

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 3 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A10/510940/4271280B  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Johnson's Vineyards
2. Historic name: Chester VonGrafen House
3. Street or rural address: 581 Foreman Lane  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 110-130-33-3
5. Present Owner: Johnson, Frank & Mary Louise Address: 581 Foreman Lane  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

This house has a two-story center section and one-story flat-roofed wings on the sides. The main section has a very low-pitched tile roof. The cornice is molded and boxed. The house has many kinds of windows: double-hungs, casements, plate glass, semi-circular, transoms which swing outwards. The front door is within an arched recess. The front terrace has a stucco wrought iron balustrade.



8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1921
9. Architect Gordon Raeside  
of San Francisco
10. Builder \_\_\_\_\_
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Chester Von Grafen, commonly called "Hop King of the Valley" for his role as hop purchasing agent for Valley residents, built this house in 1921. Gordon Raeside of San Francisco was the architect. Chester was born in 1873 in Napa county, California, and was the son of Charles and Melvina (Davis) Von Grafen. Always occupied in farming pursuits, Chester bought a 155 acre Russian River ranch on Westside Road in 1902, where he engaged in hop raising and purchased this 55 acre parcel in 1919 where he grew orchard crops, namely prunes, pears and apples. In 1900 he married Eva Kneale and raised two daughters, Helen Isabel and Hazel. One daughter ran both ranches when Chester became disabled. The other daughter married Ambassador Bramcamp, the United States ambassador to Chile.

One of the larger examples of the Mediterranean style in the area. The structure has the characteristic red tiles, arched windows, and stucco walls. The arched front entrance and iron railed terrace give an air of formality to the façade.

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).  
 Hist. of So. Co. 1926  
 INT.: Frank Johnson 6/83

22. Date form prepared August 16, 1983  
 By (name) Langhart Museum (TW)  
 Organization City of Healdsburg  
 Address: 133 Matheson Street  
 City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448  
 Phone: (707) 433-4717

