

County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark **Indian Springs School**

Location__APN#_____051-310-034

____UTM 10S 0655960E X 4338305N WGS 84

Name of applicant_____Sue Hoek

Address__17455 Indian Springs Road, Penn Valley, Ca 95946

Home or work phone. [REDACTED] cell phone_[REDACTED]

Name and address of owner upon whose property proposed landmark
is located, if owner is not applicant_____

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



Owner's signature

Nov. 18, 2024
Date

Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

One of the earliest schools established in Penn Valley, Nevada County was Indian Springs School. Henry Lewis Hatch came to Indian Springs from Vermont in 1852 purchased a large amount of land from Mallory Lowery, establishing a 240-acre ranch. A few years later in 1856 Mr. Hatch built and ran the Indian Springs School (also known as Penn Valley High School), a private school. Mr. Hatch taught classes to his children and the other primary school children of the Indian Springs area. He also built a hotel with a portion used as a boarding house for children that came from distances. On January 8, 1861, the school was reopened by Principle J.R. Cushing, once again as a private school, re-named the Penn Valley Seminary. The school was somewhat unique for the time in that its curriculum was to prepare young gentlemen for business and for college. Indian Springs School continued to operate as a private school until 1868. The Indian Springs School District was formed on March 4, 1868, with Henry Hatch selling the school building and property to the new Indian Springs School District, who then operated the school as a public school.

The Indian Springs School continued to operate as a public elementary school until 1954. During the summer of 1954 the California Division of Architecture declared that Indian Springs School as well as the Rough & Ready School, “unsafe for occupancy and beyond practical repair.”

At that time the Indian Springs School students were transferred to Grass Valley and Rough & Ready Schools for three years under contract with the newly created Ready Springs Union Elementary School District. By September of 1957 the displaced students were able to move into their newly completed Ready Springs Elementary School in Penn Valley. In December 1954 Lowell Robinson purchased the now vacant Indian Springs School in a public auction from the newly established Ready Springs Union School District.

For the next several years the old Indian Springs School building continued to be used as a community meeting place for a variety of activities. By 1957 Indian Springs School was renamed the Indian Springs Community Hall but generally the public continued to refer to it as the “Old Indian Springs School House.”

Historically significant aspects or properties of proposed landmark

The Indian Springs School House has stood the test of time and remains today a testament to the one room schoolhouses of Nevada County through the many years of educating students and seeing three centuries of Nevada County History. The school was also a cherished part of the greater Penn Valley Community for many years as the meeting location for community and church activities. Affectionately known as the “Old Indian Springs School.”

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

Future potential grants for stabilization. Public awareness of the historic value to the community. Possible plaque placement

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

Books and articles:

Weeks, Clara A., “Early Schools of Nevada County,” NCHS Bulletin Vol. 10 No. 2, April 1956.

“Penn Valley Seminary”, The Nevada Journal, February 8, 1861, page 4.

Fellersen, Edward G., A Brief History and Location of Nevada County Schools, p. 4-5.

“Bret Harte Taught Six Months at Indian Springs,” The Union, Friday January. 15, 1960, page 5

Thompson & West, 1880 History of Nevada County, Howell & North, Berkeley CA, 1970 page 143

“Views of Others”, The Union, Oct. 19, 1954, page 4

“Ready Springs Registers 44 to Open New School,” The Union, Sep. 6, 1957, page 6

“Lowell Robinson Buys School at Indian Springs”, The Union, Friday December 10, 1954, page 3.

“P.V. Farm Center to Gather at 7, Potluck Tomorrow,” The Union, Oct. 3, 1957, page 6

Swett, John "History of Public School System of California", A.L. Bancroft & Company 1876 page 228-229.

"History of Education is the History of Community", the Union, Dec. 5, 2014, page 4
"This is Our Story", Jack, Linda, the Union, Feb. 12, 2021, page 2
Charles Wollenberg, *All Deliberate Speed: Segregation and Exclusion in California Schools, 1855-1975*.
(Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1976), 25.

Hurley, 66 Cal. 473, (1885) was a landmark court case in the California Supreme Court in which the Court found the exclusion of a Chinese American student from public school based on her ancestry unlawful.

Bosworth, Dee Ann. ["American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global, Ethnic & Cultural Cleansing"](#).
Civil Action No. 4292. District Court, San Diego, Calif., Central Division, Feb. 18, 1946. *Federal Supplements*, Vol 64, 1946, 544-51.

Bowker, Kathie Marie (November 2007). ["The boarding school legacy: ten contemporary Lakota women tell their stories"](#), Montana State University.

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

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

see attached



Applicant's signature

Nov. 18, 2024
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.

Indian Springs School 1856-1954

By Chuck Scimeca, Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commissioner

One of the earliest schools established in Penn Valley, Nevada County was Indian Springs School. Henry Lewis Hatch came to Indian Springs from Vermont where he was a teacher and farmer. In May of 1852 purchased a large amount of land from Mallory Lowery, establishing a 240-acre ranch.¹ A few years later in 1856 Mr. Hatch built the Penn Valley High School² at Indian Springs with his own money, a private school.³ He also operated one of the first sawmills and Hatch's Toll Road, a portion of what was known then as the Sacramento-Grass Valley and Marysville Road. Today this is Spenceville Road which is now closed to public access. In addition, Mr. Hatch served as the Postmaster of Indian Springs and Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Hatch taught classes to his children and the other primary school children of the Indian Springs area. He also built a hotel with a portion used as a boarding house for children that came from distances. Hatch's school was first established as a private school as most all schools were in the early 1850s. On January 8, 1861, the school was reopened by Principle J.R. Cushing, once again as a private school, re-named the Penn Valley Seminary. The school was somewhat unique for the time in that its curriculum was to prepare young gentlemen for business and for college and to "fit young men and women for teaching, and to qualify them for all the just claimr [sic] of Society."⁴

Indian Springs School Remained Private Until 1868

Indian Springs School continued to operate as a private school until 1868. The Indian Springs School District was formed on March 4, 1868⁵ with Henry Hatch selling the school building and property to the new Indian Springs School District.⁶ According to the July 1, 1878, Report, Nevada County

¹ Comstock, David, Lives of Nevada County Pioneers, Comstock Press, Grass Valley, Ca April 2019

² Penn Valley High School, the Nevada Journal March 13, 1857, page 2

³ Weeks, Clara A., "Early Schools of Nevada County," NCHS Bulletin Vol. 10 No. 2, April 1956.

⁴ "Penn Valley Seminary", The Nevada Journal, February 8, 1861, page 4.

⁵ Fellersen, Edward G., A Brief History and Location of Nevada County Schools, page 4-5.

⁶ "Bret Harte Taught Six Months at Indian Springs," The Union, Friday January. 15, 1960, page 5

Superintendent of Schools shows there where 36 boys, and twenty-five girls enrolled at Indian Springs school in that year. The Superintendent also reported that there were 61 “census children between 5 and 17 years of age, including Negro an Indian...” within the school district, but the report did not indicate if those children were enrolled in public school.⁷ There were several students that excelled that attended Indian Springs Elementary School. One was Dr. Henry Merle Bland professor of literature and Poet Laureate of California who taught at San Jose State in the 1920’s⁸. In later years there was Herbert J. Nile, Director of NID 1950-1953 and the current Supervisor from District 4, Sue Hoek to name just a few.

Indian Springs School Becomes a Community Meeting Place

The Indian Springs School continued to operate as a public elementary school until 1954.

Durning the summer of 1954 the California Division of Architecture declared that Indian Springs School as well as the Rough & Ready School, “unsafe for occupancy and beyond practical repair.”⁹ At that time the Indian Springs School students were transferred to Grass Valley and Rough & Ready Schools for three years under contract with the newly created Ready Springs Union Elementary School District. By September of 1957 the displaced students were able to move into their newly completed Ready Springs Elementary School in Penn Valley.¹⁰

In December 1954 Lowell Robinson purchased the now vacant Indian Springs School from the newly established Ready Springs Union School District for \$1505.50.¹¹ Lowell Robinson’s family settled in Indian Springs area during the 1860s and acquired acreage and became successful ranchers and a significant part of the lumber industry to the present-day in Nevada County. Sue Hoek is the property owner of the Indian Springs School and the applicant for historic designation. Her uncle, recently deceased, was Lowell Robinson.

⁷ Thompson & West, 1880 History of Nevada County, Howell & North, Berkeley CA, 1970 page 143

⁸ “Late Poet Laureate of California Was Resident of County”, The Morning Union, May 2, 1931, page 1.

⁹ “Views of Others”, The Union, Oct. 19, 1954, page 4

¹⁰ “Ready Springs Registers 44 to Open New School,” The Union, Sep. 6, 1957, page 6

¹¹ “Lowell Robinson Buys School at Indian Springs”, The Union, Friday December 10, 1954, page 3.

For the next several years the old Indian Springs School building continued to be used as a community meeting place for a variety of activities. By 1957 Indian Springs School was renamed the Indian Springs Community Hall but generally the public continued to refer to it as the “Old Indian Springs School House.”¹² The activities now included: Voting Precinct, meeting place for the Penn Valley Community Church, Church of Christ, Penn Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Penn Valley Church of Christ, the Penn Valley Farm Center, Penn Valley Home Department, to name a few.

After 2005 it is believed that the old Indian Springs School House no longer remained open to the public. Currently the building still stands vacant and needs restoration. When the school stopped being used as a community center and church is not certain, further research is needed. 2005 is the best estimate of the property owner of when the school stopped being used for public meetings.

Stood the Test of Time

The Indian Springs School House has stood the test of time and remains today a testament to the one room schoolhouses of Nevada County through the many years of educating students and seeing three centuries of Nevada County History.



¹² “P.V. Farm Center to Gather at 7, Potluck Tomorrow,” The Union, Oct. 3, 1957, page 6

Indian Springs School Today, November 2024

****Property Owner, Sue Hoak will fund the plaque and pedestal. The location yet to be determined.**

Indian Springs School 17455 Indian Springs Road

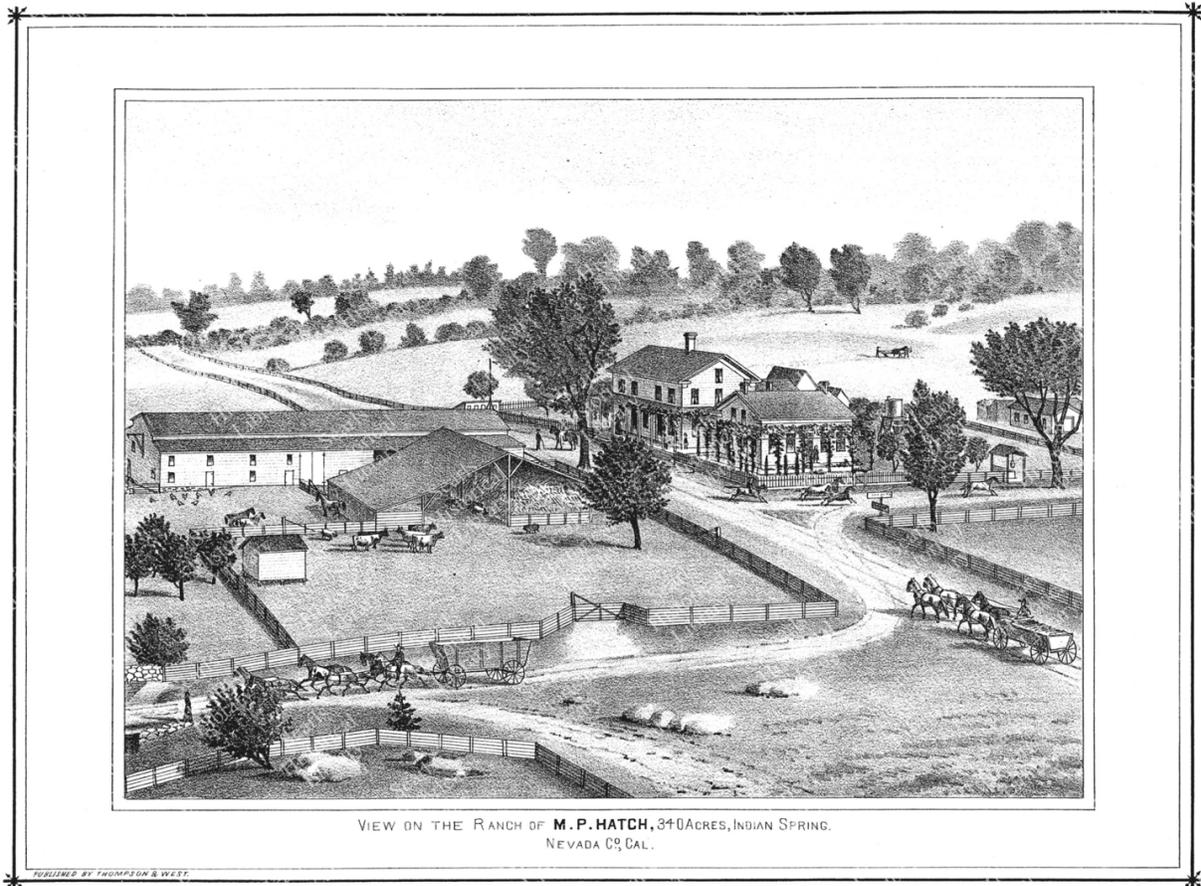
Winter 2024, Large Locust Tree Fall Damage to School



Per property owner, the tree will be removed, and it is planned that potential trees nearby will be evaluated by an arborist.

Henry Lee Hatch

Teacher & Builder of Hatch Toll Road, Indian Springs Hotel and the Indian Springs School



Sketch from Thompson & West, History of Nevada County, circa 1880's, pictured is the Hatch Hotel and school lodging (two story building), residence and large barn that H.L. Hatch built in 1852 at the time he opened the toll road.¹³ The hotel and his residence no longer exist. The long barn on the left side of the road remains today.

Indian Springs School is located just off the right-hand side of the sketch along Indian Springs Road. The crossroads pictured are Indian Springs Road and Spenceville Road (Hatch Toll Road) pictured in the upper left-hand portion of the sketch alongside the hotel, residence and barn. Indian Springs Road is to the right.

¹³ The home built by H.L. Hatch is also occupied by son M.P. Hatch and family as late as 1881(see attached article on M.P. Hatch.) Sketch from Thompson and West 1880, page 150.

HENRY L. HATCH (1814-1892) (UNION)

- 1814—Native of Vermont, where he farmed and taught school.
- 1838—Married Elizabeth W. Jeffords (b. in Vermont).
- 1841—Son Martin P. born in Vermont.
—Son J. H. born.
—Daughter Lucy E. born.
- 1844—Went to Illinois and taught music.
- 1850—Came to Calif. and had a store in El Dorado Co.
- 1851—Went to Yuba County and mined.
- May 1852—Moved to Penn Valley, Nevada County, where he and H. Dunlap and P. W. Bergantz bought a steam-powered sawmill from Taylor and Owen.
—Family came to Calif.
- April 11, 1853—Dunlap withdrew from partnership.
- Aug 19, 1853—Hatch sold interest in sawmill to Bergantz and opened a hotel at Indian Springs, near Penn Valley. He also engaged in farming and raising stock.
- Oct 12, 1855—Advertised New England ball to be held Nov. 1 at Indian Springs.
- Nov 4, 1856—Inspector at Indian Springs voting precinct.
- ca Jan 1857—Opened the Penn Valley high school.
- April 7, 1857—Began second term of his high school.
- Aug 3, 1857—On grand jury.
- 1858—Postmaster at Indian Springs. Assets worth \$6,136.
- Jan 5, 1858—Opened the winter term of his high school.
- Oct 1859—Assets worth \$5,500.
- May 4, 1863—Elected Rough and Ready township trustee.
- Dec 29, 1863—Son Dr. J. H. Hatch was visiting parents.
- Oct 12, 1864—Taxable income for 1863 was \$2,000.
- Jan 22, 1865—Daughter Lucy E. married to A. B. Driesbach (of Carson City) at family home in Indian Springs.
- Sept 4, 1865—Elected to state assembly (UNION).
- Feb 14, 1867—Held a benefit for Rev. Rusk at his house.
- Dec 1869—Injured when scraper fell on his leg.
- 1880—Lived at Vine Hill, Indian Springs, with wife, 3 sons and a daughter. Owned 240 acres of land and was making wine from 25 acres of vines. Property valued at \$7,000.
- Oct 6, 1892—Died in Grass Valley.

MARTIN P. HATCH (1841-)

1841—Born in Vermont, son of Henry L. Hatch and Elizabeth W. Jeffords. Brother of J. H. Hatch.

1844—Moved with parents to Illinois.

1850—Came to El Dorado County, Calif. with parents.

1851—Family moved to Yuba County.

April 1863—Discovered copper near Indian Springs, Nevada County.

—Proprietor of a toll road.

March 17, 1865—Delinquent in assessments owed to Mammoth Mining Co.

Sept 12, 1866—Married to Julia G. Noland (b. in Virginia) at the Carson City home of her parents.

—Son born.

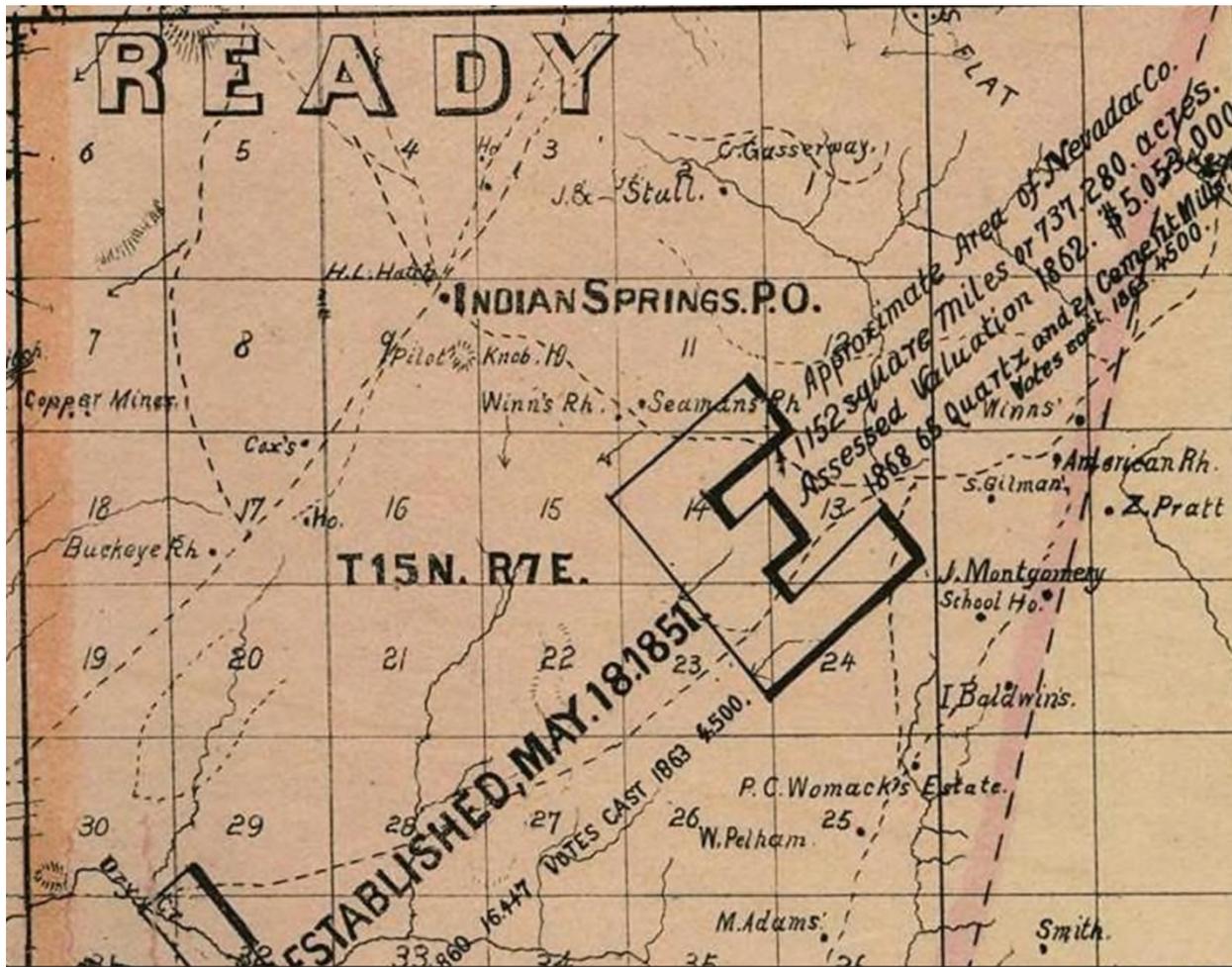
—Son died.

1870—Began farming and raising stock on 350 acres at Indian Springs.

1880—Lived at Indian Springs with wife and 3 daughters.

(View of his place facing p. 150 in 1880 TW History)

Maps



14

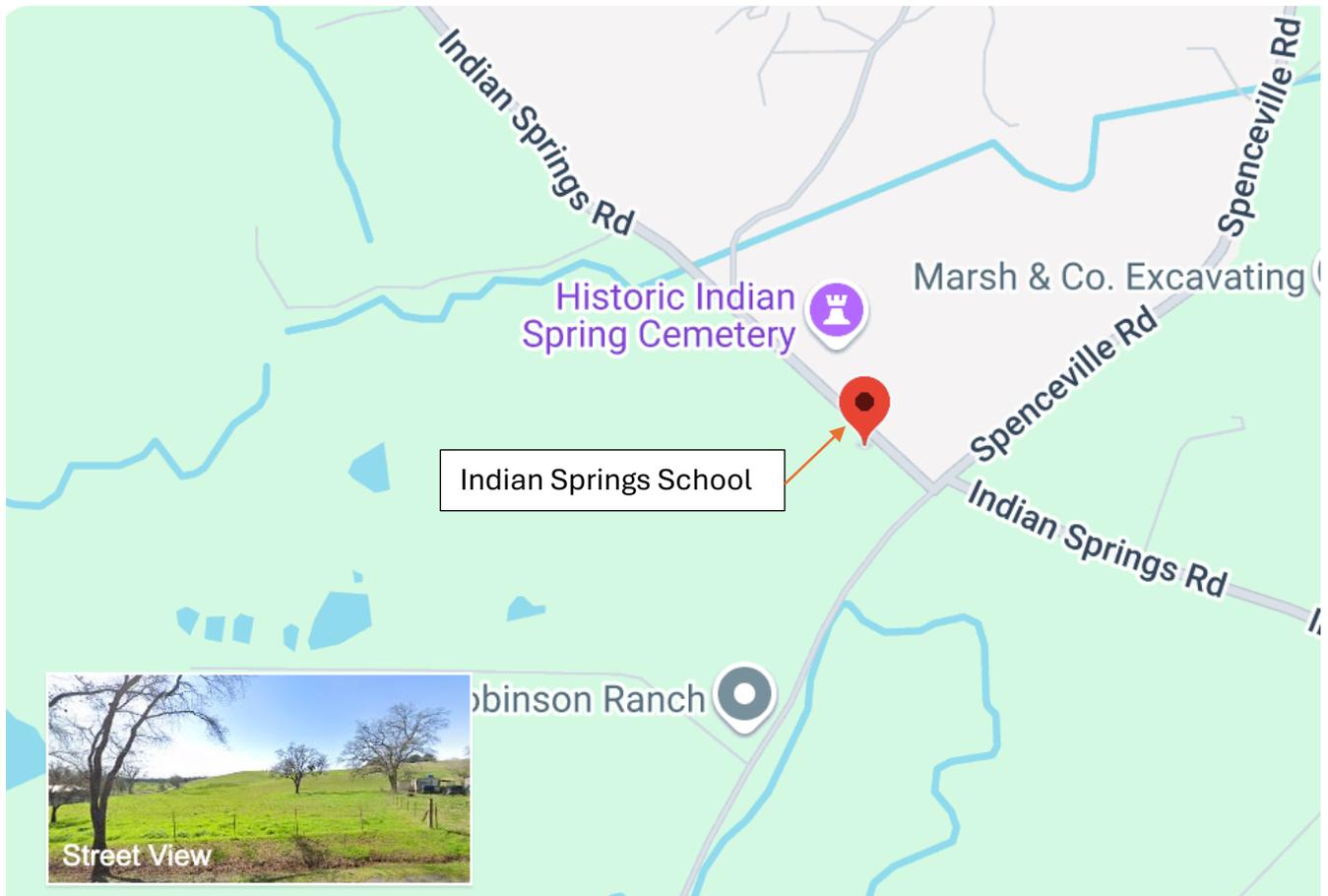
This map, circa 1868, shows the crossroads of Indian Springs and the Hatch Toll Road (Spencerville Road today). Clearly marked on the map is H.L. Hatch and “Indian Springs P.O.”, for Post Office. H.L. Hatch was the Postmaster of Indian Springs in 1858.¹⁵ In addition, on the left-hand corner of the map it indicates a “Copper Mine.” Note, Martin Hatch, H.L. Hatch’s son, in 1863, it is reported, discovered a copper deposit near Indian Springs that was “rich and extensive.”¹⁶

¹⁴ 1868 Doolittle map, [Doolittle, A. J., author; G.T. Brown & Co. Lith](#)

¹⁵ Comstock, David, “Lives of Nevada County Pioneers”, Comstock Press, Grass Valley, Ca April 2019

¹⁶ Marysville Daily Appeal, April 1863, Vol. VII, Number 95,23

Road Map for Indian Springs School



Indian Springs School is marked by the red icon on the left-hand side of Indian Springs Road. Note the Historic Indian Springs Cemetery is just up the road from the school on the opposite side of the road. Henry Lee Hatch (H.E.) is buried there just across from the school that he built.

Nevada County Parcel Map for Indian Springs School

APN Number 051-310-034

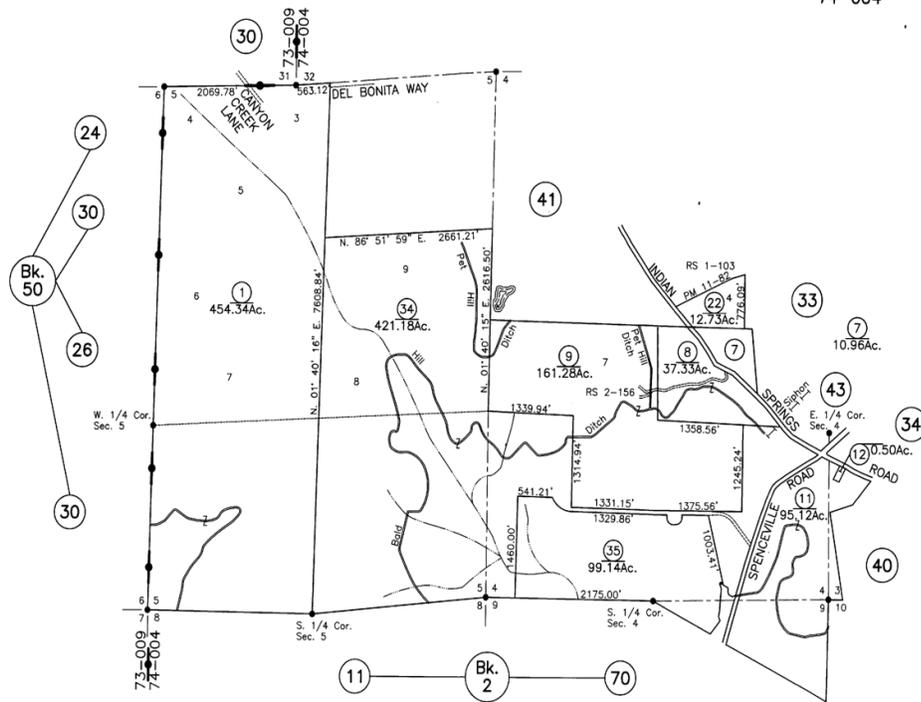
Provided by:

PARCELQUEST

PTN. SEC'S 3, 4, 5 & 9, T. 15 N., R. 7 E., M.D.B. & M.

Tax Area Code
74-004

51-31
(Fmly. Ptn. 2-08)



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
1-1-05

Assessor's Map Bk. 51-Pg. 31
 County of Nevada, Calif.
 2001

NW 12/01

Newspaper Articles Continued

PENN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.--This school, under the superintendence of Mr. H. L. Hatch, will commence its second term on Tuesday, April 7th, with favorable prospects. Mr. Hatch is very much of a gentleman, and one in whose prudence and judgment parents may confide as to the proper discipline of the youths placed in his care; and having for its location the pleasantest and most healthy site in the mountains of California, we have good reason to believe that success in an eminent degree will attend his efforts.

Penn Valley High School-Hatch

Clipped By:
nchlfriends
Nov 19, 2024

Opened Private School

In 1852, H. L. Hatch, a native of Virginia, settled at Indian Springs where he established a 240-acre ranch and built a saw-mill. He planted portions of the land to vineyards. About a year after his arrival, he founded a private school for his children and those of the neighborhood. He also constructed a boarding house where children from a distance could live.

According to a Nevada County Historical Society bulletin written by Clara Weeks, Hatch taught most of the elementary subjects himself and hired an instructor for music and another for French.

The school continued on a private basis until 1869 when the Indian Springs School District was organized. At that time, Hatch sold the building and the land on which it stood to the district. The old structure was used as a school until 1954 when the new Ready Springs School was completed.

According to Herbert J. Nile of Nevada City, who attended the Indian Springs school in the 1890's, the old building which is still standing is the original one built by Hatch in the early 1850's. Nile's sister, Mrs. Jesse Ennor, a life-long resident of Indian Springs, also attended the old school. The building never succumbed to flames and was enlarged to its present size and appearance in the late 1870's.

Hatch at Indian Springs School

Clipped By:
nchlcfriends
Nov 4, 2024

PENN VALLEY SEMINARY.

THIS INSTITUTION FORMERLY UNDER the Superintendence of Mr. H. L. HATCH will be re-opened on TUESDAY, JAN. 8, 1861, under the direction of Mr. J. R. CUSHING.

Location.—The School is located at Indian Springs, Nevada County. In point of healthfulness, ease of access, and natural attractions, it has no superior in the State.

Instruction.—This Institution proposes to furnish to gentlemen a thorough business education—to prepare students for College—to fit young men and women for teaching, and qualify them for all the just claims of Society.

Music, Drawing and Painting.—The Female Department will be under the charge of a Lady, who will teach the Ornamentals and Piano Music.

Lectures.—Will be delivered for the benefit of all the Students on Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Physiology, Elocution, Manners, and on general topics connected with Science and Education.

Apparatus.—A set of Astronomical, Philosophical, and Chemical apparatus will be furnished for the use of the School, and no pains nor expense will be spared to render this Institution worthy of its full share of public patronage.

Boarding House.—We have a new and commodious Boarding House, with rooms thoroughly ventilated and well furnished. Students wishing to board themselves, can find suitable rooms partly furnished at reasonable rates.

Expenses.—Tuition, per term of eleven weeks, Common English, (including Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, and History of the United States.).....\$10,00

For each Higher English study.....	3,00
Latin and Greek, each.....	4,00
French and German, each.....	6,00
Grecian & Oriental Painting, each per week	1,75
Colored Crayons, and Monochromatic, each per week.....	1,50
Penciling, per week.....	1,00
Piano Music, with use of instrument per month.....	8,00
Vocal Music (including cultivation of the voice,) per course of twelve lessons...	2,00
Board per week including Room furnished and fuel.....	6,00
Washing, per dozen.....	1,50

Students will furnish their own lights, and keep their rooms in order. Accounts must be settled monthly. Text books, Stationery, and Drawing Materials can be obtained at the School. For rooms or further particulars address

J. R. CUSHING,

Dec. 14,—tf.

Principal.

Morning Union, October 7, 1892- Death of H.L. Hatch

A PIONEER CITIZEN.

Death of Henry Lewis Hatch of Nevada County.

A correspondent of the RECORD-UNION, writing from Indian Springs, Nevada County, under date of the 8th instant, says:

Yesterday we laid away in "God's acre" in Indian Springs, Nevada County, the body of Henry Lewis Hatch, one of the early pioneers of this State, and one of the noblest of the human race—honored, respected and loved by all who knew him during the many years of his eventful life. He is worthy of being remembered by everyone as one of the best and purest of men. He was born in the year 1814 in the State of Vermont. In 1833 he was united in marriage to the lady of his choice, whom he has left behind him to mourn his loss. The result of this union was three sons and one daughter, who are well known and respected—Dr. Jas. A. Hatch and Marion Dean of San Francisco, Martin P. Hatch of Leemore, and Mrs. Lucy E. Dr'esbach of Indian Springs.

Deceased crossed the plains in 1851, and settled in this vicinity, where he lived for thirty-eight years. Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Hatch went to reside at Leemore with their son Martin. It was while on a visit to their only daughter that Mr. Hatch was taken sick. The origin of the sickness was a cold contracted in San Francisco, but which developed into pleuro-pneumonia, causing his death, which took place on Thursday morning at 6 o'clock. He met death with Christian fortitude and resignation. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. T. Murrish of the M. E. Church, Indian Springs, and Rev. Mr. Compton of the M. E. Church South of Red Bluff. The singing was rendered by the choir of the Congregational Church of Grass Valley, and was most excellent. Many attended the funeral, coming from far and near to pay their last respects to one of the most enterprising and public-spirited men in the history of California.

He built the schoolhouse here at his own expense in 1856, and taught it for three years. Then the county made it a public school. He was elected to the Legislature in 1865, and for years he was a Justice of the Peace. He was noted for his activity in every enterprise for the public good.

Honored and respected as a public man, and a worthy citizen, he was much loved for his benevolent disposition. He was a friend, indeed, to those in need, responding cheerfully to calls for aid. He has died lamented and regretted, but his memory will be always fresh and green. Good deeds live forever.



M.P. Hatch sells ranch to T.F. Van Slyke
1881

Clipped By:
nchlcfriends
Nov 21, 2024

M.P. Hatch Discovers Copper Lode Near Indian Springs

Marysville Daily Appeal, Volume VII, Number 95, 23 April 1863

[Back Full size](#)

NEVADA.—We take the following items from the *Transcript of Tuesday* :

A rich and extensive discovery of copper was made a few days since by Martin Hatch, near Indian Springs, in this county. Sufficient quantity of the ore has been taken out which proves it to be the richest lead ever struck in the county. A company was immediately formed and representing 2,000 feet, 100 feet constituting a share. Last week they refused \$1,200 per share.

The bridegroom who is a son of
the late Mrs. Ida Anne Frye,

202 Mill St.

G. V.

**THE READY SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL BOND ELECTION AND
SPECIAL APPORTIONMENT AUTHORIZATION
ELECTION NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified electors of Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County, State of California, that in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code of the State of California governing such elections, a special bond election and a special apportionment authorization election have been called to be held and the same will be held, at the place hereinafter designated in said Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County, State of California, on Tuesday, October 26, 1954, A. D., from the hour of 9:00 o'clock a. m., of said day until the hour of 8:00 o'clock p. m., of said day, during which period of time the polls will be kept continuously open, at which time and place there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County the following propositions:

PROPOSITION NO. 1.

Shall the Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County incur a bonded indebtedness in the sum of Thirty-two Thousand, Five Hundred and no/100 (\$32,500.00) Dollars, for the purpose of raising money for the following purposes (which are hereby united and shall be voted upon as one single proposition) to-wit:

1. The purchasing of school lots.
2. The building or purchasing of school buildings.
3. The making of alterations or additions to the school building or buildings other than such as may be necessary for current maintenance, operation or repairs.
4. The repairing, restoring or rebuilding of any school building damaged, injured, or destroyed by fire or other public calamity.
5. The supplying of school buildings with furniture or necessary apparatus, of permanent nature.
6. The permanent improvement of the school grounds.
7. The carrying out of the projects or purposes authorized in Section 18010 of the Education Code, to-wit: Providing sewers and drains adequate to treat and/or dispose of sewerage and drainage or or away from each school property.

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall the governing board of the Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County be authorized to accept and expend an apportionment in the amount not to exceed Eighty-eight Thousand

Ready Springs Union School District heretofore constituting the Indian Springs School District to be precinct Number 2.

That the special bond election hereby called has been and the same is hereby consolidated with the special apportionment authorization election hereby called within the territory affected by said consolidation, to-wit: the Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County; that the election precincts, polling places, and voting booths shall be the same and only one form of ballot shall be used thereat which shall be in the form provided by the Board of Trustees of said Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County for use at said consolidated special bond election and special apportionment authorization election on which shall be set forth the propositions hereby submitted to the qualified electors of said district. That the election officers shall be the same for each election and that said election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election.

That the polling places hereinafter mentioned are hereby designated and selected by the Board of Trustees of the Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County, State of California, where such election must and will be held.

The following named persons named as Inspector and Judges of said Election are hereby appointed by the Board of Trustees of Ready Springs Union School District of Nevada County, to act as such officers of said election, and as such will conduct the same: each of

Indian Springs School District

Clipped By:
nchlfriends
Nov 7, 2024

Friday, December 10, 1954

Lowell Robinson Buys School at Indian Springs

After much discussion in recent months about the Ready Springs School District board of trustees selling the two unsafe school buildings, considered by some local residents as historic landmarks and community-needed gathering points and not to be sold to outsiders, only one bid for the schools was submitted at last night's meeting of the board of

trustees.

Lowell Robinson purchased the Indian Springs school house and site for \$1505.50. The bid was accepted by the board, all present. There were no bids on the Rough and Ready School and no one present at the meeting for oral bidding for that school house, which was the focal point of more than one hot board meeting. The "community-minded" group of September was not present in December.

The board agreed to readvertise for bids at a later date on the building. There were rumors that persons from outside the district had made inquiries.

The board also unanimously passed a resolution favoring the forming of a Nevada County School Trustees Association. Katherine Frazier was selected to represent the trustees at future meetings in organizing the county association.



Lowell Robinson Buys Indian Springs
School

Clipped By:
nchlcfriends
Nov 7, 2024

Ready Springs Registers 44 to Open New School

Ready Spring Union Elementary School registered 44 boys and girls last week for the Tuesday, September 10th, opening in grades 1 through 6, with the possibility of additional students enrolling on the first day or first week.

The Ready Springs students will be the first in their recently completed building in Penn Valley, after having been educated in Grass Valley for three years on contract.

The Ready Springs school will operate their own bus, this coming year on the following schedule:

Rough and Ready 7:45 a. m.; Lower Rough and Ready Road, 7:55 a. m.; Pegar's 8:10 a. m.; Spenceville road 8:15 a. m.; Ready Springs school 8:30 a. m.

Nevada Union High School junior and senior high school bus will pick up Ready Springs students on the Indian Springs road and out the Spenceville road to John Oakie's ranch. This bus will leave Grass Valley at 7:30 a. m.

All Nevada Union High School senior and junior students in Rough and Ready and the Lower Rough and Ready road will be transported to a central point by the Ready Springs bus, where they will be transferred to the NUHS bus for the balance of the trip to the senior and junior high schools.

Clipped By:
nchlcfriends
Nov 8, 2024

Late Poet Laureate of California Was Resident of County

By ZOE W. BRANEGAN

Dr. Henry Merle Bland, poet laureate of the state of California, and for many years a professor of literature at the San Jose State Teachers College, died at the Edwin Markham Health Cottage, in San Jose Wednesday.

Dr. Bland was greatly beloved by his students and was a national figure in literary circles. His father was at one time in the early days, minister of the Indian Springs Church and he went to school at the Indian Springs school. Like many another of youngster of that district he dug for beads and arrow heads under the shadow of Pilot Peak, as he called the lone hill of that vicinity.

This month he was anticipating a trip to his early home and planned on renewing old acquaintances. He also had planned a bronze plaque for the Indian Springs school.

Dr. Bland's book on the "Life of Bret Harte" created a great stir in the literary circles of the state. With the help of several Nevada countyans and old records he established authentic proof in claiming the Indian Springs school is the setting for his famous book "Melissa," written while Harte was a substitute teacher in that school.

Nevada county was very dear to Dr. Bland, particularly so on account of many of his old schoolmates that still reside there.

INDIAN SPRINGS SCHOOL 1931



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Wed, Apr 20, 2022

Appendix

“Separate but Equal”- Children of Color

In general, the State of California prior to 1947, practiced a Separate System for Asians, Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans especially in the larger urban areas. However, the early photographic record showed a few Blacks, Chinese and Hispanics in the class photographs in the late 19th and early 20th century in Grass Valley & Nevada City schools.¹⁷

As the population of Nevada County rapidly increased after the gold strike of 1848, the State of California passed the first public school act of 1851, which made provisions for education of “white” children between the ages of five and seventeen. The law specified that there would be “separate but equal” education for Asian children, Black children, and Native American children. The regulations were to apply equally to those of Black and Asian heritage. The law stated that any school district that violated these requirements would forfeit their rights to any state or county apportioned funds.¹⁸ The first public school in Nevada County for whites was established at Grass Valley in 1853.¹⁹ The first public high school was established in Nevada City in 1862.²⁰

By the summer of 1854 Blacks opened their own private school in Grass Valley sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.²¹ Blacks continued to remain separated from public schools due to discrimination of the era for many years. Case in point, the State of California in the early 1860s, 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.²²

¹⁷ See school photographs of Grass Valley and Nevada City Schools at end of the appendix.

¹⁸ Swett, John “History of Public School System of California”, A.L. Bancroft & Company 1876 page 228-229.

¹⁹ Weeks, Clara “Early Schools of Nevada County”, Nevada County Historical Society Bulletin April 1956.

²⁰ “History of Education is the History of Community”, the Union, Dec. 5, 2014, page 4

²¹ “This is Our Story”, Jack, Linda, the Union, Feb. 12, 2021, page 2

²² Charles Wollenberg, *All Deliberate Speed: Segregation and Exclusion in California Schools, 1855-1975*. (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1976), 25.

In 1880 with the passage of federal constitutional amendments the State of California passed Section 1662, legislation that required that schools must be open for the admission of all children no matter of race. However, most school districts in the State decided to fund, “separate but equal schools,” for non-white students. Chinese were specifically barred from attending white schools by California law until the late 1920’s²³. Hispanic children began attending public schools in the late 1930’s. Native American children were subject to being forcibly removed and placed into Boarding Schools far from their homes under policies the Federal government established after the Civil War beginning in 1868.²⁴

It was not until 1947 that California Schools were fully integrated for all races with the passage of the Anderson Bill, signed into law by California Governor Earl Warren on June 14, 1947. This act repealed the last school segregation laws in California.²⁵ California was the first in the Nation to do so. Seven years later, on May 14, 1954, Chief Justice Warren was able to bring all the Justices together to support a unanimous decision declaring unconstitutional the concept of “separate but equal” in public schools., there by integrating the remaining schools in the United States and opening public education to all races equally.

The exception being Native American children remained in Boarding Schools until 1934. A few children were first admitted to public schools with the passing of the Johnson-O’Malley Act of 1934. The intention being, to reduce the number of Native American children in the Boarding Schools²⁶ Today most “Indian Boarding Schools” are closed and Native Americans on reservations operate their own schools, kindergarten through high school.

²³ Hurley, 66 Cal. 473, (1885) was a landmark court case in the California Supreme Court in which the Court found the exclusion of a Chinese American student from public school based on her ancestry unlawful.

²⁴ Bosworth, Dee Ann. ["American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global, Ethnic & Cultural Cleansing."](#)

²⁵ Civil Action No. 4292. District Court, San Diego, Calif., Central Division, Feb. 18, 1946. *Federal Supplements*, Vol 64, 1946, 544-51.

²⁶ Bowker, Kathie Marie (November 2007). [The boarding school legacy: ten contemporary Lakota women tell their stories](#), Montana State University.

Students at Nevada County Public Schools as of 2024

The student body at the schools served by Nevada County Office of Education is 73.4% white, 0.2% Black, 0.6% Asian or Asian/Pacific Islander, 11.5% Hispanic/Latino, 1.2% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders. In addition, 11.2% of students are two or more races, and 1.8% have not specified their race or ethnicity.²⁷



Grass Valley Elementary School, circa 1920s. Two Chinese students in attendance.



May 1891, unidentified Nevada County Elementary School, three blacks and one Hispanic in attendance.²⁸

²⁷ Statistics provided by the government,

²⁸ Both photographs provided by the courtesy of the Nevada County Historical Society.