**State of California — The Resources Agency**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

---

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. Common name: House of Sonoma
2. Historic name: Buffi's (Hotel)
3. Street or rural address: 146 Healdsburg Avenue
   - City: Healdsburg
   - Zip: 95448
   - County: Sonoma
4. Parcel number: 002-262-11
5. Present Owner: Louie, Kem Yim & Sou Ngo R &
   - Address: 146 Healdsburg Ave.
   - City: Healdsburg
   - Zip: 95448
   - Ownership is: Public
   - Private: X
6. Present Use: Restaurant Hotel
   - Original use: Railroad Hotel

---

**DESCRIPTION**

7a. Architectural style: Mediterranean Style
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This two story stucco represents a subdued version of the Mediterranean style. It has a mansard cornice covered in red roof tiles with an ornamental stucco frieze. It has front and side porticos consisting of constructed square stucco columns supporting a hip roof with red tile.

---

**Additional Information**

8. Construction date:
   - Estimated
   - Factual 1930
9. Architect
10. Builder
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
   - Frontage 190
   - Depth 414
   - or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
   - 03 Sept 1982 13/6
Evolving from the original "Railroad House & Restaurant" established pre-1878, this structure was located behind the train depot. The hotel soon became known as the Oaklawn House, honoring its surrounding vegetation. By 1911, it was called the Italian-American Hotel it being owned and operated by a string of Italians, and being near the local Italian neighborhood. After A. Lazzari (owner from 1903-1920) committed suicide, the property was purchased by Emilio Buffi (1920). Buffi tore down the building and erected a new one in 1921. This hotel became the undisputed bootlegged liquor distribution center for the community and a well-known house of assignation, as well as a hotel/restaurant during Prohibition. In 1929, a fire burned the entire building to the ground, and Buffi built the present building (exactly as it now stands) in 1930. In 1937, Buffi hired Hansen Bros. to move the building from the depot to its present location. The Buffi family sold the restaurant in 1942, and since then it has remained a hotel/restaurant under a string of owners. This is the largest example of a Mediterranean commercial structure in Healdsburg.

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

Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
- Ent. 6/20/1878; 1/1/1890; 5/22/1879; 10/25/1928; 4/24/1920; 6/7/1919; 3/21/1903. Trib: 2/20/1896; 11/13/1913
- Int: Rena Buffi Phillips, 3/83
- Waldo Iversen, 1/83

Date form prepared
- By (name) Langhart Museum (ym)
- Organization: City of Healdsburg
- Address: 133 Matheson St.
- City: Healdsburg Zip 95448
- Phone: (707) 433-4717