

PH0507628

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATA SHEET
RECEIVED	NOV 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAR 30 1978

**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 The Castle

AND/OR COMMON
The Castle

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Ramona*
(No street number has been assigned)

CITY, TOWN Ramona NOT FOR PUBLICATION 43
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF N.W. corner of Hwy. 67 and Archie Moore Rd.
 STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY San Diego CODE 073

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 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 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
Castle Ranch, LTD. (Wayne Landis and Bill M. Williams)

STREET & NUMBER
307 S. Indian Hill

CITY, TOWN Claremont STATE California 91711
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. San Diego County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER
1222 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN San Diego STATE California 92101

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Buildings of the Ramona Area

DATE
October, 1975 _FEDERAL_ _STATE_ _COUNTY_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Ramona Pioneer Historical Society

CITY, TOWN P.O. Box 625, Ramona STATE California 92065

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Castle, a twenty-seven room mansion, designed by Vawter and Weaver, two architects who were working in the Craftsman idiom at that time, incorporates natural indigenous materials in a studied plan of rusticity and informality. This eclectic dwelling is a fantasy blend of Mission and Craftsman elements, with suggestions of the English Cottage in the picturesque chimney and sloping, rambling rooflines. Tudor details reveal themselves in several walls; native rough hewn granite stone forms the general wall mass; hand-made irregular tiles form the roof. The doorways and windows suggest the California Mission. The arched stone windows to the right of the entrance echoes George Harris's Bolton Hall. Alfred Heineman's 1911 Bowen Court playhouse, Bolton Hall's interior and the Castle's interior design share striking similarities in their use of eucalyptus logs and rough-hewn granite stone. All three suggest the rustic mountain cabin which Charles Lummis played upon in his own house in Highland Park.

The Castle represents a unique architectural and artistic expression: a copy of a fourteenth century sundial on the ceiling of the smaller living room, a dutch oven besides the large fireplace in the large living room, a great deal of subdued decoration on the ceiling of the large living room and arched entry, including Indian carvings to ward off evil spirits, are successfully combined in this fantasy dwelling.

The Castle and its setting remains in essentially unaltered condition. The large "Dutch" windmill, the stone garage, "natural" swimming pool and summer house remain intact. The walled area surrounding the Castle, which originally enclosed a vegetation moat of sixty to seventy species of ornamental and fruit trees, also includes some small frame buildings: a garage, a shed and some bunkhouses.

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/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, preliminary drawings) 1916 - 1921

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John T. Vawter, of Los Angeles
Emmor Brooke Weaver, of San Diego

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Amy Strong's "Castle" constructed between 1916 and 1921, with plans drawn from 1909 by John T. Vawter and Emmor B. Weaver, exemplifies the attempt by early twentieth century southern California residents and architects alike to develop "the California house" -- a house which would embody the virtues considered indigenous to southern California. Rusticity, informality, naturalness of expression both in the materials and life style, a coherent flow between landscape and civilization, a return to the "tranquility and beauty" of early California Mission days, these were the qualities embodied in the California Craftsman and Mission Revival movements at the turn of the century.

Vawter, who formed a brief partnership with Weaver prior to 1910 and later with Albert R. Walker in Los Angeles, is recognized for his superbly crafted, flowing dwellings, particularly the Frank C. Hill house in Los Angeles. Apparently he and Weaver drew up plans for Amy Strong's Castle while living in a tent on the property, where they incorporated some of Mrs. Strong's ideas into their final plans. Vawter is recognized as an important California architect who contributed to the spirit of the pre-World War I Arroyo Culture, and the Castle represents one of his most significant designs.

Historically, the Castle is significant as the expression of the eccentric and prominent southern California couturier, Amy Strong, and the land upon which it stands as part of original 320-acre homestead of Dr. Marshall Clay Woodson who settled there with his family in August, 1875. According to traditional information, Dr. Woodson had served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Mount Woodson was named after Dr. Woodson, and numerous articles in the San Diego Union between 1877 and 1894 attest to Woodson's local prominence during that period.

Amy Strong purchased the property from the Woodson family in 1901. Born April 5, 1860, she moved with her family to Denver. While she was a teenager, she married (and subsequently divorced) a Mr. Strong. She moved west to San Diego on Doctor's orders (threatened with tuberculosis) in 1879, and promptly went to the Woodsons' ranch, where she spent several years recuperating. After regaining her health, she returned to San Diego where she went into business as a dressmaker. She quickly achieved prominence in this field, serving as couturier not only to the leading ladies of San Diego, but to wealthy eastern ladies who spent winters at the Hotel Del Coronado. The latter included women of the Armour (meat-packing), Spaulding (sporting goods) and Timken (roller bearing) families. Mrs. Strong, who operated her business on the top floor of a building on Fifth Avenue between Broadway and E Streets in San Diego, made trips to Europe every other year to purchase fabrics and handmade laces. By the time she retired in 1908, Mrs. Strong had a staff of forty employees.

In addition to her success as a couturier, Mrs. Strong was also highly successful in her investments in San Diego Real Estate (chiefly Waterfront and University Avenue Properties).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Meyer, Ruth S., Bowen, Russell, and Ransom, Leona B. Historic Buildings of the Ramona Area (Riverside:Rubidoux) 1975. 64pp. (Pub. by, Ramona Pioneer Hist. Society)
2. Cemetary Record, Nuevo Memorial Gardens, Ramona, CA
3. Woodson Papers, Serra Museum Library, San Diego, CA
4. "Local Brevities", San Diego Union August 5, 1883. page 3.
5. Mrs. E.C. Bernhard, Fallbrook, CA niece of Mrs. Strong
6. "A 'Castle' on the Highway near Ramona", San Diego Union December 2, 1962 page j-2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
5	0
4	2
3	0

3	6
5	2
1	6
0	0

B

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Castle is located on San Diego County Assessor's parcel #278-090-012, a 78.35-acre parcel described as: "The north 1/2 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 26, excepting the state highway, in Township 13 south, Range 1 west, San Bernardino Meridian, in the County of San Diego." This parcel comprises a portion of Parcel 1 of the transaction of June 27, 1977 listed in the San Diego County Recorders Office as File #255066: reel 5937, page 1931. There has never been a survey of the portion of the property described in this nomination, and limited access has precluded the writer's making specific measures.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth S. Meyer (Revised by Staff at Office of Historic Preservation)

ORGANIZATION

Sponsored by: Archaeological Resource Management Society)

DATE

9-10-77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 1203

714-789-1695

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ramona

California

92065

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

Ken McEllan

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST *W. M. ...*
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Walter ...
 MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *3-30-78*
 DATE *3-17-78*

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The Castle, when it was built during Mrs. Strong's retirement, incorporates some of the accumulation of the ideas she had gathered in her travels, and a financial outlay just for that one building of \$50,000. She resided there until 1940, when the property was sold.

Mrs. Strong spent her final years in San Diego, where she died on March 9, 1950. The present-day Castle Ranch upon which Amy Stong's Castle is located approximates the original 320-acre Woodson homestead.

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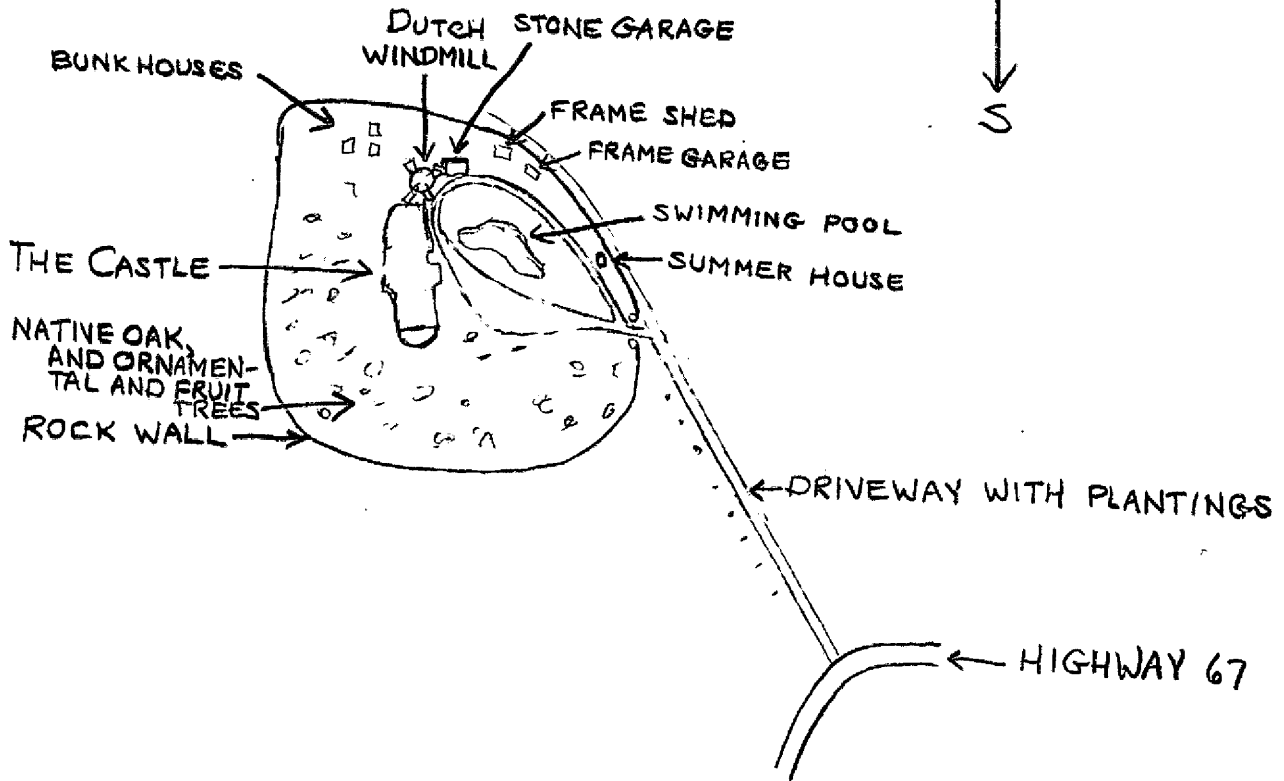
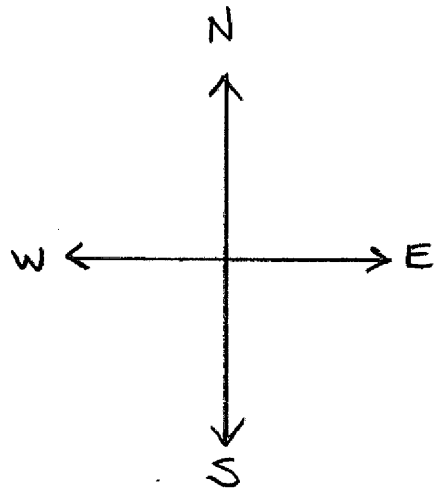
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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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7. Mrs. Bernhard
 8. California Design 1910 and Robert W. Winter edited by Timothy J. Anderson, Eudorah M. Moore,
California Design Publication, 1974



THE CASTLE SITE, OF APPROXIMATELY
3 ACRES