

PH00 76635

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Shasta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 2 1973	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Tower House District	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area			
CITY OR TOWN: Whiskeytown			
STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Shasta	CODE 089

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Bath	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ ☐ Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: National Park Service			
STREET AND NUMBER: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area			
CITY OR TOWN: Whiskeytown	STATE: California	CODE 06	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Park files, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Whiskeytown	STATE: California	CODE 06	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8750

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 2 1973

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

This historic district is composed of the following sites and structures:

- (1) Tower House site - This hotel burned many years ago and its precise locations is not now known, but it was situated near the Camden House.
- (2) Camden House - This two-story wooden house was reportedly built in the early 1850's. A change in the style of the exterior indicates that the house was added to at a later date. Without question, the house was altered to add plumbing fixtures. The house contains four rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs. Most of the interior walls were papered; the wallpaper has now faded badly. The house is in deteriorating condition, having been subject to vandalization.
- (3) Camden House out buildings - three small wooden structures close to and directly behind the Camden House according to local tradition are about 100 years old. Two were apparently used for living quarters, possibly by servants, and one for storage. Two other wooden out buildings of unknown use are located between 150 and 200 feet from the house.
- (4) Foot bridge - Behind the Camden House is a wooden foot bridge with supports made of stone and cement. The bridge, which appears to date to the 19th century, connected the house area and the apple orchard.
- (5) Apple orchard - Across the creek behind the Camden House is what is left of an old and extensive apple orchard. The trees that are left have not been cared for in many years and show signs of extensive decay.
- (6) Tower Graveyard - At the north end of the apple orchard is a graveyard, surrounded by a wood picket fence, that apparently contains only the grave of Levi Tower who built the nearby Tower House and died in 1865. The cemetery is large enough for several graves. It was recently cleared of trees and underbrush. The picket fence needs extensive repair.
- (7) Pasture - The south end of the apple orchard is being converted into a pasture area for horses. Some of this land was probably historically pastureland.
- (8) Old barn - On one edge of the pasture is a huge old wooden barn, 50' by 50' in size. Although is originally had divisions for stalls and a place to store hay, the structure today consists primarily of exterior walls, a roof, and interior supports. Its vintage is not known.
- (9) Mill Creek Farm House - Across the road from the barn is an old farm house that may date back to the 19th century. This partially two story house is wooden, and although it has been vandalized, the structure appears to be basically sound.
- (10) Vehicle bridge - Stone and concrete bridge supports across Clear Creek where the historic old road ran. The bridge that was here may have been the covered bridge known to have been in the area. In any event, the bridge that was here dated back to the 19th century.

(see attached sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☒ Agriculture

☐ Architecture

☐ Art

☒ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☒ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

lasophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☒ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

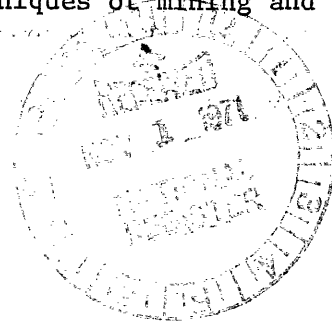
☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Levi Tower built the Tower House, first known as the Free Bridge House, in the early 1850's to serve travelers on the roads connecting Shasta, Yreka, Weaverville, and the mining community at French Gulch. Subsequent farm operations developed to supply the hotel. Charles Camden, reportedly but a few years after the completion of the Tower House, married Levi's sister and erected the structure known today as the Camden House. Camden, a prominent figure in the area, engaged in gold mining operations and apparently farming activities. He built a toll road to Shasta.

This site typifies the accommodations available to travelers to the gold fields and on the Old California-Oregon Trail. Subsequent activities here are representative of the settlements of this section of the country, both in gold mining, traveling, and farming.

The nearby gold mining operations, though as far as known now was not associated with Camden (Bickford mine) is a good example of one-man, latter-day mining that showed a small profit. Still in working order, it can be made to demonstrate the techniques of mining and ore extraction.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Judge Albert F. Ross, "History of Whiskeytown," typescript in files of Office of History and Historic Architecture, Western Service Center, NPS.

Henderson, David, and Anna C. Toogood

1973 "Historic Structures Report: The Tower House District,"
Historic Preservation Team, Denver Service Center, National
Park Service (1973).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	40	39	51	122	38	27			
NE	40	40	03	122	37	53			
SE	40	39	40	122	37	44			
SW	40	39	29	122	38	17			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California	06	Shasta	089
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE F. Ross Holland, Jr., Historian		DATE May 24, 1971
ORGANIZATION HHA, WSC, National Park Service		
STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco	STATE California	CODE 06

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 Lyle M. Dowell

ACTING DIRECTOR, WESTERN REGION
Title

23 FEB 1973

Date

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

Robert M. Wiley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/2/73

ATTEST:

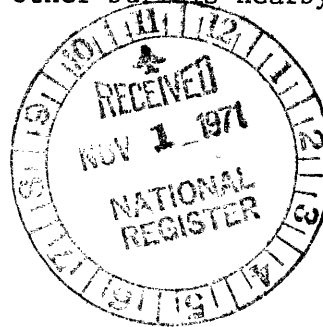
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date

6 19 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

- (11) Bickford Mine - This gold mining complex, a short distance from the Mill Creek farm house, consists of a one bedroom house, greenhouse, a long shed that houses at one end the remains of a forge, the mine hole, loading platform, and a structure containing a still operable one-stamp mill. The mine was in operation as recently as three years ago and the structures remain in reasonably good condition.
- (12) Irrigation system - A redwood water storage tank (see National Register form on main Irrigation system) has pipes leading from it that conduct water to the Camden House grounds and to the pasture across the creek behind the Camden House. This irrigation still works and is being actively used on the recently planted pasture.
- (13) Barn - Across Highway 299 from the Camden House is a barn of unknown vintage. Stone support walls indicate that the site contained another structure before the barn.
- (14) Kate Camden grave - On the hill above the barn is the grave of Kate Camden, an Indian girl who was a servant to the Camden family. She died at the age of 27 in 1871. Although no burials have been found, there are indications of other burials nearby.



Boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Crystal and Willow Creeks, thence approximately 550 feet in an easterly direction to a point on the north side of California Highway 299, 10 feet from and approximately south of the 8" irrigation pipeline; thence along a line 10 feet from said pipeline to a point 500 feet from and approximately northeast of the wooden water tank terminating said pipeline; thence northeast 550 feet; thence southeast 2300 feet to a point 100 feet north of the north side of California Highway 299; thence south 750 feet; thence west 1000 feet; thence southwest 2300 feet; thence in a north-north-westerly direction approximately 4250 feet to the point of beginning. Being comprised of 20 acres, more or less.