

PH0036625

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	CALIFORNIA	
COUNTY:	CALAVERAS	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER -		DATE
		FEB 23 1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: **Thorn House**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Thorn House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **87 East St. Charles**

CITY OR TOWN: **San Andreas**

STATE: **California** CODE: **95249** COUNTY: **Calaveras** CODE: **009**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Bernhardt M. and Marjorie F. Jensen**

STREET AND NUMBER: **87 East St. Charles**

CITY OR TOWN: **San Andreas** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Courthouse Government Center**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **San Andreas** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **ASSESSORS MAP**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Government Center**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **San Andreas** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **CALIFORNIA**

COUNTY: **CALAVERAS**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: **FEB 23 1972**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thorn House, a residence, California version of New England Gothic was built circa 1857. Bricks were hauled from Stockton, 50 miles distant, by ox teams. Parts of lower section are constructed of native stone and adobe. Walls at base are 30" thick. Roof is steep pitched. Ornamental barge boards, porch, and second floor veranda on three sides. Full length French doors, nine in number, open to porch and second floor veranda. Spiral wood staircase connects ground floor, middle floor, and third floor. There is a trap door to high ceilinged attic which covers entire area of the house. This house had the first plastered interior in Calaveras County.

Built on a slope with dry-stone retaining wall; from the front the house appears to be two stories with attic. Side and rear views show imposing four story height. Area of interior floor space is about 3500 square feet. Eleven rooms plus entrance hall.

Original furnishings include Weber grand piano, marble fireplace and French pier mirrors, brought around the Horn; matching amoire, bed and dresser; iron safe, records, and other relics of Gold Rush days. Door knobs, latches, and most other hardware as well as shutters are original.

Minor changes made until it was abandoned in about 1952. Kitchen updated and one ground floor room was refloored about 1917.

1957-67 Present owners completely restored Thorn House as near to original as possible, interior and exterior, consistent with modern wiring, plumbing, heating.

Supplementary furnishings and lighting fixtures are from family heirlooms of appropriate period and design, plus collections of European, Asian, and African art.

Garden area - nearly 3 acres. Native oaks and pines supplemented with plantings of more than 300 other trees. Extensive lawns, red stone tile terrasse, pools, waterfall, old style fountain, Oriental corner, grape arbor, parking area, have been added by present owners.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1851

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thorn House, the most imposing example of California "Carpenter" Gothic in Calaveras County was built by Sheriff Ben Thorn, famous for his activities during the Gold Rush era.

To quote Richard Coke Wood in "Tales of Old Calaveras":
 "One of the greatest men in the history of Calaveras County was Benjamin K. Thorn, who served as sheriff and deputy sheriff for a period of forty-seven years. He was the fearless officer who arrested and brought to justice many of the worst criminals who had flocked to California in search of easy money. Among the many notorious bandits that he captured were Sam (Long-haired) Brown and the "PO 8", Charles Bolton, alias Black Bart."

The house which has been restored to excellent condition, and the garden of almost 3 acres which is landscaped, attract tourists and historians. Although nothing indicates Thorn House is now other than a private residence, tourists and persons with special interests frequently request permission to inspect the house and gardens. Additionally, the house and garden are frequently used as the site of benefit teas, etc., the most recent of which had an attendance of approximately 200.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sheriff Ben Thorn and/or Thorn House
 Anybody's Gold by Joseph Henry Jackson D. Appleton-Cantury Co. 1941
 Takes of Od Calaveras by Richard Coke Wood
 Calaveras, The Land of the Skulls by Richard Coke Wood - The Mother Lode
 Press, Sonora, California 1955
 The Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Ca.
 The Calaveras Enterprise, San Andreas,
 Las Calaveras (Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras Co. Historical Assn.
 Memoirs and Genealogy of Representative Citizens of Northern Calif., Chicago 1901
 San Francisco Call, Nov. 16, 1905

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 11' 44"	120° 40' 40"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
 10/703370
 4229840

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2. acres ±

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Marjorie F. Jensen

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
87 East St. Charles St.

CITY OR TOWN: **San Andreas,** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Marjorie Jensen*
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: October 16, 1970

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

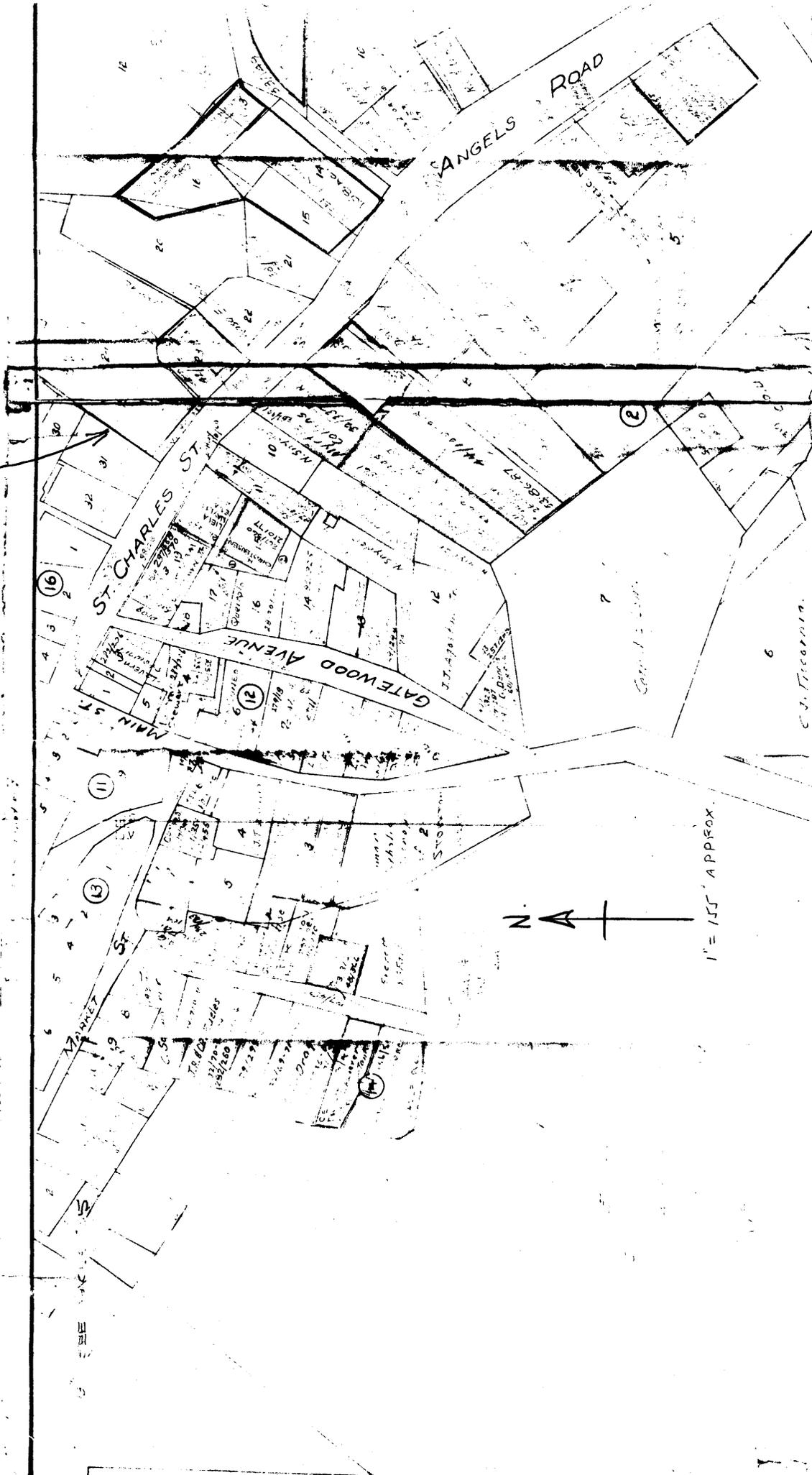
FEB 28 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST: *William M. ...*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **JAN 28 1972**

From House



1" = 155' APPROX.

S. J. Tiscornia