

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/511860/4274080 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: James A. Mead House
3. Street or rural address: 327 Mason
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-292-21-7
5. Present Owner: Miller, Carol M. Address: 327 Mason
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

A 1½ story cottage with a single front gable, and shed roofed front verandah with rear one story addition. This rectangular house has a plain closed cornice and frieze. Windows are mostly multi-paned double hungs and there are colored panes in the transom and sidelight of the front entrance. A multi-paned door in the open gable leads into the verandah roof which has recently had its plain post and rail balustrade removed. A pair of double hung windows flanked a center fixed pane on the side of the house, is another alteration. The front of the house has channel rustic siding while the sides are lap rustic. On the verandah are turned posts, sawn brackets and a plain rail balustrade.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1856 Factual _____
9. Architect _____
10. Builder James A. Mead
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 68.6 Depth 84.55
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
16 Sep 82 16/05

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair X Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: Windows, Upper porch rail recently removed
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___
Residential X Industrial X 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? ___ Moved? X Unknown? ___
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
Careful examination of Sandborn maps and lithographs prove that this house was moved from the southwest corner of University and Mason Streets. From 1865 to 1867, the property belonged to J.A. Mead. James Alexander Mead was a carpenter, born in Vermont in 1826, who came to California to run a mule pack train from Downeyville to Marysville until he came to Healdsburg in 1856. He built this house and others between 1856 and 1867 when he moved to a ranch south of town. Mead was responsible for building the first Gevers Hotel, a world famous resort in the late 19th century (north of survey area). Mead also was in partnership with pioneer Ransom Powell in a sawmill, ran a steam thrasher, and owned a meat market before his death in 1907. He married Mary Zimmerman in 1850 and had two sons.
Although the second floor balcony was recently removed and a side window added, this structure remains basically unaltered and is one of the oldest residences in Healdsburg.

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 2
Government ___ Military ___
Religion ___ Social/Education ___
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
Town Plat: 1867
So. Co. Atlas 1877, 1898
Lithographs 1875, 1884
Trib: 1/24/07
Sandborn Maps 1911
22. Date form prepared August 12 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717

