### 1. NAME

- **COMMON:** Monterey State Historic Park
- **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Stevenson House

### 2. LOCATION

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** Houston Street between Pearl and Webster
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Monterey

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

- **CATEGORY (Check One):**
  - District
  - Site
  - Structure
  - Object
- **OWNERSHIP:**
  - Public
  - Private
  - Both
- **STATUS:**
  - Occupied
  - Unoccupied
  - Preservation work in progress
- **ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:**
  - Yes: Restricted
  - Unrestricted
- **PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**
  - Agricultural
  - Commercial
  - Educational
  - Entertainment
  - Government
  - Industrial
  - Military
  - Private Residence
  - Religious
  - Scientific
  - Museum
  - Other (Specify)
  - Transportation
  - Literature

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- **OWNER'S NAME:** Department of Parks and Recreation
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 1416 9th Street (Resources Building)
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Sacramento
- **STATE:** California

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- **COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:** Monterey County Courthouse
- **STREET AND NUMBER:**
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Salinas
- **STATE:** California

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- **TITLE OF SURVEY:** California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee
- **DATE OF SURVEY:** 3/12/52
- **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:** Department of Parks and Recreation
- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 1416 9th Street (Resources Building)
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Sacramento
- **STATE:** California
The Stevenson House is of quaint Spanish Colonial Style built in the 1830s. It is a composite 2-story house. Some walls are of chalk rock laid up in mud mortar, others are of wood frame. The exterior walls are plastered with limestone mortar; bracketed overhanging roof is covered with wood shingles. The present building which has been remodeled several times for successive owners is approximately 45' x 51'. Windows are double hung wood sash and fixed casement sash. Exterior doors are of panelled wood. The interior walls are plastered; floors are of wide wood planks. Walks, garden walls, shrubs, fences and trees are non-historic developments.
State Landmark No 352 - the Stevenson House is reminiscent of the stay of Robert Louis Stevenson in Monterey - Autumn of 1879. Here he lived and courted Fannie Osbourne who was later to become his wife, and here today may be found the world's largest collection of "Stevensoniana." While prior to his fame, this period represents one of the most decisive periods in his life. Part of the house is furnished as it was when owned by the Girardin and Gonzales families. The main emphasis, however, is Stevenson.

The original adobe residence was built circa 1836 by Don Rafael Gonzales, customs administrator at the Port of Monterey. From 1856 and through the 1870's Juan Girardin, merchant, operated a general store on the lower floor, with his family residence and some cheap rooms for boarders upstairs. Frame additions were added during this period. It was the cheap room and board that attracted Robert Louis Stevenson to the house.

Stevenson's attachment to Mrs. Fannie Van de Grift Osbourne was a principal factor in his decision to come to California and Monterey, where Mrs. Osbourne, whom he had met in Europe, was sojourning. Both Stevenson's character and the entire trend of his life were influenced by the brief, three-months stay here on the Monterey coast. "In Monterey some of his greatest friendships matured; among them were those of Fannie Osbourne, who became his wife; her sister Nellie Sanchez, his amanuensis, and Jules Simonean, his lifelong friend."

While his health as well as his fortunes seemed at a low ebb here, Monterey and the modest residence in this house proved to be a turning point. Stevenson felt here for the first time, it has been said, "the need for money and the necessity to earn it strengthened the character of his writings . . . he worked furiously, spurred only by his need."

Among works begun, planned or written in his quarters at the Stevenson House were An Amateur Emigrant; The Pavilion on the Links; Prince Otto; essays on Thoreau and the Japanese reformer Yoshida Torajiro; The Old Pacific Capitol. Inspiration for Stevenson's famous classic Treasure Island was drawn from the rugged beauty of the Monterey coast.
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 0.5 Acres

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES**

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<thead>
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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<td>36° 35' 51&quot;</td>
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**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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**Name and Title:**

Allen W. Melts, State Park Historian III

**Organization:**

Department of Parks and Recreation

**Street and Number:**

1416 9th Street (Resources Building)

**City or Town:**

Sacramento

**State:** California

**Date:** 3/20/70

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**STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Name

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 16, 1970

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**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Signature

Date JAN 7 1972

**ATTEST:**

Signature

Date DEC 9 1971