NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00001646 Date Listed: 1/19/2001

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse | Riverside | CA
Property Name | County | State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 1/19/01

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The resource count is revised to add: *one (1) noncontributing building.* [The concrete restroom facility to the rear of the property, while built during the period of significance, lacks sufficient integrity to contribute to the property. Due to its scale, the building is included in the resource count as a noncontributing feature.]

This information was confirmed with Cynthia Howse, at CA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct.1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 2

RECEIVED

1646

OHP

National Register Of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse

other names/site number El Casco School; San Timoteo Community Sunday School

2. Location

street & number 31985 San Timoteo Canyon Rd. N/A not for publication

city or town Redlands ☒ vicinity

state California code CA county Riverside code 065 zip code 92507

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date 12/7/00

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

1/19/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
0		sites
0		structures
1		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education School
Religon Church School
Social Meeting Hall Civic

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress
Vacant / Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Wood-Red Wood Siding
walls Wood-Cedar Wood Shingle
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Education

Period of Significance

1894 - 1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Vander Venter

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Jerry Cody and County of Riverside Parks & Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.43

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11	490500	3759300	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie Lynn Bluck

organization San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse Committee date orig. 2/7/2000; rev. 4/24/2000; 9/9/2000

street & number 4469 Murietta Ave. #1 telephone (818) 788-1677

city or town Sherman Oaks, state CA zip code 91423

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Paul Frandsen c/o Riverside Parks & Recreation

street & number 4600 Crest More Rd. / P.O. Box 3507 telephone (909) 955-4398

city or town Riverside state CA zip code 92519

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Summary - Physical Description

The San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse is located in San Timoteo Canyon in Riverside County between Redlands and Moreno Valley. The Schoolhouse was built sometime between 1890-1895 on property that was once part of the James Johnson Rancho. The architect is unknown, although the design was probably provided by the State Board of education. The builder was Vander Venter, who was likely assisted by local farmers. The little wood frame building is a prototypical late 19th century one-room schoolhouse, with his and her entries and anti-rooms, one large schoolroom with blackboards on three walls, corner boards, gable returns, horizontal wood siding, and an open stick work bell tower (sans bell) with pyramidal roof. A stone drinking fountain, constructed in 1925, stands in front of the building. The fountain's original shingled cover is gone but the fountain is included in the nomination as a contributing object. At one time the site has a horse barn and out-house (s), which are now gone. Water was originally carried from a well at a nearby ranch. Later, a well was dug behind the school and a windmill supplied the pumping power to fill an adjacent tank. A dilapidated concrete restroom building, constructed in 1924, stands to the rear of the school and because of its poor condition is not included in the resource count. Mature pepper trees, planted in 1918, flank the schoolhouse. The school building stands vacant and boarded up, but retains very good integrity, except for the loss of the secondary buildings.

Description

The El Casco Schoolhouse opened in 1856 as an adobe building sited on a rural parcel of land 150' wide by 300' deep. The area of the site was 1.43 acres located on the southeast portion of the canyon. To the north side of the site are the railroad tracks that were built in 1876. The tracks are still used today by Southern Pacific Railroad.

The schoolhouse is located in historic and scenic San Timoteo Canyon on San Timoteo Canyon Road in Riverside County between Redlands and Moreno Valley. The school is on the southeast side of the canyon between El Casco Lake and Fisherman's Retreat, approximately 5 miles east of Alessandro Road in Redlands, and about 6 1/2 miles west of the 10 freeways near Beaumont. It is near the Norton Younglove Reserve, and a Riverside County benchmark and is easily recognized on most maps.

In 1894 the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse was built as a one-room vernacular style schoolhouse to replace the adobe structure. The school is 1,050 square feet in size. The architect of the school is unknown, but the builder of the wood frame structure was Vander Venter. The

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Description (continued)

construction workers are believed to have been the local farmers. The schoolhouse originally had no bathroom facilities, no plumbing and no electricity. Plumbing was brought to the school in the early 1900's. Electricity was supplied in 1934. Heat was provided by one wood burning stove.

The schoolhouse was built by Vander Venter. The schools layout has remained in its original state other than windows that were relocated in 1924.

Foundation

The structure measures 36'-8" in length and 34'-8" in width. The perimeter masonry foundation is constructed of red brick. There are alternating header and stretcher courses. The exterior walls of the schoolhouse bear on the brick with no apparent anchorage between 2x6-sill plate and the masonry foundation. There are brick post footings throughout the central part of the crawl space. The posts are 4x6 and 6x6 members, which support 4x6 girders above. The posts rest on 2x6 plates with at least 3 courses of brick serving as the footing. The foundation stem walls sit between the perimeter foundation and the floor joists. The stem wall has diagonal bracing at each corner. The floor joists are 2x6 at 16" on center. The masonry foundation is unreinforced. Wood members are showing signs of dry rot but for the most part are in good condition. The sill plates are not pressured treated nor stabilized. The existing framing of the schoolhouse is adequate. There are holes along the perimeter foundation where animals have been able to access the crawl space.

Exterior

The north front elevation measures 34'-8". There is a short cylindrical concrete pier at the eastside of the stairs that was used for irrigation. There was a sink installed in 1900 on the westside of the stairs that children used to wash their hands. It has since been removed. The perimeter "skirt" wall is made up of 5" wide vertical redwood siding with a piece of 1x6 trim and separating it from 2 1/4" wide horizontal lap wood siding of the walls above. The entry porch has a tongue and groove wood floor. There is a wood soffit ceiling with an attic access hatch opening. The two 3'-0" by 6'-11" oak wood panel doors are hallow with 5" wide wood trim. The two double hung wood windows are 2'-10" wide by 7'-0" tall. They are both two-over-two light with a typical 5" wide wood trim on the exterior. Two double hung windows were located on the porch wall at one time but were

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Description (continued)

removed in 1924. Bat secretions have damaged the wood soffit ceiling. A small horizontal wood vent above the entry porch is divided into three lights and is currently boarded up by a sign on the exterior. On the rear wall of the entry porch there are three metal electrical boxes with conduit lines from when lighting and electricity was installed in the schoolhouse in 1934.

The east elevation measures 36'-8". There is 5" wide wood trim at each outside corner with 12" wide trim below the eave and rake roof lines. A 3'-0" wide wood door was installed in 1924 where a window had originally appeared. Wood patching of the old opening is still apparent. An attic vent at the gable end, approximately 16'-0" above grade, has wood lavours, trim and sill. A pair of double-hung windows are identical to the windows on the north elevation. The windows are in good condition with the original pulleys and sash weights.

The south elevation measures 34'-8". Five windows, none of which are in the original location, dominate the elevation. The former location of two doors can be seen in the patched siding below windows. There is evidence that the doors at the rear had stairs as seen in historic photographs.

The west elevation measures 36'-8". The three windows that once appeared on the west elevation have been removed and may have been relocated to the south elevation. The old openings have been covered–up as is apparent from the construction joints around the former window locations. All of the features, such as cladding and trim, are identical to the east elevation. There is an electrical connection at the northwest corner, under the eave.

The roof measures 26'-0" in length vertical. The slope of the roof is 8:12. The cedar shingle roof was stained dark red in 1925. The roof has recently been installed and is in good condition. The cedar shingles are nailed directly to 1x4 furring with no roofing felt. There is an area near the northwest valley where several shingles have been damaged leaving a hole in the roof. The flashing is in good condition, but is unpainted.

The original red brick chimney had a metal spark arrester located on the roof to the south end (rear) of the schoolhouse. The original chimney was in very poor condition, especially after an earthquake in 1987. It was removed when the new roof was installed.

The schoolhouse is dominated by a tall bell tower that sits above the raised entry porch at the front north side of the structure. The tower itself measures 17'-0' in length vertical. The base of the

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Description (continued)

tower is 7'-0" square with 5" wide vertical wood siding and 1x6 trim. At each corner of the tower there are 6x6 wood posts with 4x4 posts between them. There are decorative diagonal wood braces that are cut down 2x6 members, curved along the bottom edge. A 7" wide trim wraps the tops of the posts. The tower railing is constructed of 1x4 vertical balustrades with 2x4 top and bottom rails. The floor of the tower is galvanized sheet metal. The roof of the tower is an 18:12 slope covered with new cedar shingles and topped by a wood finial. The under side of the roof is wood siding with a 1'-4" overhang. There are areas of splitting and decay at the rear of the tower. Apparently there was a bell in the tower but has since been removed by local trespassers. Currently there is no bell in the tower.

The wood cladding is in good condition and has not been substantially altered since 1924 when the windows were relocated. There are large patched areas where windows and doors had once been. There is a moderate amount of dry rot at the lower portion of the vertical wood siding. Five of the double-hung windows are in their original location. The other five windows have been moved from their original location. All of the windows are identical in size and type, except for the small attic window, which is broken. Wood-framed screens were once attached to the exterior of the windows but no longer exist.

The color scheme for the schoolhouse has been determined based on interviews with the school alumni and historic photographs. The exterior walls and stairs were originally painted medium gray and all the trim was painted white. After the windows were relocated in 1924, the schoolhouse was painted red with a white trim. It is unknown what year it was painted back to the original color scheme.

Site

There are two rows of mature pepper trees that flank the west and east side of the schoolhouse with one more to the south of the classroom. There are a total of 21 trees and there appears to have been at least two other trees at one time. The pepper trees were planted circa 1918.

A well was built south behind the schoolhouse in 1900 where a windmill supplied the pumping power to fill an adjacent tank. The well has since dried and has been sealed. The well, windmill and water tank was removed in 1935. The soil plumbing pipes run from the well to the restroom to the east of the structure, where the sink pipes are attached, north to the street, across the railroad

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Description (continued)

tracks and drained into the wash. The common pipe comes from the drinking fountain. There currently is no running water.

In 1925 a rock drinking fountain was built by someone unknown, but believed to be a local who assisted in relocating the windows. It is grouted with cement and sits 45' north center of the schoolhouse. There was a wood shingle well top that covered the fountain but was removed circa 1990 for a commercial shoot. The fountain remains in good condition and is currently not working.

At one time or another the site had a horse barn, a playground, swings, May pole, "monkey bars" and a flag pole as seen in historic photos from 1920-25. Reconstruction of the former site structures, such as the windmill and horse barn, will be completed as part of the school restoration once the school restoration has been completed.

The site is natural soil and vegetation. There are no hardscape elements other than small concrete pads at the restroom entries, drinking fountain and at the base of the front stairs. A ranch style wood fence, as seen in historic photos from 1920 once surrounded the site. A chain link fence currently surrounds it and there is a soil entry drive from San Timoteo Canyon Road to the north. A gate secures access to the site.

Interior

There are two ante rooms on the north elevation of the schoolhouse. One is located on the west of the front porch and the other on the east. The floors in the ante rooms are painted hardwood planks. There is a dark-stained two-piece baseboard 7" high and two bands of 1x4 coat rack wood trim pieces. The windows have 1x5 wood trim pieces at each side with a 1'x4 1/2" header trim piece and a decorative crown molding at the top. The sill supported by a 1x4 wood trim piece and 1/4 round molding. The door trim is similar. The walls and ceiling are wood lath and plaster with 1x nailing boards at the ceiling where acoustic tiles were previously attached. The east ante room has 2 crawl spaces. The west ante room has an original sink from when plumbing was brought to the schoolhouse in early 1900's. The wood trim provides splash for the sink. The plumbing pipe is exposed and the sink is inoperable. The east ante room once had a similar sink. There is an overhead globe fixture in the center of the ceiling and one outlet in both ante rooms from 1934, when electricity was brought to the schoolhouse. There are 3 switches in the west ante room and 1 switch in the east.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Description (continued)

The classroom measures 34'-8" in length horizontal and 26'-3" in width horizontal. The floor of the classroom is made up of fir planks, running east to west. On the lower 2'-6" of the walls is a wood paneled wainscot constructed of vertical 2 1/2 wide V-grooved members. The baseboard consists of 1/4 round wood molding. The windows are finished with the same trim as in the ante room, however, there is a decorative 3 1/2" wide molding piece above some of the wainscoting. On the north, east and west main walls are 4'-0" tall blackboards, most of which are in good condition. Trim and molding pieces make up the chalk trays. On the west and north walls blackboards cover over the former window locations. The blackboards are framed by 2" wide wood trim. The original blackboards are a wood fiber type painted black and the newer ones are plasterboard, painted black. In the southwest corner a temporary partition has been installed. Apart from the partition, the new decor and window locations are the only apparent changes to the interior. At the south end of the floor is the outline of the old wood burning stove. The existing hole for the metal flue pipe is visible. The flue was connected to the chimney. At the ceiling, there are apparent locations of four suspended light fixtures. The ceiling is wood lath and plaster with some areas of damage. Wood nailers are attached to the ceiling where acoustic tiles were once installed. The oak wood panel doors from the ante rooms are original and in good shape. They are both double acting doors with push plates. There are five electrical outlets in the classroom, but no light switches. The door that was added to the southeast corner of the structure has similar trim to the other doors, but a simplified crown piece.

Natural ventilation was provided from the windows and doors.

There are 2x-ceiling joists that run east to west in the attic. The 2x roof rafters come to a small ridge beam at the roof's peak. There are some vertical supports and diagonal braces where the east and west side gables meet the main hip roof. The wood members are in good condition. There is an infestation of bats in the attic space after the installation of the roof. There are openings in the roof, porch soffit and bell tower that provided access to the bats.

The walls are in good condition with the exception of some bat damage to the upper portion of some areas. The ceilings are in poor condition with several large holes and cracks along with bat damage. The interior wood cladding, or wainscoting, is in its original state and in good condition. The trim and baseboards are also in good condition and have not been altered over the years. Some patching, replacement and relocation will be necessary. The wood plank floors are in good

Description (continued)

condition. The original finish was apparently medium brown stain with a high gloss varnish; they have since been painted. The interior walls and ceiling were painted antique white or cream. The wood wainscoting doors, trim and moldings were stained dark brown with a high gloss varnish, which still exists today.

Restroom Building

Although plumbing was brought to the schoolhouse in 1900, the restroom structure was built in 1923. It is a separate structure that sits 45" behind the southwest portion of the schoolhouse. The foundation is cement. The restroom structure is board-formed concrete with a wood roof. There are several vent openings in the walls. One of the vents in the south elevation of the structure is for the sewer. There are 2 drains for the toilets in each side. A partition is in the girl's side (west). The original plumbing fixtures have been removed and there is no water supply. Overhead lights were once in each restroom. There are windows on the north and south side and east and west that measure 2x2". The two windows have been broken. The rolled asphalt currently covers the wood roof and has areas of decay.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Significant Dates

1894	San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse built
1900	Plumbing brought to Schoolhouse
1918	Pepper trees planted
1923	Restroom structure built
1924	Windows relocated / Sunday school begins
1925	Drinking fountain built / Roof stained dark red
1927	Teacher's desk moved to east side of classroom
1930	Rear alcove windows removed
1934	Electricity brought to schoolhouse
1935	Well, windmill & water tank removed
1937	School closed (Sunday school continued)

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Summary - Statement of Significance

The San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of education and social history for the important role the school building played in the rural agricultural area of San Timoteo Canyon during the years ca. 1895-1937. In 1937 the school closes because of lack of attendance.

Statement of Significance

Andrew Gilliford writes in *American's Country* Schools:

> For almost 250 years the country school was the backbone of American education. As late as 1913, one-half of the schoolchildren in the United States were enrolled in the country's 212,000 one-room schools. Although only about 835 of these one-teacher, one-room schools, or .05 percent of all public school buildings, remain in use today, the country school continues to be powerful cultural symbol to many Americans.
>
> ...In some country schools,, discipline was lax and learning incidental, but other schools were orderly, efficient and staunchly supported by the community, offering children an opportunity for education that few of their parents had enjoyed. The local school, too, served adults. They came together a the school to hold meetings, cast ballots and participate in fund raisers and celebrations: The school to housed the activities that joined people into a community, and the identity of rural communities became inextricably linked with their schools.

The framers of California's first constitution in 1849 set the pattern for the state's role in the education of its citizens. Meeting in Monterey, they debated the theory of public education, finally deciding in its favor. The result was the constitutional creation of the post of Superintendent of Public Instruction, a job to be filled by statewide vote every three years. In 1851, the first free public school opened in San Francisco. In 1853, four years after the adoption of the constitution, Governor John Bigler asked the Legislature to abolish the superintednecy, arguing the clerk of the Supreme Court could handle affairs in his spare time. The legislature did not agree; thereafter, superintendents led the fight for better public schools. Each year the superintendent went before the Legislature asking for more tax support for public schools, longer school years, and high schools. In 1862, the first state normal school was funded to provide

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

trained teachers. State responsibility for uniform textbook series and courses of study in 1866 led to compulsory school attendance in 1874 for children eight to 14 years old guaranteed state aid for each school based on the number of children in each district. In 1911, local school districts received state aid only for children in school, instead of for all children living in the district. Textbooks became free in 1912. In 1921, the State Department of Education was established to perform the functions of the Superintendent of public Instruction. In the same year, local school boards were given the take of setting their own budgets and taxes.

In California, rural schools were controlled at the county level and funded with state and county taxes, rate bills, and subscriptions. Counties were divided into school districts, which are first usually had one school. Districts were expected to have a minimum of 50 census children before establishing a school. But this was difficult requirement to meet in sparsely populated areas. County superintendents were directly responsible for overseeing district operations. Most of the work was clerical and statistical, but included a yearly visit to each school where educational lectures were given, teachers and students observed, school facilities examined, and suggestions for improvement made. County Superintendents also apportioned funds and appointed trustees.

A comprehensive survey of California's one-room schoolhouse has not been undertaken, so it is not known at this time how many were built and how many remain throughout the state today in 2000. It is known that:

> During the school year 1934-35, California operated 1,360 one-room schools, and in 32 California countries one-room schools represented more that 50 percent of the school buildings; across the nation, however, one-room schools had been abandoned near urban areas and throughout the Midwest. The closing of one-room country schools forever ties and a sense of social cohesion among rural Americans. (Gulliford, America's Country Schools)

In California nine-room schools are currently listed on the National Register: Centerville Schoolhouse in Butte Country, Grizzly Bluff School in Humboldt County; Dixie Schoolhouse in Marin County, Watson School in Sonoma County, Douglas Flat School in Calaveras County, Canon School in Sacramento County, and most recently Jess

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

Valley Schoolhouse in Modoc County. Many more one-room schools have been documented in local surveys.

The San Timoteo School District (originally called El Casco District and originally part if the San Bernardino County) was established in 1856. A small adobe school building was constructed at this time in the vicinity of the current school building. The exact locations of this early adobe is unknown, An inspections of the current building's foundation did not show any indication that the standing building was built over the adobe, as some people have suggested. (Conversation with Architect Wayne Donaldson, AIA, 7/12/00) In 1893 Riverside County was formed from the southern portion of San Bernardino County. San Timoteo School was located in the new county. Sometime between 1890-1895 the existing schoolhouse was built at a cost of $1500, replacing the earlier above-mentioned adobe.

The Riverside County Superintendent reported in his annual Report on the Condition of Common Schools for the school year 1992-93 that the county had 45 wood schoolhouse and seven brick, stone, and adobe schoolhouses. There is no entry for San Timoteo Canyon School District in Riverside County or San Bernardino County for this year.

The San Timoteo Canyon School District is documented in the school year 1893/94. Twelve boys and five girls were enrolled. Average attendance for the year was 13.5 pupils a day. The school had 20 seats with suitable accommodations for all pupils who wished to attend. The building was well ventilated and well supplied with furniture and apparatus. Only authorized textbook were used. There was a water closet. Although there were sufficient grounds, they were not, according to the standards of the time, suitably improved. School was conducted for eight months by a male teacher who had a grammar grade certificate, attended the annual county institute for lectures and training sessions, and earned $65/month. The County Superintendent made one visit during the school year and school trustees made three visits. The San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse was one of 57 schoolhouses in the county.

The following school year there were 13 boys and eight girls enrolled. The average daily attendance was 10.5 pupil. An additional seat was brought in for a total of 21 seats. The school was again rated as well ventilated and well supplied with furniture; the grounds, however, were again found not suitable improved. The school was only

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

open 7.5 months this year, less by two weeks than any other school. In the county. A female teacher, who made $60/month and had a primary grade certificate, taught 14 grammar grade students and seven primary grade students. The school had one of the largest libraries in the county with 400 books. (The Schneider School had the smallest library with two books and Temescal had the largest with 407 books.) The San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse was one of 59 schoolhouses in the county.

By the 1896/97 school year there were 65 schoolhouses in Riverside County. San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse continued as the only school in its district. Thirteen boys and five girls were enrolled. The grounds were finally found suitably improved. The school was open eight months and the male teacher made $65/ month has a grammar grade certificate, and attended the annual County Institute.

In school year 1903/1904, 30 children were enrolled. Scholl was open nine months; the male teacher was paid $70/ month and had a grammar grade certificate.

In school year 1905/1906, Riverside County had 60 school districts and 74 school buildings. Sixty-six of these school buildings were wood. Eighteen families lived in the San Timoteo Canyon School District at this time, Twenty-four children were enrolled, but the average daily attendance was only 16 pupils. The male teacher earned $70/month. School was open nine months.

> Not much seems to be known about the typical day in the very early years of the county schools, however it is likely that practices were similar to those found in other sparsely populated or rural areas. This would include the teaching of reading, spelling, writing, and some arithmetic geography, history, and music according to the teacher's capabilities. All studies were liberally sprinkled with lessons on virtue and good behavior. (Robert Glass) Cleland, writing about California schools asserts that organization and teaching methods followed closely those employed in Eastern schools at the same time, (Morpeth, *Starting From Scratch)*

The Riverside County Institute for the school year 1896/97 included the following presentations and lectures, which offer insights into the teaching practices at this time:

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

> What proportion of the time in each grade should be devoted to each of the four groups of studies: (1) *Language* (including reading, writing, language lessons, and grammar); (2) *Mathematics* (including number work, arithmetic, geometry, algebra, etc); (3) *History*) including literature and history proper), and (4) *Natural Science* (including observation lessons, nature study, and geography)?

How far and in what way should the work of the several grades be determined by the prevailing tastes and aptitudes of children commonly found in those grades?

How far and in what way should the work of the several grades be determined by the need of preparation for life in human society?

> Physical Culture
>
> Vertical Penmanship
>
> Home work: Are we going to extremes in assigning it? Should shorter school hours and more homework be given? Would it be well to extend the system to county schools?

Little is known about the teachers who taught at the San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse, except what is noted in the Common School Reports; i.e., sex, salary, level; of education, and whether or not they attended the annual County Institute. The Common School Reports indicate San Timoteo Canyon Schoolteachers regularly the County Institutes.

> Before the establishment of state normal schools or colleges, the only place where teachers could go for further training in their subjects were the teachers institutes offered by state school superintendents during the summer months. Such institutes often provide a much-needed opportunity for socializing with other rural schoolhouses, many of which were isolated for months when school was in session. (Gulliford *America's Country Schools)*

The meetings lasted several days and included lectures and presentations on current educational and teaching ideas, along with entertainment.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

With respect to country schoolteachers, Gulliford's states:

> Country schoolteachers had to reflect faithfully the values of the rural communities in which they taught. Yet, in their bearing and in their teaching they were expected to impart a sense of culture and knowledge. As a vital member of the community, the teacher functioned as the social pivot on which all activities turned. If a teacher became too authoritarian or seemed to consider her or himself socially superior to the community fold, she or he was quickly dismissed. Teachers served as an example and inspiration to the young and a social equal for adults.
>
> One-room schoolteachers simultaneously performed several exceedingly difficult roles. School boards expected much from them for a very small salary. Those country schoolteachers of both sexes succeeded in social opportunities are proof of their pluck and perseverance on the frontier. (Gulliford, *America's Country Schools).*
>
> It is known where San Timoteo Canyon schoolteachers lived, but they probably boarded with different families in the area.
>
> > Usually a teacher's pay included room and board; the teacher would shuttle form home to home, sharing a bed with one or more children. He or she stayed longest with families with the greatest number of children and, frequently, the last privacy and provisions. Sometimes the teacher would sleep alone, but seldom in much comfort or privacy. (Gulliford, *America's Country Schools*).

There are no written records referring to the schoolhouse as a community center. But students remember a number of community activities taking place in the building, including school plays, voting, Sunday school, ice cream and box socials, picnics, Saturday night dance, Christmas celebration, and meetings.

> When 15 miles was a long way to travel in one day with a team of horses, the schoolhouse was the social center of the community. The more remote the area, the more important the school. All groups met there – the wheat growers

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

> association, 4- H clubs and homemakers, sewing and quilting clubs. County agents gave demonstrations of new farming products or techniques there. Ladies' aid societies met there. After a wedding, friends would hold a shivaree for the newly married couple at the schoolhouse. Baseball games and field days drew people to the school for wheelbarrow races and potato balancing contests. When rural people thought about gathering with friends and neighbors, airing complaints about crops and the weather, trading recipes and dress patterns and arguing about politics, they thought about the school. (Gulliford, *America's Country Schools)*

In 1937 the San Timoteo Canyon School closed due to lack of attendance. Two years; later, the American Association of School Administrators wrote:

> Keep the schools and the government of the schools close to the people so that the citizens generally, including the parents and taxpayers. May know what their schools are doing, and may have an effective voice in the school program...The relationship of the schools to the natural community and the closeness of the school to the people are of first-rate educational significance and are not to be sacrificed in the interest of "efficiency." If such a sacrifice is made to establish economical districts, we will find in a generation that something of deep significance which money cannot buy has been destroyed.

Conclusion

Historian Wayne E. Fuller wrote in 1982:

> In all America there was, perhaps, no better symbol of the shared community of life people remembered than the one-room schoolhouse standing in the center of an independent school district...The people of the district had voted for its constructions, picked the place where it would stand and controlled its use when it was completed...At one stage or another of this process, they had, in most cases, even fought over it as families fight; yet it belonged to all the district's families, and because it was their own, most people in the community were interested in what took place there. (Fuller, *The Old Country School)*

The following material is based on the memories of those who attended the school as children.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

The school was used to teach students in eight grades in a one-room classroom. There were eight rows of seats with one grade in each row. The higher the grade the fewer the children. Some of the older children would help the teacher in the lower grades. There were usually 25 children, but the school ranks would swell to about 40 pupils when the Southern Pacific railroad brought road crews and their families from 1900 to 1928. The families, mostly Hispanic who fled from the Revolution, would stay a few weeks, maybe two or three months at the longest. Early housing for some of the railroad workers consisted of converted freight cars. When the railroad gang crews came to the area to work, the school would get pretty full. The Spanish came to explore the area in hopes to find treasure and goods. Some of the children of the workers could not speak any English. The teacher would call on the students who could speak both languages so she could get the "new" students' names. Some of the children were 14 and 15 years of age, and in the first grade. Some of the children were of German, French, Spanish and Indian decent.

The teachers lived with the Pearson family in the canyon. One of the teachers was Ms. Irene Livingston, now Irene Pittman. The house has since burned down.

In 1922 horse and buggy originally provided transportation to school and later the county started a bus system. The road in front of the schoolhouse was dirt and would get very muddy when it rained. The children would slip and slide in the mud.

The bell tower was used by the teachers to call in students. Woodpeckers and barn owls would occasionally occupy the bell tower. Just before school started the boys and girls would form two straight lines. When a whistle blew the boys would walk in one line while the girls walked in another into two small ante rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. In the ante room's children would place their lunches and coats, and then walk silently to their desks. "You would really snap to it", when it was time to go to lunch, with the command 'Rise and pass. The classroom had blackboards on three sides, the teacher's desk, and a wood burning stove. Original blackboards are still in place.

The teachers didn't have to use a whole lot of discipline on the children – they all wanted to please her whoever it was.

Penmanship was really important back then and the children got the feeling the teacher really cared. All of the teachers were very good and kept them busy. It was a cozy place to go to

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

school. Everybody got to know each other really well and got along great. Tuby Brannon student from 1920 to 1928. Betty Dewitt, a former Sunday school student for 60 years, recalls, "the teachers there had high ideals." Math was taught orally. There was a new teacher every year. All of the children grew up together from around the area and there was a real closeness. They all studied, played and worked together. Most of the children in San Timoteo Canyon worked the family farm.

There was only one stove. The students closest to wood burning stove were warm, but those further from it were colder. Riverside officials came into the school and removed the windows from the two sides of the building to ensure that the sun would only shine on the students' left shoulders. The students were no longer facing the sun, nor distracted.

Several of the local orange grove ranchers, such as Mr. Singleton who purchased lots of land had natural springs. They developed the springs and wells to provide water. The waterline from Fisherman's Retreat to the windmill at the school provided a water pipe line from the school, to the railroad, all the way to Moreno Valley. A former student said that if they had wind, they had water. At one time, there was a brass plaque on the roof of the well donated by Charlie Singleton in dedication and memory of his parents.

In 1924 someone brought in a battery-operated radio and ran an antenna wire over the pepper trees so local residents could listen to the election results of Calvin Coolidge being elected.

The pepper trees were donated and planted by Tony Freitas in 1918.

The school was the center of the community and used for many different events. It was a Sunday school after 1924, and all kinds of activities went on there. There were school plays. It was used for a polling place (until early in the 1970's); there were ice cream and box socials (where box lunches were made and then picnics held under the pepperwood trees). At Christmas time the children would go out and gather juniper plants and make juniper balls and paper chains and decorate a large Christmas tree. It was also used for Saturday night dances and meetings. Track meets were held on the dirt road that stretched in front of the schoolhouse. This was the place when you wanted to get the community together. (Herbert Polk-resident)

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

Nara Haskell worked at the schoolhouse when it was a polling place during a flood in 1969. She kept the votes there for two days before taking them to Riverside county because the rivers were too high.

It continued serving residents of the canyon as a school until 1937 when it was closed due to the lack of attendance. The last graduating class had three students who graduated. The building was used as a Sunday school from 1926 until 1987. The American Sunday School Union sponsored Sunday school classes. In 1987 the sign above the school read San Timoteo Union Sunday School and non-denominational Sunday school took place each week with about 10 people studying the Bible.

The school is Riverside County Point of Historical Interest #32. Approved by R. Coke Wood on May 24, 1969.

In late of 1987 the County of Riverside approved Parks and Recreation to purchase the property, The County purchased an additional acre, bringing the present county-owned site to 2.43 acres.

Restoration efforts are underway and pending. The interior of the schoolhouse should be interpreted with the window coverings, furniture, and other artifacts as per the period of significance. Ms. Haskell, who has lived in the canyon for 100 years, has the original schoolhouse furniture and is willing to donate it to the schoolhouse once restored.

The rolling hills, scattered farmhouses and roaming cattle are proof the past is still present.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

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Riverside County, CA

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Riverside County, CA

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Lewis Haskell, Jim Haskell, Nara Haskell, Betty De Witt, Andy Chavez, Franes Gonzalez, Ray Flores

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Dewitt, Bette. "North Elevation of Schoolhouse" (1920-25)
Riverside County Parks Department. "West Elevation w/ Students" (1920)
Riverside County Parks Department. "South Elevation w/ Students" (1920)
Riverside County Parks Department. "South-East of Horsebarn & Swings" (1920)
Riverside County Parks Department. "North-East of May Pole & Horsebarn" (1920)

Architecture Drawings

Donaldson, Milford W.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel # 413-420-005-1 1.43 m/l acres
413-420-006-1 1.00 m/l acres

Verbal Boundary Justification

The property includes the entire parcel associated with the schoolhouse. Nominating legal parcel of 2.43 acres, although historically smaller acreage at 1.43. Documentation from Riverside County Geographic Information System.

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Bibliography (continued)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number____ Page __

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA

Photographs

(2) Sets of Black & White 5x7

San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse
Riverside County, CA
Stephanie Bluck
April, 2000
Residence of Stephanie Bluck

#1 Front of schoolhouse looking south at the north elevation.

#2 Front of schoolhouse looking south at the north elevation.

#3 Front of schoolhouse looking south at the north elevation.

#4 Looking south at the drinking fountain which is north of the schoolhouse.

#5 Northeast facade of schoolhouse (front) looking south.

#6 Northeast facade of schoolhouse (front)

#7 East facade of schoolhouse looking west.

#8 East facade of schoolhouse looking north.

#9 South elevation of the schoolhouse looking north (back)

#10 West facade of schoolhouse looking northeast.

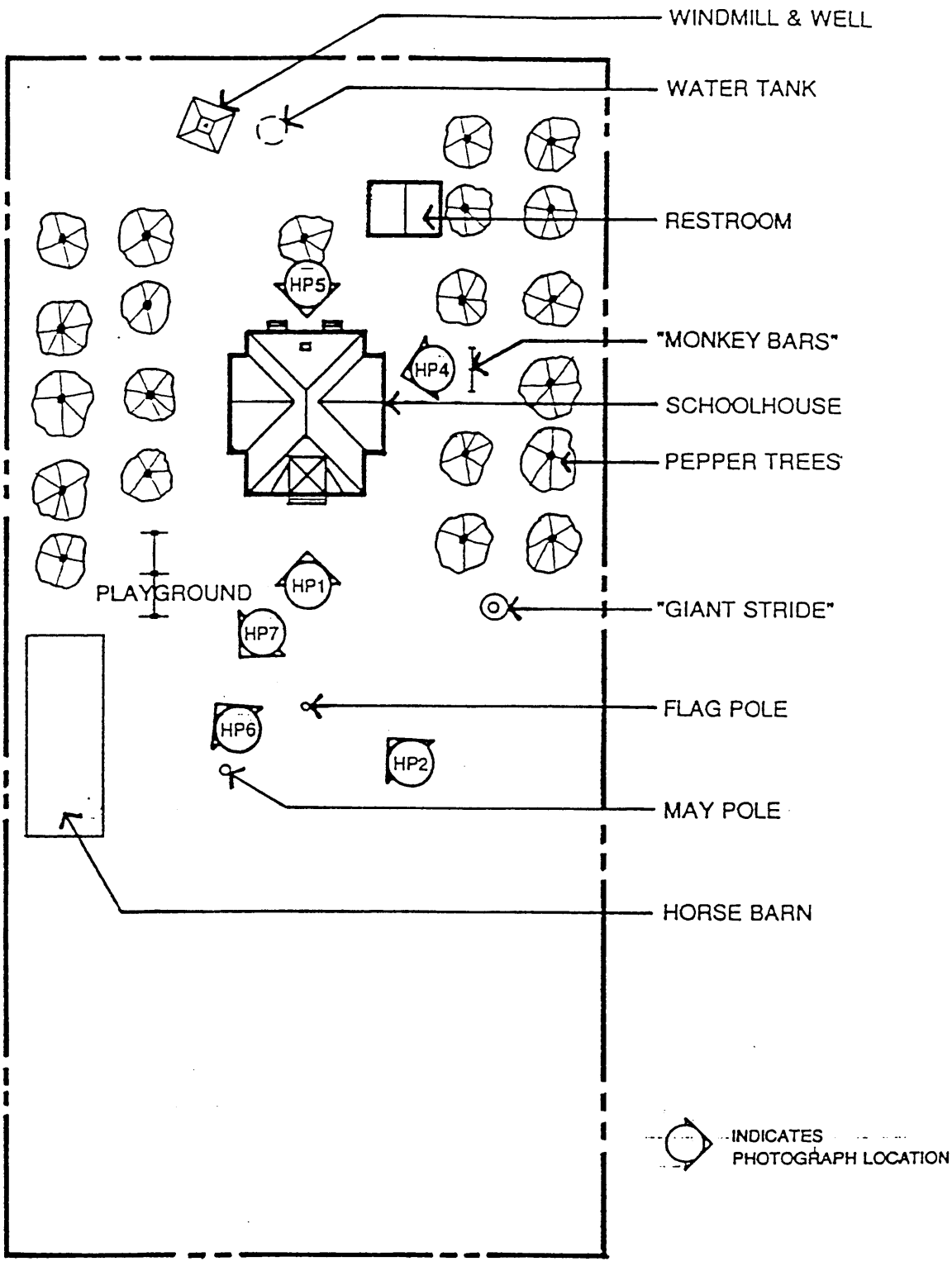
#11 West elevation of schoolhouse.

#12 Northwest facade of schoolhouse looking southeast.

#13 North facade of schoolhouse bell tower looking south.

#14 North facade of schoolhouse bell tower looking south.

#15 Mountains to the north of the schoolhouse and train passing going in the west direction looking north of the schoolhouse (to the east).



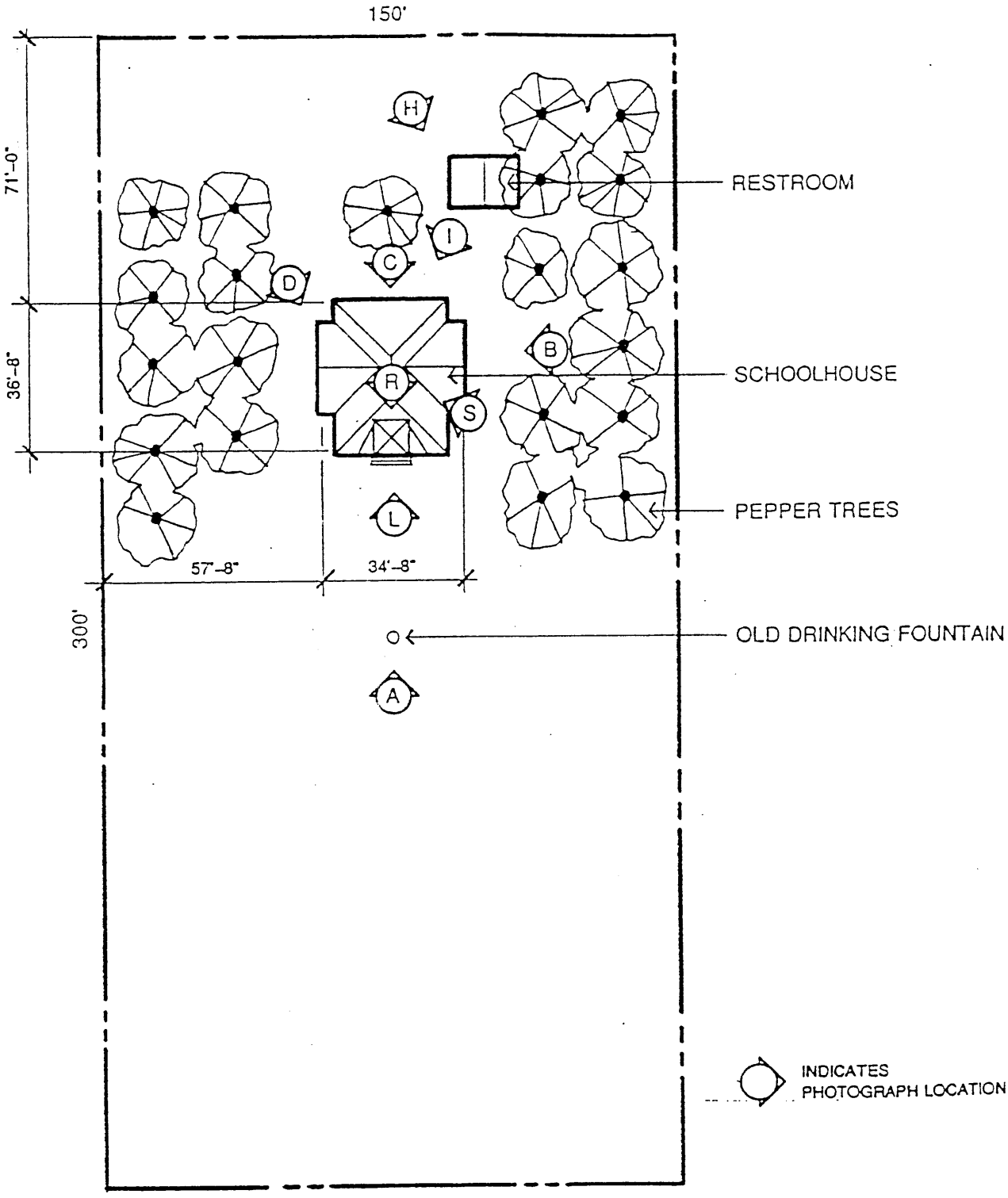
HP3 SITE PLAN (1924 PERIOD)

ROAD

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE

MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON ARCHITECT
846 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 300
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 (619) 239-7888

0' 2' 5' 15'



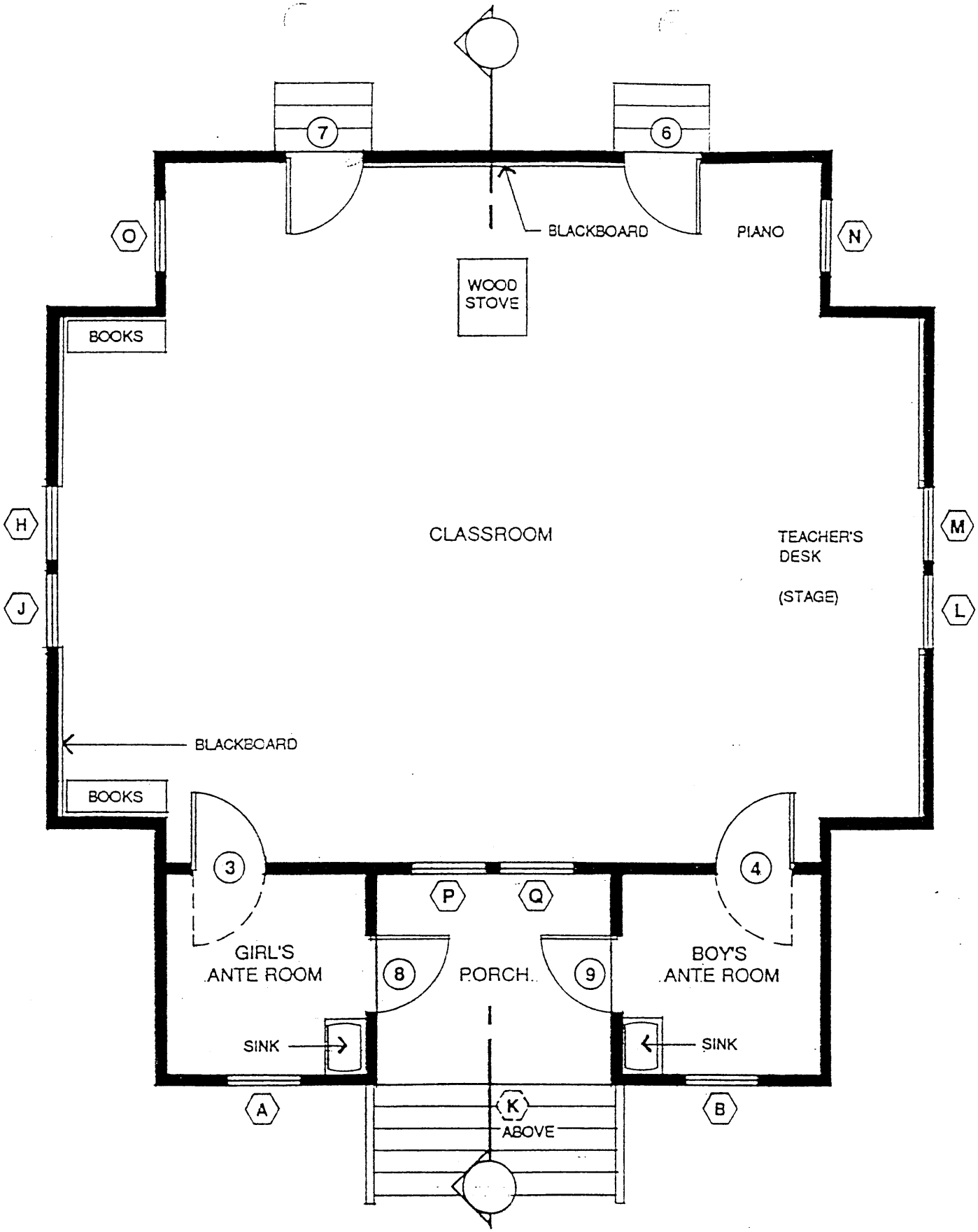
EXISTING SITE/ROOF PLAN

EAST SAN TIMOTEO CANYON ROAD

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE

MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON ARCHITECT
846 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 300
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 (619) 239-7888

0' 20' 50' 100'



FLOOR PLAN OF PROPOSED RESTORATION (1924 PERIOD)

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE

MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON ARCHITECT
846 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 300
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 (619) 239-7888

0' 2' 5' 15'

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

#1

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#2

SAN TIMOTEO
SUNDAY SCHOOL
NO

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#3

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#4

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#5

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#6

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#7

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#8

NO

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#9

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOL-HOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

10

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#11

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#12

SAN TIMOTEO
COMMUNITY
SUNDAY SCHOOL

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#13

SAN TIMOTEO
COMMUNITY
SUNDAY SCHOOL

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOL-HOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA

#14

Southern Pacific
UNION PACIFIC
9689

SAN TIMOTEO CANYON SCHOOLHOUSE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CA
#15