

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic GEORGE A. STROUT HOUSE
and/or common Strout House, Kimball House

2. Location

street & number 253 Florence Avenue ___ not for publication
city, town Sebastopol ___ vicinity of congressional district Fifth 2
state CALIFORNIA code 06 county SONOMA code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Donald K. Quayle, Jr. and Jeffrey Connell
street & number P.O. Box 125
city, town Sebastopol ___ vicinity of state CALIFORNIA 95472

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sonoma County Recorder
street & number 2555 Mendocino Avenue
city, town Santa Rosa state CALIFORNIA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sonoma County Coast & Sebastopol Historic Resources Survey Survey in progress has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no ___
date Site Survey: September, 1979 ___ federal state county local ___
depository for survey records Sonoma County Planning Department
city, town Santa Rosa state CALIFORNIA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1979</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Commanding a highly visible location in a residential neighborhood on the crest of one of several hills comprising the City of Sebastopol, is the George A. Strout House, a 2½ storey frame Queen Anne residence. The Strout House, erected on a large double lot (120'x165') in 1903, rises above Florence Avenue, which falls away from the site on each side of the hill. Along the Avenue, flanking the Strout House, are smaller 1 and 1½ storey hip and gable roof cottages which retain the character of a turn-of-the-century residential neighborhood. A low concrete retaining wall, characteristic of early 20th century neighborhoods in Sebastopol, separates the front yard from the street; within the yard remains a large magnolia tree.

Materials for the redwood frame Strout House came from Strout's Planing Mill in Sebastopol. In his mill, George Strout carried a large business in general mill work, planing, turning, cabinet-making, and the manufacture of doors, windows, moldings, etc. George Strout assisted a Mr. Ames, a local builder responsible for many residences of that period in Sebastopol, in constructing the residence which was completed in 1903.

The 2½ storey residence, originally constructed on a brick foundation, was designed in a T-plan with a 1½ storey rear extension. It is clad in narrow clapboard. A distinctive corner square tower with a tent roof contains the main stairwell to the second floor. The north facade has a two storey slanted bay with alcove windows on the second storey defined by brackets with an applied sunburst design and drop pendants. Bargeboards on the gables also have the applied sunburst. The bargeboard of the gabled dormer in the rear wing (north facade) is of another pattern: open, sawn, semi-circular with bull's-eye medallions. An open spindled-decorative in the front (west) gable visible in early photographs has disappeared. The original multi-gabled roof with boxed cornice had decorative shingles, multi-colored shingles over the front porch and finial at the gable peaks. These have disappeared in subsequent re-roofings. Windows are single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash with molded trim. Front and bay windows on the first floor are rectangular with leaded transom and single lower pane. A semi-circular arched window in the west gable gives attic light. Two fine brick chimneys remain.

The Strout House originally had three porches: a front porch and two side porches. The front (west) porch is distinguished by its heavy turned columns supporting the mansard cap roof with its sawn brackets and drop pendants and the delicately turned balustrade. The porch originally stood on piers with open ventilation beneath. The foundation has been enclosed and the turned balustrade extended down the wood staircase. Although the original front door has been replaced, the spindled screen door remains. The south facade side porch off the kitchen and pantry is of simpler construction with turned columns, sawn brackets, exposed rafters, slat balustrade and open ventilation beneath. The north facade side porch, originally open with turned columns and a shed roof, was enclosed c.1920.

(see Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED MAY 15 1980	MAY 15 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUN 17 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #7

PAGE 1

The east facade of the Strout House reveals a once common feature of early Sebastopol residences: the tankhouse. The two storey building with a gable roof attached to the rear of the house served as a utility building and supported the watertank on the roof. The watertank collapsed during the 1906 Earthquake. The tankhouse appears to have been incorporated into the main house in the early 1900's. Siding of the tankhouse and the north porch enclosure is shiplap.

Distinctive interior features include redwood moldings and wainscoting panelled doors, and recessed sliding doors separating the living room from the dining room. In the dining room are built-in cabinets reflecting an early Craftsman influence. This influence is also seen in the wood panelled front entry and staircase to the second floor. A square stained glass window originally flanked the doorway at the staircase; it was removed several years ago. Another stained glass window is in the second storey bay window (north facade). The variety of mill work available to George Strout is evident in his house: newel posts vary on the stairs, interior door and window moldings differ from room to room.

Innovations unique to Sebastopol in 1903 were introduced into the house: a second floor room was set aside as a "planned" interior bathroom (it has been remodelled periodically); on the first floor, adjacent to the kitchen, is a dumb-waiter to the basement.

The Strout House remained essentially unaltered in family ownership until 1978. Structurally, the house required a new foundation; it was replaced by the present owner in 1979. In laying the new concrete foundation, the building was shifted 11 feet to the south, within its original lot, to remove it from a property line now bisecting the original double lot. The building's orientation to the site was retained and it has retained its integrity of location. Some interior flooring has been replaced with hardwood floors; the original gas fixtures have been replaced. All interior panelling and moldings have been retained and exterior moldings when replaced have been copied from the original when possible. The interiors of the tankhouse and enclosed porch wing have been remodelled retaining the c.1920 exterior features.

The Strout House has remarkably retained its integrity of design and location: included within the nominated area is the house and the one-half of the original lot on which it now sits.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and Justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1903 **Builder/Architect** Builder: George Strout, Mr. Ames

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George A. Strout House, constructed in 1903 by its owner George Strout, proprietor of Sebastopol's first planing mill and an early mayor of the City, reflects the finest in residential architecture at the turn-of-the-century. The Strout House demonstrates: the emergence of the formal Queen Anne style with a tower which arrived in Sebastopol after the turn-of-the-century and is visible in only three residences in Sebastopol today; the craftsmanship of Sebastopol's carpenter/builders and the versatility achieved by the Strout Planing Mill which supplied all materials and millwork; the prominence of George Strout in Sebastopol.

Sebastopol, a small rural community in the late 19th century, experienced the depression of the early 1890's as did much of the country. By 1902, however, anticipating the arrival of the railroad in 1904, the town was moving into a prosperous period and experiencing growth. In a community of scattered farmhouses and small cottages, subdivisions for new residential neighborhoods created a new streetscape. New construction meant new wealth, particularly for a planing mill owner. In 1902, his planing mill would be supplying not only construction materials, but also fruit dryers and trays and apiary supplies to serve the orchard-based economy around Sebastopol, entering a booming period in this center of the Gravenstein apple region. Although the majority of the new residences would be modest cottages only hinting of the Queen Anne style in their pedimented gable roofs, a few would adopt the most formal Queen Anne styling with a tower; only three of these residences remain in Sebastopol, including the Strout House.

George Allan Strout was born in Maine. As a young man he is believed to have taught school; he had a life-long interest in botany. He was also a builder and was associated with building railroad bridges in the east. He moved to Bismarck and then Fargo, North Dakota. By the early 1890's, he had moved to Calistoga for his wife's health. With her death there, he subsequently remarried and moved south of Sebastopol, near Cunningham. His two storey planing mill was located on Sebastopol Avenue. George Strout was acknowledged as a skilled carpenter, particularly in cabinetry and the making of mantels. By 1911, his planing mill was known as the Analy Planing Mill and he was in partnership with his son, Archie L. Strout. George Strout installed unique innovations in his residence (unique for Sebastopol in 1903): the first "planned indoor bathroom" and the first dumb-waiter. In failing health, George Strout moved to Redlands, leaving his residence to his daughters and the mill to his sons. His daughter, Rowena, married Oscar Kimball, who worked in bridge construction. Thus, the Strout House is commonly referred to as the Kimball House today.

After 75 years, the Strout/Kimball House left the family ownership. The present owner intends to maintain its residential use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews: Mr. Stanley Strout, Mrs. Iva Strout, Miss Dorian Kimball (1979)
 Photographs: in possession of Stanley Strout and Miss Dorian Kimball, c. 1903-06.
Sebastopol Times : 12-17-1902; 3-5-1902; 1-2-1903; 12-2-1911; 8-7-1969; 5-19-1977

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 60' x 165' = 9,900 sq. ft. **.22 acres**
 Quadrangle name Sebastopol **UTM NOT VERIFIED** scale 1:24,000 (7.5)

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	<u>110</u>	<u>515040</u>	<u>4250340</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The lot, fronting on Florence Avenue, is situated in Raup's Addition, City of Sebastopol: AP# 04-254-33. Beginning at the Northwest corner of the lot, proceed 165 feet east, thence 60 feet south, thence 165 feet west, thence 60 feet north to the starting point.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith A. Munns
 for owners:
 organization Donald Quayle, Jr. & Jeffrey Connell date 10 December 1979
 street & number P.O. Box 2893 telephone (707) 963-7611
 city or town Yountville state CALIFORNIA .94599

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Kris Mellen*

title _____ date May 5 1980

For HCERS use only

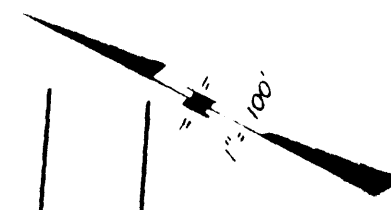
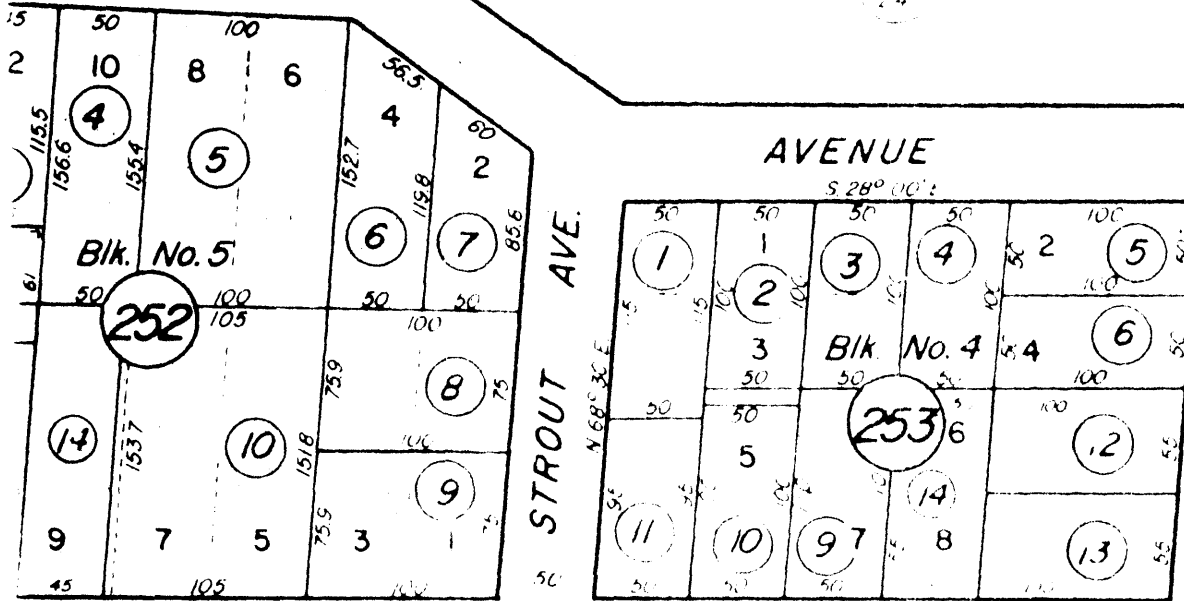
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray date 6/17/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date 6-13-80
 Chief of Registration

MORRIS ADDITION

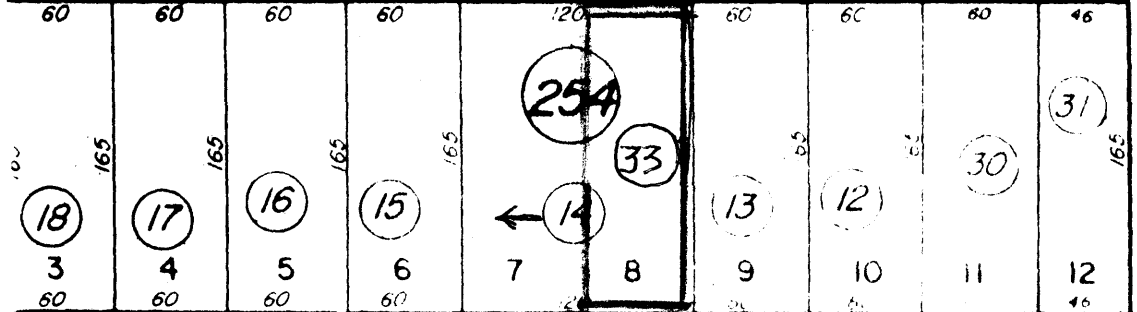
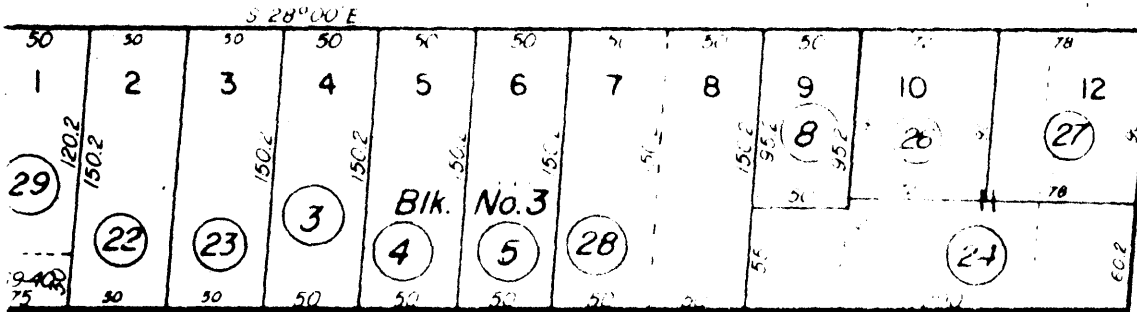
City of Sebastopol
Pcl. Map No. 18
Bk. 23 Pg. 35 Rec. 6 4 72

PITT R/S 141/23



REVISED
12 16 75

WEST STREET



FLORENCE AVENUE

Part of RAUP'S ADDITION

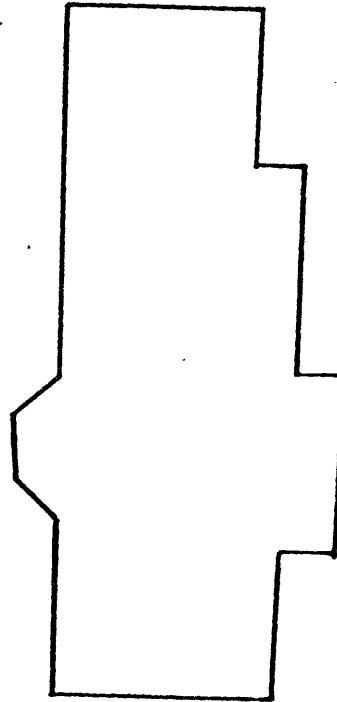
Assessor's Map Bk. 4 Pg. 25
Sonoma County, Calif.

George A. Strout House
Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California

GEORGE A. STROUT HOUSE
253 Florence Avenue
Sebastopol, California 95472
AP # 4-254-33

Sonoma Co.

Site and House
NOT TO SCALE



165'

60'

FLORENCE AVENUE

HUNTLEY ST.