LANDMARK NUMBER: 2

KNOWN AS: Manzana School

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: None

LOCATION: Near the confluence of Manzana Creek and Sisquoc River (14 miles east of the Sisquoc Ranch) in the San Rafael Wilderness

TYPE OF SITE: School

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 66-423

LANDMARK DATE: August 8, 1966
DESIGNATION: Likely by a request from the Santa Maria Valley

OBTAINED BY: Historical Society, Inc. as indicated in a letter to the Forest Service (November 16, 1964). No formal application was found in the Manzana School Landmark File.

PAST OWNERS: Manzana School District
Sisquoc Ranch Company
James Flood

CURRENT OWNERS: U. S. Forest Service (school sits on land in the Los Padres National Forest)

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: None

CONDITION: Good

DESCRIPTION:
Length of building is 27’; width 18’; overhang of roof is 2’ each end. Six windows now boarded up.

Manzana School stands at the Manzana Campgrounds near the confluence of Manzana Creek and the Sisquoc River in the Los Padres National Forest. It was constructed in 1895 for children of homesteaders then living in this remote and mountainous area. It was built using lumber cut from a saw mill constructed alongside the Sisquoc River. Up to 25 students actually attended the school for several years.1

The Manzana School District was organized in 1895 with William Tunnell, Ed Forrester (on whose land the school was constructed), and Adolph Willman as the first trustees. They selected a site on a small mesa near where the Manzana Creek flows into the Sisquoc River. The first school session was held on the Monday following the 4th of July, 1895. Cora McCroskey, who had just turned 18, was the first teacher.2

Soon after the school was opened, more families moved into the area and it was necessary for the school to be enlarged to its present size. The building was frequently used for community activities. It was closed in 1902 (in information supplied by Chester Davis, once a pupil at the school, on September 28, 1961, he claims June 1903 was the last session) as most of the settlers had moved away finding life in such a remote area difficult. The school house sustained the elements fairly well until 1965 when it was necessary to replace the roof, brace the building, and board up the windows. All work was done by local volunteers.3

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1 Sisquoc Pioneers & State of California Resources Agency
2 Manzana School history
3 Ibid
By various transfers the school site was acquired by the Sisquoc Ranch Company. In 1951 the Company sold its holdings to James Flood and he subsequently exchanged the parcel of land which included the school site to the Los Padres national Forest. The school site is in public ownership under the control of the U.S. Forestry Department.4

Twice in recent years the structure has been threatened by fire. Firefighters saved it from the 2007 Zaca Fire by spraying it with fire retardant foam. In 2009, local neighbors fought off flames from the La Brea Fire.5

RESOURCES:
Memo, Manzana School, Santa Barbara County Point of Historical Interest, State of California Resources Agency (November 30, 1966)
Manzana School History prepared by the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society (August 1, 1966)
Memo on Santa Maria Valley Historical Society, Incorporated letterhead and received in the supervisors office June 9, 1966
Riaza Canelon, (Neighbors’ Quick Action Saves County Landmark,” Santa Ynez Valley Extra Edition (Tuesday, August 25, 2009)

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4 Memo, Santa Maria Valley Historical Society (June 9, 1966)
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT THE
MANZANA SCHOOL HOUSE IS AN
HISTORICAL LANDMARK WORTHY OF
PROTECTION UNDER ORDINANCE NO.
1716 AND PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS
TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE MANZANA
SCHOOL HOUSE

WHEREAS, the Manzana School House located near the Manzana
Creek in Santa Barbara County has great historical significance
and interest to the general public as a landmark and reminder of
pioneer days in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 1966, the Santa Barbara County Advisory
Landmark Committee declared the Manzana School House to be an
historical landmark pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No.
1716 of the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa
Barbara deems the Manzana School House to be worthy of protection
and preservation as such historical landmark;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors, having duly set a public
hearing for August 6, 1966, has heard all interested
parties and has closed said public hearing, adopting the conditions
set out in paragraph 2 of this Resolution.

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares the Manzana
School House to be an historical monument pursuant to Ordinance
No. 1716 and hereby imposes the following conditions on the
Manzana School House pursuant to said Ordinance,

a. Demolition, removal or destruction, partially or
entirely, is prohibited unless express consent in writing is first
had and obtained from the Santa Barbara County Advisory Landmark Committee. Such consent may impose all reasonable conditions deemed appropriate by the Committee to accomplish the purpose of Ordinance No. 1718.

b. No alterations, repairs, additions or changes (other than normal maintenance and repair work) shall be made unless and until all plans therefor have first been reviewed by the Santa Barbara County Advisory Landmark Committee and approved, or modified, and reasonable conditions imposed as deemed necessary, and that all such work shall be done under the direction and control of the Santa Barbara County Advisory Landmark Committee or other qualified persons designated by it.

d. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Richard P. Meldon of Santa Maria and Mr. William Hansen, U. S. Forest Supervisor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this ___ day of

August, 1966, by the following vote:

AYES: George H. Clyde, Joe J. Callahan, Daniel G. Grant,

F. H. Beattie and Curtis Tunnell

ABSENT: None

RECEIVED AUG 16 1966
S. B. COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

JOE J. CALLAHAN Chairman, Board of Supervisors

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
County of Santa Barbara )

I, J. E. LEWIS, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in and for the County of Santa Barbara, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now remaining on file and of record in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of said County to be affixed this 16th day of August 1966.

J. E. LEWIS, County Clerk