

RECEIVED  
MAY 20 1985

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OHP

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 10 1985

date entered MAY 9 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Helios Ranch

and/or common Ink House

2. Location

street & number 1575 St. Helena Highway N/A not for publication

city, town St. Helena N/A vicinity of

state CA 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<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 Dr. and Mrs. George Clark

street & number 1575 St. Helena Hwy.

city, town St. Helena N/A vicinity of state CA 94574

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Napa County Courthouse

street & number 1195 Third Street

city, town Napa state Ca 94559

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Napa Co. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 6, 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Napa County Landmarks, Inc. P.O. Box 702

city, town Napa state CA 94559

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>          N/A          </u>

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

The Ink House, a frame two story Italianate residence built in 1885, is situated facing the St. Helena Highway (Hwy. 29), a major Napa County thoroughfare in the 19th century as it is now. It has been a highly visible landmark for the past century. The symmetrical facade of the rectangular 36' x 52' residence retains the stylistic Italianate features of bracketed cornice, panelled frieze and low hip roof with surrounding veranda, little altered in exterior or interior detail. The removal of the glass observatory from the hip roof in the early 20th century does not detract from the architectural integrity of the Ink House, which remains essentially intact.

The Ink House rests on a full cellar of cut stone accessible by an entrance on the southwest facade. Consistent with the vernacular building tradition of this wine region, the cellar was constructed as a wine cellar. The frame two story building above the cellar has channel rustic siding. It is surrounded on four sides by a continuous veranda supported by slender wood columns with pierced brackets and drop pendants. The raised porch rests on a field-stone foundation. Broad concrete steps descend to ground level on each of the four sides.

Symmetrical placement of doors and one-over-one double-hung windows varies in each facade. Original panelled doors carry a transom above; several transoms are stained glass (installed in the late 1970s). Exterior window moldings carry a sawn decorative detail. The unaltered main facade (northeast facade) on Hwy. 29 has a centrally placed doorway flanked by a single window on each side; three windows are evenly spaced on the second story. The northwest facade on Whitehall Lane carries a central doorway flanked by two windows on each side; five windows are evenly spaced in the second story. A small corner window on the first floor was added c.1925. The southwest facade, facing the gabled board-and-batten Barn, has two transomed doors on the first floor with single windows flanking each doorway; two windows are above in the second story. The doorway and flanking windows in the southwest corner, altered c.1925, do not detract from the original facade. Access to the stone cellar is beneath the southwest porch. The southeast facade, facing a row of century-old pines, has a central door with two windows on each side and four windows in the second story. A window in the south corner was altered c.1925. A gable peak replaced the original glass observatory atop the low hip roof in the early 20th century.

Interior features remain intact with the original room divisions evident. On the first floor are double parlors, sitting room (library), dining room (family room), kitchen, back pantry and service rooms. A fireplace has been closed in the double parlor. On the second floor, the original seven "sleeping apartments" remain with their dressing room/closets converted to modern baths in several rooms. Interior walls retain their original moldings. Ceiling fixtures originally piped for gas have been converted to electricity; their rosettes remain. The central staircase to the second floor is unaltered as is the back staircase from the kitchen pantry to the second floor; the staircase to the attic and now removed observatory also remains.

The physical setting of the Ink house is significant with open fields, vineyards and gardens reminiscent of the 19th century. Large oaks and pines surround the house. The wrought iron fence and gate have been restored along Hwy. 29 and the corner of Whitehall Lane. The gate pillars carry the original legend "Helios Ranch." The large gable roofed board-and-batten barn stands essentially unaltered opposite the southwest facade of the Ink House. On an adjacent parcel, the carriage house stands converted to a modern residence; this altered structure is not included in the nomination.

It is the intent of the present owners to restore the glass observatory to the Ink House.

# 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/ 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1885 **Builder/Architect** local carpenter-builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Theron H. Ink House is a significant historical link to its owner and builder of 1885, Theron Ink, who epitomized a genre of early settlers in Napa County who arrived in California as goldseekers and who, by 1853, had turned to agriculture, commerce or industry to make their fortunes. Theron Ink's rise to prominence and prosperity in Napa County parallels the agricultural development of the county in the late 19th century: raising wheat and hay in Napa in 1854; stock and dairy ranching in the 1860s; stock and sheep ranching in the 1870s and 80s; rancher and proprietor of a livery stable in the 1880s; vineyardist and winemaker in the 1880s and 90s; capital investment in the 1880s and 90s. A Napa County Supervisor for three terms (1874-1884), Theron Ink is also linked to transportation in Napa County as an advocate of improved roads linking the remote and productive stock and grain ranches of Pope and Berryessa Valleys to the market terminals in the Napa Valley; the steep road over Howell Mountain from St. Helena to Upper Pope Valley carries the name "Ink Grade." Architecturally significant, the Ink House typifies the large and well-appointed residences of wealthy ranchers whose extensive land-holdings were in the more remote eastern valleys. The Ink House also illustrates the vernacular building tradition of local carpenter-builders and masons who incorporated the stone wine cellar beneath the Italianate residence; a European tradition introduced into this wine region by Swiss, German, French and Italian immigrants.

Theron H. Ink (1831-1893) was born in Engfield, N.Y. He left Ohio, where he was teaching, to start overland for California in 1852. Leaving the mines at Coloma, Theron Ink settled in Napa in 1853, purchasing land near Carneros Creek and raising wheat and hay successfully. He married Harriet P. Jane Goodrich in 1860 and moved to Marin County in 1861, engaging in stock - raising and dairying. In 1873, Ink returned to Napa County, purchasing land for stock raising in Pope Valley eventually totalling over 3000 acres. In 1877, Ink purchased land on Putah Creek, expanding the ranch to 5000 acres and running sheep (for which there was great demand at the Sawyer Tanning Mills in Napa City). In 1878 he purchased the 133 acres which comprised the Helios Ranch in Napa Valley and in 1885 built his residence there, the present Ink House. The acreage was planted to vineyard as the viticultural boom swept the Napa Valley in the 1880s. By 1890, Ink was shipping his wine by steamer from Napa City to San Francisco. In 1882, Ink had subscribed to the new Bank of St. Helena. In 1883, he was a Director of the St. Helena Gas Company; a Director of the Cooperative Distillery Company in 1890; and a Director of the St. Helena Water Company in 1891. At his death in 1893, T. H. Ink was referred to as "The highly respected pioneer..."

The Ink House had several owners in the early 20th century with notably, the Chavez family, vineyardists, owning the property from 1926 to 1946. The Ink House is well-maintained by the present owners, who acquired the property in 1967. It is currently a private residence and inn.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.25

Quadrangle name Rutherford

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

### UTM References

A 

1	0	5	4	9	2	6	0	4	2	5	8	6	8	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

AP# 27-45-13 bounded by Whitehall Lane (NW boundary); St. Helena Hwy. 29 (NE boundary); 415.38' SE boundary; 120.0' SW boundary. Property has been reduced through subdivision to present lot which includes home, barn, and grounds.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Whitridge/Judith A. Munns

organization --

date May 25, 1984

street & number 975 First Street

telephone (707) 252-1021

city or town Napa,

state CA 94559

# 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 Miriam Mitchell-Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/6/85

For NPS use only

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

J. Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5-9-85

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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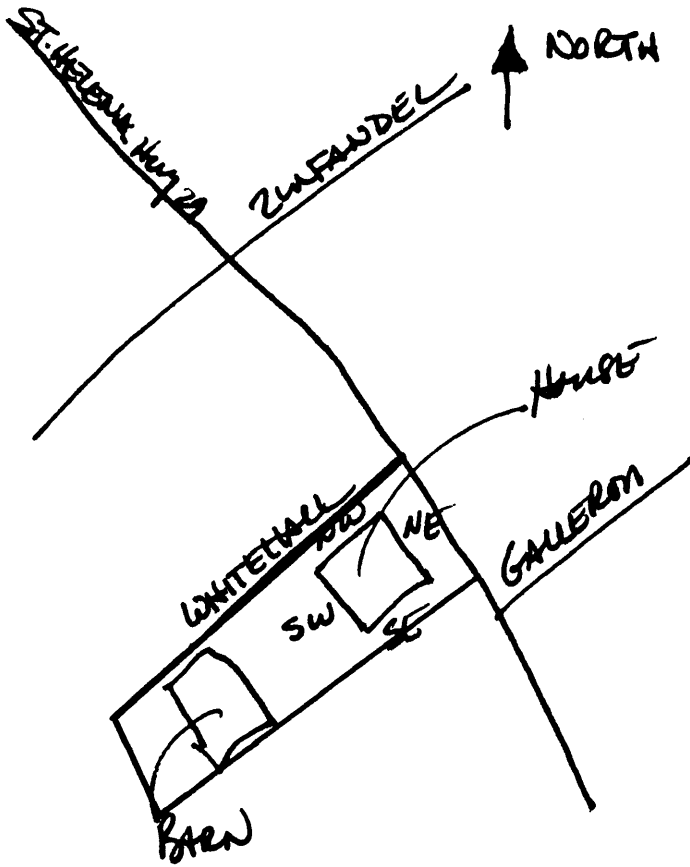
received

data entered

Continuation sheet HELIOS RANCH, Napa, CA Item number 9

Page 1

Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World (Chicago, IL:Lewis Publishing Co., 1891) pp. 529-34; History of Napa & Lake Counties (Slocum & Bowen, 1881) 491, f.546; Wallace, History of Napa County (1901), 307; Off. Map of the County of Napa, (1895 & 1915); MISC.REC., F359,6-1-1893; MISC.REC., G117, 5-21-1895; NCR, 5-20-1881 (3:4); NCR, 7-21-1882 (3:1); NCR, 8-11-1882(4:5); NCR, 12-15-1882(3:5); NR, 6-22-1883(3:5); NCR, 12-7-1883(3:3); SHS, 11-10-1884(2:1);SHS, 9-25-1885(3:3), NR 4-10-1885(1:5); NR9-18-1885(3:8); NR6-7-1889(1:9); NR8-8-1890(3:4); NR8-15-1890(3:7) NR5-1-1891(4:2); NDJ8-17-1893 "Death of T. H. Ink"; SHS8-18-1893 "Death of T. H. Ink";



Sketch Map  
HELIOS RANCH (INK HOUSE)  
1575 St. Helena Highway  
St. Helena, CA  
Scale: 1" = 200'

Napa County