

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2, 30,

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 26 1978

APR 9 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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. and Frances E. Laughlin Property *House*

RECEIVED

NOV 22 1978

AND/OR COMMON

Shady Farm

OHP

**2 LOCATION**

*SE of Windsor on*

STREET & NUMBER

Lone Redwood Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Windsor *MC*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Sonoma

CODE

097

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Stan Tatum and Leo Andrade, c/o Santa Rosa Realty ✓

STREET & NUMBER

824 Mendocino Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sonoma County - County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

2555 Mendocino Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT  
GOOD  
\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED  
\_\_RUINS  
\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED  
ALTERED  
    minor

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Laughlin farm house (built ca. 1876) is a 2 story wooden structure showing the transition from the earlier Andrew Jackson Downing type building forms and plan, utilizing Greek Revival themes in the gabled roof and the introduction of the Italianate theme in the bays and windows. The roof is cross gabled and has boxed cornices with frieze boards that return around the end walls. The siding is the channel rustic design of shiplap siding commonly used during the 1870's-1890's. All of the main exterior openings have segmental arched heads with heavy bracketed hoods. The doors have transoms above. The windows are all wood double hung. The front contains the pairs of windows, slanted bays either side of an entrance porch. The entrance porches, slanted bays and end wall porch roofs have balusters with heavy turned balustrades and square newel posts. The gable end windows are fixed and are semi-circular with labels. These windows open into a large attic space above the second floor. The exterior of the building remains unaltered except for the enclosure of the end wall porch or piazza and the addition of a small room on the rear.

The interior reflects the same level of detailing and has essentially remained unaltered. The kitchen, the living room and one parlor were remodeled in the 1950's by a local architect but the balance of the interiors are in original condition. All the doors are 4 panel as shown in photo #7 and are all grained. The door castings, bases, and wainscoting, plus the interior spandrals are all grained and fortunately have not been painted over. The dining room fireplace is of wood and brick and was large enough to hold a large cooking pot on a metal bracket (seen in an early photo). The other fireplace (photo #8) is a complete metal mantel elaborately painted and with a grille type closure (with arched top) covering the opening. Also still remaining in the house are the four pull-down type kerosene fixtures (one seen in photo #7). The ceiling medallions are still remaining.

The environment of the house remains very much in tact with full grown valley Oaks (native to this area) and redwood trees. The picket fence, the entrance gate and the water tower which still exist are shown in an 1877 Atlas. The photo #1 shows the view similar to the 1877 Atlas etching. The gardens have been over-grown and are not completely identified, but the original picket fence still defines the garden area.

As seen in the various photos and site map several older accessory buildings still remain and provide the support to the house as the center of the farm unit. Though the dates of these buildings are not clear, their construction and their openings reflect early designs. The largest of the barns is the feed barn to the east of the house which stores the hay and has feed troughs. All the buildings have the channel rustic horizontal siding though the roofing has been replaced with corrugated metal sheets which was a practical way to replace the roof when needed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 26 1979
	APR 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The house and farm environment has retained its original integrity and contains many of the features depicted in the 1877 Atlas etching. Though not completely documented at the time of this application, one of the accessory buildings may be part of the original house built in 1855.

The following is a list of attached photographs with brief descriptions:

- Photo #1: View from railroad tracks, this view shows the relationship of the house, fence and entrance gate that is illustrated in the 1877 Atlas. The photo is taken from the west side of the property looking east.
- Photo #2: West side or front of the house. The endwall porch or piazza on the right is original except was closed-in in the 1950's.
- Photo #3: North side of the house, in original condition including the picket fence in the foreground.
- Photo #4: South side of the house, remains unaltered except for enclosing the endwall porch or piazza at the living room which was altered in the 1950's. The brick paving and porch was also added.
- Photo #5: Original entrance gate with original hardware and Shady Farm sign. The barn in the background is one of the four agricultural structures which serve as background buildings for the main farm house.
- Photo #6: East side of the house (rear) shows one of the four accessory buildings plus the water tower on the left. The water tower is seen in the 1877 Atlas etching.
- Photo #7: Interior of the dining room showing the original fireplace, typical wainscoting, 4 panel doors and pull-down kerosene lamp fixture. With the exception of the wallpaper, this room remains unaltered.
- Photo #8: View of the original metal fireplace in the parlor. The parlor also remains unaltered with its pull down kerosene lamp and ceiling medallion along with the elaborate graining which exist throughout the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. J. Ludwig

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical importance of the Laughlin property and family to Sonoma County and the Windsor area can be found in the Laughlin's extensive development of the land as a agricultural resource by the use of diversified planting, stock raising and breeding. The land has consistently remained in the hands of family members since its original purchase in 1855. James H. Laughlin brought west the skills he had acquired in Tennessee and Iowa, and adapted them to the natural resources of Sonoma County - the combination proved to be very successful.

The original residence on this property was a cabin built by James to be used as a shelter for his family. He split the redwood used in its construction himself and it is possible that he obtained the wood from a former redwood grove located near Windsor. The cabin was replaced by the present structure in 1876 and reflects the skill with which Laughlin ran his agricultural holdings.

The family home is also one of the better houses built by T.J. Ludwig who was considered among the finest builders in the county. His offices were at 5th and B Streets in Santa Rosa. Historian Robert A. Thompson writes in his book Resources of Santa Rosa Valley and the Town of Santa Rosa in 1884..."It is only just to say that Mr. Ludwig was the first to originate an improved style of architecture in this city and county". This is evident by the elaboration of the basic Andrew Jackson Downing symetrical farm house design theme. Mr. Ludwig had his own lumber yard and manufactured his own brick. Mr. Thompson goes on to list "the prominent specimen<sup>s</sup> of Mr. Ludwig's architecture" among them being the McDonald Mansion in Santa Rosa, a National Register property, and indicates that Mr. Ludwig constructed many handsom structures ranging from farm houses, suburban villa residences, brick business blocks, wine cellars, mills and utilitarian structures.

James and Frances Laughlin first came to Sonoma County in September 1855 and settled on the property now known as Shady Farm. The original tract of land consisted of 160 acres which was added to until the property covered 1200 acres "all in one body" according to an 1889 history of Sonoma County. The Laughlins were early white settlers in the Windsor area, known historically as the Russian River Township, and were important in the agricultural development of the community. James and Frances Laughlin travelled to California from Van Buren County, Iowa in 1854. They made the journey with his brother, John M. Laughlin, Elizabeth Laughlin (mother of James and John), and a sister whose name is not recorded. The group brought 200 head of cattles with them plus other livestock.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES** Resources of Santa Rosa Valley and the Town of Santa Rosa,  
The Vineyards in Sonoma County, I. De Turk, 1893 R.A. Thompson, 1884  
Wines and Vines of California, Frona Eunice Wait, 1889  
History of Sonoma County, V.II, Honoria Tuomey, 1926  
Illustrated History of Sonoma County, Lewis Publishing Co., Calif. 1889  
History of Sonoma County, J.P. Munro-Fraser, 1879 (reissue 1973)  
Windsor History and Happenings, William L. Beedie, 1978  
Wild Oats in Eden, Harvey Hansen & Jeanne Miller, 1962

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** Atlas of Sonoma County, Calif., Thos. T. Thompson 1877  
 ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 8.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	518830	4262540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property is located on Lone Redwood Road/Airport Boulevard and occupies those portions of Assessor's Parcel #059-27-32, #059-27-33 and #059-27-34 encompassed with the boundaries which are shown on the attached map and include the gardens and accessory buildings.

**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  
 Dan Peterson A.I.A. & Associates  
 ORGANIZATION

DATE  
 Nov. 21, 1978

STREET & NUMBER  
 930 Mendocino Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN  
 Santa Rosa

STATE  
 California 95401

**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 Henry M. Eldon 2-5-79  
 TITLE DATE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

Charles A. Henry DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 9-9-79  
 ATTEST: John J. ... KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 4-2-79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 26 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 9 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The Laughlin's farming experience had started earlier. James was born in Tennessee in 1819 and grew up on farms. When his mother, Elizabeth moved the family to Hancock County, Illinois in 1839, James (at the age of 20) went to Van Buren County to clear land and build a shelter for his mother and children. There Frances Briggs and he were married and James developed his skills in farming and stockraising. Upon arrival in California, the Laughlins first settled in Yolo County for about one year where James continued his enterprises in farming and stockraising. Both James and John Laughlin settled in the Russian River Township. John eventually owned 550 acres. Both believed in diversified farming, but James' farm was called a "model" one by the Illustrated History, an 1889 publication. Taking advantage of the local climate and soil conditions, James and Frances planted a 30 acre vineyard which produced wine grapes of the Zinfandel variety and 25 acres in table grapes. An 1893 report to the State Viticultural Commissions lists their crop at 75 ton. Their wine grape rproduction was significant enough for James Laughlin to be listed as a grower in an 1889 book titled Wines and Vines of California.

According to an 1896 history, the Laughlin farm also consisted of 20 acres of diversified orchard production. Crops ranged from apples, peaches, pears to french prunes, plums, cherries, figs, persimmons and crab apples. 40 acres was given over to alfalfa which also provided pasture for the stock. Stock raising continued to be one of Laughlin's primary interests. In 1889 his stock are listed at 500 head of Spanish Merino sheep and 100 head of Durham cattle. He also owned some 6000 acres of land in Mendocino County stocked with 3,000 head of Merino sheep. When James Laughlin came to Sonoma County, he brought with him mares from Tennessee and Iowa. Descendants of these mares populated his farm as late as 1926. He was known for his draft horses, including Clydesdale, and trotting horses.

James Laughlin was an active member of his community. He helped layout the Shiloh cemetary, helped with the building of the Shiloh Church in Windsor and aided in the building of the Fulton Presbyterian Church in 1890. Laughlin also served as director of the Santa Rosa Bank and on the Board of Directors for the Christian College in Santa Rosa.

He also played a part in the establishment of early mail service in his area. He was among the early settlers who paid a horse back rider to carry mail once a week to Windsor thereby providing the first mail service north of Santa Rosa. Years later the Laughlin Ranch was to play a part in the establishment of the first air-mail service in the world. One of the barns on the ranch was laoned to Fred Wiseman in 1911. Wiseman had permission to use the barn for construction of an airplane. Upon completion the plane was successfully tested near the north end of the Laughlin property. Wiseman and his plane later made history by

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 26 1978
DATE ENTERED	APR 9 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

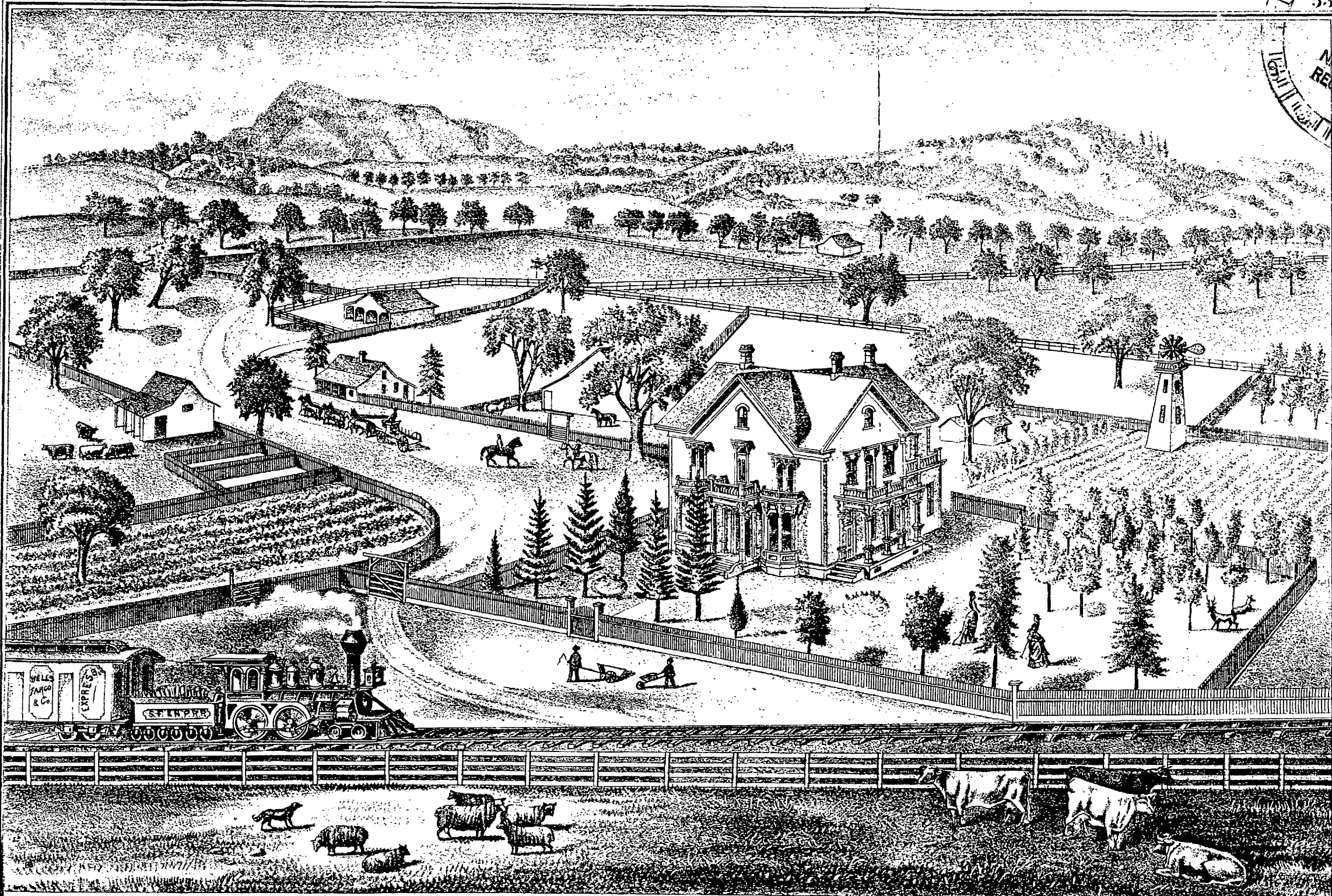
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

delivering a letter from Petaluma to the South Park area in Santa Rosa thereby establishing the first air-mail service.<sup>1</sup>

James H. Laughlin played an important role in the agricultural growth of Sonoma County and his house is an excellent example of the fine farm houses being built by the successful farmers on the County. This house in its design concept illustrates the thesis of Andrew Jackson Downing in his book The Architecture of Country Houses where he states "Symmetry is one of the greatest beauties in all architecture", and he illustrates this in his design for cottages and farm houses. This house also illustrates the transition from the simple Greek Revival to the more elaborate Italianate of the late 1870's, and remains in its original condition. Other significant features contained on this site are the surrounding fences, entrance gate and water tower. The barns and accessory buildings complete the farm unit and are important as background buildings to the main house environment.

<sup>1</sup>Windsor History and Happenings, William L. Beedie, 1978.

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 1879  
NATIONAL REGISTER

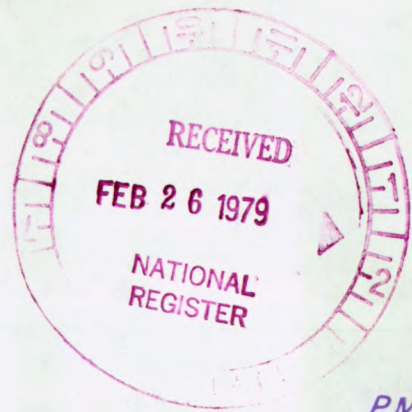


RES. OF JAMES H. LAUGHLIN, MARK WEST, SONOMA CO., CAL.

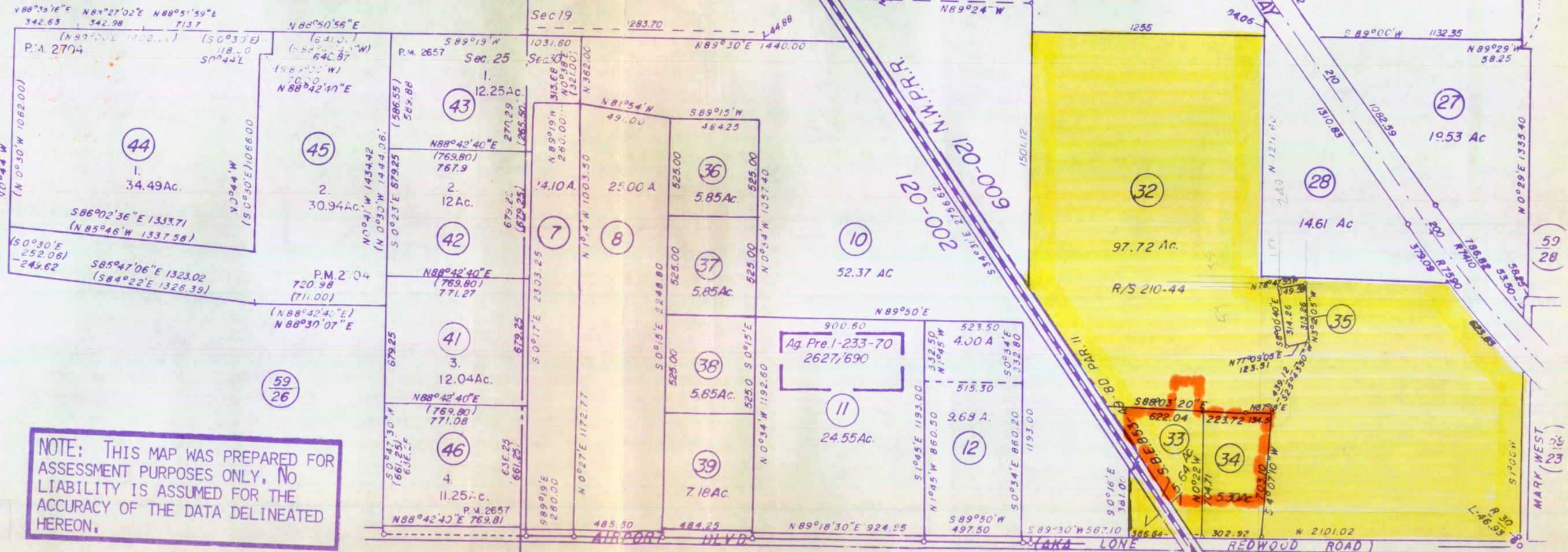


JAMES H. Laughlin Property - HISTORIC  
OWNERS: STAN TATUM & LEO ANDRADE

PORTION OF PROPERTY INCLUDED IN THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER APPLICATION  
SEE LARGE SCALE SITE PLAN



P.M. 2657 M.Bk. 166 Pg. 11 Rec. 12 '20/1971  
P.M. 2704 M.Bk. 167 Pg. 30 Rec. 2 '23 '1972



REVISED	
8-14-78=49	1"=600'
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-

NOTE: THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FOR  
ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. NO  
LIABILITY IS ASSUMED FOR THE  
ACCURACY OF THE DATA DELINEATED  
HEREON.

ERNEST L. COMALLI  
Assessor Sonoma County