

DATA SHEET PH0139904

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 16 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUL 30 1975

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 CRESCENT BATH HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

THE CHIMES

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 W. Graham Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lake Elsinore

__ VICINITY OF

37

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Riverside

065

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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

Mr. Lory O. Watts and Mrs. Wilma L. Watts

STREET & NUMBER

820 Brooklyn Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Placentia

__ VICINITY OF

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Riverside County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

4050 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Riverside,

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State of California POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

DATE

June 7, 1968

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Riverside County Parks Department

CITY, TOWN

Riverside

STATE

California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crescent Bath House (The Chimes, as it is now called) is a two story eclectic structure of redwood. Built in the 1880's on the site of the first Artesian well where mineral water flowed at 132 degrees F. baths were taken for the healing power over rickets, arthritis, etc.. The structure was designed in the Moorish style so popular in the Victorian era and is graced by high pillered arches, full bannistered porches around the entire upper floor and across the front and back of the lower floor. An adequate amount of white gingerbread trim, light blue background and tinted glass windows gives the building an elaborate image.

When entering from the wide front porch through the stained glass double doors into the first floor of the Bathhouse lobby you see two large rooms with fireplaces, originally used for separate parlors for men and women. The entry way, office and one remaining staircase leading to the upper floor bedrooms is located between the parlors.

From the lower entry way are free swinging double doors leading to the 85 foot long hall which is joined on one side by the 10 mineral bathrooms and on the other side by the courtyard garden, originally the enclosed mineral pool area. At the back of the building, connected to the front by the downstairs and upstairs halls is a large room used as a machine shop. This room connected to the garden area by French doors was originally used for steam baths and is opposite the area used for mud baths.

There are 10 ceramic tile bath tubs, all below floor level (Roman style) and are provided with steps to allow submersion in the health giving mineral water to whatever depth was desired. Plumbing provided mineral water and in later years fresh water for the final rinse. The bathrooms, basically unchanged over the years, have skylights adjustable with ropes and pulleys to provide light and fresh air and all the bathrooms are connected by small five foot eight inch doors. Behind the bathrooms are examination and therapy rooms used for massage, treatments, etc. that appear to have been added to the building in about the 1920's. Some of the original furniture has been acquired for display in those rooms. As was prevalent in that era only two toilets were located in the building, both on the lower level.

A park like atmosphere is established in the rear yard which has been planted with palms, pines, shrubs and many fruit trees as well as a lath screen structure which has the appearance of a carriage house. A wide blacktop parking area surrounds the building on two sides.

The upper floor bedrooms are much the same as original, however one end of the upstairs has been remodeled into an apartment and a full bath added.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Historic
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built in 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Ferris

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crescent Bath House located on Graham Avenue at Spring Street was built in 1887 and was designed by Frank Ferris in the Moorish style popular in the Victorian Era. In the Bathhouse venture, Ferris was the partner of Franklin Heald, one of Elsinore's three founders.

The bound register of 1888 and 1889, today in the family of Franklin Heald's brother reads, "Crescent Bath House, Ferris and Heald, Props". Heald, a city founder, built the bathhouse the year before Elsinore became a city.

The bathhouse building has a proud heritage with reports of Indians bathing in a 114 degree "hot medicine" before the settlers moved West. The spring water was also used to cure sick animals of a variety of diseases.

After the discovery of Elsinore, Heald's advertising made the city a prominent health resort and the bathhouse was purchased by a series of owners and was last used as a Spa in 1945, operating as a rooming house until the late Bonnie Gaugh named it "The Chimes" using it for interior decorating service and Victorian and Early American Antiques.

In subdividing Rancho La Laguna for colonizing, Heald and his co-founders, Donald Graham and William Collier had in late 1883 chosen the property surrounding the continuously flowing hot mineral water spring for the town site. The developers immediately advertised in Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Eastern newspapers that hot mineral water coming from the ground at 110 degrees was available.

Then came the Boom.

T. S. Van Dyke in Millionaires Of A Day says, "From 1870 to 1875 Southern California was passing out of the control of the large land owners, nearly all of whom were raising cattle, horses and sheep to the exclusion of everything else, and into the control of the general farmer and fruit grower. In 1885 and 1886 the rumble of the coming boom was heard."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Riverside Press Enterprise
Lake Elsinore Sun - local paper
Elsinore History Vignettes

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .46

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	4 6 9 4 2 0	3 7 2 5 3 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Portion of Block 22
Elsinore Map Book 6/302
SD beginning SE corner
NE 200 feet by NW one hundred feet

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

Smith Falconer Jr. General Manager

ORGANIZATION

Lake Elsinore Recreation and Park District

DATE

February 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

119 E. Graham

TELEPHONE

714-674-2047

CITY OR TOWN

Lake Elsinore

STATE

California 92330

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

[Signature]

JUN 3 1975

TITLE

Director

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

7/29/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

JUL 29 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE two (2)

Under Shearing Of The Lambs, Van Dyke tells how the Easterner and his money were parted. In 1886, he says, Los Angeles was growing at the rate of 1000 people a month. "The impression is," he says, "that the California worked up the boom. Nothing could be farther from the truth."

During 1887, the boom was at its height. The collapse came in 1888.

In Elsinore, as everywhere else in Southern California, the boom had turned a sane citizenry into crazy people. Its collapse awakened them rudely from their dream. In 1888, Elsinore incorporated.

In 1889 and 1890, people were settling down to sane living once more.

The site of the Old Crescent Bath House probably has more history tied up with it than any other spot in Elsinore Valley. The early English (from 1873) and American (from 1883) settlers have told of using the hot spring for bathing and laundry work. On Monday mornings wagons drove there with tubs, washboards, benches and laundry. The women washed the clothes and hung them on bushes to dry. The men came for picnic lunches and would exchange news and conversation.

The elaborate bathhouse must have been quite a sight to travelers of the late 1980's when driving down the sparsely settled streets of Elsinore in their spring wagons or on horse back. The huge two story building of Moorish design with the highly decorated arches complete with splines, a large crescent beneath the upper story porch gable and the towering cupolo's (3) which topped the ridge crown. Add to this the color scheme of dark red, yellow and green for the main building and horizontal roof striping of the same color, must have been startling indeed.

The building is unique to Lake Elsinore history in that it is the only bathhouse still standing and still capable of offering medicinal services.