

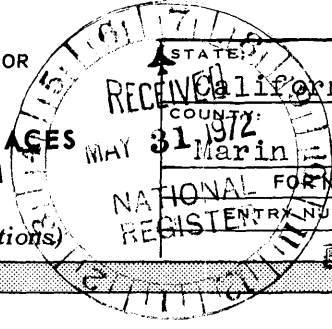
PH 0037028

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Marin
ENTRY NUMBER:	
DATE:	DEC 26 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Dixie Schoolhouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Dixie School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2255 Las Gallinas Avenue (on Miller Creek School property)

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael (correspondance address: 35 Trellis Drive, San Rafael)

Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	94903	06 Marin	041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	The school is undergoing restoration as an educational museum.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Dixie School District

STREET AND NUMBER:
35 Trellis Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

STATE:
California

CODE:
94903 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Marin County Recorder's Office, Marin County Civic Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
North San Pedro Road

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

STATE:
California

CODE:
94903 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Project Survey, Junior League of San Francisco,

DATE OF SURVEY: May, 1964 Federal State County Bay Area

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Marin County Library, Administration Bldg., Civic Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
North San Pedro Road

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

STATE:
California

CODE:
94903 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Calif.
COUNTY: Marin
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DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)(substantially)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It should first be noted that in order to save the Dixie Schoolhouse from demolition, it had to be moved from its original site. Moving the schoolhouse was the only alternative to destruction.

The Dixie Schoolhouse is a rectangular one-story building, approximately 25' by 40' with very high ceiling space. It contains simple classical details. Originally the school building was located on a deck which projected approximately five feet from the building. Examination of the 1895 photo reveals this deck. Future plans call for restoration of this deck. The original foundation has been replaced by a concrete foundation on the school's new site on Miller Creek School property. (This new site is approximately one-quarter mile from the original site, and is part of the original James Miller land holdings).

Deterioration of original materials is minimal, although because of continuous and various use, the interior of the school building has experienced minor alteration. More correctly, it has experienced "addition." The room was partitioned, and a lower ceiling added in the 1950's. However this fixtures were not permanent and have been removed with no substantial impairment of the interior. The process of restoration has revealed the original wooden floor (it had been covered with linoleum), and blackboards. Interior restoration is now in progress.

The schoolhouse has a symmetrical facade with windows (four over four lights, double-hung wooden sashes) flanking the entrance. This entrance is a double-door with a single light transom above. The building has three bays across the principal facade, and two bays on the side facades. This is original to the building.

Details include Italianate bracketed roof and window cornices, and a simple dentil course below the roof. The building has a hipped roof with a central pediment above the entrance on the principal facade. The pediment contains a circular applique ornamentation. These details are original to the building.

Originally the school was painted white with details and trim in a darker color. An earlier and much smaller rectangular school-building (1864) is now attached to the rear of the main schoolbuilding. This building has served as an annex since 1868-69. It has no decorative details. In the 19th century, the school was surrounded by a white picket fence, and the main schoolbuilding had interior louvered shutters which will eventually be replaced.

During the 19th century, the roof, now asphalt, had redwood shingles; the Foundation plans to replace the present roof with wooden shingles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

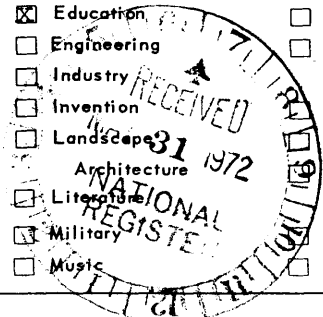
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1st building: 1864 - 2nd building: 1868-69

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>historic to</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Marin and early</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>California</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Dixie Schoolhouse in Marinwood (San Rafael), California is both historically and architecturally significant in relationship to early California. Not only does it provide a valuable link to the well-known James Miller family, but it is Marin County's last remaining mid-Victorian one-room schoolhouse which is substantially unaltered, and intended for viable, contemporary public use as an educational museum and meeting place. The Office of the Marin County Superintendent of Schools has verified this fact. The other schoolhouses of this era have either been converted to private residences or demolished.

James Miller and his family pioneered the overland trail to California in 1844 and, once here, contributed substantially to the development and growth of California.¹ Munro-Frazier and H.H. Bancroft both describe the role James Miller played in the famous Murphy-Stevens party of 1844 which, with the aid of the Indian guide, Truckee, opened the wagon route into California. Both they, and the more contemporary authors, Irving Stone and George Stewart, attribute the success to the combined courage and coolheadedness of Martin Murphy, James Miller and Elisha Stevens, and this history-making group has variously been called the Murphy party, the Murphy-Miller party, and the Stevens party.

Once safely into California, with the winter past, Miller brought his family to Marin in 1845. There, Timothy (Don Timoteo) Murphy, delighted to learn that he and Miller were both born near Wexford, Ireland, granted Miller 680 acres of the Las Gallinas Ranch where the Millers had camped on their first night in Marin. This land was part of the famous Mexican land grant which Murphy had received in 1804 from the Mexican government.

In 1849, Miller, long-interested in fostering education, built the first schoolhouse in San Rafael. In 1855 he contributed funds and labor to the building of St. Vincent's School (California Historical Landmark #630). The School lay directly across from his own homesite, Miller Hall.

Regarded by many as the "foster-father of St. Vincent's"² his interest in education continued. Although his older children

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Annual Report of Condition of Common Schools,"
 Marin County, 1868-69, James Miller, County Clerk. (available
 at State Archives).
 Bancroft, H.H. History of California. (History Company Publishers)
 San Francisco. 1890.
 Board of Supervisors, Marin County, Record of Minutes,
 Book A-2, page 338. 1863.
 Dwyer, John T. One Hundred Years an Orphan. A History of St. Vincent's
 School. (Academy Library Guild. Fresno, California. 1955).
 (continued on supplementary sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 01' 45"	122° 32' 43"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
 10/53990
 4208950
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pamela McGuire, Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation Historian

ORGANIZATION: Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation DATE: April 10, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
35 Trellis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: San Rafael STATE: California CODE: 94903 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date MAY 3 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/26/72

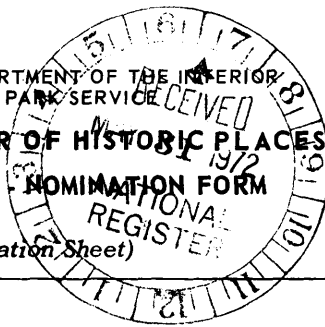
ATTEST:

William J. Stutz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 12-20-72

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8. had been privately tutored, in 1862 when his youngest son, Bernard, was six, Miller donated 3/4 of an acre for the Dixie School which was to be built near the Las Gallinas home ranch, so that Bernard would have a school to attend. On November 3, 1863, the Board of Supervisors formally established the "Dixie Public School District", making Dixie one of the earliest districts to be established in Marin.⁴ The original Dixie Schoolhouse, which later became an annex and library to the larger and newer schoolhouse, was built in 1864. This fact is confirmed both by Bernard Hoffman's notes, and the Superintendent of Schools Report in 1899. Mr. Hoffman, raised by the Miller family, attended Dixie in the 1870's, and later served as a trustee of the district for 50 years. His notes, commenting on a 1953 newspaper article on the Dixie Schoolhouse, state that the "present annex to the main building was built in 1864. I have seen '1864' printed on its side. The large building was built later."

Mr. Hoffman's memory served him well. An 1899 Report of the Superintendent of Schools confirms this date. It also records that the "Dixie District is richest in proportion to population in the County. It joins San Rafael on the north and includes in its territory the St. Vincent's Orphanage where there are about 500 children. On account of these children the district secures large State apportionments. After paying all expenses large sums accumulate which are apportioned to the other county districts. The District was organized⁵ Nov. 3, 1863, and a house was built and school opened in March, 1864."

Mrs. Frances Miller Leitz, daughter of Bernard Miller for whom the school was built, and granddaughter of James Miller, is still living. She has stated that her grandfather not only donated the land, but helped haul redwood from the Nicasio Mills for construction of both school buildings. A comparison of the later schoolbuilding to photos and drawings of Miller Hall shows a striking similarity in design principles, which suggests that the same architect was responsible for both. Mrs. Leitz also uncovered the origin of the school's name when she stated that her grandfather, not being a man to turn down a challenge named the building on a dare. Marin County, in 1864, was hotly pro-Northern, and the fact that several "gentlemen" from the South helped construct the first schoolhouse prompted someone to dare James Miller to name the school "Dixie." He did. Thus Dixie opened in March of 1864.

The construction date of the later building has generally been attributed to 1869, but, until recently, no documentary proof had been uncovered. However, recent research at the State Archives has provided substantial evidence that 1868-69 was the construction date for the Dixie Schoolhouse which bears such striking resemblance to Miller Hall. Starting in 1865, all County Superintendents of Schools were required to turn in an "Annual Report of the Condition of Common Schools." This

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report, now in the Archives, includes teachers' names, salaries paid, student attendance, money received, and expenditures itemized for the schoolyear. Thus we have a fairly detailed record of what occurred in each school district for the year reported.

Until the schoolyear, 1868-69, Dixie school property, which included schoolhouse and equipment, was consistently valued at \$300. In 1868-69, the total "valuation of property" suddenly jumped to \$1100, and for the first time the evaluation included a "library." It seems the first little schoolhouse now served another purpose--as library annex to the new building. A note in the Marin County Journal, Thursday May 29, 1873 confirms the use of the annex as a library. "The Dixie School, under Miss Giffin, has sixteen pupils enrolled with a good average attendance. They have a good school room with library attached which contains a very choice selection of works. It is considered a model school in all its appointments."

Finally, on January 9, 1874, James Miller deeded the 3/4 acre site to the Dixie School District on the sole condition that the property be used exclusively for public school purposes.

It should be noted that research continues. The Dixie Schoolhouse Foundation, responsible for the restoration and interpretation of the schoolhouse, has just recently come in contact with James Miller's two oldest surviving descendants, and many of the family documents, deeds, papers and photographs have yet to be analyzed. Frances Miller Leitz, James Miller's granddaughter, taught at the Dixie Schoolhouse, and will be of tremendous help in providing the Foundation with an accurate description of the interior of the schoolroom at the turn of the century, as well as daily school life, and life with the Millers.

The whole purpose in back of this restoration project is to return something of historical and architectural significance to current community use. Dixie is the only schoolhouse of mid-Victorian architecture which is still devoted to public use. Once restored and refurnished, it will become a multiple-use museum, serving as a reminder of James Miller's contribution to early Marin history, and as a place where pupils can visit on field trips, and gather for special classes, as well as a place where community groups may meet for various purposes

1. Marin County Independent Journal, July 10, 1971, "The Story of the Millers of Marin, p. M4.
2. Dwyer, John T., One Hundred Years an Orphan. Academy Library Guild, Fresno, California. 1955.
3. Marin County Independent Journal, Centennial Issue, "Fortunes for Ranchers in '49 Gold Rush, p. H8.
4. Board of Supervisors, Marin County, Record of Minutes, Book A-2, p.33
5. Marin County Journal, Vol 39, No. 20, July 27, 1899, p. 12.
6. "Annual Report of Condition of Common Schools," Marin Co., 1868-69.
7. Marin County Journal, Thursday, May 29, 1873, "School Notes."

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9.

Marin County Journal, Thursday, May 29, 1873, "School Notes."

Marin County Journal, Vol. 39, No. 20, July 27, 1899, Special Edition.

Marin County Independent Journal, Centennial Issue, March 18, 1961, "Fortunes for Ranchers in '49 Gold Rush," p. H8.

Marin County Independent Journal, July 10, 1971, "The Story of the Millers of Marin," p. M4.

Munro-Frazer, J.P. History of Marin County. (San Francisco. Alley-Bowen and Company, 1880). Available at Marin County Civic Library.

Olmsted, Roger R. and Watkins, T.H. Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage, sponsored by the Junior League of San Francisco, Inc. (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1968).

Stewart, George R. The California Trail. (McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1962).

Stone, Irving. Men to Match My Mountains. (Doubleday. 1956).

