RANCHO LA PURISIMA/
PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL HOUSE

DESIGNATION: Place of Historic Merit

KNOWN AS: Office for Rancho La Purisima

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 2085 Jonata Park Road, Buellton

LOCATION: Rancho La Purisima, Jonata Park Road

TYPE OF SITE: School

RESOLUTION NUMBER: No Record

DESIGNATION DATE: 2009

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination submitted by Robert Ooley on behalf of the current owners, Paul and Tina McEnroe

PAST OWNERS: Local school district (perhaps Santa Maria School)
Santa Maria School District
Dr. Richard Ikola

CURRENT OWNER: Paul and Tina McEnroe
2085 Jonata Park Road, Buellton

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: When school was moved to its present location, it was placed on a new foundation

CONDITION: Excellent due to restoration by current owners

DESCRIPTION: The Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse was the first school built in the Santa Maria Valley and dates to 1869. It was originally located on Tunnell Road on
land donated by Martin Tunnell, one-half mile south of Main Street in Santa Maria where Allen Hancock College is now. With the exception of the ceiling, the school was built in three days by neighbors Rudolph D. Cook, a carpenter, and G.W. Battles using shiplap redwood siding and shingles for the roof.

The building measured 30’ long and 20’ wide with 10’ walls.¹ The ceiling, walls, and floors were completed between 1871 and 1874.² Eastlake and Queen Anne details were added in the 1880s to the classical symmetrical structure. Original cost to build the school by local families was $510.³ When the school was located in Santa Maria, it was known as the “Santa Maria School.” In 1874, 12 feet were added to the building, and then between 1890 and 1900, another 6 feet were added for a vestibule and two cloakrooms bringing the length to 48 feet.⁴ Sometime between 1878 and 1882, the schoolhouse was moved one mile south to the Smith Ranch at the corner of Nance (now Battles) and Bradley Roads. The district and the school were renamed “Pleasant Valley.”⁵ Before the school closed in 1935, it served between 15 and 40 students in eight grades.⁶

After the school closed, it was converted to a residence with a number of interior walls constructed to create a kitchen and bedrooms. Plumbing and electrical were installed at this time. The belfry was removed.⁷ The building was now used for ranch housing and storage. Even the bell tower was converted to a small storage building next to the school house.⁸ Dr. Richard Ikola relocated the building to his Santa Maria Way property in 1985 where he planned to create an historic park. The park never materialized and the buildings the doctor had collected fell into disrepair and were sold.⁹ It was moved to its present location in 2006. Today it is used at this location as an office for Rancho La Purisima on Jonata Park Road.

RESOURCES:
Resolution No. 2008-01 of the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (January 14, 2008)
Nomination for Designation of Historic Landmark or Place of Historic Merit (April 3, 2007)
Cultural/Historical and Architectural Analysis of the Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse, compiled and revised by Bruce and Sydni Thurmond Hamill for Paul and Tina McEnroe (November 2006)

¹ HLAC Resolution
² Cultural/Historical and Architectural Analysis Timeline
³ HLAC Resolution
⁴ Ibid
⁵ Cultural/Historical and Architectural Analysis Timeline
⁶ HLAC Resolution
⁷ Nomination application
⁸ Cultural/Historical and Architectural Analysis Timeline
⁹ Cultural/Historical and Architectural Analysis Introduction