

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A10/511480/4274740B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Meisner House
2. Historic name: Gustav Meisner House
3. Street or rural address: 152 Piper Street
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-163-11
5. Present Owner: O'Halloran, Gertrude A. Address: P. O. Box 903
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Commerical Office 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 ornate cottage has two symmetrical angled bays with gables decorated with brackets, gable braces and cut shingles. The porch wraps the front and side of the house and consists of bracketed turned columns with turned balusters and fretwork filling in.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1903
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 48 Depth 78
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
17 Aug 1982 11/18

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.)

This exuberantly ornamented house, which retains the lavish millwork so typical of the late Queen Anne style, is in sharp contrast to the restraint of earlier styles.

It was built for Gustav Meisner, a saloon keeper and carpenter who brought his family here from Washington state in 1903. Although Meisner came here for his health, he died the next year of tuberculosis. His wife and three children inherited this house and several other properties, including a three-story brick commercial building on Healdsburg Avenue. Meisner's widow, Frances, married prominent Santa Clara rancher John Hartman in 1906, but the family remained at this residence. Mrs. Hartman opened the first nickelodeon in town, the M and M Theatre, in the family's downtown building. When it became a movie house, her daughter Helen played piano accompaniment to the "Flickers". Her son, Frank Meisner, continued to operate the theatre, later known as the Liberty and Plaza, until the early 1940's.

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).

Langhart Museum
 Hist. of So. Co. 1880
 Trib., Nov. 29, 1894
 Asses. 1882-1904

22. Date form prepared July 21, 1983
 By (name) Langhart Museum (ym)
 Organization City of Healdsburg
 Address: 133 Matheson Street
 City Healdsburg Zip 95448
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