

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 5060-234  
 HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc  SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status 5  
 UTM: A 10/591529.4093659 C \_\_\_\_\_  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

Mattison House

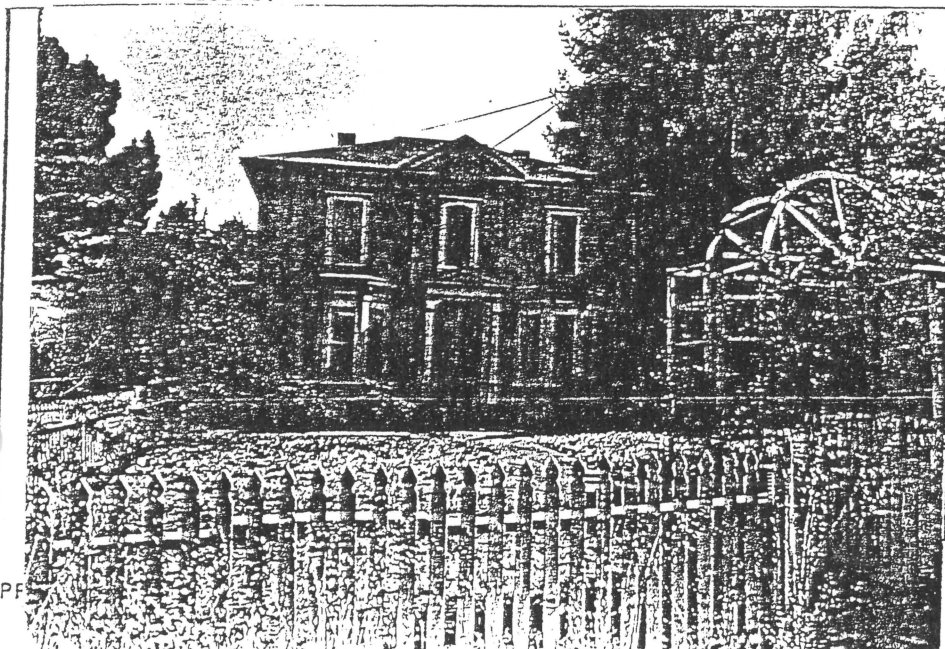
1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Historic name: Mattison House
3. Street or rural address: 2756 Mattison Lane  
 City Santa Cruz Zip 95060 County Santa Cruz Live Oak
4. Parcel number: 025-211-06
5. Present Owner: Lorraine Sintetos Address: 2756 Mattison Lane  
 City Santa Cruz Zip 95060 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

The Mattison House is representative of a late vernacular Italianate country villa, lacking only the brackets beneath the eaves and quoins at the corners characteristic of its city brethren. The formally composed symmetrical facade features two over two vertically divided sliding sash slanted bay windows flanking a central entrance portico at the ground floor. Above, bilateral symmetry is maintained with similar vertically oriented wood sash surmounted by classical entablature, centered in the bays on either side of a central projecting bay with broken squeezed pediment rising above the boxed eave line. Symmetrically position chimneys and gently sloping roof hips are consistent with the evenly balanced composition. Only the decorative roof cresting is missing from this picture.

The side and rear elevations have been modified. A continuous veranda wrapping around the rear has been truncated and a shed-roofed horizontal sided addition occupies its former location. Rear windows and doors have been altered towards the back of the side elevation and a later Victorian stair railing is visible at the side. One window on the west elevation has been shortened but retains its characteristic entablature detailing above.



8. Construction 1915  
 Estimated 1960 Factual \_\_\_\_\_
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
 Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
 or approx. acreage 2.4
12. Date(s) of April 1986 photograph(s)

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: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site?  Moved? \_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_
18. Related features: rural setting, Fruit Co-op adjacent to property

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

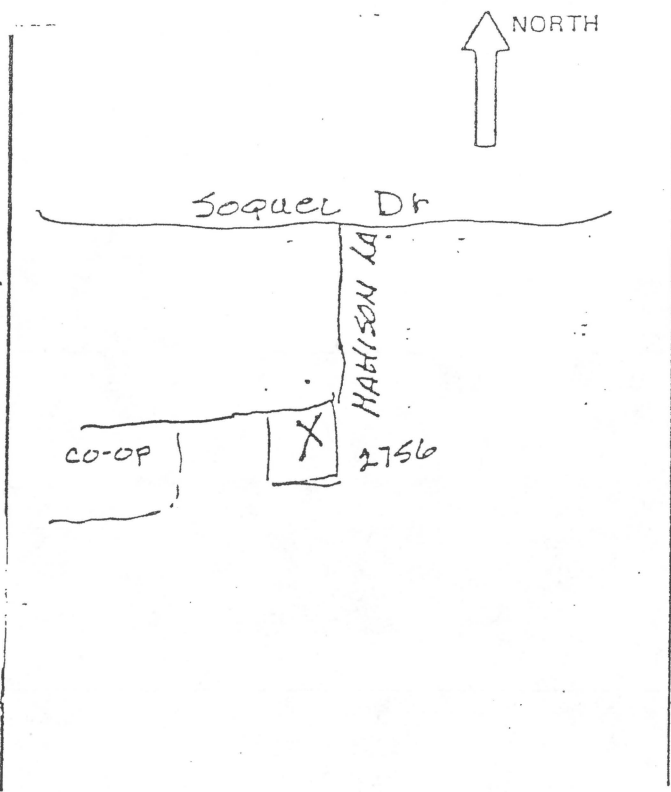
Wallace Elliott's 1879 publication honoring prominent men and significant structures of Santa Cruz County featured the Mattison House and its owner, John S. Mattison. The accompanying illustration reveals remarkably little change in the residence since its construction sometime in the 1860s-70s. Today, the house has lost only its "widow's walk" capping the roof, and the adjacent tank house with windmill. Landscape features such as the enclosing picket fence, Victorian rustic gate, and cypress trees have survived 110 years, an extraordinarily rare occurrence in historic preservation.

John S. Mattison came to Santa Cruz County from New York state, via the gold fields, in the fall of 1850, and was first engaged in the manufacture of saddles. He purchased the subject property in 1852, but returned to New York in 1853. He was selected to represent the State of California at an international convention of Sons of Temperance in Canada in 1854, and returned to his property with his bride in 1859, where he settled and farmed 96 acres. He was an active and popular public figure, serving as Justice of the Peace twice, and was a founder, deacon and clerk of the Soquel Congregational Church until his death in 1890. Mattison was best known in his role as leader in the development of the fruit drying industry in the county, founding the Santa Cruz Agricultural Coop adjacent to his Live Oak Farm. His (Continued on next page)

20. Main theme of the site (checked, number, in order of importance.)  
 Architecture \_\_\_ Arts & Leisure \_\_\_  
 Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_  
 Government \_\_\_ Military \_\_\_  
 Religion \_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates)  
 A Parade to American Houses, McAlister  
 A Parade to the Past, Koch  
 Santa Cruz, The Early Years, Rowland, L.  
 Wallace W. Elliott and Co., Publishers, Santa Cruz County, California, Illustrated, 1879 (pp. 75-94). April 1986

22. Date form prepared Amended 9/88 by Mary Ellen Ryan  
 By (name) Historical Research Consultants  
 Organization Edna E. Kimbro & Associates  
 Address: 184 Old Adobe Road  
 City Watsonville CA ZIP 95076



21. (Continued)  
 Lorraine Sinetetos, correspondence 1988.

Mattison House, 2756 Mattison Lane, Santa Cruz

Continued SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance

name is retained as the road name to the dryer and his beautifully preserved home. The Mattison House continues to reflect the understated elegance of vernacular Italianate style architecture. The Mattison House is truly a hidden treasure among the county's collection of historical architecture.

Mattison House (2756 Mattison Lane)

ADDENDUM—1994

PHYSICAL INSPECTION

Date: July 18, 1994

Result of Inspection: No apparent changes.

CONSULTANT'S PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

No change.

(Change of rating pending public hearing before the Historical Resources Commission with final approval by the Board of Supervisors).

Context: 1 (agriculture), 2 (architecture)

Property type: Farm house