

PH 0509 591

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 29 1977  
DATE ENTERED APR 19 1978

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 The French Laundry RECEIVED  
AND/OR COMMON same as above SEP 19 1977  
OHP

**2 LOCATION**  
STREET & NUMBER 6640 Washington Street  
CITY, TOWN Yountville VICINITY OF Second District  
STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Napa CODE 055

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Restaurant</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
NAME Donald R./Sally E. Schmitt  
STREET & NUMBER Drawer 0  
CITY, TOWN Yountville VICINITY OF California STATE 94599

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Napa County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Brown Street  
CITY, TOWN Napa STATE California 94558

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
TITLE Napa County Historic Resources Inventory  
DATE Site Inventory, Sept. 1977  
Survey completion, June, 1978  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Napa County Conservation-Development & Planning Dept.  
CITY, TOWN Napa STATE California 94558

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The French Laundry is a two story fieldstone and frame structure with a low hip roof built by Alexander (Gus) Clark, a local stonemason, bricklayer and chimney-builder originally from Scotland, about 1900. The building is basically a square with a jutting southwest corner which conforms to the lot angle at the intersection of Washington and Creek Streets. The side setback, south elevation, is 0-3 feet from Washington Street, and the front setback, northwest elevation, is no more than 6 feet from Creek Street. The architectural style of the building, common to provincial towns in Spain and France, reflects the ethnic background of its first owner, Peter (Pierre) Guillaume, originally from the Spanish Pyrenees.

The doublewall construction of the first story is of basaltic fieldstone taken from the hillsides surrounding Yountville. It is a traditional method of stone construction which reflects Clark's Scottish background. Chinking is of basaltic chips with some broken brick pieces. There is no basement and the original dirt floor was covered with pine tongue-and-groove in the early 1900s. The second story is of shiplap siding which is currently covered with wood shingles which were previously covered with asbestos siding. There is no evidence of an exterior staircase; the interior staircase does show evidence of changes which would have been made prior to 1907. Segmented arched windows and door openings on the first floor have radiating brick detail at the top with quoins of brick at the sides. Slipsills are also of brick.

A one-story lean-to ( east elevation) is part of the original structure and housed the kitchen. The southeast wall of the lean-to is continuous with the main building; the northwest wall of the lean-to was added upon completion of the interior fireplace in the northeast corner of the main building.

Lath and plaster partitions create two rooms on the first floor and three rooms and a bathroom on the second floor of the main building. The lean-to has two rooms. The rooms do not appear to have been altered from the original. The main door ( southwest corner) has been converted to a window, and a window on the south side ( Washington Street) has become a door ( date of alterations unknown). An additional window on the second floor was cut into the southeast wall in the 1930s. A balcony originally circled the Washington and Creek Street sides of the second floor but was removed in the late 1930s.

# 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 checked="" 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 c. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander (Gus) Clark

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The French Laundry is one of three stone buildings in Yountville constructed in the period 1870-1900 and is the only remaining example of fieldstone double wall construction executed by Gus Clark, a Scottish stonemason living at the California Veterans Home. The only other stone structure known to have been built by Clark in Yountville, the Rock Villa, a saloon of the same fieldstone and frame construction, no longer exists. The French Laundry is significant not only for its craftsmanship in stone taken from the surrounding hillside quarries, but also in its reflection of the vernacular architecture carried from Europe by the ethnic groups which inhabited this part of the Napa Valley in the late 1800s and early 1900s: the French and the Italians. Its name, derived from the building's use as a French Steam Laundry in the early 1900s, reflects a time when a French Laundry indicated a commercial laundering establishment displaying a high degree of skill and care.

In 1900, Peter (Pierre) Guillaume, originally from the Spanish Pyrenees, purchased the land, which was part of the original Groezinger Addition to Yountville of 1874. A prominent man, Guillaume had run the Swiss Hotel in St. Helena and the German Bakery before coming to Yountville. He owned the Pope Mineral Springs and ran a hotel in Yountville in a stone building which remains today. The stone building which he had Clark build originally contained a saloon, the Eagle Saloon, under his management. He also owned the Rock Villa, another saloon. The site for the building was on a major thoroughfare through Yountville and along side the railroad tracks, an ideal location for a saloon, laundry and residence, all of which the building has been.

In 1907, John B. Lande, an immigrant from the French Pyrenees and a relative of Peter Guillaume, purchased the stone building. A butcher by trade, John Lande and his wife purchased the steam equipment for the Laundry from an earlier steam laundry in town and went into business as the French Laundry, on the ground floor of the building. The family lived upstairs. The French Laundry served a large portion of the central Napa Valley, counting among its customers many of the prominent French, German and Italian families of the region. The French Laundry passed out of the family's hands in 1936 and has been used as a residence by a series of owners since. The current owners are renovating the building as a restaurant

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Wichels, John. "Yountville in the Past" GLEANINGS, Napa County Historical Society, vol.1, no.3, 1973
- King, Norton L. Napa County: An Historical Overview, Office of the Napa County Supt. of Schools, 1967.
- Napa County Recorders Office. DEEDS 65/249 and DEEDS 89/90
- Oliver, Paul, ed. Shelter and Society, Praeger, 1969.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately more than 1/3 of an acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	0	5	5	5	5	0	1	2	5	0	6	8	0	B									
	ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING					ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						
C															D									

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The French Laundry is located on the southeast corner of Washington and Creek Streets, Yountville, California.

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

STATE not applicable CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Judith A. Munns, Historic Resources Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Napa Landmarks, Inc.

DATE 16 September 1977

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 702

TELEPHONE (707) 255-1836

CITY OR TOWN Napa

STATE California 94558

## 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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 4.19.78

ATTEST: Madeline Cole

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

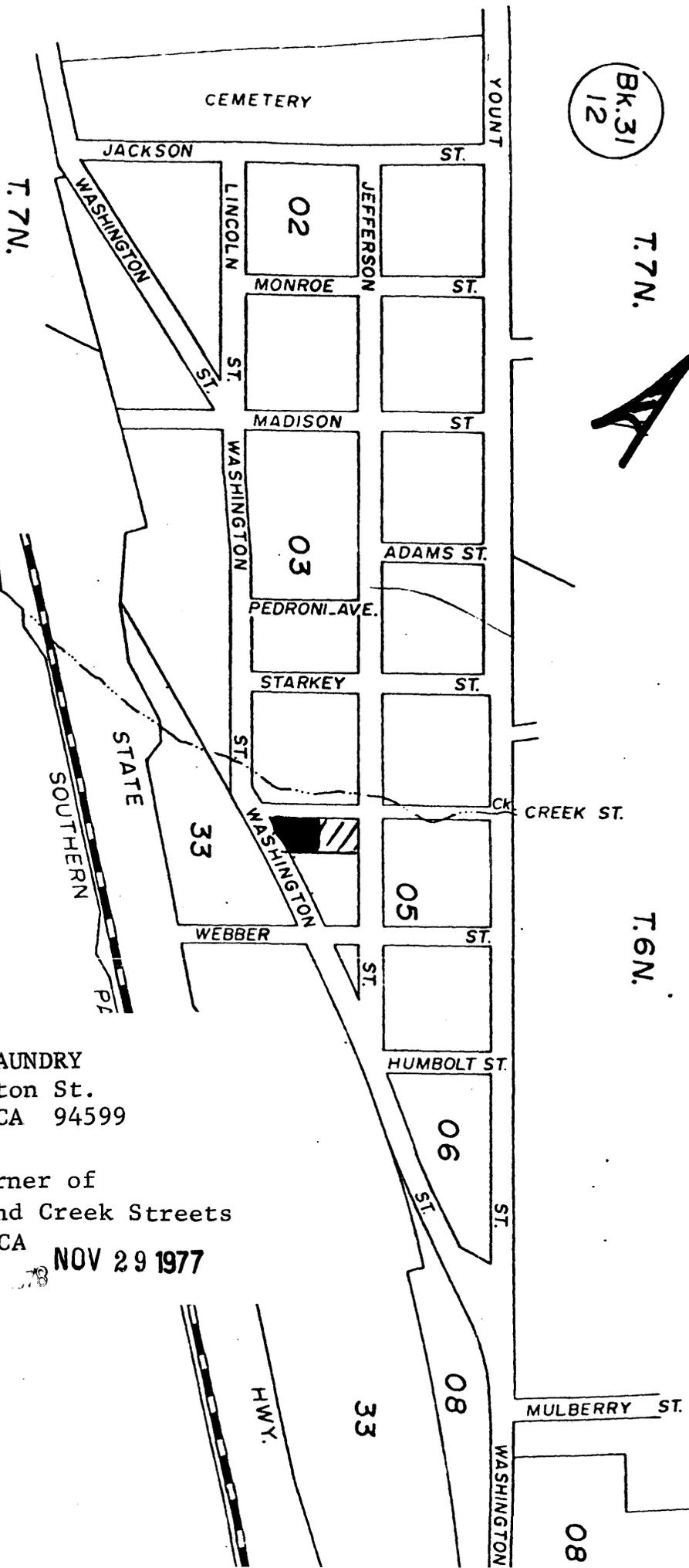
Bk. 31  
12

T. 7N.



INDEX PART 1

T. 6N.



THE FRENCH LAUNDRY  
6640 Washington St.  
Yountville, CA 94599

Southeast Corner of  
Washington and Creek Streets  
Yountville, CA  
NOV 29 1977

This Map Was Prepared For  
ent Purposes Only, No  
Is Assumed For The  
Of The Data Delineated

GEN. L. ABATE