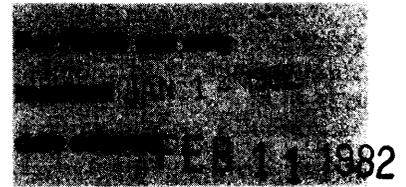


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 KREUZER RANCH

and/or common KREUZER RANCH

RECEIVED  
SEP 28 1980  
OHP

**2. Location**

street & number 167 Kreuzer Lane not for publication

city, town Napa vicinity of Second congressional district

state CA code 06 county NAPA code 055

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John P. Caldwell II

street & number Box J

city, town Yountville vicinity of state California 94599

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Napa County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse

city, town Napa state California 94558

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated at the end of Kreuzer Lane, in the open, agricultural Coombsville region east of the City of Napa, are the Ranch House and barns of the Kreuzer Ranch. The Ranch, originally consisting of a frame "saltbox" house, barn and tankhouse built c.1890 when the Coombsville region was settled, attained its present appearance c.1905 when enlarged by the Kreuzer family.

The Kreuzer Ranch presently consists of a Ranch House, Cheese Barn and Horse Barn. The Kreuzer Ranch of the early 20th century originally included a Cow Barn, Turkey House, Smokehouse, Tankhouse and additional outbuildings which have disappeared.

The Ranch House, located on a knoll with palm trees lining the lane in front, is oriented with its main facade facing west. It is a frame two storey residence with shiplap siding and has two wings with a lean-to extension to the rear. The north wing, the original c.1890 ranch house, is one and 1/2 storeys with a gable roof sloping to the east creating a "saltbox" form. The southern two storey wing, attached to the original house c. 1905, resulted in the present L- shape Kreuzer Ranch House.

The c.1905 addition, influenced by the Queen Anne style, has corner alcove windows in front with sawn brackets over one over one doublehung sash windows. Second storey windows are single light casement with a border of stained glass lights. The gable roof has a sawn bargeboard. With the enlargement of the ranch house, c.1905, the original wing was also "modernized" with identical stained glass windows replacing the sash windows and decorative gable bargeboards added. The front porch was extended c. 1905 to the full length of the north wing and around the side with turned columns and sawn brackets. A stone wall, picket fence and palm trees were also added as landscaping.

Stepped into the hillside north of the Ranch House are the Horse Barn and the Cheese Barn. The Horse Barn is part of the original c.1890 ranch. It has a gable roof with vertical plank siding. A gabled dormer has been added to the south facade and an open lean-to wing to the north enclosed.

The Cheese Barn, built by the Kreuzer family c.1910 of native stone and wood, is two storeys in height, rectangular, with a one storey extension. The foundation and first storey is of local native stone of dry-wall and mortar construction with the second storey of board and batten and vertical plank siding. Rectangular windows with timber framing are of six light. The nearly flat gable roof of tin has three low ventilators along the ridgeline. The west gable end has double doors and a lean-to porch supported by square posts. The Cheese Barn facade remains essentially unaltered.

Although in recent years there have been alterations to the Ranch House, the essential exterior facade remains as does the integrity of the original setting. The central gable of the north wing was removed and the stained glass windows replaced with the present windows. Window sash have been removed and the Queen Anne porch replaced. An exterior brick chimney was added to the south facade. Interior walls and the rear lean-to have been exposed to the structural supports.

Work is in progress by the present owner to restore the exterior facade of the Ranch House to its c.1905 appearance, replacing the gable peak in the north wing, the windows, the porch and the decorative trim. Structural work is necessary to reinforce the stone walls of the Cheese Barn. The exterior facade of the Cheese Barn and Horse Barn will be retained. It is intended that the Ranch House be rehabilitated for residential use.

# 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c.1890;1898;c.1905      **Builder/Architect** orig.bldgs.unknown; additions: Kreuzers

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kreuzer Ranch, a dairy, creamery and cheese factory owned by the Swiss German Kreuzer family at the turn-of-the-century, is a significant historical link to an era of Napa County's agricultural history when dairying was a major part of the economy, particularly in the Coombsville region of southern Napa County. The influx of the Swiss German and Swiss Italian settlers arriving in Napa County in the late 19th century had a marked impact on expansion of dairying and viticulture and was a significant influence in the proliferation of native stone cellars. Although grapes have supplanted cows in Napa County, the Swiss German and Swiss Italian influence remains strong in the neighboring dairy regions in Marin and Sonoma counties. The buildings of the Kreuzer Ranch are significant architecturally, reflecting: 1) the evolution, with increasing agricultural prosperity, of a utilitarian "saltbox" ranch house of the late 19th century into a Queen Anne residence, and 2) the dexterity in working with native stone, a readily available building material in Napa County, of Swiss German and Swiss Italian settlers.

The Coombsville region of Napa County was sparsely inhabited prior to 1885. Within the next five years the region was settled with the diversified agriculture common to the period: orchards, vineyards, hay fields, cattle, livestock, etc. By 1889, the region was becoming known for its dairies and creameries. (1) The original Kreuzer ranch house and horse barn were built during this period, c.1890, and the acreage farmed by the Stantz family. (2)

In 1898, John Joe Kreuzer, a Swiss German stonemason, settled in Napa County. He had left his native Oberwald, Switzerland in 1882, arriving in New York. He then moved to Philadelphia, working in a brewery for three years. While there he married Katherine Hirsch, also from Switzerland. Subsequently, the Kreuzers operated a rooming house in San Francisco for several years. John Joe Kreuzer eventually purchased the Stantz ranch and by 1912 owned about 500 acres in the Coombsville region. (3) The Kreuzer Ranch would encompass 1,100 acres, in several parcels, at its largest. The Home Ranch, of 51 acres, had the Ranch House, Barns, Creamery/Cheese Factory, Turkey House, orchards, etc. The ranch produced its own grain for the dairy herd, as did most of the dairies. It was self-sufficient in most respects.

The Kreuzer Ranch started gradually, first selling cream which was sent by freight to Tomales. The Creamery and Cheese Barn, of stone quarried on the property, was built by John Joe Kreuzer. The stone cellar was used for the creamery and cheese making; the upper floor for the utility shop. The Kreuzers produced their butter, known as the "Sugarloaf" creamery, for approximately 10 years, halting prior to W.W.I. The "Oregon Cream Cheese" factory was subsequently operated by the eldest son, Robert Kreuzer, in the creamery cellar. The cheese was sent by Wells Fargo over long distances in special dovetailed boxes with brass fittings made by John Joe Kreuzer. Water became increasingly scarce for the creamery and cheese production and with W.W.II the cheese business ended. (4)

With increasing prosperity, the Kreuzer family had enlarged their ranch house c.1905 in the Queen Anne style; a common trend as ranch families grew. They built the Creamery/Cheese Barn, the Cow Barn, and many outbuildings, incorporating local fieldstone into the foundation. Only the Ranch House and Creamery/Cheese Barn and Horse Barn remain of the once extensive Home Ranch complex which has given its name to Kreuzer Lane. The Home Ranch remained in the family until acquired by the present owner, who intends to restore the Ranch House to its c.1905 appearance as a residence and to maintain the remaining agricultural buildings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Alvina Kreuzer Boldt, interview July, 1979  
 Gregory, Thomas. History of Solano and Napa Counties (L.A.: Historic Record Co., 1912), p. 1038  
 Photographs c. 1898, c. 1905-20 of Kreuzer Ranch. Collection of Alvina Kreuzer.  
Napa Register: 10-18-1889; Polk-Husted Directory: 1916-1925

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Mt. George, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	0	5	6	6	9	3	0	4	2	3	7	7	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

A triangular one acre parcel situated at the eastern terminus of Kreuzer Lane in the northwest corner of a 51 acre parcel (AP#45-310-15). Bounded on the north by the property line, extending south to a private lane, and following the lane northwest to the origin at the terminus of Kreuzer Lane.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
CA			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith A. Munns (P.O.Box 2393, Yountville, CA 94599 (707)963-7611)  
 organization (for owner) John E. Caldwell II date August 21, 1979  
 street & number Box J telephone (707)944-8058  
 city or town Yountville, CA state CALIFORNIA 94599

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCRS use only

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

Neilson Bryan  
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
 National Register 2/11/82

Attest:

Chief of Register

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 17 1982

DATE ENTERED FEB 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

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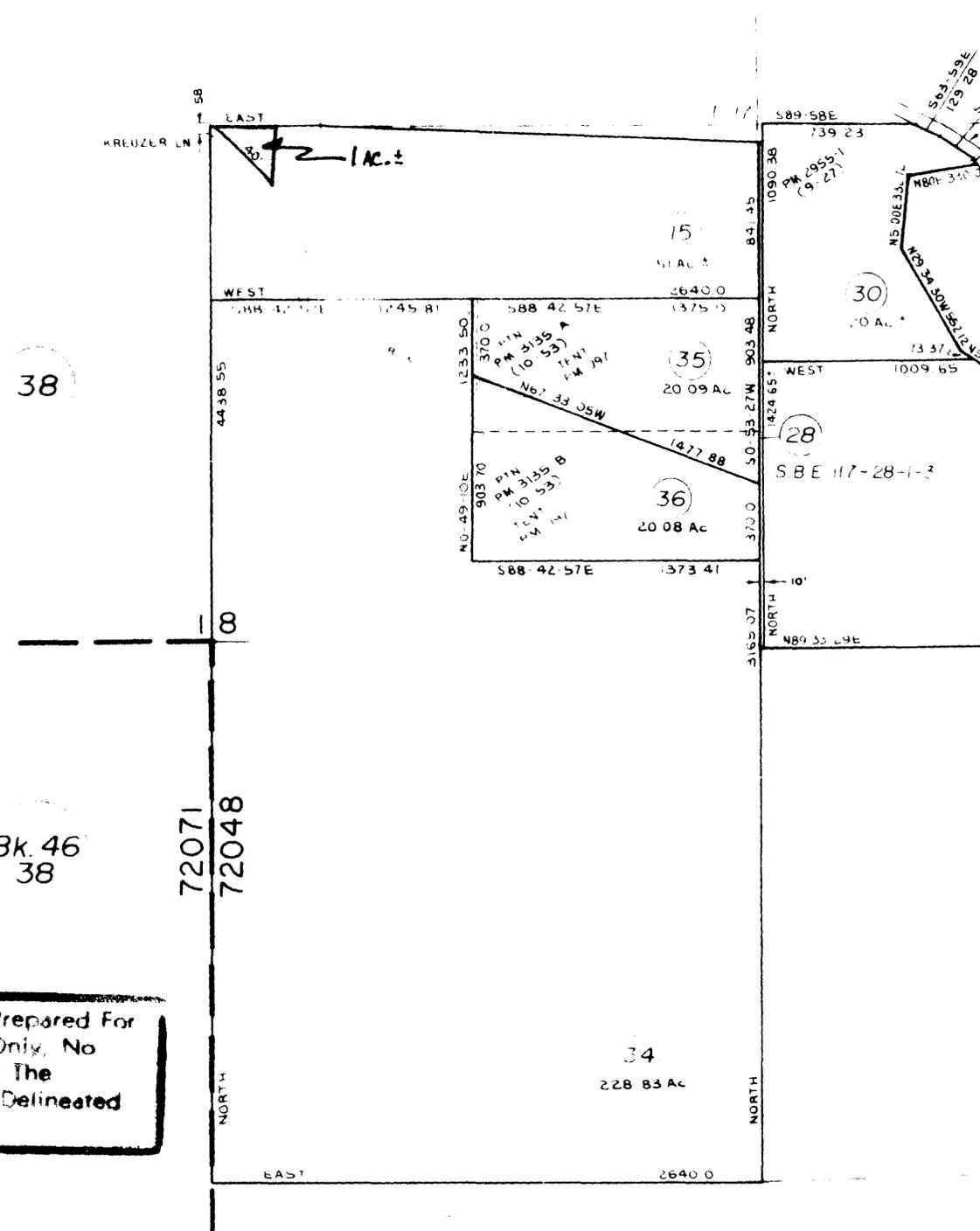
FOOTNOTES

- 1) Napa Register: 10-18-1889 (3:1,2)
- 2) Alvina Kreuzer Boldt, interview July 1980
- 3) Gregory, Tom. History of Solano and Napa Counties (1912), p.1038.
- 4) Alvina Kreuzer Boldt, interview July 1980

# COUNTY ASSESS

## PTN. SEC. 8, PTN. SEC. 9, PTN. SEC

1500 KENNEDY BLVD  
 1500 KENNEDY BLVD  
 OAKLAND, CA 94612  
 TEL: 415-291-1155  
 FAX: 415-291-1155



Bk. 46  
38

72071  
72048

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

G.E. ABATE  
 Assessor - Marin County  
 REVISIONS 1976