

**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 William Tell Saloon and Hotel

and/or common The St. Helena Feed and Seed Building

2. Location

street & number 1228 Spring Street _____ not for publication

city, town St. Helena _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2nd

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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | 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 Kenneth Dudwick

3241 St. Helena Highway North

street & number

city, town St. Helena

_____ vicinity of _____

state California 94574

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Napa Registrar of Deeds

street & number Napa County Courthouse

city, town Napa

state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Napa County Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1978 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records California Office of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento, CA 95811

state

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 checked="" 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 original building appears to have been built in three segments, proceeding from south to north. The southern section, one story in height, rests on a stone double-wall cellar, originally mortarless. The central section contained 20 small rooms on the second floor, and the northern section, also two stories, housed the saloon and had rooms upstairs. A lobby and dining room were on the first floor of the central section.

Early advertisements reveal the William Tell Saloon was in operation by 1876 and this was most likely in the one story section with the stone cellar; B. Tosetti was proprietor. The Salmina family owned the hotel in 1886 and by that time the later central and northern sections were completed. Wood detailing evident on the second floor reveals substantial and practical wood joinery; the windows, doors, trim and frames are of no-nonsense commercial design typical of the 1870's and 1880's.

The William Tell Hotel, as it appears in photographs taken circa 1890, was a wood frame structure clad in shiplap siding. A typical Victorian parapeted false front stepped down in three segments and a lean-to portico did likewise, covering a timber walkway. The original pillars supporting this portico were square with timber capitals and bases painted in contrasting colors. At that time the William Tell Hotel appeared as part of a cluster of several frame false-front hotel/boardinghouses and saloons. Only the William Tell Hotel remains from this 19th century streetscape.

At an undetermined date the stepped false-front facade was changed to the continuous shiplap false-front with a straight parapet shown in the pre-restoration photos. (1977) The window and door openings of the street facade on the first floor were modified and the first level covered with stucco. A variety of lean-tos were added; a hay barn at the rear and a corrugated metal shed to one side were added when the building was converted to a feed store in 1946. However, the second floor remained virtually intact and the unusual double masonry wall was still evident. The portico covering the sidewalk was removed.

It was in this severely altered state that the present owner purchased the property. Since March of 1979, the owner and the developer have attempted to restore the building as much as possible to its appearance shown in the historic photo (c. 1890). The covered sidewalk has been replaced with detailing as close as possible to the original. The height differs from the original due to compliance with building ordinances stipulating that the feature be a uniform 7½ feet high; the three original heights were probably a result of the different phases of building. The false fronts have been restored, recreating the appearance of the original. The stone masonry has been repaired, and the inside and outside have been pointed. The original stone was without mortar; the pointing was required by the city for safety. Unobservable from the outside are structural beams and posts to carry the weight of the above story in the event of an earthquake. The design and rough texture of the wood are sympathetic and similar to the original design and materials.

The historical photograph shows some sashes of six lights. However, when the current owner purchased the building, most of the sashes were four light. All sashes now have been made uniformly four light with the feeling that these windows do retain the antique attitude. There were no six light sashes remaining at the time of purchase; however, a number of old four light windows remained, and have been retained.

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The stucco has been removed, and old siding has been used to match the original. The detailing below the windows on the outside first story was duplicated from the extant photos and books of architecture that were contemporary and appropriate to the time and place. Upstairs windows in the northern section had been lowered in the past at an unknown date; these were not raised to the original configuration in the restoration. Also, the original door between the windows on the second story of this section was not replaced for safety precautions. All original and functional doors were rehabilitated, and new doors and windows were replaced according to the old design and made functional for present use.

The stairway to the second floor is being replaced where remains have shown the original existed. The hotel room walls must be moved to comply with existing codes, but the doors and panelling will be reused in the reconstruction. There will be offices upstairs, but the feeling will be close to the original. Old lighting fixtures have been chosen to complement the original attitude.

The recently completed exterior restoration of the William Tell Hotel has returned the facade to a close approximation of its original late 19th century appearance. The severe alterations have been reversed, and the building once again conveys a strong sense of St. Helena's past. The building is the only remaining example of the community's early false-front architecture.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" 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 Constructed ca 1876 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The William Tell Hotel is a unique local example of western false-front architecture illustrating not only the functional commercial design typical of the 1870's and 1880's but also the early stone wall construction once common in Napa County and now rarely seen. The double stone wall cellar of the Hotel is the only example of the early masonry technique in downtown St. Helena which predates the native stone craftsmanship of its Main Street commercial buildings, erected in the 1880's and 1890's. The building is one of the oldest commercial buildings in St. Helena, dating from the period of the town's incorporation.

The William Tell Hotel, operated in the 1870's as the William Tell Saloon by B. Tossetti, owner of a small wine cellar in the town of St. Helena, was acquired by the Salmina family in 1878. The Salminas would later establish Larkmead Winery, now Hanns Kornell Winery, north of St. Helena. Passing out of the Salmina family in 1898, the William Tell Hotel continued under the management of Walter Martini in the early 1900's. The Hotel, operated continuously from the 1870's until the 1940's as a saloon, hotel and restaurant, was typical of the many early hotels established in Napa County by Italian, Swiss, German and French immigrants arriving in the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Helena Star, Advertisement, March-April 1876.
 Quinn, J. M. Coast Counties History (1904), p.666.
 Sanborn Insurance Maps. 1886. St. Helena.
 Napa City and County Portfolio and Directory, published and engraved by H. A. Darms,
 Napa, CA, ca September 1975.

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.21 acre **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name St. Helena, California Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|-------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|
| A | 1 0 | 5 4 6 | 4 4 0 | 4 2 6 1 6 2 0 | B | | | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing | | | |
| C | | | | | D | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | F | | | | | | |
| G | | | | | H | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are drawn to encompass the historical limit of the resource. See continuation sheet for verbal boundary description.

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 Paul H. Drymalski OHP Staff revision: February 6, 1980
 organization Developer date 11-15-79
 street & number 2710 Baker Street telephone 415/921-6522 or 707/963-7675
 city or town San Francisco state California 94123

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. Egan

title _____ date May 29, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

Bruce Van Orman
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patricia Andrews
 Chief of Registration

date 5/1/82

date 5/4/82

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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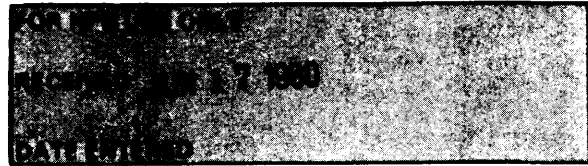
Mark Strong's Napa Valley, 1886-1924, by David and Kathleen Kernberger,
Historic Photos, Publishers, 1978

Especially old photographs of St. Helena at Vintage Hall, St. Helena,
as well as explorations of contemporary buildings in California.

Also interviews with Lloyd Stice, W. M. Martini, and T. Anthony Quinn,
great-grandson of original hotelkeeper.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a point on the northwesterly line of Spring Street from where the monument marking the intersection of the centerlines of Spring Street with Oak Avenue bears $37^{\circ}11'$ West 100.65 feet and thence South $52^{\circ}49'$ East 25.0 feet distant; and running thence from said point of commencement along the northwesterly line of Spring Street and parallel to said monumented center of Spring Street North $37^{\circ}11'$ East 75.0 feet to an iron pipe; thence North $52^{\circ}49'$ West 83 feet 10 inches to an iron pipe; thence South $37^{\circ}11'$ West 20.25 feet to an iron pipe thence North $52^{\circ}49'$ West 40 feet 2 inches to an iron pipe; thence South $37^{\circ}11'$ West 54.75 feet to an iron pipe; thence South $52^{\circ}49'$ east 124.0 feet to the point of commencement.

H
AV

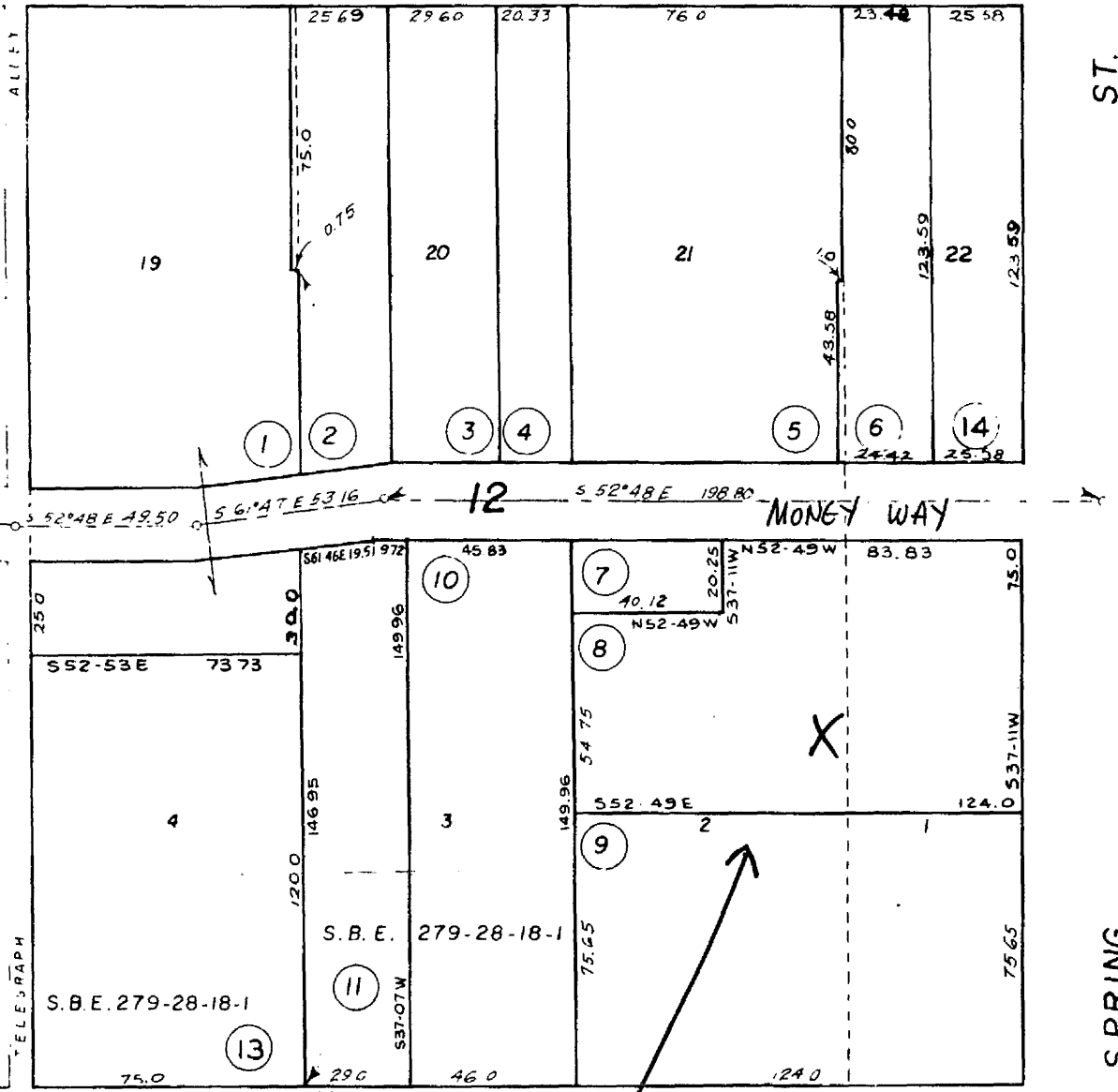
9-250-08

(08)

STATE HIGHWAYS

128 & 29

MAIN ST.



(26)

OAK AVE.

CITY

NAPA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S

(23)

Assessor

PARCEL NO.

| | | | |
|------|------|-----|--------|
| 9 | 25 | 0 | 08 |
| BOOK | PAGE | BLK | PARCEL |

Comm

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP THIS MAP AS
A PERMANENT RECORD.

Geo. P. Abato

NOTE — Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

William Tell Hotel
St. Helena, Napa County, California