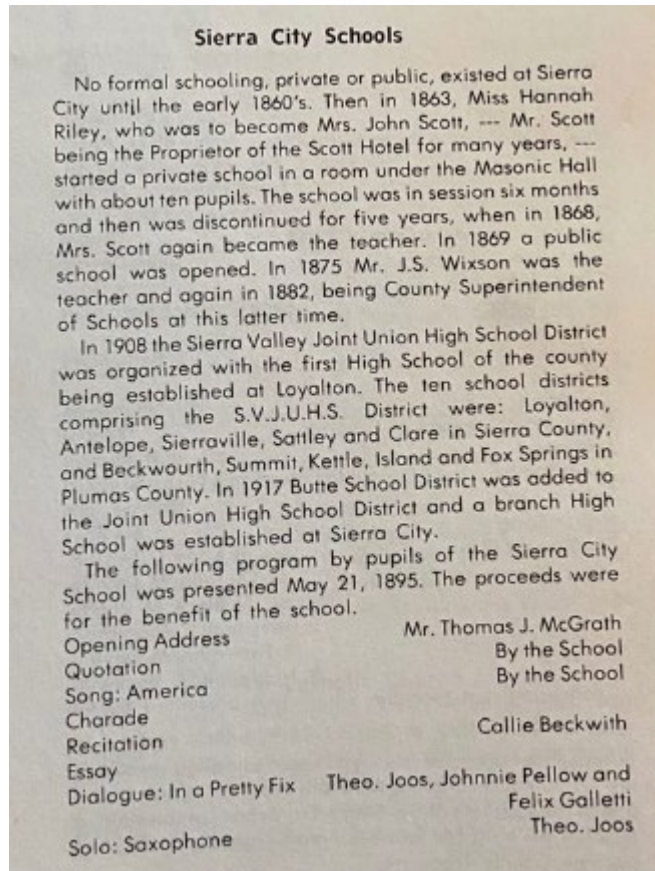
Figure 18 – Floor Plan



Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Figure 19A

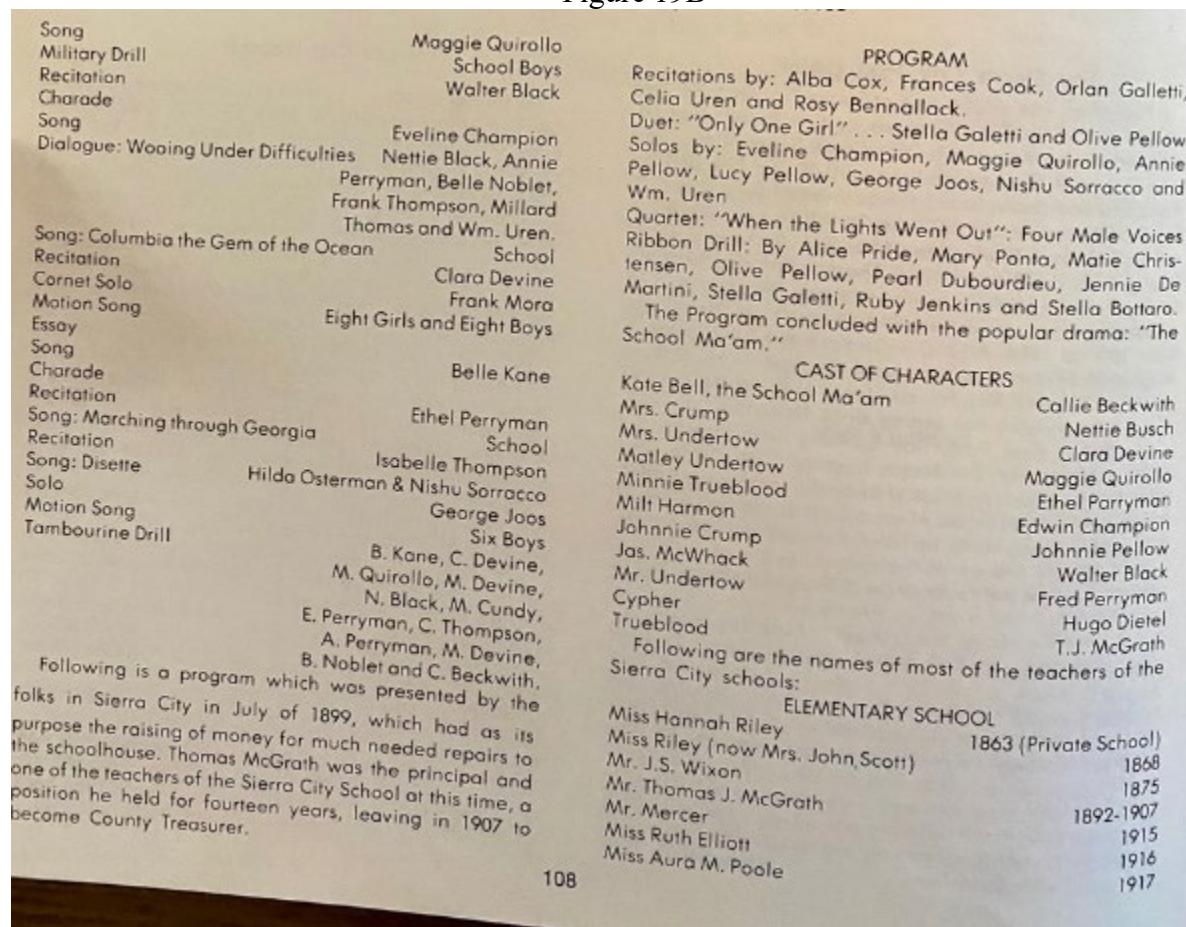


Sinnott, 107

Sierra City School, Sierra City
 Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
 County and State

Figure 19B



Sinnott, 108

Sierra City School, Sierra City
 Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
 County and State

Figure 19C

Miss Aura M. Poole and Miss Ruth Smith	1919-90	Mrs. Elise (Post) Kyburz	1943
Mrs. Kate Loeffler	1920-21	Miss Lucille Mull	1945-46
Mrs. Tula Copening	1921-22	Mrs. Jessie Lewis	1946-47
Mr. Wilbur M. Doyal	1922-23	Mrs. Mary Fisher	1947-48
Mrs. Susan Hansen	1923-24	Mr. James G. Teel	1948-50
Miss Etta M. Gould	1924-25	Mr. Hugh Jones	1950-53
		Mr. John O. Roberts	1953-54
HIGH SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	
Adelaide Graham	1917-18	Mr. Smith, Mr. Keep and Mr. Arthur G. Nevins (Special in Music, Band and Chorus) and Miss Lois Robinson (Special in Homemaking)	
Mr. Geo. H. Chance	1918-19	Miss Irene Scott and Mr. Keep	1940-42
Miss Florence Barthe (left in September of 1921 and was succeeded by:)		Miss Amy Westall and Mr. Keep	1942-43
Miss Sophie Dinsdale	1921-22	Beginning in 1943 the high school students were bussed to Downieville to attend the High School there, and in 1954, following the formation of a Joint Unified School District, the elementary pupils were transported to the Downieville School. The school building, which in recent years for several years after the remodeling of the interior to become the Building Supplies and Equipment Rental business of Donald Nelson, was erected in 1883. In 1888, a large section, which became the Primary Room, was added.	
Mr. George Hansen	1922-23		
Mrs. Georgia Crowley	1923-31		
Mrs. Ella Amsbury	1931-32		
Mr. R.A. Smith	1932-34		
Mr. Smith and Mr. W.L. Keep	1934-37		
Mr. Smith, Mr. Keep, Miss Ina Amon, and Miss Alma Phipps	1937-38		
Miss Smith, Miss Phipps & Miss Tunia Vandebout	1938-39		
ELEMENTARY TEACHERS			
Mabel E. Gardiner	1926-27		
Ruth Lander (asst.)	1927-28		
Mrs. May W. Jerome	1928-31		
Clara Mohr	1931-34		
Miss Anna S. Forbes	1934-36		
Clara Mohr	1938-40		
Mrs. Sidney Strand	1940-41		
Mrs. Katherine Fitz	1941-42		
Mrs. Stella Locke	1942-43		
Mrs. Marian Ruth Turner			

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Sinnott, 109

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Figure 20



Bell from Sierra City School on display at Kentucky Mine, Sierra City, CA (photo: Tom Butt)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Figure 21



North façade and east porch prior to rehabilitation work after 2009 (Photo: Nora Prince collection)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Figure 22



North façade prior to rehabilitation work after 2009 (Photo: Nora Prince collection)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State

Photographs



Photo 0001 - Front (north) Elevation of Sierra City School

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0002 - Looking at NE corner of Sierra City School or Highway 49 (Main Street)

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0003 - NE Corner of Sierra City School

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0004 - Side Entry Deck on east side of Sierra City School, looking north.

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0005 - South elevation of Sierra City School

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0006 - Interior of original School Room looking north.

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0007 - Interior of original School Room looking north.

Sierra City School, Sierra City
Name of Property

Sierra County, CA
County and State



Photo 0008 - Interior of original School Room looking south.