HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Wild Rose
2. Historic name: Schwab Bros. Shoe Store
3. Street or rural address: 113 Plaza Street
   City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 County Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-181-17-0
5. Present Owner: Triad Investment Address: 399 Poppy Hill Drive
   City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448 Ownership is: Public Private X
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Non-Specific Victorian Commercial
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:
   This one story structure has been partially altered from its original appearance. The cornice has large stop brackets at each end with smaller brackets filling in under a fascia with dentil pattern. The rest of the facade is stucco with four fixed transom windows topping the display windows and recessed entry.

8. Construction date:
   Estimated Factual 1883
9. Architect
10. Builder Ransom Powell
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage 21 Depth 98
    or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    10 Aug 82 05/17
13. Condition: Excellent ______ Good ______ Fair ______ Deteriorated ______ No longer in existence ______

14. Alterations: 

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: Redevelopment ______

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.)

This building appears in a 1913 photo with the facade appearing basically as it is today with the exception of the transom window which was on the large window with many small panes filling in. The original sheathing below the display windows has been covered with rough redwood. As such, this structure is one of the more intact commercial buildings, and one of two remaining 19th century brick buildings in the Plaza commercial district, built circa 1880 by prominent businessman, Ransom Powell. Powell opened a hardware store here in 1889. Powell, born in 1824 in Tennessee, came to California to mine in 1849 and to Healdsburg in 1856. Soon after Powell went into real estate and by the time he died in 1910, he was the largest landowner in Northern Sonoma County. He helped organize the Farmer's and Mechanics Bank, was township supervisor, and had survived two wives. Powell and his first wife, Anna, lived here with their five children. Powell married his second wife, Emma, in 1866, and their daughter, Bertha, was born in 1867. The hardware store was a success, and the business expanded over the years to include a dwelling, a residence, and a store. Powell and his sons were named after his brothers and sisters. Powell died in 1910, and his sons, Ransom, Jr., and Charles, took over the business with H. O. Ferguson.

Although its facade has been modernized at least twice since 1883, this building is one of the oldest brick commercial structures in Healdsburg. Built in 1883 it was originally owned by John S. Tucker, a blind businessman who ran a variety store nearby that specialized in handmade basketry. Tucker rented this property to various retail stores, its first use being a hardware and tin shop. By 1900 the store had become Schwab Brothers Shoe Store, which it remained until 1969. F.A. Schwab, born in Germany in 1856, came to Healdsburg with his brother in 1877, and by 1885 had formed the shoe business. When the Schwab Brothers moved into this building they utilized the old tin shop in the rear as their cobbler's workshop. The business was inherited by F.A. Schwab's three sons.

22. Date form prepared July 25, 1983
By (name) Langhart Museum
Organization city of Healdsburg
Address: 133 Matheson Street
City Healdsburg, CA Zip 95448
Phone: (707) 433-4717