

ELDRIDGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROPOSAL



THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Serving the Communities of Glen Ellen and Eldridge since 1996
www.glenellenhistoricalsociety.org



THE GLEN ELLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY envisions the permanent protection, preservation and management of selected buildings and structures, the historic cemetery, and related landscapes that sit within the boundaries of the Historic District of the Sonoma Developmental Center at Eldridge.

SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
15000 ARNOLD DRIVE
ELDRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 95431

IN 1891, the first residents moved into the Sonoma State Home for the Care and Training of the Feeble-Minded Children, an institution located in the oak savannah hills of rural Glen Ellen, California. Now known as Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), this facility was the first of its kind in the western United States. For over 127 years SDC was recognized as the premier facility in California to treat people with developmental disabilities and the largest employer in Sonoma Valley.

The first half of the twentieth century saw medical advancements and shifting beliefs regarding treatment of people with intellectual disabilities. New construction displayed gradual transitions, combining the prevailing architectural trends with modernized designs and the evolution toward providing for 'long term care'. Eventually the romantic Arts and Crafts style cottages became the norm for those residing at SDC.

The campus and surrounding areas have been identified as an Historic District, and is listed on file at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Information System. The SDC property is also eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Consisting of at least 40 contributing resources, this Historic District's designed landscape and Colony Plan represent significant shifts in architectural history, as well as the institution's role in the historic transition of medicine.

This narrative was adapted from Brian Matuk's 2016 Terminal Project for the fulfillment of a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation.



VISION

As stewards of this proposal, the Glen Ellen Historical Society encourages the participation of the local community to explore, research and discover its long standing and intertwined relationship to Sonoma Developmental Center and celebrate together in their shared history.

The GEHS vision for Eldridge includes the following priorities:

- Preservation and rehabilitation of historically significant buildings, structures, landscapes and historic cemetery.
- Preservation of the SDC Library and other sources of written knowledge.
- Preservation of historic artifacts and digital archives currently stored on campus.
- Preservation of the knowledge possessed by individuals associated with SDC, Eldridge and Glen Ellen.



OUR GOALS

- To designate and establish an Historic Preservation Area which will include the historic cemetery—under county, state and federal government directives.
- To establish a museum dedicated to preservation, documentation, and offering for display the history of SDC and it's undeniable relationship to Glen Ellen, Eldridge and other local communities.
- To establish a library dedicated to researching the history of SDC's 127 years as a care facility, its medical advances and achievements, and its long standing relationship with the local community.
- To preserve the knowledge of individuals closely associated with the inner working of this care facility and the surrounding communities that were directly involved.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS & OTHER FEATURES TO BE PRESERVED

CALIFORNIA AND NRHP STATUS CODES

The California State Office of Historic Preservation status codes are official listing designators that are used as a guide for understanding the significance of particular and/or collection of cultural and historic resources. The codes listed in the Cal. Status Code columns are those officially listed by the State of California. However, the Professional Education Building is currently listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. These definitions are for the status codes listed on the following pages. Additional information and a complete listing of status codes can be found at the California Office of Historic Places website.

- 1S: Individually listed in the NR by the Keeper. Listed in the CR.
- 3D: Appears eligible for NR as a contributor to a NR eligible multi-component resource through survey evaluation.
- 3S: Appears eligible for NR individually through survey evaluation.
- 6Z: Found ineligible for NR, CR or local designation through survey evaluation.

Note— Items listed as 6Z in the column, while not considered significant by the State of California, are those that the GEHS has determined to have significance to the local community.

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Abandoned Fruit Dehydrator	Fruit Processing Unit	Building	Agriculture	3D		1947
Abandoned Fruit Shed	Fruit Processing Unit	Building	Agriculture	3D		1935
Acacia Court 1 (flipped according to Directory of Buildings)		Building	Staff Housing	3D		1914
Acacia Court 2 (flipped according to Directory of Buildings)		Building	Staff Housing	3D		1923
Acacia Court Garage	Garage 23	Building	Transportation	3D		1925; 1930
Arnold Drive		Structure	Transportation			
Baseball Field		Site, Structure	Recreation			1927
Bemis	Female Unit No. 9 (Unit 50)	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1956
Bentley	Male Unit No. 12 (ICF; Unit 68)	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1956
Brent	Male Unit No. 10 (Unit 63)	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1956
Bus Shelter		Structure	Transportation			1910
Butler Research Hospital	Butler Hospital; Unit 186	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1951
Camp Via		Site	Recreation	6Z		1961
Cemetery	Sonoma State Home Cemetery; Eldridge memorial Park - Proposed	Cemetery	Cemetery	3D		1890
Chamberlain Hospital	General Hospital	Building	Treatment	3D		1930
Chemical Tanks	Water Treatment 4	Structure	Water System	3D		Unknown

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Cohen	Unit 610 ICF; Unit 10	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1948
Coon Trap Spring	Collection Point 5	Structure	Water System	3D		
Corcoran	Female Unit No. 7 (Unit 49)	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1948
Corporation Yard	Associated Features and Buildings	Building	Industrial	3D		1923
Cromwell	Unit 354 NF; Unit 54	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1950
Dunbar	Dunbar Cottage, Staff Library	Building	Treatment	3D	C	1925
Electric Shop	Laundry I; Paint Shop; Unit H; Laundry; Maintenance Shop	Building	Industrial	3D		1900; 1918
Farm Cottage	Residence 126 with Garage	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1914
Farrowing Pens		Building	Agriculture	3D		1927
Feed Storage Building		Building	Agriculture	3D		1949
Fern Lake	Fern Lake Reservoir; Associated Structures, Features, and Systems	Structure	Water System	3D		1910-1912
Finnerty with Storage Shed	Male Infirmary; Finnerty Cottage	Building	Treatment	3D	C	1930
Fire House	Eldridge Fire Department Station	Building	Fire Department	3D		1932

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Glass & Sign Shop	Fruit Cannery, Sheet Metal Shop, Glass Shop	Building	Industrial / Agriculture	3D		1916; 1930
Goddard	Boys Detention Cottage; Goddard Hall; Unit 28	Building	Detention	3D	A	1939
Gymnasium I	Activity Center; Gymnasium; Male Infirm Annex; Occupational Therapy Building; Blue Rose Cafe	Building	Recreation	3D		1909
Hatch	Hatch Cottage; Unit 60	Building	Residential	3D		1924
Hill	Unit 26; Hill Cottage	Building	Residential	3D	A	1939; 1940
Hill Creek Pedestrian Bridge		Structure	Transportation	3D		Pre-1940
Historic Orchard		Site	Agriculture			
Judah	Female Unit No. 9 (Unit 51)	Building	Residential	6Z	B	1956
King	Old Men's Cottage; King Cottage; Unit 29	Building	Residential	3D	A	1939; 1940
Lathrop	Unit 461 ICF; Unit 61	Building	Education / Residential	6Z	B	1948
Laying House	Poultry Shed #2	Building	Agriculture	3D		1934-1938
Lux	Unit 56	Building	Education / Residential	6Z	B	1948
Main Gates		Structure	Transportation			1910
Main Store Room	Commissary	Building	Food	3D		1932; 1961
Malone	Unit 412 ICF; Unit 12	Building	Residential	6Z	B	

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Martha Jensen Acute Care	Communicable Diseases Ward; GAC	Building	Treatment	6Z	B	1956
McDougall Cottage	Girls Detention Cottage; Unit 7	Building	Residential	3D	A	1939
Nelson Treatment Center	Facility for Severely Handicapped	Building	Treatment		B+	1967
Oak Lodge	Unit 5	Building	Residential	3S	A	1908
Old Slaughter House		Building	Agriculture	3D		1949
Ordahl-Johnson	Crippled and Infirm Male Ward-Unit, (Units 216-217, 242-243)	Building	Residential / Treatment	6Z	C	1939
Osborne	Unit 27; Osborne Cottage	Building	Residential	3D	C	1939; 1940
Paint Shop	Bakery	Building	Food / Industrial	3D		1900; 1918
Palm Court		Building	Staff Housing	3D		1928; 1930
Parmelee	Toddler's Unit No. C	Building	Education / Residential	6Z	B	1959
Paxton	Paxton Home; Male Detention; Adaptive Engineering (circa 1980); Shoe Shop; Unit 19	Building	Detention	3D	A	1930
Pines	Employee Cottage (Day Watch); Pines Cottage	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1924
Plumbers / Motorpool Storage	Dried Fruits, Storage, Motorpool Garages, Plumbing Shop Storage	Building	Industrial / Agriculture	3D		c. 1926-1930

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Poppe	Unit 155 ICF; Unit 55	Building	Treatment	6Z	B-	1950
Powers	Toddler's Unit No. D	Building	Education / Residential	6Z	B	1959
Professional Education Center	Administration Building (1908); Main Building (1891)	Building	Administration	1S, 3S, 3D		1890; 1891; 1908
Regamay-Emparan	Crippled and Infirm Female Ward-Unit B, Unit 285	Building	Residence	6Z	C	1959
Residence 133	Boy's Dormitory - Poultry Farm	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1928
Residence 135 & Garage	Residence 135	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1939
Residence 136 & Garage	Residence 136	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1939
Residence 137 & Garage	Residence 137	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1939
Residence 138	Grove House	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1949
Residence 139	Garage	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1949
Residence 141	Business Manager's Cottage; Residence 141 with Garage and Shed; Police Chief's House	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1897
Residence 145 & Garage	Residence 145	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1930
Residence 146 & Garage	Residence 146	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1924
Residence 149 & Garage	Residence 149	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1930
Residence 152	Poultryman's Cottage	Building	Staff Housing	3D		1907
Roadruck	Male Unit No. 11 (Unit 67)	Building	Residence	6Z	B	1956
Roulette Spring	Collection Point 3	Structure	Water System	3D		1896

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Sedimentation Tank	Water Treatment 2	Structure	Water System	3D		Pre-1942
Sewage Bar Screen		Building	Water System	3D		1954
Sewage Treatment Plant	Trickle Filter, Pump House, Digester, Final Clarifier	Structural Remains	Water System	3D		1939
Smith	Male Unit No. 9 (Unit 62)	Building	Residence	6Z	B	1956
Sonoma Bridge	Stone Arch Bridge	Structure	Transportation	3D		1915; 1916
Sonoma House	Superintendent's Residence; Residence 140; Sonoma State Hospital Historical Museum	Building	Staff Housing	3D / 3S		1897
Steam Condensation Station	Condensate Returns Pump Plant	Structure	Water System	3D		1939
Stoneman	Unit 159 ICF; Unit 59	Building	Treatment	6Z	B-	1950
Substation 1	Electrical Substation	Building	Power	3D		1923; 1940
Suttonfield Dam	Water Storage 2; Suttonfield Lake Reservoir; Associated Features and Systems	Structure	Water System	3D		1918
Tallman	Tallman Nursery, Tallman Cottage	Building	Residence	6Z	C	1956
Thompson / Bane	Thompson / Bane Cottage; Thompson-Bane; Unit 66 (Thompson); Unit 78 (Bane)	Building	Residential	3D	A	1939
Transportation Garages	Garage 24	Building	Transportation	3D		1924

Common Name	Other Name	Resource Type	Resource Function	Cal. Status Code	GEHS Rating	Year Constructed
Upholstery and Machine Shop	Refrigeration; Upholstery; and Machine (R.U.M.) Shop	Building	Industrial	3D		1932
Wagner	Wagner Cottage	Building	Treatment	3D	C	1926
Walnut	Walnut Cottage	Building	Residential	3D		1918
Water Treatment Building and Associated Water Systems	Water Treatment 3; #2 Domestic Water Storage	Building	Water System	3D		1895 - 1938
Workshop (Goddard)	Boys Detention Cottage, Goddard Hall	Building	Industrial	3D		1939
Wright	Wright Cottage	Building	Treatment	3D	C	1925

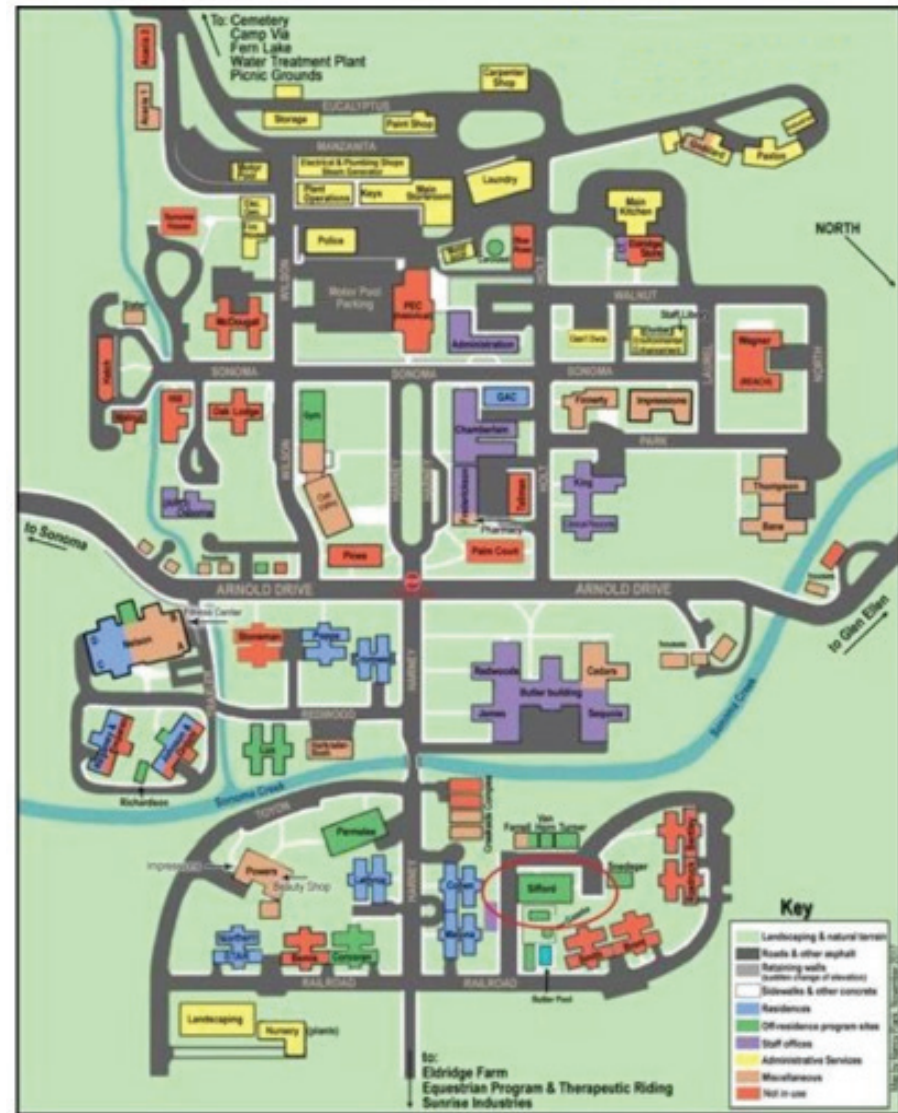


Original Hospital circa 1915

ESTABLISHING AN HISTORIC AREA



Historic boundary of Eldridge



Map of SDC buildings at Eldridge

HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION & LISTING

GEHS will submit documentation to include the SDC property at Eldridge, and/or particularly significant components of the property, on one or more of the following listings as a recognized Historic District:

- Sonoma County Landmarks
- California Historical Landmarks
- California Points of Historical Interest
- California Register of Historical Resources
- National Register of Historic Places

These official registers* can provide the following benefits:

- Provide limited protection and preservation
- Property Tax Reduction under the Mills Act
- Property will be listed under the State Historic Building Code which is intended to facilitate the rehabilitation or change of occupancy through a process that encourages preservation
- Support for county and state recognized historic plaques and markers

Eldridge has already been assessed to meet the eligibility requirements of the California Historical Landmarks program (CHL) as the first and most significant institution of its kind within the state. The Department of General Services, on behalf of the Department of Developmental Services, determined that 95 individual resources located on the SDC property contribute to the significance of a potential Historic District.

* May require additional environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act

THE MUSEUM

IDENTIFYING A BUILDING

THE IDEA OF A MUSEUM predates the Historical Society's involvement. Its origins date back to 1968 when the State of California proposed their plan for a museum on campus and to be housed in the old Superintendent's residence, a Queen Anne style Victorian built 1897. In November 1968 a Board of Directors was established to oversee and manage its implementation. The process moved ahead and the museum was formally dedicated in August 1972 with a grand opening scheduled for October 1st. Sadly, the museum fell behind schedule and was ultimately shelved.

The GEHS is encouraged by the County's three year Specific Plan process and their willingness to accept suggested ideas from the community for the future use of the SDC campus and its beautiful grounds and surrounding property. Our vision for a museum has never waned over the years, and now with the facility closed we feel it's more important than ever to finally bring this museum to fruition.

The GEHS has been leading this movement for a museum and library for over twelve years. Our efforts, though challenging at times, have remained focused and steadfast to our goal. Initially our vision was to follow with the original plans of the State and have the Superintendent's residence remain as the chosen venue for the museum site. Unfortunately the building's current physical condition and other contributing factors have forced us to explore different building options.

However, with sufficient funding for renovation we're confident that the Superintendent's residence, which is on the County's Historic Registry, can, and should be the proper home for the museum and library. With that said, we have identified several other buildings that we feel could be an appropriate site for the Museum. King Cottage; Bane/Thompson and McDougall all have attributes making them excellent choices.



PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC RESOURCES

An extensive collection of artifacts are waiting to be curated, documented, and placed into a permanent museum and library for public exhibit and study. The artifacts include but are not limited to:

- Office and household furniture from the late 1800's
- Vintage medical equipment and storage cabinets
- Medical support items such as vintage oak wheelchairs, custom made adaptive equipment, and seating systems
- Photographs, maps, and other images
- Religious items
- An entire medical library of approximately 7,000 volumes, and reproductions of original documents.
- An extensive collection of digitized documents and images from the original archives



LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

ORAL HISTORIES & NARRATIVES

The GEHS is documenting living histories from staff and local residents, many whose families have worked as care givers at Eldridge spanning several generations. These stories of local community engagement in the service to others is quite prevalent and worthy of sharing.

POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS & FUNDING STREAMS

ORGANIZATIONS:

Audubon Canyon Ranch Bouverie Preserve
Baseline Consulting of Glen Ellen
Cultural Resources Practitioners LLC of Santa Rosa
Glen Ellen Fire Department
Glen Ellen Forum
Glen Ellen Village Market
Jack London Lodge
Jack London Park Partners
Kenwood Depot
Kenwood Press
Marine Conservation Institute
Oak Hill Farms
Page & Turnbull
Sonoma County Heritage Network
Sonoma County Historical Society
Sonoma Ecology Center
Sonoma Land Trust
Sonoma Mountain Preservation
Sonoma Valley Historical Society
Valley of the Moon Winery

INDIVIDUALS:

Patricia Cullinan, president, Sonoma Valley
Historical Society
Arthur Dawson, Author / Historian
Robert Demler, City of Sonoma Historian
Jay Gamel, founder, Kenwood Press
Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Supervisor,
District 1
Sandra Hansen, former Director of Sonoma's
historic Depot Park Museum
Susan Brandt Hawley, Preservationist Attorney
Dr. Alice Horowitz
Gaye LeBaron, Historian, Santa Rosa Press
Democrat
Daniel Markwyn, SSU professor of history
emeritus, Sonoma County Historical
Records Commissioner emeritus
Kathleen Miller, President, Parent Hospital
Association of SDC
Dr. Lance Morgan, Bodega Marine Laboratory
Katherine Rinehart, History & Genealogy
Library Manager of the Sonoma County
Library and President of the Sonoma
County Heritage Network
Tracy Salcedo, Author Laughing Press Inc.
Jim Shere, Executive Director emeritus GEHS
Eric Stanley, Curator of History, Sonoma
County Museum

FUTURE FUNDING CRITERIA FOR USE & MANAGEMENT

THERE IS A NEW INTEREST in revitalizing historic districts. Due to current enthusiasm for flexible, culturally significant and character rich space as well as social and demographic forces that favor these districts, the Glen Ellen Historical Society is confident that the Eldridge Center for Historic Preservation will not only become a reality but will greatly benefit the community.

Research from the National Trust for Historic Preservation shows that over 90% of Millennials express support for historic preservation. With this in mind GEHS is moving forward in creating this culturally significant and historic space.

GEHS has already received grants and funding to support an Historic Museum on the property. The townspeople overwhelmingly support the creation of this district.

The Board of Directors of GEHS and the general membership include experienced legal, development, and grant-writing and cultural heritage professionals. GEHS is confident that it will be able to secure the support and backing needed.

There is a plan to establish “Friends of the Glen Ellen Historical Society Museum and Historic District” to further the activities of the museum and district and provide support in the achievement of the museum’s goals. The Friends will be instrumental in organizing fundraisers and other events that will provide financial assistance for museum upkeep, staffing, purchases and cultural events.

There are many avenues to fund historical and cultural resource preservation and these are some of the programs that GEHS is beginning to investigate.

- State Historic Preservation Office
- National Park Service Historic Preservation Grant Division
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Other Federally-Funded Resources
- Privately-Funded Grants, Scholarships & Fellowships
- General Resources for Grant & Fundraising Seekers

In creating an historic district, GEHS is making sure that we are protecting and revitalizing the character of the community and ensuring that some of the most iconic, precious and diverse collection of architectural buildings, sites and objects are preserved for future generations.

It is well documented that well preserved and revitalized historic districts give an older area an economic boost. It is clear from many sources that historical designations affect property values in a positive way and are a boon to the community.

We envision the future site of this preservation area to be a vibrant, social and economic center for the town. The museum and accompanying district will be regarded as an historical destination.

Preservation... Education... Inspiration...



A Tale of Two Communities

THE HISTORY OF GLEN ELLEN is an especially unique one. It tells a story of two very different individual communities that have grown up together over the course of 130 years. Situated within a half mile of each other, the Sonoma Developmental Center at Eldridge and the village of Glen Ellen have shared many of the same growing pains and outcomes. Their intertwined relationship, like siblings, is inseparable.

As stewards of local history, GEHS feels duty-bound to share what has been learned through research and discovery. To know the history of Glen Ellen you must also know the history of Eldridge, for their individual histories cannot be fully understood without examining them together.

As historians and leaders in the community, GEHS recognizes the need for preserving the story and legacy of California's first home for children with developmental disabilities. This is the story of two communities that have coexisted for over a century, shaping society's understanding of care for the state's most vulnerable population.

It is vitally important, not only for California but for society to recognize the contributions made by this cutting-edge Developmental Center with the establishment of an historic preservation area and museum.

Photographs of Historic Significance



Madrona, 1894



Main buildings, approximately 1900



The Dairy, approximately 1910



The Gymnasium, approximately 1925

Additional Photographs of Historic Significance



Madrona, approximately 1950



Laurel Cottage, 1907



Original Assembly Hall



Original Carousel, 1922



This proposal was compiled 1/16/21 by Charles Mikulik, Gregg Montgomery, Teresa Murphy, Angela Nardo-Morgan, and Jim Shere, members of the Board of Directors of the Glen Ellen Historical Society.