

~~A 38~~

L 58

June 23, 1965

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western

From: Director

Subject: Eldorado Stage Coach Site

In visiting with Congressman Rizz Johnson on June 22, he mentioned to me the above site as being one in which we may have an interest because of its association with the early Stage Coach routes, as well as the unusual collection of artifacts that lend character and authenticity to the operation. I understand that this is an old stage station about 100 years old and built out of stone. It is located in Eldorado County, Newton, California, and is owned by Mr. Wilder.

I promised Congressman Johnson that I would have the matter checked into and advise him further. Will you please furnish me with a report that I may further advise him. Thank you very much.

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

cc:  
~~Mr. Hartzog~~  
~~Mr. Utley~~

GBHartzog:hj



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
July 21, 1965

JUL 23 1965

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H34

RH

*Mr. Wilder*

*J. Ben Files*

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:  
Supplementary Information on El Dorado County Stage  
Station at Newtown, California

Through a telephone call to Mr. Hassler, an active local historian of Coloma, California, we have been able to gather the following additional information on the stage station at Newtown, El Dorado County, California:

Mr. Hassler informed us that the house is located about 10 miles south-east of Placerville and about one-half mile south of Pleasant Valley on an old unimproved road leading up into the Grizzly Flat area of the Mother Lode County and that the correct name of the site is Newtown, not Newton.

The house is an old one-story stone building that is jammed full of articles collected by Mr. Wilder, the owner. In Mr. Hassler's opinion, this collection is a mixture of pure junk and articles of genuine historical interest. Mr. Wilder operated the house as a small museum for some time, but is now quite elderly and very ill; he is now in the El Dorado county hospital. The house is now closed. On Mr. Wilder's death the property will be inherited by a relative who has shown little interest in the house and collection.


In Mr. Hassler's opinion, the relative will probably sell the house and collection as quickly as possible. Mr. Hassler also promised to check his collection of local history books and to send us whatever information he can find on the stage station.

With the correct name of the site, we were also able to collect some additional data. Newtown was one of a number of small mining camps of tents and cabins that sprang up in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley in July of 1849. Most of these towns disappeared rather quickly, but Newtown survived, due to hydraulic mining operations, until 1872, when a fire destroyed the town. The stage station is the last surviving building of this former mining town, which accounts for the reason why that the name of this community no longer appears on the map.

*It is an one-story stone structure owned by Mr. Wilder, as mentioned in Coloma*

The location of the house on the old mining road to Grizzly Flats confirms our surmise of July 16 that this building was a local stage station. We are of the opinion, therefore, that the building would not merit classification as a site eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. If Mr. Hassler is correct in his opinion that Mr. Wilder's relative will be chiefly interested in disposing of the property, then it is also probable that the relative will show little interest in registering the house as a California Registered State Historical Landmark, as suggested in our July 16 letter on this subject.

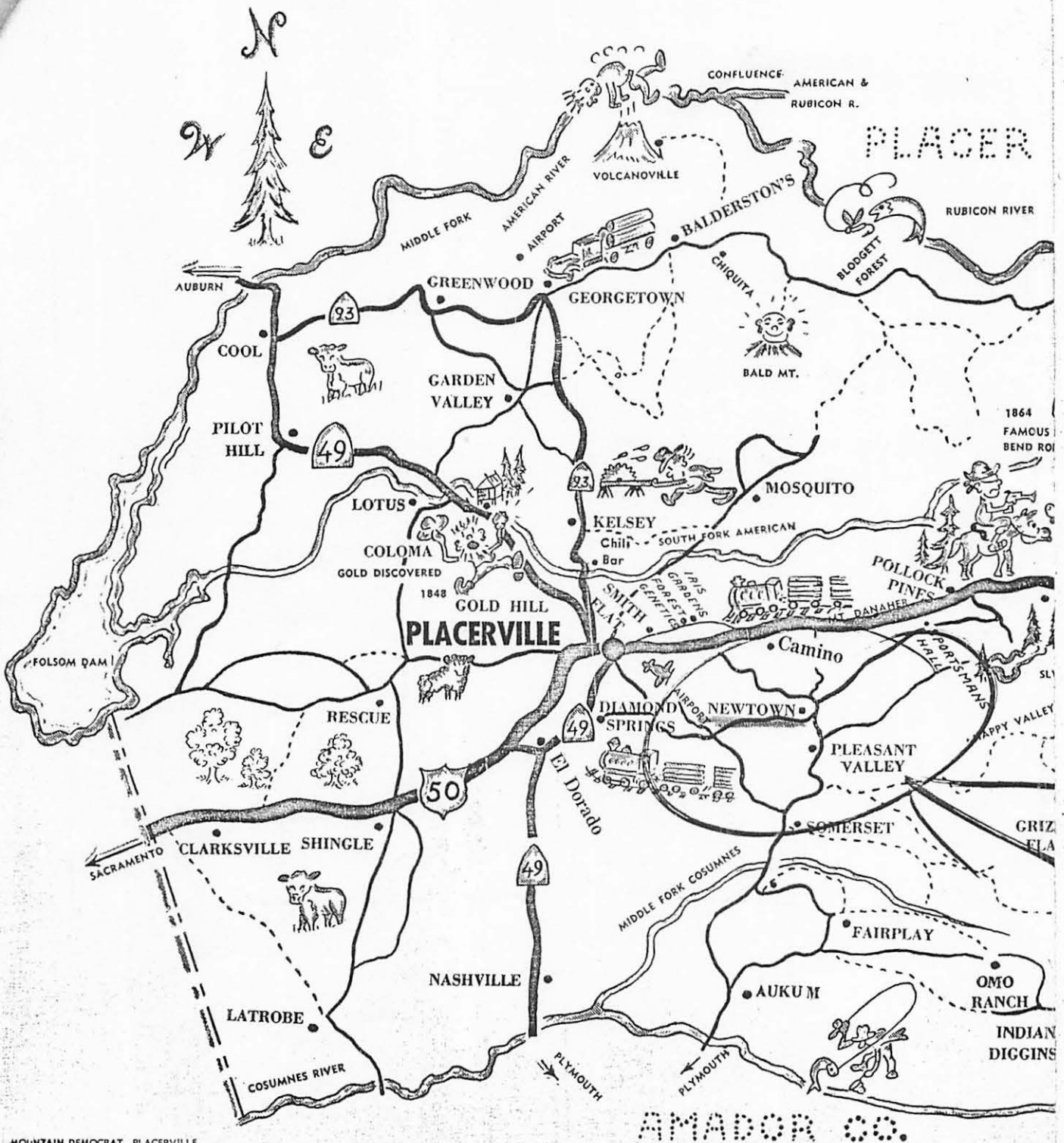
We will forward Mr. Hassler's historical data on the stage station as soon as this information is received.

  
Edward A. Hummel

in this area, held the first ding, in 1852 where the

picked up by opposition and used all over the U.S. Greeley vowed it lost him the election. Candidate made a Presidential campaign speech from the balcony of the old Cary House.

for further information contact the EL DORADO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Little 7/30  
Wiley 7/30  
Binneman 8/3  
Harrison 8/3  
Stephens 8/4

L58

AUG 5 - 1965

Mr. David F. Johnson  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Our Western Region has now had the opportunity to investigate the old stage house in Norton, El Dorado County, California, that you recently called to our attention.

Our information indicates that the house is located about 10 miles southeast of Placerville and about one-half mile south of Pleasant Valley on an old unpaved road leading up into the Grizzly Flak area of the Mother Lode country. Norton was one of a number of small mining camps of lode and claims that sprung up in the vicinity of Pleasant Valley in July 1849. Most of these towns disappeared rather quickly, but Norton survived, due to hydraulic mining operations, until 1876, when a fire destroyed the town. The stage station owned by Mr. Wilder is the last surviving building of the old mining town. It is a one-story structure erected by Mr. Wilder as a tavern and contains some artifacts of genuine historical interest.

As you indicated, the structure did indeed serve as a station on one of the many local stagecoach routes that served the Mother Lode country during the gold rush years. Because of its association with a local rather than a transcontinental stage line, we believe the house would more suitably qualify for registration as a California Historic Landmark than as a National Historic Landmark. We are, therefore, asking our Western Region to bring it to the attention of the California Historic Landmarks Committee in Sacramento.

We deeply appreciate your interest in and support of the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Acting Director

Regional Director, Western

- cc:
- Mr. Littleton
- Mr. Young
- Mr. Harrison

RMUTley:gd 7-30-65