North Bloomfield School & Carter Residence, CA  September 11 - October 7, 2018

PROJECT PARTNER: Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, CA

HISTORY: This lovely and geologically fascinating area gave rise to the world’s largest hydraulic mining operations, which proved to be more destructive – and more profitable – than any mine ever built before. Once an incredible example of man’s ability to affect the environment, this site is today a State Historic Park that offers clean air and beautiful scenery, with some significantly interesting man made geological features.

From Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park’s website:

“In 1851, three gold prospectors discovered a rich gravel deposit in a nearby stream.

In need of supplies, one of the miners was sent to town with instructions not to divulge their location. After imbibing at a local saloon, he boasted of a great find and upon returning from Nevada City, was secretly followed by nearly 100 prospectors. Despite their efforts, they did not find their fortunes and left the area calling the creek a ‘Humbug.’ A few miners stayed and called the new mining camp ‘Humbug City.’
“Other miners came into the area in 1852 and 1853: This second wave of miners employed newly created hydraulic methods and found gold in sufficient quantities to justify settling and expanding the camp into a full-fledged townsite.

“The destructive forces of the 1850’s Gold Rush reveal a man-made landscape that beckons visitors to adventure.” – Friends of Malakoff Diggins

“By 1855, Humbug City resembled a small town with its first hotel, the Hotel de France.

With over 400 residents, the town became known as North Bloomfield, California in 1857 when the post office was established. Humbug was a name given to “played-out” creeks and mining claims everywhere during the gold rush. The name was so common during this period that the post office required that the name be changed!

“...North Bloomfield experienced its heyday from the late 1860’s to 1884, with nearly 1,500 inhabitants and more than 200 buildings serving as a supply base for the township. These buildings included 5 hotels, 8 saloons, 2 livery stables, 2 dry goods stores, 2 breweries, 3 boot makers, 3 fraternal organizations, a school, a barbershop, a drug store, a butcher, a baker, a dairy, and 2 churches.

“...In 1884, the Sawyer Decision was handed down to curtail the wanton disposal of hydraulic mining debris into waterways. Hydraulic mining continued for many years but at only a fraction of the scale. Companies had invested millions of dollars into the hydraulic gold mining effort in California. These companies slowly folded and the miners and their families moved away to seek work elsewhere. North Bloomfield and the many towns born of hydraulic gold mining in the California gold fields slowly died.” Read more here.

Today, North Bloomfield serves as a site of historic interpretation, drawing those interested in the cultural and economic center it once was. Many buildings from North Bloomfield’s heyday line the streets, and visitors can even see hydraulic mining equipment. Tours are given daily. The community is kept alive by residents of some of the historic homes. Click the “plus” sign below to read more about the destructive force of the hydraulic monitors.
**SCOPE OF WORK:** Volunteers worked with field staff to learn and improve their skills at the following tasks on two buildings: the North Bloomfield School (pictured at the top) and the Carter Residence (pictured to the right).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage of Scope*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Level uneven floors by jacking up building and installing additional framing underneath</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Repair and replace damaged siding, window trim, and foundation skirting</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Rehabilitate windows</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Repair porch supports and various wood elements</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Paint wood surfaces</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
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**WHERE:** The North Bloomfield School and Carter Residence are part of Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park, about 90 minutes west of Truckee, CA and Lake Tahoe. [Here is a map to the park.](https://example.com)

**AREA TOURISM:** Malakoff Diggins State Park is a tourism destination in its own right, with more than 20 miles of trails, gold panning on Saturdays, interpretive tours, and beautiful scenery. Volunteers enjoyed swimming and fishing at a nearby lake.

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Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park has been recognized by State Parks and the California Department of Conservation’s Division of Mines and Geology as one of California’s GeoGems. To read more about Malakoff’s geological significance, [click here.](https://example.com) To read more about all of the State Park GeoGems, visit: the State Parks website. ([source](https://example.com))

Only 90 minutes from the jobsite is famed Truckee, CA, a gateway community to the summer & winter playground of Lake Tahoe!