

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."¹ 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, 1868.²

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 15th 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.

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

² *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."³

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."⁴ 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."⁵

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.⁶ 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 1880.⁷

³ "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>.

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

⁵ Jennie Carter, *The Elevator*, September 6, 1873, p. 3.

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

⁷ "BRIA 23 2 c Mendez v Westminster"

Closure of the AME Church & School

Toward the end of the 19th 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, 1893.⁸ 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, 1894.⁹ 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.

⁸ *Abstracts of Title*, 5-6.

⁹ *Abstracts of Title*, 5-12.

Applicant's signature: _____

Linda K. Jack

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

BLOCK FORTY-FIVE

of the

TOWN OF GRASS VALLEY

(Carbon Copy)

219

No. Reg. No.

308 45
1

JOSEPH THOMAS and ISAAC SANKS,

--TO--

D E E D.

HENRY BLACKBURN, JOHN HICKS,
ISAAC BULMER, 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 "30" of Deeds at page 326 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
Hicks, Isaac Bulmer, 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, 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 Lamarque lot; thence running back along the line of said Lamarque lot Easterly 100 feet; thence Southerly, along Smith & Perry's lines 206 feet; thence Westerly along Blakes line 102 feet 8 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 belongin 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 office 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 disciplin 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 Confrances 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 Gods 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 disciplin 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 immediatly preceeding 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 keek up the number of trustees forever.

(Signed)	his	
Witnessed by J.K.Sale.	Joseph x Thomas,	(Seal)
E. W. Roberts.)	mark	
Duly acknowledged.	his	
	Isaac x Sanks,	(Seal)
	mark.	

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

--TO--

D E E D.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

.....

Dated July 30th, 1875.

Recorded January 10th, 1884 at 2 5/30 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 Webber, Clerk

of Board of Trustees of the

Town of Grass Valley.

Duly 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 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 10/60 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--

DEED.

CHARLES E. CLINCH
.....

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 B D.

C. J. MULLER and MARY
MILLER.

.....

Dated March 1, 1894.

Recorded March 5, 1894 at 11 20/60 o'clock 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)

Duly acknowledged.

CHARLES E. CLINCH and EMILY
CLINCH, his wife,

--TO--

D E E D.

T H O M A S I N G R A M.

.....

Dated April 10th, 1894.

Recorded April 12th, 1894 at 9 6/60 O'clock A. M.

Recorded in Book "79" of Deeds at page 693 et seq.

Consideration \$10.00.

Grant, bargain, 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 E D.

MRS. CHRISTIANA INGRAM

.....

Dated April 24, 1894.

Recorded April 25, 1894 at 9 10/60 o'c A. K.

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

-TO-

D E E D.

WILLIAM EDWARDS and
ANN EDWARDS

.....

Dated March 1, 1894.

Recorded October 29, 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 post 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)

Duly acknowledged.

H/

CHARLES E. and EMILY CLINCH,

--TO--

DEED.

W I L L I A M A V E R

.....

Dated March 10th, 1894.

Recorded June 25th, 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 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 58/100 feet; thence runnin in a Westerly direction 100 feet more or less to place of beginning, the same being a part of Lot No. 3 and Block 45 according to the official map of the said City as made by S. Pethel Esq. in 1872.

(Signed)

Chas. E. Clinch, (Seal)

Emily Clinch, (Seal)

Duly acknowledged.

- 1. All Lots
- 2. All Blocks
- 3. All Streets
- 4. All Public Buildings
- 5. All Churches
- 6. All Schools
- 7. All Cemeteries
- 8. All Parks
- 9. All Waterways
- 10. All Railroads
- 11. All Telephone Lines
- 12. All Gas Lines
- 13. All Sewer Lines
- 14. All Electric Lines
- 15. All Utility Lines
- 16. All Other Lines

Scale of 1/8" = 100 Feet
 Prepared by
 J. B. LINGG
 Surveyor

MAP

GRASS VALLEY
 NEVADA C^o

This map shows the boundaries of the City of Grass Valley, Nevada, and the location of the public buildings, churches, schools, cemeteries, parks, waterways, railroads, telephone lines, gas lines, sewer lines, electric lines, and utility lines. It is a map of the City of Grass Valley, Nevada, and shows the location of the public buildings, churches, schools, cemeteries, parks, waterways, railroads, telephone lines, gas lines, sewer lines, electric lines, and utility lines.



1914
 J. B. LINGG
 Surveyor



BLOCK 23

BLOCK 49

BLOCK 76

BLOCK 77

BLOCK 78



22

22

14

Nicholas Bergman
1.12m

16
James G. Wright
1.12m

17
James G. Wright
1.12m

18
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

10
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

17
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

20
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

19
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

13
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

12
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

7
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

4
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

4
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

4
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

4
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

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M. G. Taylor
1.12m

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M. G. Taylor
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4
M. G. Taylor
1.12m

14
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

15
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

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Richard Kennedy
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Richard Kennedy
1.12m

16
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

17
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

18
Richard Kennedy
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19
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

20
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

21
Richard Kennedy
1.12m

22
Richard Kennedy
1.12m



DESIGNED BY AUGUSTUS ROCK

LITHO BY TUCKER & CO. N.Y.



GRASS VALLEY IN 1852

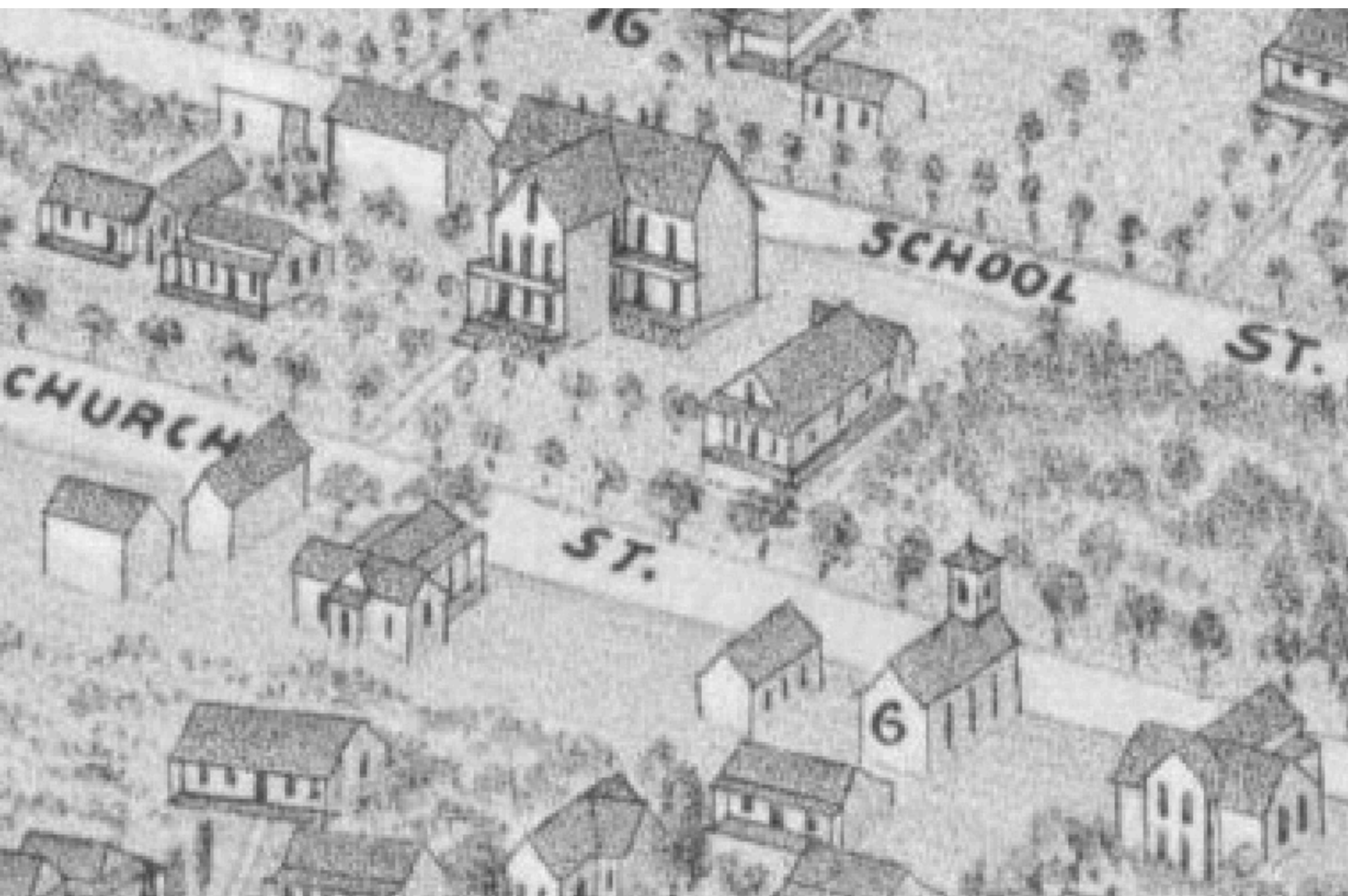
1. BOARD OF PUBLIC
2. EPISCOPAL
3. METHODIST EPISCOPAL
4. CONGREGATIONAL
5. CATHOLIC
6. BAPTIST
7. BAPTIST
8. BAPTIST
9. BAPTIST
10. BAPTIST
11. HOTEL OF FINEST
12. BAPTIST
13. BAPTIST
14. BAPTIST
15. BAPTIST
16. BAPTIST
17. BAPTIST

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF
GRASS VALLEY
 NEVADA COUNTY CAL.
 1874

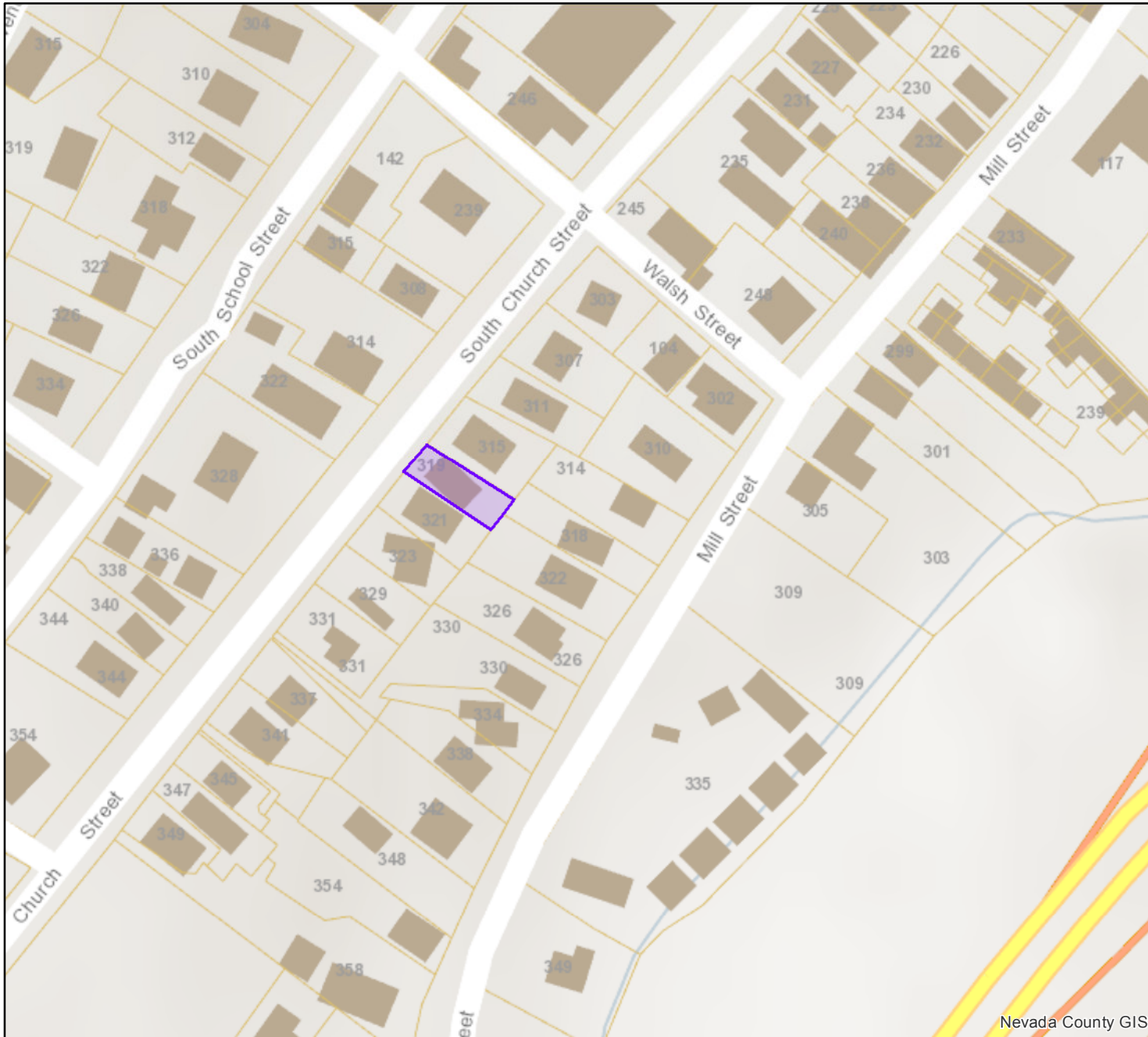
18. GRASS VALLEY
19. HILL STREET
20. PRAIRIE
21. A. L. L.
22. C. L.
23. GRASS VALLEY
24. GRASS VALLEY
25. CITY
26. NEW YORK
27. ROLLY BAR
28. GOLD HILL
29. DRENGER'S
30. LA CROSSE
31. DARTMOUTH
32. ALPINE
33. ALPINE
34. ALPINE
35. GRASS VALLEY



GRASS VALLEY IN 1850



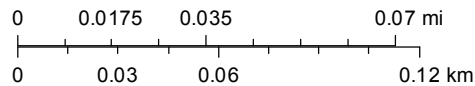
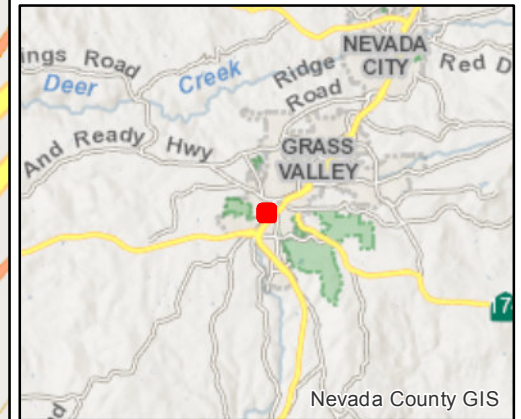
Nevada County Parcel Report



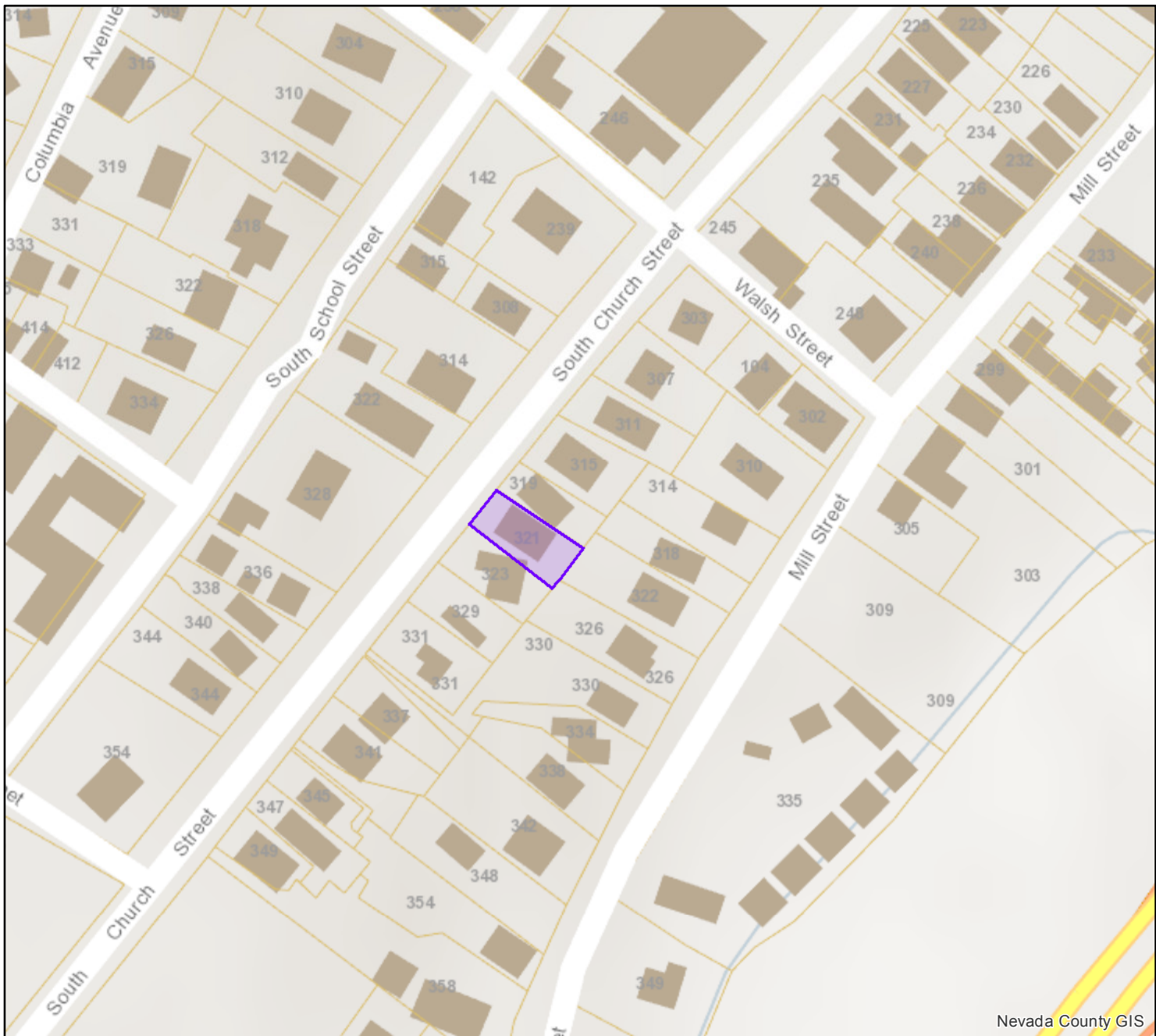
Parcel APN: 008-405-015-000
319 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

Land Value: \$33,156
 Improvement Value: \$99,517
 Acreage: 0.08
 Zoning: NG-2 GVCTY
 General Plan: GRV
 Fire District: Grass Valley
 Elementary Sch. Dist: Grass Valley
 Water District:
 Nevada Irrigation Dist:
 Public Utility:
 Park District:
 Service Area:
 Snow Load: 43
 Wind Exposure: C
 Climate Zone: 11
 Elevation: 2440

Overview



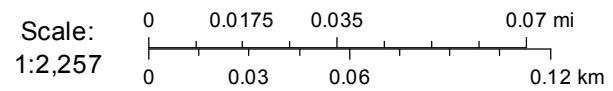
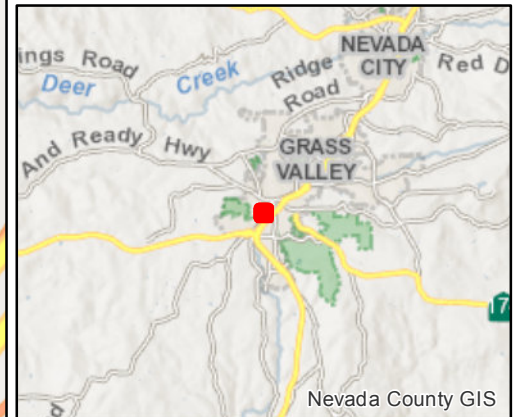
Nevada County Parcel Report



Parcel APN: 008-405-014-000
321 SOUTH CHURCH STREET

Land Value: \$81,181
Improvement Value: \$220,814
Acreage: 0.11
Zoning: NG-2 GVCTY
General Plan: GRV
Fire District: Grass Valley
Elementary Sch. Dist: Grass Valley
Water District:
Nevada Irrigation Dist:
Public Utility:
Park District:
Service Area:
Snow Load: 43
Wind Exposure: C
Climate Zone: 11
Elevation: 2444

Overview



MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Ben Aguilar, Mayor
Bob Branstrom

Hilary Hodge

Jan Arbuckle, Vice Mayor
Tom Ivy

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL,
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORITY AND REDEVELOPMENT “SUCCESSOR
AGENCY”**
7:00 P. M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** 7:02 pm by Mayor Aguilar
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Aguilar
- ROLL CALL:** Councilmember Branstrom, Councilmember Hodge, Councilmember Ivy, Vice Mayor Arbuckle, and Mayor Aguilar were present.
- B. AGENDA APPROVAL**
No changes for the agenda
- C. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**
Nothing to report out of closed session.
- D. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**
League of Cities Update from Charles Anderson
- E. PUBLIC COMMENT – ATTACHED.**
- F. CONSENT ITEMS – Vice Mayor Arbuckle moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Councilmember Branstrom seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.**
1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2021
RECOMMENDATION: Council approve minutes as submitted.
 2. Local Emergency Proclamation (COVID-19)
RECOMMENDATION: Continuance of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclamation declaring a Local State of Emergency.
 3. Appointment of Historical Commissioner Jeanne Cochran to the Historical Commission for a four-year term.
RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council appoint Historical Commissioner Cochran to a term ending July 1, 2024
 4. CDBG Memorial Park Facilities Improvement Project– Authorization to Bid
RECOMMENDATION: That Council authorize the advertisement for bids for the project.

5. Traffic Signal and Miscellaneous Electrical Facility Maintenance Agreement – Authorization to Extend and Amend Agreement
RECOMMENDATION: That Council 1) authorize the Assistant City Engineer to extend an existing Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Gray Electric Company for two additional years; and 2) authorize an amendment to the agreement to include updated fee schedule exhibits.

H. PUBLIC HEARING

There were no public hearing items.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

6. Historical Commission Recommendation of Historic Site Designation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church formally located at 315, 319, 321 & 323 South Church Street.

RECOMMENDATION: The Historical Commission recommends that the City Council: 1) designate the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as a Historic Site; 2) authorize the placement and allocate supplemental funding of a Kiosk Sign; and, 3) authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission, which includes the following actions:

- i. Determine the project Statutorily Exempt as the appropriate level of environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Guidelines;
 - ii. Adopt Findings of Fact for designation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as a Historical Site as presented in the Staff Report; and,
 - iii. Approve the site as a Historical Site as presented in the Staff Report.
- Vice Mayor Arbuckle moved to approve Historical Commission Recommendation of Historic Site Designation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church formally located at 315, 319, 321 & 323 South Church Street. Councilmember Hodge seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

7. Council direction to implement SB1383, AB 341 and AB 1826 related to State’s mandatory commercial recycling and mandatory organics recycling programs. Actions include initiating amendments to the Franchise Agreement with Waste Management of Grass Valley and to the City’s Municipal Code, and consideration of options for staff resources to implement the programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council: 1) direct the City Manager to negotiate amendments to the Franchise Agreement with USA Waste of California Incorporated DBA “Waste Management of Grass Valley” to ensure implementation of the state mandates and return to Council for final approval; 2) initiate an amendment to Chapter 8.24 of the Grass Valley Municipal Code to address the mandatory organic waste collection; and 3) direct staff to explore options for staffing and funding the state mandated programs.

- Councilmember Hodge moved to approve staff’s recommendations. Councilmember Ivy seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.
8. Approval of MOU with Foothill House of Hospitality
RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached memorandum of understanding (MOU) and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the MOU on behalf of the City.
- Vice Mayor Arbuckle moved to approve memorandum of understanding with Foothill House of Hospitality. Councilmember Branstrom seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

9. Ordinance Amending Sections 12.32.010 and 12.32.070 of the Grass Valley Municipal Code regarding Condon Park Skate Park Regulations
That Council introduce and adopt the ordinance on the first reading and read by title only.
 - Councilmember Hodge moved to approve Ordinance Amending Sections 12.32.010 and 12.32.070. Vice Mayor Arbuckle seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

10. Approval of Deputy Administrative Services Director Job Description; and update to Executive Service Contract Appendix A
RECOMMENDATION: That Council approve the new job description and salary range for the Deputy Administrative Services Director; and 2) approve revisions to the Contract Employees Agreement – Appendix A.
 - Vice Mayor Arbuckle moved to approve the new job description and salary range for the Deputy Administrative Services Director, and the revisions to the Contract Employees Agreement – Appendix A. Councilmember Hodge seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

11. FY 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Review
RECOMMENDATION: By MOTION approve the FY 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Review and recommended revisions.
 - Councilmember Hodge moved to approve the FY 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Review. Vice Mayor Arbuckle seconded, and the motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

J. BRIEF REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS


Councilmember Hodge expressed excitement about free music program via the Center for the Arts & Music in the Mountains partnership. Councilmember Branstrom discussed continued training with League of California Cities and his ethics and sexual harassment training. He also mentioned the BYLT agreement with the City and mentioned his volunteering to help install foot trail addition to the Wolf Creek Trail.

Mayor Aguilar interrupted to introduce public comments. Tristan played voicemail from Matthew Coulter and he brought up the transient issue in the City, mentioned that the Brunswick Basin situation is out of control. He hopes that the community as a whole can work together to get ahold of this issue...he mentioned the millions of dollars that are being disbursed to the County from the State to remedy the homeless issue and he believes that nothing is happening. Patty Galle comment was also read (attached in public comments below).

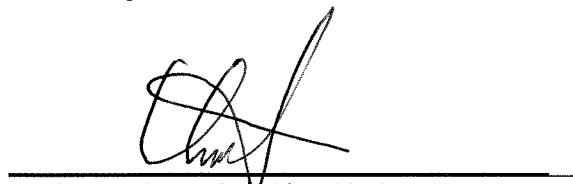
Vice Mayor Arbuckle brought up her first meeting with Racial Equity Task Force Commission and REAL as a part of the League of CA Cities/. She is encouraged by the ‘makeup’ of the commissions...she hopes we will be able to implement, in Nevada County – not just Grass Valley, the positive movements being discussed in her meetings with the League. Mayor Aguilar said he met with Dan Miller, from the Board of Supervisors, he will be attending Board of Supervisor’s meeting and LAFCO meeting. Mentioned beautiful weather and encouraged everyone to be ‘as good as we can be.’

K. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Aguilar at 9:07 pm.



Ben Aguilar, Mayor



Andy Heath, Acting City Clerk

Abigail Walker

From: EYMANN G [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 1 second)
Attachments: audio.mp3

Yeah my name is Wally Holton and I am from Grass Valley and I am in full support of getting the African Methodist Episcopal Church and school and as a historic site and in full support of the kiosk sign and whatever is necessary to get it submitted. As an out of Nevada County Landmarks Commission I think is very important for this County to really recognized the African American black community in this area and we are one of the widest counties in the state so I think anything we can do is beneficial. My address is [REDACTED]. I appreciate you taking this into consideration. Thank you very much. By

You received a voice mail from [EYMANN G](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

Abigail Walker

From: Rev. Kevin Tarsa [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Re: Designation of AME Church/School site

Dear Grass Valley City Council Members,

I write to urge your support of the Grass Valley Historical Commission's recommendation to designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site, including authorizing funding for a kiosk and authorizing application to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

We, as a nation and as a local community, are ever more aware of the importance and value of making the invisible visible. Our social health and healing in these polarized times will rely on learning to see more and more of the hidden histories buried beneath the dynamic, dominant stories of the local gold rush.

In this case, recognizing the identifiable history of black persons in Grass Valley is not only an item of history, one that can spark further curiosity and research, it also opens awareness, particularly for those of us who are white, for recognizing the presence, stories, and experiences of our current residents who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. At the same time, it communicates that this is their home too.

The designation of this AME Church location as a city historic site, the placement of a visible sign or kiosk, and the pursuit of landmark status are small investments with large and important payoffs. I urge you and trust that you will accept and act on the recommendations before you.

Thank you for your consideration, your commitment to wholeness, and your work to strengthen the health and wellbeing of Grass Valley and all of its residents.

Sincerely,
Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains

Rev. Kevin Tarsa
(my pronouns: he, him, his)
Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
Grass Valley, CA

It may help you to know that Monday is my Sabbath day most weeks, and that Fridays are typically my sermon writing days. I'll reply to emails and phone messages as soon as I am able beginning the next day. For pastoral care emergencies any day, please call my cell phone: [REDACTED]

(Wondering why I list my pronouns? Read [HERE](#). To expand the idea, read the UUA's Inclusive Language Guidance [HERE](#).)

Abigail Walker

From: EYMANN G [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 8 seconds)
Attachments: audio.mp3

Hi, my name is Glenn. I'm in an I'm a resident of Grass Valley. Address is [REDACTED] and I'm just calling to make a comment regarding the designation of a site for the African Methodist Episcopal, the IME Church and school as a city historic site coming from this community which is probably one of the whitest counties in the state of California, I think it is just so important that we acknowledge and recognize and honor the traditions of the black community that was here that was important in terms of our history and in terms of the development and building in this community. I hope that there's an authorization done so that this can be a really important and noted place in our city and that we honor and support this. That's the end of my comment. Thank you very much. [REDACTED]. If there's any need to return a call, thank you.

You received a voice mail from [EYMANN G](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

Abigail Walker

From: Meg [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Designate African Methodist Episcopal Church and School

Good morning,

I am in favor of the designation the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church and school as a City Historic Site. I also support placing a kiosk and sign at the site that provides history/information about the church and school and its impact on the community. I support applying to the the Landmarks Commission for designation of county landmark status.

The AME church in Grass Valley and school was a focal point for expanding civil rights to former enslaved individuals and free people of color. Mr. Carter, one of the men instrumental in building the AME church in Grass Valley, represented Nevada County at the first "Colored Convention" held in Sacramento, California. Church members were instrumental in canvassing the county to find African American men eligible to vote, and the church membership supported the education of African American children, denied an education in the county's white only schools, by having a school built next to the church for those children.

All of this was done in the face of extreme racism at that time in Grass Valley. It is important that Nevada County remembers all of its history – good and bad – and the shining examples of its pioneers and founders, including its African American population.

Thank you.

Meg Curry
Nevada City, CA
Member of Nevada County Historical Society

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Abigail Walker

From: Michael Good [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: AME church historic site designation

We would be in favor of both the city and the county designating the Church St. site as an historical site. Michael Good, Joan Girdler Good, [REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: David Bard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: AME

Dear Council,

I strongly favor adding the AME Church and School site to the City Historic Sites.

Sincerely,
David Bard

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: Gage McKinney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fw: Comments for Grass Valley City Council Meeting on February 23rd

City Council members:

I strongly support the designation of the AME site as a City Historic Site, the placement of interpretative signage and a county designation for the same site. Thank you for your consideration & service.

Gage
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: NevadaCountyHistory [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021, 9:58:09 AM PST
Subject: Comments for Grass Valley City Council Meeting on February 23rd

Greetings Society Members,

At the Grass Valley City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 23 the council members will be voting on a recommendation made by the Grass Valley Historical Commission to:

1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site
2. Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign
3. Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

The Council will take public comments up to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 23 by voice mail at (530) 274-4390 or by email to public@cityofgrassvalley.com.

The site, now occupied by four homes c. 1894, was then a 1.6 acre lot on the 300 block of S. Church Street.

If you feel this is a worthy project, please communicate this to the Council using one of the above means.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel R. Ketcham
President - Board of Directors
Nevada County Historical Society
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: Susan Hopkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: AME Church and School

At the Grass Valley City Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 23 the council members will be voting on a recommendation made by the Grass Valley Historical Commission to:

1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site
2. Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign
3. Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

As a community member who would like to see our community more welcoming and inclusive of diversity, it behoves us to acknowledge our history. Please take action upon the above listed items so that we may grow in knowledge of our past.

Thank you for your consideration! Susan Hopkins

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Recommendation by the Grass Valley Historical Commission

Grass Valley Council Members:

I, as a resident of Grass Valley, am very interested in and in favor of the recommendation of the Grass Valley Historical Commission regarding the designation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and School as a City Historic Site. It is timely not only because of Black History Month, but more so because of a rising awareness of African American events, leaders, and people who have been omitted from our history in the past.

Thank you,

Barbara Dean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: Bernie Zimmerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: AME Church

I chair the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission. I write to urge you to accept the recommendation of your Historical Commission to designate the site on which the African Methodist Episcopal Church was located as a historic site.

Too frequently the history of Nevada County during the Gold Rush era does not adequately address the non-white communities that contributed to the development of Nevada County. It is therefore important for Grass Valley to recognize the contribution of its substantial black community by providing historical status for one of its important institutions, the African Methodist Episcopal Church that was located on Church St. If that is done, the Landmarks Commission intends to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the church also be registered as a county landmark.

Thank you for your attention.

Abigail Walker

From: Brian Fry [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 6:55 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Designation of site of AME Church and School

Dear Grass Valley City Council Members:

I wholeheartedly hope you will approve the recommendation of the historical society to designate the site of the former African Methodist Episcopal church and school as an historic site, with appropriate signage to help Grass Valley citizens and visitors become aware that we once had an AME congregation here and a community of black persons living here to keep that church and school operating for close to 40 years.

As a long-time resident in Grass Valley and member of Nevada City United Methodist Church, I was amazed to learn from the excellent article in The Union a week ago that both Grass Valley and Nevada City had AME churches during the last half of the Nineteenth Century. How did I not know this, with my strong Methodist connections and interest in promoting racial justice in our community?

I am so pleased that the historical society is bringing this part of our history to light. I am wondering what were the circumstances which caused the demise or closing of those AME churches and schools. Why, in the 42 years I have lived in Grass Valley and Nevada City have I always just assumed that our region has been minimally populated by black Americans—and that it was always like that? What was the “Copperhead” movement and how was that experienced by the black population in our towns during the mid to late 1800’s? I trust that this designation as an historical site will lead to further education and understanding by myself and others about the history of race relations close to home. It may help us move forward in unpacking some of the progress we need to make in our current struggles to dismantle racism.

Sincerely,

Brian Fry
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: SUPPORT DESIGNATING THE SITE OF THE AME CHURCH AS AN HISTORIC SITE

Dear GV City Council Members:

I strongly support designating the site of the AME Church and School as a City Historic Site as well the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign and encourage the NCLC to officially name the site as having county landmark status.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wenzel

Member Nevada County Historical Society

Director of Communications for Nevada County Citizens for Choice

Co-President of Business & Professional Women of Nevada County, Scholarship board

Member NC John Oldham DAR

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: AME Church

1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site
2. Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign
3. Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

As a resident of Grass Valley (304 Vistamont), I support the above proposals that have been recommended by the Grass Valley Historical Commission.

Thank you

Cicely Brookover

Abigail Walker

From: Michelle Amador [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Landmark designation

I'm a resident of Grass Valley and have appreciated the City's efforts in recent years to help the entire history of our community be visible.

For this reason, I am writing to support the designation of the AME Church and School as historic sites.

I hope you will authorize the approval to the landmarks commission as well as the funding and creation of a kiosk to honor another great facet of our city's rich history.

Thank you!

Michelle

Abigail Walker

From: Itara O'Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Site designation

Dear Grass Valley City Council. Among the many things you have before you, please do the following:

1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site
2. Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign
3. Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

Thank you for acting on this proposal.

Itara O'Connell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: Judith McCarrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Designation of AME church and school as a city historical site.

Dear Council Members:

I would like to add my support to the designation of this site in Grass Valley's history. It is important that all races, cultures and ethnicities that have played a role in our county's and city's history be acknowledged.

Thank you,
Judith McCarrick
Nevada City, CA

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: Irene Frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Historical Society Recommendation

Dear City Council,

I applaud the Historical Commission's recommendation to designate the African Methodist Episcopal Church as an Historic Site. Several years ago, I attended a local history lecture where I learned for the first time of the active Black community in Nevada County during the 19th century. I was amazed that I had not known about this, especially because of how much we take such pride in our local history. It's time we right this omission and honor the Black citizens who helped build our town.

Sincerely,

Irene Frazier

Grass Valley, CA

[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: I support the designation of the AME City Historic Site

Hello,

I am writing in support of designating the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site.

Our community will greatly benefit from honoring this history. Education with a Kiosk sign and county landmark status will be a respectful response to this rich heritage and its place in our community's history.

Thank you for voting yes on all these recommendations from the Grass Valley Historical Commission.

Allison Rivers Samson
Nevada City, CA

Abigail Walker

From: WIRELESS CALLER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:04 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Voice Mail (48 seconds)
Attachments: audio.mp3

Yes, my name is Jim Perkins [REDACTED] in Grass Valley. I am the president of the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Community of the mountains, and I'm calling to strongly endorse the designation of the site of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in school as a city historic site and authorize the funding in place. But is a kiosk sign? I think it's important, Lee College, the history that the black community is played in the early development of Grass Valley, and this would be a very appropriate way to do that. So we hope you will strongly consider that. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [WIRELESS CALLER](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

Abigail Walker

From: Carmen Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Historical Recognition Black Church GV

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to encourage the GV City Council to vote Yes regarding full historical recognition of the former Black church previously located on South Church St in GV including site location documentation.

Thank you.

Carmen Riley
95945

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Abigail Walker

From: Ellen Macdonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: The AME Church and School

I am writing in support of the recommendation of the site of the Grass Valley Historical Commission to designate the African Methodist Episcopal Church and School as a City Historical Site. I am asking for your vote of support for this designation.

I also urge you to vote in favor of the placement of a kiosk sign at the site and for authorization of an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.

Thanks so much for your consideration of this request.

Ellen Macdonald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for AME church grounds historic landmark designation.

Dear Historical Society

I support the application to designate the site as a historical landmark. Any Kiosk or plaque should indicate the back story as well. Who the original natives were and that the land was not ceded but stolen and then sold to subsequent generations of colonists and settlers? How long the AME church lasted and why it ceased to be? As full a picture as possible, please.

Sincerely
Guarionex Delgado
Member of the bipoc community.

Guarionex Delgado
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Abigail Walker

From: George Dunstan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Support for the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site

I support the following recommendations made by the Grass Valley Historical Commission and urge the Grass Valley City Council to approve them:

- 1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site*
- 2. Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign*
- 3. Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status.*

Respectfully,

George Dunstan
Chicago Park

Abigail Walker

From: Cheryl Neil [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:05 PM
To: COGV General Voicemail
Subject: City council meeting agenda item 6 for 23 Feb 2021

Dear Council Members,

In regards to Agenda Item 6 for the council meeting tonight, I would like to say that I am in favor of the recommendation for AME historic designation, kiosk and sign and funding to maintain.

Please pass this item

Cheryl Neil
[REDACTED]

6. Historical Commission Recommendation of Historic Site Designation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church formally located at 315, 319, 321 & 323 South Church Street

RECOMMENDATION: The Historical Commission recommends that the City Council: 1) designate the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as a Historic Site; 2) authorize the placement and allocate supplemental funding of a Kiosk Sign; and, 3) authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission, which includes the following actions:

- i. Determine the project Statutorily Exempt as the appropriate level of environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Guidelines;
- ii. Adopt Findings of Fact for designation of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as a Historical Site as presented in the Staff Report; and,
- iii. Approve the site as a Historical Site as presented in the Staff Report.

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Public comment for Feb. 23
Attachments: IMM Feb. 2021 comments to GV City Council.docx

City Council Members,

I sent this in last week, but realize that your meeting is on the 23rd.

Please consider these statements.

Thank you.

Sharon Delgado

Feb. 15, 2021
Guarionex Delgado



Grass Valley Planning Commission
public@cityofgrassvalley.com

RE: Comments regarding Reopening the Idaho-Maryland Mine

This statement is submitted on behalf of Earth Justice Ministries, a locally-based interfaith nonprofit dedicated to the work of peace, justice, and the restoration of the community of life. Our work is primarily local, but we think globally and address today's interrelated issues from a spiritual perspective. We have two primary concerns that we would like you to address regarding the proposal to reopen the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

First, our concerns are not only about the many isolated problems that will arise if the mine is reopened, but about the cumulative impacts that these problems will cause. The list of concerns that people have voiced are all interrelated. Ancient wisdom and scientific evidence affirm that humans are part of the interdependent community of life. Reopening the mine would negatively impact the quality of air, water, soil, and the health of plants and wildlife in our area, but a degraded bioregion would also impact human health. The tremendous increase in energy required would result in a much greater regional carbon footprint, which means that reopening the mine would accelerate climate change, which disproportionately harms those who are most vulnerable and would create immense hardship for future generations. Many people and organizations in our community are working hard to preserve the gifts of creation in this place and to transition to a world of climate justice. The cumulative impacts of noise from drilling and heavy machinery running night and day, damage to roads caused by trucks carrying tons of toxic tailing (even through town), the release of asbestos from tons of rock being crushed every day, wells running dry because of the massive dewatering operations, it is important to look at all these problems as pointing to a project that will not help, but will harm individuals who live near the mine, our dear Nevada County community, and the interrelated community of life of which we are a part. Even the issue of aesthetics should be seen in this larger context of overall quality of life, as many people find spiritual comfort in the beauty of this place, even while it nurtures biodiversity.

The gold extracted from this mine will not stay here but will be exported to Canada. The jobs will be temporary, with many suitable only for people from outside the area. The impacts will be with us for generations, as we know from the lasting impacts of legacy mining. To us, this is a spiritual and moral issue. Temporary jobs and corporate profits should not supersede the well-being of individuals, communities, the larger world, or future generations.

Guarionex Delgado, President
Earth Justice Ministries

Abigail Walker

From: Luke Richter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:50 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Public Comment - I oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine

My name is Luke Richter. I live in District 1. I am a small agriculture business owner and oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Historically, mining has been destructive at multiple levels:

- Federal - The 1976 Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) - halted and restricted unnecessary or undue degradation of lands.
- State - California's First Environmental Law was a result of Marysville destruction due to mining.
- County - The Lava Cap Mine - Now a Superfund Site due to high levels of toxicity from mining with currently no remediation plans

Historically, mining has negatively impacted the water supply:

- My well will be harmed, reducing the ability to grow healthy and sustainable agriculture.
- My business will be harmed, removing the jobs available to the surrounding Nevada County community.
- My life will be harmed, a fundamental right we are all given due to the Declaration of Independence and food and water are the essentials to live.

My name is Luke Richter. I live in District 1. I am a small agriculture business owner and oppose the reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

Abigail Walker

From: Jeanne Neil [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Restrooms

Hello,

Our family lives in Morgan Ranch community. We take our special needs son weekly to play basketball and throw the ball at the Mautino Park at 10609 Alta Street in Grass Valley.

<https://www.cityofgrassvalley.com/post/parks#>

We have tried to utilize the restrooms at this park and have noticed they have been closed.

We have also noticed people and their children peeing in the trees or bushes of this park because the restrooms are closed.

I called the parks and recreation office and Zac stated the city does not have staffing to clean and keep the bathrooms open.

Please find a solution for this at your next meeting and get back to me!

Thank you

Jeanne Wong

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: Lisa Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Mill St.

I'm submitting my suggestion that Mill St retain a pedestrian only section. This allows for relaxed gathering and increased patronage for nearby businesses. It creates an environment that encourages meet ups and fosters community.

Parking needs can perhaps be factored in, by finding more options nearby.

Thank you,

Lisa Fox

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: Jeanne Neil [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PSPS, Morgan Ranch community in Grass Valley CA, and traffic lights.

Hello PGE wildfire safety council.

Morgan Ranch community is located in the district boundaries of the city of Grass Valley. We are a community of several hundred homes. All our gas and power lines are all underground. We have zero overhead PGE ELECTRICAL power lines overhead in our community.


Down the street is a retirement community called Eskaton. There are also several hundred retirees living there. All electric and gas lines are also underground.

I have lived in Morgan Ranch for 9 years now. We were sold this home being told by our realtor and real estate broker, who is on the board of realtors, that Morgan Ranch is on the hospital grid and our power would never go out!

In the last 3 years now, Morgan Ranch community has had its power shut off on numerous occasions during the PGE psp.

For some reason, all our homes now get their power shut off, even though we are supposed to be on a grid that stays running. Yet when there is a fire less than 2 miles away (Jonesbar fire) our power stayed on? There is no rhyme or reason as to why our power is shut off for safety when we have underground power lines in our community.

Lastly, every year when the PGE psp shutoff happens here, our 4 way stop light at Morgan Ranch Drive and Ridge Road crossing is completely down and not functioning during the PSPS.

I have called this in several times to the city of Grass Valley and nothing was done to warn drivers of the stop lights being out. No  signs put out or anything. So when drivers in all directions drive through the 4 way stop, many out of town drivers drive straight through the intersection not noticing lights are out! We have been in near miss accidents twice now because of the traffic signals being out during psp.

Please put this in the agenda for your next meetings and reply to me.

Thank you

Jeanne Wong

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: Robert Hubbard [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Idaho Maryland Mine

Dear City Council Members:

I am opposed to reopening the Idaho Maryland mine for a number of reasons. The potential risks to our wells, our air, traffic, our peace and quiet and the like, are known. The mitigation of those risks is, according to the applicants, also known. That is a discussion for another time.

What has not been addressed is the character of the community in which we live. Grass Valley is a small, vibrant community set in the midst of woodlands and meadows, and we share this setting with the other residents who were here before men arrived, the woodland creatures. On our property, close to the Brunswick site, we have resident deer. Flocks of woodpeckers patrol the forest. There are foxes, and we hear coyotes yipping at night. There is a neighborhood bear who frequently upends garbage cans indiscreetly put out too early. This, as much as the fact of a Grass Valley address gives our home the depth of character that it has.

If the mine is re-opened, the noise and vibration, even if kept within legally prescribed limits, will drive away these creatures who give our homes the full, rich character that they now have and the neighborhood will become more like an elaborate movie set; all of the visuals, but none of the depth.

When we bought this property, we were fully aware that it was next to a former mine, but that property was zoned Light Industrial, and mining is not permitted on property thus zoned. In order to reopen the mine, the Brunswick site will need to be re-zoned to permit mining. To do so will effectively rezone the entire, fully built up residential neighborhood surrounding the Brunswick site, no matter what the map designation is; the entire character of the neighborhood will be changed by the mine.

This rezoning will also adversely affect our property values, a result that cannot be mitigated.

No benefit has been described that could not be met by another employer of similar size, since the only benefit is the payroll. This project will last for 80 years. No one alive today except small children will live to see the results of the decision that will set Grass Valley on an unstoppable path toward an end that cannot be foreseen. I ask the Grass Valley City Council to join me in opposing this unnecessary project.

Sincerely,

Robert Hubbard
[REDACTED]



February 23, 2021

To: Grass Valley City Council

Re: African Methodist Church Historical Site Designation

Dear Honorable Mayor and Grass Valley City Council members, I am writing to support the Historical Commission's proposal to recognize the African Methodist Episcopal's (AME) past site as a historical site. As we celebrate Black History month, you have an opportunity through your actions today to formally acknowledge and celebrate the AME Church.

The AME church was not only a place of worship and education; it was a refuge for black people, the nexus that brought them together to form a vibrant, supportive community-within-a community. Please consider recognizing the African Methodist Episcopal Church's formal site as a historic site, authorizing the placement and funding of a Kiosk Sign, and authorizing an application to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for appropriate action.

Thank you

Tracy Pepper, Executive Director

Color Me Human

Abigail Walker

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: City Council Meeting Comments - Historical Commission

I am writing in support of the proposed 3 recommendations of the Grass Valley Historical Commission regarding designation of the *site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site*. *This would be a wonderful opportunity to further increase people's knowledge of the rich history of our community.*

All the best,
Becky Gillespie

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: WIRELESS CALLER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 18 seconds)
Attachments: audio.mp3

Hello fine citizens of Grass Valley. This is Matthew Coulter and my comment public comment for this evening if allowed still under the Constitution is that the homeless situation? The transient situation? The violent situation that is taking place on every block in the city limits is just out of control to Brunswick Basin is just non stop violence. An action and overdoses and people on the streets that require a massive police fire and ambulance response to only find out that they are just kind of taken a nap because they're drunk. So I hope that we can as a community address these issues. Admit we have a problem, admits that it's going to get worse and get in front of it. Same thing I said probably 5-6 years ago at the counsel, but nothing was done. Then nothing's been done. Now there's a long waiting list for any type of shelter for anyone. Yet millions and millions of dollars are coming in to the County from the state for this exact problem, so I hope between all of you highly educated individuals that you can come up with some ideas that we can move forward on immediately. Not next year, five years from now, 10 years from now, some other, but it's some other persons problem. It's all of our problems. We deal with it on a daily basis. It is becoming so dangerous to get 1/2 gallon of milk that people are not going out to do it. I think they are opting to stay in their car and drive to the food bank and have food put in their car and get home and lock their door again because we have 14 year olds doing armed robberies on the streets in Nevada City and many heinous things going on here that seem to be just ignored, including fires right up against the Police Department wall at her law from a transient sleeping in the Bush is. So please take these things into consideration and see what you can do. Thanks a lot.

You received a voice mail from [WIRELESS CALLER](#).

Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

Abigail Walker

From: Patti Galle [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mou with HH

As criminal activity and drug use does not seem to be getting better and funded programs past and present have not made anything better I am not really seeing in the MOU a clear path or set of procedures for data collection on the effect of the program, attaining success, or impacting crime and drug abuse.

My tenant at my home at [REDACTED] suffered a large theft and this impacts me as I want to maintain good and reliable tenants. For the 10 years I lived on Race there has been theft and I would have hoped to be seeing a decline.

Just spending the money and not meticulously following the progress of the client is going to keep us in our current state.

Using traditional methods with this money is senseless also. There should be money spent on research of new programs and rehab that are being done and they should be implemented in our community. What is this team going to offer these people? I did not see that. If it is just the usual with the usual suspects nothing will change.

I live too far away now to not have good tenants who are going to care for my investment. I have a stake in the city being successful. I don't particularly see the 1/2 million dollars you have mapped out doing much good.

What is the plan?? We don't need another CCP with millions and millions of dollars spent and nothing to show for it.

Patti Galle
 *Baja Del Mar*

Abigail Walker

From: audrey schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Current Item

To City Council Members,
Will you please

1. Designate the site of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and School (1854-1893) as a City Historic Site?
2. Will you please Authorize the funding and placement of a Kiosk sign ?
3. Will you please Authorize an application to be submitted to the Nevada County Landmarks Commission for county landmark status?

Thank you,
Audrey

Abigail Walker

From: audrey schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Current item

Can we please start a program that is a strictly crisis response program that doesn't law enforcement?

Sent from my iPhone

Abigail Walker

From: Patti Galle [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fw: Mou with HH

You didn;t submit my comments!!

Patti Galle

♥ *Baja Del Mar*

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Patti Galle [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Pauli Halstead [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 07:23:17 PM PST
Subject: Mou with HH

As criminal activity and drug use does not seem to be getting better and funded programs past and present have not made anything better I am not really seeing in the MOU a clear path or set of procedures for data collection on the effect of the program, attaining success, or impacting crime and drug abuse.

My tenant at my home [REDACTED] suffered a large theft and this impacts me as I want to maintain good and reliable tenants. For the 10 years I lived on Race there has been theft and I would have hoped to be seeing a decline.

Just spending the money and not meticulously following the progress of the client is going to keep us in our current state.

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Patti Galle

