

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

(State use only) Ser _____ Site _____ Mo. _____ Yr. _____
 UTM _____ Q _____ NR 3 SHL _____
 Lat _____ Lon _____ Era _____ Sig _____
 Adm _____ T2 _____ T3 _____ Cat _____ HABS _____ HAER _____ Fed _____
10-724080-4171320

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Stage Stop
2. Historic name, if known: Saunders' Store
3. Street or rural address Yosemite Blvd. & La Grange Road
 City: LaGrange ZIP: 95329 County: Stanislaus
4. Present owner, if known: Stanislaus County Address: 1716 Morgan Road
 City: Modesto, CA ZIP: 95351 Ownership is: Public Private
5. Present Use: Storage Original Use: Store
 Other past uses: Stage Stop

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Built in 1850-1851, the Saunders' store appears to have been constructed in two phases. This is most emphatically indicated by the vertical seam delineated by the cracking stucco on the facade. Erected primarily from rubblestone, the rectangular units differ from one and another in the portion of stone to sand mortar used in wall construction, in the application of cut stone facings to the facades, in decorative detail and in iron door type. The unit on the left appears to be more carefully designed and constructed as well as somewhat older.

The rubblestone-mortar ratio is higher in the left unit than in the unit on the right; its three bay pedimented facade appears as a thoughtful classic rendering, cut stone facing has been applied to the front and rear of the building in the unit on the left; whereas it has only been applied to the facade on the right, and the heavy iron doors are both stylistically and structurally different from one another. (See continuation sheet.)

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:
 Lot size (in feet) Frontage 178' x 205'
 Depth _____';
 or approx. acreage _____.

9. Condition: (check one)
 a. Excellent b. Good c. Fair
 d. Deteriorated e. No longer in existence

10. Is the feature a. Altered? b. Unaltered?

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)
 a. Open land b. Scattered buildings
 c. Densely built-up d. Residential
 e. Commercial f. Industrial
 g. Other

12. Threats to site:
 a. None known b. Private development
 c. Zoning d. Public Works project
 e. Vandalism f. Other

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 5/3/78

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone b. Brick c. Stucco d. Adobe e. Wood
f. Other _____

15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? b. Moved? c. Unknown?

16. Year of initial construction 1850-51 This date is: a. Factual b. Estimated

17. Architect (if known): _____

18. Builder (if known): William Saunders, John and Henry Inman, Nathan McFarland &

19. Related features: a. Barn b. Carriage house c. Outhouse d. Shed(s) e. Formal garden(s)
f. Windmill g. Watertower/tankhouse h. Other _____ i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

The Saunders' Store is a good example of a stone building type utilized during the 1850's in California gold mining communities. Its prominent iron doors are also representative. The classic rendering of the left unit is moreover an interesting translation of the popular Greek Revival style.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture b. Arts & Leisure
c. Economic/Industrial d. Exploration/Settlement e. Government f. Military
g. Religion h. Social/Education

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:
M.B. Hoover, H.E. Rensch and E.G. Rensch, Historic Spots in California, 3rd edition, Stanford, 1966.

23. Date form prepared: 5/4/78 By (name): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Organization: _____

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Continuation Sheet

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Description

These stylistic details all correspond to the vernacular Greek Revival work executed in LaGrange in 1850. Furthermore, stone buildings of this type were commonly built during the early gold rush years, often serving the communities as stores. The unit on the right has no pediment, no classic detail or proportion; it is a two bay structure that appears to have been more hastily constructed. The iron doors appear to have been differently built into the stone fabric, while the relieving arches over the entrances are more sophisticated structurally than those over the entrances of the other unit. These features would indicate a slightly later date, probably later in the 1850's. Both units may be representative of a German immigrant stone building tradition practiced in other parts of the West and Southwest.

A wood shed abutts the rear of the structures and has in part collapsed. An I beam juts out through the door of the right unit and is supported by a wood post to form a kind of metal archway in the front of the building. Probably functioning as an additional structural support to aid a failing arch system, the I beam unit and the rear sheds represent the major intrusions to the building. The facades of both buildings were also stuccoed at a later date; this has in part weathered away.