



# RESOLUTION No. 21-281

## OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

### RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE GRASS VALLEY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SITE, FORMERLY LOCATED AT 319 AND 321 SOUTH CHURCH ST, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (APN 008-405-015-000; APN 008-405-014-000) AS NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NEV 21-02

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) was established in 1969 to promote the general welfare of Nevada County and its citizens through official recognition, recording, marking, preserving, and promoting the historical resources of Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC has since sustained an active program of cataloging and recommending for designation historical sites and structures throughout Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC accepts applications, processes and verifies applications for proposed historical landmark designation, and recommends said landmark designations for approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of improvements, buildings, structures, signs, objects, features, sites, places, districts, and areas within the County that reflect special elements of the County's architectural, artistic, cultural, engineering, aesthetic, historical, political, social, and other heritage, by allowing their registration as Nevada County Historical Landmarks for the following reasons:

1. Safeguarding Nevada County's heritage as embodied and reflected in the historic Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site formerly located at 319 and 321 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945, as well as on both adjacent parcels located at 315 and 323 South Church Street, its influence on Nevada County's cultural and social history, and commemorating the valuable role it played in this community; and
2. Encouraging public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Nevada County's history as reflected in its heritage; and
3. Fostering civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of cultural resources; and
4. Preserving diverse and harmonious architectural styles and design innovations; and
5. Enhancing property values to increase economic and financial benefits to Nevada County and its inhabitants by preserving and promoting historical buildings; and
6. Protecting and enhancing Nevada County's attraction to tourists and visitors, thereby stimulating business and industry; and

7. Identifying as early as possible and resolving conflicts between the preservation of cultural resources and alternative land uses in a section of Nevada County that may see future population growth; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, the City of Grass Valley City Council voted unanimously approving the historic designation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church formerly located at 315, 319, 321 & 323 South Church Street and authorized the Grass Valley Historical Commission to submit an application to NCHLC for County historical landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, at its April 16, 2021 meeting, the NCHLC verified and unanimously approved the application and now recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate the property as a Nevada County Historical Landmark; and

WHEREAS, only property owners of 319 and 321 (APN 008-405-015-000; APN 008-405-014-000) South Church Street, Grass Valley confirmed their approval for historical designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada hereby accepts the NCHLC's recommendation and designates the Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church and School Site formerly located at 319 and 321 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945 as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to record a certified copy of this Resolution with the Office of the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder within ten (10) days after the adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 22nd day of June, 2021, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 

  
Dan Miller, Chair

6/22/2021 cc: COB\*  
AC\*  
HLC\*

**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission**  
**P.O. Box 1014**  
**Nevada City, California 95959**  
**[info@nevadacountylandmarks.com](mailto:info@nevadacountylandmarks.com)**  
**530-274-7118**

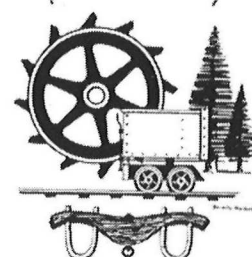
16 April 2021

Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site be approved. The applicant is the City of Grass Valley. For reasons detailed in the application, the City plans to install a plaque on the elevated sidewalk in front of 324 S. Church Street, across the street from the Site. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-02.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1854 to serve Grass Valley's black community. In addition to holding religious services, the church was a center for cultural, political and civil rights events. In 1865 a school house was added since California law then provided for segregated schools. In the 1890s, with the black population of Grass Valley having significantly declined, the church properties were sold.



The applicant, assisted by Linda Jack, Chair of the Grass Valley Historical Commission, has provided a thorough and compelling level of research and documentation to accompany the application, which has been reviewed by the Commission for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.

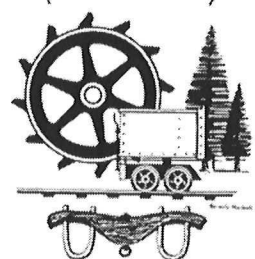
If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

  
Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

Cc: Linda Jack



## **Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Application for Registration of Historical Landmark**

**Name of proposed landmark:** Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site

**Location:** From 1854-1893 the AME Church and School (the latter then referred to as the Colored School) were located on the Eastern side of S. Church St, Lot 3, Block 45 in Grass Valley's Historic Townsite. Following the sale of the property in 1893 the lot was purchased by a private party and subdivided into four parcels. Today four c. 1894 Victorian homes occupy the site, house numbers 315, 319, 321 and 323.

City of Grass Valley Planner, Lance Lowe, notified owners of those properties of the intent of the City to consider landmarking the site. Irv and Catherine Gubman, who own the properties at 319 and 321, communicated their support of the project. The other two owners did not respond to the City's communication.

On February 23, 2021 the Grass Valley City Council voted unanimously to approve declaring the site a City of Grass Valley Landmark, and to submit an application to your Commission for county landmark status. The Council received twenty-four emails and phone calls supporting the landmark. Funds for the plaque will come primarily from the Grass Valley Historical Commission, but the Gubmans have also offered to provide funds if needed.

On the recommendation of the Grass Valley Historical Commission, the City has determined that it is not practical to install a plaque on one of those four properties. Rather, the City plans to install the plaque on the elevated sidewalk on the opposite (Western) side of the street at about 324 S. Church St. The plaque will be installed on a railing that runs along the sidewalk that is within the City's right-of-way and will be maintained by the City. The plaque will include a section of Augustus Koch's Bird's Eye map of Grass Valley (1871) that shows the full lot and both the buildings, which should allow someone reading the plaque to visualize the site as it existed in the past.

**Name of applicant:** City of Grass Valley

**Address:** 125 East Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95495

**Work Phone:** (530) 274-4712

**Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark is located, if owner is not applicant:** Not applicable.

**I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site:** The City Council authorized the placement of the plaque at its February 23, 2021 meeting.

**Landowner's signature:** Lance E. Lowe, AICP, Principal Planner on behalf of the City authorized Linda K. Jack, Chair of the Grass Valley Historical Commission to sign this application. See page 5.

**Brief history and description of proposed landmark: (attach additional sheets as necessary):**

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS), a benevolent organization founded by Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others in Philadelphia in 1787. The Society provided mutual aid for "free Africans and their descendants." The denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850's. In Northern California churches were established in Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Marysville, Nevada City and Grass Valley.

The following description of the church is taken from *Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California* (1867): "The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the summer of 1854, at a cost of \$1,400. The Church has been sustained by ten devoted members, with a congregation varying from twenty-five to thirty. The Church was dedicated by Rev. T. M. D. (Thomas Meyer Decauter) Ward, a colored Presiding Elder, assisted by Rev. J. B. Hill, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Grass Valley, and also Rev. J. Or. Hale, of the Congregational Church of this place. The first clergyman who had the Church in charge was Rev. Emory Waters. The Trustees of the Church are: Isaac Sanks, Joseph Thomas, Isaac Buhner [Bulmer], John Hicks, Henry Blackburn. Rev. Peter Green, present minister in charge."<sup>1</sup> On April 17, 1867 Joseph Thomas and Isaac Sanks signed, using their mark, executed a deed naming Henry Blackburn, John Hicks, and Isaac Bulmer as additional trustees for the property of the African Methodist Episcopal Church located at Lot 3, Block 45 on South Church St. in Grass Valley, CA. The deed replaced the original deed that had been lost in a fire. It was recorded on February 5, 1868.<sup>2</sup>

The AME Churches were served by pastors that traveled from one church to the other in the district, consequently services were generally held once a week. Members of the congregation often did readings or bible studies more frequently, and the Grass Valley church was known for its choir. The church was also a venue for cultural events such as events such as concerts, readings, and musical performances.

AME churches were also centers for political activities. In the 1850s a series of *Conventions for Colored Citizens of California* were routinely held at AME churches in Sacramento. The church was also used to raise funds for the important civil rights causes of the era: abolishing slavery nationwide, gaining the franchise for Black men, integrating public accommodations, and gaining the right for Blacks to testify in court cases involving whites. During the Civil War the Grass Valley church raised funds for the Sanitary Commission, a Federal organization for the medical care of Union soldiers. Following the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Isaac Sanks, a former slave and founder of the Grass Valley church was likely the first Black man to run for public office in California.

---

<sup>1</sup> Edwin F. Bean, *Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California*: 1867, Nevada City, CA, p. 211.

<sup>2</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, Searls Historical Library, Book 130, 1.

## The School

In 1854, Black students in San Francisco became the first children segregated in California's public schools. Soon, however, state law prohibited "Negroes, Mongolians and Indians" from attending public schools with white children anywhere in California. Andrew Moulder, an early state superintendent of schools, stated: "The great mass of our citizens will not associate in terms of equality with these inferior races, nor will they consent that their children do so."<sup>3</sup>

The situation was similar in Nevada County. In 1859 J. Holland Townsend wrote of an incident in Grass Valley: "In Grass Valley a school was opened in the year 1854. The supervisors, after taking the census of the children, found that three of the white children had colored parents; but as these children were as white as themselves, they very wisely determined to leave them in the school."<sup>4</sup> White parents protested and pressured the State Superintendent of Schools who threatened to cut off funds to the district if the children were not expelled.

In the early 1860s, California state laws authorized school districts to provide separate schools for Black, Indian, and Asian children. But a segregated school would only be established if the parents of at least 10 racial minority students petitioned a district to build one. If the parents failed to do this, their children could be denied a public education altogether. White parents tended to demand a segregated school for non-white students when their numbers increased in the community. Indeed, in 1873 Grass Valley's State Senator, Miles Poore O'Connor, was adamant about maintaining segregated schools saying: "If there was only one child of color in his district, and it must be educated, he would favor building a house and sustaining a school for it alone before admitting it to a white school."<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, Isaac Sanks of the Grass Valley AME Church took up a subscription to build a schoolhouse in 1865, which is shown on the 1871 and 1872 maps.<sup>6</sup> Going forward the names of the teachers and performance of the Black school children were regularly reported in the *Union* along with students at the white schools.

Eventually the expense of a separate education system for a relatively small number of Black children in California caused the state legislature finally to abolish "colored schools" in 1880.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> "BRIA 23 2 c Mendez v Westminster: Paving the Way to School Desegregation," Constitutional Rights Foundation, Bill of Rights in Action, Summer 2007 (Volume 23, No. 2). Accessed on August 29, 2020 at <https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-23-2-c-mendez-v-westminster-paving-the-way-to-school-desegregation>.

<sup>4</sup> J. Holland Townsend, "American Caste, and Common Schools," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, vol. 1, March 1859, p. 81.

<sup>5</sup> Jennie Carter, *The Elevator*, September 6, 1873, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Grass Valley Daily Union*, 2:75, July 27, 1865, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> "BRIA 23 2 c Mendez v Westminster"

## **Closure of the AME Church & School**

Toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Black population of Grass Valley had dwindled as the original pioneers passed away or joined adult children who had moved to other parts of the state. And integration of the public schools in 1880 had made the need for a separate school unnecessary. On November 2, 1893, the church was sold at public auction to Charles Clinch for \$1130. The signing trustees at the time were Elijah Booth and Isaac Sanks. The deed was recorded on November 25, 1893.<sup>8</sup> The funds from the sale were returned to the AME Church.

Shortly thereafter, Charles Clinch and his wife Emily began selling off portions of the property: to C.J. and Mary Miller on March 5, 1894; to William Aver on March 10, 1894; to Thomas Ingram on April 12, 1894; and to William and Ann Edwards on October 29, 1894.<sup>9</sup> Today Lot 3, Block 45 is comprised of 315, 319, 321 and 323 S. Church St. House numbering is not consecutive.

**Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark:** The AME church and school were the Black community's oldest and most important institutions in Grass Valley. They provided a religious, social and political home for Black residents during one of the most turbulent periods of American history. The AME Church and School site would be the first Black institution to be landmarked in the Grass Valley.

**How will the landmark be protected and maintained?** The City of Grass Valley will maintain the landmark.

**Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark:**

### **Books and articles:**

- *Grass Valley Daily Union*, 2:75, July 27, 1865, p. 3.
- Entry from *Bean's Directory* 1867, p. 211. Attached.
- J. Holland Townsend, "American Caste, and Common Schools," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, vol. 1, March 1859, p. 81.

### **Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)**

- *Abstracts of Title*, Searls Historical Library, Book 130, 12 pages. Attached.

### **Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately):**

- Samuel Bethell City Map of Grass Valley, 1872 . Attached.
- Augustus Koch Bird's Eye View Map of Grass Valley, 1871. Attached. The Church and School are #6 of the legend.

---

<sup>8</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, 5-12.



Applicant's signature: Linda K. Juon  
Chair Grass Valley Historical Commission

Date: 3-30-2021

This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Attention: Chairman  
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other nonhistorical reasons.  
An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

### A. M. E. CHURCH.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the summer of 1854, at a cost of \$1,400. The Church has been sustained by ten devoted members, with a congregation varying from twenty-five to thirty. The Church was dedicated by Rev. T. M. D. Ward, a colored Presiding Elder, assisted by Rev. J. B. Hill, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Grass Valley, and also Rev. J. G. Hale, of the Congregational Church of this place. The first clergyman who had the Church in charge was Rev. Emory Waters. The Trustees of the Church are: Isaac Sanks, Joseph Thomas, Isaac Bulmer, John Hicks, Henry Blackburn. Rev. Peter Green, present minister in charge. This society, during the past year, has erected a small but comfortable school house on the Church lot.

100

Searls Historical  
1042 Library

No. Reg. No.

Abstracts of Title  
Volume 130

\*-----\*

- / 130 -

- BLOCK FORTY-FIVE -

- of the -

- TOWN OF GRASS VALLEY -

- (Carbon Copy) -

\*-----\*

1042

JOSEPH THOMAS and ISAAC SANKS,

--TO--

B. J. D.

HENRY BLACKBURN, JOHN NICKS,  
ISAAC FULLER, JOSEPH THOMAS  
and ISAAC SANKS, Trustees in  
trust for the use and purposes  
hereinafter mentioned.

.....

Dated April 17th, 1867.

Recorded February 5th, 1868 at 12 O'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "50" of Deeds at page 323 et seq.

Whereas the premises hereinafter described and conveyed  
are held by Joseph Thomas and Isaac Sanks in trust for the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church by deed duly made and re-  
corded which deed and the record thereof has both been destroy-  
ed by fire. Now therefore: This indenture made the 17th day of  
April A. D. 1867 between the said Joseph Thomas and Isaac  
Sanks of the Town of Grass Valley, Nevada County, State of Cal-  
ifornia, party of the first part and Henry Blackburn, John  
Nicks, Isaac Fuller, Joseph Thomas & Isaac Sanks, trustees in  
trust for the use and purposes hereinafter mentioned of the  
said place party of the second part, Witnesseth:

That the said party of the first part for and in consid-  
eration of the sum of one dollar to them in hand paid upon the  
delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknow-  
ledged has given, granted, bargained, sold, released, confirm-  
ed and conveyed and by these presents does give, grant, bargain,  
sell, release, confirm and convey unto the said party of the  
second part and to their successors (trustees in trust for the  
uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned and declared) all the

estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever either in law or equity which the said party of the first part may have in to or upon all and singular a certain lot or piece of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Grass Valley, County and State aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing on the East side of Church Street at a point forming the line between said conveyed premises and the premises known as the Laramie lot; thence running back along the line of said Laramie lot Easterly 100 feet; thence Southerly along Smith & Perry's line 308 feet; thence Westerly along Blake's line 102 feet 2 inches to Church St.; thence Northerly along Church St. 191 feet to point of beginning, together with all and singular the property, privileges and appurtenances thereto belong in or in anywise appertaining.

To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part and their successors in of law forever in trust, that they shall continue the Church house thereon a place of worship for the use of the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, according to the rules and discipline of said Church which from time to time may be adopted and altered by the ministers and preachers of said Church at their General Conferences in the United States of America: And in further trust and confidence

that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to said Church as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference of the Ministers and preachers of the said African Methodist Episcopal Church or by the Annual Conferences authorized by the said conferences to preach and expound God's holy word therein: And in further trust and confidence that as often as any one or more trustees hereinbefore mentioned shall die or cease to be a member or members of said Church according to the rules and discipline aforesaid, then and in such case it shall be the duty of the stationed minister or preacher (authorized as aforesaid) who shall have the pastoral charge of the members of said Church, to call a meeting of the male members as soon as conveniently may be: And where so met the said minister or preacher shall proceed to nominate one or more persons to fill the place or places of him or them whose office or offices has (or have) been vacated as aforesaid: provided the person or persons so nominated shall have been one year a member or members of the said Church immediately preceding such nomination, and be at least 21 years of age. And the said male members so assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill such vacancy or vacancies in order to keep up the number of trustees forever.

(Signed)  
 Witnessed by J. K. Dale,  
 E. W. Roberts. )  
 Duly acknowledged.

his  
 Joseph X Thomas, (Seal)  
 mark  
 his  
 Isaac X Sanks, (Seal)  
 mark.

TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF  
GRASS VALLEY, a corpora-  
tion existing under and  
by virtue of an Act of  
the Legislature of the  
State of California,

--20--

D E K D.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH.

.....

Dated July 30th, 1875.

Recorded January 10th, 1884 at 3 5/30 o'clock P. M'.

Recorded in Book "85" of Deeds at page 27 at seq.

Consideration \$7.50.

Grant, convey and confirm.

Lot No. 3 in Block No. 48.

(Signed)

W. H. Benson, President,

(Corporate Seal)

John Messer, Clerk

of Board of Trustees of the  
Town of Grass Valley.

Truly acknowledged.

---

In the Superior Court of the County of Nevada, State of California  
In re Application of African Methodist Episcopal Church Society  
to sell property in Grass Valley, Cal.

The return of sale of the property of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Society in Grass Valley, California, made by Isaac Sanka and Elijah Booth coming on for hearing this day, and it appearing that due notice of said hearing has been given by the Clerk of this Court as required by a previous order of this Court, and no opposition to said return having been made and the matter set forth in said petition and the evidence therein having been heard, whereby it appears that the sale of said property was in every respect conducted in accordance with the order of this Court fairly and justly; that said property was sold at public auction after due notice, and that at such sale, Chas. E. Clinch was the highest and best bidder therefor, offering the sum of \$1130, which was the highest and best bid offered and that a bid exceeding that sum cannot be obtained. It is Ordered and Decreed that said sale be confirmed and said Trustees are ordered and directed to execute a conveyance of said property unto said purchaser Chas. E. Clinch

Done in Open Court this 2nd day of Nov. 1893.

John Caldwell, Superior Judge.

Recorded November 13th, 1893 at 4 10/30 o'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 433 et seq.



ISAAC SANKS and ELIJAH BOOTH  
Trustees for and of The AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

--TO--

D E E D.

C H A R L E S E. C L I N C H

.....

Dated November 18th 1893.

Recorded November 25th 1893 at 1 O'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 440 et seq.

Grant, sell and convey.

Consideration \$1130.00.

Lot 3 in Block 45 of the Town (now City) of Grass Valley  
Nevada County, California, according to the official map of  
said Town made by Samuel Bethel in 1872.

(signed)

Isaac Sanks,

Elijah Booth,

Duly acknowledged.

-----

CHARLES E. CLINCH and  
EMILY CLINCH

-TO-

D E M O.

C. J. MULLER and MARY  
MILLER.

.....

Date: March 1, 1894.

Recorded March 5, 1894 at 11 20/60 o'c A. M.

Recorded in Book "80" of Deeds at page 718 et seq.

Consideration \$600.00

Grant, bargain, sell and convey

all that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being on the East side of Church Street in the City of Grass Valley, County of Nevada and State of California, and particularly described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of Clinch's lot, thence running in a Northerly direction along the line of Church Street 60 feet, thence running in an easterly direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence, thence running in a southerly direction along the line of the said line fence 60 feet, thence running in a westerly direction 100 feet more or less to the place of beginning, the same being a portion of Lot No. 3 and Block No. 45, according to the Official Map of the said City made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(signed)

Chas. E. Clinch

(seal)

Emily Clinch

(seal)

Truly acknowledged.

-----

8

CHARLES S. CLINCH and EMILY  
CLINCH, his wife,

--50--

D E E D.

T H O M A S            I N G P A M.

.....

Dated April 10th, 1894.

Recorded April 18th, 1894 at 9 6/60 O'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "78" of Deeds at page 293 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00.

Grant, execute, sell and convey.

That certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated on the East side of Church Street in the City (formerly town) of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point on the East side of said Church Street which point of commencement is the North West corner of the lot of William Aver and the South West corner of the lot hereby conveyed; thence Northerly along the East side of Church Street 34 feet and 10 inches; thence Easterly about 100 feet to a line fence; thence in a Southerly direction along the line of said line fence 33.51 feet; thence Westerly about 100 feet to the point of beginning. The said Lot hereby conveyed being a portion of Lot No. 3 of Block No. 45 of the said City (formerly town) of Grass Valley; the said lot and Block being numbered according to the official map of the survey of the Town of

Grass Valley, made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(Signed)

Chas. S. Clinch,            (Seal)

Emily Clinch,            (Seal)

Duly acknowledged.

----

THOMAS INGRAM

-TO-

D E E D.

MRS. CHRISTIANA INGRAM

.....

Dated April 24, 1894.

Recorded April 25, 1894 at 9 10/60 o'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "80" of Deeds at page 774 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00

Grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm

that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated on the East side of Church Street in the City (formerly town) of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point on the East side of said Church Street which point of commencement is the northwest corner of the lot of William Aver and the Southwest corner of the lot hereby conveyed, thence northerly along the east side of Church Street 34 feet 10 inches, thence easterly about 100 feet to a line fence, thence in a southerly direction along the line of said line fence 38.51 feet, thence westerly about 100 feet to the point of beginning, the said lot hereby conveyed being a portion of lot 3 of Block No. 45.

(signed)

Thomas Ingram

(seal)

Truly acknowledged.

---

CHARLES E. CLINCH and  
EMILY CLINCH

-10-

D E E D.

WILLIAM EDWARDS and  
ANN EDWARDS

.....

Dated March 1, 1894.

Recorded October 28, 1894 at 9 o'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "81" of Deeds at page 301 et seq.

Consideration \$600.00

Grant, bargain, sell and convey

All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Grass Valley, County of Nevada and State of California and particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner east of Andrews lot, thence running in a Southerly direction along the line of Church Street 60 feet, thence running in an Easterly direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence, thence running in a Northerly direction along the line of the said line fence 66.10 feet, thence running in a westerly direction 100 feet more or less to the place of beginning, the same being a part of lot No. 3 and Block No. 45, according to the official map of the said City as made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(signed)

Charles E. Clinch (seal)

Emily Clinch (seal)

Truly acknowledged.

-----

1/

CHARLES E. and EMILY CLINCH,

--TO--

D. E. D.

W I L L I A M      A V E R  
.....

Dated March 10th, 1894.

Recorded June 26th, 1894 at 9 30/60 o'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "82" of Deeds at page 23 et seq.

Consideration \$100.00.

Grant, bargain, sell and convey.

All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being on the East side of Church Street in the City of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, and State of California and particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the North West corner post of Miller's lot thence running in a North-wly direction along the line of Church Street 35 feet; thence running in an Easterly direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence; thence running in a Southerly direction along the line of the said line fence 38 50/100 feet; thence run in in a Westerly direction 100 feet more or less to place of beginning, the same being a part of Lot 12, 3 and Block 45 according to the official map of the said City as made by W. Bethel Esq. in 1878.

(Signed)

Chas. E. Clinch, (Seal)

Emily Clinch, (Seal)

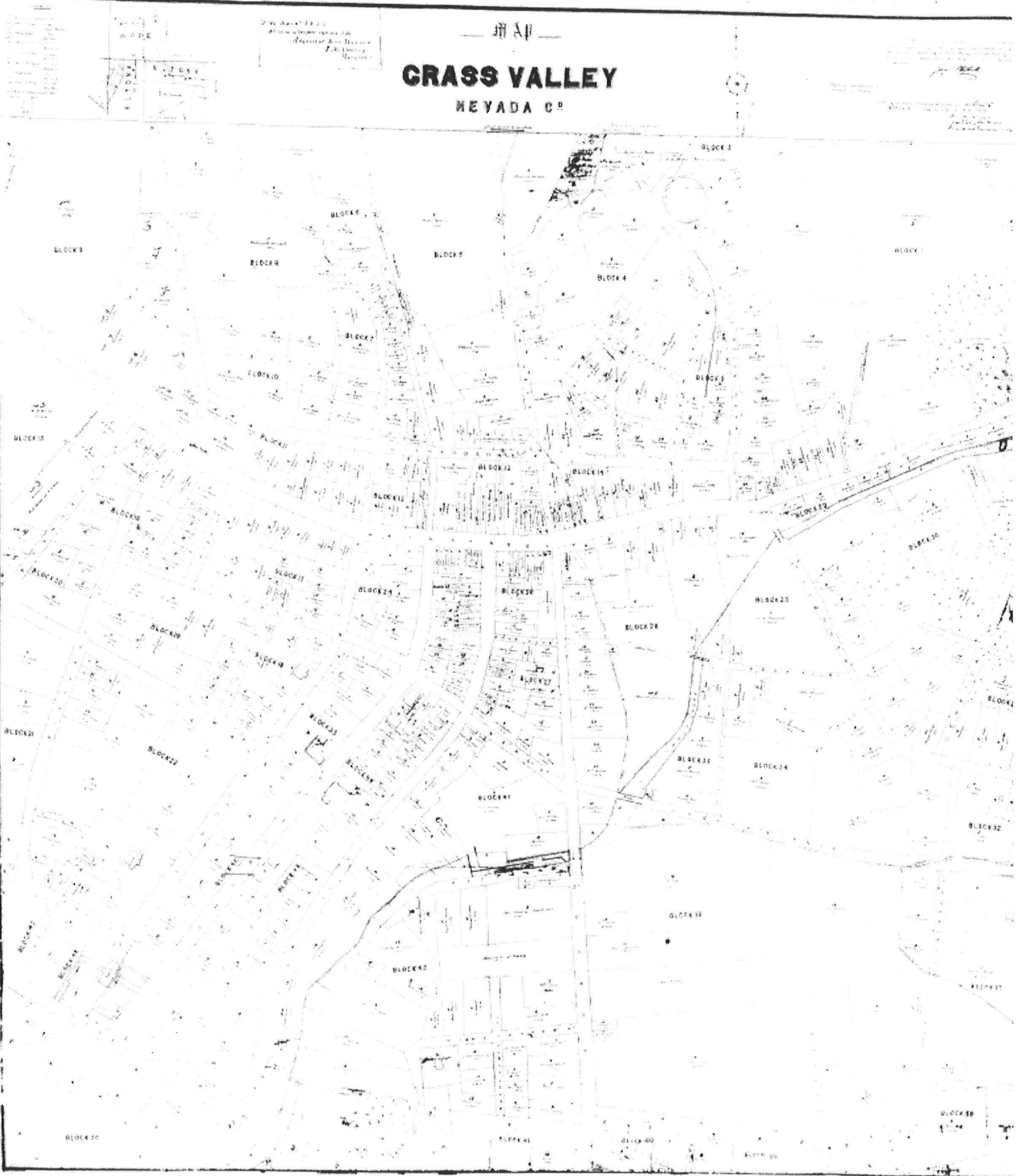
Jointly acknowledged.

----

— 104 —

# GRASS VALLEY

NEVADA CO





BLOCK 23

BLOCK 99

BLOCK 76

BLOCK 75

BLOCK

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

5

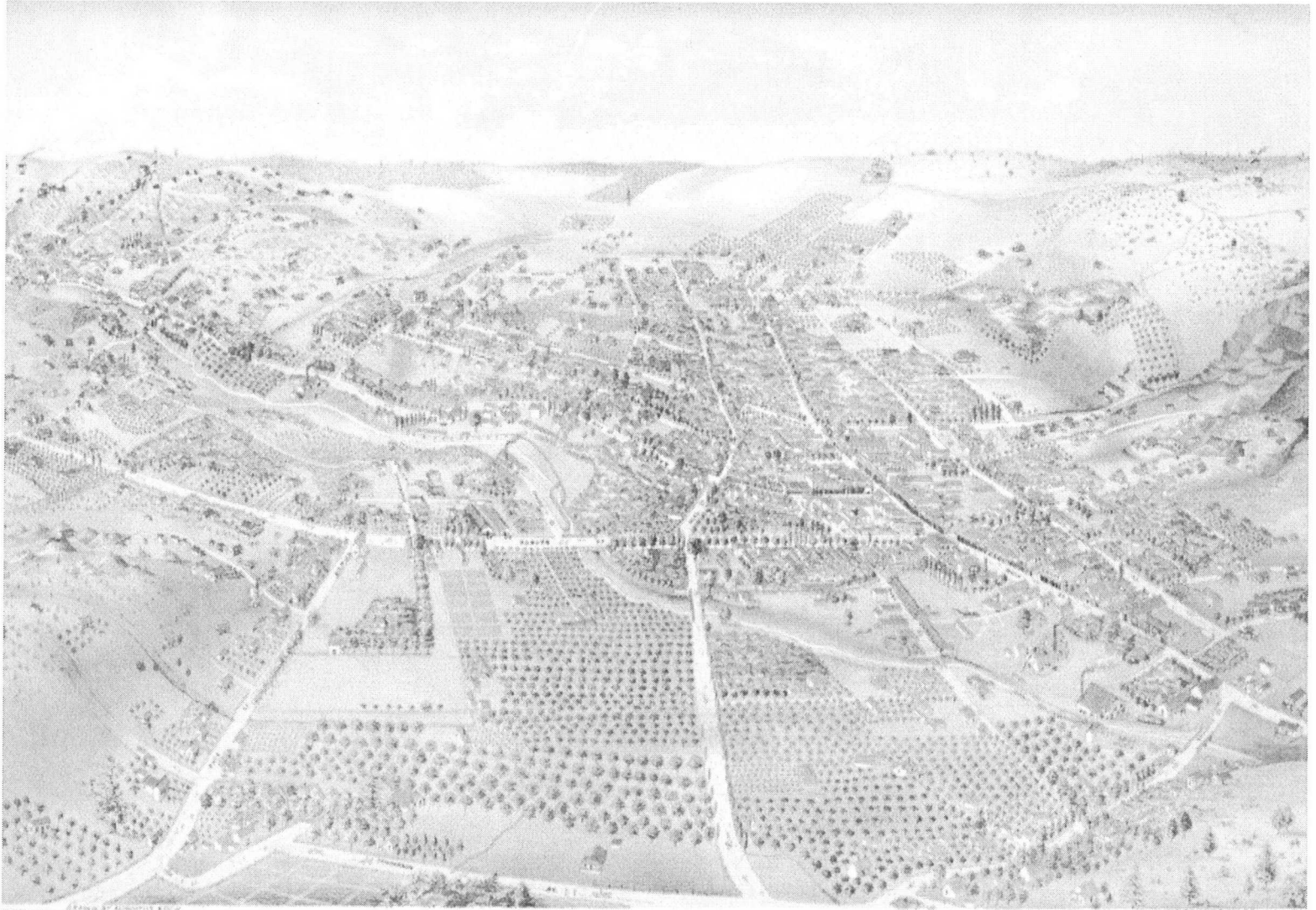
4

3

2

1





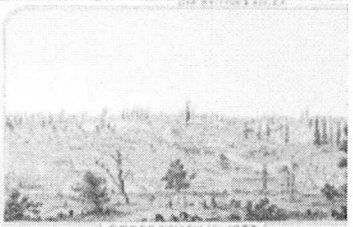
GRASS VALLEY IN 1852

- 1. KENNA CHURCH
- 2. PROULX
- 3. NEWBURY BRICKWORKS
- 4. C. A. LEE'S
- 5. CONNOR'S STORE
- 6. C. J. WOOD
- 7. QUINN'S
- 8. BAKER'S BRICKWORKS
- 9. CROSBY'S STORE
- 10. HOTEL DE FRANCE
- 11. KELLY'S STORE
- 12. C. J. WOOD'S STORE
- 13. W. H. BROWN
- 14. W. H. BROWN
- 15. CALHOUN'S STORE
- 16. CALHOUN'S STORE

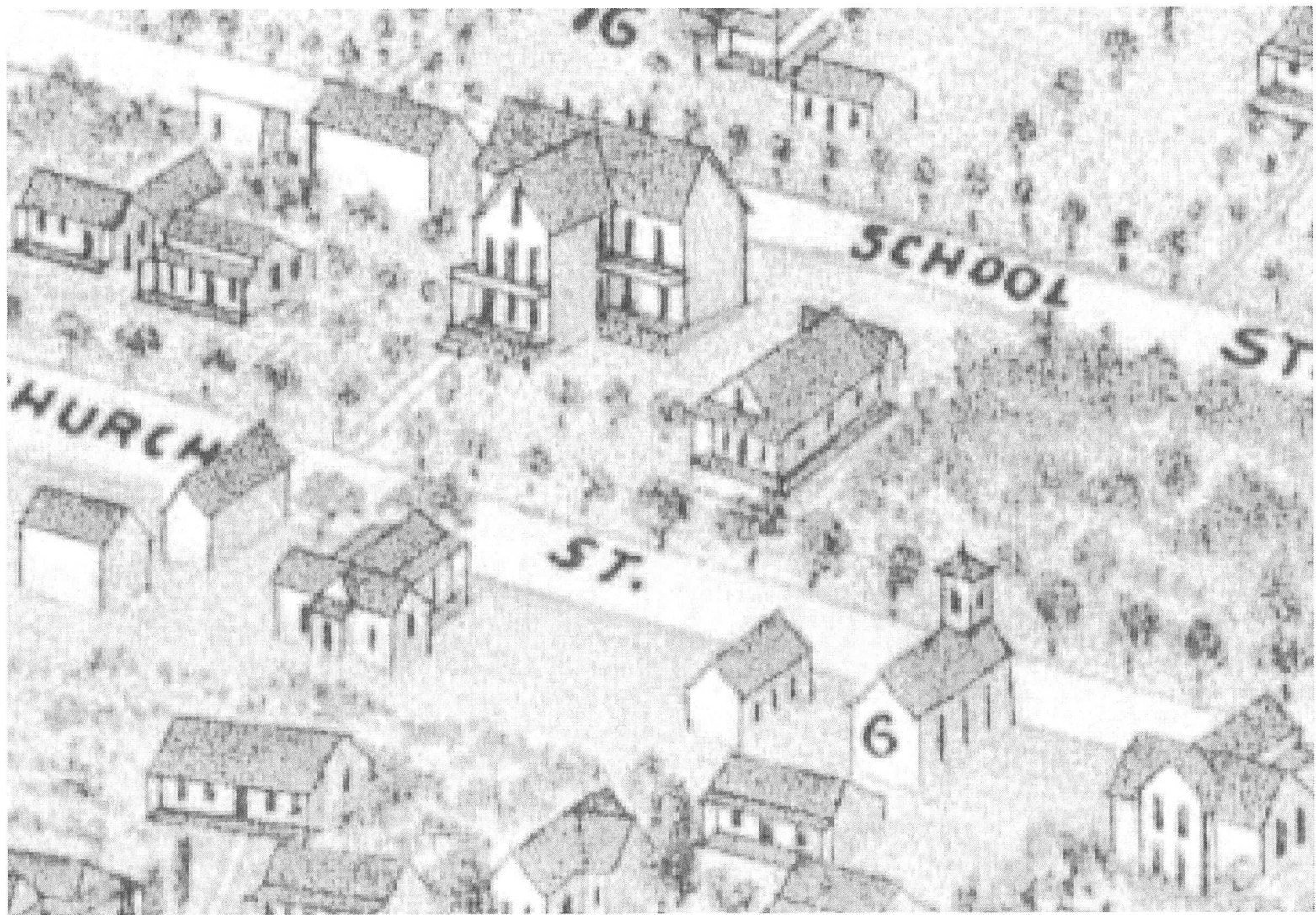
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF  
**GRASS VALLEY**  
 NEVADA COUNTY CAL.

1877

- 17. GREENE'S STORE
- 18. H. H. BROWN
- 19. CALHOUN'S STORE
- 20. C. J. WOOD
- 21. W. H. BROWN
- 22. W. H. BROWN
- 23. W. H. BROWN
- 24. W. H. BROWN
- 25. W. H. BROWN
- 26. W. H. BROWN
- 27. W. H. BROWN
- 28. W. H. BROWN
- 29. W. H. BROWN
- 30. W. H. BROWN
- 31. W. H. BROWN
- 32. W. H. BROWN
- 33. W. H. BROWN
- 34. W. H. BROWN
- 35. W. H. BROWN
- 36. W. H. BROWN
- 37. W. H. BROWN
- 38. W. H. BROWN
- 39. W. H. BROWN
- 40. W. H. BROWN
- 41. W. H. BROWN
- 42. W. H. BROWN
- 43. W. H. BROWN
- 44. W. H. BROWN
- 45. W. H. BROWN
- 46. W. H. BROWN
- 47. W. H. BROWN
- 48. W. H. BROWN
- 49. W. H. BROWN
- 50. W. H. BROWN



GRASS VALLEY IN 1850



COPY

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

&  
RETURN TO:

Board of Supervisors  
County of Nevada  
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200  
PO Box 599002  
Nevada City, CA 95959-7902

Nevada County Recorder  
Gregory J. Diaz  
Document#: 20210022055  
Friday June 25 2021, at 02:56:02 PM

Paid: \$0.00 AM

**DOCUMENT TITLE**

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION 20-281

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE GRASS VALLEY AFRICAN METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SITE, FORMERLY LOCATED AT 319 AND 321  
SOUTH CHURCH ST, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (APN 008-405-015-000; APN 008-  
405-014-000) AS NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NEV 21-02

Documents Available at the office of the  
Nevada County Clerk-Recorder:

Historical Map of Grass Valley 1872  
Deeds can be found at the following locations:  
Book 30 of Deeds at Page 326  
Book 85 of Deeds at Page 27  
Book 79 of Deeds at Page 440  
Book 80 of Deeds at Page 718  
Book 79 of Deeds at Page 893  
Book 80 of Deeds at Page 774  
Book 81 of Deeds at Page 301  
Book 82 of Deeds at Page 23

Available at the Searls Historical Library:

Augustus Kock Bird's Eye View Map of Grass Valley, 1871

**THIS PAGE ADDED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SPACE FOR RECORDING INFORMATION  
(Govt. Code 27361.6)  
Additional Recording Fee Applies**



# RESOLUTION No. 21-281

## OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

### RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE GRASS VALLEY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SITE, FORMERLY LOCATED AT 319 AND 321 SOUTH CHURCH ST, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (APN 008-405-015-000; APN 008-405-014-000) AS NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NEV 21-02

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) was established in 1969 to promote the general welfare of Nevada County and its citizens through official recognition, recording, marking, preserving, and promoting the historical resources of Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC has since sustained an active program of cataloging and recommending for designation historical sites and structures throughout Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC accepts applications, processes and verifies applications for proposed historical landmark designation, and recommends said landmark designations for approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of improvements, buildings, structures, signs, objects, features, sites, places, districts, and areas within the County that reflect special elements of the County's architectural, artistic, cultural, engineering, aesthetic, historical, political, social, and other heritage, by allowing their registration as Nevada County Historical Landmarks for the following reasons:

1. Safeguarding Nevada County's heritage as embodied and reflected in the historic Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site formerly located at 319 and 321 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945, as well as on both adjacent parcels located at 315 and 323 South Church Street, its influence on Nevada County's cultural and social history, and commemorating the valuable role it played in this community; and
2. Encouraging public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Nevada County's history as reflected in its heritage; and
3. Fostering civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of cultural resources; and
4. Preserving diverse and harmonious architectural styles and design innovations; and
5. Enhancing property values to increase economic and financial benefits to Nevada County and its inhabitants by preserving and promoting historical buildings; and
6. Protecting and enhancing Nevada County's attraction to tourists and visitors, thereby stimulating business and industry; and

7. Identifying as early as possible and resolving conflicts between the preservation of cultural resources and alternative land uses in a section of Nevada County that may see future population growth; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, the City of Grass Valley City Council voted unanimously approving the historic designation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church formerly located at 315, 319, 321 & 323 South Church Street and authorized the Grass Valley Historical Commission to submit an application to NCHLC for County historical landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, at its April 16, 2021 meeting, the NCHLC verified and unanimously approved the application and now recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate the property as a Nevada County Historical Landmark; and

WHEREAS, only property owners of 319 and 321 (APN 008-405-015-000; APN 008-405-014-000) South Church Street, Grass Valley confirmed their approval for historical designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada hereby accepts the NCHLC's recommendation and designates the Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church and School Site formerly located at 319 and 321 South Church St., Grass Valley, CA 95945 as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to record a certified copy of this Resolution with the Office of the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder within ten (10) days after the adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 22nd day of June, 2021, by the following vote of said Board:

- Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.
- Noes: None.
- Absent: None.
- Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

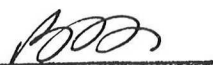
JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 

  
Dan Miller, Chair

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

6/22/2021 cc: COB\*  
AC\*  
HLC\*

Res 21-281  
ATTEST: June 25, 2021  
**Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board**  
**County of Nevada**  
BY: 

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
P.O. Box 1014  
Nevada City, California 95959  
[info@nevadacountylandmarks.com](mailto:info@nevadacountylandmarks.com)  
530-274-7118

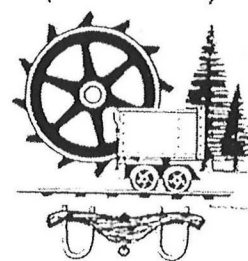
16 April 2021

Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site be approved. The applicant is the City of Grass Valley. For reasons detailed in the application, the City plans to install a plaque on the elevated sidewalk in front of 324 S. Church Street, across the street from the Site. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-02.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1854 to serve Grass Valley's black community. In addition to holding religious services, the church was a center for cultural, political and civil rights events. In 1865 a school house was added since California law then provided for segregated schools. In the 1890s, with the black population of Grass Valley having significantly declined, the church properties were sold.



The applicant, assisted by Linda Jack, Chair of the Grass Valley Historical Commission, has provided a thorough and compelling level of research and documentation to accompany the application, which has been reviewed by the Commission for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.

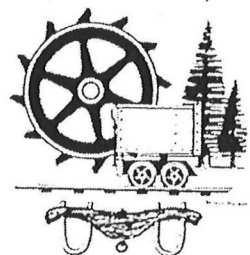
If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

  
Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

Cc: Linda Jack



## Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

**Name of proposed landmark:** Grass Valley African Methodist Episcopal Church & School Site

**Location:** From 1854-1893 the AME Church and School (the latter then referred to as the Colored School) were located on the Eastern side of S. Church St, Lot 3, Block 45 in Grass Valley's Historic Townsite. Following the sale of the property in 1893 the lot was purchased by a private party and subdivided into four parcels. Today four c. 1894 Victorian homes occupy the site, house numbers 315, 319, 321 and 323.

City of Grass Valley Planner, Lance Lowe, notified owners of those properties of the intent of the City to consider landmarking the site. Irv and Catherine Gubman, who own the properties at 319 and 321, communicated their support of the project. The other two owners did not respond to the City's communication.

On February 23, 2021 the Grass Valley City Council voted unanimously to approve declaring the site a City of Grass Valley Landmark, and to submit an application to your Commission for county landmark status. The Council received twenty-four emails and phone calls supporting the landmark. Funds for the plaque will come primarily from the Grass Valley Historical Commission, but the Gubmans have also offered to provide funds if needed.

On the recommendation of the Grass Valley Historical Commission, the City has determined that it is not practical to install a plaque on one of those four properties. Rather, the City plans to install the plaque on the elevated sidewalk on the opposite (Western) side of the street at about 324 S. Church St. The plaque will be installed on a railing that runs along the sidewalk that is within the City's right-of-way and will be maintained by the City. The plaque will include a section of Augustus Koch's Bird's Eye map of Grass Valley (1871) that shows the full lot and both the buildings, which should allow someone reading the plaque to visualize the site as it existed in the past.

**Name of applicant:** City of Grass Valley

**Address:** 125 East Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95495

**Work Phone:** (530) 274-4712

**Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark is located, if owner is not applicant:** Not applicable.

**I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site:** The City Council authorized the placement of the plaque at its February 23, 2021 meeting.

**Landowner's signature:** Lance E. Lowe, AICP, Principal Planner on behalf of the City authorized Linda K. Jack, Chair of the Grass Valley Historical Commission to sign this application. See page 5.



**Brief history and description of proposed landmark: (attach additional sheets as necessary):**

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church grew out of the Free African Society (FAS), a benevolent organization founded by Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others in Philadelphia in 1787. The Society provided mutual aid for "free Africans and their descendants." The denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850's. In Northern California churches were established in Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Marysville, Nevada City and Grass Valley.

The following description of the church is taken from *Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California* (1867): "The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the summer of 1854, at a cost of \$1,400. The Church has been sustained by ten devoted members, with a congregation varying from twenty-five to thirty. The Church was dedicated by Rev. T. M. D. (Thomas Meyer Decauter) Ward, a colored Presiding Elder, assisted by Rev. J. B. Hill, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Grass Valley, and also Rev. J. Or. Hale, of the Congregational Church of this place. The first clergyman who had the Church in charge was Rev. Emory Waters. The Trustees of the Church are: Isaac Sanks, Joseph Thomas, Isaac Buhner [Bulmer], John Hicks, Henry Blackburn. Rev. Peter Green, present minister in charge."<sup>1</sup> On April 17, 1867 Joseph Thomas and Isaac Sanks signed, using their mark, executed a deed naming Henry Blackburn, John Hicks, and Isaac Bulmer as additional trustees for the property of the African Methodist Episcopal Church located at Lot 3, Block 45 on South Church St. in Grass Valley, CA. The deed replaced the original deed that had been lost in a fire. It was recorded on February 5, 1868.<sup>2</sup>

The AME Churches were served by pastors that traveled from one church to the other in the district, consequently services were generally held once a week. Members of the congregation often did readings or bible studies more frequently, and the Grass Valley church was known for its choir. The church was also a venue for cultural events such as events such as concerts, readings, and musical performances.

AME churches were also centers for political activities. In the 1850s a series of *Conventions for Colored Citizens of California* were routinely held at AME churches in Sacramento. The church was also used to raise funds for the important civil rights causes of the era: abolishing slavery nationwide, gaining the franchise for Black men, integrating public accommodations, and gaining the right for Blacks to testify in court cases involving whites. During the Civil War the Grass Valley church raised funds for the Sanitary Commission, a Federal organization for the medical care of Union soldiers. Following the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Isaac Sanks, a former slave and founder of the Grass Valley church was likely the first Black man to run for public office in California.

---

<sup>1</sup> Edwin F. Bean, *Bean's History and Directory of Nevada County, California: 1867*, Nevada City, CA, p. 211.

<sup>2</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, Searls Historical Library, Book 130, 1.

## The School

In 1854, Black students in San Francisco became the first children segregated in California's public schools. Soon, however, state law prohibited "Negroes, Mongolians and Indians" from attending public schools with white children anywhere in California. Andrew Moulder, an early state superintendent of schools, stated: "The great mass of our citizens will not associate in terms of equality with these inferior races, nor will they consent that their children do so."<sup>3</sup>

The situation was similar in Nevada County. In 1859 J. Holland Townsend wrote of an incident in Grass Valley: "In Grass Valley a school was opened in the year 1854. The supervisors, after taking the census of the children, found that three of the white children had colored parents; but as these children were as white as themselves, they very wisely determined to leave them in the school."<sup>4</sup> White parents protested and pressured the State Superintendent of Schools who threatened to cut off funds to the district if the children were not expelled.

In the early 1860s, California state laws authorized school districts to provide separate schools for Black, Indian, and Asian children. But a segregated school would only be established if the parents of at least 10 racial minority students petitioned a district to build one. If the parents failed to do this, their children could be denied a public education altogether. White parents tended to demand a segregated school for non-white students when their numbers increased in the community. Indeed, in 1873 Grass Valley's State Senator, Miles Poore O'Connor, was adamant about maintaining segregated schools saying: "If there was only one child of color in his district, and it must be educated, he would favor building a house and sustaining a school for it alone before admitting it to a white school."<sup>5</sup>

Accordingly, Isaac Sanks of the Grass Valley AME Church took up a subscription to build a schoolhouse in 1865, which is shown on the 1871 and 1872 maps.<sup>6</sup> Going forward the names of the teachers and performance of the Black school children were regularly reported in the *Union* along with students at the white schools.

Eventually the expense of a separate education system for a relatively small number of Black children in California caused the state legislature finally to abolish "colored schools" in 1880.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> "BRIA 23 2 c Mendez v Westminster: Paving the Way to School Desegregation," Constitutional Rights Foundation, Bill of Rights in Action, Summer 2007 (Volume 23, No. 2). Accessed on August 29, 2020 at <https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-23-2-c-mendez-v-westminster-paving-the-way-to-school-desegregation>.

<sup>4</sup> J. Holland Townsend, "American Caste, and Common Schools," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, vol. 1, March 1859, p. 81.

<sup>5</sup> Jennie Carter, *The Elevator*, September 6, 1873, p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Grass Valley Daily Union*, 2:75, July 27, 1865, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> "BRIA 23 2 c Mendez v Westminster"

## Closure of the AME Church & School

Toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Black population of Grass Valley had dwindled as the original pioneers passed away or joined adult children who had moved to other parts of the state. And integration of the public schools in 1880 had made the need for a separate school unnecessary. On November 2, 1893, the church was sold at public auction to Charles Clinch for \$1130. The signing trustees at the time were Elijah Booth and Isaac Sanks. The deed was recorded on November 25, 1893.<sup>8</sup> The funds from the sale were returned to the AME Church.

Shortly thereafter, Charles Clinch and his wife Emily began selling off portions of the property: to C.J. and Mary Miller on March 5, 1894; to William Aver on March 10, 1894; to Thomas Ingram on April 12, 1894; and to William and Ann Edwards on October 29, 1894.<sup>9</sup> Today Lot 3, Block 45 is comprised of 315, 319, 321 and 323 S. Church St. House numbering is not consecutive.

**Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark:** The AME church and school were the Black community's oldest and most important institutions in Grass Valley. They provided a religious, social and political home for Black residents during one of the most turbulent periods of American history. The AME Church and School site would be the first Black institution to be landmarked in the Grass Valley.

**How will the landmark be protected and maintained?** The City of Grass Valley will maintain the landmark.

**Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark:**

### Books and articles:

- *Grass Valley Daily Union*, 2:75, July 27, 1865, p. 3.
- Entry from *Bean's Directory* 1867, p. 211. Attached.
- J. Holland Townsend, "American Caste, and Common Schools," *The Anglo-African Magazine*, vol. 1, March 1859, p. 81.

### Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)

- *Abstracts of Title*, Searls Historical Library, Book 130, 12 pages. Attached.

### Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately):

- Samuel Bethell City Map of Grass Valley, 1872 . Attached.
- Augustus Koch Bird's Eye View Map of Grass Valley, 1871. Attached. The Church and School are #6 of the legend.

---

<sup>8</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> *Abstracts of Title*, 5-12.

Applicant's signature: *Linda K. Judd*  
Chair Grass Valley Historical Commission

Date: 9-30-2021

This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission Attention: Chairman  
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other nonhistorical reasons.  
An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

### A. M. E. CHURCH.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in the summer of 1854, at a cost of \$1,400. The Church has been sustained by ten devoted members, with a congregation varying from twenty-five to thirty. The Church was dedicated by Rev. T. M. D. Ward, a colored Presiding Elder, assisted by Rev. J. B. Hill, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Grass Valley, and also Rev. J. G. Hale, of the Congregational Church of this place. The first clergyman who had the Church in charge was Rev. Emory Waters. The Trustees of the Church are: Isaac Sanks, Joseph Thomas, Isaac Bulmer, John Hicks, Henry Blackburn. Rev. Peter Green, present minister in charge. This society, during the past year, has erected a small but comfortable school house on the Church lot.

100

1042 *1042*

No. Reg. No.

*Abstracts of Title*  
*Book 130*

\*-----\*

- BLOCK FORTY-FIVE -

- of the -

- TOWN OF GRASS VALLEY -

- (Carbon Copy) -

\*-----\*

...

JOSEPH THOMAS and ISAAC SANKS,

--70--

A. D.

HENRY BLACKBURN, JOHN NICKS,  
ISAAC FULLER, JOSEPH THOMAS  
and ISAAC SANKS, Trustees in  
trust for the use and purposes  
hereinafter mentioned.

.....

Dated April 17th, 1867.

Recorded February 5th, 1868 at 1 1/2 o'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "50" of Deeds at page 328 et seq.

Whereas the premises hereinafter described and conveyed  
are held by Joseph Thomas and Isaac Sanks in trust for the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church of Good Hope and re-  
corded which deed and the record thereof has both been destroyed  
ed by fire. Now therefore: This indenture made the 17th day of  
April A. D. 1867 between the said Joseph Thomas and Isaac  
Sanks of the Town of Grass Valley, Nevada County, State of Cal-  
ifornia, party of the first part and Henry Blackburn, John  
Nicks, Isaac Fuller, Joseph Thomas & Isaac Sanks, trustees in  
trust for the use and purposes hereinafter mentioned of the  
same place party of the second part, Witnesseth:

That the said party of the first part for and in consid-  
eration of the sum of one dollar to them in hand paid upon the  
delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknow-  
ledged has given, granted, confirmed, sold, released, confirm-  
ed and conveyed and by these presents does give, grant, confirm,  
sell, release, confirm and convey unto the said party of the  
second part and to their successors (trustees in trust for the  
uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned and declared) all the

estate, right, title, interest, property, claim and demand whatsoever either in law or equity which the said party of the first part may have in to or upon all and singular a certain lot or piece of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Grass Valley, County and State aforesaid, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing on the East side of Church Street at a point forming the line between said conveyed premises and the premises known as the Laramie lot; thence running east along the line of said Laramie lot Easterly 100 feet; thence Southerly along Smith & Perry's line 208 feet; thence westerly along Blake's line 103 feet 2 inches to Church St.; thence Northerly along Church St. 191 feet to point of beginning, together with all and singular the property, privileges and appurtenances thereto belong in or in anywise appertaining.

To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part and their successors in of law forever in trust, that they shall continue the Church House thereon a place of worship for the use of the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, according to the rules and discipline of said Church which from time to time may be adopted and agreed upon by the ministers and preachers of said Church at their General Conferences in the United States of America: And in further trust and confidence



that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to said Church as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference of the ministers and preachers of the said African Methodist Episcopal Church or by the Annual Conferences authorized by the said conferences to preach and expound God's holy word therein: And in further trust and confidence that as often as any one or more trustees hereinbefore mentioned shall die or cease to be a member or members of said Church according to the rules and discipline aforesaid, then and in such case it shall be the duty of the stationed minister or preacher (authorized as aforesaid) who shall have the pastoral charge of the members of said Church, to call a meeting of the male members as soon as conveniently may be: And where so met the said minister or preacher shall proceed to nominate one or more persons to fill the place or places of him or them whose office or offices has (or have) been vacated as aforesaid: provided the person or persons so nominated shall have been one year a member or members of the said Church immediately preceding said nomination, and be at least 21 years of age. And the said male members so assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill such vacancy or vacancies in order to keep up the number of trustees forever.

(Signed)  
 Witnessed by J. S. Cole,  
 E. W. Roberts. )  
 Duly acknowledged.

his  
 Joseph X. Thomas, (Seal)  
 mark  
 his  
 Isaac X. Stokes, (Seal)  
 mark.

4

TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF  
GRASS VALLEY, a corpora-  
tion existing under and  
by virtue of an Act of  
the Legislature of the  
State of California,

--20--

D E E D.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH.

.....

Dated July 30th, 1875.

Recorded January 10th, 1884 at 3 5/60 o'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "65" of Deeds at page 27 et seq.

Consideration \$7.50.

Grant, convey and confirm.

Lot No. 3 in Block No. 45.

(Signed)

W. H. Benson, President,

(Corporate Seal)

John Walden, Clerk

of Board of Trustees of the

Town of Grass Valley.

Truly acknowledged.

---

In the Superior Court of the County of Nevada, State of California  
In re Application of African Methodist Episcopal Church Society  
to sell property in Grass Valley, Cal.

The return of sale of the property of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Society in Grass Valley, California, made by Isaac Sanks and Elijah Booth coming on for hearing this day, and it appearing that due notice of said hearing has been given by the Clerk of this Court as required by a previous order of this Court, and no opposition to said return having been made and the matter set forth in said petition and the evidence therein having been heard, whereby it appears that the sale of said property was in every respect conducted in accordance with the order of this Court fairly and justly; that said property was sold at public auction after due notice, and that at each sale, Chas. L. Clinch was the highest and best bidder therefor, offering the sum of \$1130, which was the highest and best bid offered and that a bid exceeding that sum cannot be obtained. It is Ordered and Decreed that said sale be confirmed and said Trustees are ordered and directed to execute a conveyance of said property unto said purchaser Chas. L. Clinch

Done in Open Court this 2nd day of Nov. 1893.

John Caldwell, Superior Judge.

Record ed November 15th, 1893 at 4 10/00 o'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 433 et seq.

ISAAC SANKS and ELIJAH BOOTH  
Trustees for and of The AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

--TO--

D E E D.

C H A R L E S E. C L I N C H

.....

Dated November 18th 1893.

Recorded November 25th 1893 at 1 O'clock P. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 440 et seq.

Grant, sell and convey.

Consideration \$1130.00.

Lot 3 in Block 45 of the Town (now City) of Grass Valley  
Nevada County, California, according to the official map of  
said Town made by Samuel Bethel in 1872.

(signed)

Isaac Sanks,

Elijah Booth,

Duly acknowledged.

-----

CHARLES E. CLINCH and  
EMILY CLINCH

-TO-

D. E. S. S.

C. J. MILLER and MARY  
MILLER.

.....

Dated March 1, 1894.

Recorded March 5, 1894 at 11 20/60 o/c A. M.

Recorded in Book "80" of Deeds at page 718 et seq.

Consideration \$600.00

Grant, bargain, sell and convey

all that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being on  
the East side of Church Street in the City of Grass Valley,  
County of Nevada and State of California, and particularly  
described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of  
Clinch's lot, thence running in a Northerly direction along the  
line of Church Street 60 feet, thence running in an easterly  
direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence, thence running  
in a southerly direction along the line of the said line fence  
60 feet, thence running in a westerly direction 100 feet more  
or less to the place of beginning, the same being a portion  
of Lot No. 3 and Block No. 43, according to the Official Map  
of the said City made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(signed)

Chas. E. Clinch (seal)

Emily Clinch (seal)

Duly acknowledged.

-----

CHARLES E. CLINCH and FAMILY  
CLINCH, his wife,

--TO--

D E E D.

T H O M A S I M O P A M.

.....

Dated April 10th, 1894.

Recorded April 14th, 1894 at 9 6/60 O'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 293 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00.

Grant, give, in, sell and convey.

That certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated on the East side of Church Street in the City (formerly town) of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point on the East side of said Church Street which point of commencement is the North West corner of the lot of William Aver and the South West corner of the lot hereby conveyed; thence Northerly along the East side of Church Street 34 feet and 10 inches; thence Easterly about 100 feet to a line fence; thence in a Southerly direction along the line of said line fence 38.51 feet; thence Westerly about 100 feet to the point of beginning. The said lot hereby conveyed being a portion of lot No. 3 of Block No. 45 of the said City (formerly town) of Grass Valley; the said lot and Block being numbered according to the official map of the survey of the Town of

Grass Valley, made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(Signed)

Chas. E. Clinch, (Seal)

Emily Clinch, (Seal)

Duly acknowledged.

----

THOMAS INGRAM

-TO-

D. E. D.

MRS. CRISTIANA INGRAM

.....

Dated April 24, 1894.

Recorded April 25, 1894 at 9 10/60 3/4 A. M.

Recorded in Book "80" of Deeds at page 774 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00

Grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm

that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situated on the East side of Church Street in the City (formerly town) of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to wit: Commencing at a point on the East side of said Church Street which point of commencement is the northwest corner of the lot of William Aver and the Southwest corner of the lot hereby conveyed, thence northerly along the east side of Church Street 34 feet 10 inches, thence easterly about 100 feet to a line fence, thence in a southerly direction along the line of said line fence 38.51 feet, thence westerly about 100 feet to the point of beginning, the said lot hereby conveyed being a portion of lot 3 of Block No. 45.

(signed)

Thomas Ingram

(seal)

Duly acknowledged.

---

CHARLES E. CLINCH and  
EMILY CLINCH

-10-

D E E D.

WILLIAM EDWARDS and  
ANN EDWARDS

.....  
Dated March 1, 1894.

Recorded October 28, 1894 at 9 o'clock A. M.  
Recorded in Book "81" of Deeds at page 301 et seq.

Consideration \$600.00

Grant, bargain, sell and convey

All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Grass Valley, County of Nevada and State of California and particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner part of Andrews lot, thence running in a Southerly direction along the line of Church Street 60 feet, thence running in an Easterly direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence, thence running in a Northerly direction along the line of the said line fence 66.10 feet, thence running in a westerly direction 100 feet more or less to the place of beginning, the same being a part of lot No. 3 and Block No. 45, according to the official map of the said City as made by S. Bethell in 1872.

(signed)

Chas. E. Clinch (seal)

Emily Clinch (seal)

Only acknowledged.

-----



H/

CHARLES S. AND EMILY CLINGA,

--FO--

D. F. C.

W I L L I A M A V A R E  
.....

Dated March 10th, 1894.

Recorded June 15th, 1894 at 9 30/80 o'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "82" of Deeds at page 33 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00.

Grant, bargain, sell and convey.

All that certain piece or parcel of land lying and being on the East side of Church Street in the City of Grass Valley, County of Nevada, and State of California and particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the North West corner post of Miller's lot thence running in a Northerly direction along the line of Church Street 35 feet; thence running in an Easterly direction 100 feet more or less to a line fence; thence running in a Southerly direction along the line of the said line fence 38 55/100 feet; thence running in a Westerly direction 100 feet more or less to place of beginning, the same being a part of Lot 25, 3 and Block 65 according to the official map of the said city as made by J. Keith Jan. 12, 1875.

(Signed)

Chas. S. Clinga,

(Seal)

Emily Clinga,

(Seal)

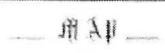
Fully acknowledged.

----

Scale  
1 inch = 100 feet  
1/2 inch = 200 feet  
1/4 inch = 400 feet



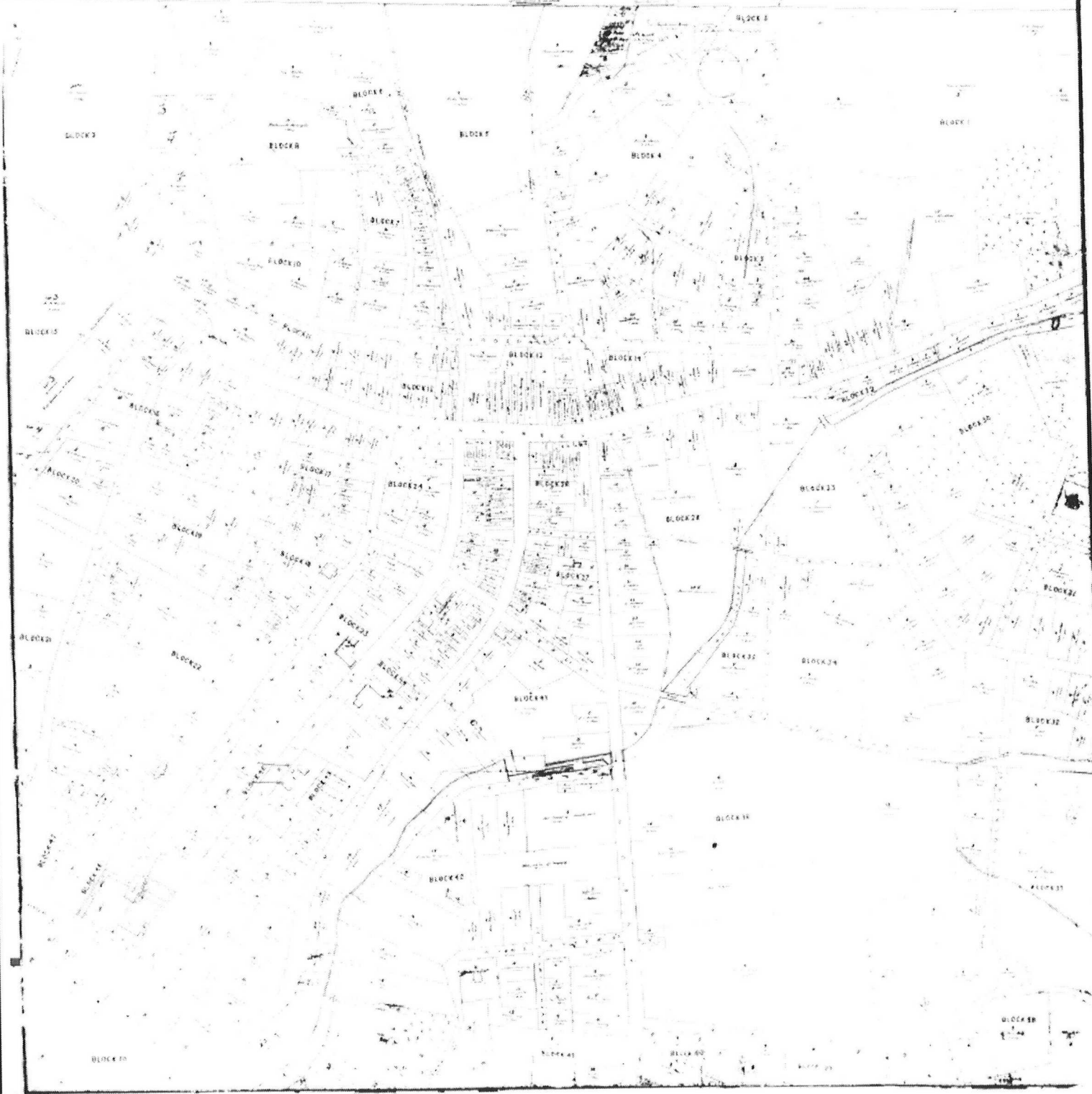
City of Grass Valley  
Planning Department  
Department of Public Works  
Public Planning Division



# GRASS VALLEY

NEVADA CO

Map No. 1  
Date: 1967  
Scale: 1" = 100'







BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF  
**GRASS VALLEY**  
NEVADA COUNTY CALIF.

1844



GRASS VALLEY IN 1844



GRASS VALLEY IN 1844



6

SCHOOL

ST

CHURCH

ST.

6