

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
415-264-7230

January 24, 2020

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

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At this morning's meeting, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application of the Grass Valley School District for landmark designation of the historic Kentucky Flat School be approved and the landmark designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 20-01.

The present owner of the property on which the school is located is the applicant. It and the Kentucky Flat Community Center, which leases, uses and maintains the building, support the historical designation of this property and have provided a thorough level of research and documentation to accompany their application, which has been reviewed by the Commission for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation are enclosed.

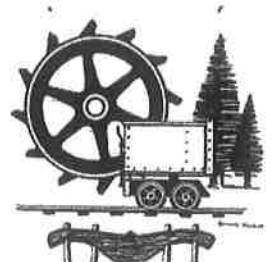
If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

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

Yours truly,

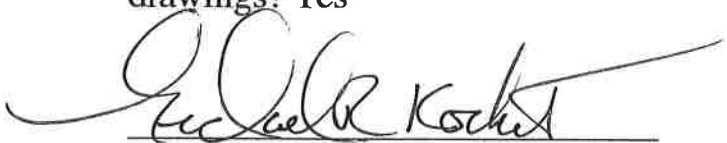

Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

cc: Jack Stillens



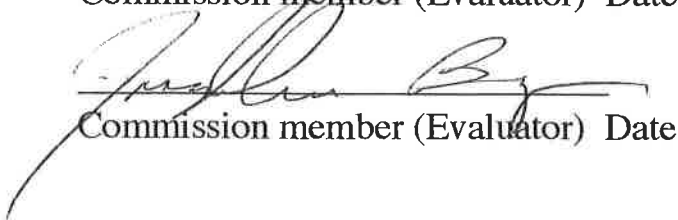
Assessment of landmark application for Kentucky Flat School.

1. Is permission of the property owner included? Yes
2. Is permission granted for the placing of a marker or plaque? Yes
3. Is reasonable protection and maintenance for the landmark addressed? Yes
4. Is the description of the landmark clear and precise? Yes
5. Is the history of landmark comprehensive and complete? Yes
6. Are there records to support the statements regarding the landmark? Yes
7. Does the landmark have unusual properties? Yes
8. Is the bibliography sufficiently complete to enable verification of the statements made in the application? Yes
9. Are supplemental materials included, such as photographs, prints, maps or drawings? Yes



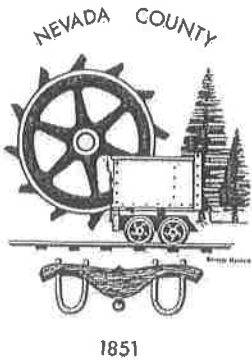
Commission member (Evaluator) Date





Commission member (Evaluator) Date





County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark KENTUCKY FLAT SCHOOL

Location 13281 NEWTOWN ROAD, NEVADA CITY

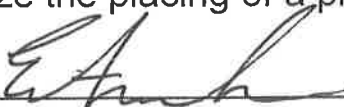
Name of applicant GRASS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Address 10840 GILMORE WAY, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945

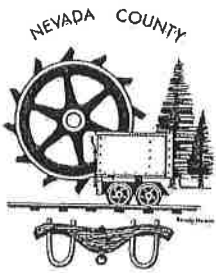
Home or work phone 530-273-4483 cell phone _____

Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark
is located, if owner is not applicant _____

I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site.


Landowner's signature

9/9/19
Date



1851

Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

The school originally existed on Kentucky Ridge and Kentucky Flat mining camp on the Bridgeport Road. It became too small and was moved to the current site in 1855. The property that it exists on was deeded over to the Kentucky Flat School District on 8/21/1877. It was rebuilt in 1895 after the school burned. An addition in the back was added in the 1950's. It was used as a school until 1963 and then was annexed into Grass Valley School District on 7/1/1964.

Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark

It has a bell and bell tower that was used by the community to alert residents of fire, school opening and special events.

It has operated as a school for the district for 108 years.

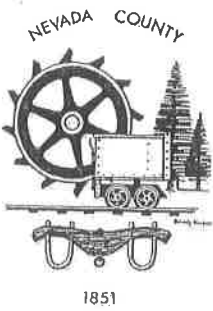
How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

The Kentucky Flat Community Center, a non-profit corporation was set up 1/15/1964. A 99 year lease was signed between Kentucky Flat School District and the Community Center. The intent was the maintenance of the facility and use of the premises by the community. Over the years it has been used by 4-H, Farm Bureau, Head Start, community meetings and currently a day care center.

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

Books and articles:

An article published in The Union on 2/27/1963



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

DEED OF PROPERTY to Kentucky Flat School District on 8/21/1877.
LEASE between Kentucky Flat Community Center and
The Kentucky Flat School dated 1/15/1964

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

Pictures of school from 1963 and also an undated picture prior to addition in back

E. Smith

Applicant's signature

9/8/19

Date

=====
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 non-historical reasons.

An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

BOOKS ABOUT NEVADA COUNTY

1856 BROWN & DALLISON'S "NEVADA, GRASS VALLEY, ROUGH & READY

NEWTOWN - 1850 CALLED SAILORS FLAT

KENTUCKY FLAT - MINING

NEWTOWN DITCH

1867 BEANS HISTORY AND DIRECTORY OF NEVADA COUNTY

ROUGH AND READY TOWNSHIP

KENTUCKY FLAT MINING

MINES AT KENTUCKY FLAT - BINSLEY BROTHERS

KENTUCKY RIDGE QUARTZ MINING IN 1851

DAVID BOVYER ESTABLISHED A TRADE "WHITE OAKS SPRINGS" MIDWAY BETWEEN NEWTOWN AND JONES BAR

RESEARCH AT SEARLS HISTORICAL LIBRARY - NEV. CO. HISTORICAL Society

KENTUCKY MINE

KENTUCKY RIDGE SLAVE COLONY ON DEER CREEK

BETWEEN ROUGH AND READY AND NEWTOWN - 75-100^{EX-} SLAVES

THOMPSON AND WEST - 1880 HISTORY OF NEVADA COUNTY

WRITE UP ON KENTUCKY FLAT DISTRICT (SCHOOL)

HUBERT SCHARLUND - KNOWN AS FOUNDER OF NEWTOWN

OWNED A STORE IN NEWTOWN, DEEDED PROPERTY

WHERE SCHOOL IS LOCATED TO KENTUCKY FLAT SCHOOL

DISTRICT 8/21/1877. HE WAS FROM GERMANY

AND DIED IN 1878.

MINING CLAIMS NOTED MANY NAMED KENTUCKY AND

LOCATED ON MANZANITA HILL MINING DISTRICT IN

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DISTRICT

ORIGINAL SCHOOL REGISTER FROM MRS. BEER IN 1941-42

J. Debat

Barn

Shardin

ROAD

ROAD

351°30' N.
957 ft.

384 ft.
N 45° W

Cabin

School House

0.90 A.

390 ft.

N 02° 30' E.
191 ft.

Surveyed July 23rd 1877
Solomon Smith - G.S.

This Indenture, Made the 21st day of

August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy seven

Between Hubert Schardin & Katharine Schardin his wife of Nevada Township & County State of California parties of the first part & the Trustees of the Kentucky Flat School District same County & State

the parties of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One

Dollars, of Gold Coin of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents, grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said parties of the

second part, and to their heirs and assigns, forever, all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Township of Nevada & County of Nevada State of California, and bounded and particularly described as follows, to wit:

That certain piece and parcel of land commencing at a point 19 chains South of the 1/4 Stake between Sects 17 & 8 on a line through the center of Sect 17, & running from thence N. 62° 30' E. 131 feet to a point thence N. 6° 45' W. 384 feet to a point thence S. 57° 30' W. 95 feet to a point & thence South 39 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.90 of an acre of land. All the lines designated according to the W. S. system of surveys. The above conveyed land is situated in Sect. 17, T. 16. N. R. 8 East 46th N. B. S.

This Deed is given with the understanding that the Grantors shall have the privilege to connect their fence with the North East & South West corners of the schoolhouse fence.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof;

State of California,

County of Nevada

ss.

ON THIS

21st

day of

August

A. D. one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, before me.

Leopold Garthe

a Notary Public,

in and for the

said

County of

Nevada

personally appeared

Robertus Behardin

and

Catherine Behardin

his wife, whose

names are subscribed to the annexed instrument, known to me to be the same persons described in and who executed the said instrument, who each of them acknowledged to me that they respectively executed the same.

And the said

Catherine Behardin described as a married

woman and the wife of the said

Robertus Behardin

upon examination, without the hearing of her husband, I made her acquainted with the contents of said instrument, and thereupon she acknowledged to me that she executed the same, and that she does not wish to retract such execution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal, at my office in the said County of Nevada the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Leopold Garthe

Notary Public.

Ver. D. Cal.



Catherine Behardin



Robertus Behardin

Leopold Garthe

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of:

hands--and seal--the day and year first above written.

In witness whereof, the said parties of the first part, have hereunto set their

Away Friday

mother Mrs. f St. Joseph er Joann Reed d a sister Mrs. San Diego. His V. Reed, was

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h Dies Home

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y her husband, rs, June Pen- Arizona, and Lomita, Calif.; e Downing of d Mrs. Wesley function, Colo- r Clinton Pat-olorado. She andsons: Don-enix, Arizona, Glendale and n of Phoenix. o leaves four

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Historic Kentucky Flat School, Teacher but Plenty of Children Fade from Picture After 108 Years

By TILLY HOAGLAND

The one-room school house has always been synonymous in the American mind to our pioneer beginnings.

So, it is with a real touch of sadness that we watch this vestige of our heritage cast aside to serve the stream-lined needs of a high gear society.

Last week the Kentucky Flat School on Jones Bar Road officially closed its doors after 108 years of service to its district.

Recall Earlier Years

There are still those living here who remember the school near its beginnings. Mrs. Rose Mulchay well recalls when her husband Tom hitched up his team of horses and hauled the timber from the King and Wolford sawmill to build the school that is standing today. That was in 1895 after the school had been burned and the King and Wolford sawmill was on Chalk Bluff Mountain, east of You Bet!

Had Quota Trouble

The school nearly shut down several times usually because there were not enough students to legally keep it open. The law in the 1920s said there had to be at least five pupils and the Pardini and Personeni families recall when children were boarded in their homes to make up the quota.

"Then in 1926 the Goforths saved the school," Mrs. Phil Personeni said. "I remember it was the year Lawrence (Personeni) was starting the first grade and there just weren't enough children. Mr. and Mrs. Goforth moved in then and they had five children. The school was never in any trouble after that," she concluded.

Depression Uncertainty

The school grew quickly in the 1930s because many prospectors and their families came to work Deer Creek in hopes of ending the depression in a hurry. Some stayed, some left. Sometimes the children were in school a week sometimes only a few days and sometimes, if their families stay-

the Grass Valley District.

For tax reasons nothing can be done officially until July 1, 1964 so the Kentucky Flat School District will still exist at least until that time and the board of directors, James P. DeMartini, Mrs. Isabelle Hedrick and Mrs. Vernita Personeni will continue to act for the school.

It is rather ironic that Kentucky Flat should be faced with the problem of getting teachers for their school because so many well remembered and well known area teachers got their start at the little school on Jones Bar road.

First for Many

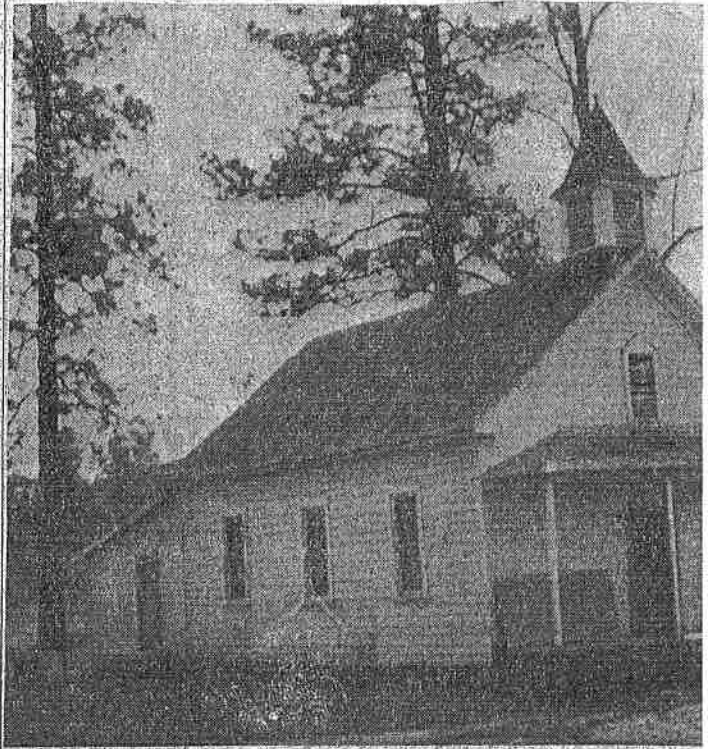
It was the first school for Genevieve Kent who later taught at Hennessy School; for the Pardini girls, Lena and Rose who is now Rose Beck and lives at Tahoe. Other teachers who will be well remembered include Miss Julia Mulchay and Sally Macaulay Torpei, Alice and Lilly White, Mrs. William Grant, Mrs. Marie Craig Horan, Halsye Downey, Esther Hartung, Ethel Caddy, Vera Roberts, Elsie Schwartz and, of course, Mrs. Louise McKittrick, now teaching at Union Hill who taught at Kentucky Flat for 15 years.

Used Donkey Cart

If there is one experience most remembered now about the old days at the school it might be the donkey cart in which the younger Personeni brothers rode to school. Phil and Louis, the older boys walked to school in their day. But not so their three younger brothers. John, Laurence and Mario hitched a donkey to a little cart, piled in the back and pounded and yelled at the donkey to make it go.

The classes may have been small, the teachers new and young, and the school only one room but through the years many lifetimes worth of memories were crowded into the one room that made up the Kentucky Flat School, and for many it will truly be not only the end of a part of their past but the end of a real era in America when all we will be able to do is say "Do you

School Doors Closed; Photo of S



THE KENTUCKY FLAT School on Jones Bar Road closed, exception of a rear room built within the last 10 years, this was constructed in 1895 after the first school house was



The Kentucky Flat School, No Her but Plenty of Children to from Picture After 108 Years

School Doors Closed; Photo of Students in 1

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THE KENTUCKY FLAT School on Jones Bar Road closed its doors last week. With exception of a rear room built within the last 10 years, this is the same building was constructed in 1895 after the first school house was destroyed by fire.





This picture was taken approximately 1934. Includes from the back row forward: Yvonne Dwight, Audra Goforth, Agnes Atkins, Robert Allen, Leroy Allen, Laurence Personeni, George Jerdon, Marion Dwight. Middle row: unknown, Wilford Allen, Herbert Brown, Lorna Goforth, Jack Dwight, Chad Mathis. Front row: unknown, unknown, Wilma Brown, unknown, Francis Personeni, unknown, Beverly _____.

School Doors Closed; Photo of Students in 1933



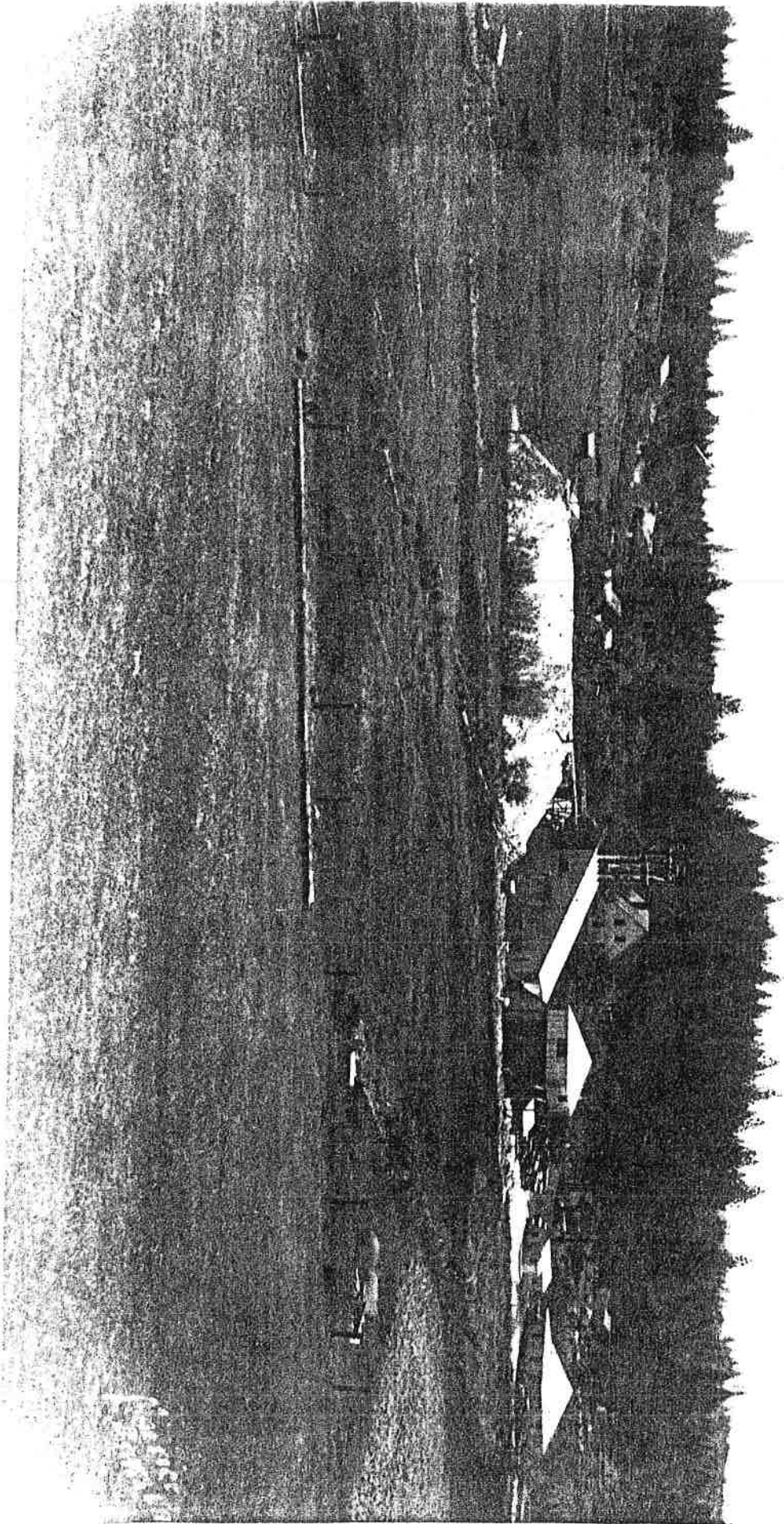
'SPICE'
10NDPAW
NAV

THE KENTUCKY FLAT School boomed during the 1930's when prospectors scoured Deer Creek seeking a hurried end to the depression. Pictured above is the class of 1933. Reading from left to right and from the rear row forward, the class includes: George Rondini, Joanie O'Neill, unknown, teacher Rose Beck, unknown, unknown, Leland Beretta, Leland Hammill; second row—Lloyd Allen, Robert Allen, Lawrence Persohent, Wilbert Jerdon, Frank O'Neill, Audra Goforth; third row—George Jerdon, Florence Jerdon, Chad Mathis, unknown, Lorna Goforth, unknown, George Hammill; front row—Willford Allen, Herbert Brown, Wilma Brown, Raymond Sharp, Frances Personeni, Jackie Sharp, unknown (4)

Unknowns-

1. Jean Ramey
2. Ann Gallino
3. Wilma Long
4. _____ Dwight

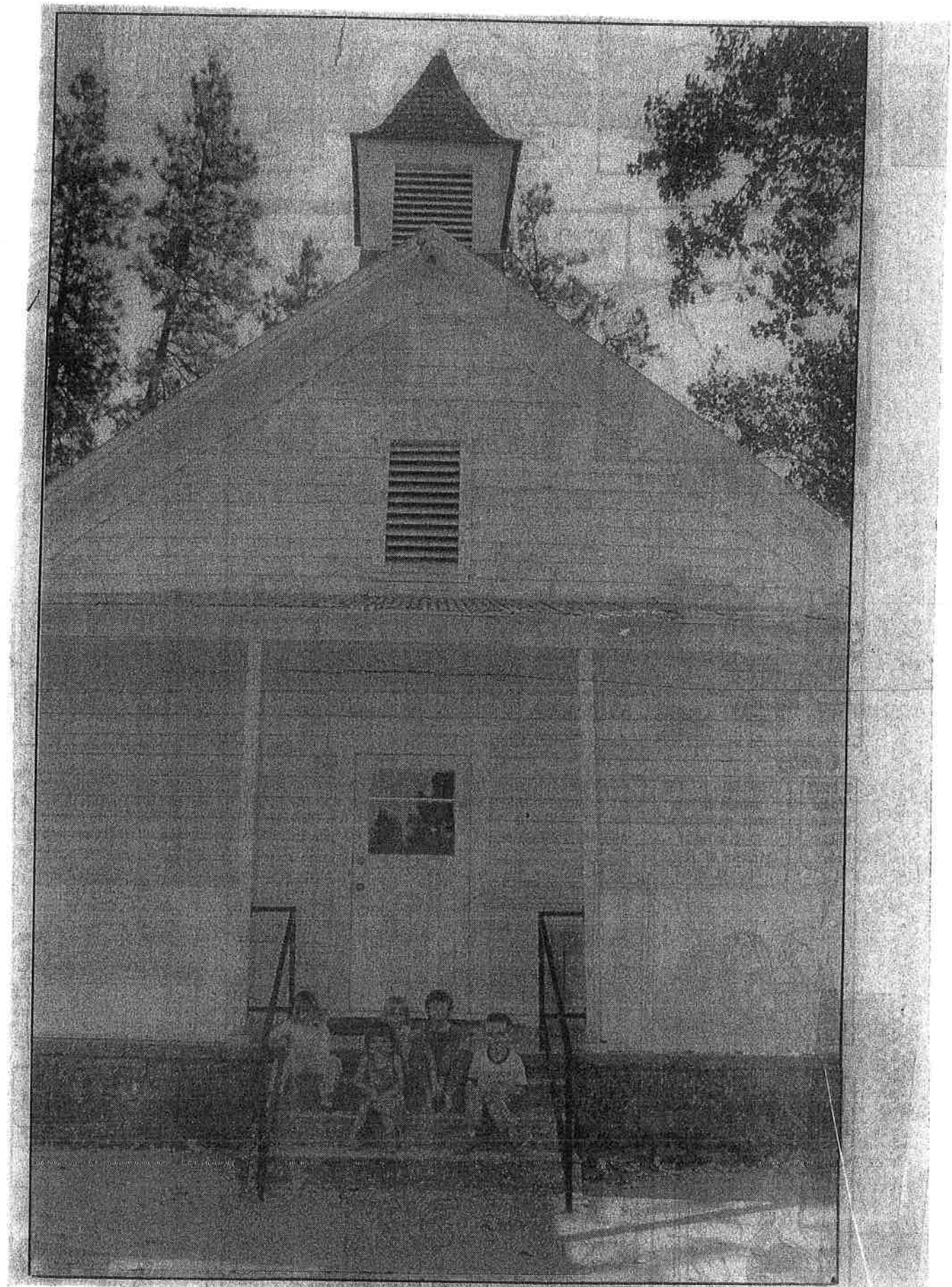
Circa 1930 Empire mine-across the road from the school. Notice the school on the left side of the picture.



Centennial Of School

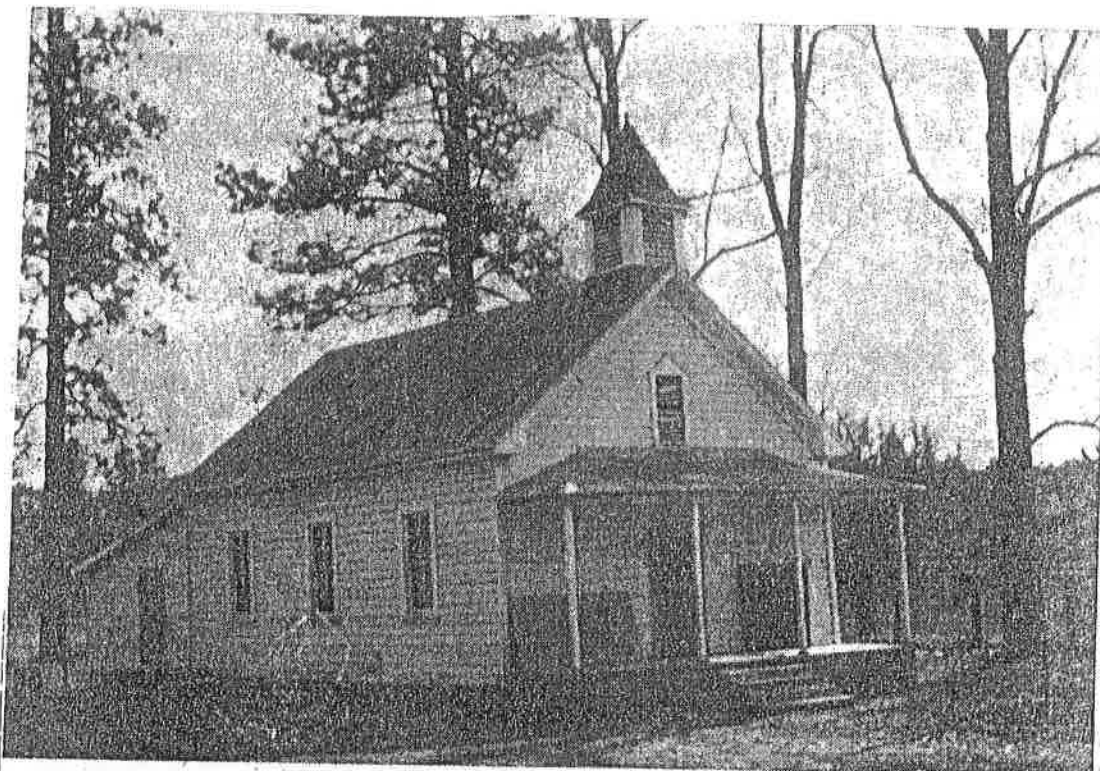
Kentucky Flat School, six miles from Grass Valley in Newtown, an early gold mining center in Nevada County, will celebrate the centennial of its establishment, Sunday, July 3, from 2-5 p. m., with a barbecue picnic on the school grounds. The menu is under the direction of Frank Gallino, well known throughout the county for his skill as a chef.

The celebration is sponsored by the Kentucky Flat School Mothers' Club and the Kentucky Flat 4-H Club to mark this memorable anniversary and to give former friends, classmates, teachers and trustees an opportunity for reunion.

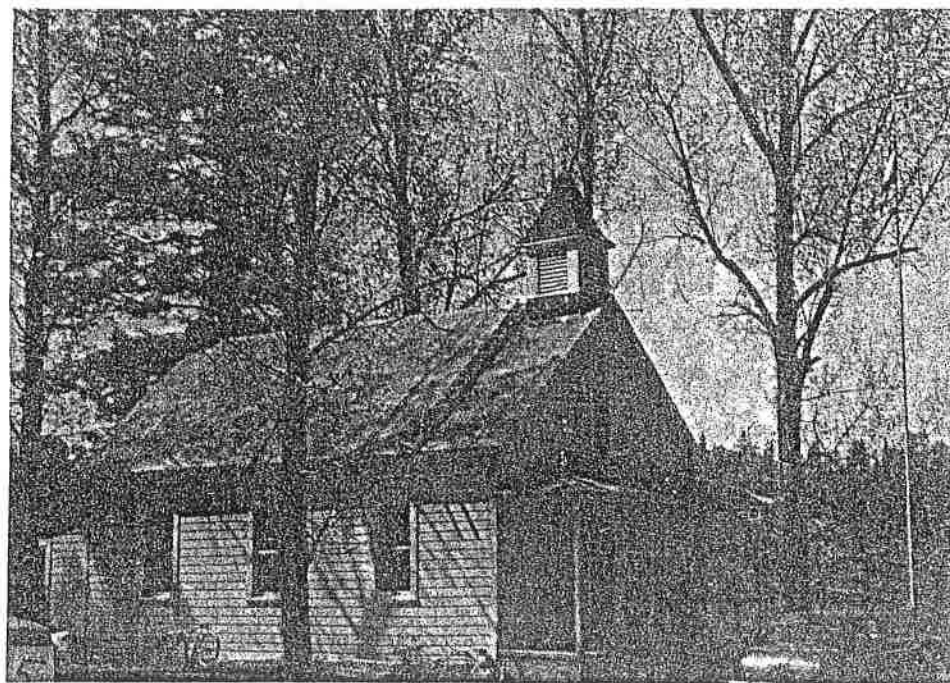


children from the Head Start program sit on the same steps at Kentucky Flat School on Newtown Road that the children of pioneers played on.

1991



THE KENTUCKY FLAT School on Jones Bar Road closed its doors last week. With the exception of a rear room built within the last 10 years, this is the same building which was constructed in 1895 after the first school house was destroyed by fire.



8. KENTUCKY FLAT
Kentucky Flat March 4, 1868 July 1, 1964 Annexed to Grass Valley

Original Estimate of Situation in Kentucky Flat Was Wrong. Should be Annexed to N. C.

It's axiomatic in publishing a newspaper, as in other of life's pursuits, that when you are in error, the thing to do is admit it and make a fresh start.

The Union was in error in Tuesday's lead editorial when it called for the defeat of the April 16th annexation of the Kentucky Flat School District to the Nevada City School District, as the prerequisite of dividing the Kentucky Flat School District territory and students, between the Nevada City Elementary School and the Grass Valley Elementary School.

What may be construed as "additional information received," a pet escape hatch so prevalently used in numerous situations, plus consultations with school authorities, including the county schools office, brings the conclusion that annexation to the Nevada City Elementary School District with a subsequent boundary change to shift some territory and students to the Grass Valley School District, is one of two only ways to effect a division of the district and students which seems to be the goal of everyone concerned.

The other alternative is to annex the entire Kentucky Flat District to the Grass Valley School District and then proceed with a boundary change to effect a transfer of territory and pupils to the Nevada City School District. There is no other way under the California Education Code for a school district like Kentucky Flat to effect a change or division of territory and students, except through an original annexation to one or the other of the adjoining districts and then a petition for a boundary change which will divide the original district into those adjoining areas which best can transport and educate the children involved.

As it stands such a process has been taken and a petition, with sufficient signatures has been circulated, accepted and placed on the ballot to annex Kentucky Flat to the Nevada City School District. Then a subsequent boundary change, before February 1, 1964, would divide the former district along lines that all propose and all would be satisfied to see.

In the first place the annexation election and subsequent boundary change would have no effect on the present schools which the majority of the Kentucky Flat students attend — approximately 18 to the Nevada City Elementary School by reason of close territorial access — Gilmore Flat and Highway 49 and the 14 children to the Grass Valley Elementary Schools and 8 to the junior high school (7th and 8th graders) from Beckman Hill Road and Newtown area.

In the second place this method of annexation and later boundary change, which is the only way that such a division can be accomplished, for the state law does not provide for a school district to divide of itself, has been made known to all members of the Kentucky Flat school board and the parents of the children of the Kentucky Flat School.

In the third place no school district has been aggressive or instrumental of itself in securing any of the students of the Kentucky Flat School District. The Nevada City School District has taken no position in the Kentucky Flat situation, permitting that district to work out its own problems. It does educate 18 students of the Kentucky Flat



2000 Reunion-many of the graduates of Kentucky Flat school.



2000 Reunion- three brothers-Mario, Laurence and John Personeni all graduates. Ernie Pugh in the background.