DEPARTMENT: Planning/Building          BY: Tony Lashbrook          PHONE: 966-5151

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes __   No XX )

Adoption of a resolution adding the Alter Stone, Walter Farnsworth Cottage and the Cannon Ball Wagon to the Mariposa County Historical Resources Inventory as recommended by the Mariposa County Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission. The Commission was established for the purpose of recommending to the Board appropriate additions to the existing historical inventory. The justification for each item is included in the attachments prepared by the Commission.

The Planning Department has prepared this item for action at the request of the Public Works Department.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board established the Commission by Board resolution. Ordinance No. 639 adopted by the Board in 1985 allows for the application of the State/County Historical Building Code for structures listed in the inventory. The relief provided by the historic building code would apply to the Walter Farnsworth Cottage.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
1. Approve request as submitted.
2. Approve portion of request.
3. Deny the request.
4. Request additional information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COSTS:</th>
<th>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Budgeted current FY</td>
<td>List the attachments and number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Total anticipated costs</td>
<td>the pages consecutively:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Required additional funding</td>
<td>1. Memo to Board from Historical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Internal transfers</td>
<td>Sites &amp; Records Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE:</td>
<td>Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) 4/5ths Vote Required</td>
<td>2. Completed inventory forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Unanticipated revenues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Reserve for contingencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Source description:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in Reserve for Contingencies,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if approved:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date:  
ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
By: Deputy  
County of Mariposa, State of California  

A.O. Initials:  

Action Form Revised 5/92
DATE: OCTOBER 16, 1992

TO: THE MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: THE MARIPOSA COUNTY HISTORICAL SITES
      AND RECORDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

SUBJECT: ADDITIONS TO THE MARIPOSA COUNTY
      HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY.

Attached for review and recommended for approval are three proposed
additions to the Mariposa County Historical Resources Inventory.

Item no. 1 was submitted to the Historical Sites Commission by Mr. John
Fisk, 9618 Bondurant Mine Road, Coulterville. The site is identified as the
John Muir Alter Stone located in the stream bed of the North Fork of the Merced
River approximately 1/2 mile downstream from where Forest Service Road 2S62
crosses the stream.

Support for the historical nature of the stone is in the form of an
excerpt from John Muir's book MY FIRST SUMMER IN THE SIERRAS. A portion of a U.S.
Geological Survey Base Map shows the location of the stone. Black and white
photos of the stone are attached to the inventory.

Item no. 2 was submitted by Blair and Helen Fowler and is identified
as THE OLD FARNSWORTH HOUSE. The residence qualifies as a historic structure by
virtue of its age and its interesting Depression era style of architecture. The
house was apparently built in the late 1930's. The residence was originally
located on the site between Bullion and Charles streets recently designated by
the Board as a future home for the proposed new Mariposa Library.

The residence has been relocated a few blocks away to 5125 Bullion
Street. It has been carefully and beautifully restored to its original new
appearance. Photographs accompany the inventory.

Item no. 3 while not being a "site" is an artifact of historical
importance to Mariposa County. The Historic Resources Inventory was prepared by
Commission member Frank Long. The artifact is the well known CANNON BALL, a
stage coach or wagon train which is currently on display at the Mariposa Co.
History Center in Mariposa. The inventory is accompanied by a 1988 photo and a
short history of the vehicle.

It is the recommendation of the Historical Sites and Records
Preservation Commission that these three items be designated by the Mariposa
County Board of Supervisors as additions to the County Historical Resources
Inventory which is currently housed with the County Building Department,

Respectfully Submitted

John S. Greiner, Chairman
Chapter 15.12

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Sections:

15.12.010 Purpose.
15.12.020 Historic building.
15.12.030 Designation of special historical or architectural significance.

15.12.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to implement Sections of the Mariposa County General Plan and Policies and Section 104(f), Chapter 186 of the Uniform Building Code.

15.12.020 Historic building.

Repairs, alterations and additions, except for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or continued use of a building or structure may be made without conformance to all requirements of this title when authorized by the building inspector, provided:

A. The building or structure has been designated, by the board of supervisors, as having special historical or architectural significance and is included on the official "Mariposa County List of Buildings or Structures with Special Historical or Architectural Significance".

B. Any unsafe condition, as described in the Uniform Building Code, is corrected.

C. The restored building or structure will be no more hazardous, based on life safety, fire safety, and sanitation, than the existing building.

15.12.030 Designation of special historical or architectural significance.

A. The Mariposa County historic sites and records preservation commission shall be responsible for nominating buildings and/or structures, in accordance with this chapter, to be considered by the board of supervisors.

B. The Mariposa County historic sites and records preservation commission is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the official "Mariposa County List of Buildings or Structures with Special Historical or Architectural Significance". (Ord. 639, Sec.1, 1985).
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Muir, John Altar Stone

2. Historic name: same as 1.

3. Street or rural address: Approx, one half mile downstream from where Forest Service Rd. 2S62 crosses the North Fork of the Merced River.
   City Coulterville Zip 95311 County Mariposa

4. Parcel number: Sec. 16 T2S R 18 E W1M

5. Present Owner: Stanislaus National Forest
   Address: 19777 Greenley Rd.
   City Sonora Zip 95370-5889 Ownership is: Public ☑ Private

6. Present Use: None Original use: None

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: (7. thru 18. not applicable)

7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

8. Construction date:
   Estimated _____ Factual _____

9. Architect

10. Builder

11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage _____ Depth _____ or approx. acreage _____

12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    June 1991
John Muir enthusiastically described this large, granite flood-boulder and its site - likening it to an altar stone. He was so entranced with the stone that he spent a night on its mossy level top.
June 14

The pool-basins below the falls and cascades hereabouts, formed by the heavy down-plunging currents, are kept nicely clean and clear of detritus. The heavier parts of the material swept over the falls are heaped up a short distance in front of the basins in the form of a dam, thus tending, together with erosion, to increase their size. Sudden changes, however, are effected during the spring floods, when the snow is melting and the upper tributaries are roaring loud from "bank to brae." Then boulders that have fallen into the channels, and which the ordinary summer and winter currents were unable to move, are suddenly swept forward as by a mighty besom, hurled over the falls into these pools, and piled up in a new dam together with part of the old one, while some of the smaller boulders are carried farther down stream and variously lodged according to size and shape, all seeking rest where the force of the current is less than the resistance they are able to offer. But the greatest changes made in these relations of fall, pool, and dam are caused, not by the ordinary spring floods, but by extraordinary ones that occur at irregular intervals. The testimony of trees growing on flood boulder deposits shows that a century or more has passed since the last major flood came to awaken everything movable to go swirling and dancing on wonderful journeys. These floods may occur during the summer, when heavy thunder-showers, called "cloud-bursts," fall on wide, steeply inclined stream basins surrouned by converging channels, which suddenly gather the waters together into the main trunk in booming torrents of enormous transporting power, though short-lived.

One of these ancient flood boulders stands firm in the middle of the stream channel, just below the lower edge of the pool dam at the foot of the fall nearest our camp. It is a nearly cubical mass of granite about eight feet high, plushed with mosses over the top and down the sides to ordinary high-water mark. When I climbed on top of it to-day and lay down to rest, it seemed the most romantic spot I had yet found—the one big stone with its mossy level top and smooth sides standing square and firm and solitary, like an altar, the fall in front of it bathing it lightly with the finest of the spray, just enough to keep its moss cover fresh; the clear green pool beneath, with its foam-bells and its half circle of lilies leaning forward like a band of admirers, and flowering dogwood and elder trees leaning over all in sun-sifted arches. How soothingly, restfully cool it is beneath that leafy, translucent ceiling, and how delightful the water music—the deep bass tones of the fall, the clashing, ringing spray, and infinite variety of small low tones of the current gliding past the side of the boulder-island, and glinting against a thousand smaller stones down the ferry channel! All this shut in; every one of these influences acting at short range as if in a quiet room. The place seemed holy, where one might hope to see God.

After dark, when the camp was at rest, I groped my way back to the altar boulder and passed the night on it,—above the water, beneath the leaves and stars,—everything still more impressive than by day, the fall seen dimly white, singing Nature’s old love song with solemn enthusiasm, while the stars peering through the leaf-roof seemed to join in the white water’s song. Precious night, precious day to abide in me forever. Thanks be to God for this immortal gift.

Excerpt from Muir, John My First Summer in the Sierras
**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. Common name: Cannon Ball
2. Historic name: Same
3. Street or rural address: Mariposa History Center
   City: Mariposa Zip: 95338 County: Mariposa
4. Parcel number: 
5. Present Owner: Mariposa County Pioneer Wagon Train
   Address: P.O. Box 2046
   City: Mariposa Zip: 95338 Ownership is: Public
6. Present Use: Annual Wagon Train
   Original use: Raymond to Yosemite Valley

**DESCRIPTION**

7a. Architectural style: 
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition: 
   Mud Wagon
   See Attached

8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1900
9. Architect: 
10. Builder: Bowie Ashworth?
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage _____ Depth _____
    or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 1988
City: Mariposa  Zip: 95338  Ownership is: Public  Private  

6. Present Use: Annual Wagon Train  Original use: Raymond to Yosemite Valley

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style:
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Mud Wagon
See Attached

8. Construction date:
   Estimated  Factual  1900

9. Architect

10. Builder: Bowie Ashworth?  

11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage  Depth
    or approx. acreage

12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    1988
13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Deteriorates ___ No longer in existence ___

14. Alterations: _______________________________

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___ Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ Other: _______________________________

16. Threats to site: None known ___ Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: _______________________________

17. Is the structure: On its original site? _______ Moved? _______ Unknown? _______

18. Related features: _______________________________

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
   Architecture _______ Arts & Leisure _______
   Economic/Industrial _______ Exploration/Settlement _______
   Government _______ Military _______
   Religion _______ Social/Education _______

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

22. Date form prepared _______________________________
   By (name) _______________________________
   Organization _______________________________
   Address: _______________________________
   City __________________ Zip ______
   Phone: _______________________________
HISTORY OF CANNONBALL STAGE

THE YOSEMITE STAGE AND TURNPIKE COMPANY WANTED FASTER SERVICE INTO YOSEMITE VALLEY, SO ON JUNE, 1901 THE CANNONBALL STAGE WAS INTRODUCED. IT CARRIED EIGHT PASSENGERS PLUS EXPRESS BOXES AND MAIL. THE STAGE TRAVELED THE SEVENTY-TWO MILES FROM RAYMOND TO THE VALLEY IN TWELVE HOURS.

WITH TOM GORDON AT THE LINES, THEY LEFT RAYMOND EARLY WITH THE HORSES AT THE TROT. THE HORSES WERE CHANGED EVERY SEVEN OR EIGHT MILES. THEY WENT UP THE ROAD PAST GRUB GULCH, AHWAHNEE, CEDAR BROOK, MIAMI LODGE, OVER THE MILE-HIGH SUMMIT, AND DOWN FOUR-MILE ROAD TO WAWONA.

AT THE BEAUTIFUL WAWONA HOTEL THEY HAD LUNCH, AFTER WHICH THEY HEADED DOWN INTO YOSEMITE VALLEY. THE CANNONBALL BECAME VERY POPULAR WITH TOURISTS, WHO HAD TO BOOK SEATS MONTHS IN ADVANCE.

WITH THE COMING OF MODERN TIMES, NEW ROUTES INTO YOSEMITE VALLEY WERE INAUGURATED. THE AUTO-STAGES REPLACED THE HORSES.

THE CANNONBALL WAS RETIRED IN 1915.
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: The Old Farnsworth House
2. Historic name: Walter Farnsworth Cottage
3. Street or rural address: 5125 Bullion St.
   City: Mariposa
   Zip: 95338
   County: Mariposa
4. Parcel number: 013-12-1-010-0
5. Present Owner: Plair and Helen Fowler
   Address: P.O. Box 13, Midpines, Zip: 95345
   Ownership is: Public, Private, X, Vacant
6. Present Use: Vacation Rental
   Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: California Bungalow, Depression Era
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition: The house was sold at auction on August 15, 1991, by the County of Mariposa, with the intention of having it moved from its location on Charles St. In October, 1991, the house was moved to its present site on Bullion St., and restoration was begun by the owners. Every effort has been made to retain the original design and style, and no major alterations have been made. The project had been monitored by the Mariposa County Building Department, and a certificate of occupancy was issued on March 31 of this year.

Attach Photo(s) Here

See attached page

8. Construction date:
   Estimated: late 30's
   Actual: ?

9. Architect: possibly Frank Greeley

10. Builder: Same

11. Approx. property size (in feet):
    Frontage: 50'
    Depth: 120'
    or approx. acreage

12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):
    see attached

DPR 523 (Rev. 4/79)
13. Condition: Excellent  X  Good  _____  Fair  _____  Deteriorated  _____  No longer in existence  

14. Alterations:  No major  

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)  Open land  _____  Scattered buildings  _____  Densely built-up  _____  Residential  X  Industrial  _____  Commercial  _____  Other:  

16. Threats to site:  None known  X  Private development  _____  Zoning  _____  Vandalism  _____  Public Works project  _____  Other:  


18. Related features:  On Bullion St., near the historic Mariposa County Courthouse  

SIGNIFICANCE  

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site).  

The style of architecture reflects the Depression era but being very well built it has managed to survive despite a long succession of tenants following the death of Walter Farnsworth, owner, in 1959. 

Walter Farnsworth was a native Mariposan and served as constable, tax collector, sheriff, coroner and public administrator in the early days of Mariposa. Later he was a stage driver, driving the Yosemite run, and it was then that he developed his reputation as a raconteur and the teller of "tall tales."  

It has been difficult to determine the exact date of the house's construction, but all sources agree that it was in the late thirties. Many features of the house (sash weight windows, old and elaborately designed doors) date to an earlier time period. There is no mention of the house in the County tax records, and Walter Farnsworth left no estate when he died, so many questions remain as to its origin. The style of construction suggests that it may have been built by Frank Greeley after Farnsworth disposed of several properties he owned in town to Everett Pagby in 1939.  

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  

Architecture  X  Arts & Leisure  
Economic/Industrial  _____  Exploration/Settlement  X  
Government  _____  Military  _____  
Religion  _____  Social/Education  _____  

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).  

Reconveyance Trust Deed - Vol IV, p. 28 & 29.  
Interview, R. Bondesh, 12/91  
Interview, June Meagher, 12/91  
Interview, Temple Schladerer, 3/92 July 12, 1992  

22. Date form prepared  

By (name)  Helen P. Fowler  
Organization  P.O. Box 13  
Address:  Maripos, CA  Zip 95395  
City  CA  Phone:  966-2820  

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):