

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 1 1986**  
date entered **8-28-86**

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

**1. Name**

historic Dr. Edwin Hennessey House

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 13 1985**

and/or common N/A

**OHP**

**2. Location**

street & number 1727 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Napa

N/A vicinity of

state California

code 06

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Joseph Mathews Winery

street & number 2011 Soscol Ave.

city, town Napa

N/A vicinity of

state CA 94558

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Napa County Court House/Recorder's Office

street & number 1195 Third Street

city, town Napa

state CA 94559

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Napa County Historic Resources/ Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 25, 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Napa County Landmarks, Inc.

city, town PO Box 702, Napa, CA 94559

state CA

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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			N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Hennessey House is a two story wood frame Stick-Eastlake residence located on Napa's Main Street. With the exception of a second floor porch at the rear, the building retains its architectural integrity as an excellent local example of the Eastlake style. Notable are the exterior bays on three sides and the heavy wrap-around porch. The interior is highlighted by an unusual room with a hand painted pressed tin ceiling.

The front (east) facade of the Hennessey House has a pronounced square bay with a pair of one over one wood sash windows at each story level flanked by narrow shutters. Each bay side has a single one over one window. The main cornice of the bay has small closely spaced wood brackets above which is a gable of fish scale and diamond cut wood shingles. A highly decorative projecting gable with pierced bargeboard tops the bay.

To the right of the bay is the main entrance with concrete steps and urns (both a later addition) leading up to a covered wood porch, added about 1901, that curves around the north side of the house. The porch roof is supported by turned posts with knobs topped by curved brackets with chiseled star patterns. The porch balustrade has wood balusters each of which has alternating square and turned sections. The entrance to the house has two wood doors of 15 lights each which were added in 1933 when the original double door with stained glass was removed and the upstairs converted to a separate living unit with its own entrance. The most northerly door is the entrance to the second floor which also has a stairway from the rear of the house. The second level over the porch has a single one over one window.

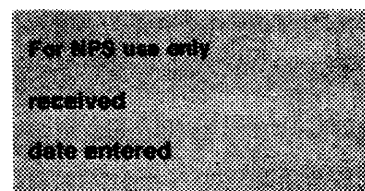
The south facade faces the Lisbon Winery, a two story stone and brick National Register commercial building. Horizontal drop (channel rustic) wood siding is predominant towards the front portion of this facade, and a slanted bay from the foundation to the main cornice is found about half way to the rear. At each 90 degree corner or break in surface of the facade is found a slender pilaster or colonette as well as heavy pierced wood bracket.

The southwest corner of the house reveals a rectangular first floor room topped by a closed in porch (a later modification sometime before 1933). The horizontal siding around the second floor porch is drop siding.

The rear (west) elevation features the remainder of the first floor corner room and closed in porch and the rear entrance porch to the kitchen area. The north facade includes the remainder of the wrap around entrance porch and a slanted bay extending from the foundation to the main cornice.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The roof is a truncated hip roof with gables projecting over the east and south bays and a three-sided polygonal roof over the north bay. The roof material is asphalt shingle.

The interior is noted for its first-floor game room with unusual upper wall and ceiling pressed tin patterns with hand-painted floral designs. The wainscoting, although painted white, is original material. An original art glass drop light hangs from the ceiling in the center of the room. Other original interior elements are evidenced throughout the house including two fireplaces with tile borders and turned stairwell ballustrades.

To the rear (west) of the house is a square-shaped two-story wood carriage house with large double doors at the east and west sides. Each door has nine lights. A first-floor east facade window is six over six double-hung sash, as is a second-level window.

The Hennessey House is located on Main Street at the north edge of the original central business district. The Lisbon Winery (1880) is immediately south. Few examples of the more formal Victorian era homes remain in the neighborhood, of which the Hennessey House is one, which were home to downtown merchants and several physicians including Dr. Hennessey. An elementary school (temporarily used for commercial purposes) is located across the street, while commercial uses are also found to the south. Several blocks of residences are to the north and west.

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

**Specific dates** 1889 **Builder/Architect** M. E. Johnson

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Hennessey House is significant at the local level for architectural and scientific reasons. The buildings on the site possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and embody the distinctive characteristics of the Eastlake style of construction. Dr. Hennessey was a prominent local physician who experimented with x-ray before the turn of the century and was the first and long time County Physician.

The Hennessey House is significant architecturally as a good local example of Stick-Eastlake residential styling, one of a very few formal Victorians in the neighborhood. Such exterior elements as the front bay with projecting gable and the dominant curving porch with turned columns, pierced brackets and ballustrade, and the unique interior room with hand painted tin ceiling give the building strong architectural integrity. Alterations such as the closed in second floor porch and the concrete front steps do not detract visually.

In addition to architectural significance, the Hennessey House is important in association with Dr. Edwin Hennessey who was an important physician in Napa County for more than 20 years. Dr. Hennessey was a graduate of the Medical College of Indiana and came to Napa in 1886 and opened a private practice in medicine. He soon became involved in local government when he recommended the County form a County Board of Health in 1889. He was elected County Physician by the Board of Supervisors the same year and held the post until atleast 1911.

Hennessey was appointed physician of the State Veterans Home in Yountville in 1896 for which service he received an award from the Directors of the Yountville Veterans Home Association in 1897. The same year he experimented using the x-ray and was called "one of the pioneers in the practical use of the x-ray in this state." (NDJ 7/20/97 3:3) He used the x-ray to locate gems in rocks and also used it to find a bullet behind the jaw of a man who had been shot.

The building has been identified in a comprehensive historical and architectural survey of the city of Napa, and was evaluated by the local review committee as eligible for listing in the National Register. The original interior with its hand-painted pressed tin game room is especially notable.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Napa County Reporter 4-30-1886(1:6); 9-2-1887(3:1); 7-13-1888(3:1); 1-4-1889(1:1; 3:4); 1-25-1889(3:5); 4-19-1889(4:3)

Napa Register 6-10-1887(1:7)

Napa Daily Journal 7-20-1897 (3:3)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .338

Quadrangle name Napa, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	0	5	6	2	1	6	0	4	2	3	9	6	2	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

Assessor's Parcel Number 3-062-14. Boundary is 60' on Main Street, 240' on north and south side to Brown Street and 60' on Brown Street, the same as assessor's parcel boundary. Boundaries encompass the buildings on their historic lot.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Whitridge, AICP

organization N/A

date August 8, 1985

street & number 975B First Street

telephone (707) 252-1021

city or town Napa

state CA 94559

## 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

*Kathryn Weather*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/28/86

### For NPS use only

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

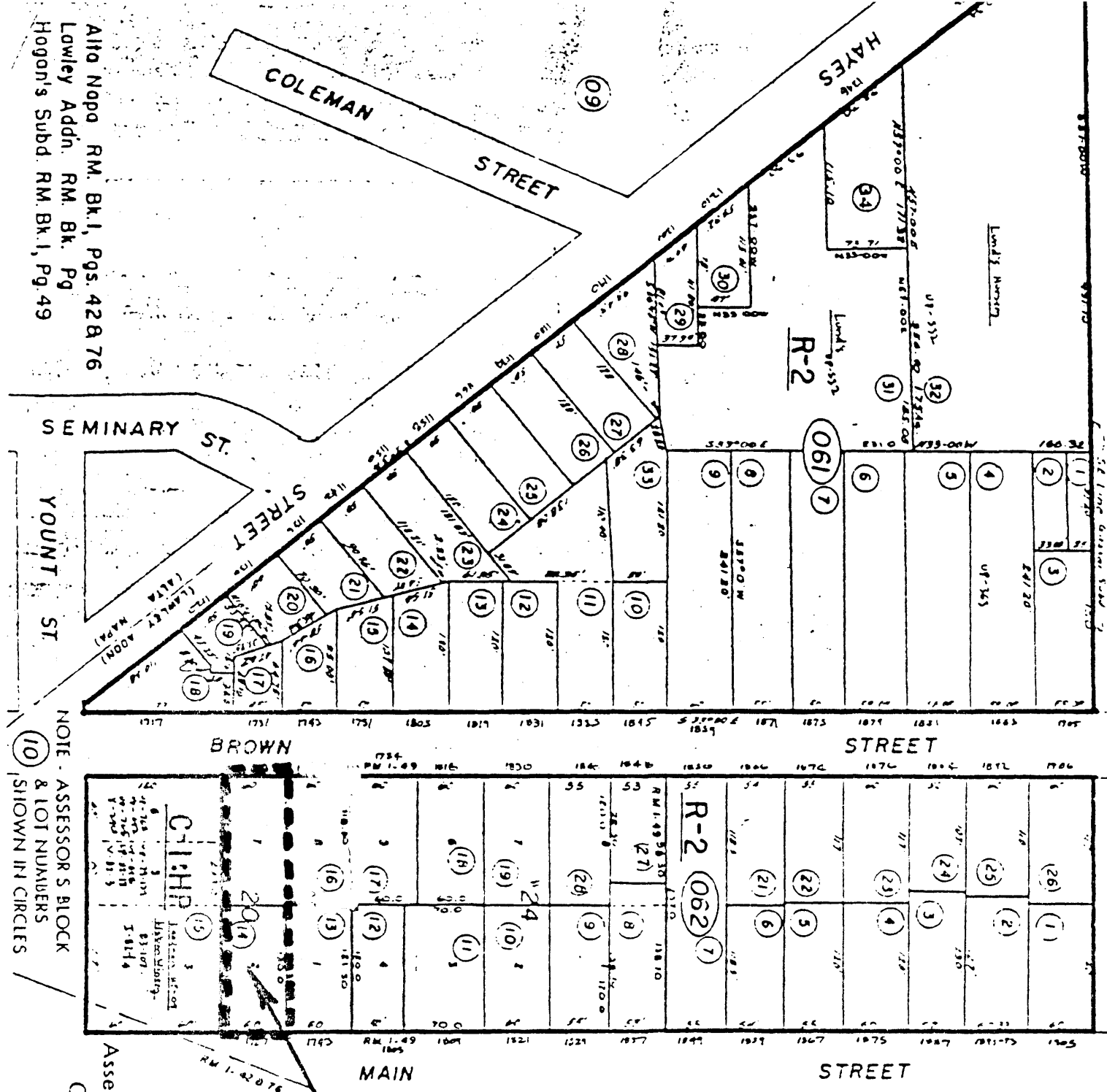
*for* *Albion Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date

8/28/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration



DR. EDWIN HENNESSEY HOUSE  
 1727 MAIN STREET  
 Napa, Napa County, California

ISE

1953  
 18/75  
 18/107  
 18/113  
 18/115

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

Alta Napa RM. Bk. 1, Pgs. 428-76  
 Lawley Addn. RM. Bk. Pg  
 Hogan's Subd. RM. Bk. 1, Pg. 49

CITY OF NAPA  
 Assessor's Map Bk. 3 Pg. 06  
 County of Napa, Calif.  
 1953

BROWN STREET

60'

JOSEPH  
MATHEWS  
WINERY

CARRIAGE  
HOUSE

240'

MAIN  
HOUSE



MAIN STREET

DR. EDWIN HENNESSEY HOUSE  
1727 Main Street  
Napa, Napa County, California