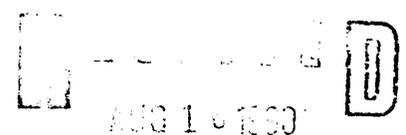


1443

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Atkinson House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8440 St. Helena Highway not for publication
city, town Rutherford vicinity
state California code CA county Napa code 055 zip code 94573

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Swathin 8-7-90
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Delores Byrum **Entered in the National Register** 1/13/96

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single family

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture - museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other wood porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Atkinson House is a two-story wood frame Queen Anne residence constructed in 1881. The exterior is distinguished by a cut stone foundation, wrap-around porch, fishscale shingles on the gable end, and polygonal tower. Alterations on the exterior include the addition of two brick chimneys, kitchen addition to the rear, bedroom addition off the porch, and first floor windows altered to accommodate larger panes of glass. On the interior, the second floor is little changed; the first floor has been altered by the above-mentioned changes. To the rear of the house is a noncontributing wood shed built in 1989 to replace an earlier shed.

The home is set back from the highway as a detached residence framed by several native mature oak trees with a small shed to the southeast. A new winery has been constructed to the east and north. The primary entrance to the house faces west to the highway and features a gable roof with gable end facing west over the broad porch. The foundation is local cut stone; the upper floor siding all around is horizontal, wood flush shiplap joint. The gable end has fishscale wood shingles and a tri-part window at the second level.

The porch, which wraps around the west and north sides, has simple Doric columns, turned balusters and balustrades and handrail. Concrete steps with brick sides (added in the 1950s) are on the west and northeast sides of the porch. The southwest corner of the porch was enclosed, a wood frame window inserted and a skylight added in the roof in the 1950s.

The south facade features three different designs of second floor dormer windows. A chimney was added in the 1920s. The first floor windows are wood frame double hung. The east facade has a closed in northeast corner that was added in the 1920s as a kitchen area, a covered rear entrance way and a chimney added in the 1920s. The north facade features the covered porch and prominent tower with tent roof. The roofing material is asphalt shingle over the original wood shake.

The interior is simple with plain plastered walls, solid oak floors and wood trimmed doors. The two notable features are a wood coffered ceiling in the dining room at the north side of the home and a marble fireplace in the entrance (west) room. The original doors and moldings remain.

The home is currently undergoing restoration without altering the interior floor plan or exterior design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance

1881-1890

Significant Dates

1881

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Atkinson House is significant in the agricultural history of the area under Criterion A for its association with the "Golden Age of Wine" in the Napa Valley during the 1880s. The building was the main house for the award winning Ewer and Atkinson Winery in Rutherford which was established in 1881 and whose successes and failures closely paralleled those of the burgeoning wine industry in Napa County during the 1880s. The house is also significant in the architectural history of the area under Criterion C as a good representative example, in a dwindling number, of rural residential Queen Anne design in the Napa area.

The property relates to the historic development of wine grape agriculture and wine making in Napa County, particularly the Napa County "Golden Age of Wine" in the 1880s. During this decade, Napa County wineries increased from 49 in 1880 to 166 by the end of the decade; planted grape vines increased from 3,500 acres in 1880 to 18,500 acres in 1890; and wine produced in Napa County won more awards at the first open international competition in France in 1889 than any other California or United States region. These awards gained Napa County its recognition as the premier wine region in California and the United States. As co-owner of the Ewer and Atkinson Winery, which won both state and international awards in 1888 and 1889, respectively, Joseph Atkinson's home signified his success as both a grape farmer and wine maker. This historic period ended in the 1890s with phylloxera gradually wiping out vineyards in Napa County as well as elsewhere in California.

Joseph Atkinson, who with his brother Louis built the home, was financially on a par with vintners such as Charles Krug and Gustave Niebaum and by 1889 was among the wealthiest men in Napa County based on property values. He was recognized as a bank director, school trustee, and church benefactor, all marks of high community status. Such prominent men built fine homes such as his Queen Anne residence. Although a hundred or more fine homes were likely built in Napa County by grape farmers and wine makers associated with the "Golden Age of Wine" in 1880s, only about 30 remain that exhibit integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

_____, Memorial and Bibliographical History of Northern California,
1891.
San Francisco Merchant, 3/16/1888
San Francisco Examiner, 4/6/1890
San Francisco Directory, 1858, p. 56
San Francisco Directory, 1865, p. 64
San Francisco Directory, 1871, p. 77
San Francisco Directory, 1880, p. 98
St. Helena Star, 1/28/1881
St. Helena Star, 7/28/1882
Napa Register, 1/4/1889

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .70

UTM References

A

1	0
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5	5	1	1	8	5
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4	2	5	6	1	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Dark line and shaded area around Atkinson House on attached base map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house, existing mature oak trees, and an outbuilding that are historically part of the Atkinson farm. The areas surrounding the boundary are new landscaping, parking, and a new winery building and have, therefore, been excluded.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Whitridge, AICP
organization Consultant date 8/14/89; 6/20/90
street & number 578 Montecito Blvd. telephone (707) 252-1021
city or town Napa state CA zip code 94559

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

Joseph and Louis Atkinson, who made their fortune in 15 years of shirtmaking in Philadelphia and San Francisco, purchased 153 acres of vacant land south of Rutherford in Napa County in 1881. The land was part of the original land grant deeded to George Yount, the first white settler in Napa County. Louis, as principle owner of L. Atkinson & Co., shirtmakers, paid \$15,300 in cash for the property. However, Louis died in 1882, and Joseph sold the shirtmaking company and moved to Napa County to assume control of the property.

During the rest of the decade, Joseph distinguished himself by planting 115 acres of the ranch in vines; investing in the new St. Helena Bank, and being named to the bank board of directors; being appointed trustee of Rutherford School; and teaming up with Senator Seneca Ewer to build Ewer & Atkinson Winery in Rutherford, now Beaulieu Winery. Their wines won awards at the 1888 state Viticulture Convention in San Francisco and the following year at the World's Fair in Paris. The latter was the first open competition in France to include California and other American wines. Napa County took half of the American awards and established itself as the premier wine region in the United States.

Unfortunately, phylloxera started in the 1890s and gradually spread through the grape growing areas of California. By 1900, Atkinson had lost all his vines, and he went from one of the wealthiest men in the county to financial failure. In 1901, foreclosure forced the sale of the 153 acres at auction for \$18,000.

The original construction of the ranch included a worker's house, barn, and main residence. Today, only the main residence remains as an excellent example of a rural Queen Anne home. Several mature oak trees remain that provide landscaping context. The home reflects the optimism and risk associated with early vineyard development and winery operations in Napa County at the start of the "Golden Age of Wine".

Although the home has been altered slightly, the property retains most of the original materials, workmanship, and design elements, particularly the prominent wrap-around porch and distinctive tower with tent roof. Extant rural Queen Anne wood frame residences in Napa County are rare. Less than ten such buildings remain. Four or five of these may be more decorative Queen Annes, but the Atkinson House is a fine Napa County example of the Queen Anne style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

The photographs listed are for the Atkinson House, Rutherford, California. The negatives for all photographs are located at Skalli Corporation, 8440 St. Helena Hwy., Rutherford, California. All photographs except 4, 9, 11 and 14 were taken by John Whitridge, AICP, during March, 1989. Photographs 4 and 9 were taken by Earl Bouligny, AIA, during March, 1988. Photographs 13 and 14 were taken by John Whitridge, AICP, during June, 1990.

6. Oak trees and west elevation/facing east
7. Photo 1

6. West elevation/facing east
7. Photo 2

6. South elevation/facing north
7. Photo 3

6. Southeast elevation/facing northwest
7. Photo 4

6. Northeast elevation/facing southwest
7. Photo 5

6. Detail of enclosed porch on south side/facing north
7. Photo 6

6. Tri-part window on second floor of west elevation/facing east
7. Photo 7

6. Front (west) steps/facing northeast
7. Photo 8

6. Detail of porch railing and column base on north side/facing northeast
7. Photo 9

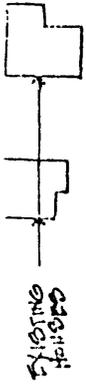
6. Ceiling detail of dining room on north side/facing toward heaven
7. Photo 10

6. Fireplace in front (west) entrance room/facing east
7. Photo 11

6. Basement of south side of house/facing east
7. Photo 12

6. Southeast elevation of House with south elevation of new replacement out building
7. Photo 13

6. East elevation of House with north elevation of new replacement out building
7. Photo 14



EXISTING ROAD
(IMPROVED)

PARKING
LOT #1
(15 CARS)

STAFF PARKING
(7 CARS)

TRUCK
BACK
AREA

CASH

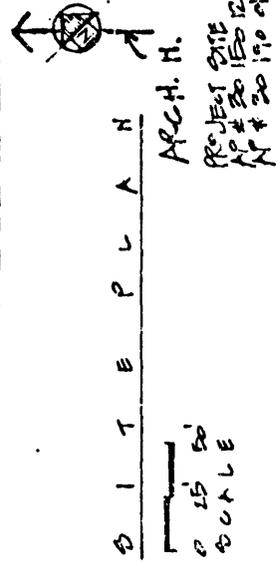
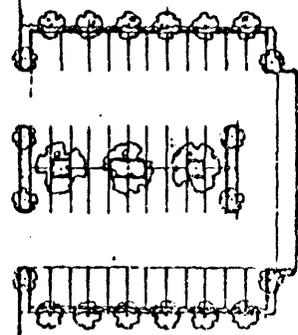
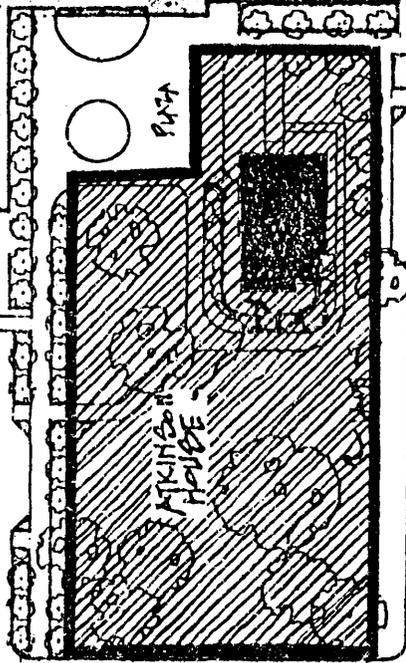
← TO HIGHWAY

EXISTING ROAD
(IMPROVED)

PROPOSED
WINERY
BLDG.

FUTURE
EXPANSION
AREA

NOTE: FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS
NOT SHOWN, SEE
CIVIL ENGINEERING DWG.



NOTE:
HIGHERWAY
IMPROVEMENTS
ON ROUTE 20
SHALL BE MADE
AS REQUIRED BY
CIVIL ENGINEERING

PROPOSED WINERY FOR SKALI CORPORATION ARCHITECT: E. R. BOULIGNY

Atkinson House

Waga County

8440 St. Helena Highway