

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 5 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A10/511120/4274300B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: McCord House
2. Historic name: McDonnell House
3. Street or rural address: 75 West Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 088-230-15-6
5. Present Owner: McCord, Florence M. Address: 75 W. Matheson St
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

This cottage built over a full basement has a raised verandah around three sides with an original water tower attached in the back. The main cornice of the house is boxed with a plain frieze and no brackets. The windows are double-hung placed singly and in pairs. The verandah is supported by round turned columns underneath and also supporting the roof. The original balustrade system appears to have been replaced.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1900
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 81 Depth 268
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Deteriorated X No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: _____
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 ___ Private development X Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
The significance of this house involves its only occupants since construction circa 1900, who where, and are, the last descendants of a survivor of the Donner Party, Eleanor Graves. The house was built by Henry McDonnell, whose mother, Eleanor Graves, had come with her parents, Elizabeth and Franklin Word Graves, on the ill-fated Donner expedition. While both her parents died on this journey, Eleanor survived, and in fact, married William McDonnell in 1849. McDonnell himself had come to California in 1846, to become the first settler in Knights Valley (just east of survey area) and the first guide to the famous Geysers (northeast of survey area). Eleanor and William lived in Knights Valley eventually owning 3,200 acres, and having ten children, 5 of whom died in infancy. Two of these children lived in Healdsburg and only one child, Henry had a child himself. Henry, whose daughter, Florence McDonnell McCord, still owns the house, built this home about 1900. This house is unusual in that a very basic cottage built over a full basement is unusual because of the cost consideration and also the verandah being very extensive for such a simple cottage.

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 1
Government ___ Military ___
Religion ___ Social/Education ___

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
Hist. So. Co. 1880, 1926
Int.: Cecil Petray (Power of Attny. for Florence McCord) 2/83
Trib: 4/12/83

22. Date form prepared August 15, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum (clm)
Organization City of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717

