

DATA SHEET

PH0665801

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 29 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 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

Welch-hurst

AND/OR COMMON

Judge J.R. Welch Ranch

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

15800 Sanborn Road (within Sanborn Skyline County Park) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Saratoga

VICINITY OF

13th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Santa Clara

085 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Santa Clara County ✓

STREET & NUMBER

70 West Hedding Street

CITY, TOWN

San Jose,

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Santa Clara County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

70 West Hedding Street

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABS-Santa Clara County Project 1977

DATE

summer 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

HABS Archives, Prints and Photographs Division,
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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

This large redwood log house with rustic details is set amongst extensively landscaped grounds.

The overall measurements of this irregularly planned house are 82' x 128'. There are four different foundations: the southwestern wing seems to have a stone or concrete block foundation. At the center there are apparently only mud sills. The northwest section has a poured concrete foundation and the north section has stone foundation walls. The exterior walls are constructed of halved redwood logs. Where they project at the corners the full circular section is retained. The logs are horizontal on the ground floor and vertical on the upper floor.

This building's structure is very irregular. It appears that the roof is supported in part by the log walls. There is no frame system beneath the half-log veneer. In the main room there is a large truss system, but this system does not reach the gable walls and the lower chords seem to fall over the door and window openings indicating that they are decorative rather than structural. The front entrance porch has a gable roof supported at its outer extremity by vertical logs resting on two large stone pedestals. There are two large gazebos on the east facade, the northern one abutts the building. These are supported by vertical log posts.

There are fireplaces in the living room and northwing. Both chimneys are covered on the exterior by a very rough aggregate concrete. The living room chimney is surmounted by a high cylindrical sheet metal flue.

The main entryway contains a wide unpaneled oak door with four, bevel edged glass lights. The doorway has sidelights of 22 light vertical window panels. The door to the kitchen is a 10' light window panel. There are six double glass doors in the living room. Most of the windows are swinging casement windows. Some are multipaned while others are a single large light.

The southwestern wing has a hipped roof. The central portion has a gable roof interrupted by the gable of the entrance porch and that of the stairway. The roof of the north wing is irregular. Roofing material is generally large shakes. The two gazebo roofs are six-sided pyramids, covered by shakes.

There is a basement under the north wing. The first floor of the southwest wing consists of two bedrooms with a bath between at the extreme southwest. A large living room in this wing is connected to an hexagonal dining room. The dining room is the pivot point of the house. Off of it, to the northwest, are the kitchen and other related service rooms. To the north is a family room wing. The second floor is accessible by the main stairway which opens into the living room in the south west wing. This stairway is composed of polished log posts, and half log steps with the balustrade supported in part by irregularly shaped manzanita branches. It has three runs with a

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large landing after the first run of two steps and a smaller landing after the second run. Two bedrooms with a bath between are located above the identical first floor arrangement at the extreme southwest. Above the north wing there are two bedrooms, a cedar closet, and a bathroom. Another stairway, a later addition links these bedrooms to the first floor.

The living and dining rooms have wooden paneling. The living room ceiling has exposed wooden decking, rafters and trusses. The ceiling in the dining room is composed of boxed beams with recessed panels. The remaining rooms have either painted or wall-papered plaster walls and in some instances, acoustical tiled ceilings.

The house is now wired for electrical lighting and is heated by two forced hot air furnaces. The house sits on a relatively flat area on one of the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The front of the house faces a series of terraced and extensively landscaped grounds. An artificial pond with an island lies to the southwest.

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

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1902-1914 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Welch-hurst was established as a gentleman's working ranch and family retreat at the turn of the century by one of Santa Clara County's most popular judges on the Superior Court, James R. Welch. The house is rustic and has an exterior of rough redwood logs. The interior features redwood paneling in the California Arts and Crafts tradition. The estate is unique in the county for its use of indigenous materials and the integration of the house with its site, a hillside forest, through extensive landscaping.

James Ray Welch was born on February 2, 1860 near Plainview, Illinois. He immigrated with his family to Missouri in 1866. The economic depression of the 1870's forced Welch to set out on his own to Idaho when he was fourteen years old. There he attended public school and became a teacher and assistant principal by age 20. He fought Indians with the Army in Montana before settling in San Jose in 1882. There he attended the University of the Pacific and Heald's Business College while serving as Principal of the University's Commercial department. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1886. Welch served as San Jose City attorney from 1894 to 1897 when he went into private practice. From 1904 to 1931 Welch sat on the State Superior Court.

Judge Welch was highly thought of and respected as a civic minded person. He served as a member of the voting board of the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association a precursor of the Sunsweet Growers Cooperative. He was instrumental in lobbying successfully for retention of the Skyline highway in its scenic route along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Welch's funeral was attended by Governor James Ralph, Jr., State Senators Sanborn Young, Herbert C. Jones, State Assemblyman Frank X. Crist and numerous State Supreme Court Justices, U.S. Marshalls and attorneys. A wreath was presented in Welch's honor, paid for by a collection taken from prisoners in the county jail who had been sentenced by him.

The house remained in the hands of the Welch family until 1955 when Vernon Pick bought it. Mr. Pick, a Minnesotan, prospected in 1951 for uranium first in Colorado and then with great success in Utah. In 1954 he sold his assets to the Atlas Corporation for \$9 million.

Welch started to accumulate land for an estate during the 1890s. It is possible that a small log cabin existed on the estate as early as 1890. The main house is probably the result of a large addition early in the twentieth century to an extensively

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prepared from HABS reports submitted by Dr. Robert Brueggmann, HABS Santa Clara Project (1977), Supervisor, and Carolyn Hamm, HABS Santa Clara Project (1977), Historian.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Castle Rock Ridge

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 110 58,23,8,0 4,12,16,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Candace Reed, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

11/16/77

STREET & NUMBER

Department of the Interior

TELEPHONE

202-523-5474

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Knox Mellon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

R. B. Rottig
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *William Lovovich*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 9/18/78

DATE Sept 14, 1978

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remodeled older section. Welch-hurst is typical of the large estates which prominent Bay Area residents established along the foothills on the western side of the San Francisco peninsula. Welch-hurst is very rustic and follows the tradition of resort houses and hotels established in the nineteenth century in the Adirondacks and Pocos before being imported to the west. The house probably owes a debt to the California Arts and Crafts Movement and the Arroyo Craftsman Magazine. The estate was used as a working ranch with acres planted in plums, walnuts, and pears.