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## Input for walking tour

1 message

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Dyane Albrecht <dyane48@hotmail.com>

Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at  
1:31 PM

To: "mark@markreillyarchitecture.com"  
<mark@markreillyarchitecture.com>, Terence McAteer  
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Hi Mark, feel free to take any liberties with these drafts:

### **410 SOUTH CHURCH STREET - GRASS VALLEY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER - MOUNT ST. MARY'S CONVENT AND ORPHANAGE:**

These buildings are a beautiful illustration of a 100-year history from 1860's to 1960's. Founded by Father Dalton and ran by the Sisters of Mercy, this convent and orphanage provided education, health care and social services, it changed over time to meet the needs of the community. Only two 19th century convents remain in California. We are the older of the two, which makes us the oldest women's convent still standing west of the Rockies. Visit us and take a tour of our historic nunnery and orphanage, full of rich history from the Gold Rush days, with displays of furniture, art, clothing, musical instruments, and artifacts from the Victorian era. Tour our unique Gardens, filled with over 100 heritage roses, trees, and plants. We are a recognized state and

national historic landmark. Since the 1970's it is being used as a performance, event, and wedding venue, and provides 13 artist studios. It also houses the Grass Valley Museum, which is open Wednesday - Saturday noon to 3 pm.

### **203 MILL STREET -MARSHALL'S PASTIES:**

What is a pasty? it is a meat pie, and has been a documented part of the British diet since the 13th Century. It wasn't until the 17th and 18th centuries that the pasty was adopted by miners in Cornwall as a means for providing themselves with easy, tasty and sustaining meals while they worked. Many miners from Cornwall, England came to work the mines in the Grass Valley area, they had the knowledge and experience we needed. The humble Cornish Pasty came with them and has been a part of this community since the Gold Rush era. Marshall's Pasties only serve true Cornish pasties at their counter. You can get your order to go or to take upstairs to their seating area. Marshall's Pasties are prepared and rolled by hand, seasoned deliciously and baked in their own kitchen. Marshall's today, like the Cornish Women of old, pride themselves in the preparation and serving of this savory food just as they did to the miners long ago.

Grass Valley Library was built in 1914 with a \$15,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Carnegie, founder of Carnegie Steel (later U.S. Steel), helped fund construction of 1,679 community libraries throughout the country from 1896-1919. The library rests on the site of the birthplace home of Josiah Royce, one of America's most noted philosophers.

The Empire Mine is "one of the oldest, largest, deepest, longest and richest gold mines in California," according to the California State Parks. Between 1850 and its closure in 1956, the Mine produced 5.8 million ounces (165 tons) of gold, extracted from 367 miles of underground passages. Since 1974, Empire Mine has been part of the State Parks system and is open daily to visitors. A highlight of the Mine is the 1897 Willis Polk designed cottage.

Welcome to the walking tour of Historic Grass Valley. Our hope is to bring history of this famous Gold Rush town to life and provide some valuable information for locals and visitors alike. We want you to explore the people, architecture, culture and history of this community. Enjoy!!

109 South School Street  
Grass Valley Elks Lodge Building  
Gothic/English Tudor style of architecture  
It was designed by San Francisco Architect William Mooser

The Benevolent Order of the Elks charter was signed in 1900 with the first Exalted Ruler being John F. Kidder, of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad. The first meetings were held in Lords Hall on East Main Street across from the City Hall for twelve years until funds could be raised for the new building. The new building was completed and dedicated January 28, 1913, thirteenth years after the lodge was instituted.

Through the years the lodge has gone through many renovations that modernized the building. Fun fact, the main hall has a "spring loaded" floating floor dance floor.

## **Center for the Arts**

### **314 W. Main Street**

The Sanborn Fire Map of 1898 shows that a dwelling was situated on this site. No other information has been found regarding the fate of this dwelling.

The County Assessor's records indicated the existing building was built in 1947. The Searls Library records state that Mountain Chevrolet car dealership was in business at this site from 1947-1960. The upstairs space was used by the Department of Employment.

According to Linda Hartman (daughter of Lou Hartman), her father and partner, James Aeriote purchased the dealership in 1958. The name of the business was changed to Hartman Chevrolet and it was a Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Toyota dealership. Linda believes her father was the first Toyota dealer in California. He sold Toyopets (original name of Toyota) and later Landcruisers (the African Safari type). It was a full service operation with a showroom, service/parts department and paint shop. There was a large garage door in front so you drive up Main Street, honk your horn, the door would open and you would drive in. During his ownership the upstairs was vacant for storage with an elevator to it, one of the first in the County. Her father sold the dealership in 1965 or 1966. Searls Library records indicate the name changed to M&S Chevrolet and Oldsmobile in 1966 and then to Hansen's Ltd in 1973, specializing in import and foreign cars and later included motorcycle sales. The upstairs space served as a health and fitness gym in the 1980's.

In 1988, Jerry Lee Metropolitan Beauty College operated at this site. After the closure of the beauty college the building was eventually leased by the Center for the Arts.

A patron of the arts and community activist, Jon Blinder, purchased the building in 2001. He subsequently donated the building to the Center for the Arts and served as president of the Board of Directors for a number of years. This was a hard working board with a team of dedicated community members including Dave Irons and Leo Grannucci. In 2002, the Center upgraded the stage, bathrooms and seating. In 2004, the Center for the Arts front façade got a facelift designed by local architect, Tony Rosas, in an Art Deco motif. In 2017, the rear of the building was expanded re-positioning the stage and increasing the seating capacity to 500. Construction delays were incurred because of serious drainage issues. The building was finally ready for use when just days before re-opening, COVID19 shut the operation down for 2 years. Over 1750 community members donated money to keep the Center afloat during those years. The Center was officially reopened with a ribbon cutting celebration of June 10, 2022.