

**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 MOUNT VIEW HOTEL

and/or common MOUNT VIEW HOTEL

2. Location

street & number 1457 LINCOLN AVENUE _____ not for publication

city, town CALISTOGA _____ vicinity of congressional district 2

state CALIFORNIA code 94515 ob county NAPA code 055

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

4. Owner of Property

name CAROL AND TOM WENAAS

street & number SILVERADO RANCH

city, town CALISTOGA _____ vicinity of state CA 94515

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. NAPA COUNTY COURT HOUSE

street & number 725 COOMBS STREET

city, town NAPA _____ state CA 94558

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NAPA COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no
INVENTORY

date 1978 _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

city, town P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO state CA 95811

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 type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mount View Hotel is situated on Lincoln Avenue, a main commercial thoroughfare in Calistoga. Built in 1919 by John Ghisolfo, it is a two-story reinforced concrete building, rectangular in shape with two wings in the rear forming a small garden patio and walkway to the rear entrance. One of the wings is shorter than the other, allegedly because Ghisolfo ran out of money while these additions were under construction in the 1930s.

The building today has been restored to its appearance in the 1930s, with some minor alterations. The building's present appearance reflects the evolution of the structure since 1919. The 1930s major addition of the two rear wings retained the basic original design. When Ghisolfo had the Mount View Hotel constructed, he chose the popular Mission Revival style because it adapted well to the use of durable and fire-resistant reinforced concrete. This latter quality was of significance because the Lincoln Avenue business district was all but destroyed in fires of 1901 and 1907.

The hotel facade is divided into three segments or bays. A concrete parapet rises to a peak in each segment and is capped by thin coping. Concrete molding parallels the parapet line. Mission tile skirt roofs are located just below the parapet on the side segments while a thin cantilevered canopy shelters the middle segment at the same level. The words, "Mount View Hotel", appear in raised letters upon the frieze above a small gallery on the second story. A belt course separates the second and first stories, with a small projecting canopy at the central segment.

The first story was altered in the 1950s and 1970s, but retains the horizontal balance of the original design. The north segment originally provided access to the "coffee shop" through two glass-panelled doors. The door was surrounded by sidelights and a fixed transom, and this entrance bay was in turn flanked by four-over-one double hung windows. The doorway has been closed in by a single pane of glass. The area below the double-hung windows, sidelights, and former doorway has been covered with thin bricks in a stacked bond pattern, a masonry pattern repeated across the lower portion of the ground floor. The central and south segments of the bottom story were originally an arcade of six bays. The first, third, fourth, and sixth bays (left to right) have been filled or partially filled, with the second and fifth bays providing access to the original entrances to the hotel lobby and lounge. The first and third bays are occupied by planter boxes. The lounge area has been enclosed to provide additional seating. The entrance to the lounge area is now recessed.

Just as the exterior restoration has adhered as much as possible to the structure's 1930s appearance, so has the interior retained its 1930s integrity. It was evidently at the time of the wing addition in the 1930s that the interior was "modernized" to reflect Art Deco design while the exterior retained its Mission Revival styling.

Interior restoration has followed a 1930s photograph of the lobby. Original furniture was refurbished and is in use today. Of particular interest is the exposed beam ceiling finish and framing around the doorways. The main stairway off the lobby

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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reflects the Mission Revival architecture of the exterior and the earlier lobby. The ceramic tile steps lean from the lobby floor to an arched framed landing. Typical of the Mission Révival period is the use of wrought iron bannisters. The molded wood doorway frames in the lobby repeat a popular Art Deco design motif at the time of remodeling. The original 1930s bar has been retained and restored as well as the mirror behind it and the peach glass.

The Mount View in 1919 housed 24 rooms and then was expanded by the wing additions to 45 rooms. There are now 34 rooms, 10 of which are suites and all have private baths. The interior architecture has been followed as closely as possible when incorporating the new bathrooms. Original furnishing has been used whenever possible. Original light fixtures and Art Deco hardware have been retained.

The recently completed restoration has brought the Mount View Hotel back to its 1930s standards of a "first" class hotel.

Recently, a swimming pool, paved deck area, and steel fence were developed at the rear of the Mount View Hotel property. Although noncontributing, this development is generally sympathetic to the ambience of the hotel.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C 1919

Builder/Architect

Possibly Rosari

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mount View Hotel is significant due to its reflection of growth in Calistoga, its place in the architectural history of the town and the civic contributions of its original owner/proprietor/builder John Ghisolfo.

Calistoga is situated in the northern end of Napa Valley where the major exports are wine and mineral water. This is particularly true of the Calistoga area which is surrounded by hot springs and geysers. The town lies on top of a ready supply of mineral water. Beginning in the 1860s, Calistoga gained a reputation for its spas and waters. Then, as today, it was and is a popular gathering place for believers in the health-giving properties of its waters.

Few of the original spas remain from Calistoga's 19th century health heyday. One of the best known was Samuel Brannan's Calistoga Hotel Springs (1860), today the location of Pacheteau's Original Hotel Springs situated several blocks north of the Mount View Hotel and built in 1915. The Mount View and Pacheteau's are both built in the Mission Revival style. In the early 1900s, spas offered massages, swimming, and mud baths along with their mineral water. The Mount View provided the traveller with moderate priced lodging and dining, plus mineral water. Advertising claimed "natural hot sulphur water", as well as fresh food from the hotel farm served in the dining room.¹ The Mount View was also conveniently located across the street from the Calistoga railroad depot (1868) now a National Register building and a state landmark, and was within walking distance of several spas.

Originally, the site of the Mount View Hotel was occupied by the European Hotel, a wood frame structure built by Louis Bancheri around 1890. In the 1919, Ghisolfo moved the building to the back of the lot (it is no longer there) in order to build the Mount View Hotel. As with the European Hotel, mineral water was piped into the new hotel for bathing purposes. Owing to the accessibility of mineral water, it was not unusual for it to be piped directly into a public lodging facility, and also practical because Calistoga has a chronic shortage of potable water. Unfortunately, mineral water is no longer allowed to be piped into new buildings or any old buildings that are being restored or remodeled. Consequently, the Mount View Hotel no longer features piped-in mineral water.

Travellers were further drawn to Calistoga because it was the northern terminus of the railroad and supply center for the quicksilver mines located on the slopes of nearby Mount St. Helena. Mining activity followed a boom or bust cycle into the 1950s.

As Calistoga enjoyed increasing business, Ghisolfo enlarged the hotel to meet these demands in 1938. Besides rooms, the hotel offered food and a bar with an off-sale liquor license. Rumor has it that liquor could be purchased in the back room of the hotel through prohibition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

John Ghisolfo MSS, unpublished Economic Survey, Napa County, 1960
 Interview, Mrs. Bess Ghisolfo, 1525 Lake Street, Calistoga, 5/6/80
 Weekly Calistogan: 1/14/38, 4/1/38, 4/15/38, 7/16/64 and various dates from 1887-1939.
 Napa Register: 2/24/66 Calistoga Centennial, 1959, pamphlet.
Memoirs & Anecdotes of Early Days in Calistoga, I. C. Adams, 1946.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.

Quadrangle name Calistoga

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	3	6	8	8	0	4	2	7	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Mount View is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled: City of Calistoga, Assessor's Map Blk. 11, pg. 20, County of Napa, California, 1953-60.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bette Morgan/Program Assistant & John Whitridge/Executive Director

organization Napa Landmarks, Inc.

date (707) 255-1836

street & number P.O. Box 702

telephone

city or town Napa

state CA 94558

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 K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-21-81

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
William H. Branham date 4.12.82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Patrick Andrews date 4/2/82
 Chief of Registration

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The Mount View Hotel building is an interesting combination of two distinctive styles with its Mission Revival exterior and Art Deco interior. In the early 20th century, Calistoga's business district along Lincoln Avenue was rebuilt after two major fires. After the second disaster in 1907, the town's architecture began to reflect the use of less flammable building materials following the examples of the brick and stone commercial buildings that had survived the fires. From 1910 to 1920, four Mission Revival style structures were erected, and in 1921 another reinforced concrete building was built in the neo-classical style one block south of the Mount View. In the 1930s, Lincoln Avenue sprouted two examples of exterior Art Deco styling, plus the interior of the Mount View Hotel.

John Ghisolfo, original owner/proprietor/builder of the Mount View, was born in Italy in 1886, the oldest of eight children. The family came to Calistoga in 1899. As with many other immigrants who came to this country in the late 19th century to escape poverty and political upheaval in the native countries, he worked hard to help support himself and his family. Besides working on the family ranch south of town, he worked for Dr. Prather at Adams Springs where among other duties he bottled mineral water. Later he started making wine in an operation that became known as the Calistoga Wine Company, an activity he continued until prohibition. After repeal in 1932, he formed a partnership with his mother and made wine for that company until 1949.

Ghisolfo entered the hotel business after purchasing the European in 1912. He gained a working knowledge of the business and built the Mount View which he owned and managed until his retirement in 1964.

Besides Ghisolfo's business activities, he maintained an active interest in the politics of Calistoga. He was first elected to the City Council in 1932 and mayor in 1936. He was mayor four times (not consecutively) a position he held when the Kimball Canyon dam was built to increase Calistoga's water supply. The resultant lake was named Lake Ghisolfo in his honor. By the time he retired, he had served the city either as mayor or member of the city council for a total of 32 years. It is no wonder that Ghisolfo was also called Mr. Calistoga. His influence was felt in the county due to his involvement in the development of the fairgrounds in Calistoga. He advanced money to help purchase the first part of the property now known as the Napa County Fairgrounds.

Ghisolfo died in 1974 and a suite in the Mount View Hotel has been named in his honor. The newly restored Mount View Hotel once again serves travellers to Calistoga, some of whom still inquire about the piped-in mineral water.

¹Mount View Hotel business card, no date, Ghisolfo MSS.

SURVEY

HUMANA

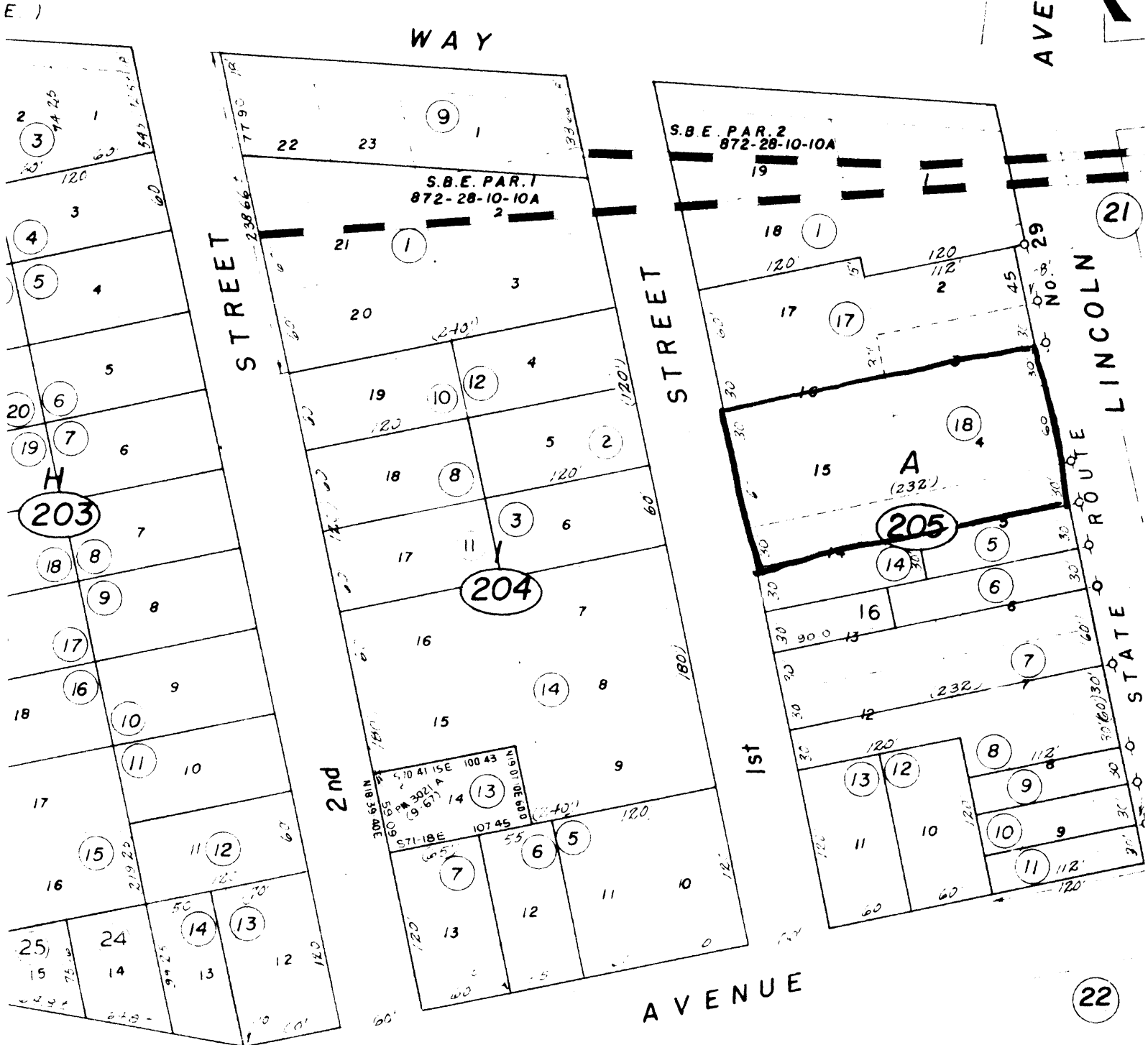
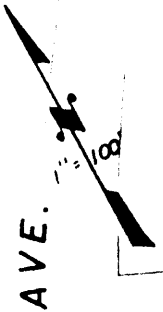
PARK ST.

0

Mount View Hotel
1457 Lincoln Avenue
Calistoga, Napa County, CA

Tax Area Code
1000

11-20



NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK
& LOT NUMBERS
SHOWN IN CIRCLES

CITY OF CALISTOGA
Assessor's Map Bk. II -Pg. 20
County of Napa, Calif.
1953-60