

MOONEY GROVE PARK 20-YEAR CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN



Mooney Grove Park

Tulare County

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Photographs provided by Kleinfelder, Sierra Designs, Jim Cioffi & David Christian



Introduction

This document was developed for the County of Tulare as a conceptual planning document for the long-range planning of Mooney Grove Park and Museums. The origins of this effort began with the awarding of a \$1.45 million grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for the construction of a new 17,000-square foot History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum (new museum) to the Tulare County Historical Society.

The County desires to initiate a planning process to guide the siting of facilities and guide the Park's future. These planning efforts would enhance the public's experience while visiting the existing and new museum, the Historical buildings, and the other park features and facilities.

The entire planning process is comprised of four components:

Phase I: Development of the base map for Mooney Grove Park

This phase was completed in 2008 for use in planning for the park and museums. This phase began immediately after award of the contract and involved the preparation of the survey and location of wet and dry utilities in the park.

This survey became the base for both the 20-year Master Plan effort and the planning and design of the new museum.



Completed award-winning History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum

Phase II: Design of the new History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum

The proposed concept approved by the Board was for a metal-framed structure iconically representing the form of a traditional Tulare County barn, infused with modern elements and new technology. This phase was completed in 2009. The museum complex at the park includes the new museum, access and parking, which are treated in this 20-year Conceptual Master Plan. The museum opened to the public in November 2009.

Phase III: 20-year Conceptual Master Plan for Mooney Grove Park and Museums

The Phase III effort was composed of the 20-year Master Plan for the park. During Phase III, the following tasks were completed:

- Interviews and coordination with staff at the museum and in the field;
 - Photography and documentation of the existing conditions in the existing museum and in the park;
 - Measurement and documentation of the existing buildings structures that would become the new “Main Street”, as well as research into their original context;
 - Two community meetings: The first, June 24, 2008, was held prior to the first park-wide Schematic Plan to gather community input and priorities. At this meeting potential elements were identified for consideration in plan development. Participants broke into groups and had the opportunity to provide input and ideas for incorporation into the park Master Plan;
 - The second meeting (July 23, 2008) was held to present the Schematic design, which was a response to the community input received on June 21 and 22, 2008.;
- The Kleinfelder team reviewed and obtained input from County staff during the evolution of the Schematic Design. Additionally, the plans were shared with two County Supervisors to solicit ideas on the plan concepts;

Phase IV: Reconfiguration of the existing museum

This phase includes several subtasks including proposed sequenced remodeling of the existing museum to allow for securing a portion for use as office, curation and collections management space. Because as-built drawings of the museum were not available, the Kleinfelder consultant team prepared measured drawings in May and June of 2008. During this time, the team met with County staff, including the Museum Curator, Park Manager, and volunteers to program the existing museum. Bubble diagrams were developed for staff review and approval, and final plans were developed. This phase was completed in June 2008, and the associated floor plan is included in this document.

Setting

Mooney Grove Park is a historic park that was designed by Johannes Reimers in 1911 and opened to the public in 1914. The park includes approximately 137 acres of land that contains two museums, 11 relocated historic buildings, picnic shelters/pavilions/arbors, historic sculptures, a veterans’ memorial, disc golf, a lake, and

open space. The museum complex includes a historical museum and the new museum.

The Historical Museum has an impressive collection of Native American baskets, stone implements and jewelry. The new museum is an award-winning museum completed in 2009. Historic buildings and structures were relocated to the park from around the county to preserve some of the County's historic features. Historic sculptures include James Earle Fraser's *End of the Trail*.

The lake area comprises 3.6 acres, offers paddle-boat rentals, and is characterized by mature landscaping that includes majestic oaks. The park has served as a local and regional recreational facility for the City of Visalia, the City of Tulare, and Tulare County. The park is strategically located between cities of Visalia and Tulare (Figure 1).



The original Tulare County History Museum entry with large arched wooden doors is shown. The Museum building ground-breaking was April 25, 1948 and opened Easter Sunday April 9, 1950.



NORTH



www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
CSAA

FIGURE 1

2/18/13: vj

VICINITY MAP

Purpose Statement

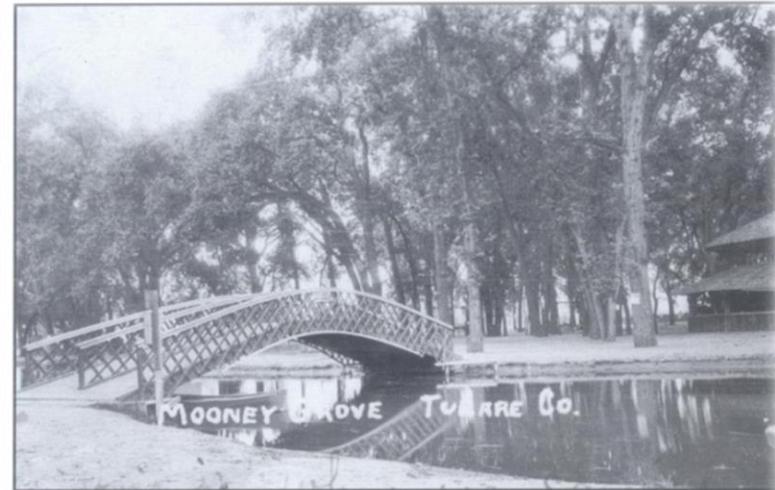
The purpose of this 20-year conceptual plan is to provide direction for the future of Mooney Grove Park and its buildout during this time period. This document provides a concept for the development of the park and includes the relocation of existing park features (historic buildings and structures) reconfigured into a Main Street plan, and introduction of new elements, including a utilities plan and measured drawings of the historic buildings. This document builds on a vision of a visitor-friendly park, while guiding the preservation of existing and new resources. This document is not intended to be final but rather, it is a starting point for future comprehensive planning, engineering, architectural and landscape concepts.

The contents of the Conceptual Master Plan include: a conceptual plan of the proposed park; elevations or cross-sections of major elements, scaled figures and photographed elevations of structures to be reconstructed); a concept for dry utilities, domestic water, sanitary sewer, recharge water and waterways, storm, internal circulation, and parking.

This conceptual plan was prepared in accordance with provisions of the County of Tulare General Plan and codes.

Validity

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of the Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan is for any reason held to be invalid by decision of any court or competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Plan.



Bridges over the pond at Mooney Grove - 1925

The foot bridge over the Mooney Grove Lake was designed by T. Walter Switzer, an engineer with the Tulare County Surveyors office, in 1919. Its tall arch was to accommodate the original boats on the lake which were propelled by a standing man using a pole.

Scope

This Conceptual Master Plan is based on an initial evaluation of the park's existing resources and their conditions, which were recorded by the Kleinfelder consultant team. The team interfaced with County staff and stakeholders to identify concerns and opportunities to guide the plan development. The following elements were identified:

Recreation and Water

- Environmentally friendly/sustainable
- Respect for historical roots
- Paths for walking, bikes and auto circulation
- Perimeter parking lots
- ADA accessibility
- Improved physical connections to facilities
- Kids' play and interactive uses
- Oak tree management
- Dog park area
- Fencing/security – aesthetics
- Enhancement of city edges for improved visual impact from roadways
- Aesthetic improvement to creek/ waterway
- Drinking fountain locations and maintenance
- Concessions
- Return of Pioneer to serve as an anchor
- Road realignments



The wide-open spaces of Mooney Grove Park are home to two 18-hole Disc Golf Courses. The courses host multiple tournaments a year that draw nationally ranked professional and amateur players as well as international competitors. Casual and competitive players have become a positive and important daily user group within Mooney Grove Park.

- Organized parking
- Pavilions
- Play areas
- Restrooms

Museums

- Impressive collection of Native American baskets, stone implements and jewelry
- Support of projects by the Tulare County Historical Society, Rotary and Eagle Scouts
- Variety of historic buildings in good to poor condition
- Lack of context to the historic buildings, due to their relocation from their original sites
- Lack of funding for restoration and maintenance
- Historic furnishings and ephemera
- Lack of comprehensive interpretive and collections management plan
- Substantial photographic archive
- Significant collection of agricultural equipment

Economic Opportunities

A number of economic opportunities were identified while evaluating the issues and opportunities for both the park and museum, they include:

- Reusing bridges for pedestrian/bike paths can offer funding sources
- A concert venue can be introduced as an economic and cultural resource
- Relocate a historic chapel to the park for wedding use
- Park can serve as an ideal venue for a variety of festivals and car shows
- A restaurant may add significant revenue and validation

- Opportunities for concession vendors
- Multifunctional park provides many opportunities for grants



The "Pioneer, A Reverie" statue by Solon Borglum stood at the entrance of Mooney Grove Park until it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1980. The statue was originally built of plaster for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Tulare County General Plan

The Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan's validity is reinforced by the Tulare County General Plan (updated, August 2012). A local government's General Plan provides the basis for the County's land use, zoning, subdivision, and public works actions. Although, no specific references have been found discussing Mooney Grove Park and this conceptual Master Plan, Chapter 8, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), Section 8.8, Work Plan/Implementation Measures, Measure 46 of the Tulare County General Plan provides direction and guidance: (generalplan.co.tulare.ca.us/)

Tulare County should initiate the development of a park master plan to cover facilities needed to serve the unincorporated communities, hamlets, and regional park needs in the County. Emphasis should be given to classifying and quantifying the present and future needs of all socio- economic groups and visitors, with special emphasis on deficiencies in recreation for low-income residents. An inventory of potential park and recreation areas should be made and a program of priorities established with proposed methods of financing.

Application: The Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan directly responds to this Implementation Measure.

Economic Development (ED)

ED-5.1 Development of a Recreation Industry

The County shall capitalize on the economic potential of recreation as a major industry in all ways consistent with other policies of the General Plan.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan may further this goal.

ED-5.9 Bikeways

The County shall support the enhancement of the County's recreational bikeways and promote the bikeway network as a component of the County's tourism program.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan incorporates a bikeway network.

Land Use (LU)

LU-7.18 Lighting

The County shall continue to improve and maintain lighting in park and recreation facilities to prevent nuisance light and glare spillage on adjoining residential areas.

Application: The Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan should provide the basis for design development which prevents or reduces nuisance light and glare spillage.

Section 8.5 Recreation and Open Space Resources

To provide a park, recreation, and open space system that serves the recreational needs of County residents and visitors, with special emphasis on recreation related to Environmental Resources Management.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan will achieve this goal.

Environmental Resources Management

ERM-5.1 Parks as Community Focal Points

The County shall strengthen the role of County parks as community focal points by providing community center/recreation buildings to new and existing parks, where feasible.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan incorporates such features.

ERM-5.2 Park Amenities

The County shall provide a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities within community parks. When possible, this should include active sports fields and facilities, community center/recreation buildings, children's play areas, multi-use areas and

trails, sitting areas, and other specialized uses as appropriate.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan incorporates such features.

ERM-5.14 Park Design

The County shall make efforts to involve community members in the design and development of park facilities.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan involved the public, interested organizations, and County staff in the conceptual design and planning efforts.

ERM Implementation Measure 14

The County shall ensure that the provisions of Public Resources Code §21083.4 are followed when evaluating projects in areas containing oak woodlands.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan incorporates the locations of oak woodlands, and encourages their retention and preservation

ERM Implementation Measure 15

The County shall work with stakeholders to determine the feasibility of adopting an oak woodlands management plan pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001. The purpose will be to qualify for grant funding to support and encourage voluntary long term private stewardship and conservation of California's oak woodlands.

Application: Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan supports such efforts..

Cultural Resources are discussed within the following General Plan goals and tasks:

ED-5.12 Heritage Tourism

The County shall encourage agricultural, ecological, and heritage tourism by highlighting Tulare County's agricultural, historical, and cultural resources, such as Allensworth State Park and Sequoia Field.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, Main Street and the New Museum achieves this goal.

LU-7.12 Historic Buildings and Areas

The County shall encourage preservation of buildings and areas with special and recognized historic, architectural, or aesthetic value. New development should respect architecturally and historically significant buildings and areas. Landscaping, original roadways, sidewalks, and other public realm features of historic buildings or neighborhoods shall be restored or repaired where ever feasible.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the restoration of the Tulare County Museum, Main Street and the design of the New Museum achieves this goal.

LU-7.13 Preservation of Historical Buildings

The County shall encourage and support efforts by local preservation groups to identify and rehabilitate historically significant buildings.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal.

ERM 6

To manage and protect sites of cultural and archaeological importance for the benefit of present and future generations.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal.

ERM-6.1 Evaluation of Cultural and Archaeological Resources

The County shall participate in and support efforts to identify its significant cultural and archaeological resources using appropriate State and Federal standards.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. The preparation of the recommended Historic Structures Report, and evaluation of the buildings and structures for local, state and National Register eligibility will meet the intent of this Goal.

ERM-6.2 Protection of Resources with Potential State or Federal Designations

The County shall protect cultural and archaeological sites with demonstrated potential for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and/or inclusion in the California State Office of Historic Preservation's California Points of Interest and California Inventory of Historic Resources. Such sites may be of Statewide or local significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, or other values as determined by a qualified archaeological professional.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. Of critical importance is mothballing of the historic buildings and structures to prevent further deterioration.

ERM-6.3 Alteration of Sites with Identified Cultural Resources

When planning any development or alteration of a site with identified cultural or archaeological resources, consideration should be given to ways of protecting the resources. Development can be permitted in these areas only after a site specific investigation has been conducted pursuant to CEQA to define the extent and value of resource, and mitigation measures proposed for any impacts the development may have on the resource.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare

County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. The historic buildings and structures must be considered pursuant to CEQA, prior to implementation of any development at or near the sites.

ERM-6.4 Mitigation

If preservation of cultural resources is not feasible, every effort shall be made to mitigate impacts, including relocation of structures, adaptive reuse, preservation of facades, and thorough documentation and archival of records.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. Of specific note is the historic relocation of threatened structures to Mooney Grove Park, the current and proposed salvage and reuse of the Masonic façade; and the anticipated future buildings to be incorporated into Main Street.

ERM-6.5 Cultural Resources Education Programs

The County should support local, State, and national education programs on cultural and archaeological resources.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. The existing programs jointly sponsored by the Tulare County Museum, new History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum and the Tulare County Office of Education, to ensure that schoolchildren receive information about

local and California history included in the California State Standards meet this goal.

ERM-6.6 Historic Structures and Sites

The County shall support public and private efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, and continue the use of historic structures, sites, and parks. Where applicable, preservation efforts shall conform to the current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. .

Application: Implementation of the Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the historic buildings and structures is consistent with this goal. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are referenced within this document and are provided in Appendix A.

ERM-6.8 Solicit Input from Local Native Americans

The County shall continue to solicit input from the local Native American communities in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or to sites of cultural importance.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. The application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards is recommended within this conceptual plan. These Standards are included in Appendix A.

Economic Goals cited in the General Plan pertaining to parks and historic resources include:

ERM-5.13 Funding for Recreational Areas and Facilities

The County shall support the continued maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities and expansion of new recreational facilities opportunities for County, State, and Federal lands. The County shall strive to obtain adequate funding to improve and maintain existing parks, as well as construct new facilities.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the development of additional park features, and providing for their maintenance meets this goal.

ED-1.7 Grant Funding

The County will research and pursue grant funding that will promote tourism, support community growth, and maintain the quality of life for its residents and businesses.

Application: Development according to Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan, including the Tulare County Museum, and Main Street achieves this goal. The County has already pursued and received grant funding for the construction of the new museum from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and funding from Southern California Edison for the inclusion of a theater-type instructional classroom.

ED-5.11 Marketing Programs

The County shall regularly evaluate marketing programs and provide assistance to marketing campaigns that attract visitors to the County.

Application: Marketing Mooney Grove Park and its museums will comply with this goal.

ED-5.12 Heritage Tourism

The County shall encourage agricultural, ecological, and heritage tourism by highlighting Tulare County's agricultural, historical, and cultural resources, such as Allensworth State Park and Sequoia Field.

Application: Implementation of Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan should result in increased heritage tourism. The new museum coupled with implementation of the conceptual historic agricultural fields adjacent to the new museum will highlight the agricultural industry within the County.

ED Implementation Measure 9

The County shall conduct an evaluation of allocating transit occupancy tax revenues to programs that directly support tourism

Application: This is one option for funding many of the elements included in the Mooney Grove Park Conceptual Master Plan.



These rock walls are replicas of the walls built during the WPA period and will set the design theme for walls to be added to the park.

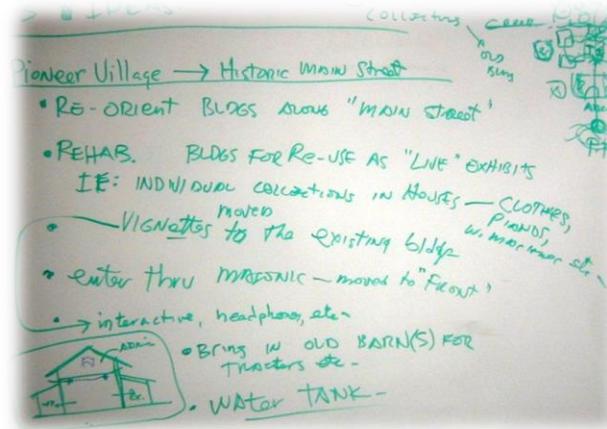
Process

The process undertaken for this plan began with an initial site and research visit to Mooney Grove Park by the entire Kleinfelder team. The impressions of the team were shared internally and in a brainstorming session, resulting in a series of concepts for the park.

These concepts were presented to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and were posted on the County website for public comment. They included:

- A contemporary interpretation of a traditional barn for the new museum;
- A pedestrian zone in the core of the park which became the “Park in a Park”.
- A Main Street of historic buildings.

The Kleinfelder team noted public comments and began to plan for a community outreach meeting. At the community meeting, members of the public, County staff, and numerous representatives of organizations throughout Tulare County shared their vision for the park and museum, and discussed issues of concern.



Notes developed during initial Kleinfelder team meeting that led to the key concepts for the 20-Year Plan.

Subsequent meetings followed with community action groups, the Tulare County Historical Society, and Tulare County staff.

With the public input complete, Kleinfelder commenced on further data-gathering and evaluation of resources and conditions in May and June of 2008. The first priority was the design of the new museum, which required construction to be complete by the end of 2009. This was achieved through close collaboration between the Kleinfelder team and County staff. The new award-winning museum opened to the public in November 2009.

While the new museum was being designed and constructed, the Kleinfelder team continued to conceptually plan for the park, old museum and Main Street. As there was no funding provided for exhibit planning, the County requested Kleinfelder support for the development of the strategies for securing financing.

Although it was outside of the scope of this project, the Kleinfelder team responded by meeting with the fundraising committee of the Tulare County Historical Society. The purpose of the meeting was to offer suggestions on how to proceed. Kleinfelder also developed a compendium of grant and other sources of funding and points of contact (Appendix B), compiled a historic overview of County history (Appendix C) to serve as a basis for exhibit planning; and provided guidance on the design of the initial exhibit. Additional



A key component of the New History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum, these Banners are displayed throughout the new museum.

recommendations were developed for future planning of new museum exhibits, including:

- Obtaining a crop-duster for permanent display, suspended from the museum ceiling;
- Relocating the migrant worker housing into the primary museum space;
- Transferring the dustbowl era vehicles from the existing display in the old museum to the new museum;

- Developing a multimedia presentation on the countless nationality and ethnic groups associated with the agricultural heritage of Tulare County;
- Developing a revolving exhibit on the products, tools and technology of agriculture;
- In cooperation with Native American Tribes, developing an exhibit on traditional produce and agriculture practiced by Native people;
- In recognition of the contributions of Prisoners of War in Tulare County, develop an exhibition focusing on the prisoners, their camps, and their roles in furthering Tulare County agriculture; and
- Developing multimedia exhibitions.



Migrant housing on display in new museum. During the Great Depression, some farmers and agencies built encampments of temporary housing to improve living conditions of migrant workers. This building has been reconstructed and is on display at Tulare County History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum.

Conceptual Master Plan

Mooney Grove Park was designed and built during a time of enormous technological transition. During the early years of the park Tulare County was a collection of rural agricultural communities. In the century since the park's inception, the County's agricultural heritage has thrived, diversified and grown, and some of the small communities have become urban centers in ways that Mooney Grove Park's designer, landscape architect Johannes Reimers, could hardly have imagined in 1911.

It is the goal of this 20-year Conceptual Master Plan to guide development of the park in a manner that respects the past while gracefully accommodating the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century and meeting the needs and desires of the citizens of the County. The major proposals in this plan revolve around two basic topics: Circulation, both pedestrian and vehicular, and organization of the park lands inside the park for the enjoyment and safe use by visitors.

CIRCULATION

Main Entry to Mooney Grove Park

It would have been impossible for Johannes Reimers to predict the future and imagine how drastically technology, population growth and user demographics would impact the means in which people would not only arrive at Mooney Grove Park but also how they would use its existing amenities.

Travel to the park in 1911 was by foot, horseback or carriage. Speeds on Mooney Boulevard, the arterial connecting the town of Tulare - site of the nearest railroad station, and the city of Visalia – the County seat, were less than 10 mph. Today travelers on Mooney Boulevard drive past the park at 55 mph on a four-lane State Highway.

Since the park opened, the entry to Mooney Grove Park has been from Mooney Boulevard in the center of the western boundary of the park. Based on the Transportation Element of the City of Visalia's General Plan, Mooney Boulevard (State Highway 63) will expand to six lanes during the life of this Conceptual Master Plan. Future plans by the State of California could likely include a signalized intersection at Mooney Boulevard and Road 272, closure of the southbound left-turn lane into Mooney Grove Park, and require an acceleration lane for northbound traffic leaving the park. These changes will force park users coming from Visalia and users leaving the park going to Tulare to make U-turns at the nearest signalized interchange, Roads 268 or 272. In addition, Visalia's Transportation Element calls for Road 272 to widen to become the City's southernmost major east-west arterial.



The End of the Trail statue, by James Earl Fraser, is located in view of Mooney Boulevard, is a landmark in Mooney Grove Park. The Conceptual Master Plan enhances the pedestrian/bicycle linkage between this destination and the rest of the park.

Based on these projections, the Conceptual Master Plan proposes that the main entry to Mooney Grove Park be relocated in order to provide efficient, safe and convenient vehicle access to the park. The location that meets these criteria and which has the potential to match or exceed the prominence of the original Mooney Boulevard entrance is the current 'back' entry to the park from Avenue 272. The absolute need to change from

the Mooney Boulevard entry to the Avenue 272 entry is not expected to occur until near the end of the twenty-year life of this Conceptual Master Plan. Many of the design components of the new entry can anticipate this change enhancing the aesthetics of the new entry at the time of transition, amortizing the costs over time, and improving the interim internal circulation and operations of the park.

The plan proposes that the original entry location on Mooney Boulevard should remain the symbolic entrance to the park and be replaced with an iron archway replicating the original 1920 arched (oak tree branch) entry structure.



This 1920 entry structure to Mooney Grove Park was built from oak limbs harvested from the park site. Later the entry was enhanced by stone walls, most likely built during the era of WPA. Those stone walls were later taken down and reconstructed at the current location in the 1960's when Mooney Boulevard was expanded to a four-lane State Highway.

This monument will provide a visual announcement of the park from Mooney Boulevard and serve as permanent pedestrian entry, and an occasional vehicular exit for major events and emergencies.

The internal circulation of Mooney Grove Park was designed in an era of slow moving animals and vehicles and a substantially smaller population. Slower forms of transportation and a smaller population are things of the past but their legacy remains. Random circulation and parking exists through the core of the park and especially around the main features - the lake and its large pavilions, picnic and play areas, the concession building, and the old museum and new museum. Though the main roads were designed by the original landscape architect, other routes appear to be later additions of convenience through the core of the park.

Over time, these paths were formalized with paving and low rubble stone walls were constructed to control vehicle access.

The random, unorganized portions of vehicular circulation have consumed a large amount of the land within the core of the park and have increased the conflict between vehicles and safe pedestrian travel. Uneven distribution of amenities and limited pedestrian and vehicle access leave large portions of the park underutilized.



This graphic illustrates the circulation pattern proposed in the Conceptual Master Plan. The blue line is the primary vehicular circulation, red and yellow non-motorized travel, and the purple is the boundary of the "Park-in-a-Park". Please see the full size Conceptual Master Plan for more information and discussion.



Currently, park users take great liberties parking in close proximity to the picnic shelters. The conceptual Master Plan develops convenient parking to serve use areas while preserving safe pedestrian zones.

The realignment, addition, and deletion of some of the vehicle drive lanes and organization of daily and event parking have been designed to improve circulation and safety. The Conceptual Master Plan adds one new vehicular and two new pedestrian bridges over Cameron Creek, creating logical looped drives and walking trails. The plan improves safety, opens up more land within the core of the park, and provides easier access to underutilized areas of the park. A perimeter trail has been designed with connections to the core to encourage walking and exploration of the entire park, while reducing contact and conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.

Recapture Park Space for People

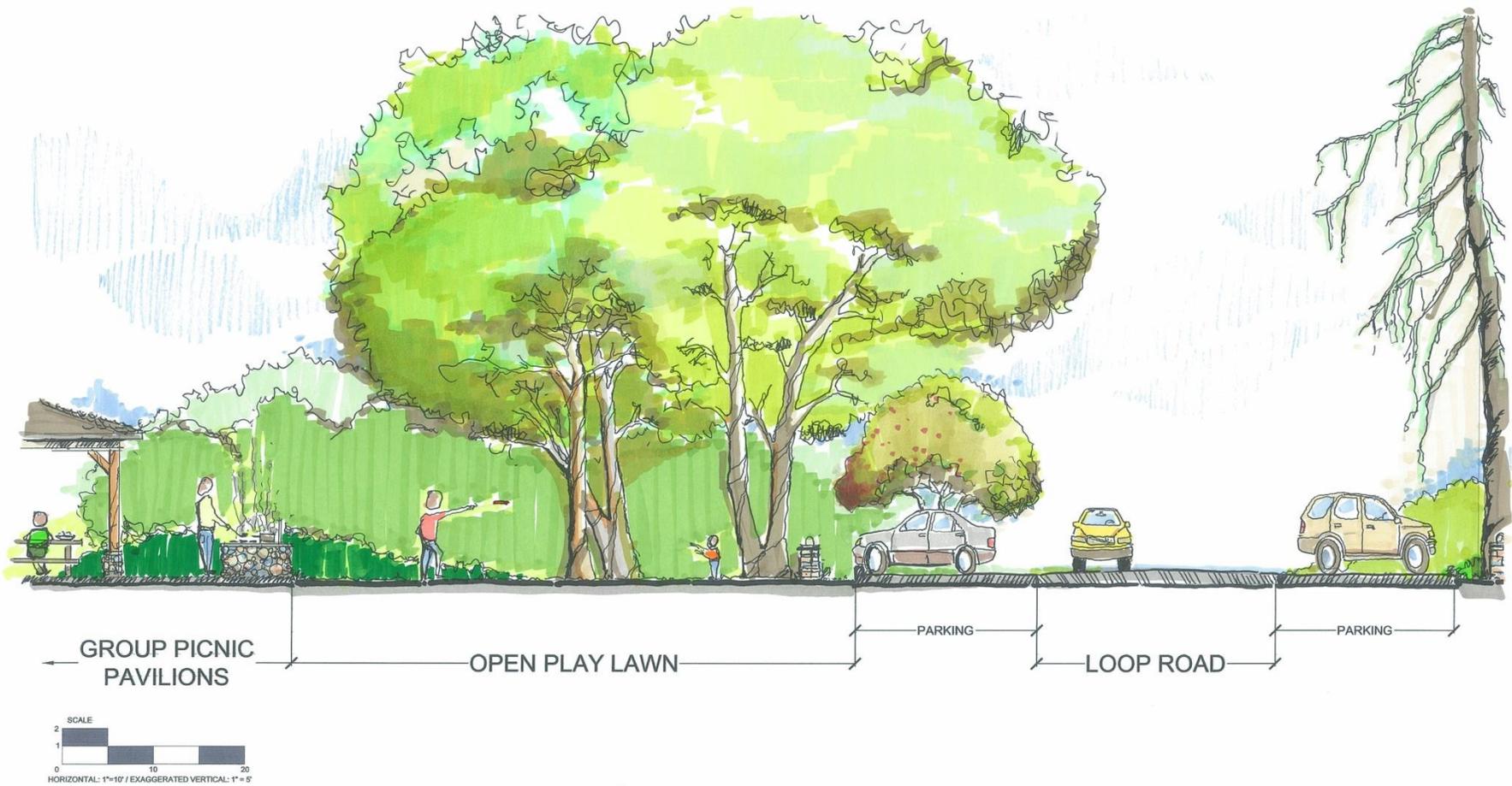
The Conceptual Master Plan's vehicular realignment aims to reduce pedestrian and vehicle conflicts by eliminating minor internal vehicle loops, especially those immediately adjacent to the lake, core of the park and near the Tulare County Museum. Some of these drive lanes are to be totally eliminated and converted to green park space with new user amenities such as pavilions, picnic areas and open space. Other drive lanes will be converted to pedestrian use only, while remaining available for use by emergency and maintenance vehicles and for major event staging and circulation.

A dead end east-west drive lane on the north side of the park will be eliminated and converted to green space for picnicking, open play, disc golf, and a perimeter walking trail. The drive lane on the south side of the park will be eliminated and relocated closer to the south edge of the park creating a larger green space similar to the north side for pavilions, picnicking, open play, and disc golf.

A portion of the major drive lane through the center of the park will be realigned to the west, moving it further away from the boathouse to eliminate conflicts with pedestrians. The drive lane will continue past the Tulare County Museum and proposed Main Street, through the Lion Country Pavilion Area, and over a new bridge across Cameron Creek. Past the creek, the drive lane will connect to the new and/or realigned southern east-west drive lane. This new alignment will allow for service and emergency access to the Tulare County

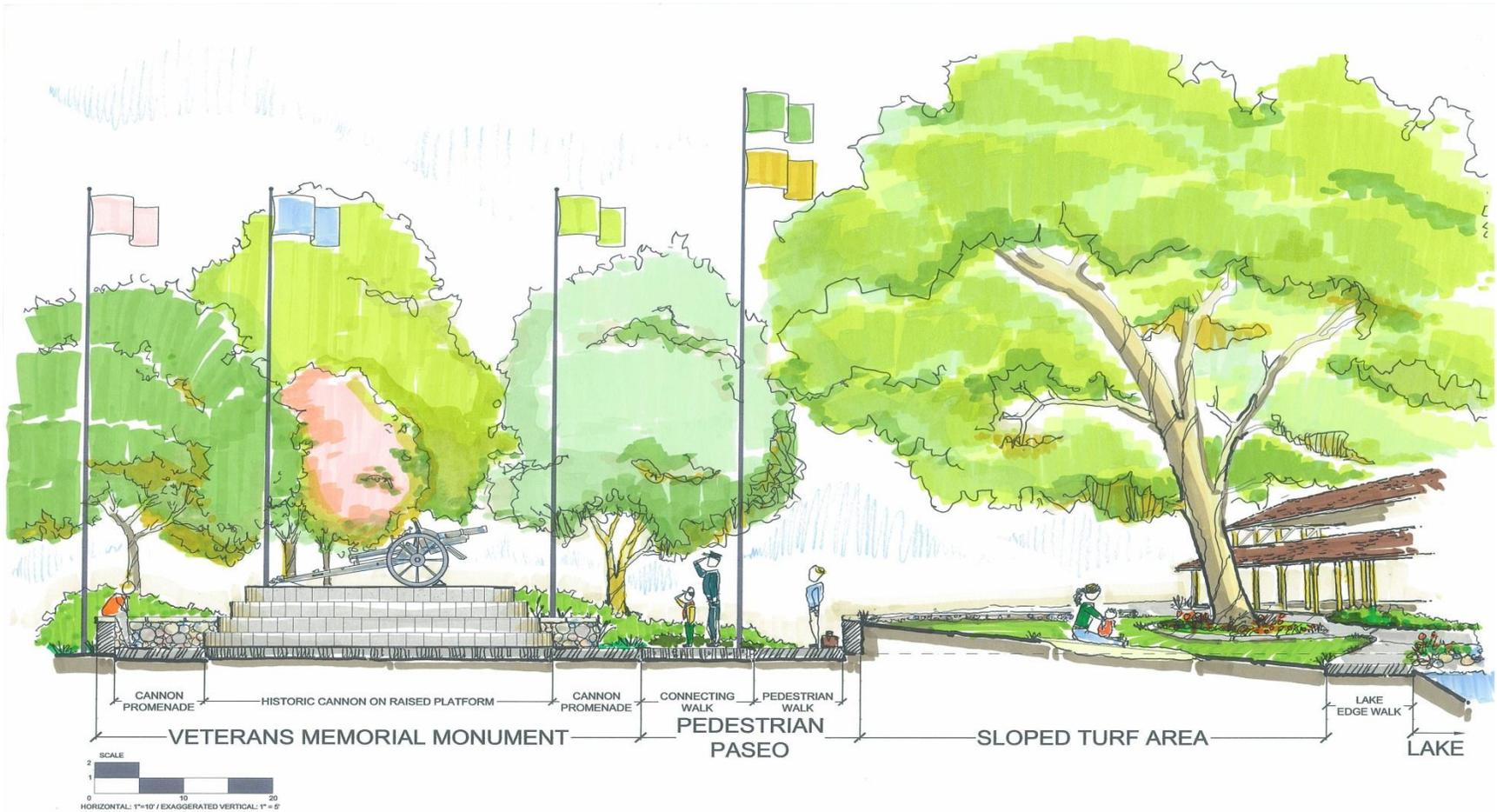
Museum complex and allow for increased usage of the currently underutilized southern part of the park. Figure 2 is a cross-section which provides detail on park circulation.

Drop-offs and organized parking will be placed at key locations to accommodate pedestrian access to major features previously provided by roads and random parking at pavilions and restrooms. The parking lot currently serving the existing large group pavilion area will be expanded to allow parking for more than 100 vehicles. The impact of this large parking area will be minimized by a compressed footprint and trees incorporated throughout the lot. A large roundabout and a drop-off at the Tulare County Museum are designed to allow for school bus access and easy pedestrian access to the Museum and new Veterans' Memorial. Figure 3 is a cross-section which provides detail of the Veterans Memorial.



Circulation is organized by a clearly laid out loop road around the inner use areas of the park. The character of this road –many trees, parking organized by replicas of the original stone-topped walls, and park-like alignment – will provide functional yet unobtrusive organization to the park. Simplifying and consolidating the vehicular routes and parking in the park recaptures green space for open play and new group pavilions.

Figure 2



This cross-section illustrates the new location of the redesigned Veterans Memorial, which takes advantage of the elements of both the World War II memorial cannon and elements of the Vietnam era memorial. This proposed memorial will encompass the broad range of veterans from all eras. New seat walls will provide a place to rest and reflect.

Figure 3

The current central drive lane in front of the Tulare County Museum will be converted to a pedestrian plaza, providing access to new group picnic pavilions and children's water play area. These new facilities were requested by the community at the public forums.

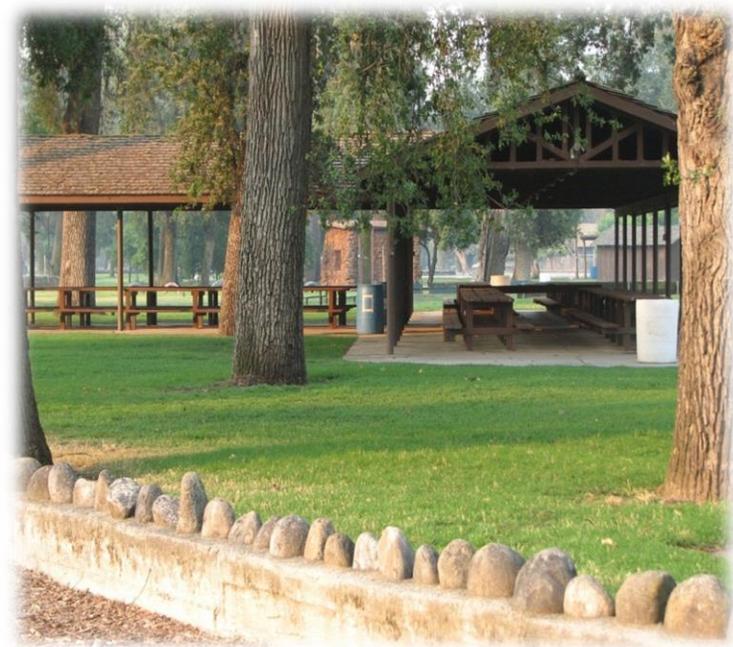
A future drop-off is proposed at the southeast corner of the park near the current location of the park maintenance area. This plan proposes expansion of the existing park maintenance area to accommodate a storage area for museum artifacts (mostly historic farming equipment) awaiting preservation, potential future museum enterprise functions, and a better organized and improved maintenance shop and storage. Ultimately, the maintenance and storage functions may be relocated to a new area to open this area up for potential museum and park enterprise use.

ORGANIZING THE PARK LANDS FOR ENJOYABLE AND SAFE USE

The "Park in a Park" Concept

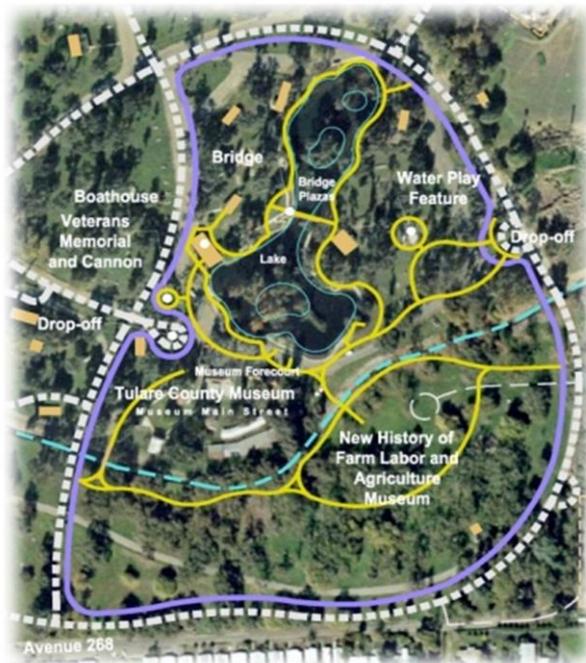
Today, visitors to Mooney Grove Park have unlimited vehicular access to most areas of the park - the legacy of a bygone era. On busy days picnickers and strollers dodge vehicles and spread their blankets in the shadow of their cars.

Families sometimes use their cars as barriers to prevent children leaving the grassy areas into the drive lanes. Roads crisscross the interior of the park leaving small islands of turf and trees between large expanses of asphalt. Families using the park occasionally put themselves at risk using areas not suitable for picnicking.



The picnic pavilions are a focal point of Mooney Grove Park and encourage enthusiastic use by many groups, especially on weekends. The Conceptual Master Plan proposes 14 additional group picnic pavilions, primarily in currently underutilized parts of the park.

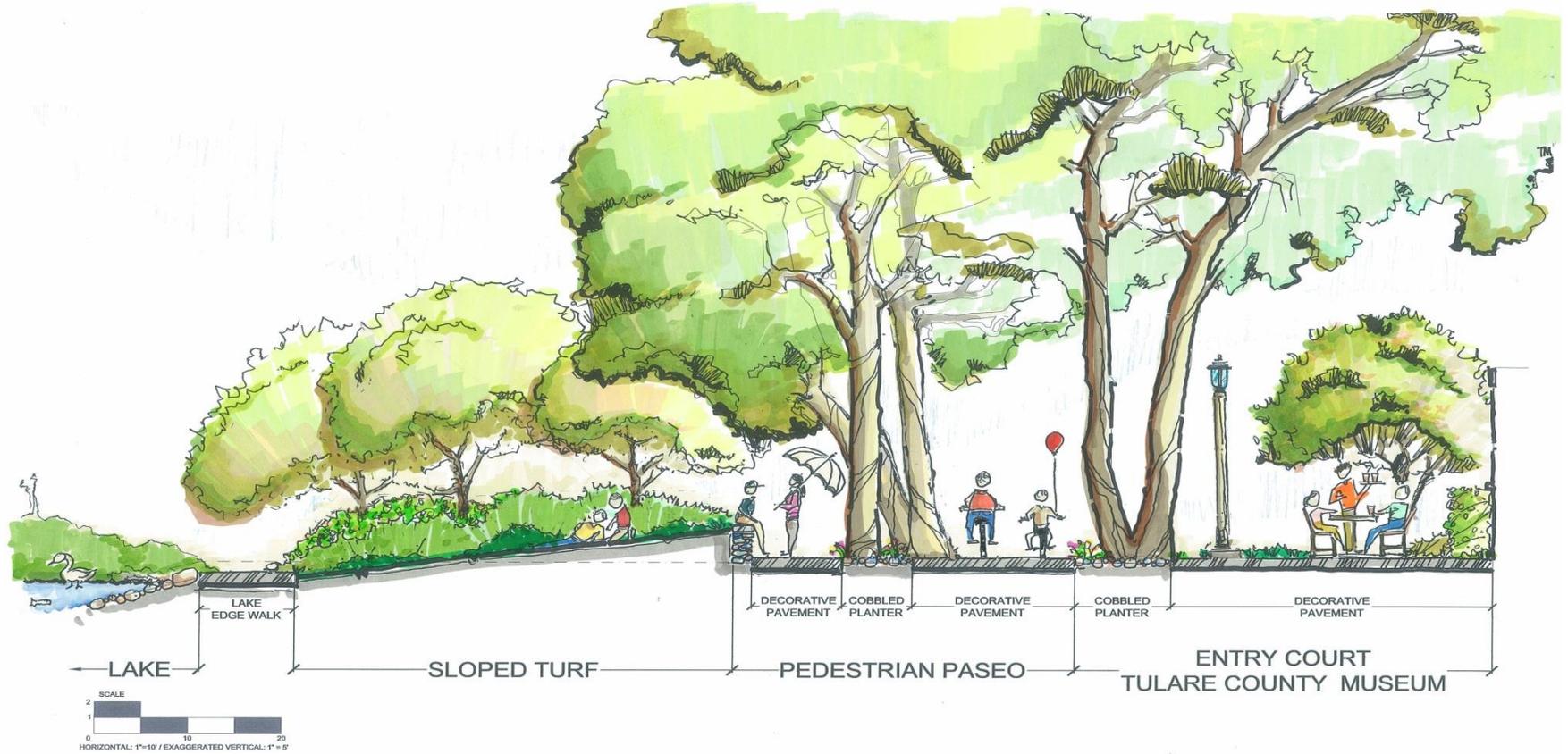
The “Park in a Park” concept creates a pedestrian-friendly core to Mooney Grove Park. The “Park in a Park” is defined by a dedicated loop road – a combination of repurposed existing and new asphalt roadways. The center of the park is then dedicated solely to pedestrian use. This design gains valuable, usable open green space acreage and space for additional visitor amenities while improving vehicular circulation. Figure 4 is a cross-section showing detail of the “Park in a Park” concept.



The purple line illustrates the extent of the 38 acre “Park in a Park”. Visitor vehicles are not allowed in this zone. Rather, the yellow lines indicate a network of pedestrian spaces that provide safe and enjoyable use areas in the heart of the park. More information regarding the features in the “Park in a Park” is included in the full-size Conceptual Master Plan.

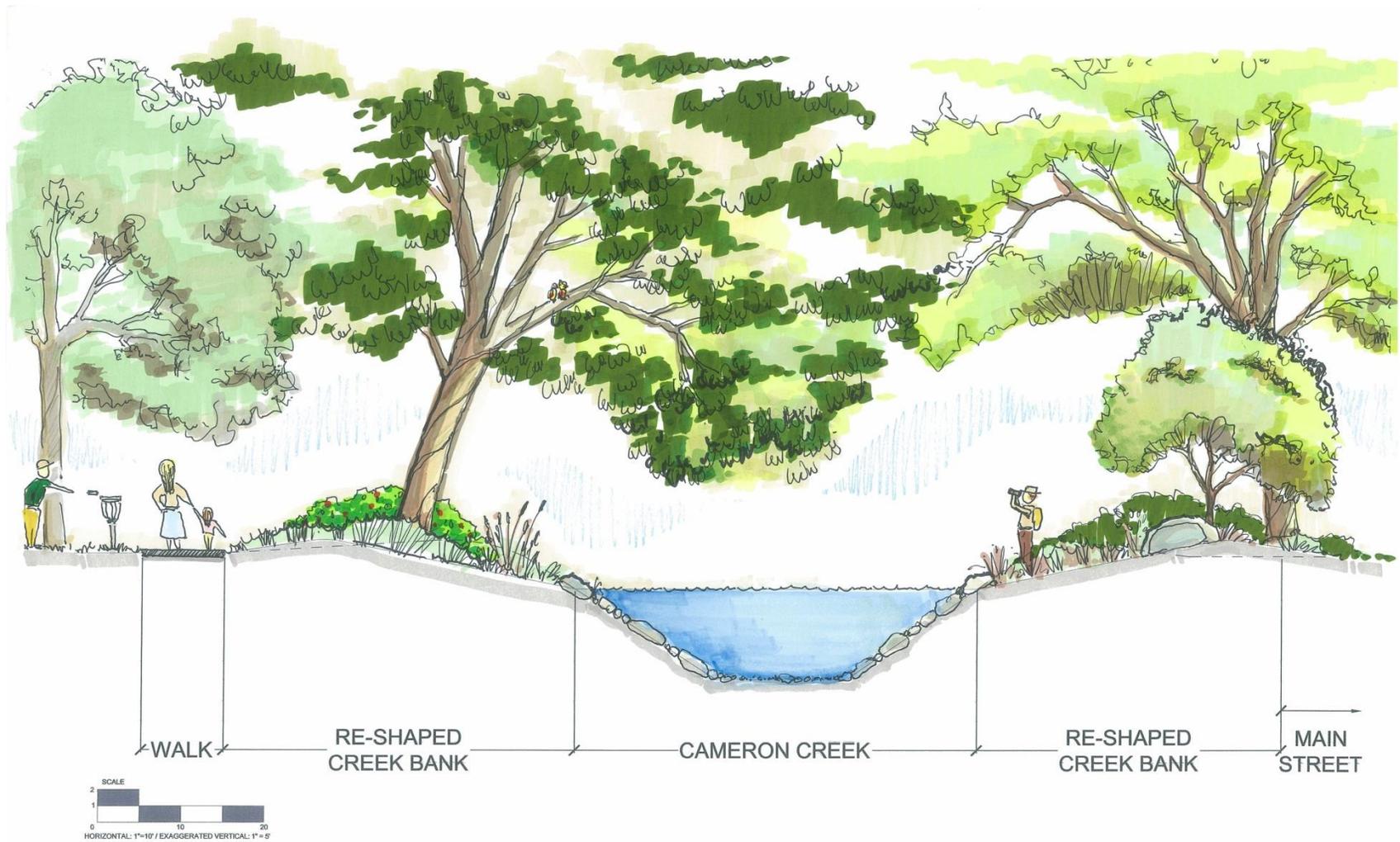
The “Park in a Park” visitors will feel safe to explore, walk, run, play and bike between existing and proposed facilities in the core. Excluding vehicles from the core provides a safe place for children and families. Along the loop road additional structured parking is designed to replace the existing random on-street, or on-grass, parking. Dispersed parking will provide ample convenient access to picnic areas and points of interest. The loop road will eliminate the long dead ends which currently confuse drivers, open up currently underutilized parts of the park, and create a clear circulation pattern within the park.

The “Park in a Park” core will include facilities to broaden and enhance the offerings of Mooney Grove Park, such as Main Street associated with the old Tulare County Museum, the new museum, and the future Native American Village. Other proposed features in the park’s core include a new family water play area, plazas and seating, and development of the riparian environment adjacent to Cameron Creek. A cross-section of Cameron Creek is included on Figure 5. The plan also proposes that the existing walking bridge across the lake be restored to its historic form and that the lake receive additional improvements to enhance its aesthetic appeal and support maintainability. Figure 6 illustrates a view of the renovated pedestrian bridge and plazas. A fully accessible pedestrian paseo will link the features of the park’s core with expanded, realigned and fully accessible walkways along the perimeter of the lake.



This cross-section of the “Park in a Park” shows the family friendly area between the lake and the forecourt of the Tulare County Museum. Excluding all but service and emergency vehicles in this area will enhance the visitor experience and link the various attractions of the park. In this space, the perimeter walk is moved to the lake’s edge to provide a more intimate experience with the water and the lake edge is paved with cobble to provide visual appeal and a safe emergency exit. The stone rubble walls and sloped lawn provide a pleasant user experience and new plantings provide colorful backdrops and an understory to the majestic and historic oaks.

Figure 4



Cameron Creek is an underutilized historic feature of Mooney Grove Park. The Conceptual Master Plan proposes working with Tulare Irrigation District to lay back the channelized banks above the high-water mark to make the creek appear more natural and to allow planting and other enhancements to give the creek the prominence it deserves.

Figure 5



Inside the “Park in a Park”, pedestrians will be able to walk, play and gather without the concern of conflict with vehicles or without the clutter and distraction of parked cars. In this cross-section, the bridge is shown returned to its pre-renovation shape, with plazas and fully accessible routes flanking the bridge and surrounding the lake. Distinctive stone walls will be built in the same design theme as the historic rubble stone walls existing in the park.

Figure 6

The space in front of the Tulare County Museum will serve as a gathering place with turn-of-the 20th century bistro-style café seating, and concession opportunities. The adjacent restrooms will jointly serve both the park and museums.

Other proposed features within the “*Park in a Park*” are the addition of more group picnic pavilions, expansion of an existing restroom, and the addition of new shade shelter pavilions. These shade shelters will overhang the water’s edge and have a Chinese theme to honor the value and contribution of Chinese immigrants to the development of Tulare County. The “*Park in a Park*” will also include a reconstructed Grist Mill which will be operated using the existing irrigation well as a source of water.

Certain remnants of old features whose uses have long been forgotten, have outlived their useful life, have fallen into a state beyond repair, or are no longer valued or utilized are proposed to be removed to provide more open space and room for amenities valued by the community. Due to the historic nature of the park, before any significant feature would be removed it would be documented and its removal approved by the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Repairs or renovations to noteworthy historic elements in the park would be in keeping with accepted rules and guidelines.

Elements proposed to be removed will include various concrete foundations, some old BBQ pits, the 1950’s concession building, and the bandstand foundation.

Potentially slated for removal are the historic above-ground water lily goldfish ponds. These water features have fallen into a state of disrepair. Due to the age of their structure, waterproofing, and plumbing, a very large funding source will be required to allow for a major reconstruction of the entire structure bringing plumbing/filtration systems up to current codes. The plan proposes that these features be demolished and the place they occupy converted to green space. If appropriate, materials from demolition can be salvaged and repurposed for reuse in any repair of existing features or to add visual continuity to new projects.

The historic themes of Mooney Grove Park will be continued and celebrated within the “*Park in a Park*” core. A new Veterans Memorial will combine the two existing Veterans War Memorials (WWII-era Japanese cannon and items from the Vietnam-era Memorial) into a single, more prominent one, dedicated to all local veterans of all military services. This monument is conveniently located near the Tulare County Museum Entrance drop-off. The historic WPA concrete and random rubble stone masonry walls will be preserved and rehabilitated where possible, and will be rebuilt where necessary to accommodate the new circulation pattern. New seat walls will be built in a similar style and character to support this historic design theme pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards (Appendix A).

Every effort will be made to adjust the locations of proposed park improvements to protect the existing Valley Oak trees, a treasured Tulare County Resource.

New oaks, however, will be proposed primarily around the perimeter of the park and along Cameron Creek where they will thrive and be less apt to be a danger to park users in years to come. Trees will be maintained in the interest of public safety as set forth in the original Mooney Park property purchase agreement. Some historic Valley Oaks and other trees may require removal as they reach the end of their life span. Major limb shedding and trunk failure increases with tree age and creates a danger to park visitors and staff. Tree removal and planting of new Valley Oaks and other park tree planting will be directed and implemented by the County Parks Manager and the county's existing Tree Management Plan (not part of this document).

The “*Park in a Park*” core provides a central, clear focus for Mooney Grove Park. This 38-acre vehicle-free zone will provide an opportunity for families to fully explore the core of the park and its museums, boathouse, pavilions, playgrounds and lake. The “*Park in a Park*” will complement the disc golf, open play, walking and picnicking of the expansive areas outside the core.

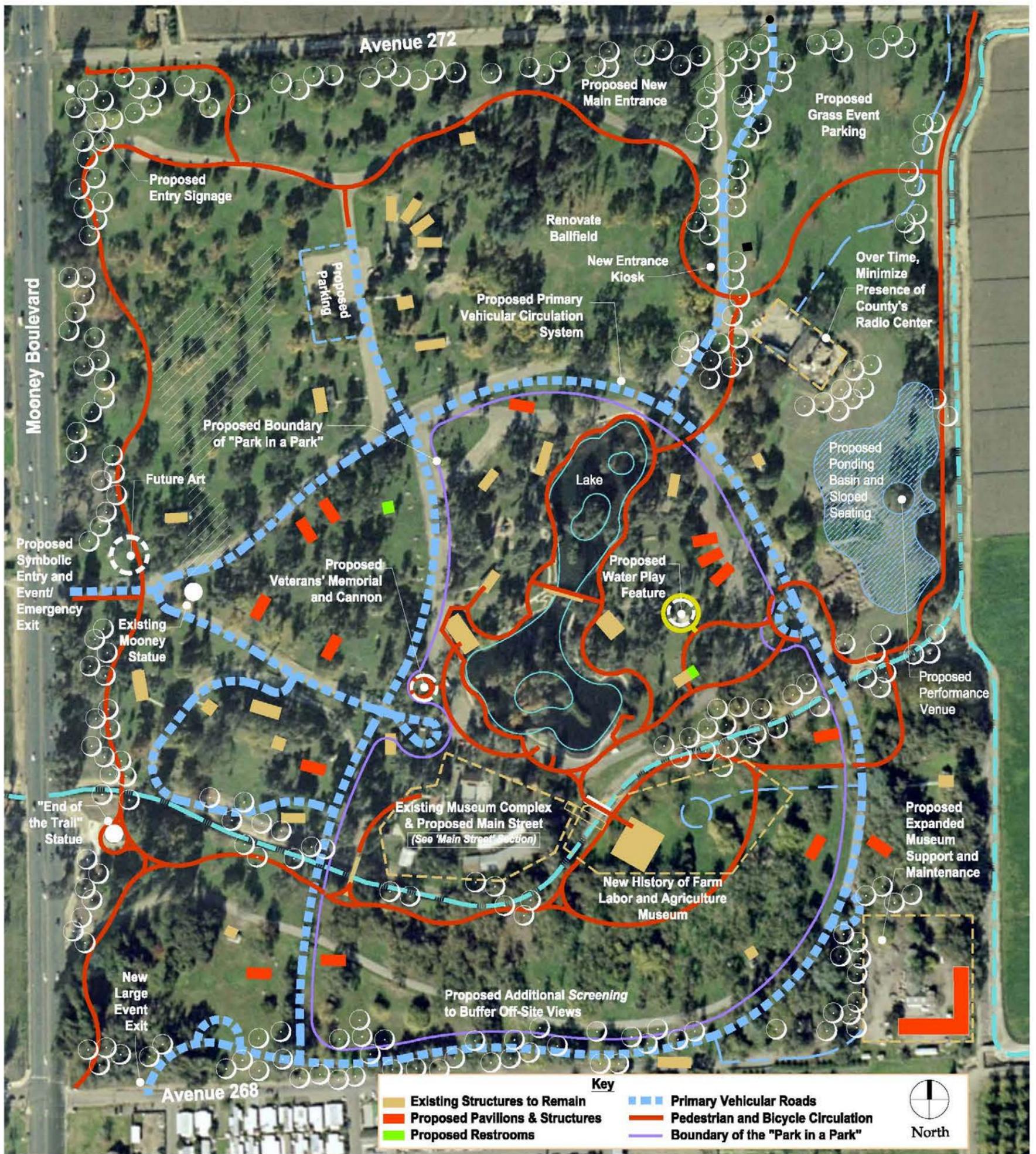


Mooney Grove Park is famous for its stand of majestic Valley Oaks. New development will respect these trees and provide an activity-free zone under their crown.

Other Potential Future Master Plan Elements Illustrated on the Conceptual Master Plan

The full-size Conceptual Master Plan, included with this report as Plate 1, includes more specific text and graphical information on some of the following features: (Other factors were identified during public review process but are beyond the scope of this project). A reduced version of the Conceptual Master Plan is included as Figure 7.

- *Image:* Mooney Frontage, Road 272; New Entry; Historic Entry, End of the Trail
- *Entry Experience:* Entry Gate and Tree-lined drive; Grade change at the new entry kiosk; Entry lake vista
- *Mass Transit Access:* Proposed transit stops
- *Public Art - Past/Present/Future:* “Pioneer”, “End of the Trail”, “Hugh Mooney”, Native American sculptures and artifacts; Other sculpture and public art.
- *Interpretation, Educational and Wayfinding Signage:* Arboretum tree identification, identification of California’s largest white mulberry, common hackberry, and others, interpretive and educational signage of historic locations, features and art.
- *Major Event Hosting:* Parking and access for concerts, fund raisers, holiday light displays, etc.
- *Sport Events Hosting:* Cross-country, triathlon, marathon, obstacle course, bicycle riding, disc golf
- *Pavilions:* Proposed locations for new single and large group pavilions
- *Restrooms:* Proposed locations for new and expanded restrooms.
- *Cameron Creek:* Naturalization of banks
- *Ponding Basin:* Water recharge and recreational uses
- *Expanded Evening/Twilight Use:* Lighting and controlled access.
- *Service:* Improved and enlarged maintenance area and space museum storage and support.
- *Security:* Fencing, lighting, and caretaker residence
- *Consideration of Future Property Needs and the Impact of Other Incompatible Park Uses:* Road 272 and the County’s Radio Center
- *Park Expansion:* Options
- *Enterprise:* Development of additional enterprise uses to support the museum and park, including concessions, rentals, events, etc.



Highlights of the 20 Year Conceptual Master Plan

This image illustrates many of the features of the park-wide Conceptual Master Plan which are discussed in the text and more fully discussed on the full-size plan. The larger format Conceptual Master Plan, included at the end of this document, includes additional information about

- disk golf
- pedestrian use areas, plazas, and pathways
 - security/fencing
- enhanced plantings along the boundary of the park and along the creek
 - other existing features such as playgrounds

Infrastructure and Utilities

Kleinfelder team members, Provost and Pritchard Engineers developed the infrastructure plan for Mooney Grove Park. The effort included the development of the base map of the park and evaluation of sewage, storm water, water, and dry utilities.

SEWAGE

Existing – Sewage is treated with septic systems.

Master Plan – Sewage will be conveyed through pipes to the City of Visalia sewer main located in Mooney Boulevard at two points of connection. The point of connection near the existing main park entrance will serve the park north of Cameron Creek. The point of connection at the southwest corner of the park will serve the park south of Cameron Creek.

STORM WATER

Existing – Storm Water is collected on site. A recharge basin is located near Cameron Creek on the east side of the park.

Master Plan – The existing system will be maintained and serve the Master Plan.

WATER

Existing – Water is currently supplied by wells located in Mooney Grove Park. The existing Lake is also an alternative supply for fire protection.

Master Plan – Domestic water will be supplied by a California Water Service Company main located in Mooney Boulevard at two points of connection. The point of connection near the existing main park entrance will serve the park north of Cameron Creek. The point of connection at southwest corner of the park will serve the park south of Cameron Creek. Fire line will have points of connection at existing main entrance and southwest corner. The fire line will loop through the park.

DRY UTILITIES

Existing – Gas, Electric, Cable, and Telephone lines are accessed from different points around the park.

Master Plan – Gas, Electric, Cable, and Telephone will be brought into park in a joint utility trench. The point of connection will be at the existing main park entrance.

Reduced copies of the Utility Master Plan – North (Figure 8) and Utility Master Plan – South (Figure 9) are included.

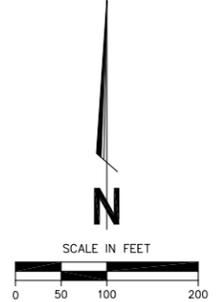
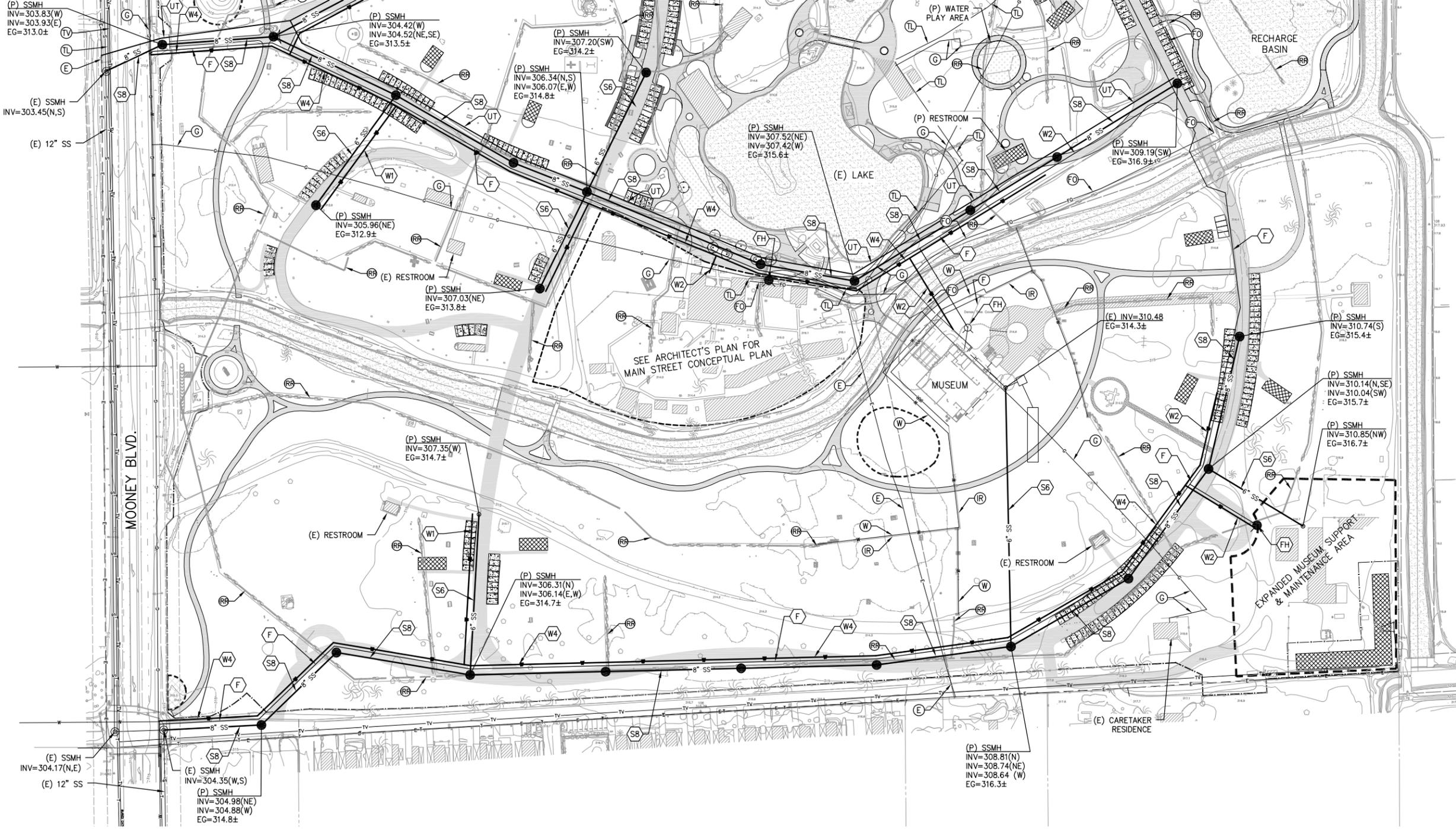
FIGURE 8– UTILITIES PLAN



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

SEE SHEET 1

MATCH LINE



3/6/2013 1:52 PM V:\Clients\Kienfelder West-1907190708V1-Mooney Grove Park DWG SHEET\MOONEY GROVE UTILITY PLAN\190708V1-UT-WATER & SEWER_S.dwg - Garfield Do Reano

2 OF 2

SHEET

DWG. NO.: 190708V1

DATE: 09/14/2011

SCALE: AS SHOWN

DRAFTED BY: JSD

CHECKED BY: TODD L. BARNES

LICENSE NO.:

DESIGN ENGINEER: TODD L. BARNES

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MASTER PLAN
TULARE COUNTY
VISALIA, CA

UTILITY MASTER PLAN - SOUTH

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
TODD L. BARNES
No. 43793
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PRELIMINARY
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09/14/2011

REVISION

BY

DATE

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FIGURE 9

Main Street

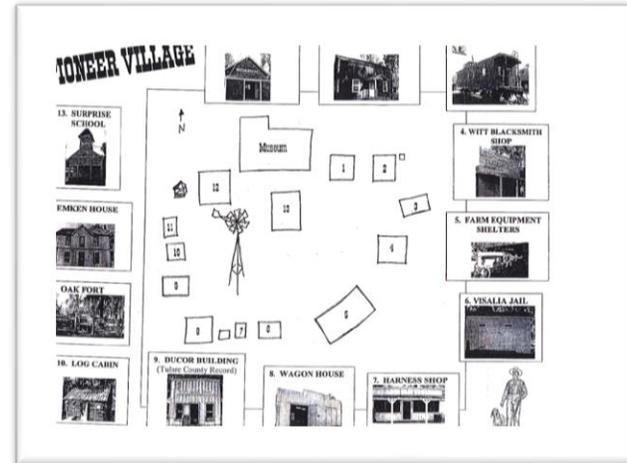
Existing Conditions

Eleven historic buildings and structures have been moved into Mooney Grove Park over the many years of its existence. These include:

- Tulare County Record
- Emken House
- Cramer House
- Surprise School
- Lamotte School
- Witt Blacksmith Shop
- Visalia Jail
- Wagon House*
- Harness Shop*
- Log Cabin
- Caboose

As part of the planning for this document, each building and structure was photographed, measured and recorded in as-built floor plans (Figures 10 through 19).

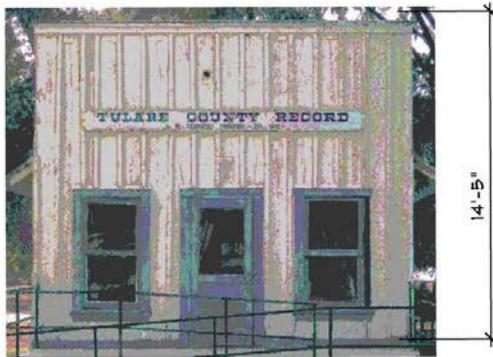
*Not historic, but part of existing Pioneer Village.



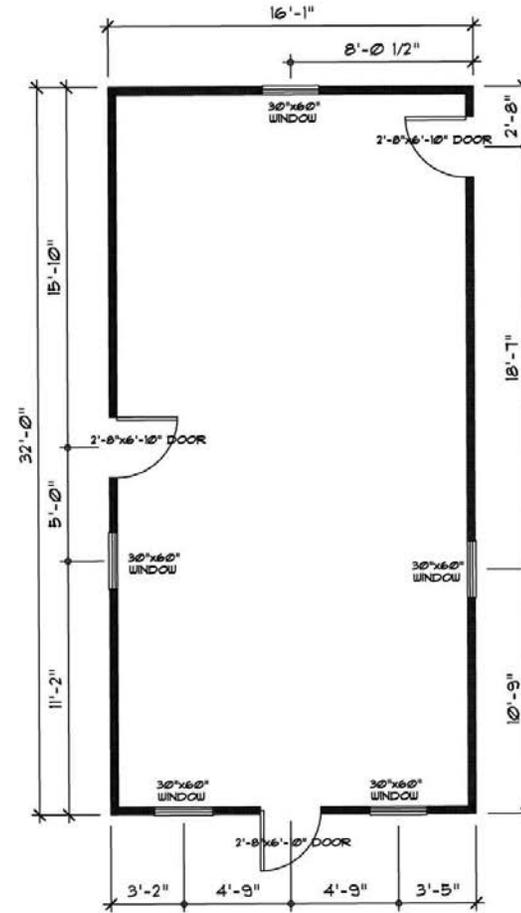
Current Pioneer Village



TULARE COUNTY RECORD SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



TULARE COUNTY RECORD FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



DUCOR BUILDING
TULARE COUNTY RECORD #9
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



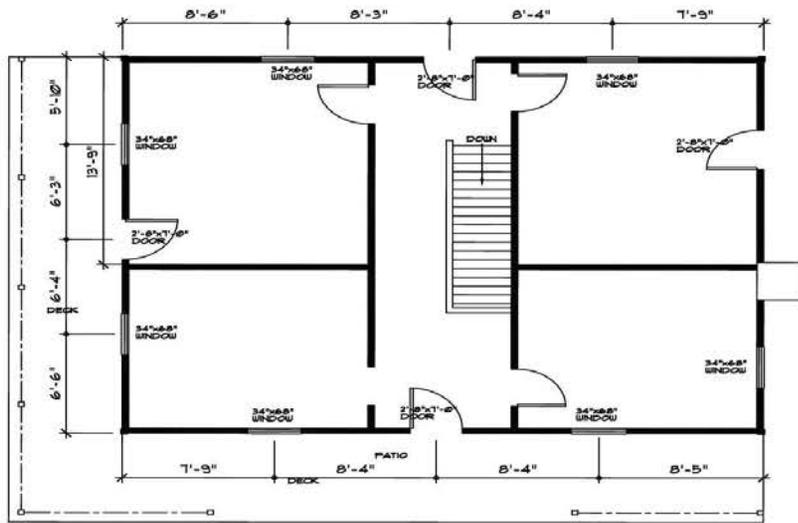
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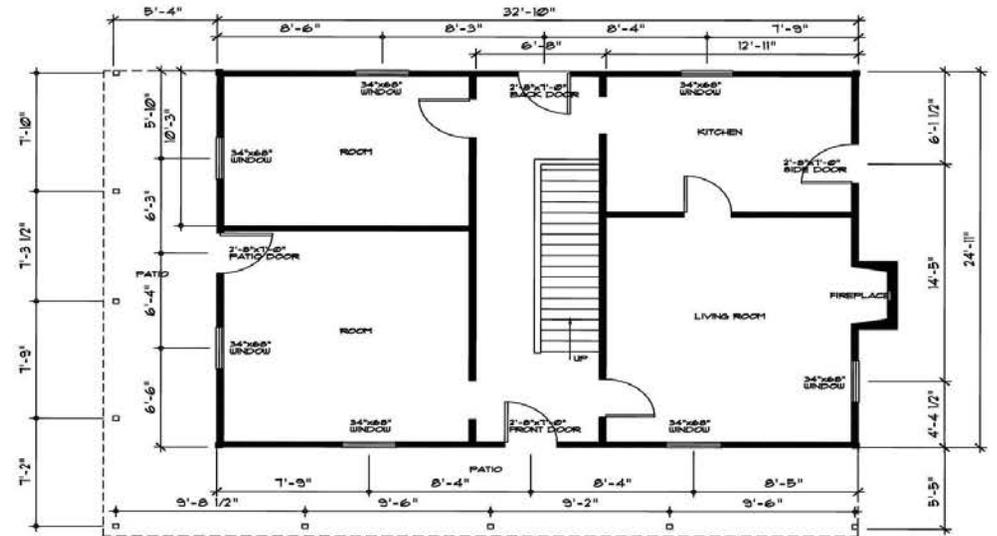
FIGURE 10

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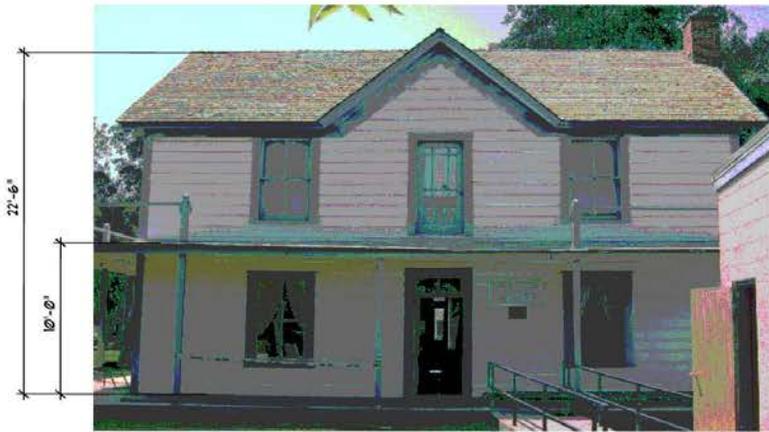
TUOLUMNE COUNTY RECORD
(STRUCTURE)



EMKEN HOUSE UPPER FLOOR PLAN #12
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"

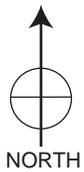


EMKEN HOUSE LOWER FLOOR PLAN #12
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



EMKEN HOUSE FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"

EMKEN HOUSE
SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



NORTH



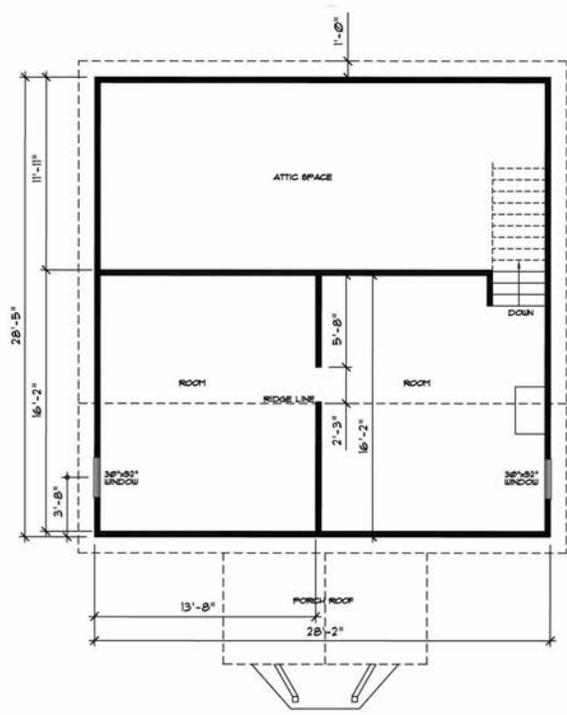
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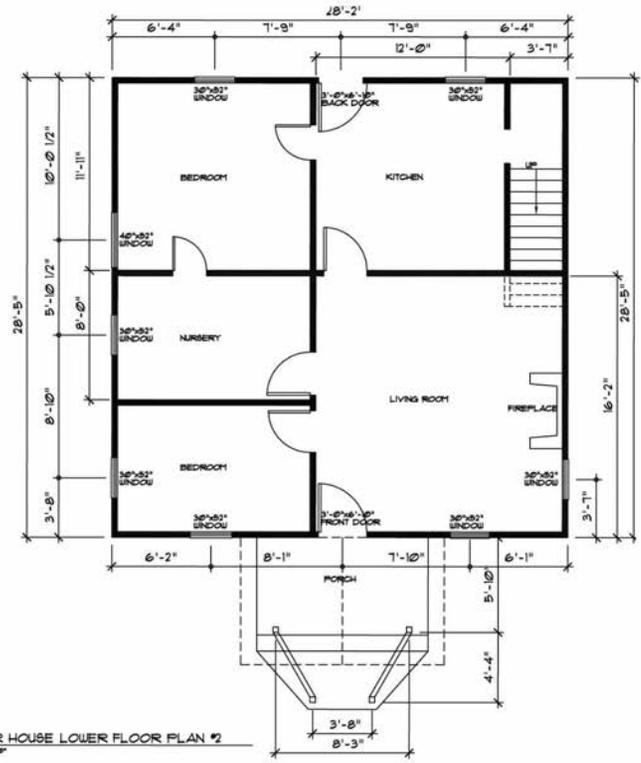
FIGURE 11

vj: 2/18/13

EMKEN HOUSE

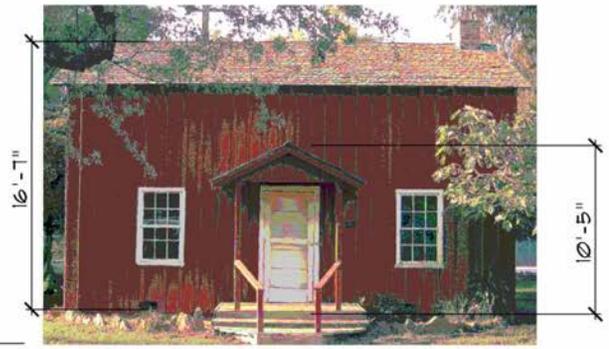


CRAMER HOUSE UPPER FLOOR PLAN #2
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



CRAMER HOUSE LOWER FLOOR PLAN #2
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"

CRAMER HOUSE SIDE VIEW
NTS



CRAMER HOUSE FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



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Source:
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FIGURE 12

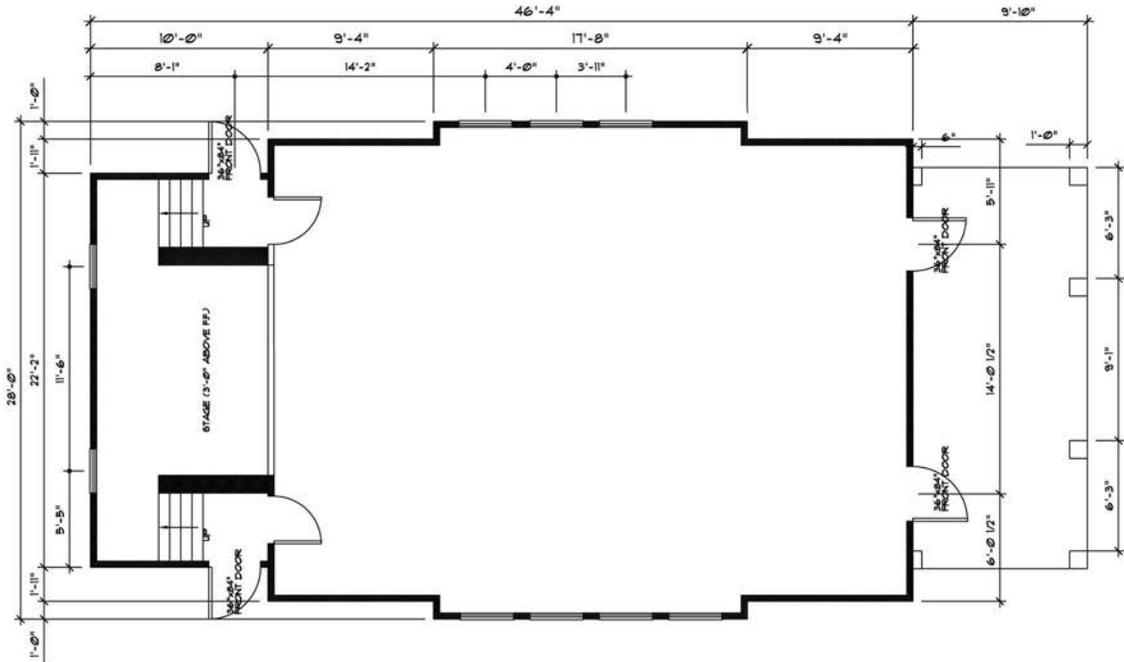
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CRAMER HOUSE



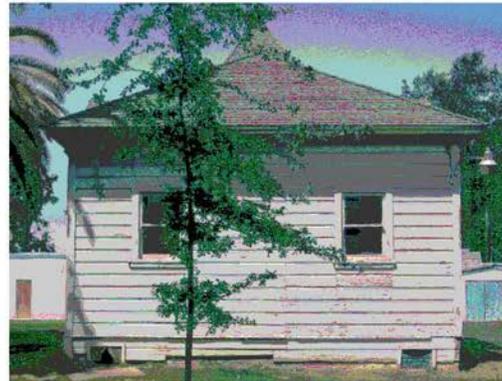
SURPRISE SCHOOL FRONT ELEVATION

NTS



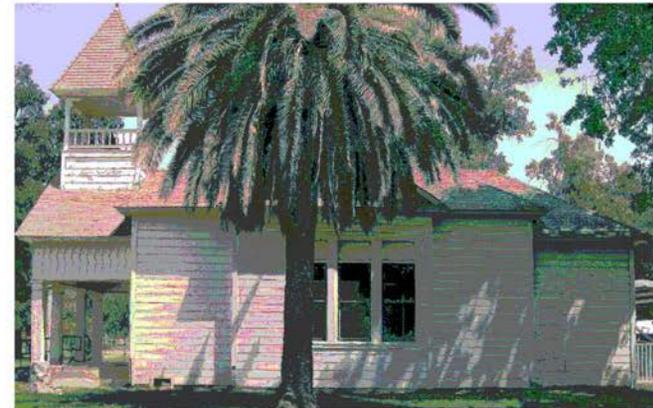
SURPRISE SCHOOL FLOOR PLAN #13

SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



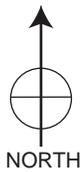
SURPRISE SCHOOL BACK ELEVATION

NTS



SURPRISE SCHOOL SIDE ELEVATION

NTS



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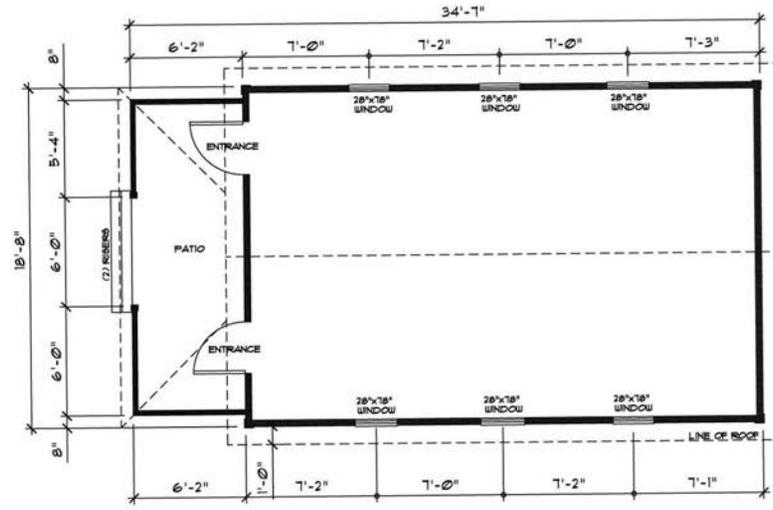
FIGURE 13

vj: 2/18/13

SURPRISE SCHOOL



LAMOTTE SCHOOL FRONT VIEW
1/8"



LAMOTTE SCHOOL FLOOR PLAN #1
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



LAMOTTE SCHOOL SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



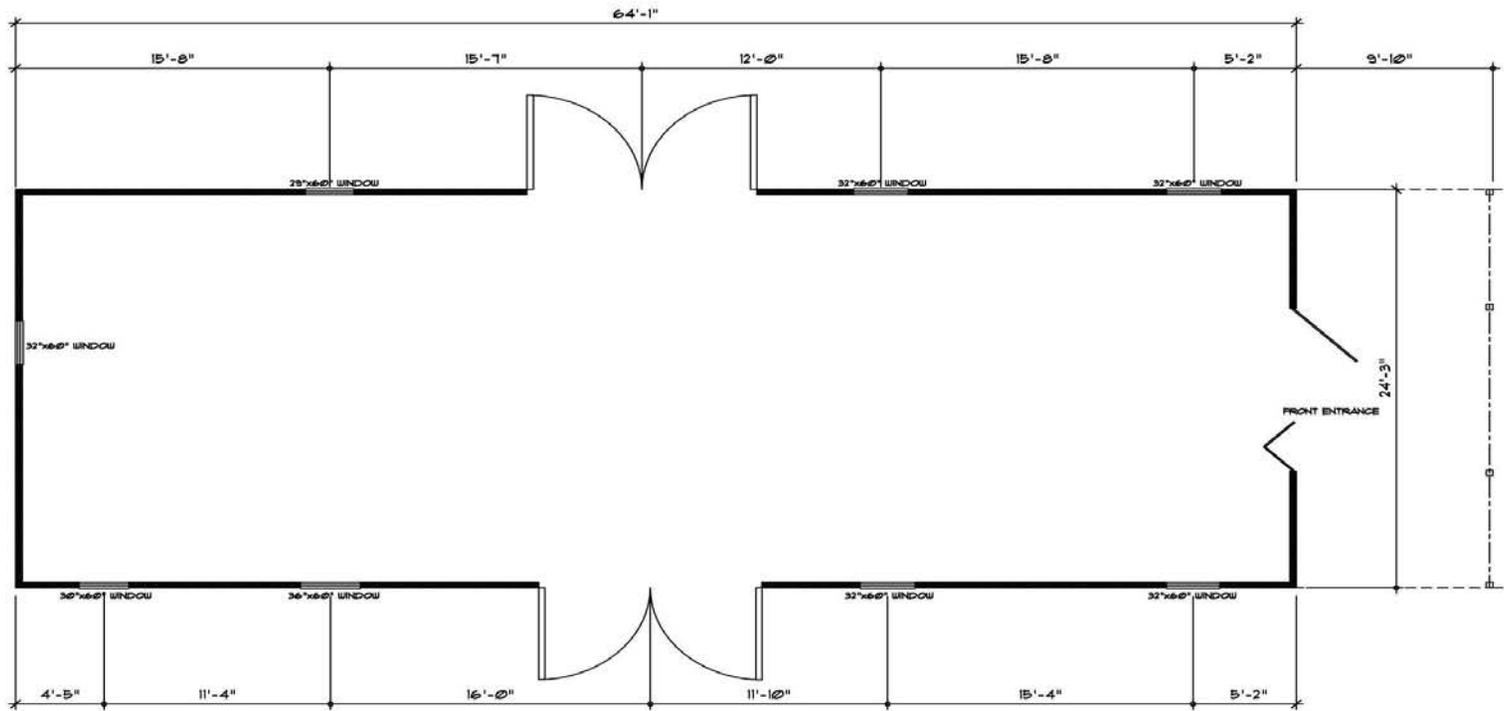
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Source:
 Cioffi Architecture

FIGURE 14

vj: 2/18/13

LAMOTTE SCHOOL

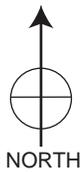
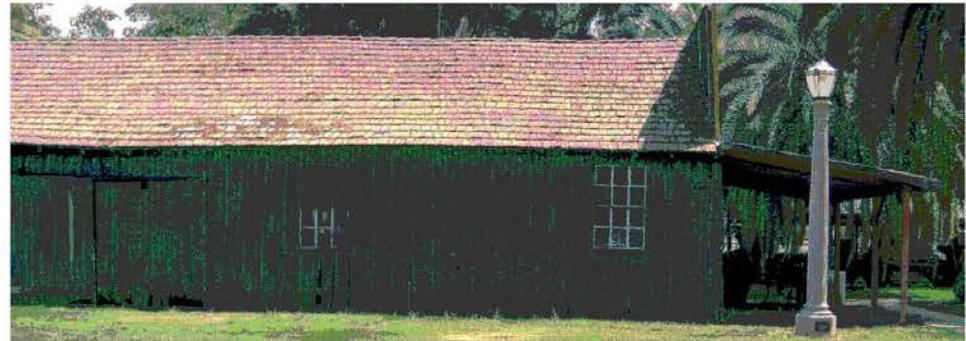


WITT BLACKSMITH SHOP FLOOR PLAN #4
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

WITT BLACKSMITH SHOP BACK ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



WITT BLACKSMITH SHOP SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



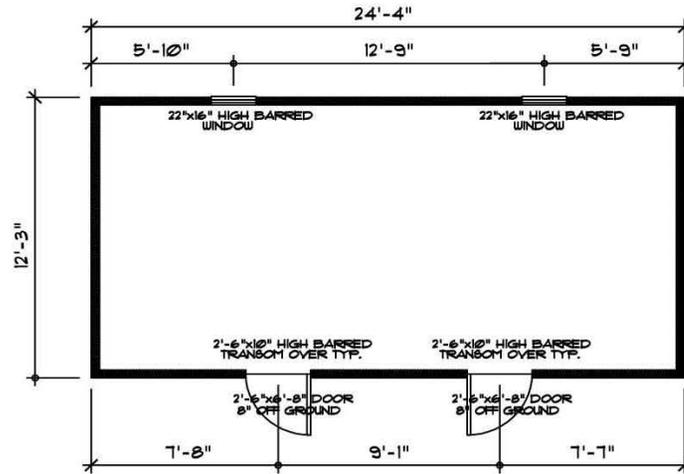
www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
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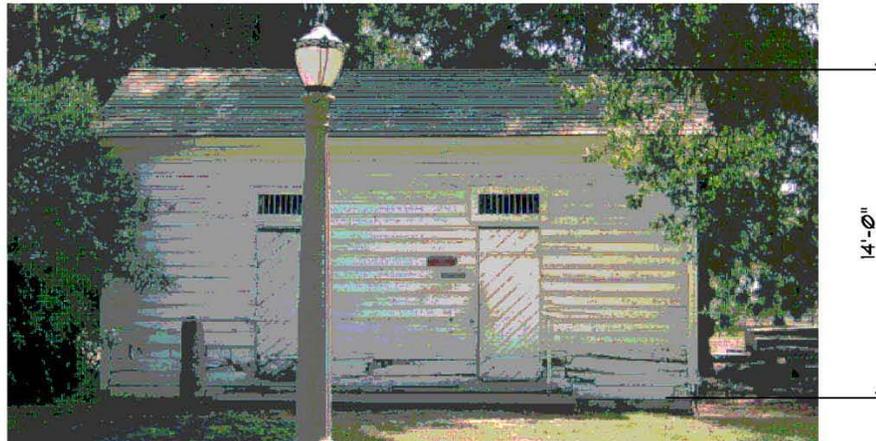
FIGURE 15

vj: 2/18/13

WITT BLACKSMITH SHOP



VISALIA JAIL FLOOR PLAN #6
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



VISALIA JAIL ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



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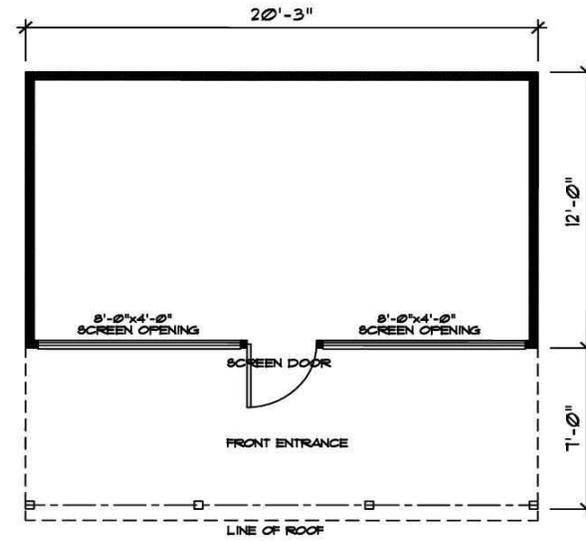
FIGURE 16

vj: 2/18/13

VISALIA JAIL



HARNES SHOP FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



HARNES SHOP FLOOR PLAN #1
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



HARNES SHOP SIDE ELEVATION
NTS



Source:
Cioffi Architecture

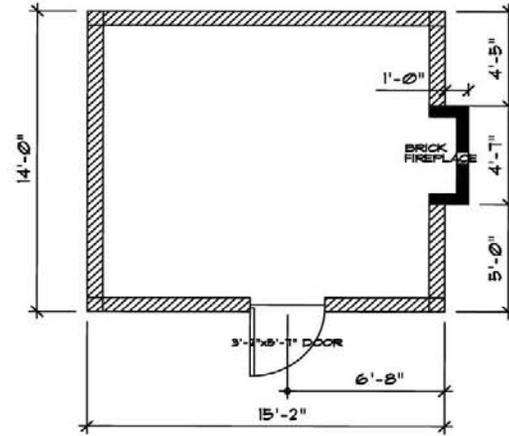
FIGURE 17

vj: 2/18/13

HARNES SHOP



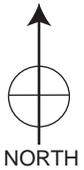
LOG CABIN SIDE VIEW
NTS



LOG CABIN FLOOR PLAN #10
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



LOG CABIN FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"



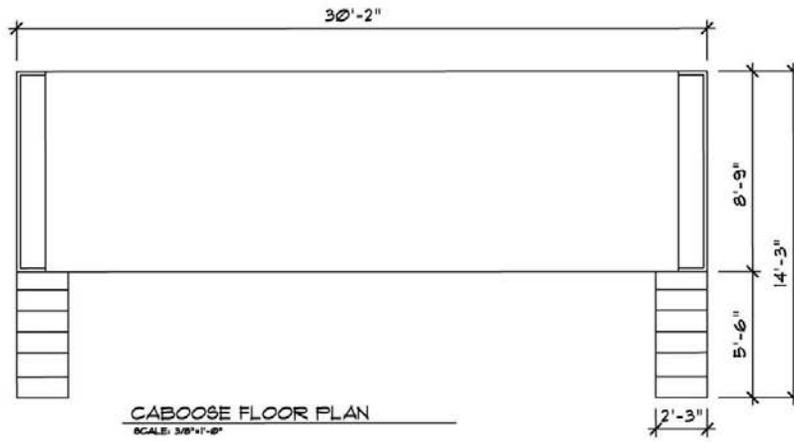
www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
Cioffi Architecture

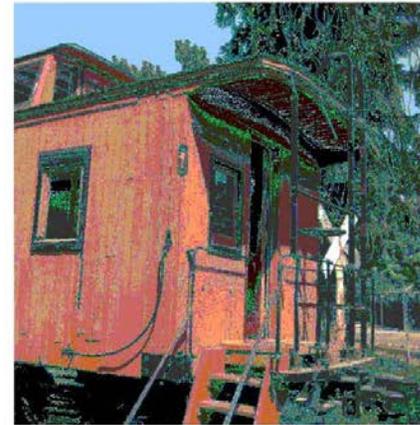
FIGURE 18

vj: 2/18/13

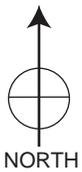
LOG CABIN



CABOOSE SIDE VIEW #3
NTS



CABOOSE SIDE VIEW #3
NTS



KLEINFELDER

www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
Cioffi Architecture

FIGURE 19

vj: 2/18/13

CABOOSE

Currently, these structures are scattered along a circular path opposite the original museum. As their moves were from different locations across the County, all these structures lost their original contexts in relation to their former setting. Some are open for tours, while others, although filled with period furnishings and artifacts are closed to visitation. The structures lack endowments, and are in serious distress due to a lack of or deferred maintenance.



The Cramer house was moved to the Tulare County Museum from its original site on the banks of the north fork of the Tule River near the town of Springville. Built in 1863 by Jacob Cramer, the house also served for some time as a store and post office.

Proposed Concept

The collection of buildings and structures is an integral component of the Museums, and offers an interesting link between the original and new museum buildings. As such, and in consideration of the lack of historic contexts, it is proposed that they be relocated along a “Main Street” (linking the old and new museums,) designed to maintain the character of a historic Tulare County community (Appendix D). This concept would include appropriate landscaping and fixtures.

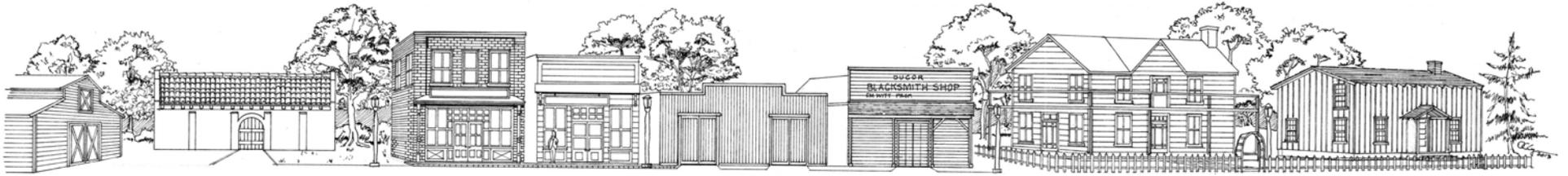
North and south facing elevations are included as Figures 20 and 21, respectively. An illustrative perspective of the proposed Main Street is shown on figure 22. A plan view of the Main Street concept overlaid on an aerial photograph is included as Figure 23.

The historic properties need to be thoroughly documented before being moved. Ideally, this should include the preparation of Historic Structures Reports (HSRs) (Appendix E) for each. Following preparation and approval of the HSRs, they should be mothballed (Appendix F), so that they are protected from further deterioration and biological infestation, until restoration funding is secured for each. One method to accomplish the preservation/restoration work might be to target one building at a time, and seek their adoption by interested corporations, foundations and individuals.



Lamotte School was built in 1894 on the South Fork of the Tule River near the Tule Indian Reservation. The school house did not receive its first coat of paint for 22 years until 1916 after local residents raised money to purchase the paint by holding Saturday night dances.

Their restorations need to be based on fact either through physical inspection or photographic evidence, and should be undertaken in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* (Appendix A). During mothballing and restoration, a false-front, incorporating actual photographs of the buildings may be used to provide the visual continuity of “Main Street”. Also, the vignette displays currently within the framed south addition to the old museum, may be relocated and introduced within the Main Street buildings.

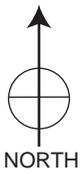


SOURCE:
AGNEW ARCHITECTS

FIGURE 20

vj: 2/18/13

MAIN STREET
NORTH ILLUSTRATIVE ELEVATION

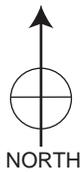
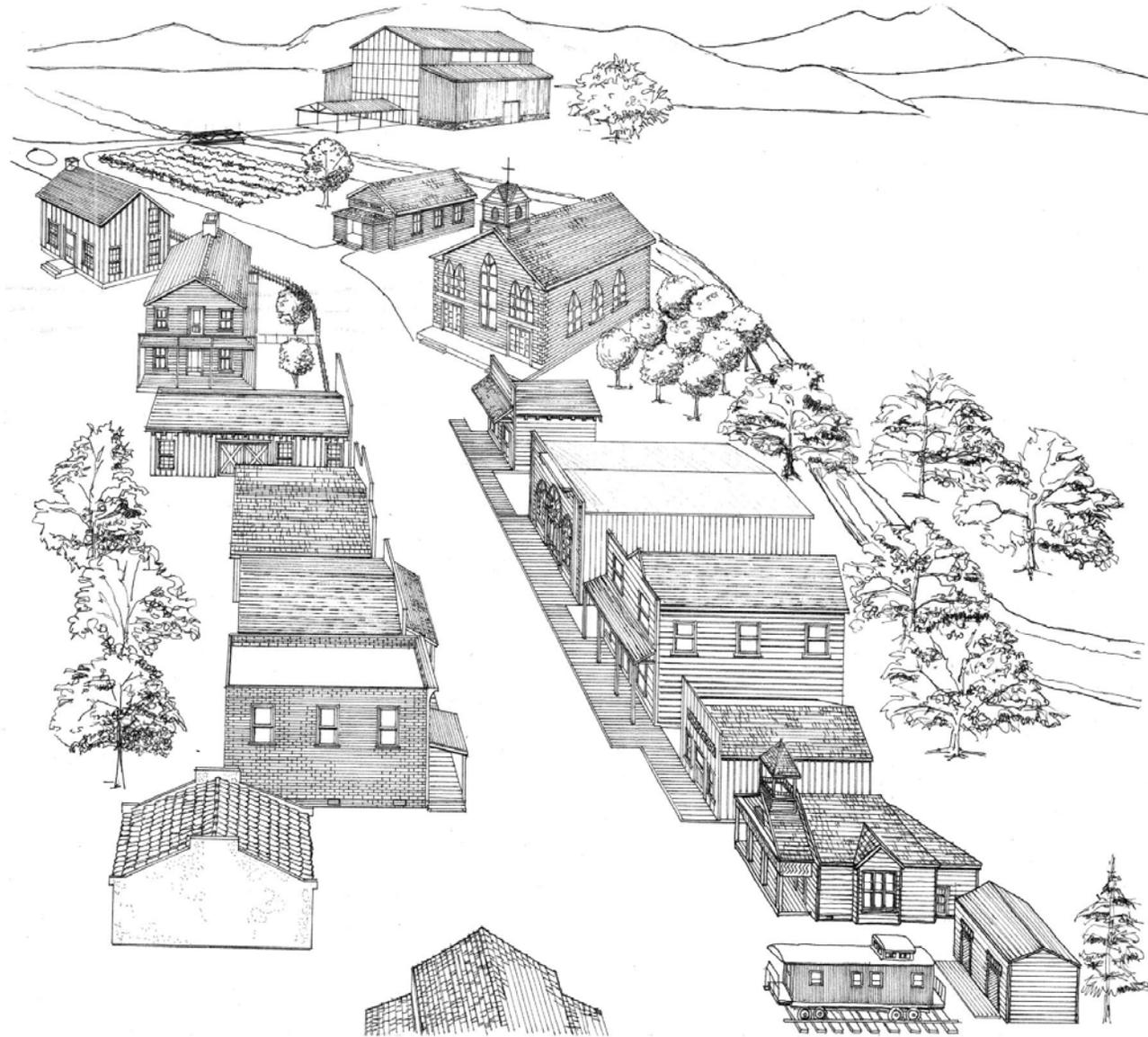


Source:
Agnew Architects

FIGURE 21

vj: 2/19/13

MAIN STREET SOUTH
ILLUSTRATIVE ELEVATION



www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
Agnew Architects

FIGURE 22

vj: 2/28/13

MAIN STREET
ILLUSTRATIVE PERSPECTIVE



Legend

- LaMotte School 1
- Cramer House 2
- Caboose 3
- Witt Blacksmith Shop 4
- Farm Equipment Shelter 5
- Visalia Jail 6
- Wagon House 8
- Tulare County Record 9
- Log Cabin 10
- Oak Fort 11
- Emkin House 12
- Surprise School 13
- Church (future) 14
- Agricultural Fields 15
- Indian Village 16
- Current museum removed 17
- Barn Ag Display (future) 18
- Future Commercial 19
- Future Comm. Masonic Front 20
- Clock Tower 21

planning & design:
andrea urbas
james cioffi architect

—Tulare County Museum of Agriculture and Labor Main Street—



www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
James Cioffi Architect

FIGURE 23

vj: 2/18/13

MUSEUMS AND MAIN STREET CONCEPT

Within the Main Street, a new warehouse is proposed to accommodate the historic Masonic Facade (currently attached to the south wing of the old museum). This new structure is intended to serve as future curation and collection storage facility. Space has been reserved within Main Street, for accommodation of future additional relocated threatened historic buildings, including commercial and religious structures.



Visalia Jail: Conflicting data suggest that the Visalia Jail was built prior to 1857 when it was replaced by a red brick building which simultaneously served as a Courthouse, community center, newspaper office and jail, with gallows at the back. Other data states that this wood jail was built in 1872 and was located at the corner of Courthouse Square built and contained two cells; it was used jointly by the City of Visalia and the County of Tulare.

The log cabin, agricultural fields (representing the agricultural heritage of Tulare County), and a future Native American village are proposed across the creek from Main Street, adjacent to the new museum.

The Plan anticipates that Main Street will serve as a future meeting place: a location for special events, festivals (such as harvest), and opportunities for the public to experience an interpretation of small town history of the County. Consideration may be given to leasing of facilities to appropriate vendors.

Recommended Development Steps

- Document all buildings and structures (HSR) (Appendix E)
- Develop engineering plans for site
- Develop plans for building moves (Appendix F)
- Move buildings (Appendix E)
- Mothball historic structures (Appendix F)
- Introduce new storage facility for Masonic facade relocation
- Develop plans for relocation and attachment of Masonic facade
- Develop plans and construction documents for restoration of original Tulare County Museum (old museum) and demolition of incompatible addition.
- Remove Masonic facade from south elevation of Tulare County Museum (old museum)
- Develop construction documents for streetscape
- Construct streetscape
- Introduce “slipcover” photo facades
- Secure funding
- Develop restoration plans
- Restore
- Develop interpretive plans (Appendix F)
- Open to the public



“Slipcover over” facade in Venice, Italy

Tulare County Museum Rehabilitation

Existing Conditions

The original museum was constructed by the Tulare County Historical Society in 1936, with the assistance of a \$5,000 bequest from Hugh Mooney, whose homestead was originally located at the site of Mooney Grove Park. The museum, a simple side-gabled Spanish Revival, single-story building, was completed and opened to the public in 1948.

Subsequently, the museum was added onto numerous times, extending the building to the east, west and south. Most of these additions were incompatible with the original building in style, and detail. The southern addition included a substantially higher roof, and incorporated a relocated historic Masonic Lodge facade. (Refer to figure 26)

Due to its age and local historical significance, the museum should be evaluated for eligibility for both the state and National registers.

The museum houses an impressive collection of Native American baskets, vessels and tools; historic saddlery and weaponry; agricultural equipment and implements; historic photographs, and household furnishings. The collection is largely on permanent display, due to limited storage and curation space. As such, there are limited opportunities for its conservation, and for changing exhibits. Thus, the exhibits, and their displays are dated. Changing exhibits would certainly entice return visitation. Curation and collections management is restricted to a small area at the southwest portion of the museum. The small space restricts opportunities for volunteer conservation assistance.

For a museum of its size, the Tulare County Museum has substantial visitation, including patronage from local schools.



Native American Baby Cradle Boards on display in the Native American Hall. The Tulare County Historical Museum includes one of the largest collections of Native American artifacts in the nation, including these amazing cradleboards with intricate patterns and weaving of reeds, tules, and other native natural fibers.

Visitors enter through a secondary entrance on the north (main) side of the museum, into a small entry with information/reception window and a small museum store. From there, they continue through a series of exhibition spaces beginning with a Native American hall, sequencing to the California and Tulare County era, to large displays of historic vehicles and vignettes of period spaces, at the south.

It was noted during Kleinfelder's site visits and interviews with County staff that there are numerous concerns regarding moisture infiltration at the rooflines of additions, and lack of tight control regarding biological infestation, including rodents.



Yokut Money. Yokut Native Americans utilized multiple forms of currency for trade. This exhibit includes strings of beads made of Abalone, Pismo clam, and Cowrie shells, as well as soapstone from Coastal tribes.

Proposed Plan

In response to the concerns identified during a series of site visits and interviews with staff and volunteers in May and June 2008, a program was developed to improve circulation, improve collection management, and allow for volunteer and exhibition preparation space. The program was initially graphically prepared on-site, utilizing bubble diagrams to indicate adjacency needs, and circulation flow. It was reviewed by staff, and developed into a plan for County planning use. Kleinfelder returned to the site in January 2012, and it appears as though many of these recommendations have already been implemented.

The plan requires minimal change, and no structural modifications. The following modifications are proposed:

Reception

- No change

East Wing

- No change

Gun Room

- No change

West Wing

- Relocate an altar to allow for visual monitoring from office
- Reposition desk to northwest corner of office to accommodate round conference table
- Close-off entry to South Wing



East Wing (Native American Hall). The East Wing is dedicated to Native American artifacts, most from local Tulare County Yokut Family Clans. Grinding Stones and Pestles are seen in the foreground and easily accessed and viewed by visitors. The background mural is representative of native pictographs painted on rock outcrops throughout the foothills of Tulare County

South Wing

- Close interior arched double door from public access
- Remove fencing
- Remove vehicles
- Convert space into conservation/ collections management, exhibit preparation and volunteer area
- Introduce 14 fold-out tables for collections and exhibit planning
- Add shelving along southeast wall for non-climate controlled collection

Collections Management Room

- Close east window opening
- Add shelving along south wall
- Add four work tables



South Wing Existing Conditions 2008. The South Wing addition houses multiple staged vignettes of historic Tulare County life as well as exhibits of historic automobiles. With the opening of the History of Farm Labor and Agriculture Museum it is being utilized for collection management and exhibit preparation.

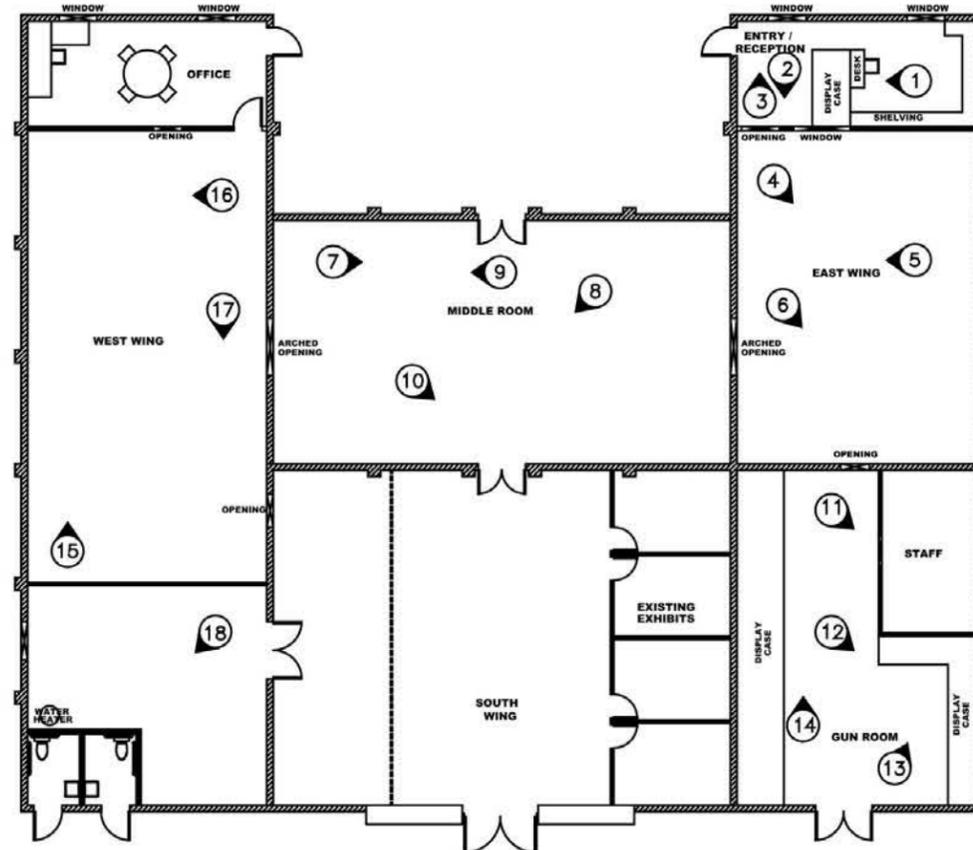


Curation and Collections Room 2008. The Curators work room is accessed via the South Wing and is comprised of shelves and racks for storage and a very small work space.

Long-range Planning for Tulare County Museum

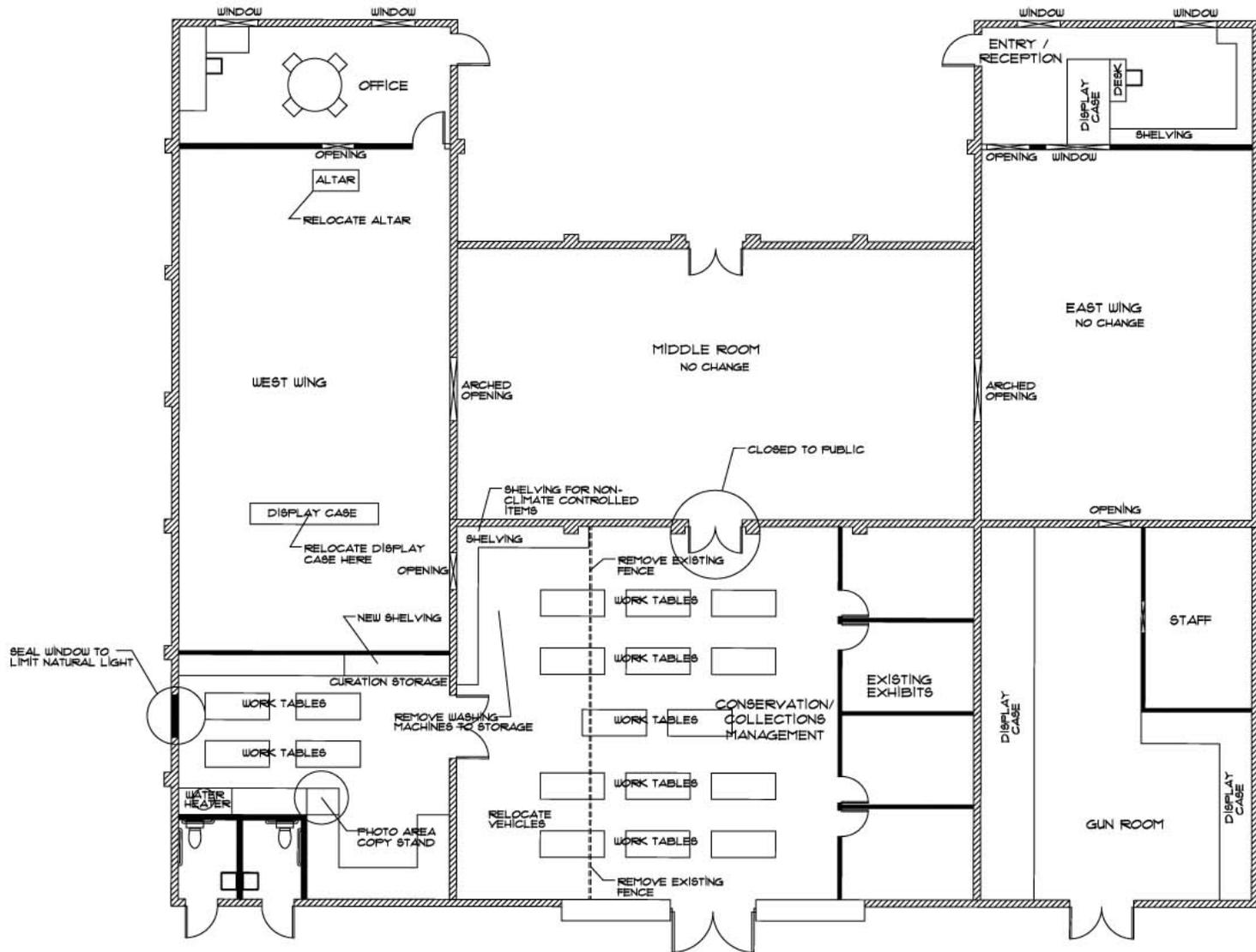
- Evaluate building for state and National Register eligibility
- Prepare HSR for museum building
- Prepare restoration plans
- Relocate collections to restored historic buildings and new storage facility
- Restore building to original appearance

Figure 24 is a plan of the old museum showing existing conditions. Figure 25 is a plan of the museum showing proposed reconfiguration of the museum, and Figure 26 is the conceptual long-range plan for the museum.



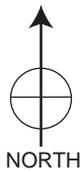
EXISTING CONDITIONS OF INTERIOR
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

	Source: CIOFI ARCHITECTURE	MUSEUM EXISTING CONDITIONS OF INTERIOR
	FIGURE 24	
	vj: 3/5/13	



SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



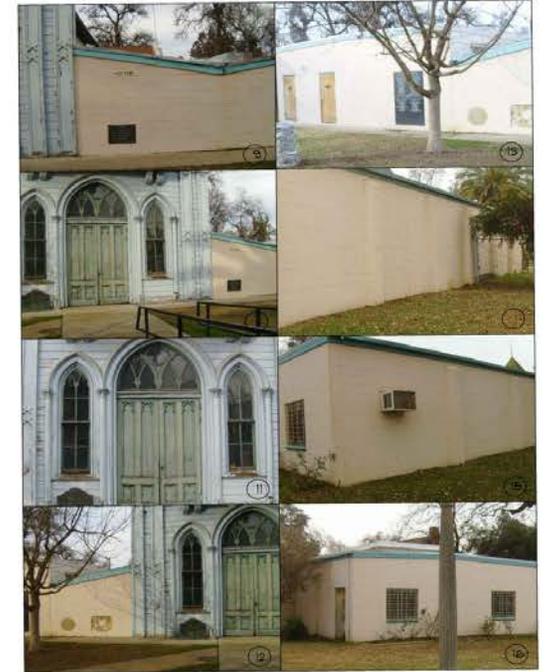
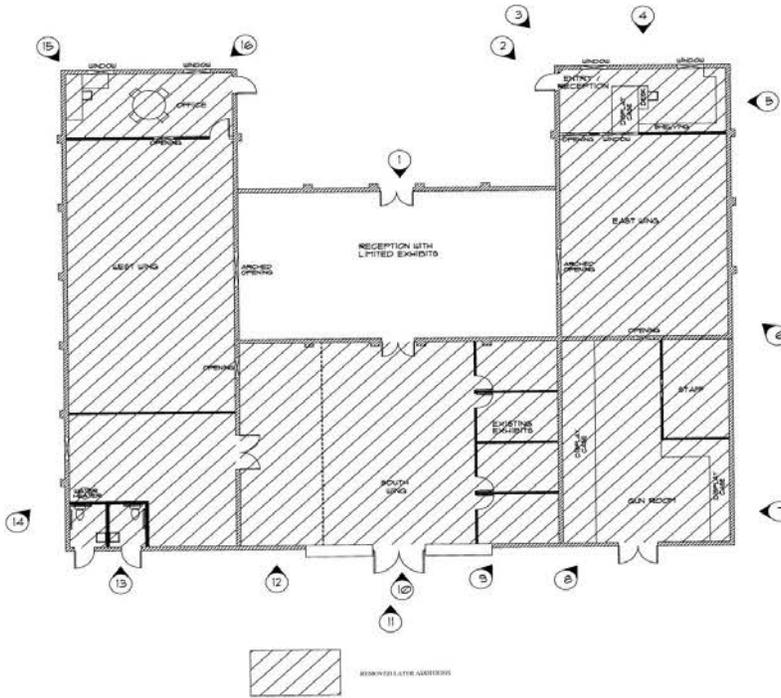
www.Kleinfelder.com

Source:
Cioffi Architecture

FIGURE 25

vj: 2/18/13

MUSEUM PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION



LONG RANGE RESTORATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

CONCEPTUAL ONLY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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Source:
Cioffi Architecture

FIGURE 26

vj: 2/18/13

MUSEUM LONG-RANGE RESTORATION

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**MOONEY GROVE PARK
20-YEAR CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN**