

FEB 14 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

CEIVED

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hotel Chauvet  
other names/site number Chauvet Hotel

AUG 22 1989

### 2. Location

street & number 13756 Arnold Drive N/A not for publication  
city, town Glen Ellen N/A vicinity  
state California code CA county Sonoma code 097 zip code 95442

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Weather Feb. 9, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Date  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the  
National Register

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

Helmut Byers 2/15/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof WOOD

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hotel Chauvet is the largest building in a small central historic and current business district of the hamlet Glen Ellen. The district is comprised of four historic buildings, three of which were built by Joshua Chauvet, and constructed of brick from Mr. Chauvet's local brick yard. Of the five hotels in town in the early 1900's, this is the only remaining structure, probably due to its fire resistant masonry construction. The Hotel Chauvet is a brick commercial building classically influenced in its formalism. The structure is rectangular in ground plan (60'-3" by 74'-5") with three full stories. The ground floor is comprised of the public spaces, restaurant, bar, kitchen, service areas, etc., and the upper stories are comprised of hotel rooms. Very little has been changed from the original construction, the front portico being one exception, and a one story rear porch and balcony which has been removed.

The three story brick facade is composed of a horizontal window composition, delineated by a continuous masonry window sill and corbelling that connects the windows of each story the entire width of the building. The segmented arched window and door openings are further grouped into three bays, divided by pilasters. The central bay is composed of a large ground story hooded arched entry door, with transom and sidelites, the hood detail constructed of moulded masonry of contrasting color. Two adjacent narrow arched openings of the central bay, as well as the end bay arched windows have a contrasting masonry detail outlining the top of the arched brick. The upper two stories of the central bay are composed of narrower windows, with the top story having a continuous arched window hooding detail, undulating over the four windows. The outer bays consist of single large arched window openings of equal size on each story. The building is topped with a corbelled stepped parapet, with a central integral masonry sign "1906 HOTEL CHAUVET." The building has ornamental iron medallions at floor and roof elevations, where the floor and roof structures are connected to the masonry walls. They are used for support and may have been provided as a result of the 1906 earthquake.

The yellow brick masonry units are said to have been handmade at Chauvet's own kilns. The running bond coursing has a through wall bonding course every sixth course. The segmented arched openings use a three high soldier coursing at the top story, and are four coursed at the lower stories. The parapet has six stepped corbelling which is carried through the central pilasters and emphasized at the corner pilasters.

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The roof is gently sloping with built-up roofing, surrounded on all four sides by the masonry parapet wall. The roof and floors are supported by the exterior bearing masonry walls, and interior bearing wood frame partitions.

The interior of the building has recently been under reconstruction, with the interior finishes having been removed. Only the sub-floor, floor framing, bearing portion framing, and rough stairs remain in the interior. The ground floor ceiling was twelve feet high. Originally the ground floor walls were lath and plaster, with wood wainscoting. On the walls there were vertical one by fours and ornate wood crown moulding. There were two sets of stairs. The front stairs led to the second and third floors, and the rear stairs were for ingress and egress. The second floor had plaster interior walls and ornate baseboard. The rooms had panel doors and the door framing had ornate wood trim. The third floor had lath and plaster walls. Originally a dance hall, there was a 1500 square foot maple wood dance floor on the third floor.

The original building had a ground story portico which provided a cover entrance, and a second story balcony to the hotel's front elevation. This appears from historic photographs to have been constructed with round iron columns, with the balcony railing built of wood newel posts topped with ball finials, and a balustrade of vertical members with a stepped horizontal intermediate member, a railing detail popular during this period. The original portico was removed by the hotel's owners in the early 1940's. A one story rear porch and balcony was used as kitchen storage. It was an addition to the building from an unknown date and removed in 1986. There were no other changes from the original construction.

In summary, this old brick building is a fine example of early 20th century masonry construction and a major remaining building in the important history of Sonoma County's summer resort golden years. Even more importantly, however, is the fact that this building is THE major building in a series of four adjacent downtown historic buildings comprising the historic commercial district of Glen Ellen, when it was home to world famous Jack London. It is an integral part of the physical fabric of Glen Ellen and, as such, acts as a key element to the entry to Jack London State Park, with Jack London Museum, London's Wolf House ruins, and thus supports the important historic fabric of the vicinity.

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1906-1920

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hotel Chauvet meets National Register eligibility under criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for the association with the tourist industry in Glen Ellen. Through the advent of the railroad and the wine industry, Glen Ellen was bursting with activity during the summer months when Bay Area tourists piled into town to take advantage of the sun, wine, food, swimming, fishing and boating. From 1882 until the late teens, the resorts, hotels and saloons were main attractions.

In 1882, the development of the railroad lines in Sonoma Valley brought the first onset of tourist activity to Glen Ellen. In an area that primarily had been agricultural, with a few residences, a cooper shop, a stage coach line and a hotel, the next twenty years would bring tremendous changes to the area. By the turn of the century, many resorts and hotels and saloons would be established.

In addition to the influence of the railroad in bringing tourists to Glen Ellen, the wine industry in 1880 was large and productive and was developing a widespread reputation. Joshua Chauvet was the owner of a large wine operation south of town and produced 125,000 gallons of wine in that year. He was in the top five of wine producers in the area. Sonoma County at that time surpassed all other areas of California in wine production. It wasn't until 1885 that Napa Valley surpassed Sonoma in total wine production.

By 1900, the Southern Pacific and Northwestern Pacific railroad lines would bring as many as 3,000 visitors on weekends. San Francisco Bay Area residents, eager to escape the local fog, could board at the San Francisco Ferry Terminal in Marin. Families could stay in hotels, cottages, tent cabins or tents in Glen Ellen. The availability of good transportation allowed working businessmen to join their families on weekends. Glen Ellen had established itself as a busy destination resort.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Camping out and warm summer weather were only part of the attraction for tourists. The five hotels in the early 1900's, the Glen Ellen, Riverside, Mervyn, Roma and Hotel Chauvet, provided dancing and entertainment. In 1914, the Hotel Mervyn advertised bathing, boating and fishing.

The eight active saloons, Sobbe's, Pancrazzi's, Thierkoff's, The Pioneer, Monahan's, Mervyn Hotel, Hotel Chauvet and another above the butcher shop, were lively spots. In fact, in 1901 the citizens were granted a separate township from Sonoma for the purpose of acquiring a constable and a justice of the peace to keep order in the village.

In the spring of 1903, Jack London brought his family to Glen Ellen for the summer. In 1905, he bought the property that became the "Beauty Ranch." Through his writing, the Valley of the Moon became well-known throughout the world.

In 1916, Glen Ellen acquired additional tourist entertainment, a large auditorium on Carquinez Street, where movies were shown twice a week. The Hotel Chauvet in 1918 was boasting its place as "Glen Ellen's big hotel," with new decor and furnishings.

Prohibition caused the resort town to "go dry," although a front page raid on the Hotel Chauvet in 1920 turned up evidence of some cordials stored in a closet under the stairway. With the beginning of automobile travel in the late teens and early twenties, the railroads declined in popularity, and the tourist establishments in Glen Ellen also lost business. The last train to Glen Ellen finally was disbanded in 1941.

The Hotel Chauvet, managed by F. Farnocchio in 1907, F.E. Nichols in 1917 and Monroe and Nielson in 1918, was the location for family and organization parties, such as the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Masons. There also were lots of socials, such as whist parties and dances. The Hotel Chauvet was used for these activities more than were the other many restaurants and bars in Glen Ellen.

The Hotel Chauvet is the only remaining structure of all the hotels and saloons of the early 1900's. It is the largest building and a major focal point in the small central historic district that comprises four historic buildings, three of which were built by Joshua Chauvet. It is situated between the Joshua Chauvet House, a fine small brick home (1905, already a designated Sonoma County Landmark #65), and Shone's Country Market (1905, the former post office), a two-story commercial with the ground floor built of native stone by Mr. Poppe. The other remaining historic building in central Glen Ellen is northeast of the Hotel Chauvet and across the street from it. Now known as the London Lodge (1905), it is a two-story brick commercial used in early times as a grocery store. The Hotel Chauvet is a formidable reminder of the history of Glen Ellen within the small, central district.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

California, An Illustrated History of Sonoma County, California, The Lewis Publishing Company, 113 Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, 1889.

Gregory, Tom, History of Sonoma County, California, with Biographical Sketches, Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California, 1911.

Sonoma Index Tribune, 100th Anniversary Issue of the newspaper, July 19, 1979.

Sonoma League for Historic Preservation, Historic Resources Survey, May 1, 1979.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property .0968 Acre (4500 sq. feet)

UTM References

A 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the original parcel (Lot No. 2 as shown on Parcel Map No. 2624 Book 166, page 1, filed in the office of the County Recorder of Sonoma County) occupied by the building, which is 60'3" by 74'5" and approximately 4500 square feet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the building known as the Hotel Chauvet, excluding the remaining part of the property which does not contribute to the building's historic significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Watson, Secretary

organization Glen Ellen Association date August 18, 1989

street & number P.O. Box 448 telephone (707) 996-8604

city or town Glen Ellen state Ca. zip code 95442