

DATA STILL PH0693235

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JAN 10 1979

**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

James H. Francis House

SEP 10 1978

AND/OR COMMON

Francis House/ Calistoga Hospital

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1403 Myrtle Street

CITY, TOWN

Calistoga

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE

California

CODE
06

COUNTY
NAPA

CODE
055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ___ OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Don Selvey

STREET & NUMBER

1401 Myrtle 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 Survey

DATE

Site Inventory: 1-9-1978 ___ FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Napa County Conservation-Development & 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 Francis House, of native stone, is three stories and carries the characteristic square plan of the Second Empire style with a projecting three story central pavilion. The bellcast mansard roof has decorative shingles and pedimented gable dormers with semi-circular arched windows. The first and second stories are of cut native stone quarried south of Calistoga.

A cornice with paired brackets and a panelled frieze supports the projecting eaves. To the north side is a three story square bay window with a mansard third story. Paired semi-circular arched windows of the second story are tall and narrow with keystones and stone corbels. The east windows on the second floor have a semi-circular transom. Windows on the first level are single, tall, narrow and arched.

The main entryway is through the central pavilion with its double doors on the east side. There is also a doorway on the second level with a semi-circular arch and transom. The massive portico in front (east elevation) was added during the Francis House's era as the Calistoga Hospital. The portico, attached to the stone walls has begun to pull away. There is also a two story addition to the north side of masonry block (date unknown.)

The interior of the Francis House has been altered during the period it served as a hospital, but the exterior of finely crafted stone has weathered well. The essential design fabric, though marred by the portico, is basically unaltered and the portico could be removed without difficulty in renovation. The Francis House retains its original setting on a large corner lot with trees and commands a prominent location at the intersection of Spring and Myrtle on the edge of one of Calistoga's earliest residential neighborhoods.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stonemason/builder: John Sexton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis House is believed to be the only stone residence in the Second Empire style in Napa County. It exhibits a high degree of craftsmanship attained by local stonemasons in the 19th century which is usually seen in winery rather than domestic architecture. The Francis House, built for James H. Francis, Calistoga merchant and rancher, is one of two Second Empire residences in Calistoga. It complements the Palmer House (built in 1873-74) which is also in the Second Empire style but in wood. The two residences are the only architect-designed houses remaining of this era of the 1870s and 1880s in Calistoga; an era of prosperity in Calistoga as it was throughout Napa County.

Of native stone quarried and cut by John McPherson south of Calistoga on the ranch known as the "Neddy Brown place", the Francis House was built by John Sexton. The architect is unknown although the design may well have come from a builder's plan book. It is characteristically Second Empire in style with the symmetrical square plan, projecting central pavilion, paired arched windows and mansard roof.

James Francis had his mercantile store on the corner of Lincoln and Washington and owned several ranches in the area, including one producing silver ore just north of Calistoga. His brother, George M. Francis, was owner of The Napa Register, Napa City's local newspaper. On James Francis' death in 1891, Col. M.E. Billings purchased the house. He was a Justice of the U.S. Criminal Courts under appointment from President Grant. Mrs. Billings was also an attorney. In 1918 the Francis House was converted to a hospital and served as the Calistoga Hospital until 1964.

Highly visible at the intersection of Spring and Myrtle Streets, the Francis House stands in rapidly deteriorating condition. The lot, purchased in the new "Western Addition" to Calistoga in the 1880s, is on the edge of one of Calistoga's earliest neighborhoods which has retained its residential character to this day. In size and scale, the Francis House is a focal point of the neighborhood.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hutchinson, Fred C. T.B. Hutchinson of Napa (1950), pp.66,74.
 Adams, I.C. Memoirs and Anecdotes of Early Days in Calistoga (1946), pp.29,40,45.
The Napa Register. 3-5-1886

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8,400 sq.ft. (lot 120' X 160') .44 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Calistoga Quad.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 536460 4269680
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the intersection of Spring Street and Myrtle Street, the site has 120' frontage on Myrtle Street and 160' frontage on Spring Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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 (P.O. Box 702)

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

Kenneth M. Ellison

TITLE

DATE 12-4-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION *[Signature]*

DATE 1-29-79

DATE 1-26-79

FRANCIS HOUSE
1403 Myrtle Street
Calistoga, California

DEC 12 1978

Located at the intersection of Spring St.
and Myrtle St., the site has 120' frontage
on Myrtle St. and 160' frontage on Spring St.

□ Francis House

JAN 29 1979

