

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 4 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/511520/4273880 B _____
C _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: House of Sonoma
2. Historic name: Buffi's (Hotel)
3. Street or rural address: 146 Healdsburg Avenue
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-262-11
Kem Yem Louie
5. Present Owner: Louie, Kem Yim & Sou Ngo R & Address: 146 Healdsburg Ave.
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Restaurant Hotel Original use: Railroad Hotel

DESCRIPTION

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

This two story stucco represents a subdued version of the Mediterranean style. It has a mansard cornice covered in red roof tiles with an ornamental stucco frieze. It has front and side porticos consisting of constructed square stucco columns supporting a hip roof with red tile.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1930
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 190 Depth 414
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s) ●
03 Sept 1982 13/6

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.)

Evolving from the original "Railroad House & Restaurant" established pre-1878, this structure was located behind the train depot. The hotel soon became known as the Oaklawn House, honoring its surrounding vegetation. By 1911, it was called the Italian-American Hotel it being owned and operated by a string of Italians, and being near the local Italian neighborhood. After A. Lazzari (owner from 1903-1920) committed suicide, the property was purchased by Emilio Buffi (1920). Buffi tore down the building and erected a new one in 1921. This hotel became the undisputed bootlegged liquor distribution center for the community and a well-known house of assignation, as well as a hotel/restaurant during Prohibition. In 1929, a fire burned the entire building to the ground, and Buffi built the present building (exactly as it now stands) in 1930. In 1937, Buffi hired Hansen Bros. to move the building from the depot to its present location. The Buffi family sold the restaurant in 1942, and since then it has remained a hotel/restaurant under a string of owners. This is the largest example of a Mediterranean commercial structure in Healdsburg.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

- Architecture _____ Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education 2

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

Ent. 6/20/1878; 1/1/1890; 5/22/1879;
10/25/1928; 4/24/1920; 6/7/1919;
3/21/1903. Trib: 2/20/1896; 11/13/1913
Int: Rena Buffi Phillips, 3/83
Waldo Iversen, 1/83 7/26/83

22. Date form prepared _____
By (name) Langhart Museum (ym)
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson St.
City Healdsburg Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717

