

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 5 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/519160/4278500B
C _____ D _____

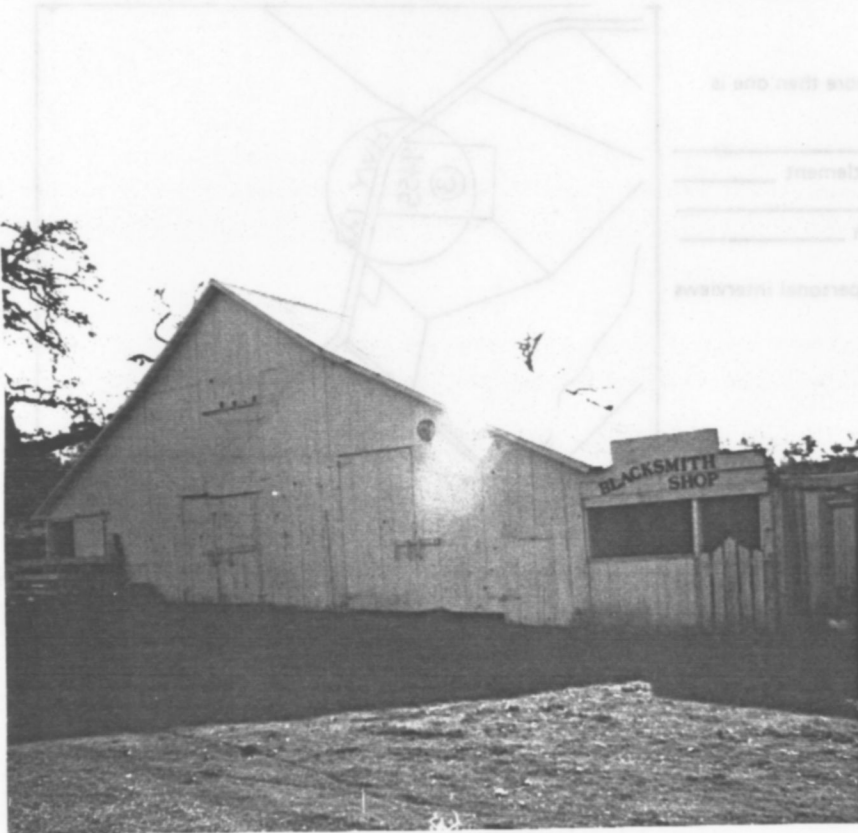
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Thunderbird Ranch
2. Historic name: John Bidwell Barn
3. Street or rural address: 9455 Highway 128
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 132-030-12-3
5. Present Owner: Johnson, Bruce Address: 9455 Highway 128
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial/Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

The gable roof of this barn has the upper third at a slightly steeper pitch than the lower two-thirds. The rafters do not have exposed tails but are visible beneath the eaves. The siding is vertical planks. Two of the three openings have hinged double doors and one is on a sliding overhead track. Attached to the side is a small blacksmith's shop with a false front, a partial front wall and a gate.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1904 Factual _____
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth 10
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
31 Dec 82 38/30

13. Condition: Excellent _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ 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.)

The name "J.W. Bidwell" carved over the barn doors reflect proud owners and pioneers of Alexander Valley. John Bidwell born 1849 in Missouri, son of Ira and Elizabeth (Brooks) Bidwell, came to California over the Carson route in 1850 and to Alexander Valley in 1852. Ira, a professional marketing hunter for San Francisco, purchased a portion of Cyrus Alexander's land holdings. In 1879, Ira divided his 636 acre ranch between his two sons, John and James, and relocated at Geyserville. Engaged in farming and fruit growing, John, in 1904, purchased the farmer Wm. Mulligan property (372.91 acre) from the Bank of Healdsburg, increasing his holdings 809 Acres. He married Mary Ellen Matthews (daughter of C.W.) in 1870. One of their 8 children, James Wesley Bidwell, is responsible for leaving the Bidwell mark on the barn and the world.

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. So. Co. 1911, 1926
So. Co. Cemetary Records
Ent. 1/17/03
Trib: 7/28/1892

22. Date form prepared August 18, 1983

By (name) Langhart Museum (clm)

Organization City of Healdsburg

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