

### HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

#### IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Historic name: Swisher House
3. Street or rural address: 642 Johnson Street  
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 County \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parcel number: 002-083-07
5. Present Owner: Elvin, Jon W. Address: P.O. Box 28  
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

#### DESCRIPTION

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

This impressive Queen Anne house has a varied collection of ornamental features, including false palladian windows, segmented and half-round window pediment with sunburst. The front has a 2-story slanted bay under a gable roof and a round tower with a curved porch around it. Original roof finial and cresting still remain.



8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1900-1903
9. Architect \_\_\_\_\_
10. Builder James W. Terry
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 81 Depth 150  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
14 Oct. 1982 29/31

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair X Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_ Densely built-up \_\_\_  
Residential X Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial X Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known X Private development \_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? \_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Although its magnificence is now subdued by neglect and the loss of some detailing, this massive Queen Anne is still the most impressive of its style in Healdsburg.

It was built over several years by contractor James W. Terry, who probably combined various mail order architectural plans, for Dr. James Riley Swisher. Swisher allowed some patients to settle their bills by working on the house. Dr. Swisher, best remembered for his generosity, became a prominent Healdsburg citizen. Born in Illinois in 1849, he had already earned an engineering degree and was a teacher before entering the University of California Medical School in 1875. He set up practice here in 1877, soon becoming highly respected for his medical skills which he enhanced by studying in Europe for two years in mid-career. He began work on this house after his home in nearby Dry Creek burned. He lived here until his death in 1934.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
 Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure \_\_\_  
 Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_  
 Government \_\_\_ Military \_\_\_  
 Religion \_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).  
 Trib: 4-22-81  
 Assrs: 1893

22. Date form prepared July 20, 1983  
 By (name) Langhart Museum (IM)  
 Organization City of Healdsburg  
 Address: 133 Matheson Street  
 City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448  
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