

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 1D SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/518640/4279480B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Alexander Adobe
2. Historic name: Alexander Adobe
3. Street or rural address: 8644 Highway 128
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 132-020-14-0
5. Present Owner: Wetzel, Harry J. Jr. Trustee Address: P. O. Box 1005
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Private Non-Comm. Original use: Outbuilding

DESCRIPTION

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

The hip-roof over this long, one-story structure has a gablet and four gabled dormers. The buildings roof also covers the verandah which wraps the long sides and one end. The roof is supported by wooden posts with chamfered corners beneath slightly arched beams. The gables have board and batten siding and plain planks fill in most of the gablet. Windows are deeply set double-hungs with heavy wooden frames. The most interesting aspect of this building is that it is constructed of adobe bricks.



8. Construction date:
Estimated c1847 Factual _____
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 200
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
7 Jan 82 40/11

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: Restored with addition to rear
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: Barn, school

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
This is the sole remaining adobe outbuilding built by Cyrus Alexander, the first Euro-American settler in northern Sonoma County. Born 1805 in Pennsylvania, he trapped across the Rocky Mountains and arrived in San Diego, California, in 1837. Striking a friendship with Captain Henry Delano Fitch, who desirous of obtaining a Mexican land grant to start a cattle ranch in Alta California, charged Cyrus with the responsibility of scouting suitable stock range. Fitch was granted the 48,000 acre Sotoyome Rancho in 1840. Cyrus managed this grant, and built the first house, Fitch's Adobe in 1842, planting the first orchard in 1843. Reward for his four years of stewardship was two leagues of land in the Alexander Valley and half of the increase of stock and grain. While the adobe-making process was in process, Cyrus first built a redwood structure on his land in 1844, the first structure in Alexander Valley. He planted wheat and erected the first grist mill in No. California in 1846. The following year Alexander Adobe was completed. This is one of the original outbuildings of that adobe, and although the main structure is no longer standing, it remains intact on its original location.

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).
Hist. Alex. Valley, 1979
Hist. So. Co. 1880, 1911
Penletters 1891
Int: Mrs. H. Wetzel, Rose Benson,
Hannah Clayborn 7/18/83
22. Date form prepared August 18, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum (clm)
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717

