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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Resolution designating the Lime Kiln School, located at 15224 Duggans Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949 (APN 055-160-004), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-03

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On March 15, 2024, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to designate the Lime Kiln School, located at 15224 Duggans Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949 (APN 055-160-004), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-03. Specifically on March 14, 2024, the current owner of the building, Shelly Bennett, applied to the NCHLC requesting the site of the Lime Kiln School be considered and designated as a county historical landmark.

As outlined in the attached supporting documents, Lime Kiln School is one of the few remaining one room schoolhouses from the last half of the 19th century. Now a private residence, this historic schoolhouse was originally built on the Lime Kiln Ranch in 1868. Reportedly it was moved, torn down by vandals, burned, then after having been rebuilt, had its well go dry. It was then moved to its present location of 15224 Duggans Road, Grass Valley. The schoolhouse as it stands today was built in 1909.

In 1851, there were 250 children in Nevada County and four public schools to accommodate them. By the time Lime Kiln School was established in 1869, there were 52 schools and 2,645 children attending public schools in the county. Lime Kiln School served as a one room 1st through 8th grade school and social meeting place for the ranching community. With the purchase of a small bus (previously students walked or rode horses to school), students were able to ride the bus to school. During the Roosevelt administration, work was done at the school by the WPA (Works Projects Administration) as shown by the insignias stamped in the concrete around the school building. With 20 students still attending in 1957, Lime Kiln School joined Wolf and Forest Springs schools and was unified into the Pleasant Ridge School District (also

located on Duggans Road) on July 1, 1957. Lime Kiln School operated for 89 years. The historic school registers show class schedules and subjects taught, students enrolled and their ages and grade levels, and the responsibilities of teachers and students. Following the closure, the Lime School property with its two buildings and two acres, was offered at auction. It was purchased and later remodeled as a private residence which it remains as today. Lime Kiln School is one of the few remaining one room schools that were so common during the last half of the 19th century.

As such, there is no doubt that the Lime Kiln School is a historical landmark. Therefore, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution designating the Lime Kiln School, located at 15224 Duggans Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949 (APN 055-160-004), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 24-03.

Initiated: Carissa Cyr, Administrative Analyst

Approved: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board

Submittal Date: April 29, 2024