

PH0505854

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 18 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 10 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 Greystone Cellars (Originally Bourn & Wise Wine Cellar)

AND/OR COMMON

Christian Brothers Wine Aging Cellars

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2555 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
St. Helena

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Napa

CODE
055

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Wine Aging & Champagne Production

NAME
Mount La Salle Vineyards

STREET & NUMBER
c/o Christian Brothers, Post Office Box 420

CITY, TOWN
Napa

VICINITY OF

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Napa County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
Napa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Napa

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Napa County Historical Inventory

DATE
1974-77

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Napa County Conservation & Planning Department

CITY, TOWN
Napa

STATE
California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Greystone Cellars, built during 1889 by San Francisco architects, Percy and Hamilton, retains its original appearance to a remarkable degree. Percy's 1889 description of his recently executed design, found in the Memorial and Biographical History of Northern California (1891), reveals how close the building remains to its original appearance, and also serves as a measure for the changes, mainly landscape, which have occurred since that date:

This magnificent wine-cellar is the largest of its kind in California, if not in the world, and the most complete in all its appointments. It is built on a sloping hillside on the west side of the county road and about one mile north of the town of St. Helena. The earth taken from the cut made in the hillside is graded in front to form a broad level terrace where a side-track connects with the N.V.R.R. and a gentle slope to the road. The building is 400 feet long and seventy-eight feet in width, with a front projection of 50 x 20 feet, in which is the main entrance, office and sample rooms. A broad flight of granite steps lead to the red tiled floor of the main entrance. From the office entrance a central passage twenty feet wide extends across the buildings with stone walls on both sides, thus separating the building in two distinct wings. In the rear and on a level with the first floor is a driveway fourteen feet wide extending the entire length of the building and open to the grade at both ends. This driveway is covered with concrete beams and arches, forming another roadway at the level of the second floor and with properly graded approaches at both ends. Above the retaining wall at this roadway is a graded road on the hillside nearly level with the third floor, from which grapes are taken directly to the crushers in the attic. From the covered driveway at the level of first floor are openings for thirteen tunnels, which are designed to extend 250 feet into the hillside. These tunnels are to be sixteen feet wide and eleven feet high at the center and are for storing wine.

The walls of the entire building are built of a light gray volcanic stone found in the immediate neighborhood, and put together with Portland cement, while the trimmings are of a red stone of similar formation. The stone-work is finished with rock face, giving a bold and massive appearance to the work. The entire roof is covered with a black slate of fine quality found in California. The interior construction is a most substantial character. The first floor is of Portland cement, neatly finished and graded to the various outlets. The second floor is of Portland cement, concrete with strong twisted bars of iron imbedded in the concrete (Ransom's patent method). This entire floor is constructed in twenty four foot spans and supported by iron columns. The third floor is of heavy timber construction, capable of being used for wine storage. An attic formed in the roof gives ample room for crushing grapes and distributing to the tanks below, while a stone tower twenty feet square, extending one story above the roof, gives accommodations to a large water-tank and furnishes a fine point from which to view the Napa Valley.

The facilities for making and handling wine in this vast establishment are very complete. In a small basement under the central projection is located a boiler, engine and dynamo for generating electricity, which is conveyed by proper wires to all parts of the building and tunnels furnishing incandescent lights and power for pumping wine at any point required. Waterpipes are run along all gangways and passages with hose cods at frequent intervals. There are four-inch iron pipes with neat brass plugs placed through walls and floors every thirty feet for the purpose of piping wine from one part of the building to another, also from wagons outside to any portion of the

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

buildings or tunnels, or to discharge directly from the building into the cars in front.

In approaching the building after ascending a short flight of polished mosaic steps and passing under a massive Romanesque arch one finds himself in a neat and spacious vestibule with walls of colored brick, floor of mosaics and ceiling of moulded concrete. On the left a door opens into an office about twenty feet square, with walls and ceilings paneled in antique quartered oak with desks and furniture to match. A cosy stone fireplace occupies one corner and a massive vault door another, thus making one end of the office octagonal. On the opposite side of the vestibule is a sample room, elegantly fitted up walls and ceilings of paneled mahogany, with open bottle racks around the walls and two beautiful lockers of mahogany and plate glass beveled. The windows in these two rooms are polished plate glass with artistic stained glass transoms, while a fancy parquet floor completes the finish. On the opposite side of the vestibule from the main entrance is a large oak and glass door leading directly into the twenty-foot passage between the two wings.

In this passage is an iron staircase leading to the third story, also a hydraulic ram elevator. On each side of this passage in each story are three doors eight feet wide, and from which a vista of 200 feet is obtained in either direction down spacious gangways, where great casks of varnished oak containing 2,000 gallons of wine each set closely on both sides. The entire building has a capacity for storing 2,500,000 gallons of wines, besides space required for making wines. A distillery is placed a little north of the building and the superintendent's house on the south.

The 13 tunnels originally cut into the hill behind the building have since collapsed due to water seepage and 1906 earthquake damage, and the front terrace, entrance way and landscaping have undergone a number of changes. The original front lawn and flower beds are now a paved parking lot, and although the original large stone arch over the driveway still stands, another exit has been cut in the original stone wall north of the arch.

The original stone distillery north of the building and the superintendent's house on the south mentioned by Percy still exist but are used for different purposes. Interior modifications include the addition of an elevator, and a larger tasting room. However, the magnificent tasting and sales rooms are still preserved in their original form.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Cornerstone laid
June 18, 1886 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Percy and Hamilton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greystone Cellars, the largest stone wine cellar in California and possibly the world, has both unusual architectural and historical significance. Harold Kirker in California's Architectural Frontier states that "the original W. B. Bourn Wine Cellar at St. Helena, with its arched entranceway and tower, stone mullions and transoms, low sweeping roof and well-fitted stonework, is perhaps the best testimony to Richardson's style on the West Coast."

Designed in 1889 by San Francisco architects George Percy and F. F. Hamilton, this building retains its original integrity and stands as a remarkable example of late 19th century Romanesque architecture in California.

The largeness and simplicity of the imposing stone facade, the well-disposed masses, and the straight-forward sweep of the building are highly successful adaptations of the Richardsonian Romanesque to the needs of a large Napa Valley wine cellar. The building remains as an outstanding visual reminder of Napa Valley's late 19th century picturesque quality and provides a tangible link to Napa Valley's historic viticultural operations of the last century.

Greystone Cellars, conceived of and financed by William J. Bourn II, a financial and civic leader in California, was a pioneer attempt to provide storage facilities and monetary advances to local growers. The San Francisco Chronicle on September 2, 1889 devoted an editorial to the experiment:

A communication has been received called the attention of the Chronicle to the completion of the enormous wine-storage cellar of the Bourn and Wise Wine Company at St. Helena, Napa county, and we deviate from our usual rule, and notice this enterprise editorially because it seems to be the pioneer in a line of industry which the Chronicle has steadily advocated. We have said, time out of mind, that the wine industry of this State could not flourish until in each wine-growing district there should be established a scheme of storage and cellaring by means of which the wine-maker of limited product and means could make his crop available at once....the proprietors will receive wine on storage, and will furnish warehouse receipts, and, in case of demand, will advance money on the receipts.

William Bourn was well-known for his innovative and successful ventures. Aside from his interests in Napa Valley, he was a second-generation owner of the Empire Mine in Grass Valley and made it the richest gold-ore producing mine in California. He was President of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company which merged into the present-day Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and he successfully reorganized the Spring Valley Water Works, thus creating the foundations for the City of San Francisco's Water Department.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Everett E. Wise, Bourn's partner in the venture, sold his interest in the cellars, originally known as the Bourn and Wise Wine Cellar, shortly after the operation began, and in 1894 Charles Carpy, one of the founders of the California Wine Institute, acquired the cellars and deeded them over to the Institute which used "Greystone Cellars" as its label at this winery. The Visceglia Bros. bought the winery in 1925 and continued the use of the Greystone label. During the 1950's Christian Brothers acquired the site, and Mount La Salle Vineyards are the present owners.

Greystone Cellars, as one of the most imposing and successful Richardsonian Romanesque buildings in the West, contributes significantly to California's architectural history. Historically, the building, conceived of and built by one of California's leading turn-of-the-century capitalists, was a significant pioneering effort in the Napa Valley to provide storage facilities and financial flexibility for small local growers.

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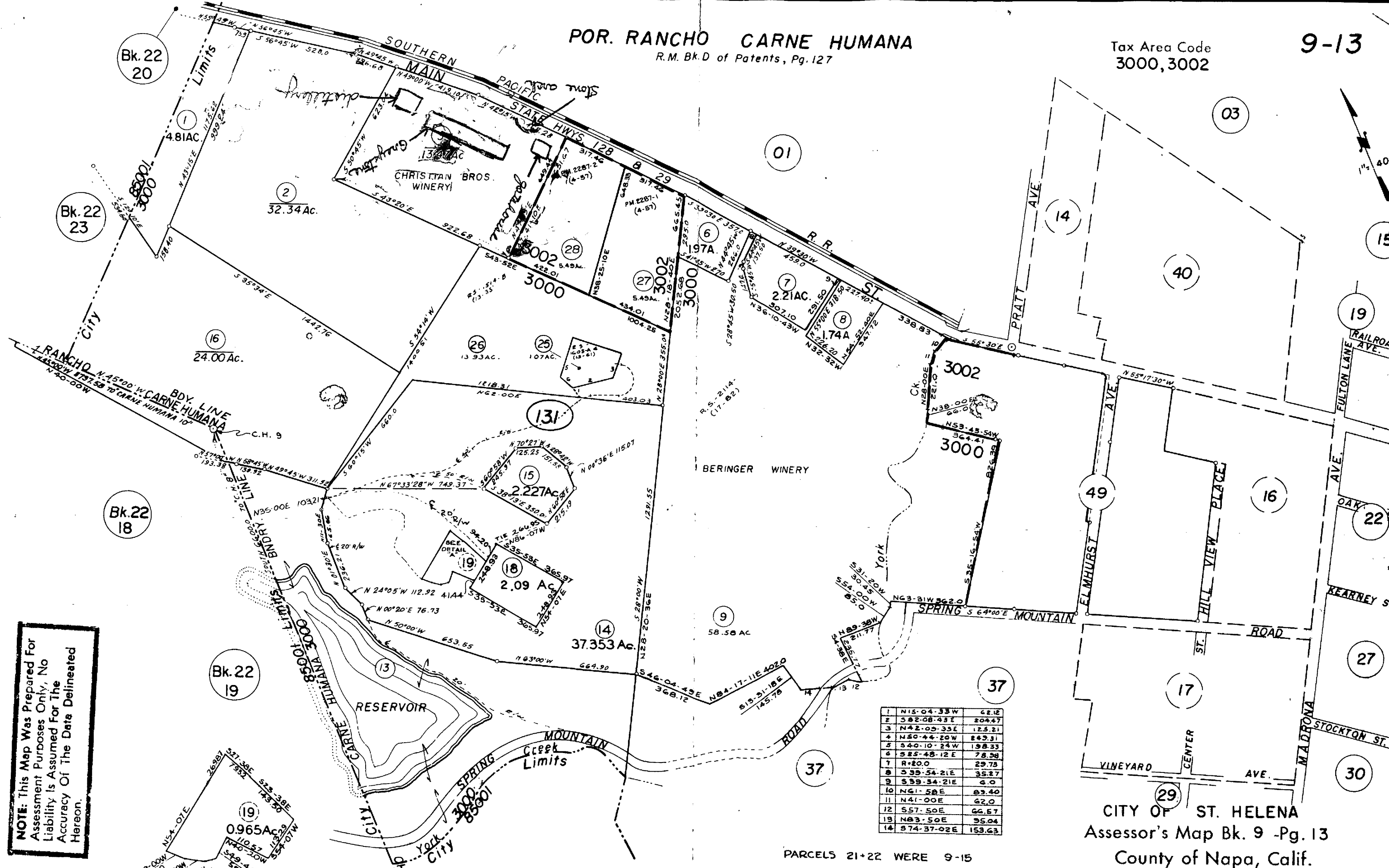
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

San Francisco Chronicle, September 2, 1889.

POR. RANCHO CARNE HUMANA
R.M. Bk. D of Patents, Pg. 127

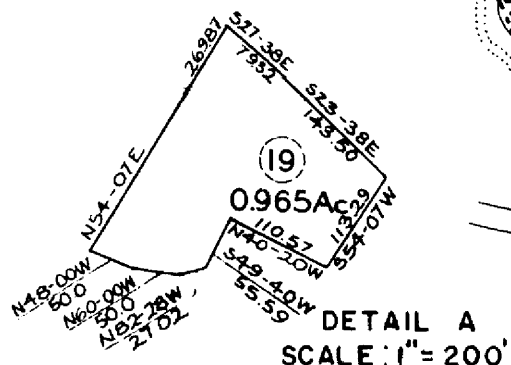
Tax Area Code
3000, 3002

9-13



NOTE: This Map Was Prepared For Assessment Purposes Only, No Liability Is Assumed For The Accuracy Of The Data Delineated Hereon.

1	N15-04-33W	62.12
2	S82-08-43E	204.47
3	N42-09-35E	125.21
4	N50-44-20W	245.31
5	S40-10-24W	198.33
6	S25-48-12E	78.38
7	R-20.0	29.73
8	S39-54-21E	35.27
9	S39-54-21E	4.0
10	N41-58E	83.40
11	N41-00E	62.0
12	S57-50E	66.57
13	N83-50E	35.04
14	S74-37-02E	153.63



PARCELS 21+22 WERE 9-15

NOTE — Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

CITY OF ST. HELENA
Assessor's Map Bk. 9 -Pg. 13
County of Napa, Calif.

1954-60-64