

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A10/511060/4285080 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Common name: Abshire House
- 2. Historic name: Abshire House
- 3. Street or rural address: 1956 Highway 128
City Geyserville, CA Zip 95441 County Sonoma
- 4. Parcel number: 140-250-04
- 5. Present Owner: Michalek, Katherine & Jesse E. Address: 1956 Highway 128
City Geyserville, CA Zip 95441 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
- 6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

A very large, two-story house with crossed gables and exposed rafter tails. The barge rafters rest on extensions of the roof beams. An expansive hip roof porch wraps the front and side with gables over the steps. Many of the double-hung windows are in groups of two or more. The frames are plain with extended lintels. There is a slanted bay on the veranda side of the house. Gables on the main structure and on the veranda have vents and the balustrade is made up of flat "I" shape balusters. The columns are square with small square capitals. Covering the entire structure is narrow lap rustic siding.



- 8. Construction date:
Estimated 1915 Factual _____
- 9. Architect _____
- 10. Builder _____
- 11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage 91.67
- 12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
4 Feb 83 44/02

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: None visible
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land X Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___
Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known X Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: Set near Highway 128 is a landscaped garden.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

Senator Presley Abshire, always a farmer and interested in agriculture, represented the farming community as president of the Agricultural Committee of the California State Senate. Born in 1892, a native of Sonoma County, his father, Farley Abshire, emigrated from the Kentucky region. Engaged in fruit growing in his Alexander Valley ranch, Senator Abshire sold to the dry fruit industry. Elected to the State Senate for the term 1948 to 1958, he was a well-respected representative of the farmers. Mrs. Presley Abshire, born in 1892, was a native of Sonoma County, as were her father (Ross) and mother (Covey). Her grandparents came to California in 1850 from Missouri and Nebraska. She grew up in a family of eight children and at 91 is the longest lived member of her family.

This residence is an unusually large example of the Craftsman style. It has typical Craftsman features such as wide gables and exposed rafter tails.

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 2 Military ___
 Religion ___ Social/Education ___

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 INT.: Mrs. Presley Abshire 7/22/83.
 INT.: Bob Etchell 7/22/83

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

