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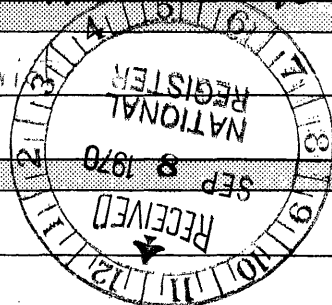
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Mendocino	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 717.06.0043	DATE 7/14/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mendocino and Headlands *Historic District*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mendocino and Headlands

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
District

CITY OR TOWN:
Mendocino

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Mendocino** CODE: **045**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Town	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Private Ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Mendocino** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Mendocino County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Ukiah** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Mendocino Headland and Big River Beach Feasibility Study

DATE OF SURVEY: **March 2, 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
Resources Building - 1416 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Sacramento** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **California**

COUNTY: **Mendocino**

ENTRY NUMBER: **717.06.0043**

DATE: **7/14/71**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

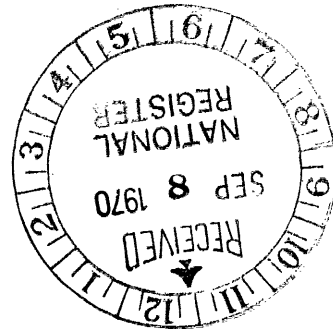
(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With the exception of five or six buildings, the entire two blocks fronting the ocean provides a panorama of Victorian times. In recent years many of these structures have been repaired or restored, and most are occupied. Isolated historic structures in the town should be added to the preservation project. All structures are styled in wood and show evidence of their having been built by skilled craftsmen.

A historic zone lying generally between Coast Highway 1 and the Pacific Ocean shoreline, and between the north shoreline of Mendocino Bay and a line more or less represented by the south side of Little Lake Street.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

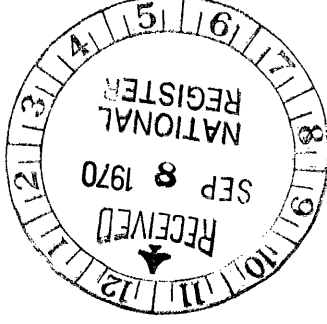
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The historic values of the site are directly related to the beginning of the California Redwood Lumber industry. The site contains natural and scenic resource values representative of the rugged Mendocino Coast. The site has potential for affording recreation opportunities, and would help satisfy a growing recreation deficiency within the 2-4 hour travel time zone of the San Francisco and Sacramento Metropolitan Area.

The community was the first of a number of towns that developed as a result of lumber operations along the California coastline. It was started in 1851. Some buildings which remain date back to 1852-55; with majority covering a period 1860-1900.

Today the town remains much as it was in earlier times. It has retained the rare individuality of architecture and environment which makes one's visit a satisfying experience.

Among the outstanding architectural values which remain are: the Presbyterian Church - 1867-68 (photo attached), The Masonic Hall - 1866, the McCallen House - 1885, an old Chinese Joss House, and "Hotel Row" - a number of interesting buildings fronting Main Street - most of them going back in time to the 1870-80's.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rensch's Historic spots in California
 Feasibility Report, Department of Parks and Recreation, 1969.

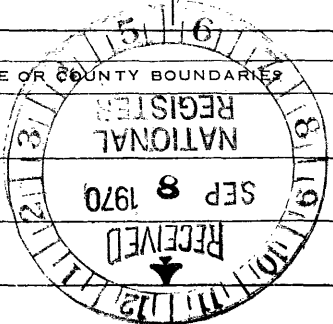
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39° 18' 43"	123° 48' 45"	°	'	"
NE	39° 18' 43"	123° 47' 38"	°	'	"
SE	39° 18' 04"	123° 47' 38"	°	'	"
SW	39° 18' 04"	123° 48' 45"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **130 +-**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NW 10/429 950
 4351500
 SE 10/431 540/4350 270
 SW 10/429 940/4350 290

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Allen W. Welts**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of Parks and Recreation** DATE: **5/6/70**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1416 9th Street - P.O. Box 2390**

CITY OR TOWN: **Sacramento** STATE: **California** CODE: **95811**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Allen W. Welts*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: August 3, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Conrad A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JUL 14 1971

ATTEST:

William M. ...
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: ~~APR 27 1971~~ APR 27 1971

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DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

Continuation Sheet listing Mendocino Joss House as Contributing Building
to the Mendocino Historic District: Mendocino and Mendocino Headlands

Mendocino Joss House
45160 Albion Street

The Mendocino Joss House is located one block north of Main Street on a small rise overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The surrounding area is primarily residential with many open spaces which provide "scenic corridors" that allow an unbroken view to the ocean.

The building is representative of an early phase of simple vernacular redwood architecture typical to the coastal area during the early phase of settlement between 1851-1870. The Joss House is a balloon frame sheathed in ship lap siding which has been painted red and green. The rectangular plan with rear shed addition houses a two room temple. The building measures 13'5"x30'6" and is 14'6" from the foundation to the roof line. There are only two doors; the entrance door and a rear exit door. The original entrance door was a narrow double door with two recessed center panels (this door has now been moved to the interior). There are three windows in the entire building; two double hung sash windows flank the entrance door and a small paned window gives light to the priest room in the rear of the building.

Both exterior and interior condition are good; work is needed to reroof the building. There are plans to reroof with redwood shingles, presently there are redwood shingles on the roof. A new foundation of redwood piers on cement blocks replaced the original redwood foundation.

There is no chimney; a small clay stove pipe extends beyond the exterior plane of the west wall. This is the vent for a stove which sits in the southwest corner of the interior. The only decorative elements of the Joss House are the crudely sawn porch brackets which enliven the corner of the porch's shed roof. The cornice is constructed of a rough cut redwood board, painted green. There is no ornamentation on the cornice.

The interior of the Joss House is constructed of smooth finished redwood. There are 6" wide plank floors and ceiling and 6" tongue and groove wall siding (horizontal). Other than a few wall hangings the walls are bare; interior furnishings are sparse and consist of a small prayer table with an altar behind it and several hanging lanterns. Simple wood benches line each wall and a stove sits in one corner of the front room.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

Continuation Sheet for contributing building to the Mendocino Historic District:
Mendocino and Mendocino Headlands

The Mendocino Joss House: contributing building:

The Mendocino Joss House, the last Joss House on the Pacific Northcoast, north of San Francisco to the Oregon border, is an historically and culturally significant structure associated with a pioneer Chinese family and Chinese community. While the Chinese built Chinatowns throughout the State of California and Joss Houses (small temples) serviced many of these communities, most were burned, destroyed, or lost to history in some manner. Based upon oral history which dates the Mendocino Joss House to 1854, this temple may be not only the longest in use temple, but the oldest "original" Joss House in California.¹ While the exterior of the building is not a rare architectural resource, the interior is an invaluable resource of ethnic history. Except for the replacement of one paper lantern, all interior furnishings are said to be original and date from the time of construction. The temple is dedicated to Kwan Dai, the God of War, a popular diety who lived from 161 A.D. to 219 A.D.

Footnotes:

1. The oral history which surrounds the Mendocino Joss House is documented in Bruce Levene's Mendocino County Remembered. An Oral History, Mendocino, The Mendocino County Historical Society, 1976, pp. 52, 199. This history of the Mendocino Joss House has also been passed down, generation to generation, by the Hee family (owners of the temple since at least 1871). Oral history states that the temple has been in use since its erection in 1854; it is used today by Hee family members. The Weaverville Joss House, a California State Historical Landmark, was believed constructed in 1852 or 1853; this building, however, burned in 1873 and the present structure dates from 1874. The Marysville Joss House, thought to be the oldest "original" joss house was built early in 1880. Therefore, based upon the oral history date of 1854, the Mendocino Joss House appears to be the oldest "original" California Joss House. Documents show that the land upon which the Joss House sits was owned by Chinese in 1867. Although the building does not appear on a Sanborn map until 1883, it is unlikely that the Chinese community, which by 1875 numbered 700 would have held the land for sixteen years before constructing a temple.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Continuation Sheet for Mendocino Joss House Bibliography:

Bancroft, Hubert Howe. History of California, Vol. 6, San Francisco, A.L. Bancroft and Company, Publishers, 1884.

Carpenter, Aurelius O. and Percy H. Millberry. History of Mendocino and Lake Counties, California, Los Angeles, Historic Records Company, 1914.

Choy, Phillip. "Gaam Sak: Journey to the Golden Mountain", San Francisco Historical Society Movie which shows the Mendocino Joss House, 1973.

Hyman, Frank. Reminiscences, Ukiah, Panpipes Press, 1969, p. 13.

Levene, Bruce. Mendocino County Remembered. An Oral History, Mendocino, The Mendocino County Historical Society, 1976.

Mendocino Historical Society Newsletter, Mendocino, Vol. 1 #3, Mendocino Historical Society, 1963.

Wells, Mariann Kaye. Chinese Temples in California, Berkeley, University of California, unpublished thesis, 1962.

Deeds:

Book 2 of Deeds, page 447, Mendocino County Records, July 1, 1867

Book 6 of Deeds, Page 195, Mendocino County Records and miscellaneous records of Mendocino County in Vol. 1

Grant Deed #41927, Book 816, Page 261, May 4, 1970, Mendocino County Records

July 1883 Mendocino City, Sanborn Map and Publishing Company Limited.

