

**United States Department of the Interior**  
 National Park Service

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Vernon School DRAFT

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1970 MPS

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: Intersection of Garden Highway and Vernon Road

City or town: Verona State: California County: Sutter

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_national \_\_\_statewide \_\_\_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Folk Victorian

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Vernon School is located in the Sutter County unincorporated town of Verona, formerly known as Vernon, at the corner of Vernon Road and Garden Highway. The schoolhouse sits in a fallow field surrounded by orchards. An unrelated residence is outside the boundary. The property is just north of the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers, and the schoolhouse faces northeast, away from both rivers. The building was constructed in a simplified Folk Victorian style, of wood boards nailed to a wood frame, on wood piers with concrete footings. The building is approximately 20 x 50 feet, including an entry porch of approximately 6 x 18 feet, enclosed after 1910. While in poor condition, the building retains all aspects of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

Vernon School is located in the unincorporated town of Verona, formerly known as Vernon, at the corner of Vernon Road and Garden Highway. Garden Highway runs on top of the levee between the school on its east side and the Feather River on its west, and the highway drops off the levee at the site of the school.

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## Exterior

The exterior is clad in very weathered wood siding. Steps to the front door as shown in the historic photo are missing (**Figure 1**). There is some white paint left on the building in some places. Windows and doors are boarded up with plywood, with the window frames visible under the plywood and doors presumed intact. On the roof, original wood shingles are present in some areas. Most are missing with sheet metal and tar over part of the building. The entry is missing approximately one-half of its roof.

The foundation consists of wood piers on concrete footings, likely used because of seasonal flooding from the Feather River. There were no levees when the building was constructed. The vertical fascia boards that serve as skirting at the bottom of the building were added after 1910 and are missing in many places. Across the back of the school is sheet metal in place of the fascia board.

A doorway at the rear of the building was likely added after 1944 when the school closed and the building was used as a dwelling. Plumbing pipes are visible under the school. An electrical fuse box, without any electrical components, hangs on the exterior wall near the front door, while a more modern box, again without electrical components, hangs near the rear.

## Interior

The building is nailed shut, plywood covers the doors and windows, and the interior could not be accessed.

## Historic Appearance

The only information available about the school's historic appearance and the condition of the building and surrounding property is from a circa 1910 black and white photo (**Figure 1**). The walls are likely painted or whitewashed, and the window frames painted in an unknown color.

## Alterations and Condition

The entry porch was enclosed and fascia boards were added as skirting to hide the foundation at an unknown date post-1910.

Electricity was added to the building in 1940 per Sutter County Assessor records. A newer electrical box, with 220 wiring and ground, dates to after World War II. The building appears to have been used as a dwelling post-1945 because of modern household debris left behind by unknown tenants.

The roof leaks and must be replaced; the building slants and must be leveled. The foundation must be replaced. The building is boarded up for safety reasons and to prevent vandalism.

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## Integrity

The school remains where it was originally constructed, and retains integrity of *location*. The interior of the building was modified from an original one-classroom school to serve as a dwelling. The front porch was enclosed at an unknown date after 1910, which may or may not have occurred during the period of significance, resulting in some compromise to integrity of *design*. Although the agricultural community is smaller and the type of agriculture has changed, the building retains integrity of *setting*. The basic *materials* used to build the school are intact, apart from some vertical fascia boards serving as skirting around the bottom of the building, replaced or covered with sheet metal. The original *workmanship* appears to have been of sufficient quality to enable the building to remain extant. There is no distinctive workmanship on the building. While abandoned and in poor condition, the rural school retains its original design, materials, workmanship, and setting, thus able to convey the *feeling* and *association* of a one-room schoolhouse in a small, agricultural community.

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## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: PACIFIC ISLANDER (Native Hawaiian)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: NATIVE AMERICAN

EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1863-1944

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

Nisenan Maidu

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Vernon School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Pacific Islander (Native Hawaiian) and Native American, and Education, for its association with the Native Hawaiian community of Vernon (later Verona). Vernon was established in 1849 as a gateway to the gold fields during the California Gold Rush. At the time, it was the head of navigation on the Feather River. After a wet winter, navigation was possible all the way to Marysville, and Vernon's population began to diminish.<sup>1</sup> Vernon then became a fishing village, populated by Native Hawaiians brought to California by John Sutter as laborers. They formed families with the local Native American population, the Nisenan Maidu. A community resource, the building was also used for church services and other meetings. The period of significance is from construction in 1863 to closure in 1944 due to declining enrollment. As a property type associated with Community Serving Organizations, Vernon School meets the registration requirements of the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1970* Multiple Property Submission.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

As documented in the Asian American and Pacific Islanders in California 1850-1970 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF),

Native Hawaiian is the most commonly used term that refers to the Polynesian people who first settled the Hawaiian archipelago. The term *Kanaka Maoli* was used by the Native Hawaiians to refer to themselves in their native language and over time has evolved into the most popular Hawaiian term for Native Hawaiians. *Maoli* translates to native or indigenous in the Hawaiian language. During the nineteenth century, Europeans referred to Native Hawaiian laborers as *kanakas*, which translates to “person” in Hawaiian and was also derived from *Kanaka Maoli*. *Kanakas* was used as a derisive and racialized term for Native Hawaiians who worked as laborers in the Pacific, though Europeans later used *kanakas* to refer to all Pacific Islander ethnic groups as a whole. The term appears historically, and is no longer in use. “Hawai‘i” with the *okina*—a glottal stop, designated in print with a single open quote mark—is the spelling in the Hawaiian language. “Hawaiian” is an English word and no *okina* is included.<sup>2</sup>

Before European settlement in northern California, numerous small Native-American villages were situated along the banks of the rivers. Near the confluence of the Sacramento and the Feather Rivers, on the east side, were two villages—Wollok to the north and Leuchi south of it—

<sup>1</sup> Thompson & West, *History of Sutter County, 1879* (Donning & Co., 2008. Reprint by Sutter County Historical Society), 97.

<sup>2</sup> National Register of Historic Places, *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1970* Multiple Property Documentation Form, Multiple Counties, California, National Register #MC100004867, Section E-5.

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inhabited by Native Americans of the Nisenan Maidu. In 1833, a smallpox epidemic, which had started with fur trappers on the Columbia River, worked its way down into California decimating entire villages, including those at the confluence.<sup>3</sup>

In 1839, Swiss immigrant John Sutter sailed from Fort Vancouver to Hawai'i on his way to California to seek a Mexican land grant. During his five-month stay in the islands, he persuaded the Governor of Oahu to allow him to take eight men and two of their wives to work for him for three years, after which he would send them home if they wished to go.<sup>4</sup>

In spring of 1849, as news of gold discovery in California spread, Franklin Bates, E. O. Crosby and B. Simmons purchased land on the east bank at the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers from John Sutter, who had received a large land grant from the Mexican government and became their fourth partner. By April, they had begun work on a settlement and named it Vernon. Meanwhile, on the coast of Chile, New England sea captain James Savage was procuring a cargo of mahogany to carry to New York when he heard rumors of the discovery of gold in California. With his ship's cargo, he sailed to San Francisco and up the Sacramento River, as far as Vernon, which was the head of navigation after an unusually dry winter. He unloaded the fine wood and built a three-story hotel.<sup>5</sup>

Vernon grew rapidly, and even though some of the first structures were canvas, they were soon replaced by wood buildings. By August 1849, Vernon boasted the hotel, several boarding houses, stores, saloons and gambling houses, a bowling alley, blacksmith shops, butcher shops, laundries, and a post office—highly sought after by gold seekers far from families at home. There were about fifty wood-frame buildings and one made of zinc.

Vernon flourished because it was thought to be at the highest navigable point on the Feather River to access the northern gold mines. In the summer of 1849, the water in the river was so low that ships were grounded fifteen miles below Vernon and could not go any farther toward the gold fields. Vernon became the supply and departure point for the gold miners. Town lots were selling for the exorbitant amount of \$1,000.

Vernon's glory was short-lived. In the winter of 1849-50, rains were as heavy as was normal, and the river rose so high that navigation was possible all the way to Nye's Landing, later known as Marysville. On the east side of the Feather River, Marysville became the main supply point for the northern mines. Vernon's population diminished as rapidly as it had grown, as its reason for existence waned. After a brief role as the county seat in 1851-52, Vernon evolved over the next decade as a Hawaiian fishing village and a small farm and dairy town along the river.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Robert H. Heizer, Volume Editor, *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8, (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1978), 388.

<sup>4</sup> David A. Chang, *The World and All the Things Upon It: Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016), 164, 175.

<sup>5</sup> Ada Ohleyer, "The Romantic History of Sutter County," *Sutter County Farmer* serialized weekly 1931-1932.

<sup>6</sup> Thompson & West, 98.

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Many gold seekers were not as successful at mining as they had hoped. Some of them recognized the richness of California's valley soils and decided to stay to try their hands at farming. Many returned home to bring their families back with them. Those who bought land near Vernon first cut the wild hay and sold it, then cut wood to clear the land, selling the wood. Settlers established farms and dairies. The region remains populated with farms, some still in the hands of original settler families. Rice fields and walnut orchards have replaced the dairies.<sup>7</sup>

Some of the Native Hawaiians who came with Sutter remained in his employ, while others left him after their term of service and settled in other parts of California. Others came to California after the original group. In the early 1860s, Native Hawaiians began to settle in Vernon, building huts near the riverbank and earning a comfortable living by fishing in the river. They supplied the population of Sacramento with live bass, catfish, perch, and salmon. They called Vernon *Puu Hawai'i*, meaning Hawaiian Refuge. Having come from maritime lands, the Native Hawaiians were skilled fishermen as well as sailors—essential ships' crewmen on Atlantic whaling ships, on Northwest fur trading ships and on ships plying the California coastal hide and tallow trade from early in the nineteenth century.<sup>8</sup>

Families coming to the area needed a school. Vernon School began operation in 1857, first in the hotel, and then it moved into the abandoned bowling alley. By 1863, the community recognized the need for a school building. David Abdill, a Vernon resident since 1849, rallied the townspeople to build the one-classroom Vernon School on land he owned near the river. The school was built in 1863, and Abdill's son-in-law John Burns, a prosperous dairy farmer and County Supervisor who inherited the land, donated the 2.97 acres and the schoolhouse to the Vernon School District in 1888. The school remains in the same location and the parcel boundaries have not changed.<sup>9</sup>

The Vernon fishermen followed a path that many other Native Hawaiian immigrants to the West Coast took, living with and creating families with Native American women. Their children attended Vernon School alongside farmers' children representing varied cultural backgrounds. Some dairy farmers were of Swiss or German origin.<sup>10</sup>

As the town diminished in size and importance, the simple wood one-room schoolhouse was one constant entity that remained the center of the community. Church services were held by several Protestant denominations there on a regular basis. In 1868, a Congregational minister from Hawai'i, J. F. Pogue, held a Sunday service in the schoolhouse, which he reported was attended by, among others, eight Native Hawaiian men and one woman, three children and a Native

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<sup>7</sup> Peter Delay, *History of Yuba and Sutter Counties California with Biographical Sketches of The Leading Men and Women of the Counties Who Have Been Identified with Their Growth and Development from the Early Days to the Present* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1924), 322, 368, 668, 790.

<sup>8</sup> Chang, 175.

<sup>9</sup> Sutter County Assessor's Office, various conversations with Steve Perry, 2014-15.

<sup>10</sup> Chang, 175-176.

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American woman who was the wife of one of the Native Hawaiians.<sup>11</sup> The school was regularly used as an election polling place, and community dances were held there.<sup>12</sup>

In 1879, Vernon School had an enrollment of twenty-two students classified as white and one teacher. Four additional students were classified as Negro or Indian.<sup>13</sup> Due to imprecise terms, these students may have been of Hawaiian/Native American descent.<sup>14</sup> In 1905, the school had an enrollment of thirty-three students, its largest student body to date.<sup>15</sup>

The school's last year of operation was 1943-44, after which the school closed due to declining enrollment and economic stress due to the Second World War. Some of the smaller farms had been bought up by larger farms, resulting in fewer families with students attending school, and transportation was more easily arranged to take students to neighboring schools in the Nicolaus area.

Native Hawaiians continued to immigrate to the area. In late 1956, two Sutter County Historical Society members, Bernice Gibson and Irmina Rudge, traveled to Vernon to interview Mabel Armstrong, elderly daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Wilson, a Native Hawaiian man and a Native American woman. At age fourteen, Jon joined the crew of a whaling vessel that plied the waters from Hawai'i to Alaska and then down the coast to San Francisco. He left the vessel at San Francisco in the early 1880s and made his way to the Native Hawaiian colony at Vernon. According to Mabel, before Jon married he made his home with Native Hawaiian Mohonka and his family. The nine Wilson children all attended Vernon School, and Mabel still lived in the same community with her husband.<sup>16</sup>

Vernon was a community of more than Native Hawaiians and Native Americans. The 1900 census noted a panoply of ethnicities that made up its inhabitants, including Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese, East Indian, Korean, African, European, and Latino.<sup>17</sup>

The Vernon post office, first established in November 1849, was closed in November 1853 due to declining population.<sup>18</sup> It reopened and closed twice more. When it was reinstated in 1897, a name change was necessary due to the interim establishment of another Vernon in Southern California. Verona may have been a derivation of the Native Hawaiian pronunciation of Veronona for Vernon.<sup>19</sup> The Verona post office closed in 1940, and neighboring Nicolaus took over mail service. Verona remains represented by a few houses, numerous farms and orchards along the river—and a one-room schoolhouse, awaiting rehabilitation and interpretation.

<sup>11</sup> Richard H. Dillon, "Kanaka Colonies in California," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. XXIV, (1955): 22.

<sup>12</sup> *Independent Herald*, April 13, 1932, 3; "Nicolaus News," *Sutter County Farmer*, May 19, 1893.

<sup>13</sup> Thompson & West, 54.

<sup>14</sup> Chang, 185.

<sup>15</sup> "Vernon," *Sutter County Farmer*, October 27, 1905.

<sup>16</sup> Bernice Gibson, "The Hawaiian Colony of Vernon," *Sutter County Historical Society*, I, no. 7 (1956): 3-5.

<sup>17</sup> United States Census Bureau, *1900 Census*.

<sup>18</sup> Walter N. Frickstad, *A Century of California Post Offices, 1848-1954* (Oakland: Philatelic Research Society, 1955).

<sup>19</sup> Chang, 175.

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As a property type directly associated with the formation of a Native Hawaiian community, Vernon School meets *the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1970* Multiple Property Submission Registration Requirements for Property Types Associated with Migration and Community Formation.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Armstrong, Mabel Wilson. Oral history interview by Bernice Gibson and Irmina Rudge. Sutter County Historical Society. 1956.

Berndtson, B. T. (Bernie), "Recollections: Construction of the Southern Pacific Branch Line Through Sutter Basin, Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XVI, no. 3 (July 1977): 28-29.

Burtis, Don, "Early Common Schools of Southeast Sutter County," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XLV, no. 1 (January 2003): 8-20.

\_\_\_\_\_. Researcher. Sutter County school records.

Chang, David A. *The World and All the Things Upon It, Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration*. University of Minnesota Press, 2016

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Hoffman, Wilbur, "When Steamers Sailed the Feather," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XVIII, no. 2 (April 1979): 13-49.

*Independent Herald*, April 13, 1932.

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Ohleyer, Ada, "The Romantic History of Sutter County," *Sutter County Farmer*, serialized weekly 1931-1932.

Piatt, Richard, "Uncle Dickie Reminisces," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XLVI, no. 4 (October 2004): 4-10.

Rosenthal, Gregory. *Beyond Hawai'i: Native Labor in the Pacific World*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2018.

Ryan, Robert L., "A Railroad for \$40,000: A History of the Sutter County Extension of the Oroville Railroad," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XVI, no. 3 (July 1977): 5-27.

Smith, Phyllis, "Traveling County Seat," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XXXXI, no. 1 (April 2000): 8-10.

Stengel, Barbara, "The Contest for the County Seat," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, XLIX, no. 1 (January 2007): 6-12.

Stevenson, Noel C., "First County Seat," Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, I, no. 1 (November 1954): 2-5.

Sutter County Assessor, deed and property records, including copy of indenture of July 10, 1888, in which John Burns deeded Vernon School and property to Vernon School District.

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“Sutter County Schools,” Sutter County Historical Society News Bulletin, VIII, no. 3  
(October 1969): 4-10.

*Sutter County Farmer*, May 19, 1893. 1931-32.

Thompson & West. *History of Sutter County*. 1879, Donning & Co., 2008. Reprint by Sutter  
County Historical Society.

United States Census Bureau, *1900 Census*.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Sutter County Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.97

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.786718

Longitude: -121.618798

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

That portion of Sections 15 and 22, Township 11 North, Range 3 East, Mount Diablo  
Meridian, described as follows:

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Beginning at a point on the east line of said Section 22, being the northwesterly corner of Parcel 1 as shown on that certain "Parcel Map 668," filed in the Office of the Recorder of Sutter County in Book 4 of Parcel Maps, page 18; thence from said point of beginning, along said east section line, north 01° 29' 49" east 2028.60 feet to the northeast corner of said Section 22 being also the southeast corner of said Section 15; thence along the east line of said Section 15, north 01° 18' 59" east 2648.39 feet to the east quarter corner of said Section 15; thence continuing along said east section line, north 01° 03' 42" east 694.26 feet; thence leaving said east line, south 89° 28' 21" west 300.00 feet; thence north 85° 02' 40" west 313.90 feet to the northerly boundary line of Parcel 1 as described in deed filed in Book 1563, official records, page 298; thence along said northerly boundary and continuing along the northerly boundary of Parcel 2, as described in said deed, south 89° 28' 21" west 3800 feet to the easterly bank of the Feather River; thence along said easterly bank, southerly 6300 feet to the northwest corner of Parcel 2 as shown on said parcel map; thence along the northerly boundary of said Parcel 2 and Parcel 1 the following five courses; south 88° 31' 01" east 685.33 feet; north 01° 10' 40" east 70.01 feet; thence south 88° 33' 00" east 80.00 feet; south 01° 00' 56" west 70.00 feet; and south 88° 29' 50" east 269.87 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The original owner of the property, John Burns, established the boundaries of the parcel to isolate the building from his dairy operation. Only the school lies within the 2.97-acre boundary. The nearby residence is outside the boundary. The dairy operation has long-since ceased and has been replaced by English walnut orchards.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Julie Stark, Secretary/Phyllis Smith, Treasurer  
organization: South Sutter Heritage Alliance  
street & number: 1671 Valley View Drive  
city or town: Yuba City state: CA zip code: 95993  
e-mail [jms1671@yahoo.com](mailto:jms1671@yahoo.com)  
telephone: (530) 674-7072  
date: February 2020; Revised March 2020

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Vernon School  
Name of Property

Sutter, California  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Vernon School  
City or Vicinity: Verona (vicinity)  
County: Sutter County  
State: California

#### Photos 1-4

Photographer: Elizabeth Monroe  
Date Photographed: February 1, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11 Rear façade, camera facing northeast. The door, covered with plywood, was likely added after the school closed when the building was used as a dwelling. The sheet metal covers the original vertical fascia boards that hide the wood piers that serve as the foundation.
- 2 of 11 Northwest façade, front to the left, camera facing southeast. The plywood covers the windows. The porch at the left (front) of the building appears to be original and likely served as an entry and perhaps a cloakroom to the school, which had a single classroom. At the left of the photo is an electrical fuse box without electrical components. Some shingles remain on the roof, which some is covered with sheet metal. A chimney is at the center of the building.
- 3 of 11 Front façade, camera facing southwest. Plumbing pipes are visible underneath the front of the building. The door is covered with plywood.
- 4 of 11 Southeast façade, front to the right, camera facing northwest. The windows are covered with plywood. Some original vertical fascia boards are visible. Some of the roof is covered with sheet metal, some with tar and tar paper.

#### Photos 5-11

Photographer: Dave Hurd  
Date Photographed: February 27, 2020

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- 5 of 11 Rear façade; camera facing northeast. Distance view taken from the Feather River levee. Garden Highway is in the foreground. An English walnut orchard is in the background. The fence and dwelling to the right are part of a property outside the school boundary and unrelated to the school. Person in bright blue shirt near school provides a sense of scale.
- 6 of 11 The northwest façade of the school, with the front entry on the left; camera facing southeast. The trees in the foreground are part of an English walnut orchard. The fence and blooming tree in the background are part of the property outside the school boundary and unrelated to the school. To the far right is the Feather River levee. In front of the levee are the remains of an old tree taken down by the property owners.
- 7 of 11 The southeast and front façades of the school, camera facing southwest. In the foreground and to the right is an English walnut orchard. In the background Garden Highway rises onto the Feather River levee.
- 8 of 11 The front and northwest façades of the school, camera facing southeast. In the foreground is an English walnut orchard. In the background on the right is Garden Highway and the Feather River levee. In the background and to the left is a property outside the school boundary and unrelated to the school.
- 9 of 11 The rear and northwest façades of the school, camera facing north, photo taken from Garden Highway. In the foreground on the right are the remains of an old tree taken down by the property owners. In the background on the left is an English walnut orchard.
- 10 of 11 The northwest corner of the school, camera facing southeast. The non-functioning electrical box contained fuses and likely provided the first electricity to the building.
- 11 of 11 Looking under the school from the northwest side. To the right is a three-board pier, likely 4 x 6 inches each, supporting the wall between the front entry and the main part of the building. In the center is a single pier sitting on a concrete footing.

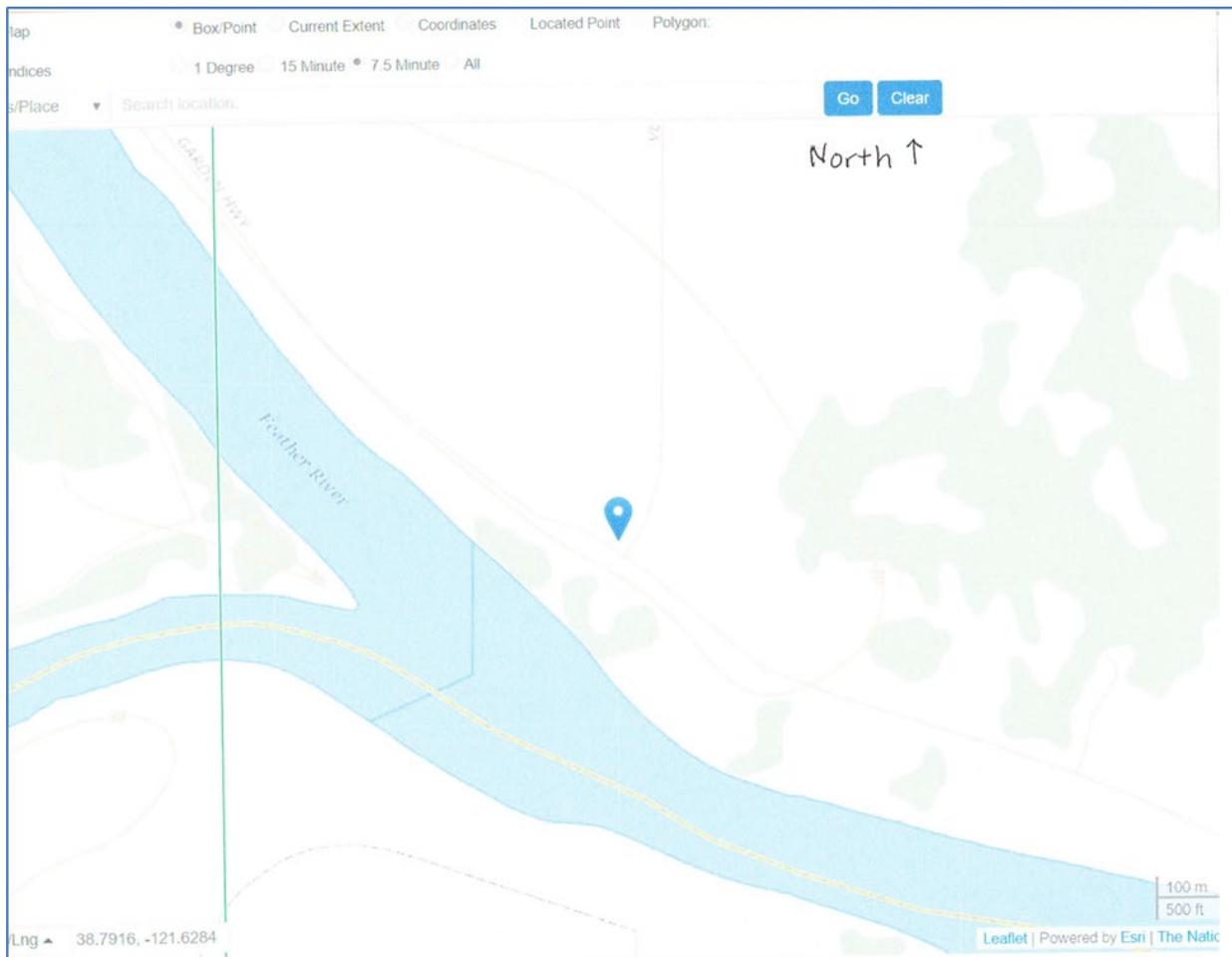
Vernon School  
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County and State

### Location Map (context)

Latitude: 38.786718

Longitude: -121.618798



**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

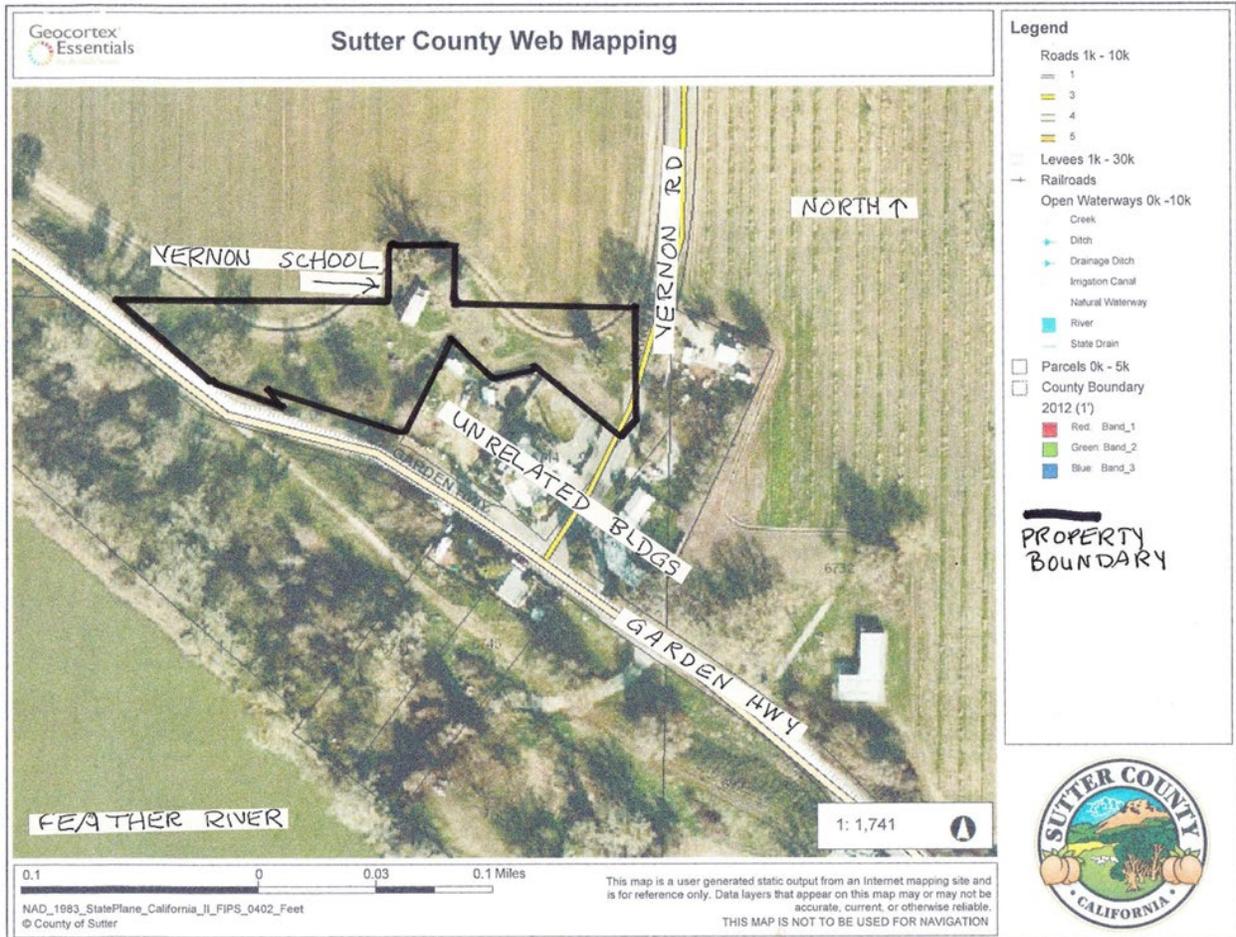
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



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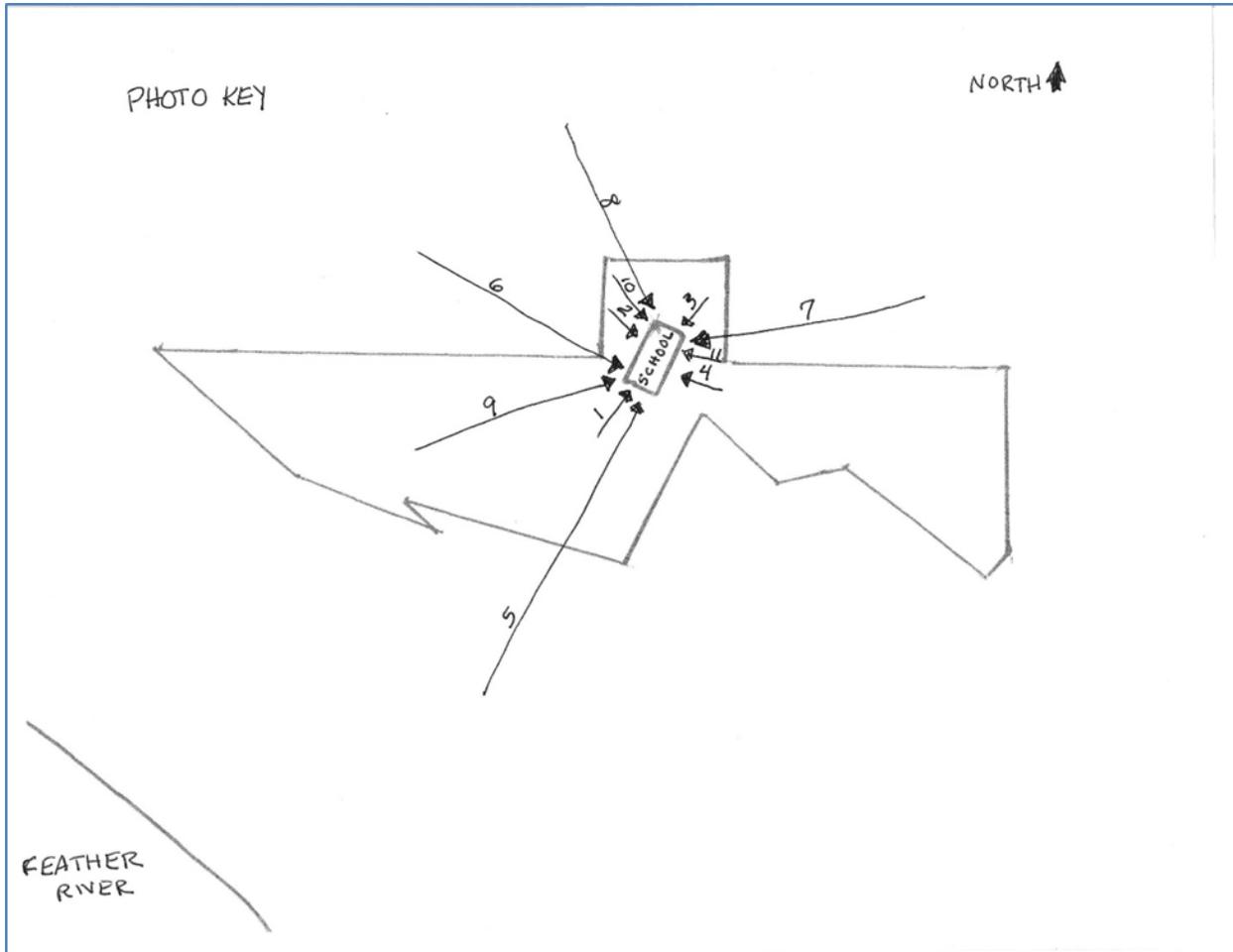
### Sketch Map



Vernon School  
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**Photo Key**



Vernon School  
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**Figure 1.** Circa 1910, photographer unknown, Courtesy *Appeal-Democrat*, Marysville, CA

