

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/511580/4272220 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Riverdale Orchard
3. Street or rural address: 1320 Magnolia Drive
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 088-180-03
5. Present Owner: Solari, Teresa & Ambrose Address: 828 Prince Avenue
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Gabled farmhouse w/Italianate features
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This large two-story farmhouse has narrow double-hung windows topped with flat hoods. The verandah which follows the front and the side has square posts with chamfered edges and sawn brackets. The original balustrade system is missing.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1865
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 31.10
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
9 Nov 82 34/13

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: None visible except brackets on porch pillars may be recent
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ X Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___
Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ 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: Large magnolias and old plank barns

SIGNIFICANCE

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

With the exception of the missing balustrade on porch this house appears to be an exceptionally well-preserved example of this style of house and with its original water tower projects a strong period feeling.

Being one of the earliest cash crop prune orchards in the county, this structure was the original homestead for "Riverdale Prune Orchard" founded by J.H. Curtis in 1865. Curtis, born in Connecticut in 1828, came to California in 1855 to mine. In July, 1858, Curtis came to Sonoma County with livestock, settling near Bodega Bay. Curtis had married Eleanor Galloway in 1848, who died in 1863. In 1865 Curtis moved to Healdsburg, married Sarah Green, and planted his apple, plum, and prune orchard at this site. By 1898 Curtis' orchard was large enough to warrant a full text with photos in the County Atlas. It has not been determined when the orchard was sold. Some time after 1900 the property was purchase by Giovanni Rosasco, an Italian immigrant who had arrived in Healdsburg in 1868, becoming mainly a land speculator. This property was inherited by Rosasco's sons.

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

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

So. Co. Atlas 1898
Hist. So. Co. 1926

22. Date form prepared August 15, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum (TW)
Organization City of Healdsburg
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