

# *Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation*

August Newsletter, 2022

## An Historic Grammar School Update

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**This month, we at the SCCBF, thought we'd take a detour from our usual newsletter format and bring you up to date on some of the repairs and improvements recently completed at the Ol' Schoolhouse.**

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As the years have hurtled past, the large piece of property, originally donated by the Wildman family and mining corporation, has changed dramatically. As donated, the property extended from Cole Street (which didn't yet exist) all the way down to Broad Street and at least to the houses that now stand on each side.



*Grammar school and grounds circa 1871.*



*Historic grammar school (in back with flag) as seen from Broad Street with the primary school in front.*

**With the construction of the primary school, access from Broad Street to the front of the big brick school was pretty well cut off.**



*Entering the grammar school from Fullen Street.*

**Addition of playgrounds and extra classrooms at the Fullen Street side further limited the former unrestricted access. All this has left the real front door an uncomfortably steep climb topped by two sets of stairs to be conquered. Most folks decline the challenge and opt to enter through the back door, it being ramp accessible and close to parking.**



*Unightly back door and entrance.*

**Since the back door has become the front door by default, it was decided that the main entrance at the rear was not only unattractive, but unsafe. The handrail at the ramp and stairs was loose and wobbly because the concrete moorings had crumbled. The concrete stairs were also in need of repairs. Gaps in the concrete allowed water to flow under the building rotting the wood. Awkward steps and small blobs of hardened concrete made for an uneven and dangerous walkway.**

**In July, a committee was formed consisting of Rick Champlin and John Swift. Local contractor and craftsman, Alex Armstrong, was brought in to help formulate a work plan and prioritize jobs.**



*Alex Armstrong hard at it!*

**After several strategy and planning sessions, work was begun in the first week of August.**

**First tackled was the loose handrail. Forms were built to replace crumbling concrete and steel rods added to further strengthen repairs. The handrail is now solid and secure.**



*Attic vent slats now backed with 1/4" screen.*

**Second, the attic vent slats above the back door were covered on the inside with 1/4" hardware cloth to keep the wildlife out of the attic.**



*Gap now repaired.*

**Next, the roughly 1" gap between the concrete steps and the wooden wall was sealed and the wood primed and painted.**



*New soffit above entrance.*

**Most noticeably, approximately 19 feet of new soffit was constructed and installed in the entry space above the back door. This was then covered with vintage corrugated roofing to match the existing roof and the entire soffit flashed and caulked to eliminate further water damage. The old rusted rain gutter was removed and replaced with new galvanized gutters and a new downspout although this job is not yet completed – we're awaiting parts.**



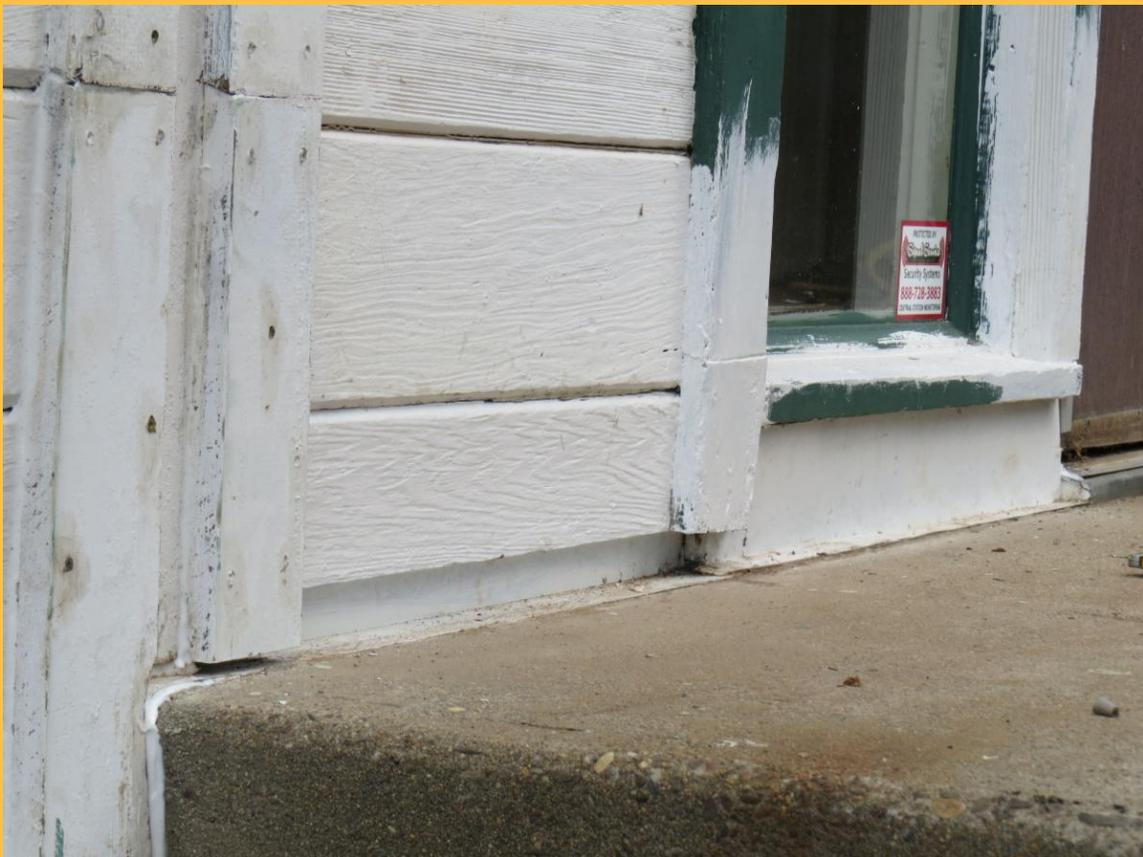
***New galvanized flashing at gable peak.***

**New galvanized flashing was also installed at the roof peak and sides to cover woodpecker damage and keep water and woodpeckers out.**



*Back door before repair and paint.*

**A water tight threshold seal was added to each door and the rotten flooring cut out and flashed to prevent further damage.**



*New watertight flashing around entrance.*



*Back door flashed, sealed, trimmed, and painted.*

**We also considered replacing the unsightly back door, but cost was prohibitive. It was decided to try adding trim pieces to the existing door with a fresh coat of white paint.**



*New inside paint on door matching interior.*

The inside of the door was also painted to match the interior room. Finally, work was begun caulking all the cracks, holes, and defects starting with the center section. That section was then primed and painted with three coats of satin exterior white.



*This year's Phase 1 complete!*

Now that this year's Phase 1 improvements have been completed, Phase 2 is being planned. Siding needs replacing, doors repaired, and back windows to be replaced. A generous, and timely, donation from Sean Murphy, as well as contributions from the community at large, are the only way these projects can be planned, prioritized, and carried through to completion. We, the volunteers of the SCCBF are deeply appreciative of your support through involvement and donations. You are the only way we can carry on with this project so close to the community's heart.

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Send contact information to [info@sccbf.org](mailto:info@sccbf.org) to be added to our  
distribution list.

The Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School is rich in Gold Rush history. This beautiful building is California's second oldest two-story brick schoolhouse. The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has restored the first and second floor making it a wonderful rental for any occasion. There are four rooms within the Historic Grammar School that can be rented.

Contact the City of Sutter Creek for information on rates and availability - (209) 267-5647 ext. 230 or email [info@cityofsuttercreek.org](mailto:info@cityofsuttercreek.org)

*Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A donation to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving.*

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