

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: James Petray House
3. Street or rural address: 730 Johnson St.
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-053-08-0
5. Present Owner: Massoni, Florence R. Address: 730 Johnson St.
City Healdsburg Zip 95448 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:

This two-storey house has a gable roof extending the full width across the front and rear. A large front porch with gable roof extends across the front and becomes a porte cachere on the left side. The porch roof is supported by tapered constructed columns atop rough cast brick pedestals with 4 x 6 beam forming the balustrade. The siding is rough sawn rustic lap, the rafter tails are exposed and purlein beams extend out and support the barge rafter. The windows are double-hung and set in various groupings. The front doors have been changed to "French" doors. There is a small bay with shed roof on the lower floor south side with an exposed chimney running alongside.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1915
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 58' Depth 214'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
7/23/83

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ^X Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: front door
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___
Residential ^X 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: large redwoods, palm, and monkey puzzle tree

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
 This is an extremely large and fine example of "Craftsman" architecture with its rough-sawn siding (originally varnished) combining with rough cast brick to create a rustic atmosphere. James A. Petray built this house in 1915. Born near Windsor, Sonoma County, in 1865, he spent his entire life in the county. In 1918 he was elected Sheriff of Sonoma County, and on Dec. 5, 1920 he was involved in one of the most notorious and remembered incidents in the history of the county. Two San Francisco detectives pursuing the "Howard Street gang" enlisted Sheriff Petray's help. When they entered the criminal's hideout, being admitted freely, they were shot in cold blood. Soon after the gang was arrested, being G. Boyd, T. Fitts, and C. Valento, and were taken to the jail in Santa Rosa. Owing to the popularity of Sheriff Petray angry mobs of citizens (many from Healdsburg) began to form. Within a week a determined body of men from Healdsburg, Santa Rosa, and a group of police from San Francisco forced their way into the jail, took the prisoners to the Santa Rosa Odd Fellows Cemetery, and lynched them. This is thought to be the last lynching in the west. Petray's funeral was attended by 4,000 people.

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).
 Ent: 12/11/15
 Ent: 12/20/20
 Int: Cecil Petray, 1/83

22. Date form prepared 8/1/83
 By (name) Langhart Museum (hm)
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