

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name or #: San Juan Elementary School Site

P1. Other Identifier: N/A

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

DRAFT

County: Orange County

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: San Juan Capistrano, CA Date: 1968 T 8 S ; R 8 W ; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 31642 El Camino Real

City: San Juan Capistrano Zip: 92675

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:

Assessors Parcel Number: # 5, Lot 3

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

San Juan Elementary School consists of a complex of roughly fifteen buildings, athletic fields and ancillary buildings representing at least four phases of school development on the property from circa 1920 to circa 1990. The primary cluster of classroom and administration buildings were constructed in 1964. An additional classroom building appears to date from circa 1960. A small, altered garage/utility building was possibly constructed circa 1920, and a duplex residence, constructed circa 1940. The property is also characterized by a large number of prefabricated portable buildings utilized as classrooms and offices. The original San Juan Elementary School Site is located on 5.0 Acres at the corner of El Camino Real and Spring Street. The Assessors map of 1951 shows the original 5 Acre site. The boundaries are: Spring Street on the South side, El Camino Real on the West side, including an additional 5 acres acquired by the district in 1951, for a total of 12 acres. (Exhibit 1)

There is 1 building and 1 object on the original 5 Acre site that are contributing properties eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources: the "Teacherage," a duplex residence built in 1947, and a 1906 school bell mounted on a stand near the school entrance. The remaining buildings include a garage/utility building dating from the 1920s, a primary cluster of classroom and administration buildings constructed in 1964, a bus garage constructed circa 1960, and several portable buildings. They are not considered contributors due to recent construction and lack of integrity.

A row of mature olive trees are located on the western property line, adjacent to Horno Creek. A large California pepper tree is located on Spring Street, probably within city right-of-way.

The San Juan Elementary School District established in 1850 was the oldest existing school district in Orange County until it was forced into unification in 1965.

In 1850 it was one of five school districts what was then Los Angeles County. The other schools were two in Los Angeles, one in El Monte and one in San Gabriel.

In the first annual report of the County Superintendent of Schools 1855-1856 it states that there was only one school in Southern Los Angeles County- the one in San Juan Capistrano .

P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 15

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____

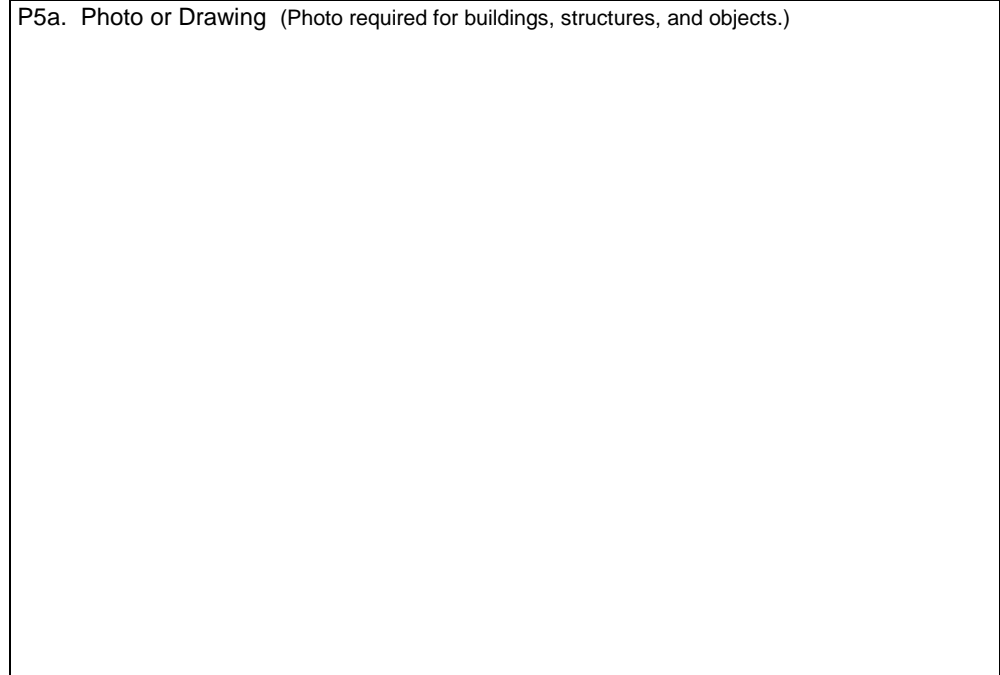
HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

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Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) _____

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo:(View, date, accession #)

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: X Historic

Prehistoric Both

Existing buildings on the site were constructed circa 1920 and 1990.

P7. Owner and Address:

Capistrano Unified School
District
33122 Valle Rd.
San Juan Capistrano, Ca 92675

P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)

Ilse M. Byrnes
P.O. 1029, San Juan
Capistrano, CA 92693

P9. Date Recorded: 2011

P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record

State of California C The Resources Agency Primary #
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code _____

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) San Juan Elementary School

B1. Historic Name: San Juan Elementary School

B2. Common Name: San Juan Elementary School

B3. Original Use: Elementary School **B4. Present Use:** Elementary School

B5. Architectural Style: Ranch, International Style, vernacular

B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

The property originally belonged to the Mission and this site was the location of several adobes that were home to the people working at the Mission. In 1845, the Mission and all the properties owned by the Mission were disposed of by Pio Pico, the last of the Mexican Governors. Pio Pico sold the entire Mission properties to his brother in law John Forster (later known as Don Juan Forster) and James McKinley for \$ 710.00. The Forster Family made the Mission their home until 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln returned all Mission property back to the Catholic Church.

In 1850, while the Forster family occupied the Mission, John Forster, a well-educated man from England, saw the need for a school and donated 2.5 Acres across from the Mission on the corner of Main Street (today's El Camino Real) and Spring Street. (Exhibit 2)

The first school, located in a one room adobe (most likely a former home) that was torn down in 1871 and replaced with a 3 room building. It was a one story board and batten structure with a large front porch and an attic to accommodate the bell that was donated in 1906 by William Strohschein. (Photos # 1, 2, 3)
 This bell was rung to call children that lived quite a distance from the school to come to class. Today this bell is located in front of the present school building. (Photo # 4)

In 1880 an additional 2.5 acres were donated by Judge Bacon who owned property adjacent to the school to the existing 2.5 acres to accommodate the larger school building. (Exhibit 2 & 3)

In 1912, the wooden school house was relocated into downtown San Juan Capistrano and converted into a restaurant: The Palm Café. (Photo # 5) A new school was built in the Mission Revival Style. It had two bell towers and was large enough to accommodate 8 classes. (Photo # 6) In one of the bell towers hung the bell that was donated by William Stroschein in 1906. This building was in use until 1964 when it was torn down and replaced with today's Elementary School (Exhibit 4.)

In 1930, the Board of Trustees decided to purchase a school bus to accommodate school children that lived a long distance away. The bus was kept in the garage that is a small building on Spring Street .The building is original and unaltered and with the original gas pump located inside. (Photos # 7, 8, 9, 10)

In 1947, the Trustees felt it was advisable to build a Principal-Teacher Duplex that would be used by the Principal and a couple of teachers due to insufficient housing in San Juan Capistrano. This building is at 26921 Spring Street next to the Bus Garage.

The Duplex is a single story building. (Photos # 11, 12, 13) The architecture is typical of the 1940's- 4" concrete brick with the cement protruding. (Photo #14) (Exhibit 4 & 5)

In front of these buildings is an enormous, large Pepper tree (Photos #15, 16) that is well over 100 years old.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: Circa 1965 Original Location: Same lot

In approximately 1965, the 1906 Carl Stroschein bell, used in a bell tower attached to the 1871 school and the 1912 Mission Revival school building was relocated to a ceremonial mounting in front of the school. Although the bell has been moved from its original context, it retains California Register eligibility as a small, semi-portable object directly associated with the school property.

*B8. Related Features:
 See continuation sheet.

State of California C The Resources Agency Primary #
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page _____ of _____ *NRHP Status Code _____
*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) San Juan Elementary School

B9a. Architect: Flewelling and Moody b. Builder: W.J. Burke & Co.
*B10. Significance: Theme Education Area San Juan Capistrano/Orange County
Period of Significance 1850-1965 Property Type Point of Historical Interest Applicable Criteria First/Last/Only
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

San Juan Elementary School is the oldest educational institution in San Juan Capistrano, and according to historic record, the oldest school in the geographic area formerly known as southern Los Angeles County, currently known as Orange County.

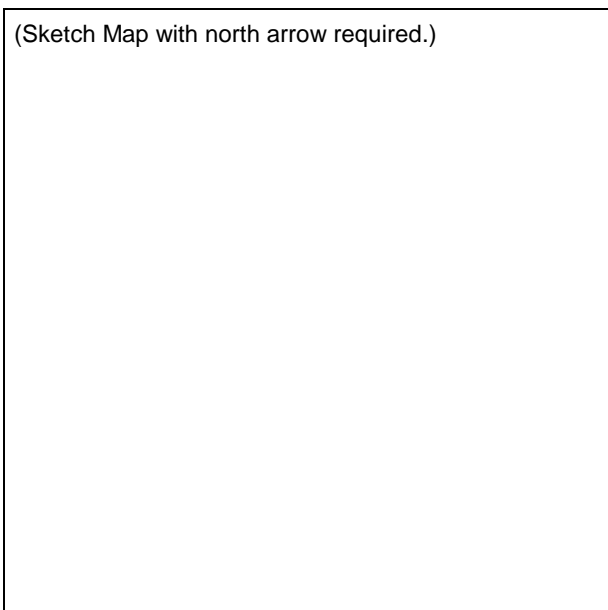
B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References:

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: _____
*Date of Evaluation: _____

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page _____ of _____ *NRHP Status Code _____
*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) _____

B1. Historic Name: _____

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: _____ B4. Present Use: _____

*B5. Architectural Style: _____

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations) _____

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: _____

B9a. Architect: _____ b. Builder: _____

*B10. Significance: Theme _____ Area _____
Period of Significance _____ Property Type _____ Applicable Criteria _____

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) _____

*B12. References: _____

B13. Remarks: _____

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

*B14. Evaluator: _____

*Date of Evaluation: _____

(This space reserved for official comments.)

CONTINUATION SHEET

HRI#

Trinomial

Page 3 of Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) San Juan Elementary School Site

*Recorded by Ilse M. Byrnes **Date: 2011

Update

P3a Description continued

The Duplex is a single story building. (Photos # 11, 12, 13) The architecture is typical of the 1940's- 4" concrete brick with the cement protruding. (Photo # 14) (Exhibit 4 & 5)

.In front of these buildings is an enormous, large Peppertree (Photos # 15, 16) that is well over 100 years old.

On El Camino Real are two significant trees that can be seen on photos taken in the 1920's One is a Sycamore and the other a California Cedar (Photo # 17) . Both are located in front of the present Administration Building where the old school bell is located.

