

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/512530/4274480 B _____
C _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Warfield House
2. Historic name: Col. Roderick Matheson House
3. Street or rural address: 751 South Fitch Mountain Road
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 088-150-222
5. Present Owner: Warfield, Genevieve Address: P.O. Box 577
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: residential Original use: residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Georgian
- 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 house has a low hip roof and a centered front pediment atop tall round columns. To one side is a two-story slanted bay and there are rear additions. The cornice is boxed and there are dentils along the top of the frieze and inside the pediment. Windows are double-hung with molded caps. Those of the second level are directly above those of the first. An unusual feature is a door on one of the slanted sides of the bay. The house has lap rustic siding and corner boards with molded tops. Above the front door is a bracketed balcony with an intricate iron railing. Similar iron work is found on the front stairs and a side terrace.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1857/1904/1921
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 1.57
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
7/83

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: two major remodelings since 1856
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.)
One of the most impressive mansions in Healdsburg, this Georgian-style home was originally built in 1856 and has housed three of Healdsburg's most prominent families. The original resident, Col. Roderick Matheson, born in Scotland, came to Healdsburg in 1856. He had already gained prominence in San Francisco as the president of the Mechanic's Institute, Comptroller of San Francisco, founder of Engine Co. #9, General of the Mexican Army and Commissioner of Mexico in San Francisco. He donated the land for, helped build, and taught in the first school in Healdsburg, later to become Healdsburg College. As an advisor to President Lincoln, Matheson travelled to Washington in Jan., 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War. Becoming colonel of the First California Regiment, he died of his wounds in 1862. Funeral services were held in New York, San Francisco, with burial in Healdsburg. His daughter, Nina Matheson Luce, inheriting the property, the Luces farmed this land and extensively remodeled the house in 1904. Ownership passing to George and Genevieve Warfield in 1920, the house was extensively remodeled to its present appearance. As president of the Healdsburg Bank of America, George was a prominent citizen and Genevieve, a noted designer; still lives here, a highly visible local character.

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 1

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

Russian River Recorder, July/Aug. '81
Int.: Olive Bell 6/83
Genevieve Warfield 5/81
Hist. So. Co. 1889

22. Date form prepared August 18, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson St.
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717

