

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>California</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. (see also XI - Literature) <b>XIX - Conservation of Natural Resources</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>John Muir House (and Martinez Adobe)</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>5 Acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>4440 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, Contra Costa County</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Dr. and Mrs. Henry Sax (adobe by Louis Stein)</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

The ranch at Martinez was John Muir's home from 1880 until his death in 1914, the period during which he emerged as one of the most important national leaders in the Conservation Movement.

From 1889 to 1914, John Muir played a critical and vital role in the drive to establish national parks, national forests, and to apply scientific methods of sustained-yield management to the federal forests. As a recognized and leading authority on the glaciers, mountains and forests of West, and as an able and popular writer on Nature, John Muir devoted his talents and nationwide prestige to forwarding the cause of National Conservation. In this task he served as an important, although unofficial, adviser to Presidents Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Howard Taft. Specific conservation achievements with which Muir was closely associated include: the creation of Yosemite National Park, General Grant National Park, and the enlargement of Sequoia National Park in 1890; advice on the establishment of the first national forest reserved in 1891; a leading role, working with the National Forest Commission, 1896-97, in securing the National Forest Management Act of 1897, and defending the 13 new forest reservations established by President Cleveland, 1897-98; as adviser to President Roosevelt 1901-1909; supporting the establishment of the U. S. Forest Service and the transfer of National Forest Reserves to that agency, 1901-1905; securing the completion of Yosemite National Park, 1903-1906; and defending the Hetch Hetchy Valley section of Yosemite National Park from 1901 to 1913.

Condition of the Site:

This site includes the Martinez adobe, a two-story adobe built about 1851, which served John Muir's residence from 1880 to 1890; the "Manor", a large two-story frame house built in 1881, which served as Muir's residence from 1890 until

(Continued on attached sheet)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)	<u>Linnie Marsh Wolfe, The Life of John Muir, Son of the Wilderness (New York, 1945); William F. Budge, The Life and Letters of John Muir (2 vols., Boston and New York, 1924); Hans Rath, Nature and the American (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1957), 103-104; Robert Underwood Johnson, Remembered Yesterday (Boston, 1923), 278-300; Samuel P. Hays, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890-1920 (Cambridge, 1959), 192-194; Mildred B. Hoover, Bero E. Rensch, and Ethel G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Teiser, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 236.</u>
9. REPRODUCTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS (Indicate by check mark or number)	

(For 9 - see attached page)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Little Altered</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Residences</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>Oct. 18, 1962</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>Charles W. Snell</b>	15. TITLE <b>Reg. Chief, Branch Hist. Sites</b>	16. DATE <b>Nov. 26, 1962</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE IF ATTACHED. ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

California

John Muir House (and Martinez Adobe)

7. Importance and Description - Continued

his death in 1914; and about five acres of the original 300-acre ranch. The two houses are both in excellent condition and have been little altered since Muir's day. They are used as private residences. Although now set in the midst of intense urban development, the topography has fortunately preserved to a remarkable degree the rural ranch setting of the remaining original five acres. These grounds contain many of the trees and plants set out by Muir himself.

References:

Linnie Marsh Wolfe, The Life of John Muir, Son of the Wilderness (New York, 1945); William F. Rade, The Life and Letters of John Muir (2 vols., Boston and New York, 1904); Hans Ruth, Nature and the American (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1957), 103-104; Robert Underwood Johnson, Remembered Yesterday (Boston, 1923), 278-300; Samuel P. Hays, Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency: The Progressive Conservation Movement, 1890-1920 (Cambridge, 1959), 192-194; Mildred S. Hoover, Haro E. Rensch, and Ethel G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Taiser, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 236.

9. Reports and Studies

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)  
Historic American Building Survey Inventory: John Muir House and Vincente Martinez Adobe.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS * ATTACHED: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	13. DATE OF VISIT
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)	15. TITLE	16. DATE	

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE California	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX-Literature XX-Architecture, XIX-Conservation of Natural Resources;	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
3. NAME(S) OF SITE John Muir House	(Part III, 1881-1918)	
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Contra Costa County, 4440 Alhambra Ave., Martinez		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) U. S. Government (National Park Service)		
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)		

Erected in 1882, the John Muir Home is a good example of a typical country residence designed in the Italian Villa style.

Plans for the house were prepared by James E. Wolfe & Sons, architects, and the house was built for Dr. John Strentzel, John Muir's father-in-law, for about \$9,500. The structure is an imposing two-story wood frame building with full basement and attic, with a formal plan, symmetrical about a central hall and entrance. The residence is about 40 feet wide by 42 deep, with a 19 by 25-foot 2-story kitchen wing located in the rear; the main house contains 11 rooms.

Built of redwood, the house has rusticated wood quoins at the corners, which gives it the appearance of stone construction. There are one-story bay windows situated on either side of the main hexagonal-shaped porch. Windows on the first floor front have moulded hoods supported by brackets. Windows on the second floor front are arranged in pairs and the center pair has a pedimented hood. The cornice is bracketed and the hipped roof is surmounted by a square cupola.

Inside, the main house is divided by a central hall, with the parlor and library located to the west and the family parlor and dining room to the east of the hall. The second floor contains 7 bedrooms. The kitchen is located in a rear wing and above it are rooms for the servants.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)  
Oscar Lewis, Here Lived the Californians (New York, 1957), 205-207;  
Mildred B. Hoover, Hero E. and Ruth G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Teiser, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 236; California--A Guide to the Golden State (New York, 1954), 585; California Architect and Building News Volume III No. 1 (1882), 130-132.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

Historic American Building Survey CAL-1890.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS Yes #2236 ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Orig. Bldg. good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Museum	13. DATE OF VISIT Dec. 10, 1960
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Nov. 22, 1966	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

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