

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a.)**

1. Name of Property

historic name Chung Mei Home Historic District
other names/site number Windrush School



2. Location

street & number 1760 Elm Street
city or town El Cerrito
state California code CA county Contra Costa code 013 zip code 94530

not for publication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

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 _____

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 _____

Chung Mei Home Historic District
 Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	2	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Institutional Housing

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Italian Renaissance Revival/Mediterranean
Revival with Asiatic influences
International Style
Moderne

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
 walls: Concrete
Stucco
 roof: Terra Cotta, Composition
 other: _____

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Chung Mei Home Historic District ("the District") in El Cerrito, California was originally the campus of a residential facility for Chinese boys. The District was built in 1935 as a replacement for an outmoded earlier facility located in Berkeley, California. The District is located on an undulating hillside bordered by Elm Street to the west and by existing residential housing to the north, east, and south. The District consists of a main building, a maintenance building, an art studio, an L-shaped classroom building, a gymnasium, a library/classroom building, playfields, basketball courts, lawn areas, pathways, roads, and trees. From 1935 to 1954, the District served as the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys. It provided residential care, guidance, and structure for neglected and abandoned Chinese boys. The District still reflects its institutional design and integrity. LSA Associates of Richmond, California completed a Historical Resources Evaluation of the District in 2007. The evaluation concluded that the District appeared eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources for its association with the Chinese experience in California and the San Francisco Bay Area. LSA's document is the primary source of material for this Registration form.

Narrative Description

The District, on a hillside with views of San Francisco Bay, is approximately four acres. From 1935 to 1954 the District served as the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys. From 1956 to 1974 the District served as the home of the Western Baptist Bible College. From 1974 to 1987 the District served as the Armstrong Preparatory School. From 1987 to 2012 the District served as Windrush School. Four of the District's six buildings date from the District's period of significance (1935-1954) and are contributors: the main building (the original residential quarters), the maintenance building, the art studio, and the gymnasium. The main building has a Chinese architectural theme that includes tile roofing; a mix of metal framed rectangular casement, round, and octagonal windows; and an elaborate dragon motif entryway. Many of these same themes are incorporated into the Maintenance building. The gymnasium has a decorative "Chinese" roof ridge beam.

The primary entrance to the District is from Elm Street in El Cerrito. The paved drive curves up the hill to the front of the main building. The District is somewhat hilly, with sidewalks and stairs connecting the upper and lower level of the District. All six buildings are linked via walkways and landscaping. The main building, maintenance building, art studio, and L-shaped classroom building are all located at nearly the same elevation at the top of the parcel. The gymnasium and the library/classroom building are both located at the bottom of the parcel.

Main building: This resource was constructed in 1935 (Shepherd 1938.) It is a three-story, poured-in-place reinforced concrete Italian Renaissance Revival/Mediterranean Revival with Asiatic influences style building in a compound rectangular ground plan. It has a north and a south wing. The exposed rafter, low-pitched hip-gable roof is clad in mission Spanish style terra cotta tile and painted green. The roof is flared upward at the corners and ridge ends, evoking a Chinese style of architecture. Ovolo and Deco molding ornament the exterior between the first and second floors. Decorative molding on the exterior walls, stylistic fenestration, and dragon motifs add to the Chinese-style architecture. This building was the primary residence for the boys at the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys.

Fenestration consists of metal-framed windows. Rectangular articulating two fixed over six-lite casement windows alternate with small hexagonal windows. The hexagonal windows are located on the first floor, one per façade: north, south, east, west. Each hexagonal window has a center-articulating panel. The two over six-lite casement windows carry over to the second floor on the northern and southern elevations. The first floor windows of the northern and southern elevations have three fixed lites over casement windows with offset stiles and rails. The basement level on the southern elevation has 2- and 4-lite awning windows at the west end. Three large circular openings occupy the east end of the southern façade. These circular openings consist of fixed glass panels that surround double window doors. (It was believed that passing through an arched opening was good luck.) Four decorative sgraffito panels that depict Asian protective spirits lie under the first floor windows on the south façade next to the main entrance of the building. These panels are signed by Pelens. Surrounding the main entrance next to two large concrete columns are three sgraffito panels bearing Asian 'coin' designs.

Chung Mei Home Historic District

Contra Costa County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

The cornice is decorated with a dentil band that includes ornamentation. Rain gutters and downspouts are round weathered copper, with leader-headed downspouts draining into an underground collection system. Downspouts are attached to the exterior walls with flat ornate copper brackets; one of these is in the shape of a dragon. A scallop-edged Art Modeme concrete banister (depicting clouds) borders an exterior staircase to the second floor on the eastern elevation. An elaborate Chinese dragon motif sculpture is located above the front entry. The facing pair of 'wind' dragons are accompanied by protective crouching Asian lions.

The western elevation contains a secondary entrance originally used by staff. Four wooden columns support the terra cotta tile roof. The portico components of beams, brackets, and roof frames are made to interlock with perfect fit using mortise and tenon joinery. These double doors are original to the building. Similar wood joinery was used in the construction of the large screened porch located on the north side of the main building.

The Chinese theme is carried into the lobby. Intricate carved wooden screens surround and accompany a pair of wooden columns that mark the interior arch. Four wooden golden dragon brackets lie at the top of the both sides of the columns. Most notable is the original ten foot diameter round, Americanized Chinese landscape mural. The mural is signed Dupont and depicts the message that ones future lies with education or guidance. The Chinese script reads "Whenever you open a book you always benefit." This resource is a contributor to the District.

Maintenance Building: This resource is a one-story, hip-gable roofed, stucco-clad Chinese Modeme building in a rectangular ground plan. It was constructed in 1948 (City of El Cerrito records) Fenestration consists of metal framed eight-lite casement windows on the north and south elevations and metal framed round windows with a center articulating square lite. The front entrance features open stairs that are framed by a modified torii. There is a covered walkway between the Maintenance building and the Main building. This resource is a contributor to the District.

Art Studio: This resource is a one-story, flat-roofed, stucco-clad Art Modeme building in a rectangular ground plan. It was constructed in 1935 (City of El Cerrito records.) It was originally used as a garage for vehicle storage and repair but in time was switched to functioning as an art studio. Fenestration consists of articulating four-lite windows framed by six-over-four fixed lites. The outer corners of the building are radiused and fluted. This resource is a contributor to the District.

Gymnasium: This resource is a one-story, stucco-clad International-style building in a rectangular ground plan. It was constructed in 1949 (Windrush School records.) The open beam, side gabled roof of the gymnasium is clad with composition shingles and includes a prominent red Chinese motif metal ridge beam. A band of skylights flanks both sides of the ridge beam. Fenestration consists of a mix of metal framed three-lite awning windows on the north and south elevations, and aluminum sliders on the eastern portion of the north and south elevations. This resource is a contributor to the District.

L-shaped Classroom Building: This resource is a split-level, stucco-clad modern building with an L-shaped linear rectangular ground plan. The shallow pitch side gabled roof is clad in composition shingles. The east-west wing is one-story; the north-south wing is two-story. Fenestration consists of aluminum sliders. This building is a non-contributor to the District because it was constructed between 1956 and 1959 (U.S. Geological Survey 1959; Western Baptist Bible College 1956), after the period of significance.

Library/Classroom Building: This resource is a two-story, stucco-clad International Style building with a rectangular ground plan. Covered corridors that are open to the west run the length of the lower and upper levels. On the northern end of this building's east side there is a connection to the gymnasium. Fenestration consists of large sealed windows; the entire west wall of the library is window. This building is a non-contributor to the District because it was constructed in 2007 (City of El Cerrito records), after the period of significance.

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/ASIAN

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1935 - 1954

Significant Dates

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Reimers, Frederick

Period of Significance (justification)

1935 is the year the Chung Mei Home opened in El Cerrito. It remained in operation continuously until August of 1954, when it was closed (Oakland Tribune, June 22, 1954.)

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

(none)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Under Criterion A, the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys Historic District is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the Chinese experience in California and the San Francisco Bay Area. The Chung Mei Home provided institutional care for neglected or abandoned Chinese-American boys. This helped the Chinese community of the San Francisco Bay Area adapt to the social norms of mainstream American society. At the time of significance the Chung Mei Home was the only institution of its kind in the United States (Oakland Tribune, May 25, 1954.)

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

By the early twentieth century anti-Chinese sentiments and a gender imbalance in Chinese immigration created a growing population of Chinese children who lived on the streets. Many were separated from their parents because of illness, unfit homes, or abandonment; because of the death of a parent; or because a parent had to temporarily return to China (Wyman 1997.) These children were banned from Caucasian institutions due to their ancestry. A girls' orphanage had been established in San Francisco in 1874 and in Oakland in 1915, but until the Chung Mei Home was built there was no corresponding facility for boys. (The name Chung Mei comes from the Chinese words "Chung" for China and "Mei" for America.)

The original Chung Mei Home was established by Dr. Charles R. Shepherd in 1923. It was located in Berkeley near the edge of San Francisco Bay and was financed primarily by donations from American Baptist Home Missionary Society, the San Francisco Bay Cities Baptist Union, and the Chinese community (Shepherd, 1948.) Shepherd, who spoke fluent Cantonese, was born in England. He received theological degrees in Kentucky and from 1913 to 1917 taught church history and English in China. Dr. Shepherd had come to San Francisco in 1919 under appointment by the American Baptist Home Mission Society as Director of Chinese Missions on the Pacific Coast. Shepherd soon came to understand the dire conditions under which a number of young Chinese boys and their families lived. He spent much time between 1919 and 1923 trying to first raise interest and then raise enough money to build in Berkeley the establishment that in 1923 became the original Chung Mei Home (Shepherd, 1948.)

Dr. Shepherd was heavily influenced during this time by Donaldina Cameron. Cameron was a Presbyterian missionary and was known as "The Angry Angel." She rescued and then educated more than 3,000 Chinese slave girls and women from 1895 to 1934 in San Francisco. Cameron started working in 1895 as a sewing teacher at the Occidental Mission Home for Girls, which had been founded in 1874 by the Presbyterian Church. While working at the Mission Home she began to participate with the city's police in the rescue of women and girls held captive, wielding an axe during nighttime raids on Chinese cribs and brothels. In 1900, she became the Superintendent of the Mission Home. Those Cameron rescued called her *Lo Mo* or "Beloved Mother", while those she rescued them from called her *Fahn Quai*, or "White Devil." In 1915 Cameron founded the Tooker Home for Chinese children and infants. (Loscuttuff, 2008; Martin, 1977; Wikipedia article on Donaldina Cameron.)

Cameron was well known both in and out of missionary circles and Dr. Shepherd met her shortly after he arrived in San Francisco in 1919. Almost immediately she began urging him to establish a home for Chinese boys as she had done for Chinese girls. She had in fact over the years sheltered a limited number of very young abandoned Chinese boys but was not able to keep them in a home for girls once the boys approached school age. Shepherd was challenged by Cameron's strong promptings and the motivation she supplied helped Shepherd succeed in founding the Chung Mei Home (Loscuttuff, 2008; Shepherd 1938.)

In 1935, the State of California bought the deteriorating Chung Mei Home in Berkeley because the Home stood on the planned route for the new Eastshore Freeway. In that same year the new facility was completed in El Cerrito, again with donations from Baptists and also with money earned by the Chung Mei boys themselves. The Chung Mei boys earned money over the years to augment the funding the Home received from the Bay Cities Baptist Union. They did this in a variety of ways: by chopping wood and selling it, by picking fruit in various counties in northern California, and by mounting

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

various performances, "minstrel shows" and original musical plays. These events took place in a number of communities around Northern California.

In its twenty years nearly 700 boys lived at the Chung Mei Home. Its closure was the result of dwindling enrollment as expanding state institutions and programs, such as foster care, opened to children of all backgrounds - including Chinese - after World War II. These programs filled the need formerly served by the Chung Mei Home. The Bay Cities Baptist Union sold the school to the Western Baptist Bible College in 1956.

The District maintains its historical integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The District is in its original location since it moved from Berkeley in 1935. It retains virtually all elements of its design with the exception of the changes to the appearance of the gymnasium as a result of the construction of the library/classroom building in 2007. The setting of the District retains the general flow of the pathways and relationships between the buildings and open space. The different owners of the District have maintained appropriate landscaping since the period of significance. Materials in the District buildings are generally those of the period of significance. The original roof tiles on the gymnasium have been replaced with composition shingles, but the change does not detract from the setting or feeling of the building as a contributor to the District. The workmanship of the District has been retained and can be clearly seen in the construction of the buildings. The architectural elements and institutional style of each contributing building link them to each other, giving a sense of unity to the District. The District possesses its integrity of association, as it has retained its institutional flavor over its entire existence. Even the resources built after the period of significance add to the institutional feel of the District. A more detailed discussion of each of the seven aspects of integrity follows.

Location: The District currently possesses integrity of location. Aside from minor changes in vegetation and the alignment of circulation elements, the District and its contributing elements are in the same location as they were during the District's period of significance. All the contributing buildings retain integrity of location. The campus was originally more than five acres. After the period of significance some land previously used for playing fields was sold, leaving the District at its current 4-acre size.

Design: The District currently possesses integrity of design. Changes to the gymnasium as the result of a project in 2007 altered the form of the gymnasium by removing its western section, which diminished the District's integrity of design. The library/classroom structure added in 2007 is distinguishable from the original District buildings but includes a number of design elements that emulate the construction, form, and ordering of the contributing buildings in the District. While both the L-shaped classroom building and the Library/Classroom building are non-contributors because they were built after the District's period of significance, both have a design that incorporates an appropriate institutional flavor.

Over the years some changes have been made to buildings in the District. On the Main Building the original horizontal wooden gutters have been replaced with copper (the original leader-heads are still in use.) The front and east entrance doors have been replaced with aluminum-framed glass doors. The chimney that vented the original furnace has been removed as has the upswing on the corners of the tiled roof corners. The closed front porch on the Maintenance Building has been replaced with open stairs. The Clay tile roof on the gymnasium was replaced with composition shingles in 1982. During the period of significance a westward extension was added to gymnasium to house locker rooms, shower rooms, and bathroom facilities. This extension was removed in 2007 as part of a project to add the library/classroom building.

Setting: The District currently possesses integrity of setting. The urban setting of today is not significantly different than during its period of significance, when the surrounding neighborhood built up and surrounded the campus. The 2007 library/classroom project introduced a two-story addition adjacent to and west of the gymnasium, which affected the internal setting of the District. The 2007 library/classroom structure obscures the roofline of the gymnasium when viewed from the west.

The District's original physical arrangement and certain conditions that existed during the District's period of significance lessen the effect the new library/classroom on the District's integrity of setting. The Gymnasium is located in the lowest part of the district while the other contributing buildings are located in the upper part of the site. Also, views of the gymnasium from the main entrance to the upper buildings and from the primary entrance to the District (which was located to the west of the gymnasium) were substantially blocked during the District's period of significance by large trees - as are similar views blocked today. These two factors meant that the gymnasium was not visually prominent in the original District setting. Historically, the roofline of the gymnasium, which is visually blocked from the west by new library/classroom building, could only be clearly seen as a visitor neared the southeast corner of the main building. This view remains today.

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

Since during the period of significance the gymnasium lacked visual prominence relative to the setting of the District, the new library/classroom building does not significantly impair the integrity of setting as a whole.

Materials: The District possesses integrity of materials. The contributing elements of the District possess an overall consistency of materials relative to the period of significance. The addition of the library/classroom building introduced a two-story addition adjacent and to the west of the gymnasium. It also required the removal of the former addition to the west side of the gymnasium. The removal of the addition to the west side of the gymnasium removed materials present during the District's period of significance.

Although it was constructed during the District's period of significance, the addition to the west side of the gymnasium consisted of a wood frame and stucco building. The materials used for the addition to the west side of the gymnasium construction contrasted significantly with those used for the main building and other District contributors. The new library/classroom building incorporated cast-in-place concrete and other design elements for consistency with the other District buildings. The District as a whole therefore retains its integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The District currently possesses integrity of workmanship. The contributing elements of the District possess an overall consistency of workmanship, especially with regard to the institutional character of the campus. The addition a the library/classroom building in 2007 introduced a new two-story building on the west side of the gymnasium. This addition required the removal of the former addition to the west side of the gymnasium. The removal of the addition to the west side of the gymnasium had a minor impact on the workmanship present during the District's period of significance.

The architectural character of the District hinges on the institutional architecture and also certain individual Chinese design elements set in the context of a unified landscape plan. The addition to the west side of the gymnasium, although constructed during the period of significance, did not reflect the formative years of the District's historical association that produced the architectural signature of the campus. The projects elements of the 2007 library/classroom project were designed to be architecturally compatible with the contributing buildings in the District. The District as a whole still retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The District currently possesses integrity of feeling. The contributing elements of the District are situated in the same manner as they were historically, and the institutional character of the campus still clearly conveys a sense of administrative order and specialized function.

Association: The District currently possesses integrity of association. The contributing elements of the District are situated in the same manner as they were historically, and they also are used in an institutional context. The consistent use of the District for institutional purposes, as required by zoning regulations, and the fact that the District is at the location of its historical association, reinforce its integrity of association.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

As with many others, many Chinese immigrants came to California during the Gold Rush. The Chinese ideogram for California, "Golden Mountain," represents the economic importance of California. The economic boom created by the discovery of gold in 1848 brought political refugees and economic opportunists to California, where the tremendous labor shortage in the developing mining and collateral industries created the highest wage level in the world. The Chinese in California quickly became an integral part of the labor force, participating in the mining industry and railroad construction, as well as in the unskilled workforce of collateral industries such as laundry service. Although Chinese laborers in California were paid less than the average white male, they made considerably more than their counterparts back home (Daniels 1988.)

The Chinese population in California between 1860 and 1880 was more than 8 percent of the total population of the state. The overwhelming majority of Chinese immigrants, however, had no intention of emigrating permanently. The very word for emigrant in Chinese means "sojourner" and carries the implication of eventual return. The "sojourners" were encouraged to seek their fortune in the United States and then return to their families in China (Mock Wyman 1997.)

One reason the Chinese immigrants maintained only temporary resident status was the imbalance of Chinese males to females in California and in the nation as a whole. Confucian belief dictated that a wife should stay home to care for her

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

husband's family (Mock Wyman 1997.) In 1880, California listed more than 70,000 Chinese men but fewer than 4,000 Chinese women (Johnson 1993.) Yet by the late nineteenth century, Oakland's "sex ratio was approaching parity," with many women finding work in food processing plants. Still, in 1920, seventy years after the immigration to California began, the Chinese community statewide was still a "bachelor society" with women numbering fewer than ten percent (Daniels 1988.) The imbalanced gender ratio of the Chinese community within the United States remained distorted for years due to subsequent legislation that prevented further immigration by Chinese to the United States.

In 1882, the United States Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which suspended immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States for 10 years, issued residency certificates to those that were already in the country and leaving with intent to return, and restated the bar against naturalization. Amendments and renewals of the act occurred over several decades when, in 1924, the United States Congress passed the Immigration Act (also known as the National Origins Act.) It imposed a quota on immigration of two percent of the number of people from any nonwestern country, based on the number of people from that country in the United States at the time of the 1890 census (Daniels 1988.)

Illegal immigration into the United States began as early as the exclusionary laws were instituted, and became commonplace after the San Francisco earthquake in 1906 destroyed the city's vital statistics records, which allowed many Chinese to enter the country using counterfeit paperwork. Chinese fraudulently claiming American citizenship could not only enter and exit the country at will, but any children fathered abroad could also claim derivative citizenship under American laws. These children were predominantly sons; forged documentation also allowed Chinese to enter as other men's sons ("paper sons") (Daniels 1988.)

The 1924 immigration law contributed to the already existing gender imbalance of the Chinese community, making it impossible for United States citizens of Chinese ancestry to bring alien Chinese wives to the country (Daniels 1988.) The concept of paper sons further shifted the gender ratios. The census of 1930 showed four times as many married men as married women (Daniels 1988.) Anti-Chinese sentiment and the gender imbalance created a growing population of Chinese children who were living on the streets. Many were separated from their parents because of illness, unfit homes, or abandonment; the death of a parent; or because a parent had to temporarily return to China (Mock Wyman 1997.) These children were banned from Caucasian institutions due to their ancestry (Chung Mei / Ming Quong 2003; Gutman 2002.)

The Second World War brought a dramatic change in how most Americans viewed Chinese immigrants as well as those already living in the United States. Prior to the attack, Chinese in California and in the nation as a whole demonstrated against Japan's economic and military expansion that led to the Second Sino-Japanese War (against China) in 1937. After Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor in 1941, the status and prestige of the Chinese community was elevated in the eyes of Americans, while regard for Japan and the Japanese community in the United States fell. China, unlike Japan, had never interjected itself in the affairs of the United States, and the surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor made China an ally. Perception of Chinese Americans during the early 1940s in the United States prompted a repeal of the exclusionary laws against the Chinese. This allowed legal immigration for the first time since 1882 and enabled Chinese nationals already residing in the country to become naturalized citizens. Due to these change, the total Chinese population rose over 50 percent during the 1940s (Daniels 1988.)

Shelters for indigent children were not uncommon in the San Francisco Bay Area during the twentieth century. In the late 1920s, the Alameda County Welfare Council supervised three shelters for homeless children. There were two nonsectarian children's institutions in Oakland, and several faith-based orphanages. However, those institutions had rules against accepting "children of color or Asiatic races" (Gutman 2002.)

Dr. Charles R. Shepherd was an Englishman who had been schooled at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. From 1913 to 1917 he spent four years as a professor in China. On his arrival in San Francisco in 1919 he immediately recognized the need for a home for boys of Asian ancestry in the San Francisco area. A Presbyterian Mission Home for Chinese girls was established in San Francisco in 1874 and relocated to Oakland after the 1906 earthquake and fire; this institution provided a suitable home for girls of Chinese ancestry (Mock Wyman 1997.) In 1923, Dr. Shepherd established the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys in a wood frame house in Berkeley. Chung Mei was the only institution of its kind in the United States (Shepherd 1938.)

The residents of the Chung Mei Home attended public schools and went to Sunday services at the First Baptist Church in Berkeley (Deaton 2001.) Dr. Shepherd, known as "Captain," was a "firm" and "consistent" leader who believed in the

Chung Mei Home Historic District

Contra Costa County, CA

Name of Property

County and State

regimented style of the military to shape the children's upbringing (El Cerrito Historical Society v.d.) Because of a highway project as well as the fact that the Chung Mei Home was outgrowing itself, it became necessary to relocate. The most suitable property Dr. Shepherd could find was in El Cerrito and the Home moved from Berkeley to 1760 Elm Street in El Cerrito in 1935.

The Chung Mei Home site in El Cerrito was built on land that had been previously been a dairy owned by the Heidie family (Lim 2007.) In 1928 this land was purchased for \$10,000 (Shepherd 1938.) Most of the money for the purchase was earned by the boys through their various endeavors (El Cerrito Historical Society v.d.) Among the ways the boys raised money was by selling vegetables from the gardens they planted and maintained; by cleaning and ironing clothes; by performing musical productions and minstrel shows; by harvesting fruits and vegetables in various Northern California counties; and by running a wood yard. (El Cerrito Historical Society v.d., Shepherd 1938.)

By 1940, the Chung Mei Home was already in need of expansion, and again the boys contributed to the cause. They earned \$12,000 by harvesting crops, running their wood yard, and salvaging paper and other scrap materials (El Cerrito Historical Society; Shepherd, 1938.) Additional funds were donated by entertainer (and adoptive parent) Bob Hope, who contributed 10 percent of the proceeds from several of his Bay Area performances. Money raised locally and in the greater San Francisco Bay Area added to the fund, and in 1948 a maintenance building was attached to the east end of the main building. In 1949, a gymnasium was constructed to the southeast of and below the main building.

The Chung Mei Home was originally established to provide for young Chinese boys who were in need of care and guidance and for whom there was no other provision. After World War II, the need for welfare facilities such as the Chung Mei Home was reduced because of the change in perception toward people of Chinese descent. The Chinese community had become more integrated into general society and the children were more welcome in regular childcare facilities and foster homes. The Chung Mei Home closed its doors in August of 1954. While it was open nearly 700 boys benefited from the care, guidance, and structure provided by Dr. Charles R. Shepherd and the Chung Mei Home.

In 1956 the site of the Chung Mei Home for Chinese Boys became the Western Baptist Bible College (El Cerrito Historical Society v.d.) It was during this period that the L-shaped classroom building in the northeast corner of campus was constructed and minor changes were made to the gymnasium (Western Baptist Bible College 1956; Windrush School v.d.) The campus changed hands in 1974, when the Armstrong Preparatory School opened on the site (El Cerrito Historical Society.) During this time the roof on the gymnasium was changed from tile to composite shingle although the roofline, Chinese ridge beam, and skylights remained intact (El Cerrito Historical Society.) Windrush School purchased the campus in 1987 (City of El Cerrito v.d.) Windrush was a private primary education facility until 1989, when it added a middle school (grades six through eight.) Enrollment peaked at about 250 students in 2010. Windrush School closed at the end of June 2012.

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Chung Mei / Ming Quong

2003 Joint Reunion of the Chung Mei and Ming Quong Homes, August 8, 2003. Video on file at Contra Costa County Library, El Cerrito Branch, El Cerrito, California.

City of El Cerrito

v.d. Property Cards for 1800 (1760) Elm Street, El Cerrito, California. Provided by City of El Cerrito.

Daniels, Roger

1988 Asian America: Chinese and Japanese in the United States since 1850. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington.

Deaton, J.R.

2001 "Man Remembers Chung Mei Home." West County Weekly October 19, 2001, pp. 1,3. Richmond, California.

El Cerrito Historical Society

2012 Draft Citywide Historic Context Statement. El Cerrito, California.

El Cerrito Historical Society

Various dates Documents and assorted papers. El Cerrito, California.

El Cerrito Wire

2007 Celebrating Culture and Community History Project: George Haw, May 25, 2000.

<http://www.elcerritowire.com/live/new :.... single _ archive.shtml? oid=270&archive _section _id =4> Accessed May 11, 2012.

Gutman, Marta

2002 Adopted Homes for Yesterday's Children: Constructing Care in Oakland, California. Working Paper No. 32. Center for Working Families, University of California, Berkeley.

Johnson, Marilyn S.

1993 The Second Gold Rush: Oakland and the East Bay in World War II. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

Lim, Glenn P.

2007 "The Lim Family History." <<http://limfamilyhistory.pbwiki.com>> Accessed January 3, 2007.

Loscutoff, Lindsay

2008 Chung Mei and Min Quong - Protestant Missionary Work with Chinese Children in the San Francisco Bay Area. 1920s - 1930s, San Francisco State Press, San Francisco, California.

LSA Associates

2007 Historical Resources Evaluation for the Windrush School Project: Richmond, California

Martin, Mildred Crowl

1977 Chinatown's Angry Angel. Pacific Books, Palo Alto, California.

McDannold, Thomas A.

2000 California's Chinese Heritage: A Legacy of Places. Heritage West Books, Stockton, California.

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

Mock Wyman, Nona
1997 Chopstick Childhood In a Town of Silver Spoons: Orphaned at the Ming Quong Home, Los Gatos, California. MQ Press, Walnut Creek, California.

Oakland Tribune newspaper
Various dates, Oakland, California

Shepherd, Charles R.
1938 The Story of Chung Mei. The Judson Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Shepherd, Charles R.
1948 The Story of Chung Mei. The American Baptist Home Mission Society, New York

United States Geological Survey
1959 Richmond, California. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Photo revised 1980. United States Geologic Survey, Washington, D.C.

Western Baptist Bible College
1956 Operation Share. August 1956; Various Dates documents and assorted papers. Western Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, El Cerrito, California.

Windrush School
Various Dates Blueprints and assorted papers. On file at Windrush School, El Cerrito, California. Reviewed June 18, 2012.

Wikipedia.org
Article about Donaldina Cameron. Accessed May 11, 2012.

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
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.94
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

The District is bordered by Elm Street to the west and by existing residential housing to the north, east, and south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries accurately and succinctly describe the extent of the District. The District is fenced where it meets residential neighborhoods and in some cases there is a planted hedge as well.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Panas
organization _____ date September 7, 2012
street & number 7345 Fairmount Avenue telephone (510) 526-7507
city or town El Cerrito state CA zip code 94530
e-mail tmpanas@yahoo.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Chung Mei Home Historic District

City or Vicinity: El Cerrito

County: Contra Costa

State: CA

Photographer: Tom Panas

Date Photographed: May 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

01-South elevation of west wing of Main Building and west elevation of east wing of Main Building.

02-Steps and primary entrance of Main Building.

03-Detail of primary entrance to Main Building.

04-Decorative woodwork and artwork in foyer of Main Building.

05-Decorative woodwork in hall behind foyer of Main Building

06-West entrance and west elevation of west wing of Main Building.

07-Window and detail under window on south elevation of Main Building.

08-Door and ironwork on west elevation of east wing of Main Building.

09-Windows on south elevation of east wing of Main Building.

10-Stylized banisters on east elevation of east wing of Main Building and ironwork on ladder.

11-East and north elevations of Maintenance Building.

12-West and south elevations of Art Studio.

13-West and south elevations of one-story section of L-shaped Classroom Building.

14-South elevation of 2-story section of L-shaped Classroom Building.

15-North elevation of Gymnasium.

16-South elevation of Gymnasium.

17-North and west elevations of Library/Classroom Building.

18-Parking area in foreground, Main building to left, obstructed view of Gymnasium to right.

Chung Mei Home Historic District
Name of Property

Contra Costa County, CA
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name Educational Ventures LLC, c/o Chamberlin Family Foundation
street & number 5860 West Las Positas Blvd., Suite 21 telephone (925) 227-0707
city or town Pleasanton state CA zip code 94588-8557

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq..)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

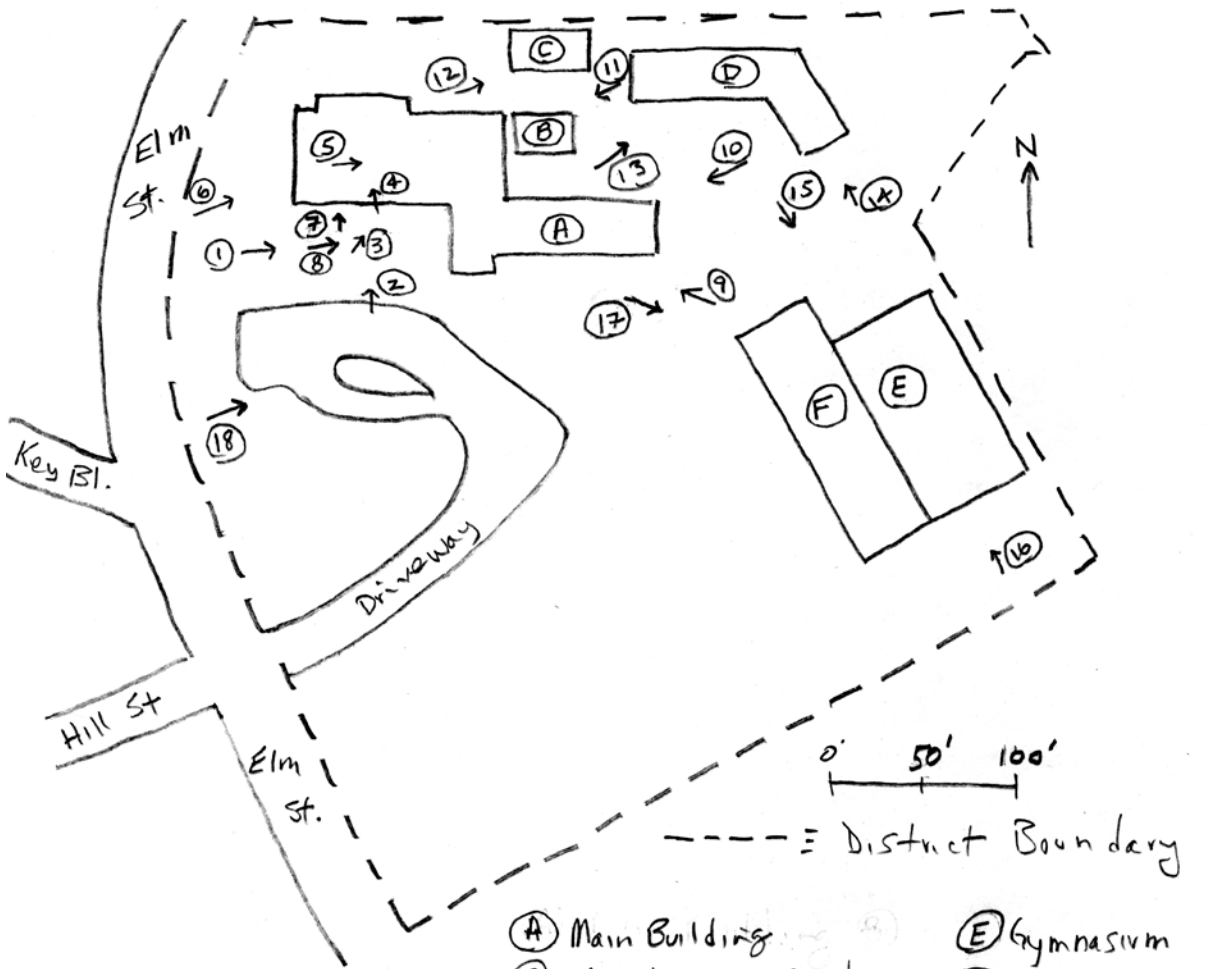
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Sketch Map Page 13

**Chung Mei Home Historic District
El Cerrito, Contra Costa County, CA**

Sketch Map of
Chung Mei School Historic District



- Ⓐ Main Building
- Ⓑ Maintenance Building
- Ⓒ Art Studio
- Ⓓ L-shaped Classroom Building
- Ⓔ Gymnasium
- Ⓕ Library/ Classroom Bldg.

photos ① - ⑱: point of arrow indicates location of photographer

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number List of Photographs Page 14-31

**Chung Mei Home Historic District
El Cerrito, Contra Costa County, CA**

List of Photographs:

- 01-South elevation of west wing of Main Building and west elevation of east wing of Main Building.
- 02-Steps and primary entrance of Main Building.
- 03-Detail of primary entrance to Main Building.
- 04-Decorative woodwork and artwork in foyer of Main Building.
- 05-Decorative woodwork in hall behind foyer of Main Building
- 06-West entrance and west elevation of west wing of Main Building.
- 07-Window and detail under window on south elevation of Main Building.
- 08-Door and ironwork on west elevation of east wing of Main Building.
- 09-Windows on south elevation of east wing of Main Building.
- 10-Stylized banisters on east elevation of east wing of Main Building and ironwork on ladder.
- 11-East and north elevations of Maintenance Building.
- 12- West and south elevations of Art Studio.
- 13-West and south elevations of one-story section of L-shaped Classroom Building.
- 14-South elevation of 2-story section of L-shaped Classroom Building.
- 15-North elevation of Gymnasium.
- 16-South elevation of Gymnasium.
- 17-North and west elevations of Library/Classroom Building.
- 18-Parking area in foreground, Main building to left, obstructed view of Gymnasium to right.