

PH0352655

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 17 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 19 1976

**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 * * * WELLER HOUSE
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 524 Stewart St. __NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Fort Bragg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2nd
STATE California VICINITY OF Mendocino coast
CODE 06 COUNTY Mendocino CODE 45

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"/> 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 checked="" 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 Andre L. and Arlene A. Schade
STREET & NUMBER 524 Stewart St. California
CITY, TOWN Fort Bragg STATE
VICINITY OF Mendocino coast

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mendocino County Recorder Book 910 Page 462
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 148 Dec. 29, 1972
CITY, TOWN Ukiah California
STATE
95482

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>10/6/75</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Weller House was originally built by Horace Weller in 1886, as a one and a half story Victorian. In 1897, the house was enlarged, by the addition of a second and third floor. At this time, extensive use of beautiful redwood and fir paneling was made throughout the house. This addition consequently took on the characteristic of the owners' Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry and the house attained its present size of 10,000.00 square feet.

The main floor has ten rooms with a large entrance hall, comprising several paneled eating rooms, a study, parlor, music room, kitchen, pantry room, game room and office. Two seat benches and a redwood gothic arch enhance the hall and staircase. Three distinctive fireplaces, together with a 1889 cookstove complete the original heating system of the main floor.

Four large bedrooms, together with a hall, bathroom and a three room attic complete the second floor. The master bedrooms are joined together by a connecting wash room with the original marble sink. The bathroom is unusual with its enameld elephant-trunk pull toilet, marble washbasin, and a large claw foot bathtub.

A stairway leads to the third floor ballroom. This spectacular room is 40' square with 15 foot ceilings. The ceilings and walls are paneled in polished old growth redwood. A rare curly redwood mantel also enhances this beautiful room.

The house is located on 1/2 acre in the city of Fort Bragg, California. A landscaping plan has been initiated, featuring many native trees and shrubs. The original bricklined well and pump house are still located on the land and once provided abundant water for the community. New wiring, plumbing, and a cement foundation has brought this unique house up to code.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Weller House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(Photographs three and four help to justify the significance of the third floor ballroom.)

The redwood boards that comprise the walls, ceilings, and moldings of the ballroom seem to be of special design and cut, manufactured exclusively for use in this house. The boards of the ceiling are tongue and groove, three inches wide with one inch grooves and an estimated twelve foot continuous length, rising at a forty-five degree angle, to form a fifteen foot high square center ceiling. The absence of any truss support adds to the overall vaulted effect. This contributes to the excellent acoustical quality for musical presentations. The bottom four feet of the walls are hand crafted panels. One corner of the room has a built in bookshelf and a window seat runs the length of the south dormer. Other original features are; the bronze chandelier, hand blown glass windows, the door fixtures, and a large square grand piano (patented in 1877), which was placed into the room with outside pulleys, prior to its final completion.

Mr. Weller added this room in 1897 as a place of worship for the local Baptist congregation. Our visitors find the overall effect is one of quiet dignity and reverence.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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	1886	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1889 the local mills were logging the old growth redwoods on the Mendocino coast, Horace Weller, original owner of this house, through his connections with the Fort Bragg Redwood Company, was able to obtain the most choice and perfect lumber available. Only clear grained heartwood of extreme length was used in its construction. Special moldings and panelings were milled to create a matchless redwood finish in the formal dining room and the 40' square ballroom. The walls and ceilings of the building are solidly constructed from 18" clear grained redwood boards. 12 x 12 and 4 x 6 beams support the structure. Duplication of this fine quality redwood can never be attained. Douglas fir was used on the flooring throughout the house. No imported woods were used in the building.

The Weller House is now the oldest house in town and it still retains its pumphouse, brick lined well and carriage stop. The importance of Horace Weller Senior is outlined in the attached copy of his biography from the "History of Mendocino County." The house is situated on four lots and is centrally located in the city of Fort Bragg. (Pop. 5000) Thousands of tourists visit the local mill, ride the Skunk Train to Willits, and camp at the nearby state parks and beaches. The public is presently invited to view the workmanship and original unaltered condition of the house. This affords them an opportunity to become acquainted with a finely constructed redwood house indigenous to this area. This is presently the only dwelling on the Mendocino Coast that is open to the public as a private museum, wherein the interior reflects use as a residence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Palmer, Lyman L., History of Mendocino County, S. F., Alley, Brown & Co., 1880.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	4,3,0- ⁹⁰⁰ 6,0	4,3,6,6- ⁵⁵⁰ 4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property consists of four city lots with 200 foot frontage on city street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California		Mendocino	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Andre L. Schade

10/6/75

ORGANIZATION

524 Stewart St.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Bragg

964-3061

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

California

STATE

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Heavenly

12/7/76

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Noting

Andre L. Schade

DATE

5/19/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Debra J. Fennell

DATE

July 14, 1976

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Horace A. Weller, Sr. Son of Jacob A. Weller and Ella Fitzgerald, was born Aug. 18, 1847 in Athens, Pa. On Dec. 6, 1869, Horace, Sr. married Ellen E. Cooper, born Apr. 12, 1846 in Warrensville, Ohio, a daughter of Aaron Brooks!Cooper and Levina Whipple, at Hillsdale College, Michigan. Horace, Sr. arrived on the Mendocino coast in the spring of 1874, reaching the mouth of Chadbourne Gulch after a horseback trip from Cahto. He farmed at Newport and Kibesillah, and became office manager for Stewart & Hunter, the predecessor of the Union Lumber Co. He moved to Fort Bragg in 1886, serving the Fort Bragg Redwood Company and its successor, the Union Lumber Co. In 1890, he formed Horace A. Weller Co. with Calvin Stewart. On October 21, 1891, with others, he founded Fort Bragg's first bank, the First National, from which he retired as president. He and his wife were devout Baptists. Ellen died March 26, 1914; Horace, Sr. died January 1, 1929, both in Fort Bragg. Of their seven children, Minnie Flagler was born July 10, 1872, Athens, Pa. and died Feb. 10, 1958, Oakland. Four were born in Kibesillah: Mary, June 6, 1874 - Aug. 13, 1878, Kibesillah; Maude French, Nov. 11, 1876 - May 7, 1966, Gilroy; Charles, June 27, 1883 - July 11, 1966, Fort Bragg; Helen Cheal, Dec. 31, 1885 - April 21, 1964, Morgan Hill. The surviving children, Horace, Jr., Aug. 22, 1878, and Delia Scott, Sept. 21, 1881, were born in Newport.