

County of Nevada  
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission  
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark Eagle Hose Company

Location 139 East Main Street AP 008-348-002

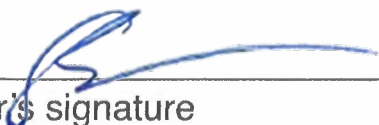
Name of applicant City of Grass Valley

Address 125 East Main Street

Home or work phone 530-274-4711 cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of owner upon whose property proposed landmark  
is located, if owner is not applicant owned by City of Grass Valley

I consent to this application and authorize the placing of a plaque or marker  
on site.

  
Owner's signature

3/11/2025

Date

## Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

The Grass Valley Fire Department was first organized in 1853. It is the third oldest active fire department west of the Mississippi according to the City of Grass Valley Fire Department History. On June 7, 1858, the fire company was recognized under law as the Grass Valley Hook and Ladder Company. Over the course of 42 years, three additional ladder companies were added. Protection Hose Company No. 1 established in 1858 was located at Main and School Streets and later moved to Brighton Street where it remains today.

Eagle Hose Company No. 2 was added in 1866 and located on East Main Street near City Hall. In February 1937 a severe snowstorm flattened the structure, only the front wall and the city signal fire bell remained. The signal bell was moved to city hall where the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County maintains offices. See attachment # 9, a photo of Eagle Hose Company No. 2.

## Historically significant aspects or properties of proposed landmark

Landmark recognition is being requested for the site of the Eagle Hose Company No.2, home to the volunteer Fire Brigade founded in 1866.

See attached narrative on the importance of Eagle Hose Company and the neighborhood alarm system.

## How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

The current building on the site of the Eagle Company No. 2 is owned and maintained by the City of Grass Valley,

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

### Books and articles:

1. Grass Valley Fire Department History - (copy attached and available online.)
2. Grass Valley Fire Department - Nevada County review 1895
3. Article - Snow Flattens Headquarters of Eagles Firemen - Union 1937
4. Article - Bid accepted by City Council to rebuild - Union 1937
5. Article - New Fire Alarm Box - The Morning Union, 1910

**Continuation:**

**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission.**

**Application for Registration of Eagle Hose Company No.2, Grass Valley, California.**

**Historical Significance of proposed landmark and why it is important to recognize:**

The Eagle Hose company managed multiple fire alarm boxes to alert neighborhoods of fires. In 1919 they purchased the 21st alarm box and placed it in the Washington street hill vicinity to increase the coverage for outlying neighborhoods.

Volunteer fire fighters were alerted and directed to the area of a blaze by the Alarm System, which used a numbering system located on the fire alarm boxes. Volunteer fire brigades were the backbone of fire and rescue services in towns and rural areas.

See attachment #10 for a list of numbers used to identify neighborhoods in 1928 curtesy of the Union Newspaper. This was method was hugely important for swift communication and was used for over 100 years. The Alarm notification system became obsolete with the advent of electronic communication.

**Description of proposed plaque**

Grass Valley Historic Commission is recommending a bronze plaque to measure 12" x 24"

See attachment #11. For the proposed layout and narrative.

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

- 6. San Born Maps - 1898
- 7. San Born Maps - 1912
- 8. Assessor's Parcel map - County of Nevada, 2001

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

- 9. Photo - Grass Valley Eagle Hose Company No. 2 - (Circa 1900) - Searls Library
- 10. Grass Valley Fire Alarm Boxes, neighborhood numbers - The union 1928
- 11. Proposed Plaque layout and text - Grass Valley Historic Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

3/11/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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

Attachments and related documents may be submitted in electronic format.

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.

Attachment 1

# FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY



The Grass Valley Fire Department was first organized in 1853 with the establishment of a Hook and Ladder Company. It is the third oldest active fire department west of the Mississippi River. June 7, 1858 marked the day that the fire company was organized under law as the Grass Valley Hook and Ladder Company. In 1861 the Grass Valley Hook and Ladder Company was reorganized into Protection Hose Company No. 1 and then again into Protection Engine Company No. 1. The original station No. 1 was located at Main and School Streets, it later moved to the current location of City Hall and then to Brighton Street where it has remained since.

Over the course of 42 years three additional ladder companies were added to the department. On July 18, 1866, Eagle Hose Company No. 2 was organized and was located on East Main Street near City Hall, where the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County maintains there offices. On March 31, 1891 the Reliance Hose Company No. 3 was established with a station on Race Street, which still serves the Fire Department, it is no longer an active station but remains part of our rich history. In 1895 the Defiance Hose Company No. 4 was organized to protect the Boston

Ravine area, located at Mill Street and Empire Street. The Defiance Hose Company operated for nearly 25 years, but disbanded in 1920.

In 1915, the fire department purchased its first motorized piece of fire apparatus, The Pierce Arrow, and by 1916 two additional motorized fire apparatus were added to the fleet.

The Grass Valley Fire Department currently operates out of three stations. Station No. 1 located on Brighton Street and Station No. 2 located on Sierra College Drive and Station No. 5 located at 201 Providence Mine, Nevada City. Today the Department has 29 career personnel and provides protection to the 5 square miles of the City of Grass Valley as well as the City of Nevada City and outlying portions of Western Nevada County.

## GRASS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**G**RASS VALLEY today has one of the best organized volunteer fire departments in the State. Its efficiency has been proven upon many occasions and with our excellent water system Grass Valley is as well protected from the ravages of the Fire King as any city on the Coast.

The first fire organization was a hook and ladder company formed in 1853, before the town had suffered from a conflagration. This company existed for about a year and made a parade in uniform in October, 1854. The first Board of Trustees passed an ordinance on July 3, 1855, which required the occupant of every house to keep on hand a vessel containing at least fifty gallons of water and four fire buckets for each story of his house.

The first regular fire company organized under the law was formed June 7, 1858, and known as the Grass Valley Fire Hook and Ladder Company. Its first officers were: S. M. Smith, foreman; J. J. Dorsey, first assistant foreman; C. R. Edwards, second assistant; E. C. Cheek, secretary, and G. A. Montgomery, treasurer. The company used a building on the corner of Main and School Streets, tendered them by A. B. Dibble. This company did good work and was reorganized June 17, 1861 into Protection Hose Co. No. 1. It was proposed shortly before this to organize a hook and ladder company, the new organization to take the apparatus of the former company. This was done and a fire department was formed, and Union Hook and Ladder Company was formed with N. C. Hammersmith as foreman, John Blake, assistant foreman; Chas. Glassen, president; Sol. Crown, treasurer. Hammersmith soon afterwards decamped with \$200 of the companies funds and the organization disbanded. The officers of Protection Hose Company were:—S. D. Leavitt, foreman; G. Hamilton, first assistant; T. J. Cook, second assistant; J. M. Days, secretary; H. Silvester, treasurer.

In March, 1863, Eureka Hose Company, No. 2 was organized with Schenck Glass, foreman; C. R. Clarke, first assistant; John Blake, second assistant. This company disbanded the same year. On August 25, 1863,

Tiger Hook, Ladder and Bucket Company, No. 1, was organized as an independent company, but soon after joined the department. The old engine house of the department was destroyed by fire on June 11, 1862, and two lots were purchased from W. S. Byrne and Sam Hodge on Main Street, the present engine house, used also as a city hall, being erected the following year. The first meeting held in the new house was on March 2, 1863.

Eagle Hose Company, No. 2, was organized July 18, 1866, and its first officers were:—John R. Crocker, foreman; E. R. West, first assistant; John W. Hobby, second assistant; C. E. Davis, president; George Murphy, secretary; Peter Brunstetter, treasurer.

The present department is composed of three companies, Protection, No. 1, Eagle, No. 2, and Reliance, No. 3. The cuts of Protection and Eagle companies appear in this edition.

The following are the officers of Protection, No. 1: President, W. H. Morgan; secretary, Henry Daniels; treasurer, Wm. Curtis; foreman, John F. Buckett; first assistant, B. A. Van Slyke; second assistant, A. J. Bovey. Members:—J. P. Miller, Oscar Klein, F. A. Campbell, John Frank, C. J. Miller, Wm. Freeman, James Lucas, W. H. Morgan, H. Daniels, John F. Buckett, John Aver, W. D. Paynter, Wm. Curtis, Chas. Dahlgren, S. J. Kinsman, B. A. Van Slyke, Frank E. Dennen, Wm. Provis, B. F. Schwartz, Theo. A. Kohler, D. S. Collins, A. J. Bovey, C. Temby, Jr., Wm. Henrici, Wm. Simmons.

The officers of Eagle Hose Company are as follows: President, S. R. Wilder; secretary, Geo. A. Wanamake; treasurer, W. G. Lord; foreman, Samuel Blight; first assistant, James Stead; second assistant, Alex. Chesneau. Members:—S. R. Wilder, Geo. A. Wanamake, W. G. Lord, L. C. Snyder, John Lucas, Geo. Wettereau, W. G. Frank, James Hosking, James Stead, G. W. Hobby, John Hocking, Adolph Ruck, Joseph Hall, Thomas F. Collins, C. E. Uren, M. Shewbridge, Alex. Chesneau, John H. Pascoe, Samuel Blight, Angello Mazza, Richard Ford, James Jenkins, Wm. Ruck, Wm. Pascoe.

NEVADA COUNTY  
MINING REVIEW 1895

Attachment 3

## Snow Flattens Headquarters of Eagles Firemen

One of Grass Valley's landmark structures—the Eagle firehouse — which has experienced more snow storms than most buildings of the city and certainly has gone through several storms of equal severity to the present, crashed at 4:15 o'clock Sunday afternoon, almost as flat as the proverbial pancake.

Literally pushed over by the heavy snow accumulation, the firehouse became a tangled mass of splintered boards and debris, although the frontwall and the city signal firebell remained in the air, if slightly askew.

The firehouse contained the Buick hose truck of the local department and was equipped and furnished as the clubrooms for the fire company.

The building is practically a total loss, although rebuilding is possible of the fore room where the fire fighting equipment stood.

It was reported yesterday that the building was first erected in 1858 and had served as a firehouse for the community through a long period of years. In the old handcart days, it stood as one of the city's foremost firehouses.

The signal bell will be removed to the city hall building and the fire company will discuss disposition of the structure at their regular meeting this evening, which will be held at the Protection headquarters.

EAGLE FIRE HOUSE 1937  
COLLAPSE IN SNOW STORM

Clipped By:  
seniorphotomoment  
Nov 7, 2024

## Jenks Bid With Check Accepted by City Council

With identical bids submitted as those of a week ago, when the first call was made for the figures on construction of the new Eagle firehouse and social hall on East Main street, Paul I. Jenks, was awarded the contract by the city council of Grass Valley at last night's meeting and will proceed with the job at once.

Jenks bid of \$3580.20 was accompanied by a certified check for 10 percent of the construction figure last night. Omission of this item resulted in the bids being rejected at the adjourned council meeting of a week ago.

Ralph Cochrane placed his same bid of \$3639, which was \$59 higher, in accordance with his assertion to place the same figure, when the two bids publicly opened and read a week ago were given publicity.

The city of Grass Valley is placing the foundation walls for the new firehouse and will fill the lot to street grade.

The Jenks bid listed 10 alternates which were changes from the original specifications if the council so desired.

Attachment 4

JOSE CO FIRE HOUSE 1937

Clipped By:  
seniorphotomoment  
Nov 6, 2024

# PLACE SELECTED FOR NEW FIRE ALARM BOX

The new fire alarm box to be purchased by Eagle Hose Company will be installed at the intersection of Maiden lane and Washington street and will be numbered 21. The selection is a good one for the residents of Washington street hill and vicinity, as the fire alarm boxes in that neighborhood are far apart.

Attachment 5

EAGLE HOSE COMPANY 1910



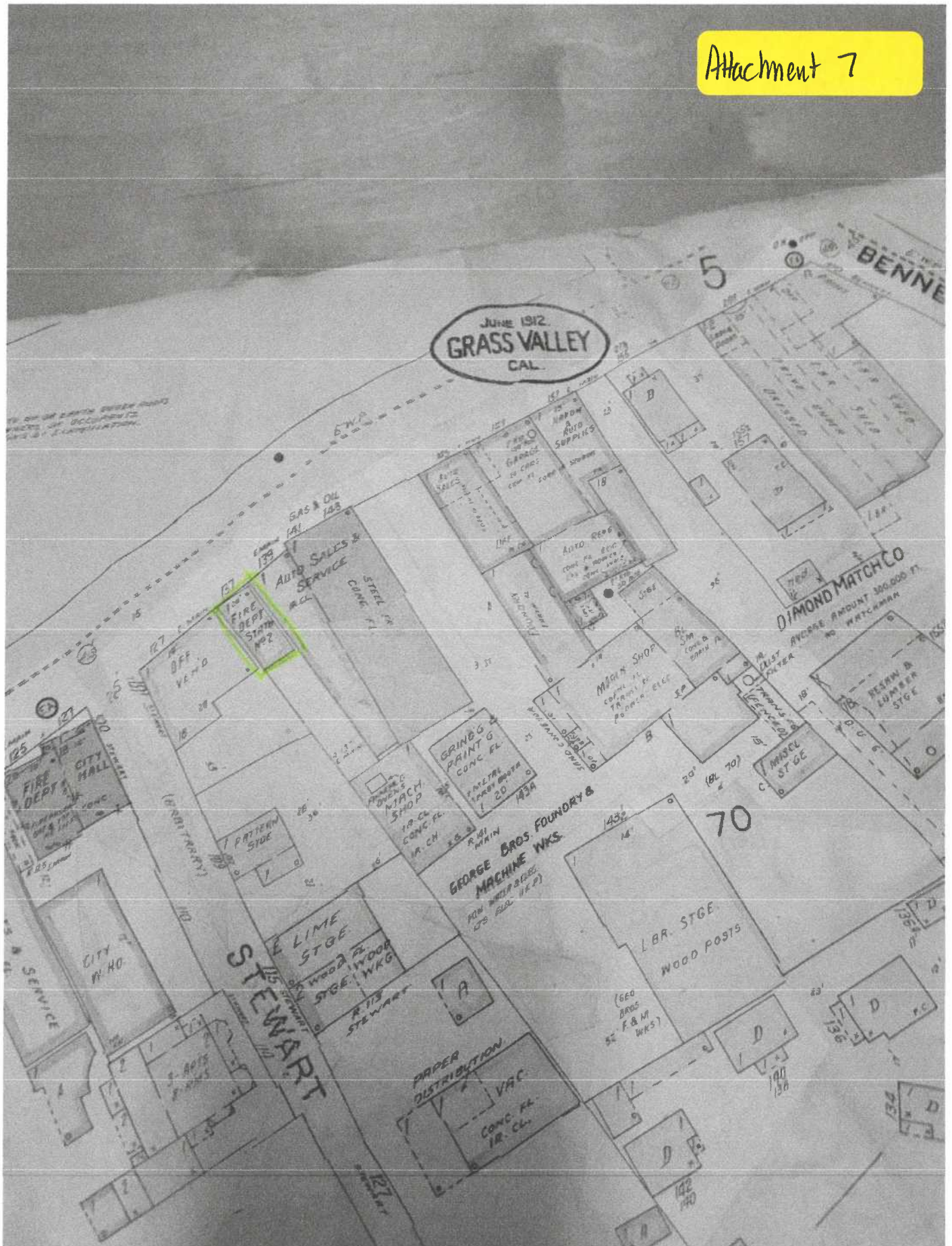
Clipped By:

seniorphotomoment

Sat, Feb 10, 2024



Attachment 7



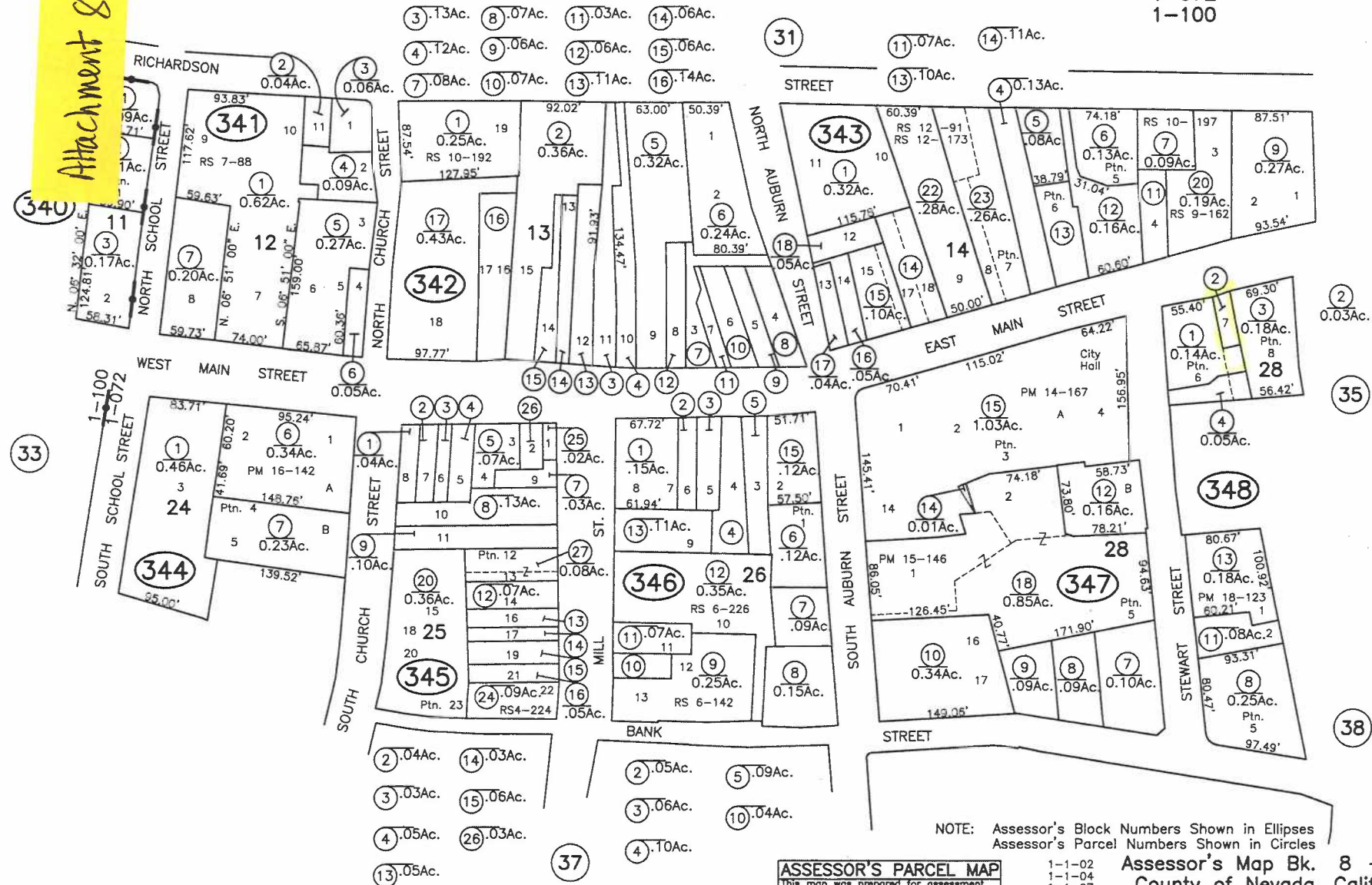
Assessor's Parcel Map

Attachment 8

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

Tax Area Code  
1-072  
1-100

8-34



NOTE: Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses  
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

**ASSESSOR'S PARCEL MAP**  
This map was prepared for assessment purposes only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of data shown. Assessor's parcels may not comply with local lot-split or building site ordinances.

1-1-02  
1-1-04  
1-1-07

Assessor's Map Bk. 8 -Pg.34  
County of Nevada, Calif.  
2001

GRASS VALLEY TOWNSITE

NW 10/01

Grass Valley Eagle Hose Co. No 2 - Searls Library

PIC 4 - ~~GR37~~ GR37

Attachment 9



Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a title or address, which is mostly illegible due to fading.



## Grass Valley Fire Alarm Boxes

- 2—Auburn and Neal Streets.
- 3—Auburn and Race Streets.
- 4—Mill and Rhode Island Sts.
- 5—School and Neal Streets.
- 12—Corner Main and Mill Streets.
- 13—Mill and Neal Streets.
- 14—Church and Walsh Streets.
- 21—Maiden Lane and Washington Street.
- 23—Bennett and Henderson Sts.
- 24—Main and Bennett Streets.
- 31—Empire and Auburn Streets.
- 41—Church and Chapel Streets.
- 42—Walsh and Pleasant Sts.
- 43—French Ave. and Brighton St.
- 51—Main and Alta Streets.
- 52—Church and Richardson Sts.
- 53—Cor. Auburn and Chester St.

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>  
morning  
The Union . 1928 pg. 4  
edition

## EAGLE HOSE COMPANY

The Grass Valley Fire Department was first organized in 1853. It is the third oldest active fire department west of the Mississippi River.

Founded in 1866 and housed at this site, Eagle Hose Company #2 was one of four Volunteer Fire Brigades that proudly served and protected Grass Valley for over 100 years. Volunteer fire fighters were alerted and directed to the area of a blaze by the Alarm Siren system, which used a neighborhood numbering system located on the fire alarm box.

With the advent of electronic communication, the Alarm Siren System became obsolete.

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY INFO

NEVADA COUNTY

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

LOGO

### GRASS VALLEY FIRE ALARM BOX LOCATIONS

- 2- Auburn and Neal Streets
- 3- Auburn and Race Streets
- 4- Mill and Rhode Island  
Streets
- 5- School and Neal Streets
- 12- Corner of Main and Mill  
Streets
- 13- Mill and Neal Streets
- 14- Church and Walsh  
Streets
- 21- Maiden Ln and  
Washington Street
- 23- Bennett and Henderson  
Streets
- 24- Main and Bennett Streets
- 31- Empire and Auburn  
Streets
- 41- Church and Chapel  
Streets
- 42- Walsh and Pleasant  
Streets
- 43- French Ave and Brighton  
Street
- 51- Main and Alta Streets
- 52- Church and Richardson  
Streets
- 53- Corner of Auburn and  
Chester Sts

Attachment 11