

State of California — The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
 HRI #  
 Trinomial  
 NRHP Status Code NR5

Other Listings  
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

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\*Resource Name or #: #030

**P1. Other Identifier:** At The Sign of The Three Ducks

**\*P2. Location:**  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*a. County: Santa Cruz County and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: T \_\_\_\_\_ ; R \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of Sec \_\_\_\_\_ ; M.D. \_\_\_\_\_ B.M. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Address: 234 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue City: Santa Cruz Zip: 95062

d. UTM: Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_\_ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
 APN 028-142-31

**\*P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Single family dwelling, square in plan with a steeply pitched horned gable roof, open, flared eaves (barge boards have carved cyma-curves at each end) and closed gable support with 3 wooden flying ducks. Board and batten siding with arched corner entry. Single frame windows on side elevations and a tri-part multi-pane center window with wood frame and the words "At The Sign of The Three Ducks". Entry floor and chimney are a composite of brick, river rock, ceramic tile peices set in concrete. The architectural style combines Tudor revival roof form and Craftsman materials and styling.

Significance: The property retains the original features including material, elements, forms and setting of an early twentieth-century Live Oak dwelling and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR5.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP2; NR5

**\*P4. Resources Present:**  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) front view

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**  Historic  Prehistoric  
 Both

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
 Ward, Thomas D  
 4820 Bonny Doon Road  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**\*P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)  
 Sheila McElroy  
 Circa: Historic Property Development  
 One Sutter St. # 910  
 San Francisco, CA 94104  
 with Ross Gibson

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** 7/29/04

**\*P10. Survey Type:** (Describe)  
 Reconnaissance Survey

**\*P11. Report Citation:**

**\*Attachments:**  NONE  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  
 Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  
 Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (List):

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

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\*NRHP Status Code NR5

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 030

- B1. Historic Name: At The Sign of The Three Ducks  
B2. Common Name: At The Sign of The Three Ducks  
B3. Original Use: Vacation residence  
B4. Present Use: Same

\*B5. Architectural Style: Craftsman Style

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
1926

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown Date: Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: None

b. Builder: John Ward

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Architectural development

Area: Santa Cruz County

Period of Significance: 1926-present

Property Type: Vacation/resort cottage

Applicable Criteria: SC C3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

This summer cottage of the Ward Family is unique for its use of a combination of architectural styles and building materials including three carved wooden flying ducks as supports for the gables and an ornately carved sign above the front which reads "At the Sign of the Three Ducks" from which the cottage derives its name. John W. Ward, was an industrial arts teacher at a Bay Area high school in the 1920s and 30s and would bring his family to Santa Cruz on a vacation. A new tract of land that was opening to development in the East Twin Lakes region and in 1925, Ward began working on the design for his cottage. Being a shop teacher Ward had the talents of a number of young men seeking "hands-on" experience at all aspects of home construction. Construction began in early 1926 and was completed by the fall. It was of modified Craftsman style containing elements of Tudor revival including the steeply pitched horned roof gables and flared eaves. The property remains in the Ward family. The cottage is an excellent example of the Craftsman style and retains the original features including material, elements, forms and setting of resort/vacation development, and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR5.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2

\*B12. References:

RL Polk Street Directories, Santa Cruz Co 1986; Personal Interview w/ Stanley Stevens by Phil Reader, 2005; phone interview w/Thomas Ward by Phil Reader, 2005. Blue Plaque Awards file, Museum of Art & History, Santa Cruz; Personal Interview w/ Robert Lincoln Jr by Norman Poitevin, 2005, A Field Guide to American Houses by McAlester & McAlester 1997.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator:

Sheila McElroy  
Circa: Historic Property Development  
One Sutter St. # 910  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Research: Norman Poitevin and Phil Reader

\*Date of Evaluation: 8/18/05

(This space reserved for official comments.)

