

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 4 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A10/508770/4276230 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: James & Ellen White
2. Historic name: Melton House
3. Street or rural address: 1950 West Dry Creek Road
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 089-190-083
5. Present Owner: Kwit, Kenneth Address: P.O. Box 368
City Windsor, CA Zip 95492 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

This two-story hip-roofed house has a gabled entry portico, is covered in rustic siding and has double hung windows set both in pairs and singly. The main cornice is boxed with plain frieze.



8. Construction date: Estimated 1870 Factual 1878
9. Architect _____
10. Builder John Griffith
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 12
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
5 Apr 83 47/30

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: Additions; sun room; deck; pool
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: Carriage house; drive entrance and sign

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
This substantial ranch home and carriage house were built by William Melton, a "leading capitalist of the city" who settled on this 35 acre parcel in 1857. A native of Virginia born in 1830, Melton was one of the few pioneers in the survey area to have become wealthy at the gold fields, which he worked from 1852 to 1857. Melton engaged in stock-raising exclusively on this ranch, and later merely managed his considerable capital. Melton died of consumption in 1877, his estate still being worth \$70,000 eighteen years later when it was finally discharged (after supporting the family for that period). The property was purchased in 1885 by Joseph Leininger, born in Pennsylvania in 1839. Leininger came to Butte Creek, California in 1859 and spent 15 years running a sawmill before coming to this site. Leininger established a widely varied orchard, became a prominent citizen, and sold it in 1908.

This large structure with its accompanying outbuildings atop a knoll overlooking Dry Creek Road presents an imposing period setting to the area.

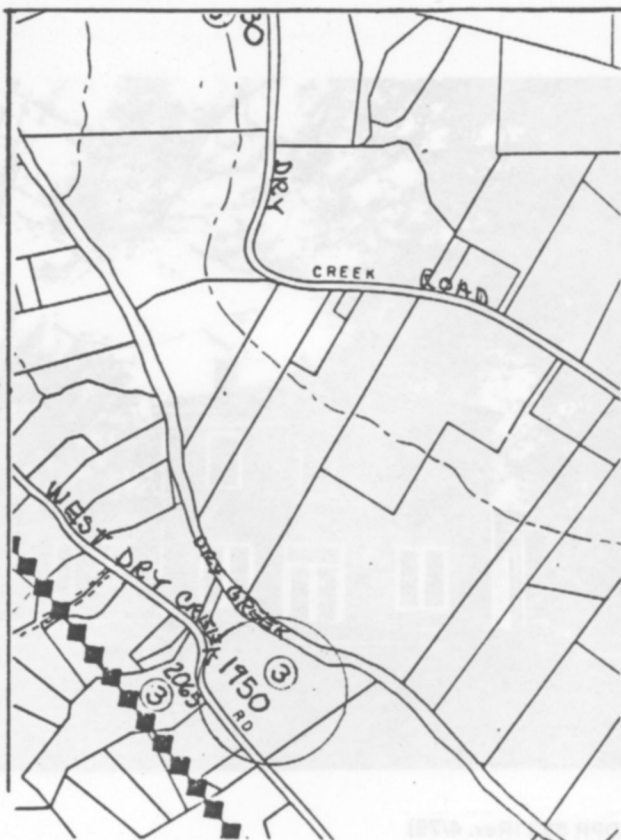
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20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education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

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

Sp. Co. Atlas 1877, 1898
Trib.: 6/18/80, 1/18/94, 10/18/94
4/27/19, 12/19/95
Recorder: 1/25/77

22. Date form prepared August 15, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum (TW)
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717



*Although this structure has several additions, the integrity of the main volume is intact. It exemplifies the large, but unadorned styling of early ranch houses in this survey area.