

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

JUN 21 1979

AUG 24 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 Nichelini Winery

AND/OR COMMON

Nichelini Winery / Nichelini Vineyards

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2950 Sage Canyon Road (Hwy. 128)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN St. Helena

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE California

CODE

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Fred Nichelini etal

STREET & NUMBER 132 Alta Road

CITY, TOWN Oakland, VICINITY OF

STATE CALIFORNIA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Napa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Brown and Coombs

CITY, TOWN Napa,

STATE CALIFORNIA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Napa County Historic Resources Inventory

DATE Site Inventory: 2-75, 8-78

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Napa County Conservation-Development and Planning Dept.

CITY, TOWN Napa

STATE CALIFORNIA

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nichelini Winery, a vernacular structure reflecting the Italian Swiss heritage of its owner- builder, Anton Nichelini, is stepped into the steep hillside to the east of Sage Canyon Road. Unaltered in design, the first level of the square three story building is of native cut stone quarried locally. Built in 1890 as a wine cellar, there is a wide central door in the east elevation with a segmental arch and radiating stones. Two rectangular windows flank the doorway with simple flat lintels and sills. Quoins are at the corners.

The second and third floors, completed by 1896, are of frame in a cross-axial plan, and served as the residence of the Nichelini family. The second level, at road level, opens directly unto Sage Canyon Road. Siding of the second level is vertical board-and-batten. Rectangular windows with two-over-two double-hung sash have molded trim with shouldered lintels. Windows are paired in the east and west facades on the second level. The third level has narrow horizontal siding. Windows are two-over-two double hung sash with plain molding. A cross-gabled roof has a plain boxed cornice with frieze and returns suggesting the Greek Revival style. Note also the decorative gable pattern of diagonal and vertical boards. One story porches on the second level in the northwest and southwest corners are original with plain square posts and shed roof. Entrance to the residence is on the second level at the northwest corner off Sage Canyon Road through a single four-panel door.

To the north of the Winery/Residence is a frame building, also stepped into the hillside, which is part of the present winery. Resting on a native fieldstone foundation, the rectangular 2 1/2 story building has vertical board-and-batten siding. The second level, entered directly from Sage Canyon Road, has a gabled roof sloping into a shed roof with a central projecting gable in the west facade.

This narrow and winding section of Sage Canyon with the Road, access to the Winery, the steep hillside, stone terracing and steps and Sage Creek below, remains in appearance much as it did in the 1890s when the Winery was built, though trees now shelter the buildings.

6 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Anton Nichelini

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nichelini Winery epitomizes the small owner-built and family-run winery, typical of the late 19th century in Napa County, which remains in operation today in a setting little changed since it was built in 1890. The 19th century winery equipment, including the primitive lever press remains on the site, giving a unique glimpse of a 19th century working winery. Napa County had approximately 200 wineries in operation at the height of its early viticultural period in the late 19th century; the majority run by single families. Anton Nichelini, a native of Switzerland, owner and builder of the Winery in 1890, was one of many Swiss, Italian, German and French immigrants who exerted a strong influence upon the wine industry in Napa County and who left their mark in the fine craftsmanship in stone found throughout the County.

The vernacular influence of the European heritage is evident in structures such as this unaltered stone winery with its residence above. A common design in Europe, only a few such winery-residences were built in Napa County, primarily by European immigrants. Anton Nichelini homesteaded this tract of land in 1884. In addition to planting vineyards, he also developed small mines on the property which is in a region of Napa County known for its quicksilver mines. The first Swiss settler in the area, his was the first wine cellar in Sage Canyon. Drawing a steady clientele for his wines from the workers in the Pope and Chiles Valley mines, many of whom were Italian, Nichelini was well-known locally.

The Nichelini Winery was closed during Prohibition and reopened after Repeal by Nichelini's son, William. The third generation of the family, Jim Nichelini, currently manages the Winery which has remained small and family-run.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview, James Nichelini, April 1975

Wallace, W.F. History of Napa County (1901), pp. 330-331.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0 acre (of 161 acre property)

QUADRANGLE NAME Yountville Quad.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 561700 4261220
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] [] []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] [] []

D [] [] []

E [] [] []

F [] [] []

G [] [] []

H [] [] []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Nichelini Winery and adjacent frame barn/winery is located approximately 0.4 miles south of the intersection of Lower Chiles Valley Rd. and Sage Canyon Rd (Hwy.128) on the east side of Sage Canyon Rd. The buildings are bounded by the Road on the West and Sage Creek on the East.

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 Judith Munns, Coordinator, Napa County Historic Resources Inventory

ORGANIZATION Napa Landmarks, Inc.

DATE September 10, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 1834 First Street (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 X

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

Kerry McEllan

TITLE

DATE MAY 31 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 8-24-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/24/79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

[Signature]

NICHELINI WINERY
2950 Sage Canyon Rd. (Hwy. 128)
St. Helena, California

The site is approximately 0.4 miles south
of the intersection of Lower Chiles Valley Rd.
and Sage Canyon Rd. (Hwy. 128) on the east
side of Sage Canyon Rd.

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