

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Old General Hospital  
Healdsburg General Hospital
2. Historic name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Street or rural address: 639 Johnson Street  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-091-15-5
5. Present Owner: Duff, Stephen A & Yvonne B Address: 639 Johnson Street  
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Hospital

DESCRIPTION

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

A large, sprawling single story structure with an angled parapet concealing the flat roof. The exterior is stucco and most of windows are double-hung. The double front doors are slightly recessed beneath a gothic arch which in turn is framed by quoins topped by molding. A floral motif fills the spandrels between the arch and its frame. At the front cornice are buttresses with slanted tops. Other detailing are the diamond patterns molded into the stucco above the windows.

The walls of the wings and additions have a texture like the main structure though detailing around the windows and roof-line vary slightly. Above the front doors are titles (now painted over) which read "Healdsburg General Hospital".



8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1929
9. Architect F. S. Barton
10. Builder \_\_\_\_\_
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 208 Depth 181-245  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
10/8/82

13. Condition: Excellent  Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_\_\_
14. Alterations: Some alum. windows, addition to rear, parapet may have been covered in Spanish red tile as in wing to left of entry.
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: Stone retaining wall, large magnolias flanking entry.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

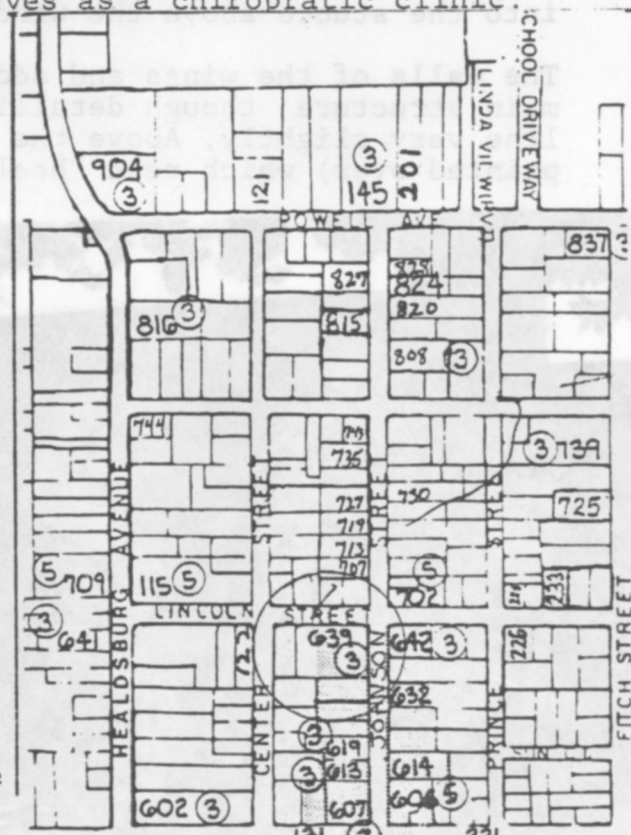
19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)  
 Dr. J. Walter Seawell established the original Healdsburg General Hospital in 1908 in connection with his home at 211 North Street (see 002-161-25). In 1918 Dr. F.E. Sohler was operating a small hospital in his office. In 1920 the two doctors merged their hospitals selecting as a site the large T.S. Merchant home on the southwest corner of Johnson and Lincoln. The home was converted and served until 1929 when it was destroyed by fire. The immediate need for a new hospital was recognized and within ten days of the fire a fund drive had raised almost \$50,000.00. Three months after the fire construction began on this building at the old site. The building was completed in the record time of 6 months and opened October 1929. The hospital soon established an excellent reputation in medical circles. It was one of the first hospitals of its size to be inspected and recognized by the American College of Surgeons. For 40 years this facility served not only the immediate community but drew patients from the many small towns in Northern California. In the late 1960's construction began on the new hospital on University Street. This facility now serves as a chiropractic clinic.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Russian River Recorder  
 Fall/Winter 1982

22. Date form prepared August 26, 1983  
 By (name) Langhart Museum (PS)  
 Organization City of Healdsburg  
 Address: 133 Matheson Street  
 City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448  
 Phone: (707) 433-4717



19 Continued: This structure is one of few in the city with any gothic detailing at all. The doorway is the most interesting feature and even utilized gothic lettering on the Hospital lettering.