

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 07000849**

**Date Listed: 8/30/2007**

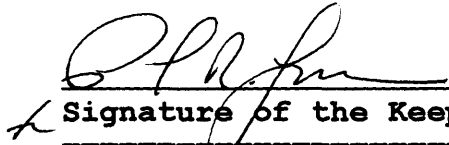
**John Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon**  
**Property Name**

**Napa**  
**County**

**CA**  
**State**

**N/A**  
**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Keeper**

8/30/07  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

-----  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Historic Function:**

Historic Function is amended to read: *Commerce/Restaurant (tavern)*.  
[Tavern is not an available data element.]

**Significance:**

*Industry* is added as an Area of Significance.  
[The sherry making process is perhaps more analogous to a manufacturing process than a strictly agricultural pursuit. Agriculture is well suited for the nomination of wineries, where viticultural pursuits are an essential element of the physical and functional operations, but Ramos' contributions as conveyed through the sherry house appear to lie more in the processing/production aspects of the wine-making industry.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

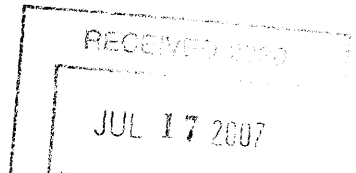
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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

849

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ramos, John, Sherry House/Depot Saloon

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1468 - 1478 Railroad Avenue NA  not for publication

city or town St. Helena NA  vicinity

state California code CA county Napa code 055 zip code 94574

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 17 JUL 2007  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
[Signature] 8/30/2007

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
Name of Property

Napa, California  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
	0	sites
	0	structures
	0	objects
2	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/ processing

COMMERCE/tavern

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/business

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation masonry/stone

roof

walls stone/wood frame

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

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County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Commerce

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1880-1883

1886-1922

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1880

1886

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Ramos, John

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Property

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County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

10 - 546240 - 4262005

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	---	-----	-----	3	---	-----	-----
2	---	-----	-----	4	---	-----	-----

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kim Lakin, Senior Associate

organization Heritage Consulting Group date 12-21-06

street & number 1120 NW Northrup telephone 503 228-0272

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97209

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Marie Oliver

street & number 1468-1478 Railroad Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town St. Helena state CA zip code 94574

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Napa County, California

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The Ramos Sherry House/ Depot Saloon is located at 1468-1478 Railroad Avenue in St. Helena, Napa County. Originally designed as separate buildings, the two-story masonry Ramos Sherry House and the two-story masonry and wood Depot Saloon were located only feet apart. The two buildings were connected (prior to 1899) by a small connecting structure constructed between the two buildings. A small non-contributing garage is also located on the parcel.

*Setting*

The Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon is situated one block east of Main Street in St. Helena. Its boundary is defined by the railroad tracks on the east and Railroad Avenue on the west. Further to the east is an agricultural land parcel with a barn and small house on it. Immediately north of the site is the historic St. Helena Railroad Depot which currently functions as office space. Immediately south of the property is a parcel currently undergoing development. Across Railroad Avenue to the west is a City Park. Buildings along Railroad Avenue include several historic buildings – the wood framed Olive Oil Manufacture building and the masonry Pritchard Building. The property is located just one block beyond the boundaries of the St. Helena Historic Commercial District.

*Site*

The site is located immediately west of the railroads tracks on the east side of Railroad Avenue. The site is wedge-shaped with the building located on the northern edge of the property. A garage is located at the southern edge. In between is a side yard neatly landscaped with a pea gravel path and a rose garden. The path, flanked by low shrubs, leads from the south side of the Sherry House to the garage. All buildings on the site sit flush with the right of way. A low stone retaining wall capped with concrete and an iron fence encloses the property on the east, west and south elevations. Mature oleanders and bamboo along all of the elevations conceal much of the two buildings from public view. A large pepper tree on the front elevation is registered with the City of St. Helena as a Heritage Tree. Other significant plantings include: camellias, Chinese wisteria, loquat trees, dogwood tree and an elm tree.

**Ramos Sherry House**

Many of the commercial buildings in St. Helena dating from the mid-1880s to the early 1900s are constructed of the local trachytic tuff. In addition to commercial buildings this stone was also used in the construction of the local wine making facilities. Being accessible locally, the stone was relatively inexpensive, fire resistant, and had good insulative properties, a benefit in the wine-making process.

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The two-story Ramos Sherry House is a stuccoed native tuff stone building. Though possibly a later alteration, traditional buildings in Madeira are stuccoed over the native stone. A portion of this stone is visible on the exterior west elevation under the porch and all of the stone is visible from the interior. The rectangular building has a hip roof covered with corrugated metal and a brick chimney projects from the roof at the southwest corner. The building has a daylight basement level so the first floor is above ground level.

*West elevation*

The front entrance is located at the upper level of the west elevation. This entrance is accessed by wood stairs leading to the front porch. The front porch has a hip roof and is supported by slender chamfered porch posts. It has a simple wood railing and wood porch floor. Double doors open from the front porch into the building. A double-hung wood sash window is located to the right of the front door. Under the front porch is a four light window at ground level.

*North elevation*

The north elevation of the Ramos Sherry House is now enclosed by the connecting addition. Portions of the stone exterior (now interior) north wall can be seen inside the addition.

*East elevation*

The east elevation has two two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows at the upper level and two windows at the lower level.

*South elevation*

The south elevation has two two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows at the upper level and one at the lower level. A narrow opening is cut into the ground floor at the far west end of this elevation and steps leading down to a door. An arbor sits next to the building over a concrete patio. At the far east end of this wall is a small metal fountain or water basin. The basin is decorated with an arched backsplash that has a lion's head and Spanish style ornamentation. The date of this feature is not known, but appears to be original. The water pipe is plumbed directly into the building.

*Interior*

The lower level of the Ramos Sherry House contains three offices, the largest being located at the rear elevation. Walls are exposed stone and the ceiling is unfinished revealing the exposed floor joists of the upper floor. Large exposed posts and beams run throughout.

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The interior of the upper floor of the Ramos Sherry House is comprised of two rooms, one main room and a smaller room in the southeast corner. The walls in the smaller room are covered with a painted tongue and groove paneling. French doors lead to the smaller room. The walls of the main room are exposed stone. The ceiling is finished with gypsum and trimmed with a simple painted crown molding. There are two door openings in the north wall. Both of these door openings lead to portions of the later additions. One door leads to a small office/rest room and the other leads to the hall linking the two buildings. The openings are framed with plain wood trim.

**Depot Saloon**

The two-story stone and wood frame Depot Saloon has a composition shingle hip roof. The first floor is constructed of native trachytic tuff with stone quoins and the second floor is wood frame with shiplap siding. The wood siding is trimmed with corner boards and a wide frieze at the eaveline.

*West elevation*

The front entrance is located on the west elevation at the first floor level. It is comprised of an arched opening with wood double doors. Red brick frames the doorway and the single wood frame window on this elevation. There are two tall narrow wood frame windows. A single story wrap around porch is supported by slender square posts. The porch extends around both the west and north elevations. The porch floor is concrete.

*North elevation*

This elevation continues the detail of the front elevation. An arched doorway and single double-hung wood frame window are surrounded with red brick at the first floor. The second floor has two wood frame double-hung wood sash windows.

*East elevation*

The east elevation has two windows on the first and second floors. The first floor windows are trimmed in red brick. Windows are wood frame double-hung wood sash. A red brick chimney projects from the roof at the northeast corner.

*South elevation*

The south elevation is obscured by the addition and the Ramos Sherry House.



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### *Interior*

The first floor interior is comprised of a single open room. Walls are exposed stone. Floors are wood and the ceiling is painted bead board. The second floor includes a large bedroom and bathroom. Floors are carpeted, walls are vertical board, and the ceiling is gypsum.

### **Connecting Additions**

Between the two buildings are two 2-story additions. The larger of the two additions was constructed before 1899 and extends across the entire south elevation of the Depot Saloon. This shed roof extension enclosed and connected the two buildings. The exterior of this wood frame addition has shiplap siding identical to the Depot Saloon. A small square window is located on the west and east elevations at the second floor. The wide frieze board and boxed eaves is identical to the Depot Saloon. At the southeast corner of the addition a shed roof covers a small doorway. This roof structure appears to have been added later.

As the floor levels of the two buildings are not the same, the addition has two sets of stairs to accommodate the different levels. Stairs along the north wall (south wall of the Depot Saloon) lead to the upper floor of the Ramos Sherry House. Another stair leads from this Ramos Sherry House landing to the second floor of the Depot Saloon. Doors at the first floor open into both buildings. At the first floor, the walls are exposed stone. An exterior door to the addition is located at the southeast corner.

The second addition was added later. It does not show on the 1899 Sanborn Map. It does appear on later Sanborn Maps from the 1920s. Added to the front-west elevation of the addition, it is square in plan and has a shed roof that slopes to the north, the opposite direction from the first addition. It is clad with the same wood shiplap siding and wood trim, suggesting a fairly early construction date. On the west elevation are two small wood frame windows at the first and second floor. The west elevation is mostly obscured by a large rhododendron. On the north elevation is a doorway. This second addition provided a storage room and restroom for the upper level of the Ramos Sherry House and a restroom and entrance hall/landing for the first floor of the earlier addition.

### **Depot Saloon**

The exterior of the Depot Saloon is largely intact. It retains its original stone first floor and wood frame second floor. The wood board siding is original as are the wood two over two double-hung windows. At some point the brick door and window surrounds were painted. Later, they were stripped of their paint. The exterior doors have been replaced.

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**Garage**

At the south end of the parcel is a small garage building of an unknown date. Judging from the construction, it may date from the 1930s. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and the siding is also corrugated metal. The wooden garage door faces onto Railroad Avenue. The north elevation of the garage has a pedestrian door accessed by the concrete path in the yard. The east elevation (rear) has two double-hung windows.

**Integrity**

National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, Section VIII"

*"Define the essential physical features that must be present for a property to represent its significance."*

This building is extraordinarily simple in its design. It is basically a vernacular two-story hip roofed box with few interior partition walls. This simple but functional form was utilized by Ramos as the most efficient design available. Using local materials for construction, the building was inexpensive to build and served its purposes as a sherry-making facility. Therefore its significance lies in its massing, shape, form and materials. To this extent, the building is intact. It retains its basic square two-story mass with hip roof form. The stone building material is intact. Its deep-set two over two double-hung wood sash windows, are also intact. Though its connection to the Depot Saloon has altered the original appearance, the manner in which it is attached sets the two buildings visually apart. The small connecting addition creates a visual separation so that the saloon does not detract from the original Ramos Sherry House. The Sherry House retains its individual massing and can still be identified as a separate structure and bears resemblance to other such structures located in the Napa Valley. Though connected, they read as two buildings.

*"Determine whether the essential physical features are visible enough to convey their significance."*

The essential physical features such as the massing, shape and form are intact on the Ramos Sherry House and are clearly visible. Regarding materials – the wood windows are visible and the stone is visible on the building interior. It has not yet been determined whether the stucco is

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original or added later. The existing exterior stucco covers a majority of the exterior though it is in a deteriorated condition. The exterior stone masonry can be seen under the porch and in patches on the rear elevation. If the stucco is a later addition, the building still conveys its significance as an 1880-83 wine-making facility due to its form and massing.

*“Determine, based on the significance and essential physical features, which aspects of integrity are particularly vital to the property being nominated and if they are present.”*

The massing and form of the building are the most vital characteristics pertaining to its significance. The masonry construction is also important. It is partially visible on the exterior and completely exposed on the interior.

*The Seven Aspects of Integrity*

According to National Register Bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, Section VIII” lists seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association”.

The Ramos Sherry House retains significant character defining features to be considered eligible for National Register listing under criteria A and B.

The following is an analysis of the building as it relates to these seven aspects of integrity.

*Setting*

**“Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.”**

Although the building is located in downtown St. Helena, the fact that it is one block off of the main street places it in a more rural setting. With the railroad tracks running alongside, Railroad Avenue retains some of its rural character. The area is similar to that which appears on early Sanborn Maps. The Ramos Sherry House is located adjacent to the railroad tracks, which are intact. Across the street to the north is the historic Train Depot and across the street, the historic wood frame Olive Oil building, the historic stone Pritchard building is further south. The setting is very nearly intact as it was in 1880-83, though new construction is now occurring just south of the Ramos Sherry House. The unusual irregular triangular block the Ramos Sherry House sits on is intact, and combined with the Depot and tracks, the early railroad era setting can be clearly identified.

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*Feeling*

**“Feeling is a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.”**

The building strongly evokes an earlier era –it is a local landmark recognized by the community for many years as the “Sherry House”. Its stone construction is similar to many other buildings in St. Helena, thereby contributing to the overall expression of this early period.

*“Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.”*

The Ramos Sherry House can be directly associated with the function of the wine-making industry and its effects on the development of St. Helena. As one of only two in-town wine-making facilities, it represents the industry as it relates to commerce, the railroad, and the community. It is typical of the stone buildings used within the larger Napa County for wine-making. It is directly linked to John Ramos, a significant individual in the history of California sherry-making.

*Design*

**“Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.”**

- *Form:* The Ramos Sherry House retains its square blockish hip roofed form and original height of 2 stories.
- *Plan:* The floor plan is basically intact with a single added wall on the second floor and two added walls on the first floor.
- *Space:* The arrangement of spatial function is not known. All of the sherry-making equipment is gone with the exception of the brick chimney. The sherry-making process being one that used an oven baking method, this chimney is a significant feature of the original function of the building.
- *Structure:* The un-reinforced masonry structure is fully intact.

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- *Style:* The building is characterized by its vernacular functional style. It can be compared to the only other sherry house in St. Helena that how houses a restaurant. That building is also a square two-story building with hip roof. Its windows have been filled in and the decorative framing around the windows is a later addition. However, the two are quite similar in their basic form and massing. Vernacular buildings have very little 'style' and therefore should be evaluated on their form, massing, and materials.

*Materials*

**“Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.”**

*Stucco:*

It has yet to be determined if the stucco is original or a later alteration. Other wine-related buildings in Napa County are typically exposed stone, however stucco was a traditional Portuguese building material and John Ramos could have specified stucco. There are examples of other buildings in St. Helena that were originally stuccoed and the stucco was removed at a later date. Also, the rubble masonry used on the Ramos Sherry House suggests it might have had a stucco coating. The stone is randomly placed, unlike the more formal dressed and laid stone of other buildings, both wine-related and commercial, in the County. The masonry building is completely visible on the interior of the building, having never been covered by plaster or sheetrock.

*Porch:*

An 1886 Sanborn Map shows the porch on the front elevation. Through further physical inspection, it is clear the existing porch is not original, however it is also evident that a two story porch existed as early as 1886. There is physical evidence of the earlier posts, railings and supports. Therefore a porch in this location is appropriate and does not diminish the integrity of the building.

*Windows:*

The deep-set double-hung two over two wood sash windows are original. The basement level windows are also original.

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*Exterior doors:*

The exterior doors are not original, however, the doors are compatible with the historic character of the building. The primary door opening is original as can be seen in interior photos. The door lintel is slightly wider than the existing double French doors. Most likely this opening had an industrial use related to the building function. The addition of the French doors does not diminish the overall integrity of the building.

*Roof:*

The original hip roof form is intact. The roof material has been replaced many times over the years. This does not diminish the integrity of the building.

*Workmanship*

**“Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.”**

The workmanship is highly characteristic of this type of building. It is a functional vernacular type that utilized the most cost-efficient building materials available for the time. The building was stone instead of wood because of the highly flammable nature of the sherry production process. The workmanship is typical for the period and the locale.

*Location*

**“Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.”**

The building is located in its original location.

*Interior:*

The interior is significantly intact. The exposed stone walls have not been covered over with drywall. The ceiling is a newer gypsum board. Two interior doors leading to the connecting additions are original four panel doors. The lower level retains the exposed walls and open ceilings. A few newer partitions have been added.

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**Conclusion**

In summary, the Ramos Sherry House is a relatively intact and rare example of a sherry-making facility dating from the 1880s. The physical features of that period are the form, massing and materials, all of which still exist. Though the stucco may not be original, the simple square form, hip roof, and deep-set two-over-two windows, are intact. These elements are sufficient to convey the historic character of the building. The building retains enough integrity to express its association with John Ramos under which the building has been nominated to the National Register.

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**Sherry House Ownership History (Chain of Title)**

- William Fealy sold to John Ramos, January 29, 1878\*
- Ramos sold a half interest to Joseph Gagetta, August 1882
- Gagetta sold to W.W. Lyman a 127x400 lot portion, August 1882 (Main St. for the Turn Verein Hall)\*\*
- JW McCord sold to Joseph Cadlolo in 1886\*\*\*
- Cadlolo to Cavalli in 1888
- Cavalli to Andrew Pearson in Nov. 1904
- Andrew Pearson to Hilma Pearson in April 1905
- Hilma Pearson to Maurizio Mori in March 1922
- Mori family sold to Ventura Fistolera in Jan 1945
- Fistolera to Marietta Voorhees in June 1961
- Voorhees to Esther Waite in March 1962
- Waite to Frank Stout in Jan 1980, Helen Niemi and Reginald Oliver
- All shares sold to Sherry House Partnership in 1991

\*Ramos built the Sherry House in 1879.

\*\*Unclear when Ramos sells rest of his property, but he is still living and working in SH until 1884.

\*\*\*Cadlolo could have built the saloon in 1885-86 after completing the Odd Fellow Hall and purchasing the Ramos property. Makes sense since he was formerly partner with Galli in United States Hotel and Saloon (which is "near the depot") Cadlolo married Miss Paulina Leoni in Feb 1886, was proprietor of the United States Hotel, near the depot. Cadlolo was a local stonemason who did stone for Odd Fellows Hall in 1885.



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, California

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The Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon, built by pioneering sherry-maker John Ramos in 1880, at the height of the early boom times for the California wine industry is eligible under criterion B for its association with Portuguese immigrant John Ramos, credited with introducing the 'baked' sherry-making process to the state of California. The Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon is significant under criterion A in the area of California Agriculture, specifically the statewide development of the wine industry during the nineteenth century. It is also eligible under criterion A as a saloon and its association with the commercial development of St. Helena. Built in 1886, the Depot Saloon catered to customers arriving and departing from St. Helena and the neighboring railroad depot. By 1899, the Sherry House was interconnected to the Depot Saloon and both were used as a combination saloon and residence until 1922. Thus the period of significance is 1880-1922.

Though there have been both historical and recent modifications to the Ramos Sherry House, the building continues to convey its historic period. The proportion, basic plan and mass, size and shape of window and door openings remain intact. The original hip roof is intact as are the original two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows.

### **Context: Viticulture in the Napa Valley**

The wine industry is an important historic context for the State of California, specifically the Napa Valley. Originally ranching and farming country, viticulture in the Napa Valley gradually evolved as the primary industry and by the 1880s it was a booming business. Except for the Prohibition years, the wine industry has dominated the Napa Valley and today it is home to more than 260 wineries, more per mile than any other place in America. Although the wine quality started out as mediocre to fair at best, advances in soil science, technologies, etc have resulted in significantly improved quality over the years and Napa Valley wine is now recognized as world class. Soils, climate, grape and human resources have all contributed to the viticultural excellence of the Valley today.

The years between 1850 and 1900 proved to be significant in the evolution of the wine industry with the 1880s being the most profitable of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This 50 year period included "...a long procession of enthusiastic, conscientious growers and vintners had poured their energies and their ambitions into a remarkable endeavor-to make California, within their lifetimes, a wine region that would challenge the products of a thousand years of European experience and glamour."<sup>1</sup> Early wine history includes many interesting characters, from the wealthy San Francisco investor to poor European immigrants from countries such as Germany, France and

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<sup>1</sup> Doris Muscatine, et al. Book of California Wine, p. 47.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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Italy. The wine industry in Napa County evolved similarly to the California Gold Rush, with everyone clamoring to acquire a piece of land to plant vines.

During these years, many homes served as wineries, and many basements served as wine cellars. Early Napa and Sonoma Valley pioneers such as Agoston Harazthy (Hungarian) and Charles Krug (German) took an interest in commercial wine making beginning in the 1850s and imported a wide selection of European cuttings which were distributed to various parts of California. Charles Krug is often credited as the establishing the first winery in Napa Valley in 1861 just north of St. Helena. Dr. George Belden Crane was the first St. Helena resident to establish a winery on his land. Dr. Crane, typical of many who owned and operated wineries in the Valley, began his wine business with no experience and through perseverance developed a fairly lucrative business.

The years between 1878 and 1880 saw a large increase in the Napa Valley wine business mostly due to the spread of phylloxera throughout Europe. The decimation of the vineyards there resulted in a significantly higher demand for California wine. This resulted in an even bigger influx of those looking to get into the wine business. At the beginning of 1880, Napa Valley had 3,500 acres of grapes and within two years, this number had increased to 12,000 acres. The area stretching from Yountville to St. Helena ("St. Helena district") had the most vineyards – nearly 7,000 acres. Fifty-two wineries were operating in Napa County as of 1880.

### **The popularity of sherry**

During this period and for many years to follow, sherry was the most popular wine in California, as well as the Eastern United States. Americans generally preferred the sweeter fortified wines such as sherry and brandy. Before Prohibition, sweet fortified wines tended to outsell table wine by 3 to 1. The vintners of the 1870s and 1880s were attracted to making fortified wines because they could use a lesser quality grape and in addition, in 1877, the United States Congress acted on a bill to permit the establishment of bonded warehouses for the storage of brandy. Brandy could be made from excess unsold wine and then stored without payment of federal taxes until the brandy was sold. This was a critical move for the wineries since it allowed them to bottle and store excess unsold wine without being taxed on it. Since brandy was a key ingredient for sherry making, the Act made sherry more economical to produce.

Dr. Crane knew John Ramos was making sherry for William Woodward near Napa City and in 1878, he recruited Ramos to be his cellar master. John Ramos had first introduced sherry making

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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to the Valley at William Woodward's winery in 1872.<sup>2</sup> Ramos assisted Dr. Crane in the construction of the Sherry House. It was to be of masonry construction 28x32 feet. They also built a brandy distillery at the same time. The newspaper reported, "Dr. Crane is just now engaged in an enterprise that is new to this part of the country; the building of a house especially for the manufacture of sherry wine."<sup>3</sup> John Ramos was the only person who knew the heated sherry-making process. While at William Woodward's winery, Ramos trained Joseph Mathews who later constructed the Mathews or Lisbon Winery in the city of Napa in 1882. While at Dr. Crane's winery, Ramos trained another in the sherry making method, Frank Sciaroni who later constructed a sherry house on his own winery site in St. Helena.<sup>4</sup>

### **The sherry making process**

The process John Ramos introduced to California was the traditional wine making method from his native home of Madeira Portugal. This method involves fermentation and heating. The basic wine is fermented to the desired degree of dryness and brandy is added to stop the fermentation. It is then heated in oak or redwood containers for three months up to a year. This heating takes place either in a hot cellar or with the containing vats heated by coils. When the process is complete, the wine is gradually cooled and aged for the desired period of time. The oxidation which takes place during the heating is what produces the flavor typically associated with sherry.

The *Napa County Register* in November of 1872 published a first-hand account of the sherry making process at William Woodward's. The sherry was to be baked for six months, a fire being kept under it day and night. "John (Ramos) opened the oven door for us, and we saw the casks inside with the 'green' oozing out of their seams. This green is just like the grease one can find on the hubs of a buggy wheel, and it is the purging of this stuff from the sherry by its six months' 'heated term' that makes it not only so palatable, but frees it from that horrible adjunct to so many vintages, the headache."<sup>5</sup>

In the United States, the term 'sherry' is used as a semi-generic though it must be labeled with a region of origin such as American Sherry or California Sherry. This is because the process commonly used in California is that of John Ramos which is considerably different from the Spanish method. The Spanish process involves the development of flor, a yeast that grows on top of the wine, and a complex aging and blending process. It does not require heating. By law,

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<sup>2</sup> It is not known how Dr. Crane lured Ramos away from his 10 year stint at Woodward's.

<sup>3</sup> St. Helena Star, January 1877.

<sup>4</sup> Both buildings are extant.

<sup>5</sup> Napa County Register, 1872. Heintz, p. 138. The Woodward site is no longer extant.

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Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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true Sherry must come from the triangular area of the province of Cádiz between Jerez, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, and El Puerto de Santa María. Today, California winemakers produce sherry using both the traditional Spanish method and the Ramos method, however a majority of sherry makers use the Ramos method as it is more economical.

### The Ramos Sherry House

After only two years, Ramos left Dr. Cranes' business, purchased land in St. Helena near the railroad and built his own sherry house. Ramos posted notice in the *St. Helena Star* in 1879 that he intended to leave the employ of Dr. Crane after the May 1 curing of the charge of wine in the sherry house. In 1880, via the newspaper, Ramos announced a new venture. Having purchased nine acres of land from William Fealy for \$4,000, he planned a grape growing and wine making establishment. The site was described in the *St. Helena Star* as the "east side of Main Street above the Van Tassells' running back to and across the railroad where lies the bulk of the land". Three acres were already planted as vineyards. Here Mr. Ramos planned to build his own sherry house, "by the railroad track". The sherry house was to be 25x32 and capable of holding 28,000 gallons of wine. A wine cellar was planned for the next year. Later, the building was resized to 27x36. The newspaper continued reporting on the building's progress; stone was being laid, castings for the furnace were in the ground. Three more buildings were planned – a wine-cellar, distillery, and cooper-shop. In 1881, Ramos produced his first charge of 20,000 gallons of sherry. The newspaper also reported Ramos making oaken tanks for the express use of cooking sherry. They were described as 9 feet in height, 38 1/2 inches in diameter at the top and 40 at the bottom. Each tank would hold 350 gallons. "He is making 30 (tanks) to start, but will need 100 of them to stock the cellar." In 1882, Ramos produced another charge of 20,000 gallons of wine in his sherry house. The wine would cook from January to early April. A later newspaper account describes Ramos as producing 75,000 gallons of sherry. In July of 1880, Ramos built his own house on the property, located at the Main Street end of the acreage.<sup>6</sup> This residence is no longer extant.

In August 1882, Ramos sold one half interest in his property to Joseph Gaggetta. An advertisement in the *St. Helena Star* in 1882 stated, "If anyone wants Pure Sherry Wine, call at the St. Helena Sherry House, Ramos and Gaggetta, proprietors. In 1883 John Ramos seems to have had a streak of bad luck. The partnership with Gaggetta lasted only three months being dissolved in December of 1882. One year later, in August 1883, the paper reported a sheriffs sale of casks, tanks, pipes, wine pump, hose, and steam engine belonging to John Ramos to satisfy a judgment against him by W.T. Coleman. The paper does not describe the complaint. On a

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<sup>6</sup> St. Helena Star, 1880.

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Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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happier note, that same month, Ramos was admitted to U. S. citizenship. In 1884, Ramos appears on a list of people having delinquent taxes (a total of \$4.55). By this time Ramos was 70 years old. He had been seriously injured while working at Dr. Crane's vineyard in 1878. With his business gone, his property sold, and his poor health, perhaps he left town to live out his days elsewhere. Searches to date have found no death record for John Ramos. There is no mention of a Mrs. Ramos, so it is assumed he had no wife or children.<sup>7</sup>

The same year that Ramos left Dr. Crane's winery, so did John Sciaroni. Sciaroni proceeded to set up his own winery with cellar, distillery and sherry house and in 1884, he finished construction of his winery. At this time there were three sherry houses operating in St. Helena – Dr. Crane's, John Sciaroni's, and John Ramos'. A few years later Dr. Crane shut down his sherry house eventually getting out of the wine business altogether. Sciaroni continued to run his business for many years.

### **The Sherry House as architectural type**

The "sherry house" as they were traditionally referred to, would typically be two stories in height, of stone construction with a hipped roof. The only wood in the building had to be substantial due to the need for heating. Heating coils were installed in the floor or ovens were built to heat the wine. The Woodward sherry house is described in the *Napa County Register* as a 17 x 30 foot structure with bake oven at one end and "filled with pipes of the new-made-sherry". The Ramos Sherry House is described as 27 x 36 feet with castings for the furnace. The massive oak tanks used for holding the wine while cooking were nine feet in height, thus the need for a relatively high ceiling. The sherry house might be situated near other winery buildings including the brandy distillery. The distillery, however, was usually placed at some distance from the rest of the wine making operations as it was prone to explosions.

### **John Ramos Biographical Information**

Born in 1816 on the Portuguese island of Madeira John Ramos left the island at a time when it experienced a severe attack of phylloxera on the vineyards wiping out the industry. He first traveled to the West Indies, then to Baltimore and in 1850 to California. In 1853 he went to Australia for five years where he was involved in wine-making. He returned to California, spent three years in mining and in 1861 he went to Los Angeles to make sherry for Mateo Keller. In 1865, Ramos came to the Napa Valley where he spent two years making sherry on his own at Soscol and ten years with William Woodward, near Napa, making brandy and sherry. He established a sherry making operation with Dr. Crane in 1877. In 1879, he left the employ of Dr.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Crane, purchased land in St. Helena near the railroad and established his own sherry house.

### **History of the Depot Saloon**

The Depot Saloon was constructed in 1886, and was originally a separate building and functioned as a separate business from the Ramos Sherry House. The original owners of the Depot Saloon used the Sherry House for living quarters. By 1899 the two buildings had been interconnected by an enclosed stairwell between them. The Depot Saloon functioned as such until 1922 when it too was converted to a residence.

The Saloon was built by Swiss hotel proprietor and stonemason Joseph Cadlolo when he purchased the property in 1886. The building continued to operate as a saloon until 1922 when it was converted to a residence. Joseph Cadlolo was proprietor of the United States Hotel in St. Helena prior to purchasing the Sherry House property. In 1886, Cadlolo dissolved his partnership with L. Galli of the United States Hotel and Saloon to become proprietor of the Depot Saloon. Cadlolo became a naturalized United States citizen in 1884. In 1885, when the citizens of St. Helena decided to build an Odd Fellows Hall, he did the stone masonry for the building. In 1886 he married Pauline Leoni and bought the Ramos property. By 1888, C.F. Reissau is listed as proprietor.

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the two buildings were interconnected by 1899. When Andrew and Wilma Pearson bought the Saloon in 1904, they were listed as residing in the same location. After Wilma is widowed, two more people are identified as residing at this location, bartender Oscar Johnson and Elvira Pearson. Hilma Pearson owned and operated the Saloon for many years with Oscar Johnson as bartender. An early newspaper advertisement lists it as the "Depot Saloon". After Maurizio Mori purchased the property, the building became residential only except for a brief period in 1939 where the city directories show Alfred Mori as selling liquors from this location.

### **Context for the Depot Saloon under criterion A**

Railroad Avenue is a defining street in St. Helena separating the bustling densely populated Main Street from the quiet and sparsely built remainder of the town to the east. It is an area defined both historically and presently by its industrial/agricultural and rural nature. Although only one block from Main Street, Railroad Avenue has an altogether different ambience. Sprinkled along Railroad Avenue from Hunt to Pine are various historic industrial buildings such as the wood frame California Olive Oil Building and the masonry Taylor, Duckworth and Co. Foundry Building. The location of these buildings by the railroad tracks was intentional and typical. The railroad depot location just north of the Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon is intact as are the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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original railroad tracks. This line extended from Vallejo to Napa and through the Valley to Calistoga. The property is located just one block beyond the boundaries of the St. Helena Historic Commercial District.

Constructed with a stone base and wood frame second floor, the Depot Saloon building is typical of many buildings in St. Helena and surrounding area and may reflect the Swiss immigrant influence of Cadlolo and others who located in St. Helena in the mid to late 1800s.

The railroad played an extremely significant role in St. Helena's history, providing passenger service for workers, visitors, tourists, etc. Most significantly, it provided the valley with the means of transporting wine to Vallejo where it would be shipped to San Francisco and from there to all parts of the country and the world.

The decision to build a saloon in 1886 next door to the railroad depot was a wise choice. The building successfully functioned as a saloon until 1922. The Depot Saloon was a travelers saloon and a working man's saloon. There are many local stories about the saloon and its shady operations. In fact a particularly gruesome murder occurred there in 1888. Advertisements for the Saloon appeared in the local paper fairly regularly in the early years. Gradually, as railroad use was mostly discontinued in favor of the automobile, the Depot Saloon fell on hard times. Eventually, there was not enough business for a saloon to operate on Railroad Avenue and the Ramos Sherry House/Depot Saloon was converted to residential use.

## Conclusion

John Ramos had a significant and lasting influence on the development of the wine industry in the Napa Valley and California. Ramos was responsible for training others in his baking method, a method that was passed along to others and continues to be used to the present day in California. Through the adoption of the Ramos' sherry making process, California vintners were able to use grapes of a lesser quality, produce an item that stored well, and satisfy the American taste for sweet wines, a preference that continued up until World War II. Ramos is mentioned in many books on the subject of California wine and is credited with the introduction of sherry making to California. The Ramos Sherry House is the only extant structure to be associated with John Ramos. It is one of three sherry houses remaining in Napa County and one of two in St. Helena.

The Depot Saloon contributes to the development of St. Helena's early commercial history. It is a key historic building along Railroad Avenue and continues to represent the industrial and rural quality of this street and this part of St. Helena.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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11-4-81

2-17-82

8-4-82

9-29-82

2-16-83

8-31-83

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Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
Napa County, California

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

*Parcel One*

Commencing at a point on the Northeastern line of Railroad Avenue where the same is intersected by the line dividing the lands formerly of the Bank of Napa, a corporation, from lands formerly of John Ramos, et al, said point of commencement being further described as being distant on said division line South 28 50 West 74.7 feet from the centerline of the Napa Valley branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, as the same existed on June 5, 1886, and running thence along said Northeastern line of Railroad Avenue, North 52 10 West 35 feet, thence North 37 50 East to the Southwestern line of lands of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company; thence Southeasterly parallel with and distant 25 feet Southwesterly from the centerline of said Southern Pacific Company's land, as the same existed on June 5, 1886, to the aforesaid division line between lands formerly of the Bank of Napa and of Ramos and herein before referred to; and thence Southwesterly along said last mentioned line to the point of commencement.

*Parcel Two*

Commencing at a point on the Northeastern line of Railroad Avenue where the same is intersected by the line dividing the lands formerly of the Bank of Napa, a corporation, from lands formerly of John Ramos, et al, said point of commencement being further described as being distant on said division line South 28 50 West 74.7 feet from the centerline of the Napa Valley branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad, as the same existed on June 5, 1886, and running thence Northeasterly along said division line to the Southwestern line of the lands of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company; thence Southeasterly along said Southwestern line of lands of the Southern Pacific Railroad 125 feet, more or less, to the Southwesternline of what is known as the "Old William Family Tract"; theme Southwesterly along said Southwestern line of the Fealy Tract, to the aforesaid Northeastern line of Railroad Avenue; and thence Northwesterly, along said mentioned line, 125 feet, more or less, to the point of commencement.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary is the legally recorded boundary lines for the building for which National Register status is being requested.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
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Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
Napa County, California

Heritage Photo

April, 2006

Heritage Consulting Group (1120 NW Northrup Street, Portland, OR 97209)

Direction of view (see Photo List below)

Photo # (see photo list below)

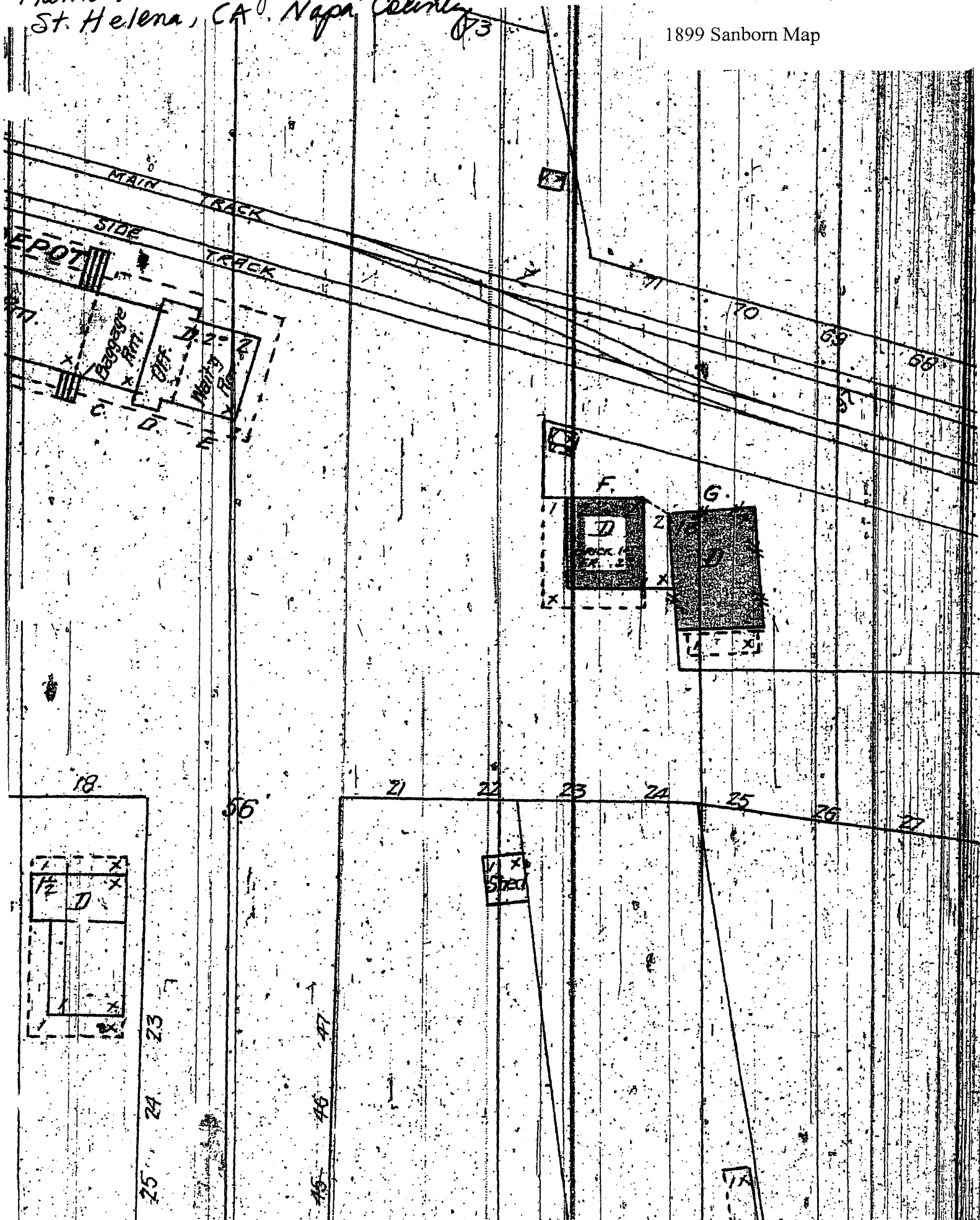
### Photographs

1. Exterior, looking northeast at site from Railroad Avenue
2. Exterior, west (front) elevation, looking east at both buildings, addition is obscured behind rhododendron
3. Exterior, Ramos Sherry House, west (front) elevation, looking northeast
4. Exterior, Depot Saloon, west elevation (front) elevation, looking east
5. Exterior, looking southeast at site from Railroad Avenue
6. Exterior, Depot Saloon, north elevation, looking south
7. Exterior, Depot Saloon, Ramos Sherry House, and addition, east elevation, looking west
8. Exterior, Ramos Sherry House, south elevation, looking north
9. Exterior, Ramos Sherry House, west (front) elevation, looking east
10. Exterior, Ramos Sherry House, west (front) elevation, basement level under front porch
11. Exterior, Ramos Sherry House, west elevation, looking north, front porch detail
12. Interior, Ramos Sherry House, looking east into main office space
13. Interior, Ramos Sherry House, looking northwest toward front doors and north wall with openings in main office space
14. Interior, Depot Saloon, looking west toward front doors in first floor office space
15. Interior, Depot Saloon, looking northeast in first floor office space
16. Interior, Addition, looking east up stairs to second floor of Depot Saloon
17. Interior, Addition, looking west up stairs towards upper floor of Ramos Sherry House
18. Interior, Depot Saloon, second floor bedroom
19. Garage, north elevation, looking south
20. Garage, west elevation, looking east

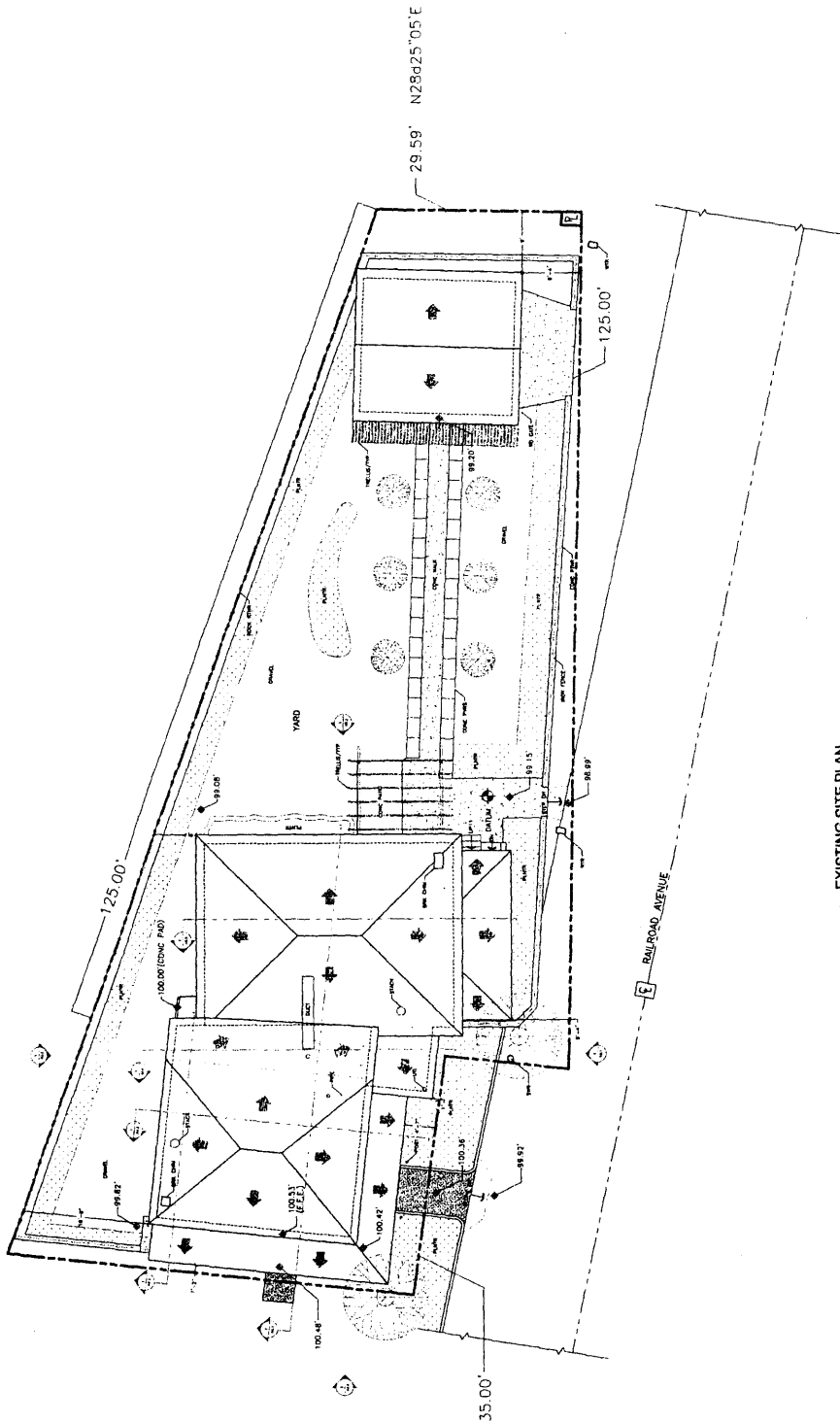
Ramos, John Sherry House / Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, CA, Napa County

Ramos, John Sherry House / Depot  
Saloon, Napa County, California

1899 Sanborn Map



Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot  
Saloon, Napa County, California



1 EXISTING SITE PLAN

- 1) THIS IS NOT A SURVEY
- 2) PROPERTY LINE DERIVED FROM COUNTY TAX ASSESSORS MAP
- 3) LINE ASSIGNED TO PROPERTY

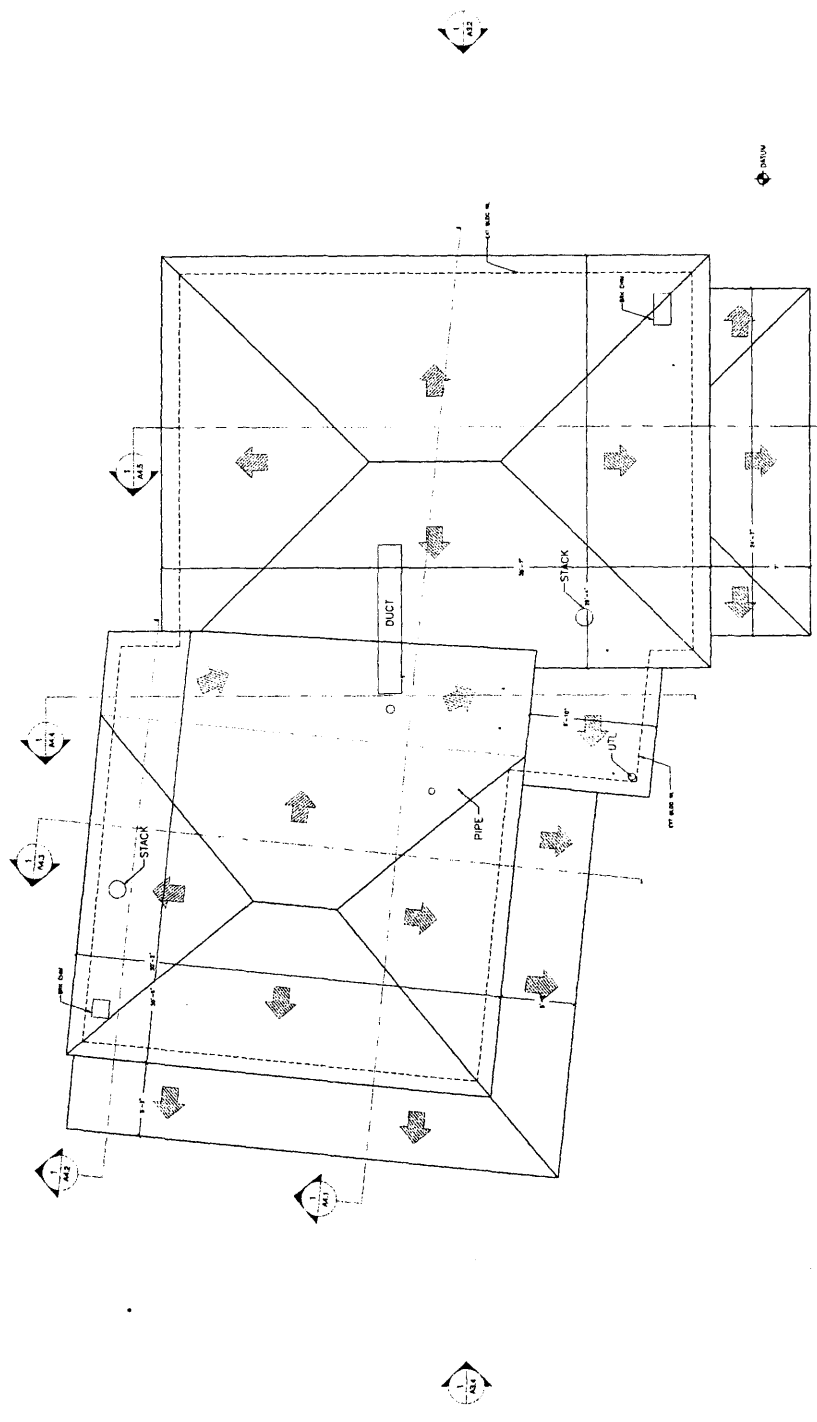
*Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, CA Napa County*

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot  
Saloon, Napa County, California

ASBUILT, LLC  
PH 800.318.0099  
ASBUILTSERVICES.COM  
FEBRUARY 28, 2008  
REV 0  
REF: 1478\_SF/SLT

1478 RAILROAD AVENUE ST. HELENA, CA  
EXISTING ROOF PLAN

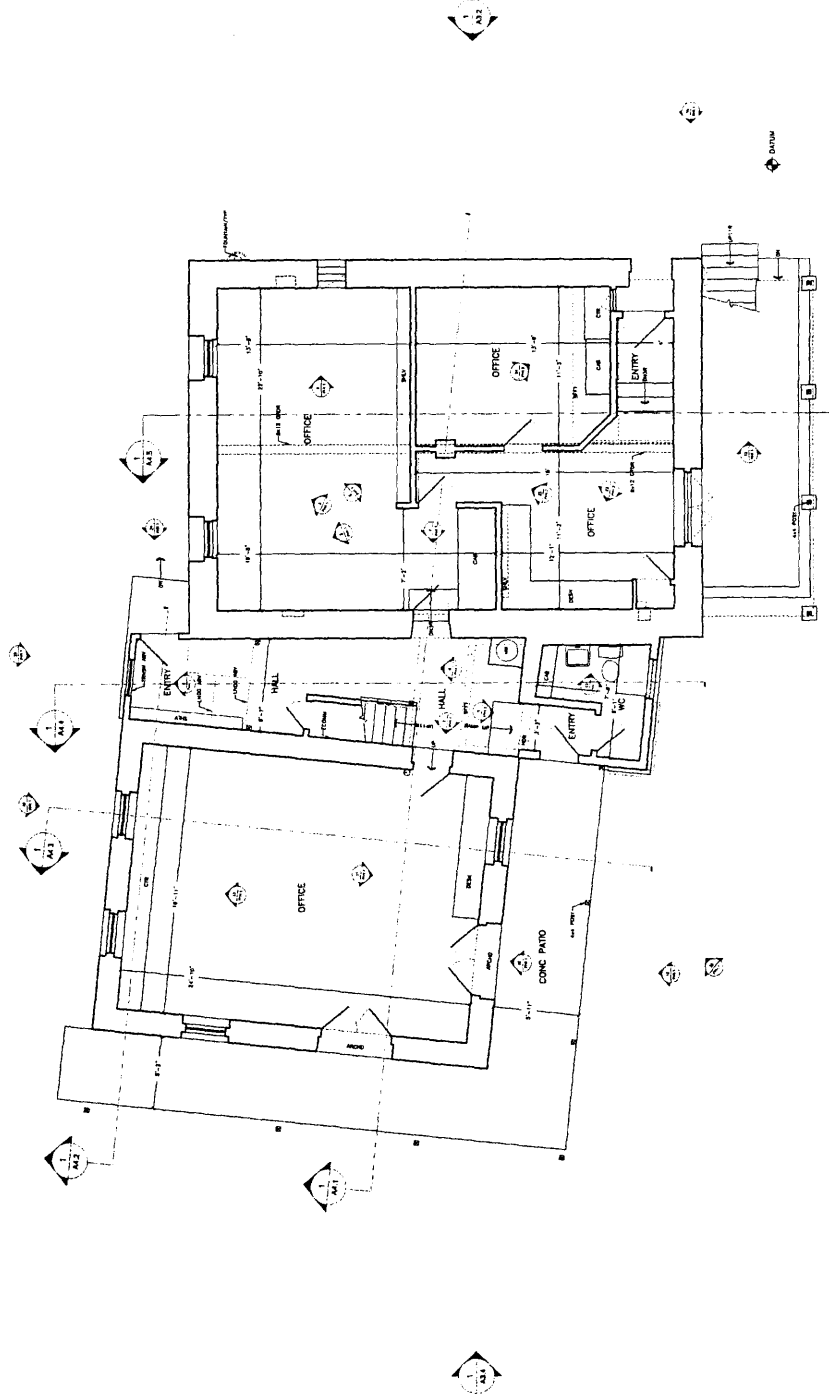
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1 EXISTING ROOF PLAN  
DATE: 02/28/08

*Ramos, John Sherry House, Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, Napa County, CA*

Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot  
Saloon, Napa County, California



1 EXISTING LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
1/11/14

*Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, Napa County, CA*

1478 RAILROAD AVENUE ST. HELENA, CA.

SHEET NO.

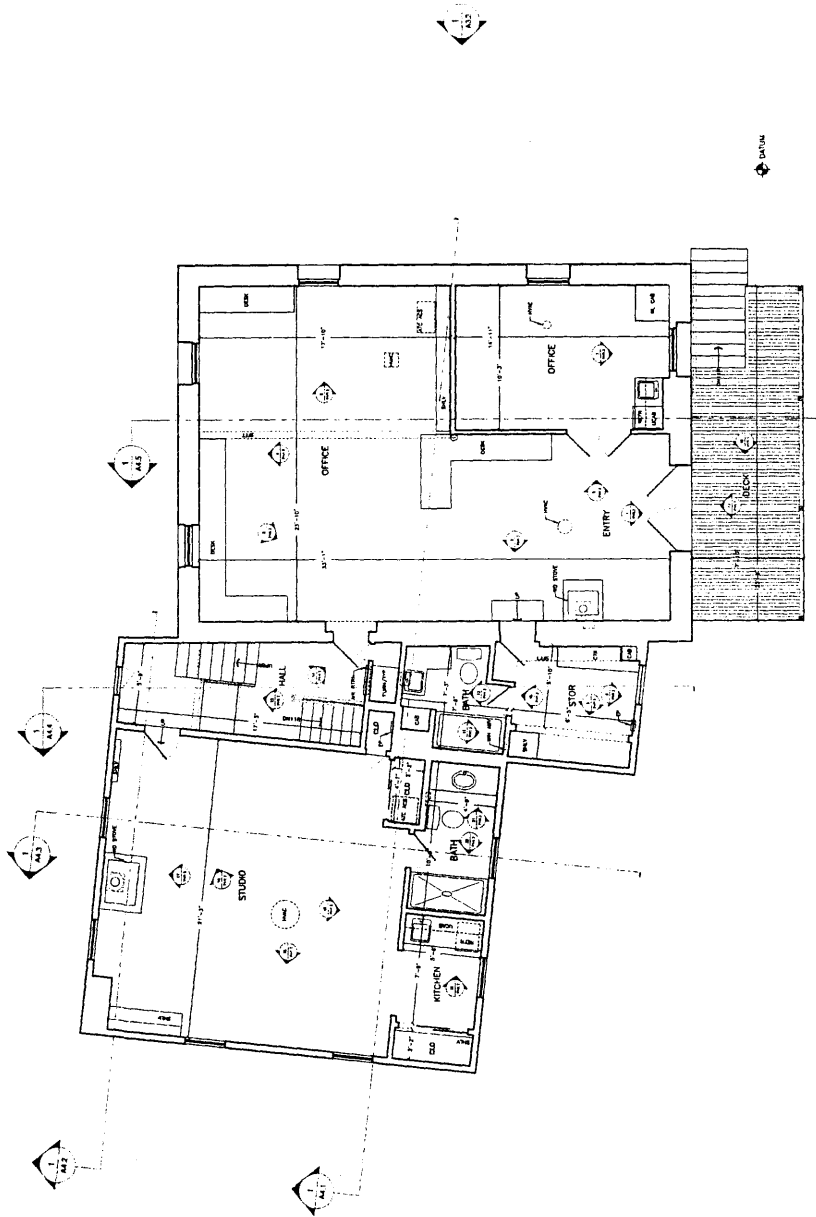
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EXISTING LOWER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

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REF: 1478\_SF/SLTL



Ramos, John Sherry House/Depot  
Saloon, Napa County, California



1 EXISTING UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
12/12/2016

*Ramos, John Sherry House / Depot Saloon  
St. Helena, Napa County, CA*

1478 RAILROAD AVENUE ST. HELENA, CA.  
EXISTING UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

SHEET NO.  
A2.2

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REF: 1478\_SFS/STL