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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Resolution designating the Grant Schoolhouse, located at 135 Winchester Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-460-020), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-02

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On January 17, 2025, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to designate the Grant Schoolhouse, located at 135 Winchester Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-460-020), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-02. Specifically on December 6, 2024, the current owner of the building, Ari Brouillette, applied to the NCHLC requesting the site of the Grant Schoolhouse be considered and designated as a County historical landmark. Recognizing the Grant Schoolhouse is another step in the efforts of the NCHLC to obtain historical designation of the remaining 19th century schoolhouses that played such an important part in the history of Nevada County.

As outlined in the attached supporting documents, the location of the current Grant Schoolhouse has a long history of being used to educate Grass Valley children. Located on the corner of Winchester and Marshall Streets in Grass Valley, the second oldest school in Grass Valley, the Winchester School, was built on the site in 1864 at a cost of \$1,500. Approximately 100 students attended Winchester School. In July of 1895, an adjacent school, Grant School, was built which cost an estimated \$1,500 to build and \$300 to furnish. Winchester School and Grant School were both destroyed by a fire in 1898.

What is now recognized as Grant Schoolhouse was built on the site of the two previous schools and opened its doors to students on April 2, 1900. In 1904, a stone wall topped with an iron fence was completed around the school. After periods of abandonment, as well as use as a Red Cross Nursery School in 1943-1945, the school closed in 1968,

and the building became a private residence. It underwent a number of careful renovations and is considered one of the best-preserved buildings in Grass Valley.

As such, there is no doubt that the Grant Schoolhouse is a historical landmark. Therefore, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution designating the Grant Schoolhouse, located at 135 Winchester Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 008-460-020), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 25-02.

Initiated: Carissa Cyr, Senior Management Analyst

Approved: Jeffrey Thorsby, Chief of Staff

Submittal Date: February 18, 2025