

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

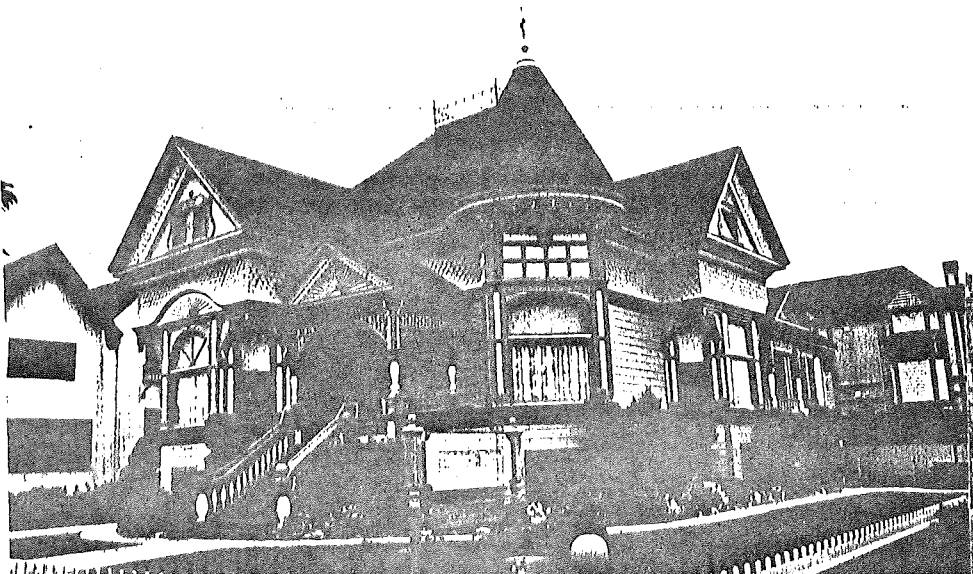
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Steinbeck House
2. Historic name: John Steinbeck Residence
3. Street or rural address: 132 Central Ave.
City Salinas Zip 93901 County Monterey
4. Parcel number: 002-162-16
5. Present Owner: Salinas Valley Guild Address: Same as above
City Salinas Zip 93901 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Restaurant Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Queen Anne
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical appearance* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

A one and one-half story redwood framed residence, the property is characterized by an irregularity of plan and massing, with a variety of color and texture. Horizontal redwood boards at the first level of the stoey and one-ahlf residence are surmounted by a scalloped wood shingle at the upper level. A suggestion of half-timbering is evident in the cut-back front tower. Square and angled bay windows are much employed. Roof treatment is hipped with lower cross gables. Ornamental iron cesting tops the hipped main roof sheathed in composition shingle. Decoration consists of turned and sawn work appended throughout. Fenestration is generally 1/1 double hung wood sash. The building is in excellent condition with no apparent changes from its original construction.



Construction date: _____ 1898
Estimated _____ Factual _____

Architect _____

Builder J.J. Connors

Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 75' Depth 127'
or approx. acreage _____

Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
1900, 1988

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: None apparent
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered buildings _____ Densely built-up _____
Residential Industrial _____ Commercial _____ Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known Private development _____ Zoning _____ Vandalism _____
Public Works project _____ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? _____ Unknown? _____
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
 Birthplace of Nobel and Pulitzer Price winning American novelist John Steinbeck. Steinbeck was raised in the house where he also completed some of his novels. He remained a resident of the house until he left for Stanford University at age 19. Returning off and on for stays of varying periods. The building itself is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Both historically and architecturally, this property should clearly qualify as a Salinas landmark. Because of its importance as a source and reference in the work of John Steinbeck, an important American author, it should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also be listed as a California Registered Landmark. Specific Criterion cited for designation include 1,2,3,a,c,d,f,j. This building is the key feature of the Steinbeck historic district.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture Arts & Leisure
 Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates). Memorabilia and oral interviews of Steinbeck friends on file at the Steinbeck Library, 110 W. San Luis, Salinas
 Steinbeck, J., East of Eden, Viking Press, New York, 1952...

22. Date form prepared MAY 15 1989
 By (name) Kent L. Seavey
 Organization _____
 Address: MONTEREY COUNTY
 City HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Phone: P. O. Box 3576
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