

public comment # 28

April 21, 2020

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, California, 95667

RE: Open Forum Comments on Historic Buildings at 515 & 525 Main Street, Placerville
-- 4-21-20 Agenda - File #20-0544, Item #2 & #28

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

In fairness to your constituents across El Dorado County whom you have a duty serve, please remove item #2 pertaining to 515 & 525 Main Street, Placerville from the consent calendar, and do not proceed with action item #28. The fate of these historic buildings needs to be the outcome of a transparent and genuine public process. They are part of a nationally significant historic district that represents the Gold Mining Period (1848-1942), from the discovery of gold in California to the end of non-essential gold mining in support of WWII under President Franklin D. Roosevelt .

1) By transferring these properties to the City of Placerville, the County would knowingly put them on a path that is aimed at destroying the historic integrity of the buildings, and the historic district they are a part of.

The City of Placerville and the El Dorado County Arts Council (aka Arts and Culture El Dorado) have been engaged in private collaboration to develop a "Master Plan" for these and other historic buildings without meaningful public involvement.

The City of Placerville has a track record of destroying historic assets:

- a. it demolished the 1861 Ivy House where the Ivy House Archaeological Site still remains
- b. it condemned the 1855 Herrick Building which was restored by intervening citizens and the help of the state Office of Historic Preservation
- b. it plans to destroy the historic context of the 1926 Druid Monument, remove it from its historic location, and destroy an associated 1926 bridge and remnant of the Lincoln Highway historic streetscape
- c. based on the work of City staff, the City's planning commission approved demolition of a 1899-1939 historic house in a residential historic district that is associated with the history of the timber industry
- d. it failed to properly survey the Upper Broadway project area for archaeological resources which almost caused the destruction of a major Native American site last week

2) The County has an obligation to hear public comment before making this decision. As the current owner of these significant historic assets, the County has a critical role in ensuring their stewardship.

The Board of Supervisors and its constituents should be fully informed about these resources before any decisions are made.

Please review the attached Primary Record forms for 515 & 525 Main Street were developed by a historian / consultant who completed an initial survey of the Placerville Historic District for the Friends of Historic Hangtown. Also attached is a map of the Placerville Historic District proposed in 2012 by a Historical Advisory Committee which the City has inactivated.

Please review the attached "Alternative Master Plan" presentation (6 slides) for a summary of alternative concepts for these buildings, which is also online at:

<https://1848gold.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/alternative-master-plan-v2-.pdf>

Please review the July 2019 "Gateway to the Motherlode" presentation by the Wopumnes Tribe on behalf of El Dorado Mineral and Gem Society for another Alternative vision:

<https://www.realmiwoktribe.com/gateway-to-the-motherlode>

Please review the website of the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, NV to consider a possible role for the BLM Motherlode Field Office in the destiny of these buildings:

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Please review this background information on the New Deal era WPA mural located within the historic post office at 515 Main Street. The "Living New Deal" Advisory Board should also be consulted about this building.

<https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/el-dorado-das-office-mural-placerville-ca/>

**** The 1941 "Forest Genetics" mural located at 515 Main Street is about the timber industry in El Dorado County. The historic 1939 Post Office also reflects the programs of the New Deal. The Pony Express was the origin of the U.S. Postal Service, and has important history associated with Main Street Placerville as part of the Pony Express National Historic Trail.****

3) If and when, after being fully informed about its decision, the County proceeds with transferring these historic assets to the City of Placerville, it should only be with conditions that ensure historic preservation.

Please respect the local preservation advocacy and the public at large by a) removing action on 515 & 525 Main Street from the consent calendar (#2), and b) opposing action

on any real estate negotiation or transfer of property until you c) hear public comment on this subject.

The underlying issue at hand is that the unrealized possibilities of heritage tourism as an alternative path to growth and development needs to be fully considered for El Dorado County before any more historic or prehistoric resources are destroyed.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Chapman /s/

Jennifer Chapman
2701 Clay Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Enclosures

Primary Record Forms – 515 & 525 Main Street

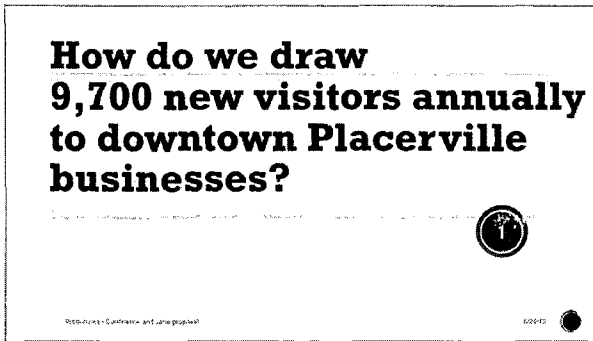
Placerville Historic District Map

Alternative Master Plan for the Reuse of Publicly Owned Buildings (presentation)

4/21/2020, Comments for Transferring buildings to City of Placerville

Dear El Dorado County BOS... you can have...

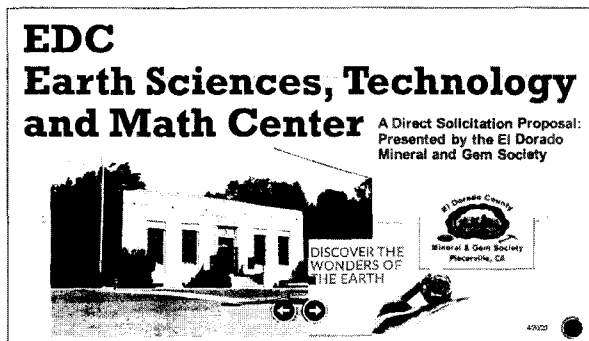
.. **“Gateway to the Motherlode” and “Confidence and Jane Visitor’s Hub”**



“a complete plan to revitalize the economics of the downtown”



“Learning centers for both the local community and visitors with curated rotating exhibits from over 14 partners including UC Davis”

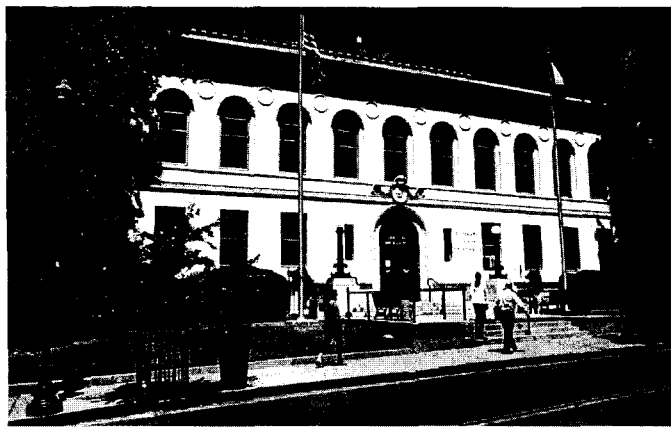


VS.

the City of Placerville and Arts Council unimaginative “Master Plan” to turn the Confidence and Jane buildings into “APARTMENTS” and the Post Office Building into a “DANCE HALL”. The Arts Council proposal does not maximize use and exposure / happiness. On Thursday, April 16, 2020, the City was going to turn Placervilles Ancient Wopumnes Tribe Grinding Rock Village site into a “DRIVEWAY”.

Any questions?

Regards, Lisa Perdichizzi, lisa@tinsaucer.com



Alternative Master Plan
for the use of publicly owned buildings
in the Placerville Historic District

Interpretive Visitor & Park Headquarters 487 – 489 Main Str

487 – Confidence Fire House

- Artifacts from the history of the fire service
- Significant fire events
- Fire safety messages for today

489 – Emigrant Jane Building

- Artifacts from local California Indian culture
- Story of the Wopumnes Niesen-an-Mewuk Tribe
- Messages of self-determination for today

Admin. Office for California Gold Rush NHP





El Dorado Coun Courthouse & Center for Justi 495 Main Stree

495 – Courthouse

- Regular courthouse business Monday – Friday
- Courthouse history exhibit
- Weekend Programs on the history of justice in El Dorado County
 - *How Hangtown got its name*
 - *El Dorado Indian War (1850-1851)*
 - *Land Claims & Treaties*
 - *Water Rights*
 - *Mining Claims*

New Deal Center Natural Resources 515 Main Street



515 – Post Office

- Geology – Sierra Nevada Geology & the “Motherlode”
- Mining – History of mining until WWII
- Water – Ditch systems, reservoirs & hydro-electric power
- Timber – History of forest management & wood products
- WPA / CCC – Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects

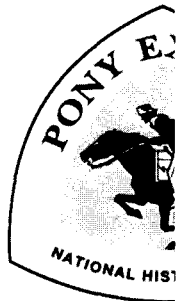


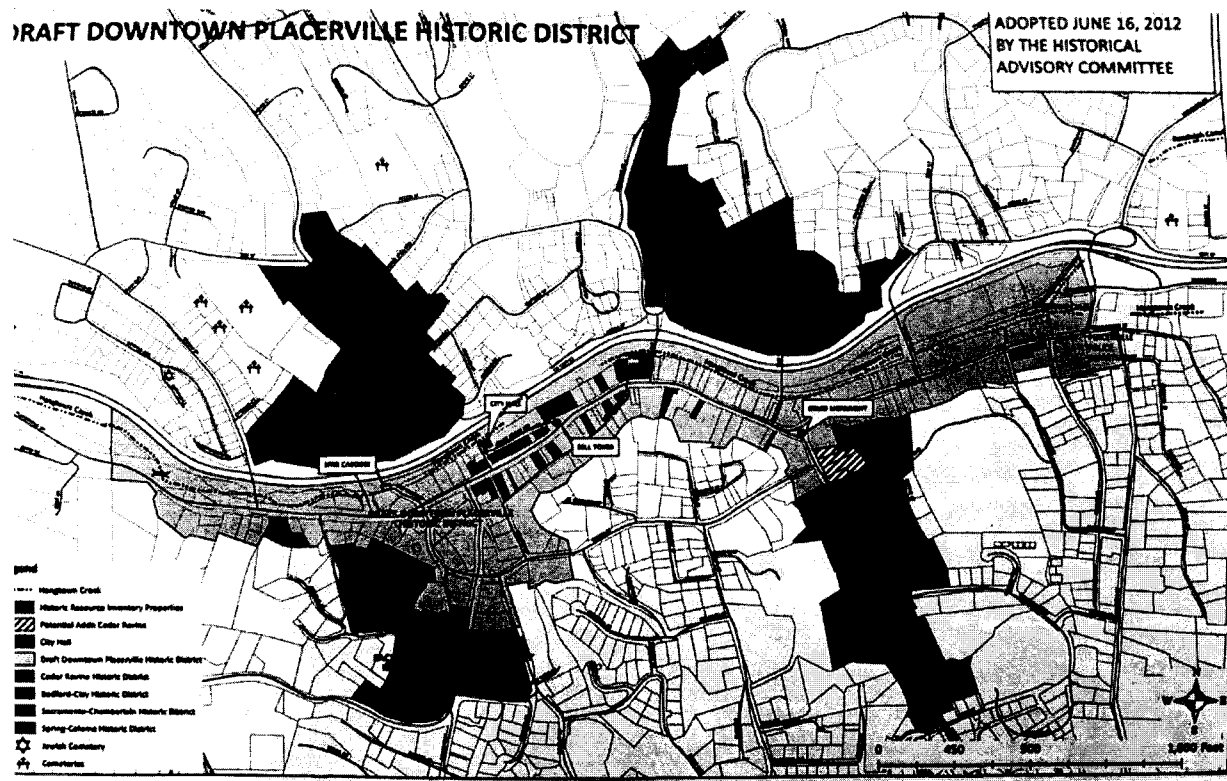
Trails & Transportation Center 525 Main Street



525 – Annex Building

- California National Historic Trail
- Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Lincoln Highway / Highway 50
- Southern Pacific Railroad





Placerville Hi District (1848

*...represents the Gold Mini
the discovery of gold in 18
of non-essential gold minir
order of the War Productio
President Franklin D. Roose*

- Residential Historical Districts (1981, ordinance 1280)
Spring Street – Coloma Street * Bedford Avenue -Clay Street * Cedar Ravine * Sacramento Street – Cham
- Commercial Historic District (TBD)
- National Historic District / National Landmark (TBD)

#28

4/21/2020

Edcgov.us Mail - File #20-0544, Item #2 & File# 20-0524, Item #28 on the April 21, 2020 Board of Supervisor's Agenda



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

File #20-0544, Item #2 & File# 20-0524, Item #28 on the April 21, 2020 Board of Supervisor's Agenda

1 message

Sue Taylor <sue-taylor@comcast.net>

Mon, Apr 20, 2020 at 7:36 PM

Reply-To: Sue Taylor <sue-taylor@comcast.net>

To: Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "Parlin, Lori" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

A note to the Board of Supervisors and Don Ashton,

I appreciate Shiva having added the option back on May 8, 2018 to "explore all other options for the property" in order for a steering committee of organizations to have the opportunity to meet with Don Ashton and Laura Schwartz to discuss a plan for the Old Post Office and Utility Buildings.

I ask that item #2 be pulled from the Consent Calendar in order to have a discussion of the item prior to heading straight into closed session to negotiate with the City of Placerville.

It is not clear how this process works and where it actually is in the process. Our Steering Committee last meet with the CAO's office on July 9, 2019. In order for our organizations to have an audience with the Board did we need to also request a discussion to be held in closed session? When was this decided to actually send out offers for sale of the buildings? When does CEQA come into play? Prior to relinquishing stewardship of these buildings to the City, shouldn't the public be involved as to what the future use will be? Will the County require conditions be placed on the buildings in order to protect the historical elements still remaining inside the buildings?

We have been told that these items being voted on is not a final step in the process for the City of Placerville to acquire the buildings. If not then what is the next step? If so we ask that you pause to hear the presentation from the Steering Committee. There has been much time, money and energy put into the work we presented to the CAO Office by numerous people. Please give us a chance to make our plead.

Thank you,
Sue Taylor
EDCHS Building Preservation Chair

Public Comment #28



EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

COMMENTS ON TODAY'S AGENDA: Protect El Dorado County's Significant Historic Buildings - 4-21-20 Agenda - File #20-0544, Item #2 & #28

2 messages

Jennifer Chapman <jenchapman415@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 7:30 AM

To: Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "Parlin, Lori" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>

Cc: Sue Taylor <Sue-Taylor@comcast.net>, Nisenan Mewuk <tribalcouncil@eldoradonisenanmewuk.com>, LMP <lisa@tinsaucer.com>, Fran Duchamp <francescaduchamp@att.net>, Evelyn <evelynvdr@gmail.com>, Kirk <kirkcallansmith@mindspring.com>, kkellum@mtdemocrat.net, Pat Lakey <plakey@mtdemocrat.net>, dhodson@mtdemocrat.net, dennis.shanahan@fox40.com, Ezra David Romero <ezra.romero@capradio.org>, Carolyn Gilmore <wildrose.ranch@icloud.com>, "Janssen, Heather" <heather.janssen@cbs.com>, Bill Tuikka <wtuikka@gmail.com>, Kara Brunzell <kara.brunzell@yahoo.com>, Merrilee Posner <maposner@yahoo.com>

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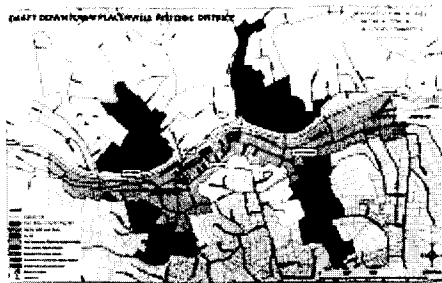
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Jennifer Chapman
2701 Clay Street
Placerville, CA 95667

5 attachments



historic_district_map.jpg
260K

-  **515 Main Street.pdf**
310K
-  **525 Main Street.pdf**
262K
-  **Alternative Master Plan v2 .pdf**
1188K
-  **April 21_2020_Open Forum Comments - EDC BOS_JChapman.pdf**
91K

Wopumnes Tribe <tribalcouncil@eldoradonisenanmewuk.com>

Tue, Apr 21, 2020 at 8:11 AM

To: Jennifer Chapman <jenchapman415@gmail.com>

Cc: Shiva Frentzen <bostwo@edcgov.us>, John Hidahl <bosone@edcgov.us>, Sue Novasel <bosfive@edcgov.us>, "Parlin, Lori" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Brian Veerkamp <bosthree@edcgov.us>, Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, Sue Taylor <Sue-Taylor@comcast.net>, LMP <lisa@tinsaucer.com>, Fran Duchamp <francescaduchamp@att.net>, Evelyn <evelynvdr@gmail.com>, Kirk <kirkcallansmith@mindspring.com>, kkellum@mtdemocrat.net, Pat Lakey <plakey@mtdemocrat.net>, dhodson@mtdemocrat.net, dennis.shanahan@fox40.com, Ezra David Romero <ezra.romero@capradio.org>, Carolyn Gilmore <wildrose.ranch@icloud.com>, "Janssen, Heather" <heather.janssen@cbs.com>, Bill Tuikka <wtuikka@gmail.com>, Kara Brunzell <kara.brunzell@yahoo.com>, Merrilee Posner <maposner@yahoo.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

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Tribal Council,
Wopumnes Nisenan-Mewuk Tribe of El Dorado County
www.RealMiwokTribe.com
PO Box 1712
Shingle Springs, CA 95682
530-350-5075

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4/21/2020

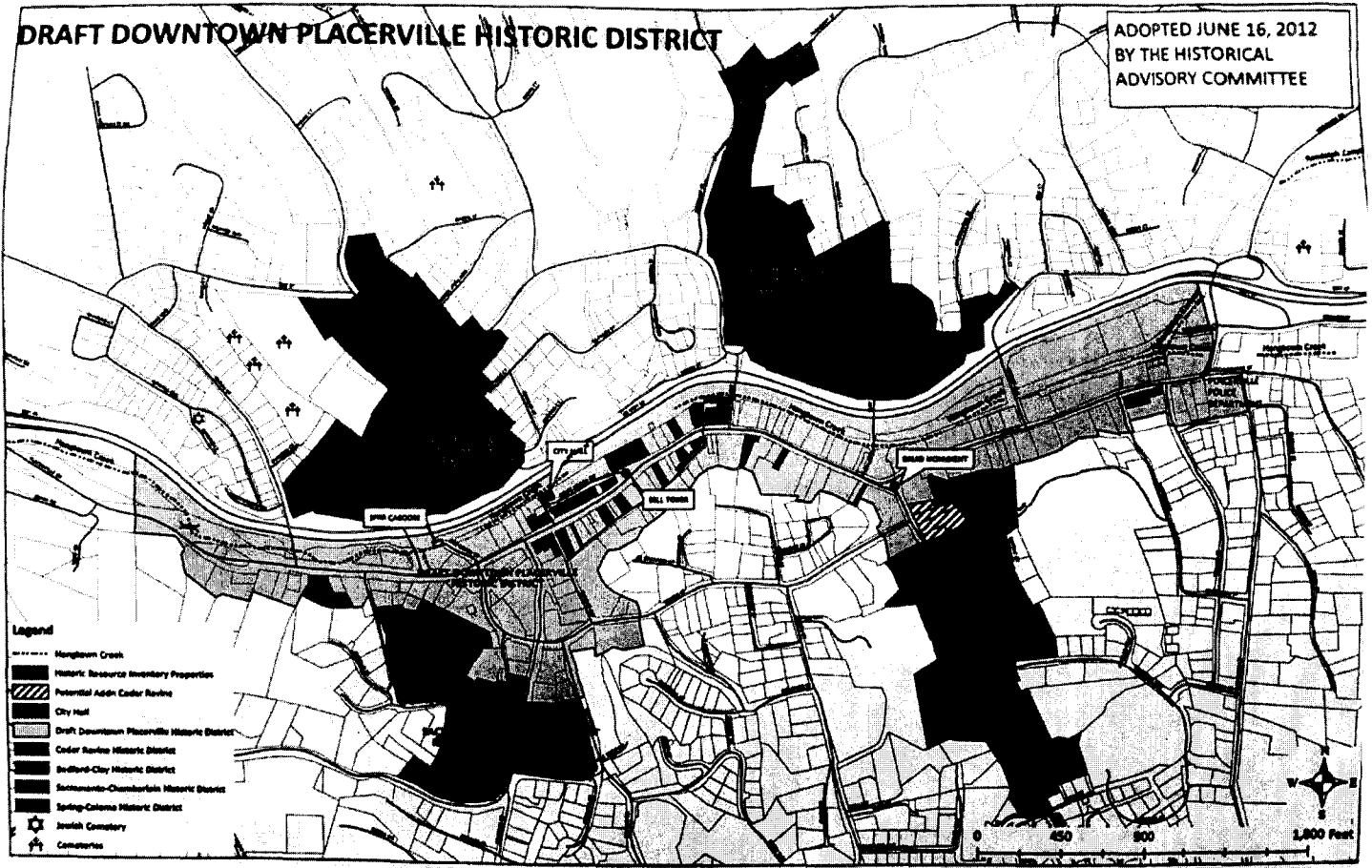
Edcgov.us Mail - COMMENTS ON TODAY'S AGENDA: Protect El Dorado County's Significant Historic Buildings - 4-21-20 Agenda - File ...

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Gateway to the Motherlode letter to BOS.pdf

1061K



State of California—The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3B
Date _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____

Page 1 of _____ *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 515 Main Street

P1. Other Identifier: Placerville Post Office

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County El Dorado

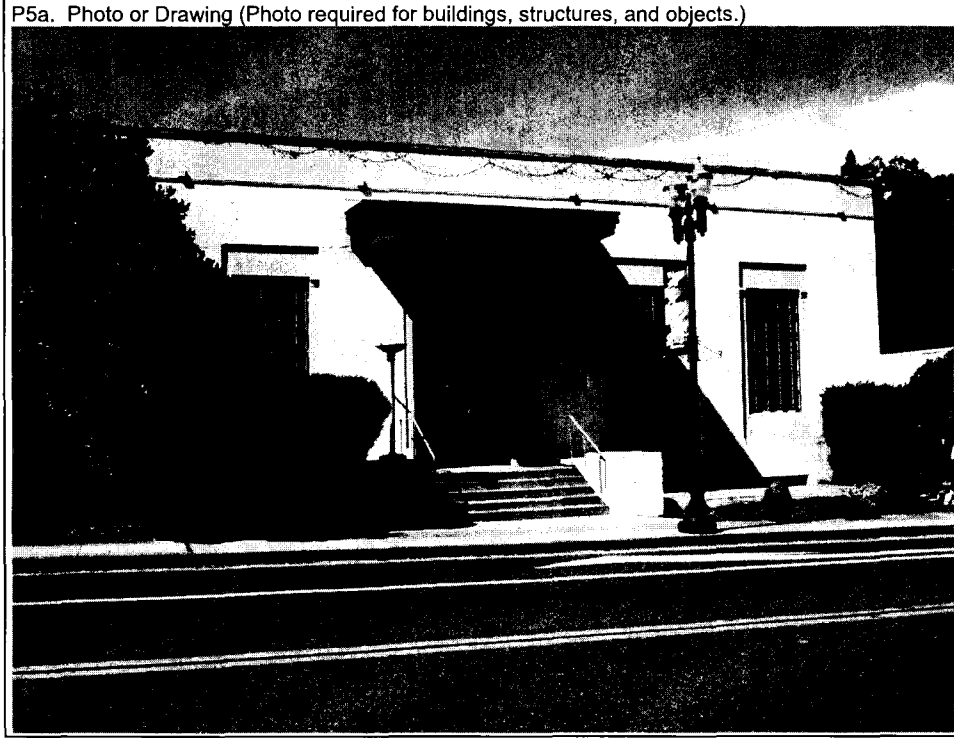
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Placerville, CA Date 1973 T 10N R 11E S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 7, MDBM
c. Address 515 Main Street City Placerville Zip 95667
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10 mE/ _____
e. Other Locational Data: e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate). APN 001-151-021
Lot XX, Block 29 of Placerville Townsite

*P3a. Description: Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

This Art Deco Post Office was designed by architect Louis A. Simon and built by the Federal Works Department. Built of reinforced concrete, the one-story building has five bays and a hip roof. Entry is via double glass and frame doors, accessed by concrete stairs from the sidewalk, and protected by a projecting canopy. Art Deco grille work and a golden eagle are located above the entry doors. Two windows, behind decorative Art Deco grilles, flank the entry on each side and are set in recessed panels; they continue along the side elevations.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14, Post Office

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) View N, June 2018

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic Prehistoric Both
1939/1974 Remodeling

*P7. Owner and Address:

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)
Judith Marvin
Foothill Resources, Ltd.
P.O. Box 2040
Murphys, CA 95247

*P9. Date Recorded: 6/6/2018

*P10. Survey Type (Describe):
Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey

report and other sources, or enter "none.") None

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List) _____

State of California—The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code 3D
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of _____ *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 525 Main Street

P1. Other Identifier: Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County El Dorado

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Placerville, CA Date 1973 T 10N R 11E S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 7, MDBM

c. Address 525 Main Street City Placerville Zip 95667

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10 mE/ _____

e. Other Locational Data: e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate). APN 001-151-031
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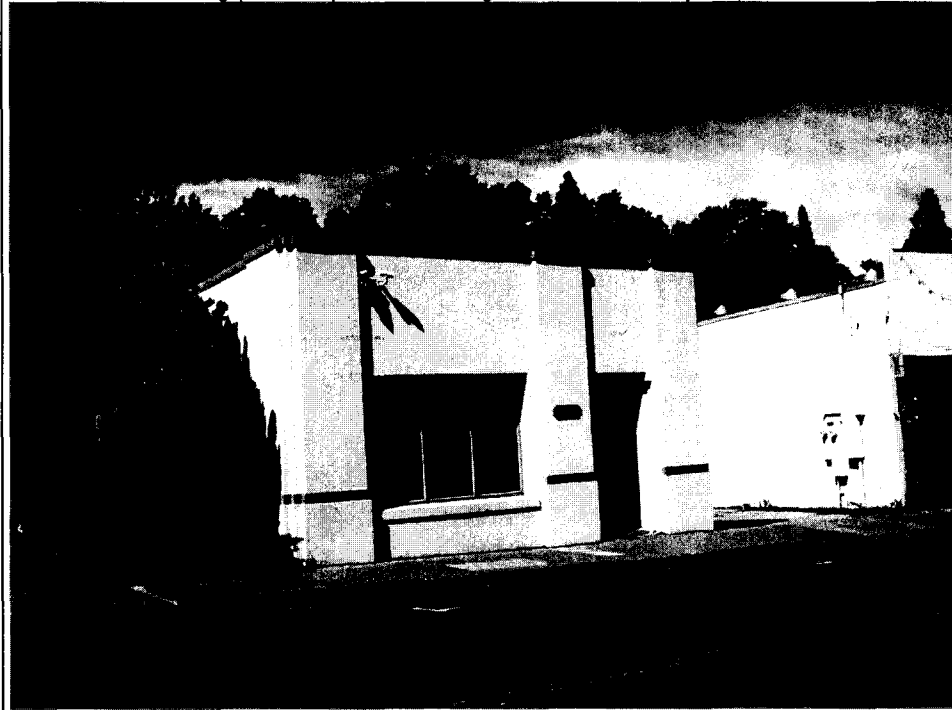
*P3a. Description: Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries).

This simple Art Deco building has a rectangular mass and a flat roof. The building is constructed of reinforced concrete. The primary façade features three traditional flat pilasters separating a fixed tripartite window and a recessed doorway. Fenestration on the side elevations consists of 2/2 light frame sash windows, double-hung.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14, Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) View NE, June 2018

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic Prehistoric Both
1936

*P7. Owner and Address:

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)

Judith Marvin
Foothill Resources, Ltd.
P.O. Box 2040
Murphys, CA 95247

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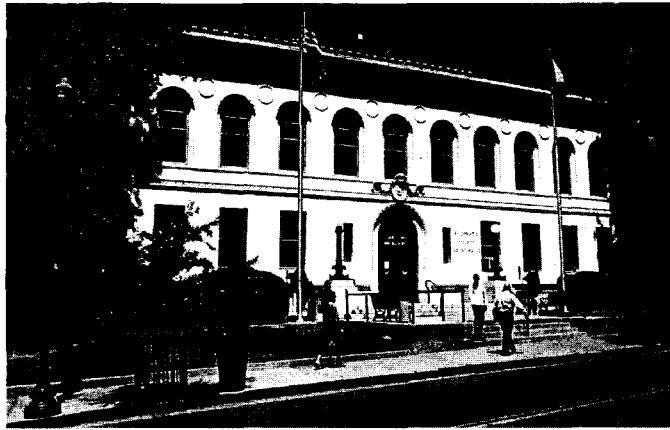
Jennifer Chapman
2701 Clay Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Enclosures

Primary Record Forms – 515 & 525 Main Street

Placerville Historic District Map

Alternative Master Plan for the Reuse of Publicly Owned Buildings (presentation)



Alternative Master Plan
for the use of publicly owned buildings
in the Placerville Historic District

Interpretive Visitor & Park Headquarters 487 – 489 Main Str



487 – Confidence Fire House

- Artifacts from the history of the fire service
- Significant fire events
- Fire safety messages for today

489 – Emigrant Jane Building

- Artifacts from local California Indian culture
- Story of the Wopumnes Niesen-an-Mewuk Tribe
- Messages of self-determination for today

Admin. Office for California Gold Rush NHP



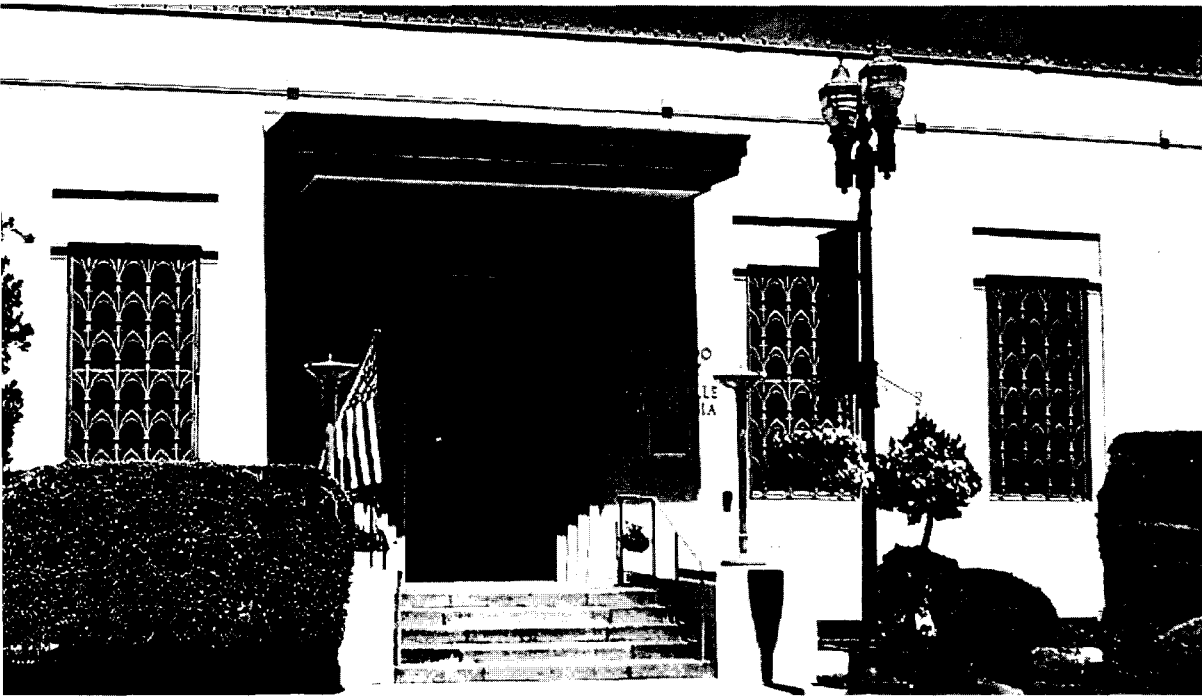


El Dorado Coun Courthouse & Center for Justi 495 Main Stree

495 – Courthouse

- Regular courthouse business Monday – Friday
- Courthouse history exhibit
- Weekend Programs on the history of justice in El Dorado County
 - *How Hangtown got its name*
 - *El Dorado Indian War (1850-1851)*
 - *Land Claims & Treaties*
 - *Water Rights*
 - *Mining Claims*

New Deal Cell Natural Reso 515 Main Stre



515 – Post Office

- Geology – Sierra Nevada Geology & the “Motherlode”
- Mining – History of mining until WWII
- Water – Ditch systems, reservoirs & hydro-electric power
- Timber – History of forest management & wood products
- WPA / CCC – Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects

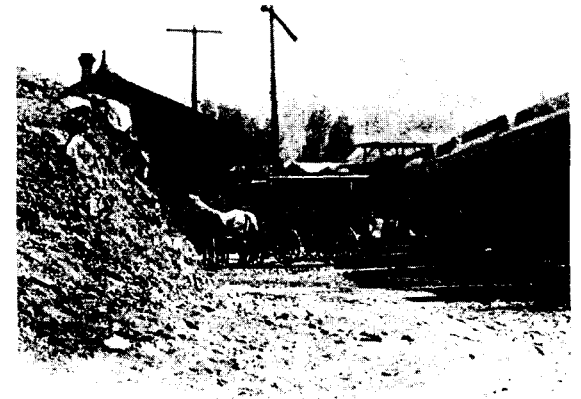
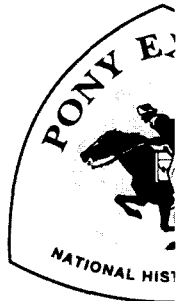


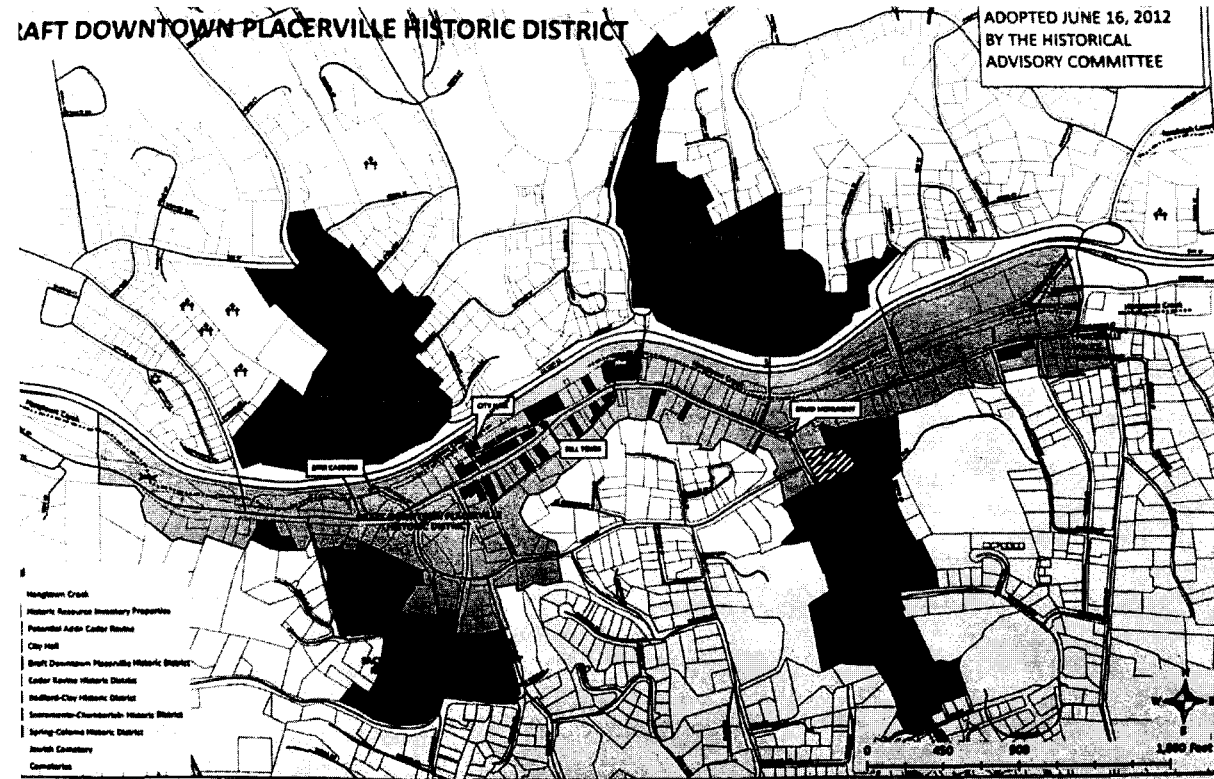
Trails & Transportation Center 525 Main Street



525 – Annex Building

- California National Historic Trail
- Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Lincoln Highway / Highway 50
- Southern Pacific Railroad





Placerville Hi District (1848)

*...represents the Gold Mining
the discovery of gold in 1848
of non-essential gold mining
order of the War Production
President Franklin D. Roosevelt*

- Residential Historical Districts (1981, ordinance 1280)
Spring Street – Coloma Street * Bedford Avenue -Clay Street * Cedar Ravine * Sacramento Street – Cham
- Commercial Historic District (TBD)
- National Historic District / National Landmark (TBD)