

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jack London Home and Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

Jack London State Historic Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

.4 miles West of Glen Ellen

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Glen Ellen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Sonoma

CODE

097

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of California; Administered by Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET & NUMBER

1416 9th Street (Resources Building)

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sonoma County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

100 Santa Rosa Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Acquisition Feasibility Study

DATE

4/1/58

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jack London State Historical Park, dedicated in 1960, contains the ruins of the "Wolf House," The House of Happy Walls" and the graves of both Jack and Charmian London. Charmian's grave is unmarked while Jack's grave is on a wooded knoll marked by a huge lava boulder.

The "Wolf House" ruins on a sloping site consists of the stabilized stone masonry and concrete remnants of a magnificent house. There were 26 rooms, 9 fireplaces, a courtyard reflecting pool, a fireproof manuscript vault, all within the 80' x 82' structure. Exterior and interior trim and woodwork were redwood; roof covering was tile. Exterior walls were of large size lava rock boulders laid up in cement mortar. The house was destroyed by fire August 22, 1913, a short time before the Londons planned to move in.

Charmian London's "House of Happy Walls" was built in 1919 as a memorial to her husband. It is sited on a knoll surrounded by Redwood, Douglas Fir, Live Oak, Valley Oak and Madrone trees. This unique structure is a 2-story building of approximately 5,000 square feet floor area, has exterior walls of field and flagstone, tile roof with wide overhanging eaves, casement windows and flagstone steps and terraces. Interior walls and ceilings are plastered; floors are hardwood; trim is of natural hardwood and painted woodwork.

Park and public use facilities include a parking lot, display shelters, a comfort station, paths and a ranger's residence.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jack London fought his way up out of the factories and waterfront dives of West Oakland to become the highest paid, most popular novelist and short story writer of his day. He wrote passionately and prolifically about the great questions of life and death, the struggle to survive with dignity and integrity, and he wove these very elemental and important ideas into stories of high adventure based on his own first-hand experience at sea or in Alaska or in the fields and factories of California. As a result, his writing appealed not to the few, but millions of people around the world.

Along with his books and stories, however, Jack London was widely known for his personal exploits. He was a celebrity, a colorful and controversial personality who was often in the news. Generally fun loving and playful, he could also be combative, and was quick to side with the underdog against injustice or oppression of any kind. He was a fiery and eloquent public speaker, and much sought after as a lecturer on socialism and other economic and political topics. Despite his avowed Socialism, the general public tended to consider him a living symbol of rugged individualism, a man whose fabulous success was due not to special favor of any kind, but to a combination of unusual mental ability and immense vitality.

Jack London ascribed his literary success largely to hard work. He tried never to miss his early morning 1,000-word writing stint, and his ability to keep on producing at this rate is clearly evidenced by the fact that between 1900 and 1916 he completed some 51 books, including fiction, non-fiction, hundreds of short stories, and numerous articles on a wide range of topics. Several of the books and many of the short stories are classics of their kind, well thought of in critical terms, and still extremely popular around the world. His writings are continually being republished and are available in some 68 different languages and almost countless editions.

In addition to his daily 1,000-word stint, and his commitments as lecturer, London also carried on voluminous correspondence, read proofs of his work as it went to press, negotiated with his various business agents and publishers, and conducted other business such as overseeing construction of his custom-built sailing ship, the Snark, the construction of Wolf House and the operation of his beloved Beauty Ranch which became a primary preoccupation after about 1911.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idwal Jones - Jack London's Ranch.  
 Irving Stone - Sailor on Horseback: Biography of Jack London.  
 Robert E. Siller - New American Literature.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 47.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	53,96,60	4,24,51,3,0	B	1,0	54,03,00	4,24,51,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,0	53,97,00	4,24,45,0,0	D	1,0	54,03,00	4,24,45,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, NPS

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington,

DATE

10/7/77

TELEPHONE

(202) 523-5464

STATE

D.C.

# 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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

11/16/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Somehow he managed to do all these things and still found time to go swimming, horseback riding, or sailing on San Francisco Bay. He also spent 27 months cruising the South Pacific in the Snark, put in two tours of duty as an overseas war correspondent, traveled widely for pleasure, entertained a continual stream of guests whenever he was home in Glen Ellen, and did at least his own fair share of bar-room socializing and debating. In order to fit all this living into the narrow confines of one lifetime, he often tried to make do with no more than four or five hours sleep per night. London's doctors urged him to ease up, to change his work habits and his diet, to stop all use of alcohol, and to get more exercise. But he refused to change his way of life and instead plunged on with his writing and with the ranch. On November 23, 1916, Jack London died of gastro-intestinal uremic poisoning. He was 40 years of age and suffering from a variety of ailments including a kidney condition that was extraordinarily painful at times. Nevertheless, right up to the last day of his life, he was still full of bold plans and boundless enthusiasm for the future. Words of grief poured into the telegraph office in Glen Ellen from all over the world, and from a wide variety of people.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Because the entire park area is enclosed by a barbed wire fence which is the boundary of the State administered area, the boundary of the national historic landmark has been drawn coterminous with the State park boundary.

Beginning at point A on the plat map which is the southside of the park entrance on County Road, follow the barbed wire fence south 610' to point B, thence east along the fence approximately 3700' to point C, thence south approximately 1000' to point D, thence southwest 400' to point E, thence southeast 950' to point F, thence northeast approximately 225' to point G, thence east 110' to point H, thence northeast 300' to point I, thence east approximately 100' to point J, thence southeast 60' to point K, thence northeast 225', to point L, thence north 1500' to point M, thence northeast 200' to point N, thence northeast 400' to point O, thence north 200' to point X, thence northeast 300' to point P, thence northwest 510' to point Q, thence west 400' to point R, thence north 425' to point S, thence southwest 625' to point T, thence west 1000' to point U, thence north 1250' to point V, thence in a southwesterly curving fashion along the barbed wire fence to point A.