

# Appendix D

## Cultural Resources Inventory





NEW PLACERVILLE COURTHOUSE PROJECT  
CITY OF PLACERVILLE,  
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
Cultural Resources Inventory Report

Prepared for  
Judicial Council of California

February 2014

NEW PLACERVILLE COURTHOUSE PROJECT  
CITY OF PLACERVILLE,  
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
Cultural Resources Inventory Report

Prepared for  
Judicial Council of California

February 2014

Prepared by  
Environmental Science Associates  
Kathy Anderson M.A.  
Brian Marks, Ph.D, RPA

2600 Capitol Ave, Ste 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500  
[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

Los Angeles

Palm Springs

Oakland

Olympia

Portland

Sacramento

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

Tampa

Woodland Hills

D208091

## Summary of Findings

This report documents the historic resources study completed for the New Placerville Courthouse in the City of Placerville, El Dorado County, California. The Judicial Council of California - Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) proposes to construct an 87,642 square foot courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7-acre parcel on currently undeveloped land adjacent to the existing El Dorado County Jail. The new courthouse facility will replace the existing 1912 courthouse located at 495 Main Street. This cultural resources study has been conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be used to complete the Initial Study being prepared for the Project. The AOC is the responsible lead agency for CEQA compliance.

The study consisted of a records search at the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, field survey, and contact with Native American groups and the El Dorado County Historical Society. Archival review at the NCIC indicates that the new proposed construction site had been previously surveyed in 1984 for the construction of the El Dorado County Jail, and that approximately 80% of the area within a ¼ mile of the project area has been surveyed. Field survey of the proposed new courthouse site, conducted on May 1, 2012, identified one previously recorded cultural resource and one new cultural resource within the project area. The previously recorded resource is the corridor of the former Southern Pacific Railroad (CA-ELD-971H), which is currently a paved pedestrian bike path. The segment of the SPRR has been extensively altered since its original construction, with the removal of the associated railroad hardware and repurposing of the alignment as a modern bicycle path. Subsequently, the resource does not appear to maintain sufficient integrity to reflect its historic context or potential historic significance, and as such is recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register and would not be considered a historical resource under CEQA. The newly identified resource is a historic-period dry-laid-stone dam. Formal DPR forms was recorded for this resource. The current project design of the new courthouse facility will avoid direct or indirect impacts to the dam. If avoidance of this resource is not feasible, evaluation of the resource for eligibility for listing on the California Register shall be completed prior to completion of the Environmental Impact Report.

Plans for future use of the existing courthouse have not been finalized. The California Department of Transportation (Lortie, 1998) evaluated the 1912 courthouse and suggested that it was potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of local government and under Criterion C for its Beaux Arts Italian Renaissance Revival style. The State Officer of Historic Preservation (SHPO) has not confirmed this determination.

As a part of this project, the building was re-evaluated to assess its current integrity and improve the historical documentation. As the current project is conducted under CEQA, this report evaluates the 1912 courthouse for eligibility for listing in the California Register. ESA recommends that the courthouse is potentially eligible under Criteria 1 and 3. Following the finalization of County and AOC plans for the historic courthouse, ESA recommends that any

proposed alterations to the building be conducted in compliance with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

If buried cultural materials are encountered during construction of the proposed new courthouse, work will stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find. Additional survey will be required if the Project changes to include areas not previously surveyed.

# Table of Contents

Summary of Findings.....	ii
Introduction.....	5
Project Description and Location .....	5
Regulatory Requirements.....	5
Background.....	12
Methods and Results.....	13
Recommendations.....	25
References.....	28
Figures	
Figure 1      Regional Location	6
Figure 2      Project Area	7

- Appendix A. DPR Forms for El Dorado County Courthouse
- Appendix B. Correspondence
- Appendix C. Updated DPR form for El Dorado County Courthouse

## Introduction

The Judicial Council of California - Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) retained Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to conduct a cultural resources investigation in support of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), in connection with New Placerville Courthouse Project (Project). The Project includes construction of a new 87,642 square foot courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7-acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville. The new courthouse facility will replace the existing 1912 courthouse located at 495 Main Street; the final use of the existing courthouse has not yet been determined. This cultural resources study has been conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be used to complete the Initial Study being prepared for the Project. The AOC is the responsible lead agency for CEQA compliance.

The purpose of this cultural resources investigation, in accordance CEQA, is to identify historical resources, including prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, buildings, structures, and places of importance to Native Americans within the proposed limits of disturbance of the new proposed construction site. It also documents and evaluates the existing 1912 courthouse. This investigation includes an assessment of the project's potential impact on known and unidentified cultural resources in the Project vicinity.

This report details the methods and results of the study, consisting of a records search, field survey, contact with Native Americans, and archival review.

Kathy Anderson, M.A. is the primary author of this report and meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for historian. Brian S. Marks, Ph.D., RPA, completed the survey work and findings. He meets the Secretary's Standards for archaeologist. Rebecca Allen, Ph.D., RPA provided quality assurance; she meets the Secretary's Standards for archaeologist and historian.

## Project Description and Location

### Project Location

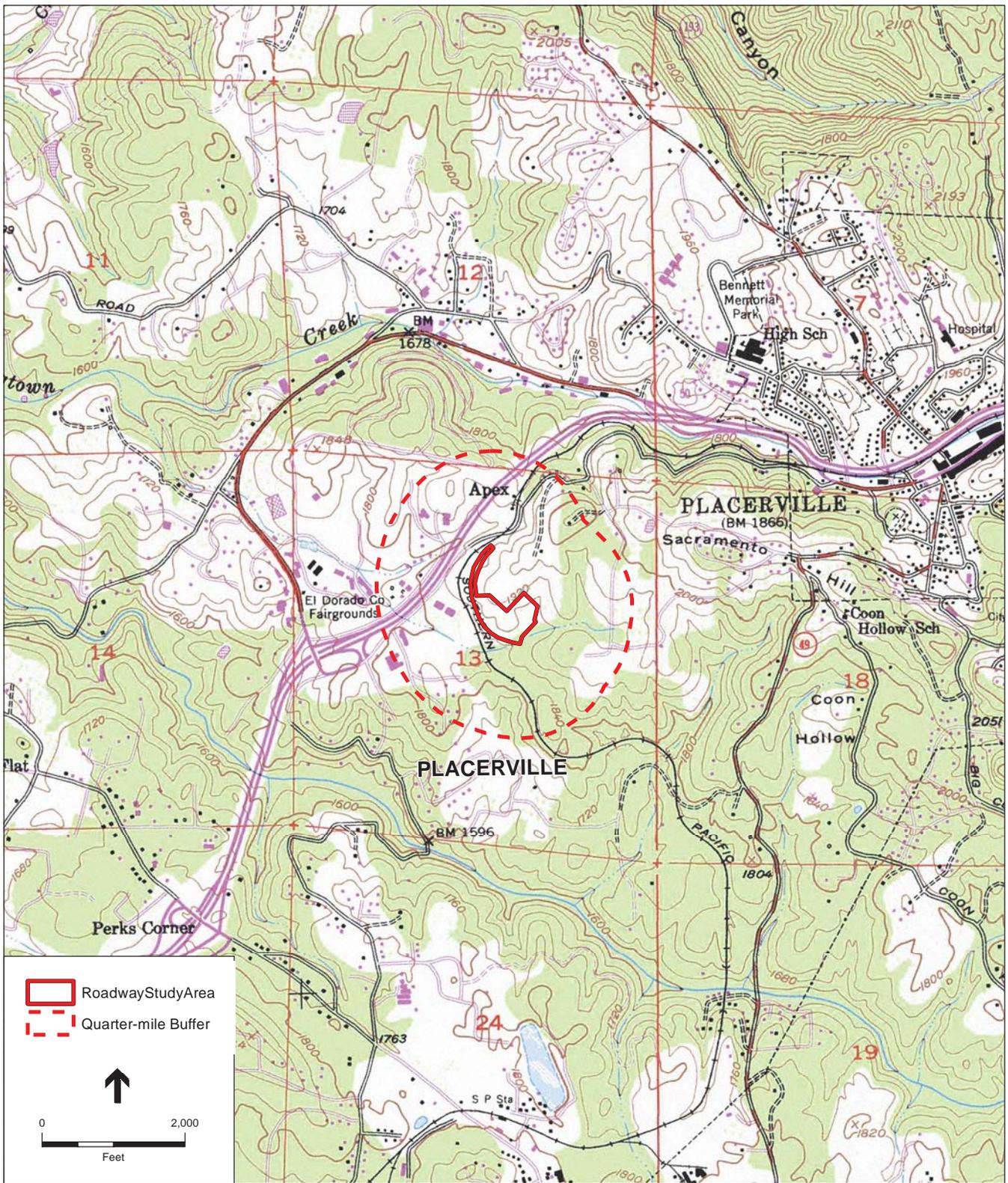
The Project site is located in the City of Placerville, El Dorado County, California (**Figure 1 and 2**). The City of Placerville is on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 49. Placerville sits approximately 44 miles east of Sacramento and 59 miles west of the city of South Lake Tahoe. The project site is generally bound by Forni Road and Highway 50 to the north and northwest. The existing El Dorado County Jail lies to the west. Open space, Gold Nugget Way, and scattered rural residences are to the east and southeast. Diamond Pacific Lumber and Thompson's Toyota are to the west and southwest.



SOURCE: Bing Maps, 2009; and ESA, 2012

El Dorado County Courthouse . 208091

**Figure 1**  
Site Location



El Dorado County Courthouse . 208091.04

SOURCE: USGS, 1973; and ESA, 2012

**Figure 2**  
Potential Project Areas - Placerville Quad

## Project Description

The proposed project includes the acquisition and construction of a new courthouse and would replace the courthouse functions currently in the existing Main Street Courthouse and the courtroom located in Building C. The proposed project site is undeveloped land adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail located off Forni Road in the City of Placerville. The proposed project includes:

- The County of El Dorado will exchange 5.20 acres of property on APN 325-300-32 for 5.20 acres of property on APN 325-300-02 by exercising an option to purchase a portion of APN 325-300-002;
- The State of California will acquire, from the County of El Dorado, 8.12 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the El Dorado county jail. The property is currently made up of two parcels, APNs 325-300-002 and 325-300-100;
- The State of California will construct a 78,000 square foot courthouse, with three stories, six courtrooms and a basement;
- The construction of on-site improvements including surface parking and an on-site drainage system; and
- Off-site improvements include an extension of Ray Lawyer Drive from the new off-ramp interchange (scheduled to be completed in 2016/2017) to the courthouse driveway, and an extension of the on-site sewer and water lines.

Plans for future use of the existing 1912 courthouse have not been finalized.

## Regulatory Requirements

### State Regulations

#### ***California Register of Historical Resources***

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is “an authoritative listing and guide to be used by State and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the State and to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change” (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5024.1[a]). The criteria for eligibility for the California Register are based upon National Register criteria (PRC Section 5024.1[b]; 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 4850 et seq.). Certain resources are determined by the statute to be automatically included in the California Register, including California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the National Register.

To be eligible for the California Register, a prehistoric or historic-period property must be significant at the local, State, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above, and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey the reason for its significance. It is possible that a historic resource may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but it may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

Additionally, the California Register consists of resources that are listed automatically and those that must be nominated through an application and public hearing process. The California Register automatically includes the following:

- California properties listed on the National Register and those formally Determined Eligible for the National Register;
- California Registered Historical Landmarks from No. 770 onward; and,
- Those California Points of Historical Interest that have been evaluated by the OHP and have been recommended to the State Historical Commission for inclusion on the California Register.

Other resources that may be nominated to the California Register include:

- Historical resources with a significance rating of Category 3 through 5 (those properties identified as eligible for listing in the National Register, the California Register, and/or a local jurisdiction register);
- Individual historical resources;
- Historical resources contributing to historic districts; and,
- Historical resources designated or listed as local landmarks, or designated under any local ordinance, such as an historic preservation overlay zone.

### **California Environmental Quality Act**

CEQA (*codified at PRC Section 21000 et seq.*) is the principal statute governing environmental review and approval of discretionary projects occurring in the State. CEQA requires lead agencies to determine, prior to approval, if a project would have a significant adverse effect on historical or unique archaeological resources.

*CEQA Guidelines* generally recognize that a historical resource includes: (1) a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (PRC Section 5024.1); (2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k) or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g); and (3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California by the lead agency, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (*CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15064.5[a]). *CEQA Guidelines* note that if an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor a historical resource, the effects of the Project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.5[c][4]).

## **Local Authority**

### ***El Dorado County General Plan***

The Conservation and Open Space Element of the El Dorado County General Plan (El Dorado County, 2004) contains goals and policies that address the preservation of cultural resources.

Goal 7.5: Cultural Resources. Ensure the preservation of the County's important cultural resources.

Objective 7.5.1: Protection of Cultural Heritage. Creation of an identification and preservation program for the County's cultural resources.

Policy 7.5.1.3 Cultural resource studies (historic, prehistoric, and paleontological resources) shall be conducted prior to approval of discretionary projects. Studies may include, but are not limited to, record searches through the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento, the Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, field surveys, subsurface testing, and/or salvage excavations. The avoidance and protection of sites shall be encouraged.

### ***City of Placerville General Plan***

The City of Placerville General Plan Policy Document (1989) provides goals for the preservation and protection of Placerville's historical and Native American heritage. Relevant policies within these goals include conducting archaeological site evaluations as appropriate and attempting to mitigate any adverse impacts according to the recommendations of a qualified archaeologist.

# Background Setting

## Prehistoric Setting

Archaeologists initially developed a three-part cultural chronological sequence, called the Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS), to explain local and regional cultural change in prehistoric central California from about 4,500 years ago to the time of European contact (Beardsley, 1948, 1954). In 1969, several researchers who met at U.C. Davis worked out several substantive taxonomic problems that had developed with the CCTS.

The Windmill Pattern was the earliest comprehensive view of the region, at around the terminal-Paleoindian Period to Lower Archaic (~6000 B.C. to ~3000 B.C.) (Beardsley, 1954; Heizer & Fenenga, 1939). This cultural horizon reflected a people well adapted to riverine and marshland environments. Scholars have maintained that these Penutian speakers came from the Columbia Plateau or western Great Basin and settled in the bountiful Delta region where they gave rise to many of the Bay Area cultures that survived up to historic times, such as the Costanoan, Miwok, Yokut, and Wintun (Fagan, 1995).

The Windmill economy was diffuse in breadth, a common trait among peoples during this time, whereby the people would make use of a wide range of resources so as to reduce risk in times of resource shortfall, such as those caused by climatic shifts. The artifactual evidence of the Windmill tradition suggests a wide range of specialized technology suited to the diffuse nature of their diet. These artifacts included large projectile points (spear or dart tips), baked-clay net sinkers, bone fish hooks, and spears. Mortars and milling slabs are predominant during this time period, as well as charmstones and abalone shell and olive snail ornaments and beads (Beardsley 1948; Heizer, 1949; Heizer and Fenenga 1939).

The subsequent Berkeley Pattern or Cosumnes culture (~2000 B.C. to A.D. 300), comparable to the emerging Archaic Period in California prehistory (3000 B.C. to A.D. 1000), reflects a change in socioeconomic complexity and settlement patterns. Many of the settlements of this period, given their size and intensity of use, demonstrated that populations were denser and more sedentary, yet continued to exploit a diverse resource base—from woodland to grassland and marshland, to bayshore resources throughout the San Francisco Bay Area (Bickel, 1978; King, 1974). Moreover, the Archaic Period was indicative of increasing sociopolitical complexity and the radiation of peoples into new ecological niches (Chartkoff & Chartkoff, 1984).

Out of the Cosumnes Tradition came the Hotchkiss Tradition (or “Late Horizon”) by the Emergent Period, or about 500 A.D. The peoples of the Hotchkiss Tradition were likely flourishing in the Stockton and Delta region up to contact with Europeans. Indeed, the materials recovered related to the Hotchkiss Tradition—mortars and pestles, bone awls, bow and arrow—were in many ways similar to those identified at Buena Vista Lake—further indicating the trade relationships that were maintained between the Delta inhabitants and the southern San Joaquin Valley peoples (Rosenthal, et. al 2008).

## Ethnographic Background

The Nisenan, also known as Southern Maidu and the Plains Miwok, are the ethnographic group that inhabited the project area. The Nisenan, together with the Maidu and Konkow, their northern neighbors, form the Maidu language family of the Penutian linguistic stock (Shiple, 1978). Kroeber (1925) noted three dialects; Northern Hill Nisenan, Southern Hill Nisenan, and Valley Nisenan. The traditional area of the Southern Nisenan is between the drainages of the Feather River and the American River. Within this region, the Nisenan occupied the area from about Big Chico Creek to the American River or the Cosumnes River (Powers, 1887; 312).

Nisenan settlement locations primarily depended on elevation, exposure, and proximity to water and other resources. Permanent villages were usually located on low rises along major watercourses. Village size ranged from three houses to up to 40 or 50. Houses were domed structures covered with earth and tule or grass and measured 10 to 15 feet in diameter. The Nisenan used brush shelters in the summer and at temporary camps during food gathering rounds. Larger villages often had semi-subterranean dance houses, covered in earth and tule or brush with a central smokehole at the top and an entrance which faced east. Another common village structure was a granary, used for storing acorns (Wilson and Towne, 1978).

The Nisenan occupied permanent settlements from which specific task groups set out to harvest the seasonal bounty of flora and fauna that the rich valley environment provided. The Valley Nisenan economy involved riverine resources, in contrast to the Hill Nisenan, whose resource base consisted primarily of acorn and game procurement. The only domesticated plant was native tobacco (*Nicotiana* spp.), but many wild species were closely husbanded. They managed the acorn crop from the blue (*Quercus douglasii*) and black oaks (*Q. kelloggii*) so carefully that the process was the equivalent of agriculture and the Nisenan could store the acorns against winter shortfalls in resource abundance. Deer, rabbit, and salmon were the chief sources of animal protein in the aboriginal diet, but included many other insect and animal species when available.

The Miwok are one of the largest nations in California, comprising three geographical groups extending from the Pacific Ocean to the Sierra Nevada. These are the Coast Miwok, Lake Miwok, and Interior Miwok. Within the interior valley, there were four regional and linguistic sub-divisions of the Interior Miwok, known to ethnographers as Valley or Plains Miwok, Northern Sierra Miwok, Central Sierra Miwok, and Southern Sierra Miwok. The Eastern/Plains Miwok represent one of the two main divisions of the Miwok subgroup of the Utian language family.

Historically, Miwok share similar traits with other surrounding groups, as exhibited in basketry and cradles. The Plains Miwok manufactured both twined and coiled baskets. The Miwok used baskets for the collection and storage of seeds, basketry cradles, and gaming. Bennyhoff (1977:11) characterized the Plains Miwok as intensive hunter-gatherers, with an emphasis upon gathering. They focused on following a yearly cycle that allowed them to exploit seasonally available plants and animals. The Miwok collected, consumed, and occasionally dried plant resources in granaries for winter use. In temporary camps, Native peoples hunted, fished, and gathered acorns. As with many groups at this time, acorn was the mainstay of their diet. Women and children harvested acorns in autumn. Once dried, the acorns were stored in large granaries. Like their Nisenan neighbors

to the north, the Miwok processed acorns into acorn flour on bedrock outcrops or with mortar and pestles. Wild animals were collected using bow and arrow, snares, and nets. Fishing, particularly of salmon and sturgeon, contributed significantly to the Plains Miwok diet. The primary method of collecting fish was by nets, but ethnographic reports note the use of bone hooks, harpoons, and obsidian-tipped spears (Levy, 1978:404).

## Historical Setting

The earliest recorded Euro-American presence in the project vicinity stemmed from the lumber harvesting for valley communities. In 1841, the Mexican government granted John Sutter 48,000 acres along the Sacramento River. Sutter established one of the first ranchos in the Central Valley. He built an adobe fort near the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers and gradually expanded his colony. Sutter was subsequently forced to look east for additional building materials and hired James Marshall to establish a lumber mill in the foothills in what is now Coloma. Construction began in the fall of 1847. James Marshall discovered gold in January of 1848, jumpstarting the gold rush that brought thousands of gold seekers to the state (Hoover, 2002).

The gold rush encouraged miners to establish settlements and claims along the reaches of the American River and other tributaries to the Sacramento River. Established in 1848, one of the first towns originally known as Old Dry Diggins, and then as Hangtown in 1849, became one of the closest towns offering mining supplies and other necessities for the miners in Coloma. Locals incorporated the town and renamed their community Placerville in 1854 after the placer deposits found in the river bed between Spanish Ravine and the town plaza. During the gold rush, Placerville acted as an important supply center for the surrounding mining camps. In 1854 Placerville had the third highest voting population in the state and in 1857 the county seat was moved from Coloma to Placerville (Hoover, 2002).

As early as 1856, mining activity had already begun to decline in the area. The discovery of Nevada's Comstock Lode briefly revitalized mining and commercial interests in the area in 1859 with the Placerville Road facilitating transportation over the Sierras. By 1864, California's gold rush had essentially ended with surface and river placers largely exhausted. Once the gold rush was over, people in foothill towns like Placerville turned to other means of commerce such as ranching, agriculture, and timber production. In the mid-1860s, the Comstock Mines of Nevada began to boom and miners began rushing east across the Sierras to find gold. Placerville was located along a major route connecting California and Nevada and became an important transportation center. In 1869, the transcontinental railroad linked Sacramento more directly to the central and eastern United States. Due to dispute with the railroad, the City of Placerville disbanded in 1873 and incorporated again in 1901 (Hoover, 2002; Placerville, n.d.).

The Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad reached the newly formed town of Latrobe in 1864. The railroad extended to Shingle Springs to the northeast in 1865. The railroad became the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad in 1877 and reached Placerville in 1888 (P&SVRR, 2012). That same year, the Southern Pacific purchased the branch under its subsidiary Northern Railway and the Southern Pacific took full responsibility of the Placerville branch in 1898. The near-60 -

mile line connected to the Camino, Placerville, and Lake Tahoe Railroad at Union Street in Placerville. The segment of railway through the project area is now part of the El Dorado Trail, a Rails-to-Trails project that converted the old railroad corridor to a paved pedestrian bike trail in the late 1990s.

### ***History of the El Dorado County Courthouse, Placerville***

Following the establishment of El Dorado County in 1849, Coloma emerged as the county seat and for the first 6 years, the courthouse and county offices were located in rented quarters in Coloma. In 1856, the County constructed a two-story, 80-by-45 foot wooden building to house the court and County offices with an adjacent jail. The next year, the County seat was moved to Placerville due to its better established commercial presence and more central location (McDevitt, 2001).

The first courthouse erected in Placerville was a typical Western vernacular structure, “with a wide roofed porch on the second floor and a jail in the basement” (McDevitt, 2001). It possessed a diminutive bell tower and wooden railing around the second floor porch (**Figures 3 and 4**).



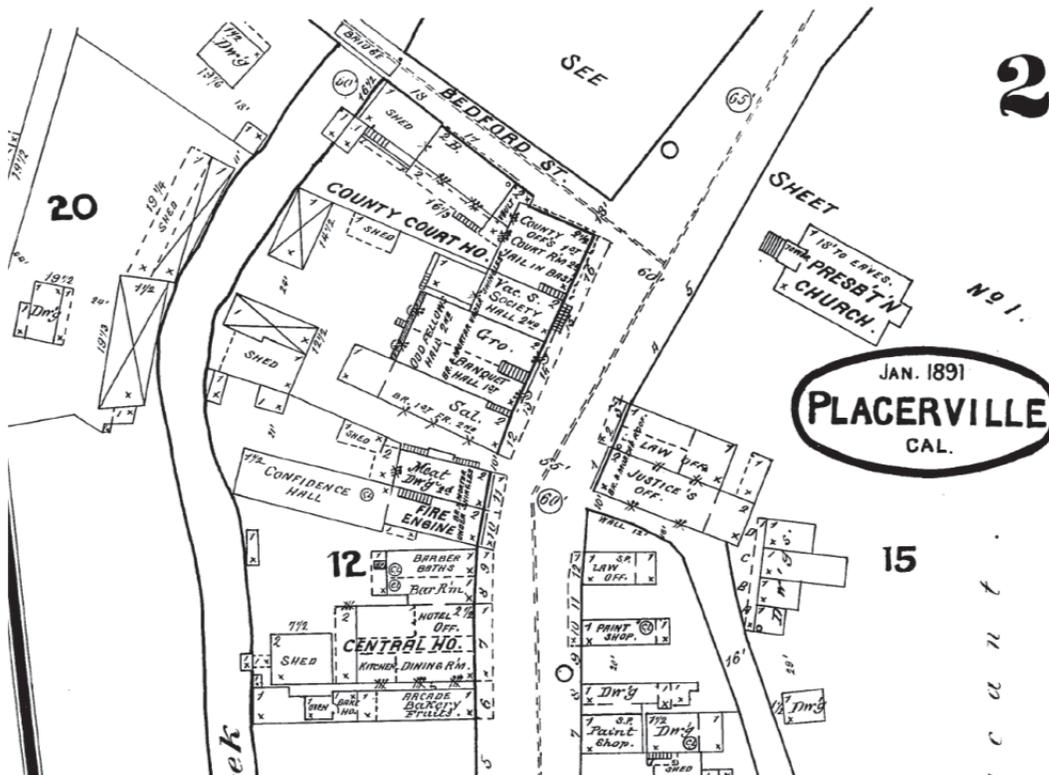
New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

SOURCE: McDevitt, 2001

**Figure 3**

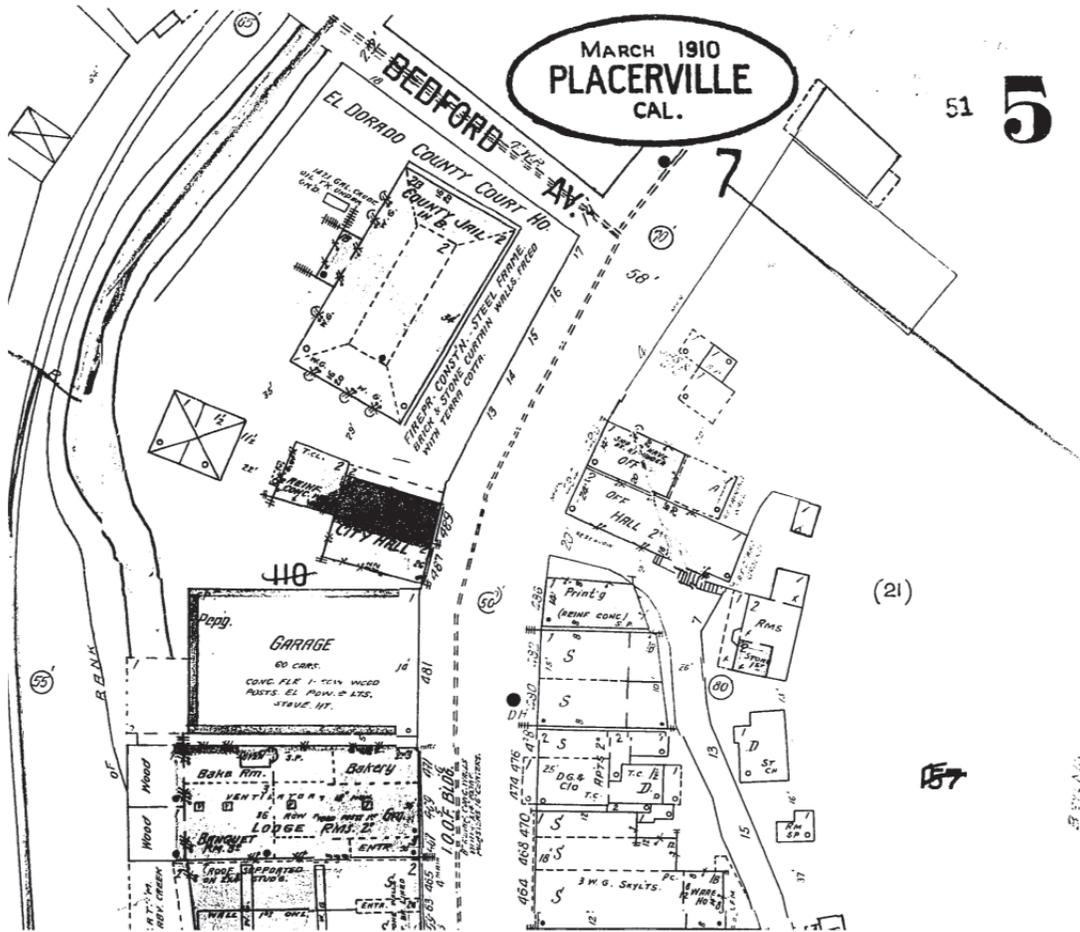
Original El Dorado County Courthouse, Placerville, ca 1880

In January 1910, El Dorado County Supervisors began examining the option of purchasing the property adjacent to the courthouse. Supervisors had determined the courthouse to be too small, and the addition of the adjacent property would greatly enlarge the capacity of the building (*San Francisco Call*, 01/08/1910). The courthouse was badly damaged by a fire on May 15, 1910 and subsequently demolished. The fire began at 10 o'clock in the evening and destroyed not only the country courthouse, but the Odd Fellows hall and a nearby grocery. (*San Francisco Call*, 05/17/1910).



SOURCE: Sanborn Maps, 1891 New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04  
**Figure 4**  
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Placerville, 1891

Following the destruction of the Placerville Courthouse, residents from both Georgetown and El Dorado began to campaign for the removal of the county seat to their respective cities (*San Francisco Call*, 05/29/1910, 05/31/1910). On November 10, 1910, a bond for \$125,000 to erect a new courthouse passed, and El Dorado County decided to rebuild on the same site, but on a larger and grander scale, with more durable materials (*San Francisco Call*, 11/11/1910, 12/09/1910; McDevitt, 2001, **Figure 5**). The new courthouse was completed in 1912 (**Figure 6**). The reinforced concrete building consisted of two stories and a basement, as well as a jail with 12 cells. The treasurer’s office occupied the first floor, and the second floor contained the courtrooms for the superior court. The building measured 60 by 100 feet, and included a “Spanish roof and two granite buttresses at the front entrance” as well as a glazed terra cotta finish.



SOURCE: Sanborn Maps, 1940

New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

**Figure 5**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Placerville, 1910-1940

At the time of its completion, the building was described as “of classic design, the main corridors being finished in marble and scaglios and imitation Caen stone. The floors in the corridor are of ceramic tiles, laid in artistic designs. The main entrance has two solid bronze doors and the main staircase is of iron and marble” (*San Francisco Call*, 12/22/1912). The architectural firm Cuff and Diggs of Sacramento designed the building, and work was carried out under the superintendence of Clifford B Rushmer of San Francisco. Rushmer previously worked as a consulting engineer for the San Francisco City Engineer (*San Francisco Call*, 12/22/1912). Ransome Concrete Company acted a general contractor for the construction of the courthouse.



New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

SOURCE: McDevitt, 2001

**Figure 6**

El Dorado County Courthouse, Placerville, 1917

In 1962, engineers hired by the County Board of Supervisors determined that the heavy loads imposed on the building by modern equipment and increased personnel resulted in structural weaknesses, making the building a potential hazard. The engineers concluded that the building's exterior walls and steel frame were in good condition, but the concrete used in the original construction of the building was poor quality, with slabs thinner than specified in the original building plans. The report documented that concrete support beams had failed under the weight of photo copy machines, the lobby floor was in danger of collapse along with the Boiler Room floor, and that the ceiling over portions of the second story was unsafe and in danger of falling (*Mountain Democrat*, 06/21/1962). The engineers recommended the building either be abandoned or restricted in the interests of safety, but the Board of Supervisors decided to restore, rather than demolish, the building (*Mountain Democrat*, 06/21/1962; McDevitt, 2001). Architect Robert Mason designed the restoration of the courthouse and. Mason also designed the county jail and sheriffs' offices (*Mountain Democrat*, 11/7/1968). Buettner-Carter and Denton & Associates worked as the general contractors. Workers completed the rehabilitation in 1971 and the courthouse was rededicated that year.

# Methods and Findings

## Archival Methods

With regard to the project area, ESA staff conducted a records search at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at Sacramento State University on February 17, 2012 (File No. ELD-12-04). Records were accessed by reviewing the Placerville, California 7.5-minute quadrangle base map. The records search included a ¼-mile radius around the new proposed construction site in order to (1) determine whether known cultural resources had been previously recorded within or adjacent to the new proposed construction site; (2) assess the likelihood of unrecorded cultural resources based on historical references and the distribution of environmental settings of nearby sites; and (3) develop a context for identification and preliminary evaluation of cultural resources. The NCIC search also addressed the status and previous recordation of the existing 1912 courthouse.

Included in the review were the *California Inventory of Historical Resources* (California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1976) and the *Historic Properties Directory Listing* (Office of Historic Preservation, 2012). The Historic Properties Directory (HPD) includes listings of the California Register and National Register, and the most recent listing of the California Historical Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest.

Additional research was conducted at the El Dorado County Museum Research Room, the Placerville Branch of the El Dorado County Library, the California State Library California History Room, and through the California Digital Newspaper Database.

## Studies in Records Search Radius

Archival review at the NCIC indicated that Douglas Walker had previously surveyed the new proposed construction site in 1984, prior to construction of the El Dorado County Jail. Approximately 80% of the area within a ¼ mile of the proposed construction site has been surveyed. Table 1 describes the surveys previously completed within the new proposed construction site and vicinity.

**TABLE 1  
PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS DONE WITHIN ¼ MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA**

NCIC Report #	Author Date	Within Project Area	Within ¼ mile of the Project Area
ED-141	Peak and Associates (1984)		X
ED-2191	QUAD Consultants (1998)		X
ED-2287	Archaeological Services, Inc (1991)		X
ED-4243	Peak, Ann S. (2002)		X
ED-4263	Walker (1984)	X	
ED-7772	Jensen, Sean (2006)	X	
ED-9295	Peak, Melinda (2008)		X
ED-10171	Historic Resources Associates (2009)	X	X

Source: NCIC, 2012

A review at the NCIC noted a previously recorded segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad (CA-ELD-971H) is within the new courthouse construction area, and a previously recorded historic-period ditch (P-9-003681) was within ¼ mile of the proposed construction site. Recorders of CA-ELD-971H did not assess its eligibility for listing in the National Register, but noted the resource to be in fair to poor condition. Recorders of P-09-003681 recommended the resource as not eligible for listing in the National Register due to a lack of association with any specific period or historic event, as well as a lack of integrity.

Part of the proposed Project includes the replacement of the existing 1912 courthouse with a new facility. The El Dorado County Courthouse at 495 Main Street (P-09-004693) has been previously evaluated (Earle, 2001; Lortie, 1998; Heritage Association of El Dorado County, 1984) and recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of local government and under Criterion C for its Beaux Arts Italian Renaissance Revival style. The State Officer of Historic Preservation (SHPO) has not confirmed this determination. Appendix A contains previously completed DPR forms for the courthouse.

## **Historic-period Resources (Buildings, Structures, Objects)**

### ***National Register of Historic Places-Listed Properties***

There are no National Register-listed properties within ¼ mile of the Project area. The nearest NRHP-listed resource is the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour located 2979 Coloma St. in Placerville. The building is located approximately 1.2 miles east of the Project area.

### ***National Register of Historic Places-Eligible Properties***

No potentially eligible historic properties have been evaluated within ¼ mile of the Project area. The 1912 El Dorado County Courthouse was previously evaluated in 1983, 1998, and 2001 and was recommended as eligible under Criteria A and C.

### ***California State Historical Landmarks, California Inventory of Historical Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest***

No resources listed as a California State Historical Landmark are located within a ¼ mile of the Project area. The nearest State Historical Landmark is CHL # 701, the Pony Express Station: Placerville, approximately 1.2 miles east of the Project area at Sacramento and Main Roads in Placerville.

## **Native American Consultation**

Cultural institutions, lifeways, culturally valued viewsheds, places of cultural association, and other sacred places and trust assets must also be considered under the NEPA (40 CFR 1501.2), Executive Order 12898 and sometimes other authorities (Executive Order 13175, Executive Order 13007, NAGPRA). In addition, Executive Order 13007 specifically deals with sacred sites.

ESA staff contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on January 26, 2012 to request a database search for sacred lands or other cultural properties of significance within or

adjacent to the project APE. The NAHC responded on February 2, 2012 that a search of the sacred lands file did not indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the area, but cautioned that the absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in the Project area. The NAHC response also included three contacts who have expressed an interest in this area. ESA staff sent a letter to each individual or organization on February 2, 2012. The Shingle Springs Rancheria responded with a letter dated February 21, 2012, stating that they are unaware of any known cultural resources on the site but would like to remain updated as the project progresses. On March 19, 2012, ESA received a response from the Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, stating that the project area is located within their aboriginal territory and that they would like to receive copies of reports completed for the project as well as contact in the event that any Native American resources are found within the project area. No other responses have been received as of this writing (May 2012).

Appendix B provides copies of all correspondence.

## Field Survey

### Proposed New Courthouse Site

ESA archaeologist Brian Marks conducted an intensive survey of the proposed new courthouse site on May 1, 2012 to identify potential cultural resources. Approximately 20 percent of the project area contained dense black-berry bushes, steep embankments, or extremely dense foliage and could not be surveyed. The remaining area consisted of tall grasses. Surface visibility of the project was less than 10 percent with few exceptions. Dr. Marks surveyed accessible areas at 15 meter transects and scraped the vegetation back approximately every 15 meters to view the ground surface. Additionally, Dr. Marks specifically surveyed areas of increased visibility, notably along a dirt road that runs through the new construction site. Areas of deer trails also had better visibility.

Dr. Marks observed a wide range of refuse within the area. The material included clothing fragments, glass beverage bottles, plastic beverage bottles, aluminum beverage cans, metal sanitary cans, spray paint cans, and homeless camp. None of these items were distinctively more than 50 years old. According to a sheriff employee, the area was a party spot before the construction of the jail in 1986.

During the survey, Dr. Marks relocated the segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad (CA-ELD-971H) at the northern end of the project area. It is now a paved pedestrian/biking trail (**Figure 7**). The only remaining elements of the railroad corridor are the modifications to the hillside during the initial construction. These elements include banks and terraces along the hillside. Proposed impacts to this resource include an alternative access road from Forni Road to the proposed courthouse. This road would cut through the railroad corridor perpendicularly and would impact the embankment of the railroad, if not the original railroad bed itself.

CA-ELD-971H has been extensively altered since its original construction, with the removal of the associated railroad hardware and repurposing of the alignment as a modern bicycle path. Subsequently, the resource does not appear to maintain sufficient integrity to reflect its historic context or potential historic significance, and as such is recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register and would not be considered a historical resource under CEQA. Appendix C contains an updated DPR 523 form for this resource.



New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

SOURCE: ESA, 2012

**Figure 7**

Southern Pacific Railroad Alignment (CA-ELD-971H)

The survey revealed an additional historic-period resource in the form of a dry laid stone dam across an intermittent creek in the southwestern portion of the Project. The dam appears to have supported a roadway; however, the road has long been out of use as trees have grown through the roadway (**Figure 8**). The dam is approximately 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, oriented northwest/southeast, and it sits approximately 4 feet above the stream bed at its center. A pond has formed upstream of the dam, but drains through the dam through a channel that runs through the center of the dam/roadway. This channel does not appear to be part of the original design, and the modification likely occurred to increase water flow downstream. Additionally, a 3 inch metal pipe, composed of threaded sections juts out of the bottom of the dam. A review of the 1870 GLO map for the area revealed an un-named trail in the general vicinity that extended off the Sacramento and Placerville Road (modern day US-50) to Mining Gulch to the southeast. This

trail does not appear on any other map of the area, and likely served only as a short-term road during the gold-mining era.



New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

SOURCE: ESA, 2012

**Figure 8**  
Historic Period Dry Laid Stone Dam

## 1912 Courthouse Site

On April 17, 2012, ESA historian Katherine Anderson conducted an intensive survey of the 1912 El Dorado County Courthouse to confirm the status of the building and determine whether it maintains its integrity as determined by the 2001 and 1998 evaluations. This included field documentation and photography of the building. Although the Courthouse has been previously recommended eligible for listing in the National Register, the building was re-evaluated to assess its current integrity and improve the historical documentation. Appendix C contains a current DPR form for the courthouse. .

## Building Description and Evaluation



SOURCE:

New Placerville Courthouse Project. 208091.04

**Figure 9**  
El Dorado County Courthouse

### Description

The El Dorado Courthouse (See **Figure 9**) consists of a two story masonry building measuring 60 by 100 feet. The rectangular reinforced concrete building is finished with glazed terra cotta. The building includes two stories and a full basement. Ornate metal fretwork decorates the building's low pitched, hipped roof, and the overhang has an ornate cornice. A band of dentils runs beneath the overhang, and beneath that are ornamental rectangular horizontal panels. Beneath the panels and above and between the arch tops of the second floor windows are a row of raised circular ornaments.

Recessed second floor windows have arched tops and metal frames with moveable lower halves. A sill course wraps entirely around the building, paralleled by another ornate band course around the building at the level of the second floor. The first floor has rectangular double-hung windows in metal frames.

The main entrance centers on the Main Street side, with an arched transom light above the double swinging glass doors in metal frames. Stairs flanked by short lamps and Civil War era cannons lead up to the entrance from the sidewalk level. Centered and above the main entrance is an ornamental terracotta bas-relief face. The first floor sill course continues around the entire building slightly below the level of the first floor windows.

All building elevations reflect the same symmetric window pattern. An extension on the northern elevation out into the parking lot behind the building extends from grade level to the second floor window. Due to the downward sloping grade, the basement opens out onto the parking lot to the rear and sides of the building. Basement level rear openings include a service entrance, three plain metal panel doors and four double-hung recessed windows. The west wall basement level has six double-hung recessed windows and the east wall has five similar windows.

The Courthouse building reflects both Beaux Arts and Italian Renaissance Revival architectural styles. Beaux Arts is a classical style with the full range of Greco-Roman elements: the column, arch, vault and dome. It is the showy manner in which these elements are composed that gives the style its character. General character-defining elements include: a symmetrical façade, lavish and intensive surface decoration, paired columns, masonry walls, and the use of ornamental sculpture. Italian Renaissance Revival architecture is similar to Beaux Arts, but lacks the elaborate decorative detailing typical of Beaux Arts buildings. Defining elements of this style include low pitched hipped roof typically covered by ceramic tiles, upper stories windows with smaller and less elaborate windows below, a symmetrical façade, and repetitive belt courses.

### **Evaluation**

Research revealed that the El Dorado County Courthouse is associated with the development of government at the local level for the City of Placerville and El Dorado County. The County constructed the building in response to the destruction of the previous courthouse in a fire in 1910. At the time of its completion, it was noted that "[n]o other city of the size of Placerville has such a beautiful and commodious courthouse" (*San Francisco Call*, 12/22/1912). The 1912 courthouse was constructed on the same site and is important as a symbol of the presence of local government in the early twentieth century. It is the most dramatic and impressive representations of government within the City and County from the time period. The adjacent Old City Hall building is a comparatively simpler building with humbler origins. The building originally housed the Confidence Engine Company Building No. 1, constructed in 1860. The Placerville's City government occupied the building from 1902 until 2005 when the new City Hall was completed.

The County Courthouse can be viewed as representative of the prominence of Placerville's local government in the early twentieth century. Placerville's position as County Seat, temporarily contentious following the 1910 fire, was solidified with the construction of the imposing new courthouse building. The County Courthouse appears to be individually significant at the local level as a historical resource under California Register Criterion 1 (Association with Events).

Research did not reveal any important association with any prominent individuals. Archival review did not provide any significant information on construction superintendent Clifford Rushmer. Discussion of the building's association with its architects is discussed under Criterion 3. The El Dorado County Courthouse does not appear to be individually significant under California Register Criterion 2 (Association with Individuals).

The El Dorado County Courthouse appears to embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction: a Beaux Arts/Italian Renaissance style (Criterion C/3). The

courthouse building reflects the characteristics of these styles with its symmetrical façade, intense decoration, masonry walls, low pitched hipped tile roof, and dissimilar windows.

Criterion 3 also asks whether the subject building is the ‘work of a master.’ The courthouse was designed by the Sacramento architecture firm Cuff and Diggs. Cuff and Diggs worked as a partnership between 1911 and 1913, but the partnership had dissolved by 1914 (Caltrans, 2001).

Clarence Cuff was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on January 15, 1871, attended the Toronto School of Architecture, and began his early architectural career in that city. He later moved to Buffalo, New York, and worked there as an architect for five years before leaving the state to work in various parts of the United States before arriving in San Francisco in 1905. Cuff worked there for one year before moving to Sacramento, where he held the position of State Architect for two years. In 1911 he formed his partnership with M. I. Diggs and constructed numerous and varied buildings, including a grammar-school in Marysville, the Diepenbrock Theatre in Sacramento, the Travelers Hotel of Sacramento, and the El Dorado County Courthouse in Placerville, the California Hospital at Sacramento, along with warehouses and residences within the City of Sacramento (Willis, 1913).

In 1913, Cuff’s work received special attention in a feature article in *Architect and Engineer of California and the Pacific Coast*. Fourteen of his designs were discussed and illustrated, including the El Dorado County Courthouse. The article reveals that Cuff worked on a wide variety of buildings, including residences, warehouses, hospitals and theaters. The article notes that Cuff was the first architect in Sacramento to design a building of ten stories or more, and favorably draws attention to the design of the First Church of Christ, Scientist (*Architect and Engineer*, 1913). From 1913 through the mid-1920s, Cuff maintained his architectural practice, but over the following 10 years his career appears to have declined. From the late 1930s through the late 1940s he alternated between his drafting work and architecture. It appears that Cuff’s most productive years were from about 1910 to the mid 1920s, and the El Dorado County Courthouse is among his best designs (Caltrans, 2001).

Maury I Diggs also acted as part of the design team for the El Dorado County Courthouse, however during the period of the building’s construction, Diggs personal life underwent considerable upheaval, resulting in his departure from Sacramento and return to the Bay Area. In 1913, Diggs was convicted under the White Slave Traffic Act (the Mann Act). In his history of the Thomas-Diggs Company and the R Street Corridor in Sacramento, Tom Campbel describes the story of M.I. Digg’s troubles with the law:

The oldest section of the [Thomson-Diggs] Main Plant building, as I noted earlier, was designed by the architectural firm of Cuff and Diggs in 1911, probably one of their first projects as a team. Note the second partner's name, "Diggs". This was no coincidence; Maury I. Diggs was co-founder [of Thomson-Diggs Company hardware firm] Marshall Diggs’ nephew. The firm of Cuff and Diggs was perhaps best known in Sacramento as the designers of the Traveler's Hotel. Traveler's was completed in 1914; however, Cuff and Diggs were released from their contract in 1913. As reported in the *Bee* and picked up in the trade journal *Architect and Engineer*, Maury Diggs was unable to supply some of

the plans for the ornamental specifications. What was keeping Maury Diggs from completing work on such a high profile project?

In March of 1913 Maury, along with his friend Drew Caminetti, became embroiled in a bona-fide sex scandal. Both were 27 years old and married. Both had children. They started having affairs with two young women they met via a saloon keeper. The ladies were 19 and 20 years old which at the time made them minors. As adulterers, they weren't terribly discreet and the background scandal radiation of the town was getting quite warm. Warm enough that Maury Diggs decided to skip town until things cooled off. Drew and the girls decided to go with him. They met down at the Southern Pacific station and were going catch a train to Los Angeles. As fate would have it they missed that train and took the next available which happened to be the east bound *China Mail*. They went as far as Reno where they rented a cottage under assumed names.

Their departure from Sacramento didn't cool things off as hoped. Far from it, things became unhinged. The papers had a field day with the story and a massive man hunt was on for the delinquent husbands. After three days they were found and the authorities hauled them back to Sacramento. Three days after that U.S. District Attorney John McNab announced that he would prosecute the pair as being in violation of the Mann Act.

Signed into law nearly three years earlier by President Taft and known officially as the White Slave Traffic Act, the Mann Act was promoted as an attempt to stop the spread of prostitution especially among recently arriving eastern European immigrants. However, the key section of the act made it a crime merely to transport a woman across state lines for 'any immoral act'. Buying your under-aged mistress a train ticket to run away from your wife and children across state lines seemed to fit the bill.

Both Diggs and Caminetti were from prominent, wealthy, politically well-connected families. Marshall Diggs, Maury's uncle, had been a California State senator from 1902 to 1906. Drew Caminetti was even more politically charged than Maury. Drew's father, Anthony Caminetti also a former California State senator, had just been appointed to be U.S Commissioner of Immigration by Woodrow Wilson. Politically, it didn't help that Anthony Camenetti asked the Attorney General for a delay in the trial so he could settle in his new job and attend his son's trial. McNab, a hold over Republican appointment, very loudly and very publicly resigned in protest when he was so ordered by the Attorney General from the Democratic administration. Even President Wilson himself became involved to quiet the firestorm in Congress that erupted.

Ultimately they lost the federal case and, when appealed, the Supreme Court case in early 1917. Maury Diggs ended up doing eight months in prison of a two year sentence before being paroled. He divorced his first wife, married his mistress, Marsha Warrington, who stayed with him until he died in 1953. They had one daughter together. After prison Maury continued as an architect in the Bay

Area. He designed several buildings including the Fox Theater in Oakland (also recently refurbished) and a number of horse racing tracks.

Digg's later work in Oakland was more prominent to his career. The El Dorado County Courthouse appears to be an exemplary work of Clifford Cuff. Additionally, the courthouse reflects the Beaux Arts and Italian Renaissance styles, and subsequently appears to be individually significant as a historical resource under Criterion 3 (Architecture).

Criterion 4 asks whether a proposed project has the potential to yield information important to pre-history or history. Because this criterion is typically associated with effects to archaeological resources, and not historic architectural resources, it is beyond the scope of this architectural evaluation. Nonetheless, a project-specific search of cultural resources literature, recorded archaeological and historic-period sites, and historic maps, was conducted at the California Historic Resources Information System—Central California Information Center (CCIC) on February 17, 2012. This archival research did not identify any recorded prehistoric or historic-period sites on or adjacent to the courthouse property. In addition, it does not seem likely that the building itself would yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, operation, or other information that is not already known. As such, the property does not appear to be historically significant under Criterion 4.

**Age.** The 1912 El Dorado County Courthouse is 100 years old as of 2012. As such, the County Courthouse appears to meet the requirement for listing in the California Register.

**Integrity.** The County Courthouse appears to retain nearly all of its original features as designed by Cuff and Diggs. The bronze doors of the primary entrance were removed between 1983 and 1998. The 1968 remodel resulted in the loss of much of the interior historic detailing, but the exterior of the building remained in good repair. The building has not undergone significant alteration since its original construction, and therefore retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As such, the property retains sufficient physical integrity and integrity of feeling and setting to reflect its historic significance.

The El Dorado County Courthouse appears to meet both Criteria 1 and 3, and retains sufficient integrity to convey those historical and architectural associations. The building appears to meet requirements for listing in the California Register. As the El Dorado County Courthouse appears to be eligible for listing on the California Register, the property can be considered a 'historical resource' for CEQA purposes.

## Recommendations

### Proposed New Courthouse Site

Archival research and the field survey revealed a segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad (CA-ELD-971H) within the proposed new courthouse site. One Project alternative proposes to construct an access road perpendicularly through the Southern Pacific Railroad. The segment of the SPRR has been extensively altered since its original construction, and does not appear to

maintain sufficient integrity to reflect its historic context or potential historic significance. As such is recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register and would not be considered a historical resource under CEQA.

Additionally, the field survey located a previously unrecorded historic-period dam within the project area. While plans for the proposed new courthouse facility have not been finalized as of the writing of this report, current project plans do not appear to propose impacts to this resource. Formal DPR forms were not recorded for this resource. ESA recommends avoiding the resource. If avoidance is not feasible, we recommend an evaluation of the resource for eligibility for listing on the California Register.

In the event that any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 50 feet of the resources will be halted and the project proponent will consult with a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the project proponent and the archaeologist will meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. All significant cultural materials recovered will, as necessary and at the discretion of the consulting archaeologist, be subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, and documentation according to current professional standards.

In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist in order to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the project proponent will determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) may be instituted. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.

If human skeletal remains are uncovered during project construction, the project proponent (depending upon the project component) will immediately halt work, contact the El Dorado County coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in Section 15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines. If the County coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the project proponent will contact the NAHC, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, subdivision (c), and Public Resources Code 5097.98 (as amended by AB 2641). Per Public Resources Code 5097.98, the landowner shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the landowner has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (PRC 5097.98), with the most likely descendants regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.

## **1912 Courthouse Site**

ESA research suggests that the 1912 County Courthouse building is potentially eligible for listing in the California Register under Criteria 1 and 3. As a CEQA-defined "historical resource," it is necessary to determine whether or not the proposed project would result in "substantial adverse

change" to the property, which would result in a significant impact. CEQA Public Resources Code Section 5020.1 defines a substantial adverse change as "demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration activities that would materially impair the significance of the historic resource." Material impairment means the physical demolition or alteration of those character defining features which justify its eligibility for listing in the California Register. As proposed use for the building has not yet been finalized, ESA recommends that any proposed alterations to the building be conducted in compliance with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

## References

- Beardsley, R.K. *Temporal and areal relationships in central California archaeology. Parts I and II.* University of California Archaeological Survey Reports. Nos. 24 & 25: Berkeley, California, 1954.
- Bennyhoff, J. 1977. *Ethnogeography of the Plains Miwok.* Davis: University of California, center for Archaeological Research at Davis, Publication 5.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1976. *California Inventory of Historic Resources.*
- Chartkoff, J.L and Chartkoff, K.K. *The Archaeology of California.* Stanford University Press: Stanford, California, 1984.
- Fagan, B.M. *Ancient North America: The archaeology of a continent.* Thames and Hudson: New York, 1995.
- Gudde, Erwin G. 1998. *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Heizer, R. F., and F. Fenenga. Archaeological horizons in central California. *American Anthropologist* 41: 378–399, 1939.
- Heizer, R.F. and M.A. Whipple. 1971. *The California Indians: A Source Book.* Second Edition. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press.
- Heizer, R.F. The archaeology of central California I: The Early Horizon. *University of California Anthropological Records*, Vol. 12(1): 1–84: Berkeley, 1949.
- Hoover, M. B., H. E. Rensch, E. G. Rensch, W. N. Abeloe. 2002. *Historic Spots in California.* Revised by Douglas E. Kyle. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Kroeber, A.L., 1925. *Handbook of the Indians of California.* Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 78. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Reprinted 1976 by Dover, New York.
- Levy, R., 1978. Eastern Miwok. In *California*, edited by R.F. Heizer, PP. 398-413. *Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 8, W.C. Sturtevant General Editor, Washington D.C.; Smithsonian Institution.
- Lortie, Frank, 1998. Site record for El Dorado County Courthouse. Maintained on File at the North Central California Information Center, Sacramento State University.
- McDevitt, Ray, 2001. *Courthouses of California: An Illustrated History.* California Historical Society. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books.
- Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad (P&SVRR), 2012 *First in the West.* Electronic Document. <http://www.psvrr.org/history1.html#> Accessed March 23, 2012
- Powers, Stephen. 1877. *The Tribes of California, Contributions of North American ethnology, Vol. III* Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountains Region.

Rosenthal, Jefferey s., Gregory G. White, an Mark Q Sutton. 2007. The Central Valley: A View from the Catbird's Seat. In *California Prehistory: Colinization, Culture, and Complexity*. Edited by Terry L. Jones and Kathryn A. Karr. Altamira Press, New York.

Shipley, William F. 1978. Native Languages of California. *Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 8 (California), pages 80–90. William C. Sturtevant, and Robert F. Heizer, eds. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.

Wilson, N. L. and A. H. Towne. 1978. Nisenan. In *California*, edited by R. F. Heizer, pp. 387–397. *Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 8, W. C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### Newspapers

#### *San Francisco Call*

El Dorado County to Enlarge Courthouse (01/08/1910)  
Courthouse Goes in Placerville Blaze (05/17/1910)  
Georgetown Asks for County Seat (05/29/1910)  
County Seat Fight is Three Cornered (05/31/1910)  
Bonds are Vo ted for Courthouse (11/11/1910)  
Courthouse will be erected on Old Site (12/09/1910)  
Plans for \$120,000 Courthouse Adopted (04/08/1911)  
Placerville Courthouse is Finished (12/22/1912)

#### *Mountain Democrat*

Engineers Point to Structural Failures in Courthouse Floors (06/21/1962)  
(11/7/1968)

### Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Fire Insurance Map, Placerville, California. 1891; 1910-1940

# **APPENDIX A**

---

## **Old DPR Forms for El Dorado County Courthouse**



HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

P-9-4693

IDENTIFICATION:

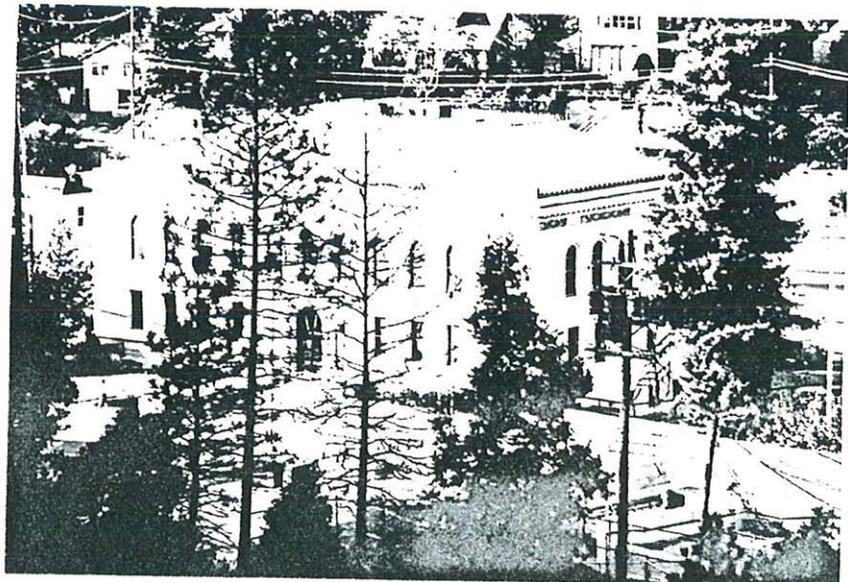
1. Common Name: El Dorado County Courthouse
2. Historic Name: El Dorado County Courthouse
3. Street Address: 495 Main Street  
City: Placerville, California Zip: 95667 County: El Dorado
4. Parcel Number: 21:221-13
5. Present Owner: County of El Dorado  
City: Placerville, California Zip: 95667 Ownership is: Public
6. Present Use: County Courthouse Original Use: County Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural Style: Renaissance Revival
- 7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Completed in early 1913, the El Dorado County Courthouse is built of 'reinforced concrete faced with matte glazed terra cotta' (McBean-Cladding, Lincoln, California). The building is two stories and a basement, originally housing the County Jail. Clifford B. Rushmer of San Francisco carried out the construction of the building. The main entrance has two solid bronze double hung, center opening doors. The building is crowned with a Spanish roof and two granite buttresses at the front entrance are surmounted by electroliers. The size of the building is 63' by 126'. A bronze tablet on the front of the building contains the names of the supervisors under whose direction the building was constructed—E. W. Smith of El Dorado, J. N. Jones of Diamond, M. Hughes of Placerville, J. J. Payne of Coloma, and P. F. Morgan of Georgetown. The building also carries another bronze placque stating it was restored by the County of El Dorado in 1965.

8. Construction date: Factual: 1913
9. Architect: Cuff & Biggs of Sacramento
10. Builder: Clifford B. Rushmer, formerly of San Francisco
11. Approximate property size: Frontage: 126.3' Depth: 147.84'
12. Dates of enclosed Photographs: 1912, 1931, 1933



- 13. Condition: Excellent
- 14. Alterations: The building originally housed all of the official County Offices, however, prior to the restoration project in 1955, the only offices to remain in the building were the County Clerk's Office, District Court, and Superior Courts; all other offices moved to various locations throughout the city. The Sheriff's Office and Jail were moved to a new site prior to 1965. Early in 1913, the American Legion Post received on the the Civil War Cannon, and it is mounted in front of the County Courthouse.
- 15. Surroundings: Commercial
- 16. Threats to site: None known
- 17. Is the structure: On its original site? Yes
- 18. Related Features: Civil War Cannon, Mounted in front of County Courthouse

SIGNIFICANCE

- 19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The California Legislature in April 1854 settled a dispute concerning the official county seat for El Dorado County. When California became a state in 1850, Colusa was the county seat. Colusa's importance was ebbing, and Placerville's importance was increasing with each passing month. It also appeared Placerville was much closer to the center of the county (when considering the north and south boundaries of the county). Placerville appeared to be a much more appropriate place as the County Seat. The original Courthouse in Placerville burned April 1910, taking with it all official birth and death records of the period 1852-1910. Almost three years after the burning of the old courthouse, the new modern edifice situated at the corner of Main Street and Bedford Avenue was ready for occupancy. This is the only known building designed by the Architectural firm of Giff & Biess, and built by Clifford B. Rusher in Placerville.

- 20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

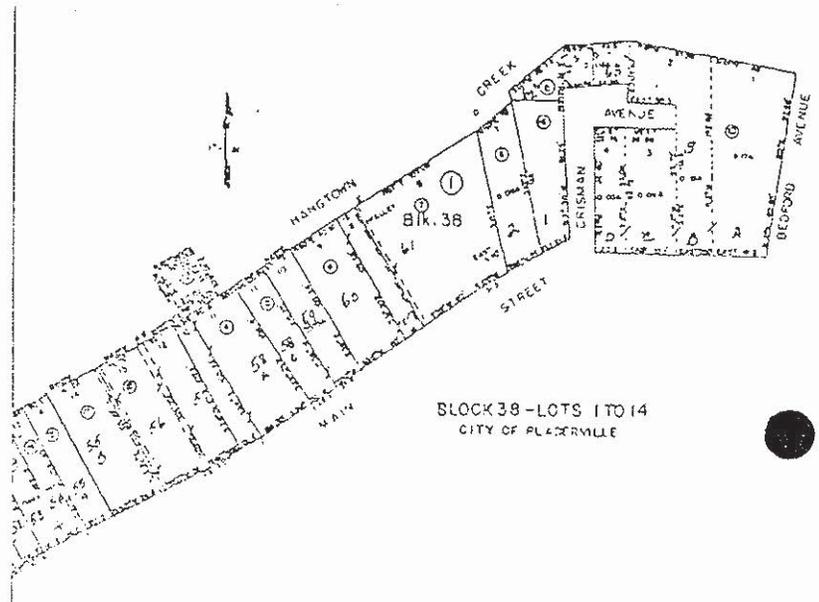
- 1. Government
- 2. Architecture

- 21. Sources: (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates.)

- 1. San Francisco Call (Newspaper), Sunday December 22, 1912
- 2. El Dorado County Recorder's Office, Official Records
- 3. Mountain Democrat (Newspaper), Placerville, California, April 1910
- 4. ETOLE, Peoli, History of El Dorado County, California, Oakland, 1937.

- 22. Date form prepared: 30 May 1984

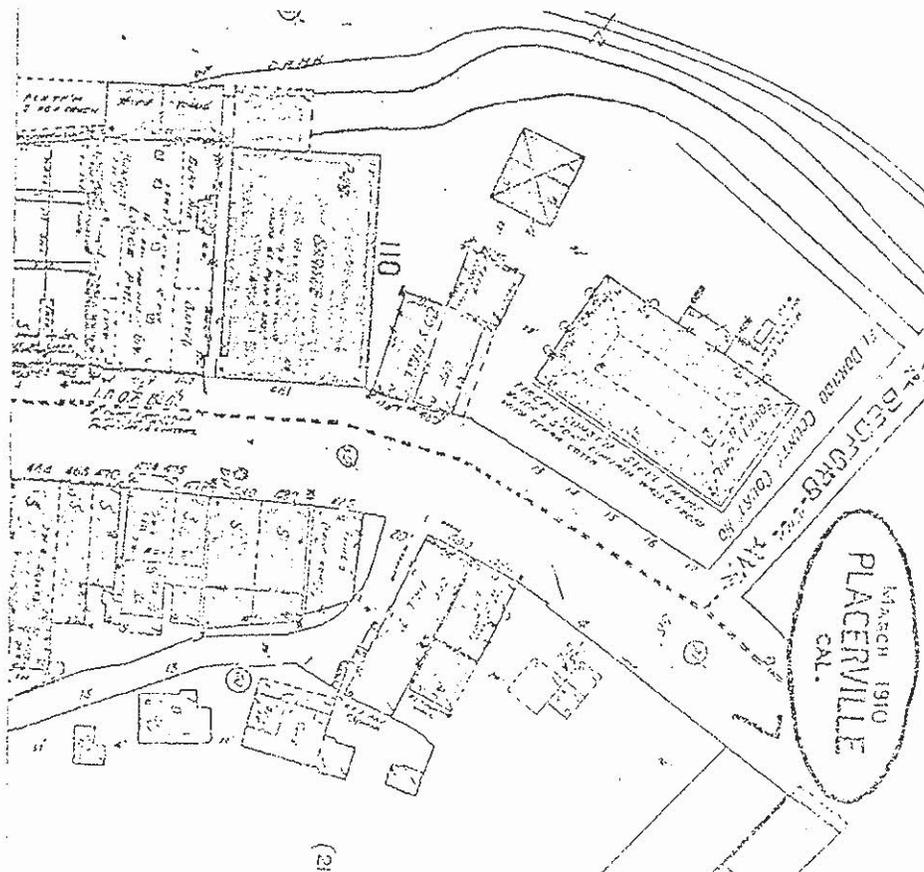
By: (Name) Betty C. Laarvald  
 Organization: City of Placerville Historic Advisory Committee  
 Address: 487 Main Street  
 City: Placerville, California Zip: 95667  
 Phone: (City) 622-9353 (Laarvald) 622-9434



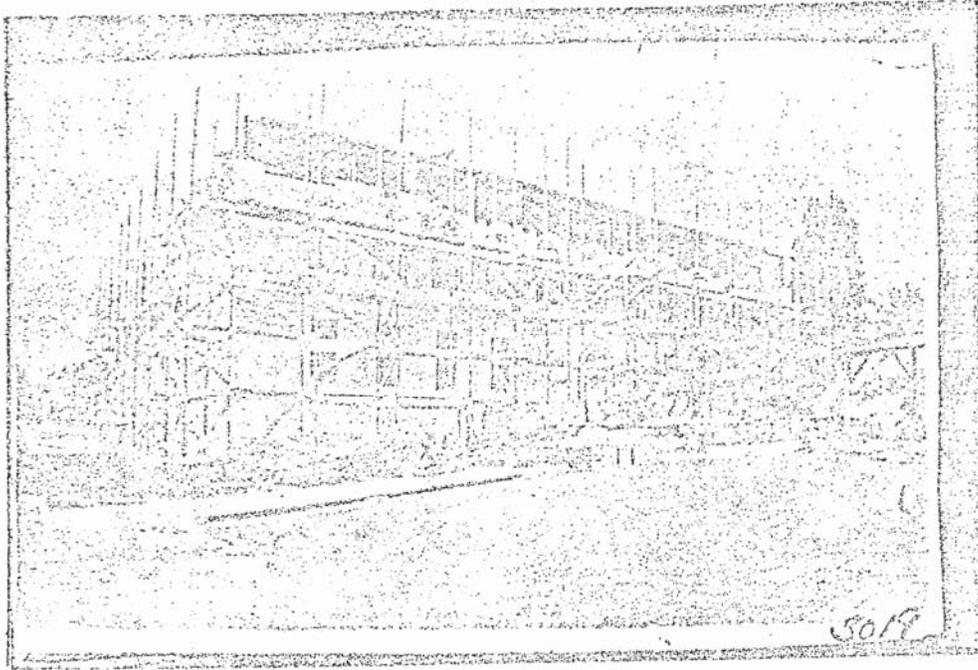
P-9-4693



1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, San Francisco, California.

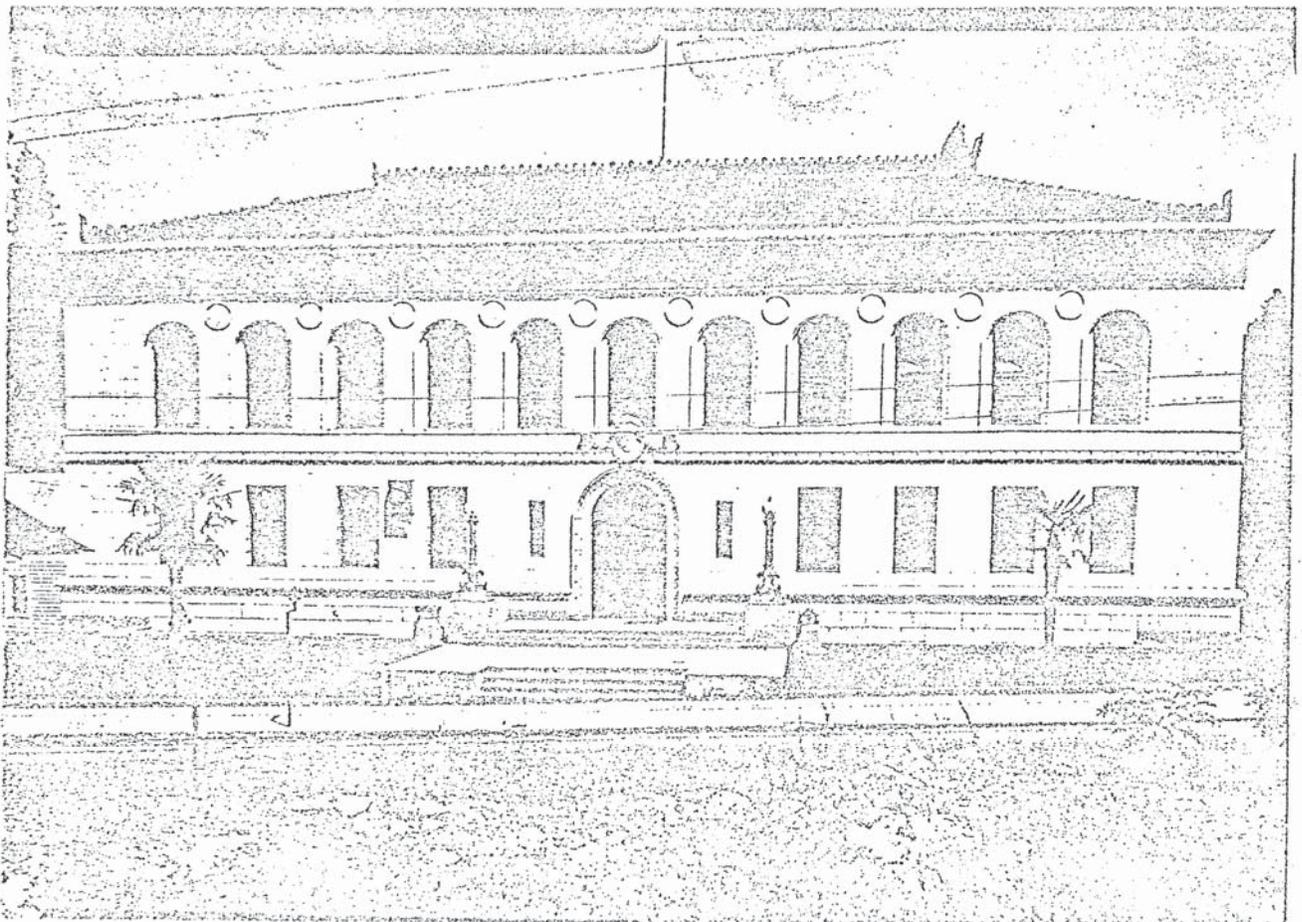


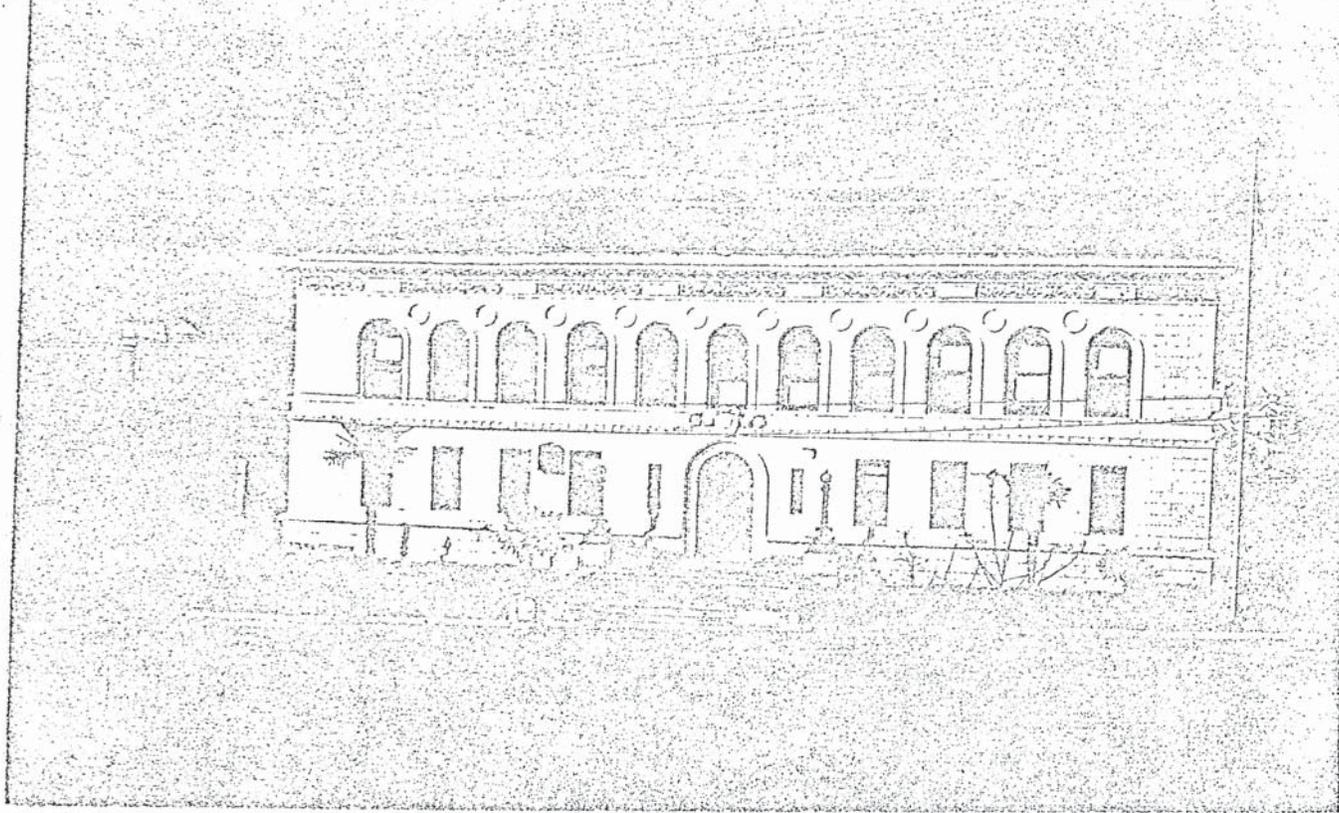
1910 - Updated 1940 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, San Francisco, California



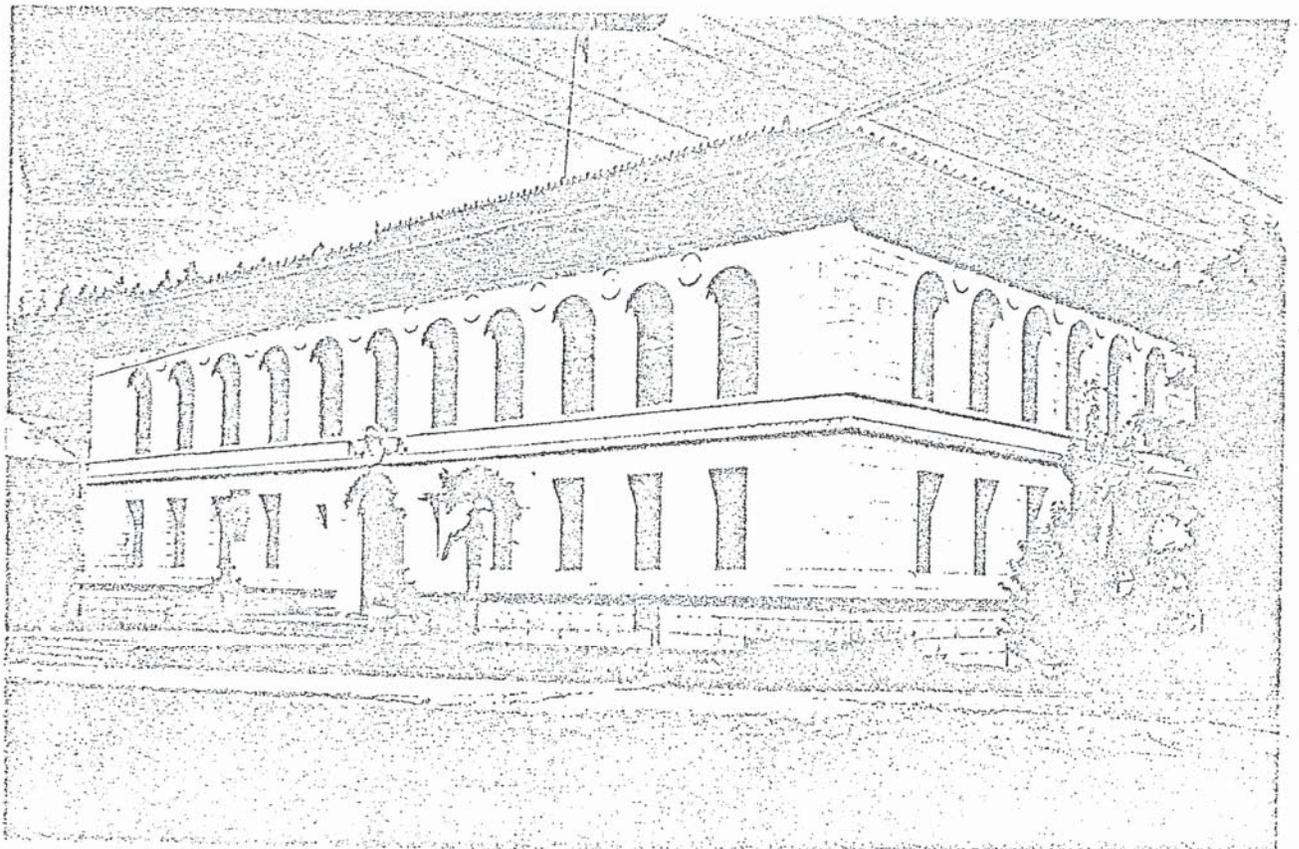
TOP: El Dorado County Courthouse under Construction, Postal Card courtesy of Mrs. Gloria Miserlian. Approximately 1912.

BOTTOM: Newly completed El Dorado County Courthouse, El Dorado County Historical Museum.





Photos Courtesy El Dorado County Historical Museum



THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL, SUNDAY

# Placerville Courthouse Is Finished

## Finest for Its Size in the State of California

*New courthouse of El Dorado county, at Placerville, and the superintendent of its construction.*



CLIFFORD  
B. RUSHMER

## Structure Which Cost \$131,000 Ready for County Board

(Special Dispatch to The Call.)

PLACERVILLE, Dec. 21.—The handsome county courthouse, erected in this city on the site of the old structure that was destroyed by fire May 15, 1910, will be turned over to the board of supervisors Monday. The building is of reinforced concrete, faced with marie glazed terra cotta and cost the county \$131,000.

It is a fireproof structure, two stories and basement, and a jail of 12 cells.

The plans were furnished by Cuff E. Diggs of Sacramento and the work has been carried out under the superintendence of Clifford B. Rushmer, formerly of San Francisco, where he formerly was consulting engineer for the city architect.

No other city of the size of Placerville has such a beautiful and commodious courthouse. It is of classic design, the main corridors being finished in marble and scagliola and imitation Caen stone. The floors in the corridors are of ceramic tiles laid in artistic designs. The main entrance has two solid bronze doors and the main staircase is of iron and marble.

On the first floor the treasurer's office is furnished with modern burglar and fireproof vaults with time lock.

The second floor contains the courtroom for the superior court.

The finish of the entire building is of light toned oak and the floors are also of oak.

The building is crowned with a Spanish roof and two granite lintresses at the front entrance are surmounted by electroliers. The size of the building is 50 by 150 feet.

A large tablet on the front of the building contains the names of the supervisors under whose direction it was constructed—E. W. Smith of El Dorado, J. N. Jones of Diamond, M. Hughes of Placerville, J. J. Bayne of

Coloma, and P. E. Morgan of Georgetown.

In excavating for the foundation workmen removed the last vestige of the tree to which criminals were hanged in the days of the gold excitement and which gave the town its old name—Hangingtown.

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

Primary # P-9-4693

HRI # \_\_\_\_\_

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Caltrans ID, County/Route/Postmile/EA: 03-ED-50, KP 26.4/30.1

Map Ref. # 7

P1. Resource name(s) or number: El Dorado County Courthouse

\*P2. Location: \*a. County: El Dorado

\*c. Address: 495 Main Street

City: Placerville

\*e. Assessor's Parcel Number: 21-221-13

\*P3a. Description: This courthouse is a grand building and is, within the setting of downtown Placerville, an imposing civic structure. It is a two story building with a rectangular footprint and a basement built into the gently sloping lot. It has a truncated hipped roof with a low rectangular parapet that has a decorated cornice with iron cresting. The cornice on the main section of the roof has heavy brackets, under which is a dentil course and a frieze decorated with a terra cotta floral pattern. The courthouse is clad with glazed terra cotta. It is a reinforced concrete structure. Two terra cotta bands separate the floors on the exterior. The upper band passes under the window sills on the second floor and consists of a plain protruding band on top of plain tile course and a molded terra cotta course in a wave pattern. The lower band is a half round protruding band about one foot (.31 meters) below the sills of the first floor windows. The fenestration is dramatic. All the windows are in a vertical line and are different on each floor, but all have deep reveals and have 1/1 metal sashes. On the second floor the windows are arched and have molded surrounds. Above the space between the windows are medallions. On the first floor the windows are rectangular with no embellishments. The basement windows are square and are smaller than the others. The windows flanking the front entrance are very narrow rectangular openings with a clathri metal screen in front of the glass. The façade has eleven window bays, and the second floor arched windows present an impressive display. The entrance is a large arched opening with a molded terra cotta finish in the same pattern as the second floor windows, but it has decoration in the reveal in a floral design. The heavy bronze double-door frame is capped by a fan window. Surmounting the front door is a terra cotta cartouche with flanking terra cotta swags and medallions on the ends. The entrance has granite stairs, and flanking the door there are granite pedestals with cast ornate copper alloy lamps that have fluted shafts, a floral band near the base, and wave pattern scroll work on the metal base. Small 19<sup>th</sup> century cannons are mounted on concrete bases next to each lamp. The east and west elevations have six window bays each and no doorways. The rear (north) elevation is a service area, but retains the same fenestration and decorative treatment on the second floor as on the façade. Centered on the rear is a small protruding service wing covering the basement level (here the basement is on grade) and the first floor. Its windows have the same treatment as on the rest of the building. This wing is one room deep and is clad with terra cotta. A squared terra cotta-clad chimney rises from the southwest corner of the wing and is flush with the wall surface of the main building. Landscaping on this rather small lot consists only of a lawn and shrubs in front.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes HP14

P5a. Photo

Building  Structure  Object  
 Site  District  Element of  
District  Other

P5b. Photo date:

Feb. 4, 1998

\*P6. Date Constructed/Sources:

1912; *Mountain Democrat* 12/28/12

\*P7. Owner and Address:

El Dorado County

495 Main St.

Placerville 95667

\*P8. Recorded by:

Frank Lortie Caltrans

1120 N street

Sacramento 94274

\*P9. Date Recorded: 9477

Nov. 13, 1998

\*P11. Report Citation: Historic  
Architectural Survey Report.

Operational Improvements, 03-ED-  
50, Placerville, EA 355510, March  
2000.

Attachments:  NONE  Location  
Map  Sketch Map  Continuation

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#  
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*Resource Name or #: Map Reference # 7

PRIMARY#: P-9-4693

B1. Historic name: El Dorado County Courthouse

B4. Present use: County Offices

\*B5. Architectural Style: Beaux Arts Italian Renaissance Revival with French Baroque decorative treatments .

\*B6. Construction History: Completed in Dec. 1912. The exterior has escaped the ravages of hostile rehabilitation, but the interior was completely remodeled in 1965 to accommodate county offices.

\*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features None noted

B9a. Architect: Clarence Cuff and M.I. Diggs, Sacramento

b. Builder: Clifford B. Rushmer, Sacramento

\*B10. Significance: Theme Local Government

Area Placerville

Period of Significance 1912 Property Type County Courthouse Applicable Criteria A and C

The previous county courthouse, also located on this site, burned down in 1910. Construction of the new building, a reinforced concrete structure, began in 1911, and in December 1912 it was opened to the public. It was the most elaborately designed and most monumental public edifice in the county and remains so today. It was designed by the Sacramento architectural firm of Cuff and Diggs. Clarence Cuff had an office in Sacramento since about 1910, and from 1911 to 1913 had a partnership with M.I. Diggs. However, from 1914 he worked alone. What Diggs contributed to the firm is not clear, and his profession, whether architecture or civil engineering, is obscure. Regardless, the partnership lasted only about two years. Cuff's professional life started in Sacramento in 1908 as a draftsman, but by 1910 he identified himself as an architect. In 1913 his work received special attention in a feature article in *Architect and Engineer of California*. Fourteen of his designs were discussed and illustrated, indicating that Cuff worked on a wide variety of buildings, from residences to warehouses and hospitals. Three of his Sacramento residential designs are adept renderings of the Prairie Style, and his First Church of Christ Science, Sacramento, is a striking Sullivanesque design. From 1913 to the mid-1920s Cuff maintained his architectural practice, but over the next ten years his career seems to have declined. His listed his occupation as only a draftsman, and from the late 1930s to the late 1940s he alternated between his drafting work and architecture. It appears that Cuff's most productive years were from about 1910 to the mid-1920s, and the El Dorado County Courthouse is among his best designs. The 1912 courthouse is also significant as an imposing symbol of the presence of local government and the prosperity the county enjoyed in the first decades of the twentieth century. Placerville's position as county seat was dramatically displayed, and probably enhanced, in the construction of the new courthouse. No other buildings reflecting Placerville's status as county seat survive today. Although the Courthouse was determined eligible in 1987 as a result of the Placerville survey, it was re-evaluated to assess its current integrity, determine its boundaries, and improve the historical documentation, especially for its architecture. Therefore, it appears that the El Dorado County Courthouse still is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources on a local level of significance, under Criterion A, for its association with the development of local government, and under Criterion C, for its Beaux Arts Italian Renaissance Revival style. The boundaries for the courthouse consist of the area of the corner lot per County Assessor's maps, and the period of significance is 1912, when the building was completed.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes:

\*B12. References: El Dorado County Assessor's Office; *Architect and Engineer of California*, Vol. XXXV, No.1, Nov.1913: 49-57, Vol. XXXIII, No.1: 112, May 1913, Vol. XXXII, No. 2: 112; *San Francisco Call* Dec. 22, 1912: 14; *Mountain Democrat* Jan. 11, 1913; Sacramento Directory Company, *Sacramento City and County Directory*, 1902-1948; *Sacramento Bee* Jan. 15, 1965: D 19; Heritage Association of El Dorado County 1987.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: Frank Lortie Caltrans

\*Date of Evaluation Nov. 16, 1998

(This space reserved for official comments.)

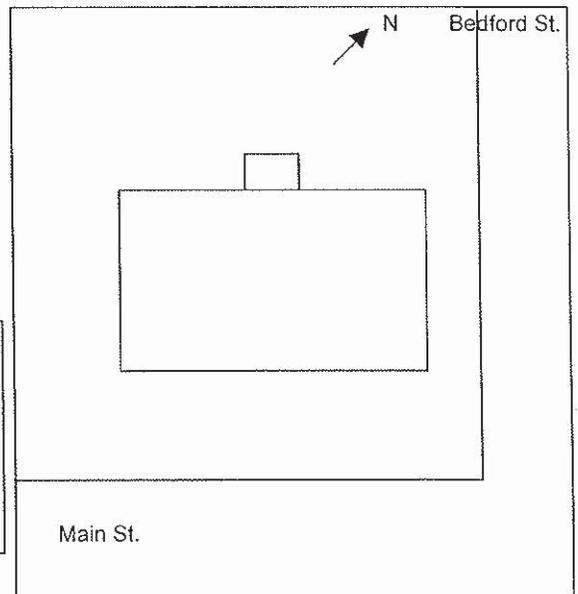


FIGURE 3f

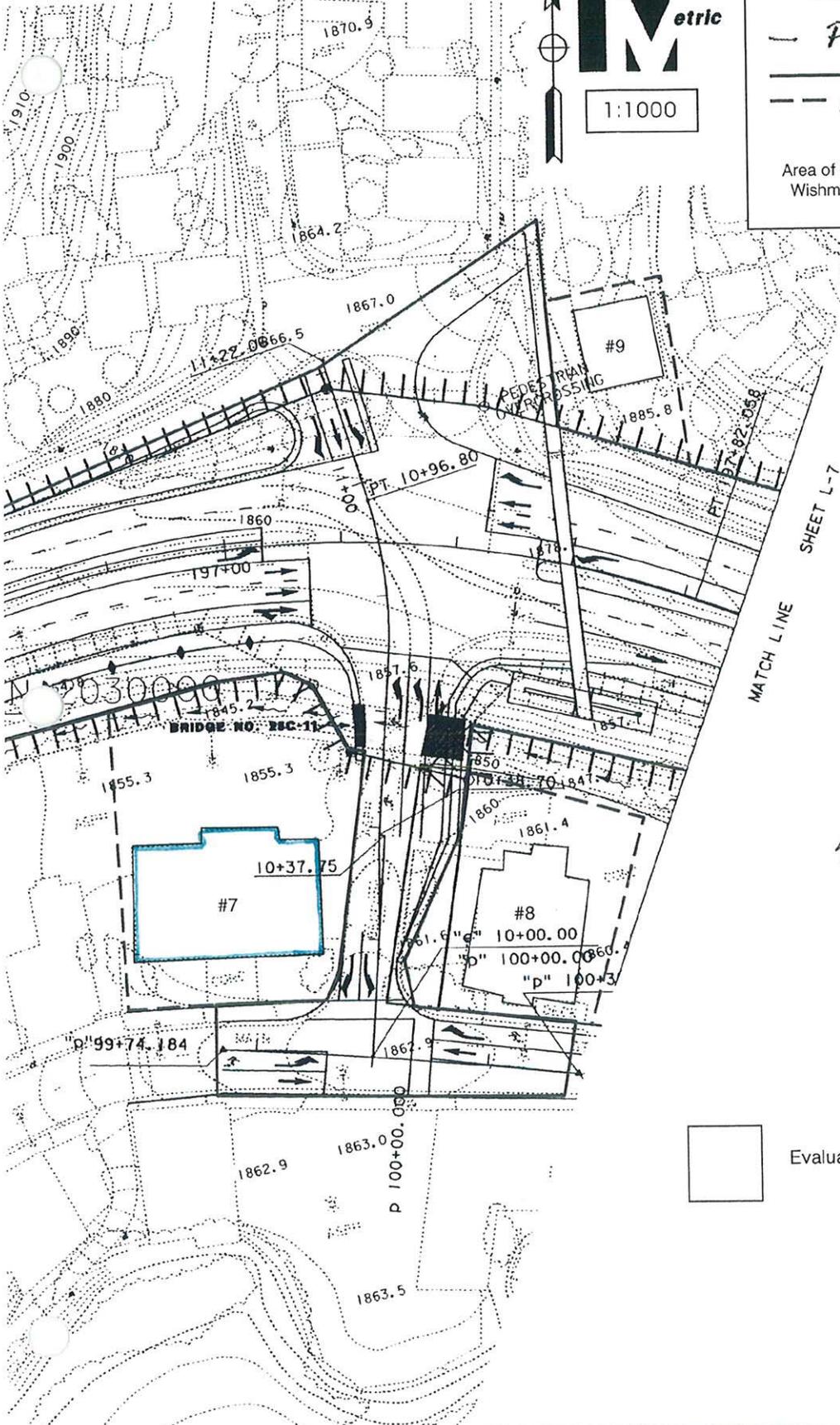
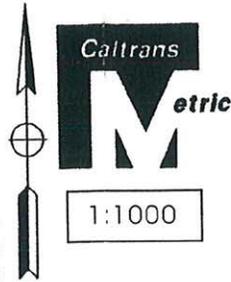
Area of Potential Effects

*P-9-4693*

— Area of Potential Effects

- - - Architectural Area of Potential Effects

Area of Potential Effects Map signed by George Wishman, FHWA Area Engineers, on 5/18/98 revised on 2/22/00



MATCH LINE  
SHEET L-7

*495 MAIN ST*



Evaluated buildings and structures

**LAYOUT**

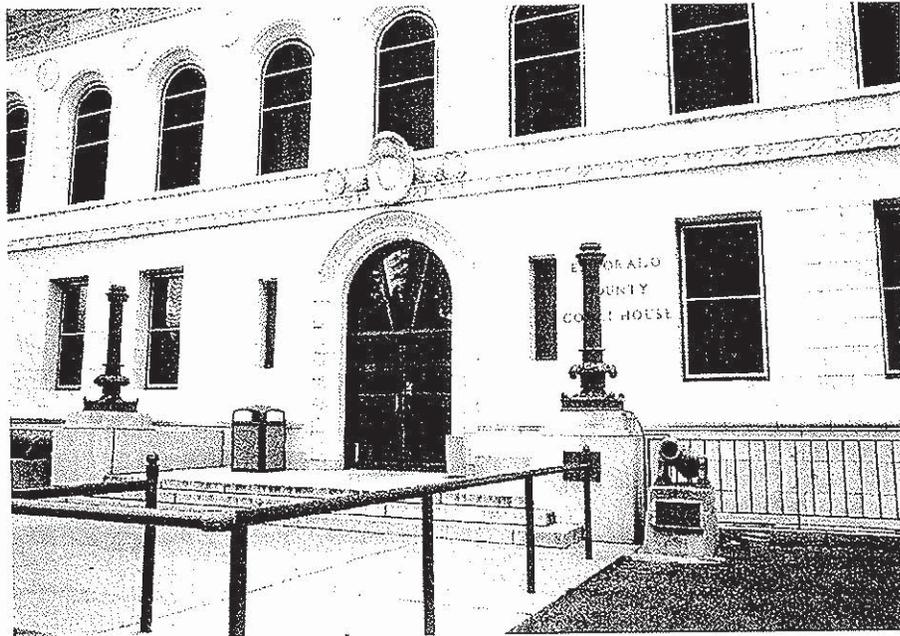
Continuation     Update

Resource Name or # 03-ED-50/49, Placerville, Map Reference #7

P5a. Photos):



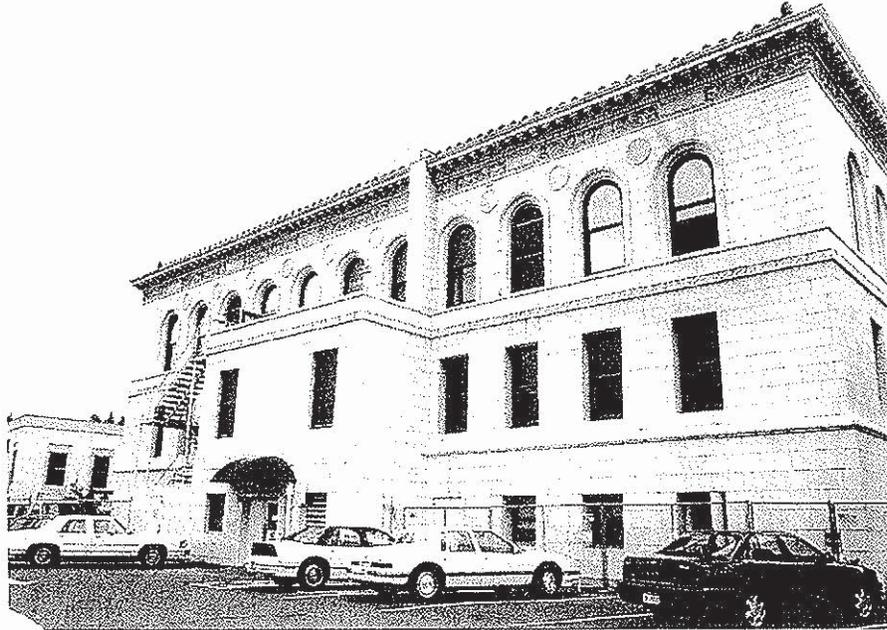
Façade, looking northwest



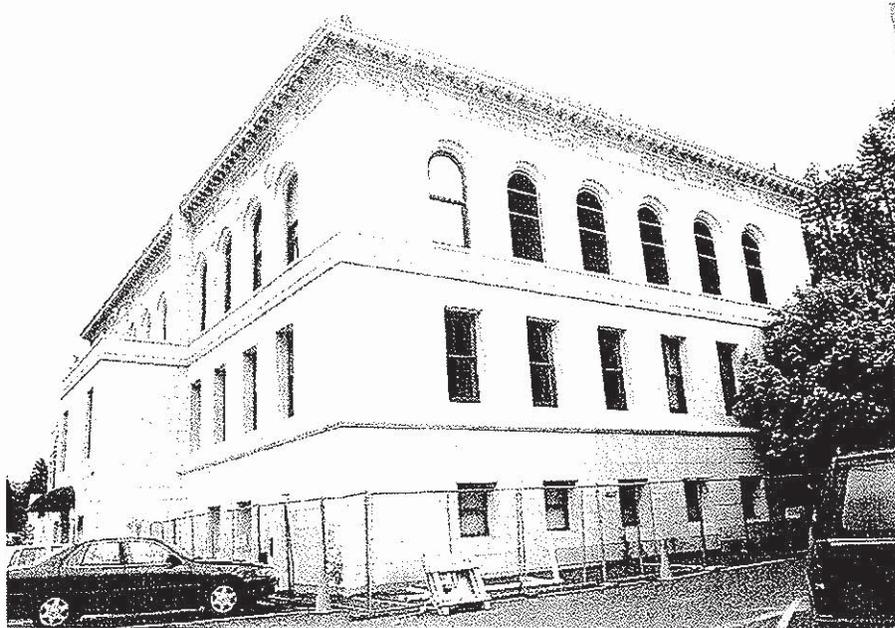
Façade entrance

Resource Name or # Placerville, Map Ref. #7

P5a. Photos (continued):



Rear (north elevation) at northwest corner



West elevation at northwest corner

# 0410497 (TR)

P-09-4693

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

Primary #  
HRI # 5007-039-0000  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings  
Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 3 \*Resource Name or #: 495 Main Street County Courthouse

- P1. Other Identifier:
- \*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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ % of \_\_\_\_\_ % of Sec \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ B.M.
- c. Address 495 Main Street City Placerville Zip 95667
- d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN
- e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
AP# 001-221-10-100; Portion of Block 38

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

This is a rectangular masonry County courthouse with a hipped roof with a flat center on the roof. Located on the north side of Main Street, it was completed in 1913, built of reinforced concrete and finished with glazed terra cotta. It is 2 stories with a full basement and originally also housed the county jail. The roofline and the flattened roof center are decorated with ornate fretwork. The medium overhang has an ornate cornice including small brackets. Immediately beneath the brackets is a band of dentils and beneath that are highly ornamented rectangular horizontal panels. Situated beneath these panels and above and between the arch tops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows, in the spandrels of adjoining window arches, there is a row of raised circular ornaments, one circle between each window. The recessed 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows have arched tops and metal frames with moveable lower halves and have modest pediments. The sill course goes entirely around the building. There is another ornate band course around the building at the level of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows are rectangular 1 over 1 doublehung in metal frames with modest pediments. The main entrance is centered on the Main Street side with an arched transom light above the double swinging glass doors in metal frames. The arch and sides of the doors are accented with ornamented protruding trim. Centered and above the main entrance is a terra cotta pediment. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor sill course goes entirely around the building slightly below the level of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor windowsills. (continued)

- \*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 14, Government building
- \*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other



- P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Front View, March 2001
- \*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
Built in 1913, source Mountain Democrat newspaper.
- \*P7. Owner and Address: El Dorado County  
360 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667
- \*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)  
Ken Earle  
3148 Fairchild Dr  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762
- \*P9. Date Recorded: April 2001
- \*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  
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
 HRI # \_\_\_\_\_

Page 2 of 3

\*NRHP Status Code 7

\*Resource Name or # 495 Main Street County Courthouse

- B1. Historic Name: County Courthouse
- B2. Common Name: County Courthouse
- B3. Original Use: County Courthouse
- B4. Present Use: County Courthouse

\*B5. Architectural Style: Italian Renaissance

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) originally built in 1913, there have been very few exterior changes.

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown Date: Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Cuff and Diggs, Sacramento

b. Builder: Clifford B. Rushmer, San Francisco

\*B10. Significance: Theme Commercial Development

Area Placerville, CA

Period of Significance early 1900's Property Type Office

Applicable Criteria 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Address integrity.)

This Italian Renaissance style courthouse is significant under criterion 3 for its design and construction. It is a very good example of ornate municipal structures of the period. The low pitched hipped tile roof, arch topped windows and doors, detailed ornate cornices with brackets, symmetrical layout of wall openings, repetitive belt courses, and dissimilar 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows are all representative of this style and period. Although many prominent local people have been associated with this courthouse, there is not enough significance for eligibility under criteria 1 or 2.

The original County Courthouse was built on this site in 1892. A fire in 1910 destroyed the old wood courthouse building and destroyed or severely damaged several buildings to the west. This stone building was built 1911-1913. The façade is almost untouched from its original construction date. Its integrity is unimpaired, showing its original design, materials, and workmanship. Its location and use still evoke the same feeling and association as when new even though many of the related county functions have been moved to the new county center.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes (List attributes and codes):

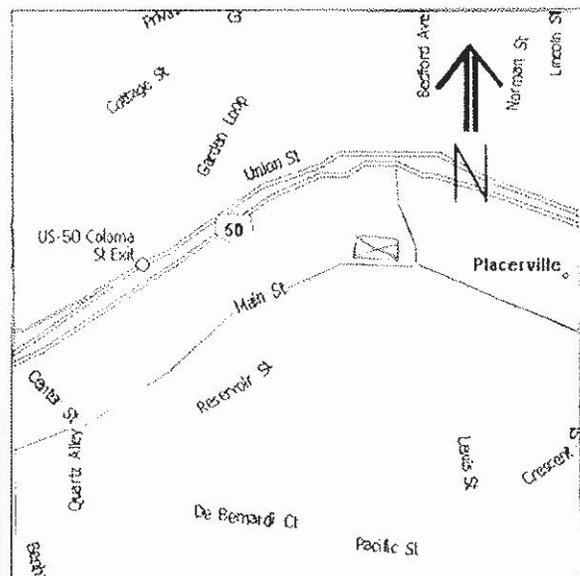
\*B12. References: Mountain Democrat newspaper, El Dorado County Historical Museum, Sanborn Maps, City Building Permit files, City Directories, County Assessors Office, El Dorado County Library files.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: Ken Earle

\*Date of Evaluation: 4/2001

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California -- The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_

HRI# \_\_\_\_\_

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

Page 3 of 3

\*Resource Name or # 495 Main Street County Courthouse

\*Recorded by Ken Earle

\*Date April 2001

 Continuation  Update**P3a Description:**

(continued) Each side of the building carries the same symmetric window pattern. The back wall has an extension out into the parking lot behind the building that extends up from grade level to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window sill level. Due to the changing grade, sloping downward as it moves to the rear of the building, the basement opens out onto the parking lot to the rear and to the sides. The upper floor rear windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors all mimic their front and side counterparts. The basement level rear openings include a service entrance, 3 plain metal panel doors and four 1 over 1 doublehung recessed windows lacking the ornamentation of the upper floor openings. On the east end of the back wall is a metal frame fire escape from the upper floors. The west wall basement level has six 1 over 1 doublehung recessed windows and the east wall has 5 similar windows.

**B10. Significance:**

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

		Ser. No. <u>009-5667-1</u>	
HABS	<u>HAER</u>	Loc <u>0003</u>	SHL No. <u>    </u> NR Status <u>4</u>
UTM:	A <u>                    </u>	C <u>                    </u>	
	B <u>                    </u>	D <u>                    </u>	

1. IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: El Dorado County Courthouse
2. Historic name: El Dorado County Courthouse
3. Street or rural address: 495 Main Street  
City: Placerville Zip 95667 County
4. Parcel number: 01:221:10
5. Present Owner: County of El Dorado Address: 360 Fair Lane  
City: Placerville, CA Zip 95667 Ownership is: Public  Private
6. Present Use: County Courthouse Original use: County Courthouse

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Renaissance Revival
- 7b. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:  
Completed in early 1913, the El Dorado County Courthouse is built of "reinforced concrete faced with matte glazed terra cotta" (McBean-Gladding, Lincoln, California). The building has two stories and a basement housing the County Jail. Clifford B. Rushmer of San Francisco carried out the construction of the building. The main entrance has two solid bronze double hung, center opening doors. The building is crowned with a Spanish roof and two granite buttresses at the entrance are surmounted by electrolers. The size of the building is 60' by 100'. A bronze tablet on the front of the building contains the names of the supervisors under whose direction the building was constructed--E. W. Smith of El Dorado, J. N. Jones of Diamond, M. Hughes of Placerville, J. J. Bayne of Coloma, and P. F. Morgan of Georgetown. The building also carries another bronze plaque stating it was restored by the County of El Dorado in 1965.

Attach Photo Envelope Here

8. Construction date:  
Estimated            Factual 1913
9. Architect Cuff & Diggs of  
Sacramento
10. Builder Clifford B. Rushmer,  
formerly of San Francisco
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 128.3' Depth 147.84'  
or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1912, 1931, 1983

13. Condition: Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  No longer in existence

14. Alterations: The building originally housed all of the official county offices; however, prior to the restoration project in 1965, the only offices to remain the building were the County Clerk's Office, (see Attached)

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land  Scattered buildings  Densely built-up   
Residential  Industrial  Commercial  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Threats to site: None known  Private development  Zoning  Vandalism   
Public Works project  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Is the structure: On its original site?  Moved?  Unknown?

18. Related features: Civil War cannon mounted in front of County Courthouse

#### SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The California Legislature in April 1854 settled a dispute concerning the official county seat for El Dorado County. When California became a state in 1850, Coloma was the county seat. Coloma's importance was ebbing, and Placerville's importance was increasing with each passing month. It also appeared Placerville was much closer to the center of the county (when considering the north and south boundaries of the county). Placerville appeared to be a much more appropriate place as the County Seat. The original Courthouse in Placerville burned April 1910, taking with it all official birth and death records of the period 1850-1910. Almost three years after the burning of the old courthouse, the modern edifice situated at the corner of Main Street and Bedford Avenue was ready for occupancy. This is the only known building designed by the architectural firm of Cuff & Diggs and built by Clifford B. Rushmer in Placerville.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

Architecture  2 Arts & Leisure   
Economic/Industrial  Exploration/Settlement   
Government  1 Military   
Religion  Social/Education

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates.)

San Francisco Call (Newspaper), Sunday December 22, 1912  
El Dorado County Recorder's Office, Official Records  
Mountain Democrat (Newspaper), Placerville, California,  
April 1910  
SIOLI, Paoli, History of El Dorado County, California,  
Oakland, 1883.

22. Date form prepared May 30, 1984

By (name) Betty Laarveld  
Organization Placerville Historic Advisory Committee  
Address: 487 Main Street  
City: Placerville, CA Zip: 95667  
Phone: (916) 622-9353

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, prominent landmarks, and indicate north):

Attachment to  
495 Main Street--County Courthouse

14. Continued

District Court, and Superior Courts; all other offices moved to various locations throughout the City. The Sheriff's Office and Jail were moved to a new site prior to 1965. Early in 1913, the American Legion Post received the Civil War cannon mounted in front of the County Courthouse.

# **APPENDIX B**

---

## **Correspondence**





2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

January 26, 2012

Debbie Pilas-Treadway  
Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Request for Search of Sacred Lands Files and Native American Contact List

Dear Ms. Treadway:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to provide an adequate appraisal of all potential impacts that may result from the proposed project, ESA is requesting that a search be conducted of the sacred lands files and records of traditional cultural properties that may exist within or adjacent to the project area. I would also like to request a list of Native American individuals and organizations that should be contacted about potential sites and resources of importance to Native Americans.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. Please contact me at 916-564-4500 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resource Associate

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
Fax (916) 657-5390  
Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)



February 1, 2012

Katherine Anderson  
ESA Community Development  
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Sent by Fax: 916-564-4501  
# of Pages: 3

Re: El Dorado county Courthouse Project, El Dorado County

Dear Ms. Anderson:

A record search of the sacred land file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated, if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe or group. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any of these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Sanchez".

Katy Sanchez  
Program Analyst



**Native American Contact List**

El Dorado County

January 31, 2012

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria

Gregory S. Baker, Tribal Administrator

10720 Indian Hill Road Maidu

Auburn , CA 95603 Miwok

gbaker@auburnrancheria.

530-883-2390

530-883-2380 - Fax

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

Daniel Fonseca

P.O. Box 1340 Miwok

Shingle Springs , CA 95682 Maidu

(530) 676-8010

(530) 676-8033 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed El Dorado County Courthouse; El Dorado County.



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 **phone**  
916.564.4501 **fax**

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
John Tayaba, Vice Chairperson  
PO Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Mr. Tayaba:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Nicholas Fonseca, Chairperson  
PO Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Chairperson Fonseca:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 **phone**  
916.564.4501 **fax**

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
Daniel Fonseca  
PO Box 1340  
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Mr. Fonseca:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
David Keyser, Chairperson  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Chairperson Keyser:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Preservation Committee  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Mr. Guerrero:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria  
Gregory S Baker, Tribal Administrator  
10720 Indian Hill Road  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Mr. Baker:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California THPO  
Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Coordinator  
919 Highway 395 South  
Garderville, NV 89410

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Mr. Cruz:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 **phone**  
916.564.4501 **fax**

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California THPO  
Waldo Walker, Chairperson  
919 Highway 395 South  
Garderville, NV 89410

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Chairperson Walker:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 phone  
916.564.4501 fax

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

Tsi-Akim Maidu  
Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson  
1239 East Main St  
Grassvalley, CA 95945

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Ms. Moon:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



2600 Capitol Ave  
Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916.564.4500 **phone**  
916.564.4501 **fax**

[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

February 2, 2012

April Wallace Moore  
19630 Placer Hills Road  
Colfax, CA 95713

**Subject:** El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Ms. Moore:

ESA is conducting environmental studies for the El Dorado County Courthouse project, Placerville, El Dorado County. The project is located on the Placerville USGS 7.5' Quad; T/R 10N, 10E (See attached map). The project would include the construction of an 87,642 sf courthouse facility, 280 space parking lot, and access road on a 7.7 acre parcel adjacent to the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

In an effort to address any potential impact to archaeological or ethnographic resources, we are seeking comments from Native American representatives; your name was supplied to us by the Native American Heritage Commission as a contact for this area. We would appreciate your comments identifying any concerns or issues pertinent to this project.

Thank you for your time and cooperation regarding this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine Anderson  
Cultural Resources Associate

Attachments



MIWOK  
MAIDU

United Auburn Indian Community  
of the Auburn Rancheria

David Keyser  
Chairman

Kimberly DuBach  
Vice Chair

Gene Whitehouse  
Secretary

Brenda Conway  
Treasurer

Calvin Moman  
Council Member

March 6, 2012

Katherine Anderson  
ESA  
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816



Subject: El Dorado County Courthouse

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on the above referenced project under Senate Bill 18. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) of the Auburn Rancheria is comprised of Miwok and Southern Maidu (Nisenan) people whose tribal lands are within Placer County and ancestral territory spans into El Dorado, Nevada, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba counties. The UAIC is concerned about development within its aboriginal territory that has potential to impact the lifeways, cultural sites, and landscapes that may be of sacred or ceremonial significance. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this and other projects in your jurisdiction.

In order to ascertain whether or not the project could affect cultural resources that may be of importance to the UAIC, we would like to receive copies of any archaeological reports that have been, or will be, completed for the project. We also request copies of future environmental documents for the proposed project so that we have the opportunity to comment on potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to cultural resources. The information gathered will provide us with a better understanding of the project and cultural resources on site and is invaluable for consultation purposes. Please contact us if any Native American cultural resources are in, or found to be within, your project area.

Thank you again for taking these matters into consideration, and for involving the UAIC early in the planning process. We look forward to reviewing the aforementioned documents as requested. Please contact Marcos Guerrero, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, at (530) 883-2364 or email at [mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com](mailto:mguerrero@auburnrancheria.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Baker,  
Tribal Administrator

CC: Marcos Guerrero, THPO



SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA  
P.O. BOX 1340; SHINGLE SPRINGS, CA 95682  
(530) 676-8010; FAX (530) 676-3582

February 21, 2012

ESA  
2600 Capitol Ave, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: El Dorado County Courthouse Project

Dear Katherine Anderson

Thank you for your letter dated February 2, 2012 seeking information regarding the proposed El Dorado County Courthouse Project located in El Dorado County. Based on the information provided, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians is not aware of any known cultural resources on this site. However, SSR would like to have continued consultation through updates, as the project progresses this will foster a greater communication between the Tribe and your agency.

SSR would also like to request any and all completed record searches and or surveys that were done in or around the project area up to and including environmental, archaeological and cultural reports.

If during the progress of the project new information or human remains are found we would like to be able to go over our process with you that we currently have in place to protect such important and sacred artifacts (especially near rivers and streams).

Please contact the following individuals if such finds are made:

Mr. Daniel Fonseca, Director and Most Likely Descendant (MLD)  
Office: (530) 676-8010, [dfonseca@ssband.org](mailto:dfonseca@ssband.org)

And copy all communications to:  
Crystal Dilworth, Office Coordinator [cdilworth@ssband.org](mailto:cdilworth@ssband.org) Office (530) 698-1471

and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fonseca  
Cultural Resources Director



SHINGLE SPRINGS  
RANCHERIA

Daniel Fonseca  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

P.O. Box 531 • Shingle Springs, CA 95682  
Ph (530) 698-1460 • Cell (530) 306-3069 • Fax (530) 698-1408  
Email [dfonseca@ssband.org](mailto:dfonseca@ssband.org)



# **APPENDIX C**

---

## **Updated DPR Form**



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

Primary # P-9-4693  
 HRI #  
 Trinomial  
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 5 \*Resource Name or #: El Dorado County Courthouse

**P1. Other Identifier:**

\*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 Date: 1973 T 10N; R 10E; ¼ of ¼ of Sec ; M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 495 Main Street City: Placerville Zip: 95667

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:

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

The El Dorado Courthouse consists of a two story masonry building measuring 60 by 100 feet. The rectangular reinforced concrete building is finished with glazed terra cotta. The building includes two stories and a full basement. Ornate metal fretwork decorates the building's low pitched, hipped roof, and the overhang has an ornate cornice. A band of dentils runs beneath the overhang, and beneath that are ornamental rectangular horizontal panels. Beneath the panels and above and between the arch tops of the second floor windows are a row of raised circular ornaments.

Recessed second floor windows have arched tops and metal frames with moveable lower halves. A sill course wraps entirely around the building, paralleled by another ornate band course around the building at the level of the second floor. The first floor has rectangular double-hung windows in metal frames.

The main entrance centers on the Main Street side, with an arched transom light above the double swinging glass doors in metal frames. Stairs flanked by short lamps and Civil War era cannons lead up to the entrance from the sidewalk level. Centered and above the main entrance is an ornamental terracotta bas-relief face. The first floor sill course continues around the entire building slightly below the level of the first floor windows. (See Continuation Sheet)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP14. Government Buildings

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

P5a. Photo or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo: courthouse facing north

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: 1912  Historic  Prehistoric  Both

\*P7. Owner and Address: El Dorado County  
 495 Main Street  
 Placerville, CA 95667

\*P8. Recorded by: Katherine Anderson | ESA  
 2600 Capitol Ave, Ste 200  
 Sacramento, CA 95816

\*P9. Date Recorded: 04/17/12

\*P10. Survey Type: intensive

\*P11. Report Citation: ESA, 2012. New Placerville Courthouse Project Cultural Resources Inventory Report. Completed for the Administrative Office of the Courts. May, 2012.

\*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):

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*Resource Name or # El Dorado County Courthouse

- B1. Historic Name: El Dorado County Courthouse
- B2. Common Name: El Dorado County Courthouse
- B3. Original Use: courthouse
- B4. Present Use: same

\*B5. **Architectural Style:** Beaux Art/Italian Renaissance Revival architecture

\*B6. **Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

- 1912 – original construction
- 1971 – renovation and interior remodel

\*B7. **Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**

\*B8. **Related Features:**

B9a. Architect: Cuff and Diggs

b. Builder: Clifford Rushmer (superintendent),  
Ramsey Concrete Company (general contractor)

\*B10. **Significance: Theme:** local government

**Area:** Placerville, El Dorado County

**Period of Significance:** 1912

**Property Type:** government

**Applicable Criteria:** 1 and 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Following the establishment of El Dorado County in 1849, Coloma emerged as the county seat and for the first 6 years, the courthouse and county offices were located in rented quarters in Coloma. In 1856, the County constructed a two-story, 80-by-45 foot wooden building to house the court and County offices with an adjacent jail. The next year, the County seat was moved to Placerville due to its better established commercial presence and more central location (McDevitt, 2001).

The first courthouse erected in Placerville was a typical Western vernacular structure, “with a wide roofed porch on the second floor and a jail in the basement” (McDevitt, 2001). It possessed a diminutive bell tower and wooden railing around the second floor porch.

In January 1910, El Dorado County Supervisors began examining the option of purchasing the property adjacent to the courthouse. Supervisors had determined the courthouse to be too small, and the addition of the adjacent property would greatly enlarge the capacity of the building (*San Francisco Call*, 01/08/1910). The courthouse was badly damaged by a fire on May 15, 1910 and subsequently demolished. The fire began at 10 o'clock in the evening and destroyed not only the country courthouse, but the Odd Fellows hall and a nearby grocery. (*San Francisco Call*, 05/17/1910).

Following the destruction of the Placerville Courthouse, residents from both Georgetown and El Dorado began to campaign for the removal of the county seat to their respective cities (*San Francisco Call*, 05/29/1910, 05/31/1910). On November 10, 1910, a bond for \$125,000 to erect a new courthouse passed, and El Dorado County decided to rebuild on the same site, but on a larger and grander scale, with more durable materials (*San Francisco Call*, 11/11/1910, 12/09/1910; McDevitt, 2001). The new courthouse was completed in 1912. The reinforced concrete building consisted of two stories and a basement, as well as a jail with 12 cells. The treasurer’s office occupied the first floor, and the second floor contained the courtrooms for the superior court. The building measured 60 by 100 feet, and included a “Spanish roof and two granite buttresses at the front entrance” as well as a glazed terra cotta finish. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

\*B12. **References:**

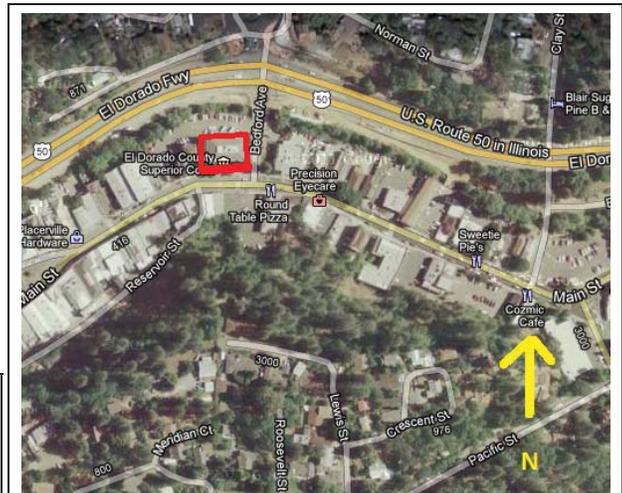
McDevitt, Ray, 2001. Courthouses of California: An Illustrated History. California Historical Society. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books. (See Continuation Sheet)

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. **Evaluator:** Katherine Anderson | ESA  
2600 Capitol Ave, Ste 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

\*Date of Evaluation: 04/23/12

(This space reserved for official comments.)



\*Recorded by: Katherine Anderson | ESA  
2600 Capitol Ave, Ste 200  
Sacramento, CA 95816

\*Date: 02/13/14

Continuation

Update



**Southern Pacific Railroad Alignment (CA-ELD-971H)**

Quadrangle: Placerville  
Location: See Attached  
Date recorded: May 1, 2012  
Recorded by: Brian Marks, ESA

During the survey, Dr. Marks relocated the segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad (CA-ELD-971H) at the northern end of the project area. It is now a paved pedestrian/biking trail. The only remaining elements of the railroad corridor are the modifications to the hillside during the initial construction. These elements include banks and terraces along the hillside.

The segment of the SPRR has been extensively altered since its original construction, with the removal of the associated railroad hardware and repurposing of the alignment as a modern bicycle path. Subsequently, the resource does not appear to maintain sufficient integrity to reflect its historic context or potential historic significance, and as such is recommended ineligible for listing in the California Register.

