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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	JAN 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Suspectus Co.
Judge Palmer House / "The Elms"

RECEIVED
SEP 19 1978

AND/OR COMMON

Palmer House

OLD

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1300 Cedar Street

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Calistoga

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frank & Ruby Hughes

STREET & NUMBER

1300 Cedar Street

CITY, TOWN

Calistoga

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

CALIFORNIA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Napa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

821 Coombs Street

CITY, TOWN

Napa

STATE

CALIFORNIA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Napa County Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

Site inventory: 1-31-1978

--- FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Napa County Conservation-Development and Planning Dept.

CITY, TOWN

Napa

STATE

CALIFORNIA

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Judge Palmer House is located on a large irregular lot backing unto the Napa River not far from the original crossing over the Napa River which was a ford, used into the 1880s. Across the River was the Palmer Lumber Yard and nearby, to the east on Lincoln Avenue, were the Palmer Stables; both are now gone. The Palmer House was one of the first to be built "in this part of town" and was unusually formal and on a larger scale than most residences then and since in Calistoga. Facing Cedar Street, the Palmer House still has several of the elms surrounding it which gave it the name "The Elms."

The house, of three stories, was built in the Second Empire "rowhouse" style with a square symmetrical shape and few windows on the sides. A concave mansard roof with decorative shingles carries a single dormer on each side. Between 1890 and 1901 a one story bay window was added to the west side and a two story square bay with a mansard roof added to the east side. Original to the early house was an extension to the rear which had a wrap-around porch on each side. Between 1910 and 1924 the porches were enclosed to form a kitchen.

Decorative shingles of the mansard roof were copied in the two story bay addition as were the modillion brackets of the cornice with their drop pendants. Of frame with shiplap siding, the house has corner quoins of wood. The gabled dormer windows have semi-circular arched windows. Windows of the first and second stories are narrow double-hung one-over-one sash. Window surrounds are shouldered with a dentil pattern beneath shelf window hoods. A recessed entryway is to one side with a transom. Doors are double with glass upper panels. A porch extends the length of the front of the house supported by slender columns with decorative pierced and curved brackets. There is a second story balustrade with turned balusters. The brick porch foundation was part of recent renovation as is the brick and iron fence bordering the property on Cedar Street. The early carriage house complex to the east was altered and converted to a garage area. The iron cresting on the roof disappeared long ago.

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"/> 1600-1699	<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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 1873-74

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder: Augustus C. Palmer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Judge Augustus C. Palmer, Calistoga's first judge, constructed this Second Empire style residence for himself in 1873-74. One of the earliest residences in the formal Second Empire style in Napa County, the Palmer House is the only example of the style in wood in Calistoga and reflects the early prominence of its owner-builder. In 1886, a unique complement to the Palmer House, the Francis House, would be built in the Second Empire style in stone. The two residences, the only architect designed houses remaining of this era, are within a few blocks of each other and are indicative of the prosperity of the 1870s and 1880s in Calistoga.

Augustus C. Palmer was an early arrival in Calistoga in the 1860s. Following the boom and bust cycles of the late 19th century he filed for bankruptcy in 1868, visited France in 1870 and returning in the early 1870s established a large lumber yard in Calistoga across the Napa River from his residence. His visit to France no doubt influenced his choice of design; whether plans for the house were drawn in France or taken from a pattern book is uncertain. In a town of frame houses, his lumber yard was a major economic force and, in addition, he had the Palmer Stables on Lincoln Avenue, which served the Lakeport Stage Line. His lumber interests undoubtedly contributed to the excellent craftsmanship in detailing of the residence and he is known to have completed the interior carpentry himself. A particularly fine three story spiral staircase remains in the house. A somewhat mysterious man, A.C. Palmer sold out his interests in Calistoga, including his residence, in 1880, and disappeared, to reappear in Hawaii two years later. He briefly returned to Calistoga in the early 1900s and disappeared once again.

In later years the residence was purchased by Dr. A.M. Gardner(1885), a local physician; by Mary H. Francis (1895); by Oscar Fitch (1902) and by Charles Crouch (1909). The Hughes acquired the Palmer House in recent years, renovating the interior and restoring the exterior to its early 1900s appearance.

The Judge Palmer House, well-known in the late 19th century for its ornamental gardens and elms remains within a neighborhood of late 19th century cottages. Although the Palmer House is adjacent to commercial Lincoln Avenue, the transition from commercial to residential is abrupt and the neighborhood, one of the earliest in Calistoga, retains its early character.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smith & Elliott. Illustrations of Napa County (1878), p.14.
 Adams J. C. Memoirs and Anecdotes of Early Days in Calistoga (1946), pp.32-33
Napa Daily Register. 11-22-1878 (3:2); NDR. 10-7-1879 (3:3)
Napa County Reporter. 2-29-1868 (3:1); NCR. 6-23-1882(1:7); NCR. 8-15-1874.
Sanborn Maps. Calistoga. 1886, 1890, 1901, 1910, 1924.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18,000 sq.ft. .41 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Calistoga Quad.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 10	5 3 6 6 4 10	4 2 6 9 7 6 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on Cedar Street, thence 120' north, 30' west, 120' north, 150' southeast along the Napa River, 120' south to Cedar Street and 90' west on Cedar Street to starting point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judith Munns, Coordinator, Napa County Historic Resources Survey

ORGANIZATION

Napa Landmarks, Inc.

DATE

September 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1834 First Street

TELEPHONE

(707)255-1836

CITY OR TOWN

Napa

STATE

CALIFORNIA

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Wm M. Ellison

TITLE

DATE

12-4-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

1-29-79

ATTEST:

Charles W. ...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-26-79

Judith Munns
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

