

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

**DRAFT**

Historic name: Freestone Store

Other names/site number: Ward's General Merchandise, Freestone Country Store

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 500 Bohemian Highway

City or town: Freestone State: California County: Sonoma

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

OTHER: Western False Front

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Freestone Store is a circa 1872 one- and two-story commercial building located along the Bohemian Highway in Freestone. Despite “1876” in wooden numbers added to the façade after 1970, primary resources corroborate a construction date of circa 1872 as the building was in place prior to construction of the railroad, which began operations in 1876. Freestone, formally established in 1870, is a rural community that has a long agricultural and recreational history in Sonoma County. Situated at the crossing of the Bohemian Highway and Freestone Street, the small town is divided into the original town south of the Bohemian Highway, referred to as Lower Freestone, and Upper Freestone west of the Bodega Highway, where the Freestone Store is located. The building faces northeast, towards the Bohemian Highway, and the former location of the North Pacific Coast Railroad, which ran in Freestone from 1876 to 1930. The main alterations to the building include the replacement of the windows on the second floor prior to 1970, the reconstruction in the 1970s of the front porch roof based on historic photos, and some interior alterations at the rear and second floor for apartments. The noncontributing building is a post-period of significance shed. Despite these alterations, the Freestone Store retains all aspects of historic integrity.

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## Narrative Description

### **Setting**

Freestone Store is nestled in a grove of redwood forest in the rolling hills of northern California. Sitting atop a hill in Upper Freestone, the store is a clear visual landmark and has other smaller commercial and residential buildings neighboring it. The town of Freestone was Sonoma County's first locally surveyed historic district in 1974 and retains several historic buildings documenting the town's various periods of growth both before and after the introduction of the railroad. The district encompasses thirty-two parcels along Bohemian Highway, Freestone Street, El Camino Bodega, and Bodega Highway. Freestone Store is located towards the northwestern end of the district.

The area in and around Freestone was historically agricultural, as well as recreational, with San Franciscans visiting the area as early as the late 1800s and early 1900s to escape the hustle and bustle of the city life. This trend continued with the counterculture movement in the 1960s and 1970s. The area still has an agricultural economy and a healthy tourist population year-round because of its scenic vistas and outdoor recreation.

The railroad, which ran right in front of the store, was paramount to Freestone's growth as a transportation hub for goods and people coming up to the northern areas of the state for rest and relaxation as well as to the popular use of the Freestone Store. The building has served as a store for 150 years with various uses of general store, beauty shop, barber, art gallery, dance hall, apartment rental (on upper floor and in rear of building), and as a general gathering place for the surrounding community. It is also used as a directional landmark in many documents for surrounding properties and advertisements.

### **Exterior**

Freestone Store is a prime example of the Italianate and Western False Front architectural styles with its wooden frame construction, wood siding, higher degree of detail on the façade and less on the sides and rear, and large false front hiding the front gable roof.<sup>1</sup> The building may have originally been one large commercial space on the first floor. It has been divided into two spaces for some time per advertisements dating back to the 1940s. The left side of the building is two stories, with a commercial space on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor. The first-floor commercial space is laid out as an apartment as well, with the open living area clearly recognizable as a former commercial space. The second floor was used as a dancehall by loggers in the 1890s and a gathering place for local residents into the 1940s. In the mid-1940s, advertisements for a three-bedroom flat at the store indicate that this space had been converted to residential use.

The right side of the first floor (with the false front) is one large commercial space and retains the most integrity in relation to the building's use as a store. This side is one story. At the back of

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<sup>1</sup> "False Front Commercial." History Colorado. <https://www.historycolorado.org/false-front-commercial>. Accessed November 29, 2021.

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the commercial space, there is a third apartment unit. At the far-right side of the building, there is a shed roofed addition, which served as a gas station and general storage. Photos show it in place by 1970, and it was likely constructed earlier.

### **Primary Façade (Northeast Elevation, Photos 1-5)**

When originally constructed, the façade faced the railroad tracks (**Figure 1**). When facing the building, the two-story section is on the left side and a one-story section with false front on the right side. The first floor on the left side appears to have had a single door as well as a larger opening, likely used for transporting large goods in and out of the store. There were no windows on the left side originally. The right side of the store's first floor had a central opening with transom above and a window flanking each side. The second floor of the left side had two 6/6 double hung wooden windows under the pointed arch of the cornice. The cornice line itself also had decorative brackets and molding.

Between the early twentieth century (**Figure 2**) and 1972, the second-floor windows had been replaced with a multi lite picture window the same width as the two windows plus the space in between. Where the upper sashes of the windows had been was infilled with wood lap siding to match the rest of the exterior. The clear outline of the original 6/6 wood windows remains. Based on the materials used on the first-floor left side storefront, which used two historic wood paneled doors, either this was done fairly early in the twentieth century or was done using salvaged materials. The existing left side storefront has been in place for quite some time.

The first floor of the left side was also altered to have two entry doors and two large picture windows. The brackets and molding along the cornice line had also been removed. The right side has not been altered. There is a small shed roofed addition on the right side of the façade. Photos from the 1970s show this addition in place and in use as a gas station. There is one paneled door with a set of three multi lite (craftsman style) wood windows to its right. The façade has a side gabled roof covering the front porch supported by seven simple rectangular posts. The entire building is clad in wood siding with the main building having German lap siding and the additions having wood siding with no reveal.

### **Northwest Elevation (Photo 5)**

Most of the northwest elevation is made up of the later shed roofed additions, one at the front façade and one at the rear elevation. The one near the façade has two single hung windows. Between the two additions, there is one double hung wood window and a single door with single lite transom above. The rear addition appears to be a younger addition as it is clad in vertical siding and has an octagonal window facing the façade.

### **Southwest Elevation (rear, Photos 6-8)**

The rear elevation of the store clearly shows the two varying rooflines for the one-story and two-story sections of the building. The rear of the one-story section features two multi-lite windows that look directly onto the hillside on which the store sits. There is one single lite fixed window on the rear of the addition. The rear of the two-story section features a porch addition, clad in vertical board siding that has many sliding windows and a sliding door. This was likely

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originally a simple shed roofed covering that wasn't enclosed historically as the area underneath features the original German lap siding and 6/6 wood windows. Due to the hillside siting of the building, this rear section is even with the second floor of the building.

### **Southeast Elevation (Photos 1, 9)**

This side of the building has two 6/6 wood windows near the façade on the first floor. The rest of the first floor is hidden by the hillside. The second floor has a fenestration pattern of window/sliding glass doors/window/window starting at the façade. Most of the windows are original 6/6 double hung wood windows. There are also two 2/2 horizontally oriented double hung wood windows at the rear elevation facing the porch. The sliding glass doors are an obvious alteration made since the late twentieth century.

### **Interior**

The interior retains original features on the first floor including the simple square posts dividing the spaces, board walls, wooden floors, bead board ceilings, four panel wooden doors, six over six double hung wood windows, and wooden transoms over entry doors. The upper floor has been altered into an apartment, dating to at least the mid-1940s. The left side of the first floor is being used as an apartment, with the main commercial space retained as open living space. The rear of the right side is an apartment as well.

### **Commercial Space (Right Side, Photos 10-13)**

The most intact interior space of the building very clearly still looks like a late nineteenth/early twentieth century commercial space. It is one large open space with counter space on the right side and refrigerated cases at the rear wall. The floors, walls, and ceiling are all wood, with the ceiling being a thinner width bead board. The walls and ceiling are painted white. The lights are hanging fluorescent lights. Doors that lead to other interior spaces are four paneled wood doors, typical for the building's age. The transom over the front door has a functioning window with chains so that it can be opened for airflow. Inside the side addition, the walls are finished with sheetrock and the space is primarily used for storage. There is also a small bathroom in this space. Based on the interior finishes—porcelain corner bathroom sink, vertical wood siding—it is likely this addition was built sometime between the 1940s and 1970.

### **Commercial Space (Left Side Ground Floor Apartment Unit, Photos 14-22)**

In addition to the commercial space, the building has historically always had apartment units. Dating back to advertisements in the 1940s, there was at least a three-bedroom unit in the building (possibly with the rear of the store and the second-story space). The left side commercial space was historically used for the general store, more recently set up as an apartment that connects to the back side of the main store. The one large open space of the front living room/kitchen area is clearly recognizable as a former commercial space.

As this side has a second story, the first floor does have a lower ceiling height, a painted wood ceiling as on the right side. The walls are clad in sheetrock and have a simple baseboard. The original chamfered support columns are visible as dividing the space into two. This front space gains sunlight via the large storefront windows. A small hallway connects this section of the

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ground floor apartment unit to a kitchen, bedroom, loft area and bathroom. These spaces have sheetrock walls and ceilings and other details that date the space's finishes to the early twenty-first century.

Behind the main store space is the rest of the ground floor apartment unit. It has a bedroom with loft above, secondary living space, and bathroom and was built out since the late twentieth century based on materials and details. It does retain some historic features including the large ceiling height; painted beadboard ceiling; historic awning style metal windows with original frames, likely dating from circa 1940; and picture rail. A bedroom was built within this overall larger space and includes a lofted space above it. This allows for the original bead board ceiling to still be seen as well as the full ceiling height of the space to be appreciated.

### **Second Floor Apartment Unit (Photos 23-36)**

This space was used as a dance hall for loggers in the 1890s and a gathering place for local residents into the 1940s. At that time, it was converted to a residential unit as there are advertisements from the 1940s advertising the store along with a three-bedroom apartment. Based primarily on the kitchen finishes, cosmetic renovations appear to date to the late twentieth century.

A stairwell from the ground floor provides access into the front living space. Located behind the living room is a kitchen and dining area, a central hallway, three bedrooms, and a bathroom. Doors found throughout the apartment are five panel wood doors with crystal door handles, which appear to be original and could date to the time the building was used as the dance hall and gathering space. The bedrooms have built in closets with storage above, typical of the 1940s and '50s. The hallway also has a built-in closet with drawers. The windows in the bathroom are 2/2 horizontally oriented wooden double hung windows, typical of the 1940s and '50s as well.

### **Noncontributing Resource (Photo 6).**

A post-period of significance, freestanding, gambrel roofed shed sits at the rear of the property. The shed dates to the early 2000s and is roughly 8' deep by 12' wide. It is constructed of plywood with an asphalt shingle roof.

### **Alterations and Integrity**

Main alterations to the exterior of the building are the replacement windows on the second floor prior to 1970 and the changes to the first-floor left side commercial storefront at an unknown date. Per newspaper articles, the front porch roof was reconstructed in the 1970s to match the historic photos of the building. There are also two side additions made sometime prior to 1970.

On the interior, the main alterations are in the apartment units. The alterations made in the 1940s to create the second-floor apartment unit are considered historic as they were made over seventy years ago. Those made in the ground floor apartment unit are not historic and do not negatively impact the overall historic character of that space as the front area is still clearly recognizable as a historic commercial space.



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Freestone Store retains a strong identity of *location, setting, feeling, and association*. It also retains integrity of *design* in that it is still easily recognizable as the store that has served its community and surrounding areas since circa 1872. It retains integrity of *materials* and *workmanship* as well as the main commercial spaces still clearly recognizable as a typical vernacular country store. Even with some interior and minor exterior alterations, Freestone Store retains enough integrity to be recognizable as one of Freestone's main landmarks and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

COMMERCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1872-1972

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1872

1972

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Freestone Store is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Commerce for its association with the establishment of the community of Freestone and its integral role in the development of Freestone as an important hub for transportation and commerce in Sonoma County and northern California. The period of significance begins with construction in 1872. Freestone Store continued to be of commercial significance in the community through the counterculture movement of the 1960s. The period of significance closes in 1972, at which time there was a documented, concerted effort to rehabilitate and restore Freestone's historic buildings to help support the town's economy.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Brief History of Sonoma County and Freestone

Prior to settlement by Europeans, the area that became Sonoma County was inhabited by Native Americans, primarily the Pomo, Miwok, and Kishaya Indians. In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the area was settled by Russians who set up an outpost at Bodega Bay called Fort Ross. Spanish missionaries had also settled throughout Sonoma Valley during this time. Over the next twenty years, these Russian and Spanish settlements expanded with the primary economic driver being agriculture on large ranches known as ranchos. In 1835, General Vallejo, the commander of the San Francisco presidio, the military government overseeing the Sonoma Valley, invited James McIntosh, James Dawson, and James Black to settle on the Canada de Jonive Rancho that includes what became Freestone. On this rancho, they established a communal sawmill on Salmon Creek. The mill was very successful in producing shakes, pickets, fence rails, and cord wood for settlers passing through. Other nearby ranches included vineyards, fruit orchards, and cereal fields.<sup>2</sup>

Following the gold rush in 1848, the mill at Freestone was sold in 1849 as the investors left for the gold mines. F.G. Blume and his wife purchased all of the lumber and the mill. The Blumes were later documented as the oldest settlers in Freestone. Jasper O'Farrell, later a state senator and chief surveyor of the city of San Francisco, purchased the rancho formerly owned by James McIntosh. The land where O'Farrell and the Blumes were living slowly grew in population after statehood was declared in 1850 and miners returned from the gold fields to settle the Sonoma County area.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "Sonoma County Historic Overview," County of Sonoma, California website, <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Planning/Historic-Resources/Sonoma-County-Historic-Overview/>, (accessed September 29, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

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In the 1850s, stagecoach connections were established between Freestone and neighboring communities. A hotel and saloon were built in town as well as a school and tannery. In 1862, Sonoma County was mapped for the first time and Freestone was located as consisting of two or three buildings east of Salmon Creek and south of the sharp southern turn in Bodega Highway (later referred to as Lower Freestone). By 1870, Freestone had its first post office. The town was formally established and named Freestone because of a sandstone quarry in the area. Within the next two years, Freestone Store was constructed as well as the Hinds Hotel in what is known as Upper Freestone.<sup>4</sup>

Freestone might have continued to be a much smaller place without the introduction of the railroad in 1876. The railroad tracks were built directly in front of Freestone Store, making it a landmark for locals and for anyone traveling through the Russian River area.

The North Pacific Coast Railroad Company (**Figure 7**) had trains running every morning and afternoon through Freestone, helping to make Freestone a lumber shipping center for the inner portions of Northern California. It also served as a locomotive water stop before trains climbed into Occidental to the northwest. In 1876, Freestone had the store, a blacksmith's shop, two hotels, a livery stable, and residences. The town had shifted from Lower Freestone to Upper Freestone mainly because of the location of the railroad.<sup>5</sup> Per Thompson's *Historical Atlas Map of Sonoma County*:

And so the wheel of time has brought it round that in less than forty years after the settlement of the pioneers, Black, Dawson, and McIntosh, on the frontier of Bodega, to check-mate the Russians, the shrill whistle of the locomotive is echoed by the hills back of Ross as the trains speed by; but three hours from a city of three hundred thousand inhabitants—and the then defenceless [*sic*] colony, a dependent of a distracted government, has now become a great and powerful State in the American Union.<sup>6</sup>

Within a decade of being established, Freestone was a bustling community with residences and businesses, including I.T. Ward's store, hotels, stables, saloons, a butcher shop, a sawmill, a tannery, a post office, and a church. Construction continued into the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. With the ending of the railroad in 1930 and removal of the tracks, the era of prosperity in Freestone ended; the railroad could no longer compete with the automobile. Agriculture has remained an important economic driver in the area along with the introduction of vineyards and wineries. During the 1960s and '70s, many Northern Californians traveled to this area via the Bohemian Highway.<sup>7</sup> The history of Freestone and Sonoma County remains greatly appreciated by artists and nature lovers.

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<sup>4</sup> "Chronological Overview of Cultural Events in the Freestone Salmon Creek Valley Region." Undated.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> *Historical Atlas Map of Sonoma County* (Oakland: Thos. H. Thompson & Co., 1877), no page number.

<sup>7</sup> The highway got its name because of the San Francisco journalists of the Bohemian Club who often camped in the Russian River area in the summer around the turn of the twentieth century. The route they took eventually became known as the Bohemian Highway. The area remains a vacation destination.

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Freestone Store and its significance within the establishment and growth of Freestone

Freestone Store was integral to the economic and cultural development of Freestone and was associated with a crucial time in its history when the railroad arrived in Northern California and many settlers were returning from the gold fields to settle down in Sonoma County. The store, built by Ira T. Ward in 1872 (**Figure 8**) provided vitally important supplies to area residents and to settlers passing through on their way to set up new homesteads and farms. Because of its prime location by the railroad and in the center of Upper Freestone, it also served as a central meeting point from its early days well into the twentieth century.

The Von Pfister General Store (Benicia, California) National Register nomination cited Henry C. Klassen on antebellum general stores in rural areas from his 1993 book, *The American Grocery Store: The Business Evolution of an Architectural Space*:

[They] represented an essential commercial outpost in the nation's frontier and hinterland. Its spatial isolation and architectural presence in a landscape dominated by nature often meant that it was the only form of communal civilization that existed. As much as it was a center of community life, the country store was also capitalism penetrating its spatial margins so that the economy of the nation could maximize markets through settlement trade.<sup>8</sup>

The same can be used to describe almost any early American rural general store such as Freestone Store. For many years, it was the only store in Freestone and remains one of the oldest buildings in Freestone pre-dating the railroad.

Freestone Store has had at least fifteen owners over the course of its 150 years (**Table 1**). Many operated the store as a general store, providing everyday supplies to area residents and those passing through. Advertisements from the first decade of the 1900s through the 1990s show the various uses the store provided as well as other activities that took place within its walls.

The earliest advertisements for the store describe it as the "Modern Store at Freestone." In 1907, F.D. Pitts sold the store to the Meacham Brothers, who owned the store at least through the 1920s: "Freestone can boast of a modern general merchandise store for few country stores carry as large and complete a stock as do the Meacham Brothers, at that place. Nearly everything one wants can be purchased of them and at low prices."<sup>9</sup> At that time, the store also housed the local post office at times. The post office location often vacillated between Lower and Upper Freestone based on who was in political power. In the end, it was in Upper Freestone at the store for the majority of the time.

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<sup>8</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Von Pfister General Store, Benicia, Solano County, California, National Register #15000360.

<sup>9</sup> "Modern Store at Freestone," *Santa Rosa Republican*, Santa Rosa, California, May 16, 1908, 7.

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### Table 1 Freestone Store Ownership

The years are estimates based on newspaper advertisements discussing the store's business as well as those for sales and transfers.

Years Owned (estimates)	Owner Name(s)
1872	Ira T. Ward
Late nineteenth century	J.D. Ristau, W. M. Richards
Pre-1907	F.D. Pitts
1907-?	C.S. and D.C. Meacham
Pre-1945	Mabel Allebach
1945-46	Ryal P. Huffman
1946	Abram W. and Ruby Coates; Arthur and Lois Dancosse
1946-47	Alan and Anna Powell
1947-49	Henry and Mary Johnstone
1949-63(?)	John Porter and Mabel Ward
1963-72	Samuel and Joan Redlich
1972-74	Catholene and Harry Weckerle
1970s-'80s?	Robert Hodgkins
1990s	Philip C. Abraio

From the 1920s through the 1940s, various advertisements for the store mentioned barbers operating at the store and the sale of Fox Terrier puppies, cows, heifers, hay, picking boxes, electric incubators, coal stoves, heaters, and brooders. The majority of advertisements found for the store through the 1940s mention the sale of items related to the agricultural nature of the area.

Following World War II, one ad mentions that the store will be used as the location to drop off paper for a "Paper Collection Sunday" organized by the local boy scout troop and the VFW.<sup>10</sup> It was also used as a meeting place for the local Freestone Riding Club in the 1950s, a safe location to meet at in case of fires—residents were asked to report there once they heard the siren, and as a polling place during elections.

As Freestone and the surrounding area changed through the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, to be more of an artsy enclave catering to tourists interested in experiencing nature to the fullest, so did the advertisements of events at the Freestone Store. The building continued to house hairstylists, including many ads for the Freestone Beauty Salon, and also had oil paintings for sale in gold and silver leaf frames, sculpture shows by Los Angeles artists, art lessons, an outdoor art show, and a fashion show. Even as the times were changing, a 1972 *Press Democrat* article out of Santa Rosa notes:

Many small towns are changing these days, with residents taking pride in pointing to modern buildings that have replaced old landmarks. Then there's Freestone, which if anything is going backwards in attempt to retain its individuality and character.... You see, Freestonians,

<sup>10</sup> "Remember the Paper Collection Sunday," *Sonoma West Times and News*, Sebastopol (CA), May 17, 1946, 5.

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a happy mixture of old-timers, weekenders, and newcomers, have gone to considerable trouble to restore their town. The restoration project (if it can be called that because it has come over the past several years) has included homes, stores, and a hotel, most a part of the community 100 years ago.<sup>11</sup>

Despite changing uses of the store, it was also used as a general store in some way or fashion, even after the turn of the twenty-first century. Because of Freestone's dedication to restoring its historic buildings, it was the first recognized local historic district in Sonoma County in 1974.

Freestone Store is a significant historic landmark in the community of Freestone, and it has been for 150 years. It is a physical link connecting modern day Freestone to the frontier town that helped to grow Sonoma County from the days prior to the gold rush, through statehood, and beyond. It stands as an emblem of pioneer dreams for this community nestled in the picturesque Sonoma Valley.

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<sup>11</sup> "Freestone: A Town Restoring its Past," *The Press Democrat*, Santa Rosa (CA), December 3, 1972, 90.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Sonoma County Library, West County Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 5472-0163-0000

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one acre

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**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.373257 Longitude: -122.918137

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Identified as Parcel 1 on the Sonoma County Assessor's Map, Book 73, page 12. See submitted tax assessor plat map. Current tax parcel 073-120-001. Bounded by Bohemian Highway to the northeast and neighboring properties to the northwest, southwest, and southeast.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those historically associated with property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Jessica Richardson  
organization: Richardson Preservation Consulting c/o Rolf Preservation Works  
street & number: 251 Linda Ave  
city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code: 70806  
e-mail richpresconsulting@gmail.com  
telephone: 225-937-6022  
date: October 2021; Revised November 2021

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Freestone Store  
City or Vicinity: Freestone  
County: Sonoma  
State: California  
Photographer: Leah Solomon  
Date Photographed: April 15, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 24 Façade, camera facing west
- 2 of 24 Façade and northwest elevation, camera facing southwest
- 3 of 24 Façade and side elevation, camera facing south
- 4 of 24 Rear elevation, camera facing southeast
- 5 of 24 Rear elevation of right side, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 24 Rear elevation of left side, camera facing east
- 7 of 24 Southeast elevation, camera facing west
- 8 of 24 Interior of main store, camera facing east
- 9 of 24 Interior of main store, camera facing north
- 10 of 24 Interior of ground floor apartment unit, former commercial space, camera facing south
- 11 of 24 Interior of ground floor apartment unit, former commercial space, camera facing northeast
- 12 of 24 Interior of ground floor apartment unit, former commercial space, hallway, camera facing northeast
- 13 of 24 Interior of ground floor apartment unit, closeup of historic window, camera facing south
- 14 of 24 Interior of ground floor apartment unit, loft area and view of original bead board ceiling, camera facing east

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- 15 of 24 Rear porch of second floor apartment unit, camera facing northeast
- 16 of 24 Second floor side porch of second floor apartment unit, camera facing west
- 17 of 24 Second floor side porch of second floor apartment unit, camera facing southwest
- 18 of 24 View of stairs leading to second floor apartment unit, camera facing south
- 19 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, living area, camera facing west
- 20 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, living area, camera facing south
- 21 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, hallway view, camera facing southwest
- 22 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, bedroom, camera facing northeast
- 23 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, bedroom, camera facing southwest
- 24 of 24 Interior of second floor apartment unit, hallway view, camera facing northeast

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

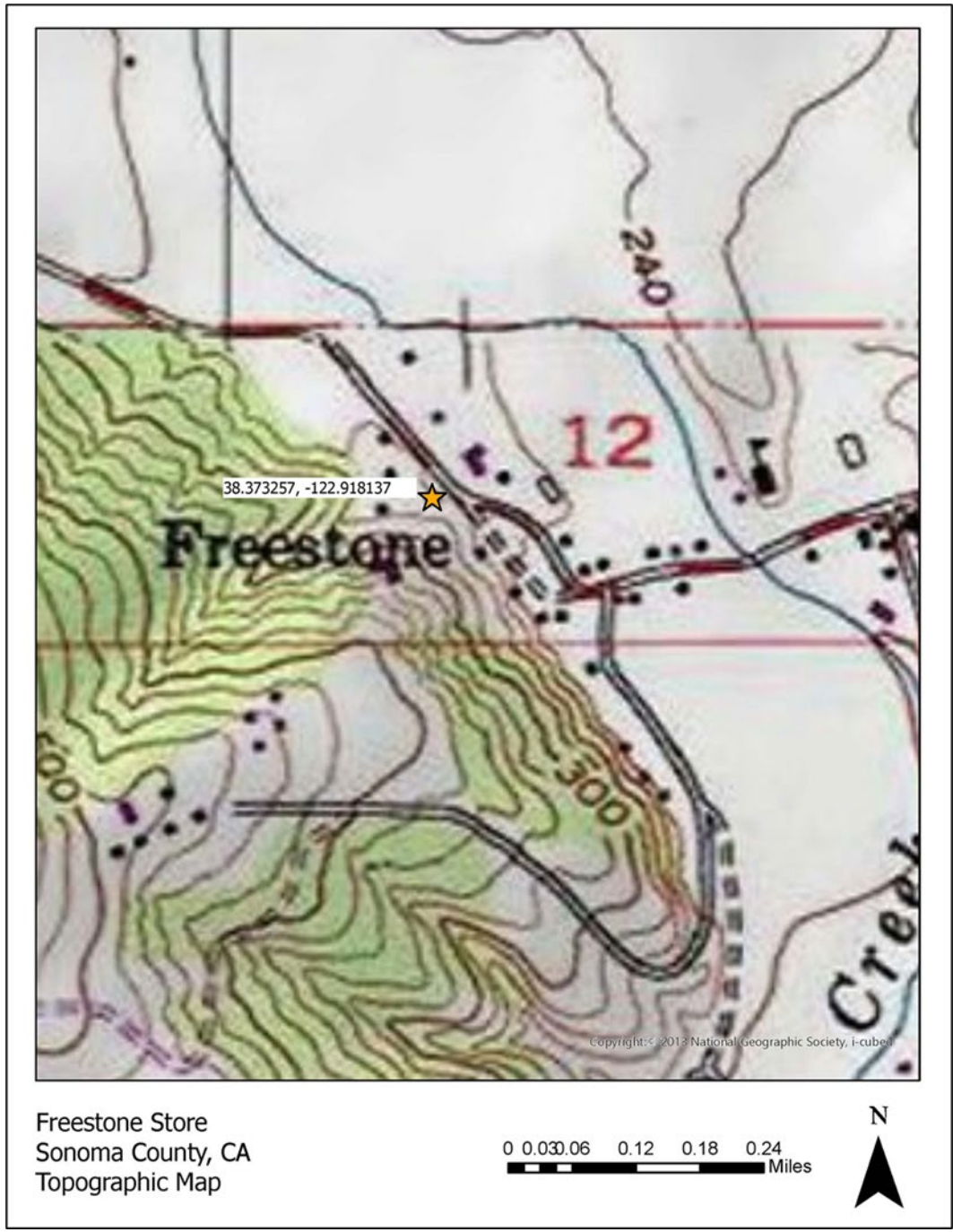
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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### Location Map

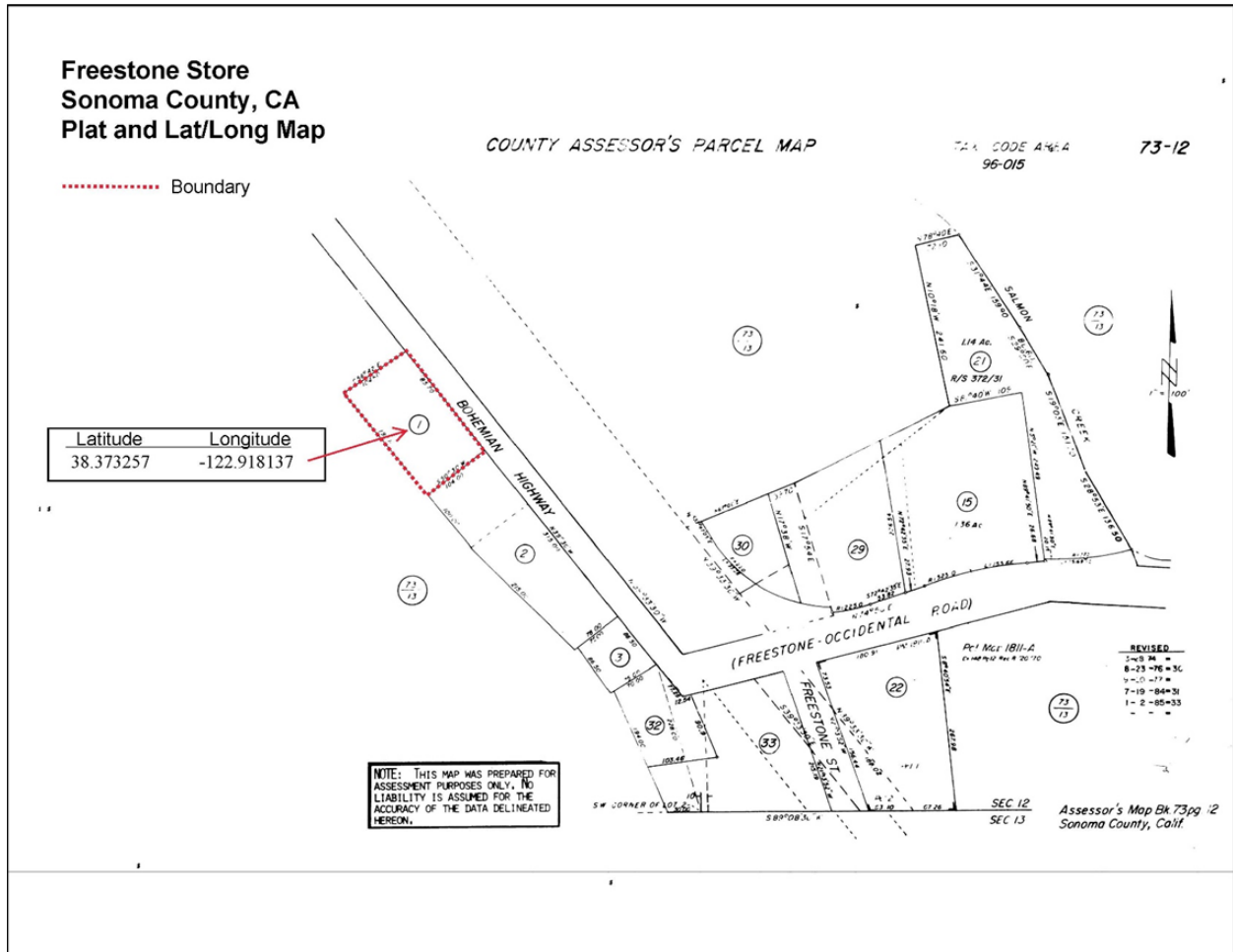




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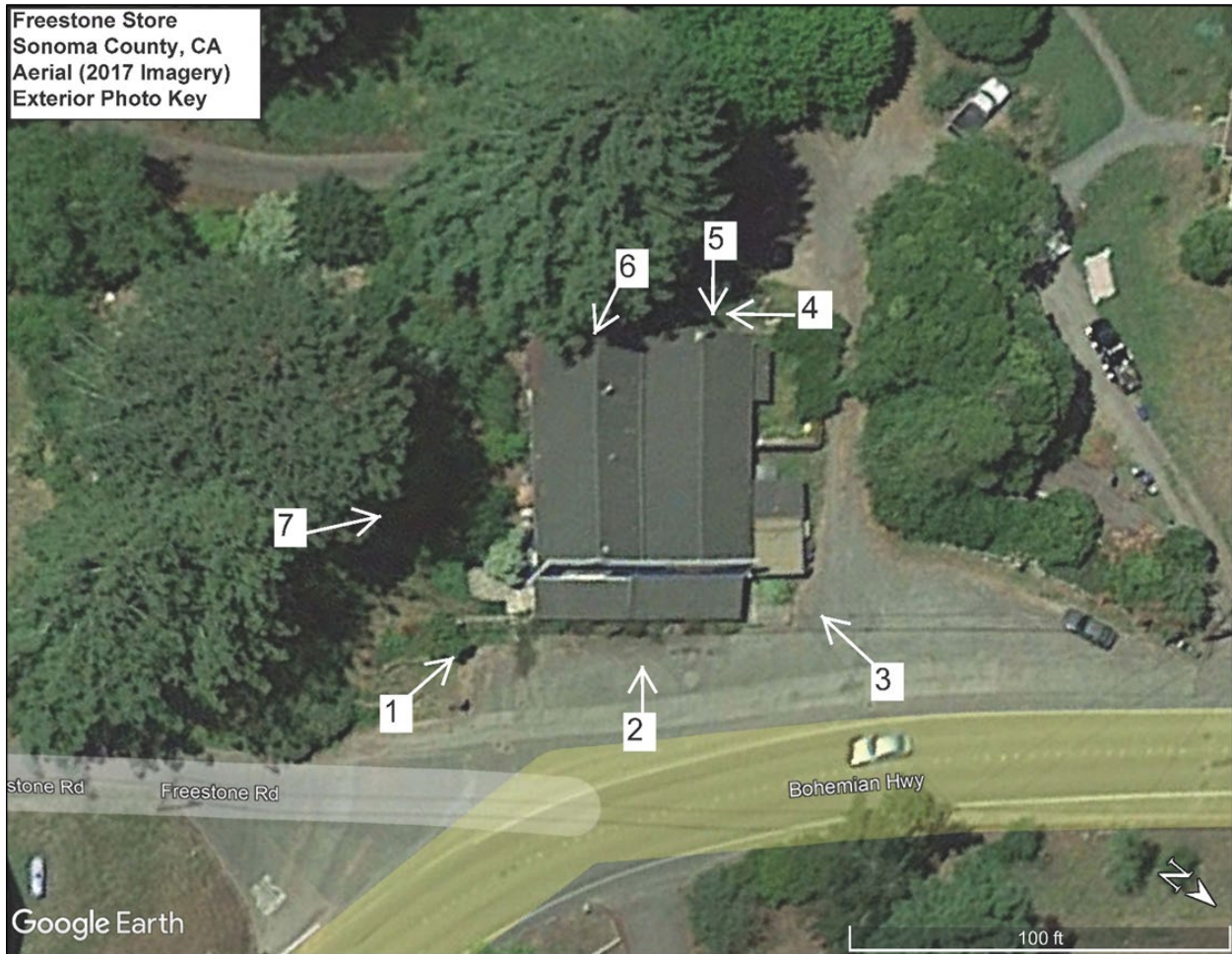
**Boundary Map**



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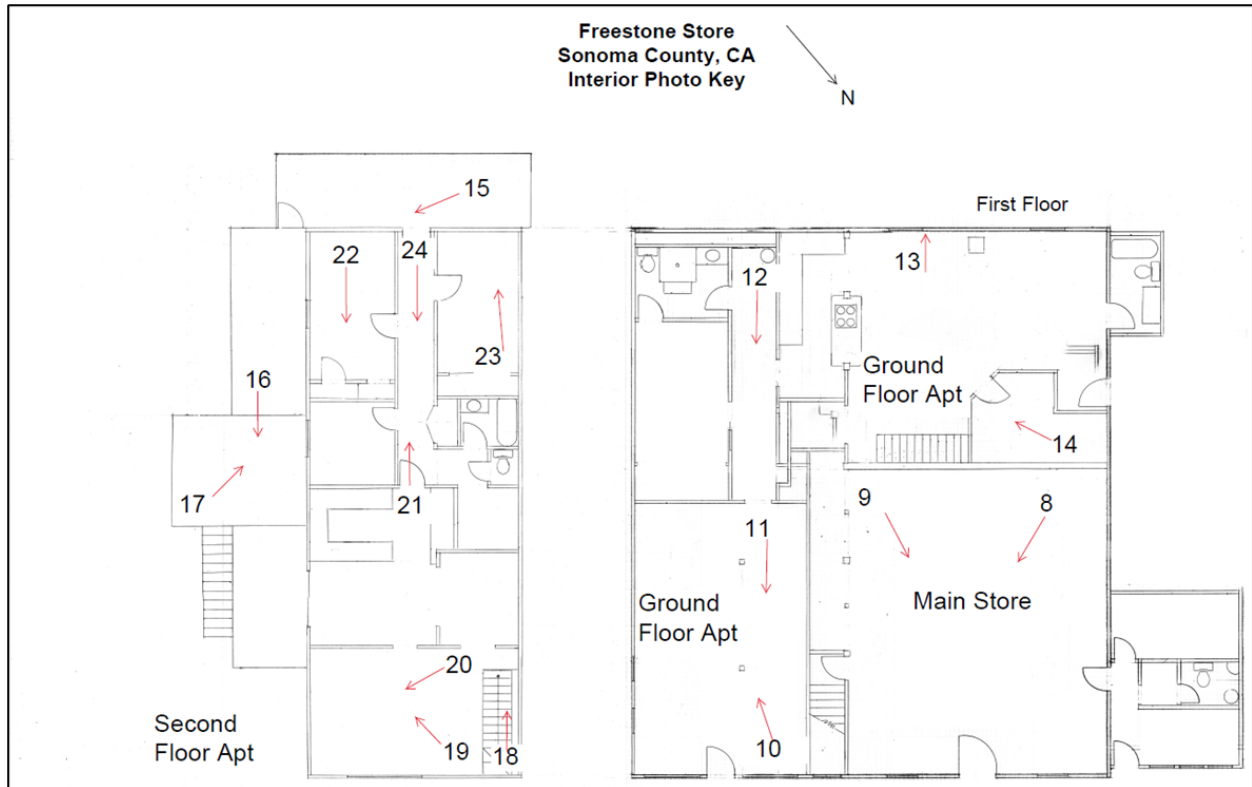
Sketch Map/Photo Key 1 of 2—Exterior



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Sketch Map/Photo Key 2 of 2—Interior



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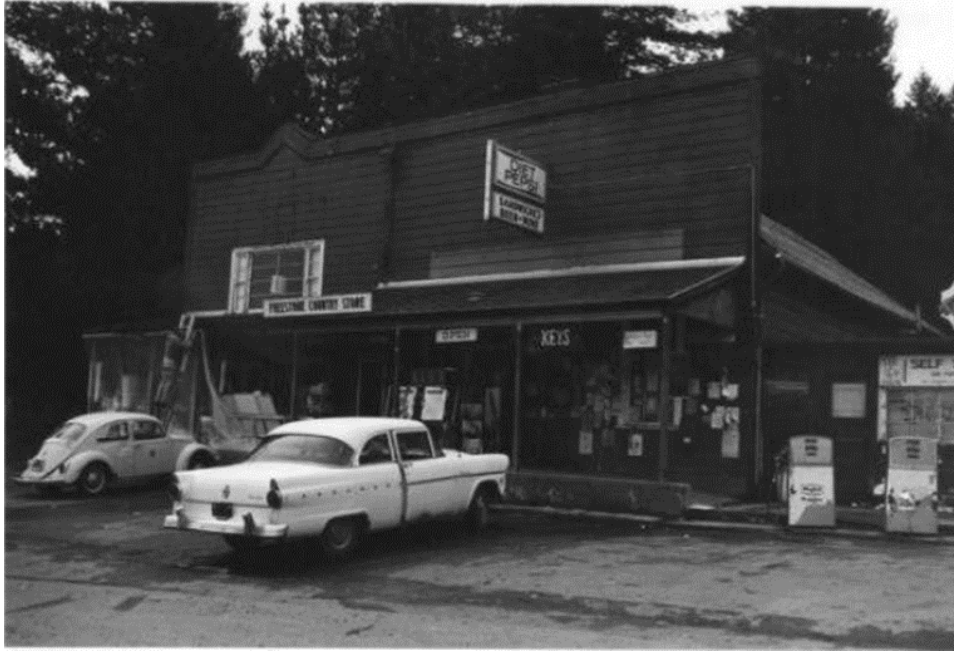
**Figure 1** Freestone Store, 1893. Image courtesy of *Spring Valley Times*, Winter 2000.



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**Figure 3** Freestone Store, circa 1970. Image courtesy of the Sonoma County Digital Library.



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**Figure 5** Freestone Store, 1979-80. Image courtesy of the California Historic Resources Inventory Form, P-49-004416.

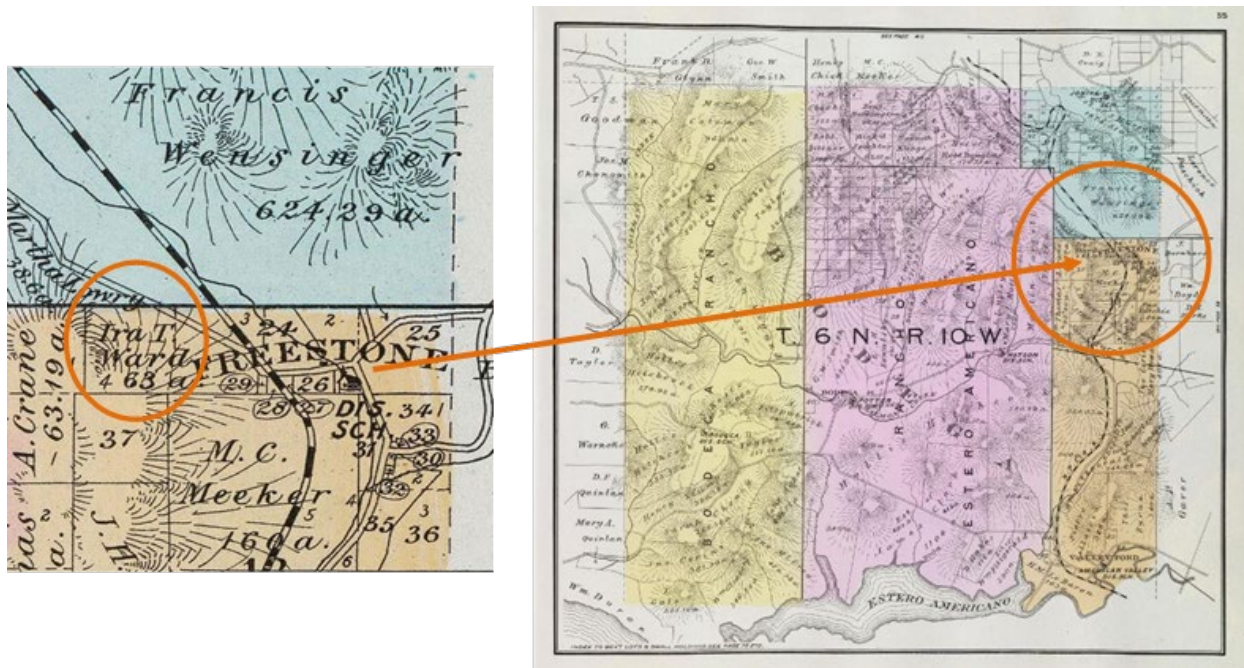
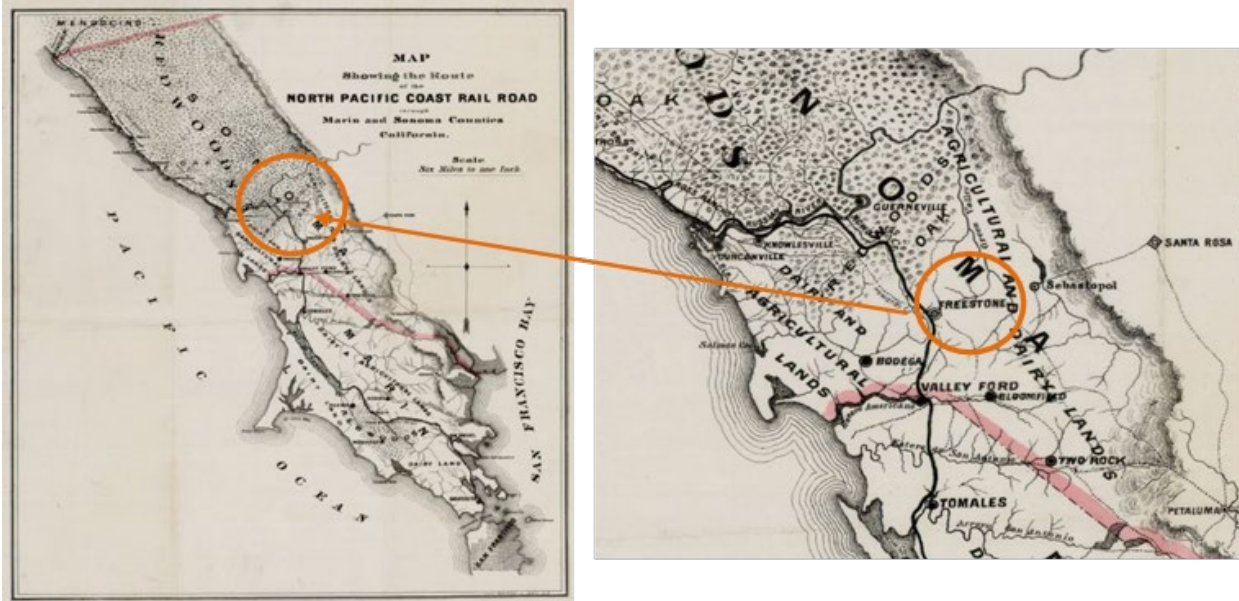


FOR SALE BY OWNER  
Country store selling groceries, drug  
sundries, beer, wine, gas, oil, tires,  
etc. Located near Russian River Re-  
sort. Building includes store, ware-  
house, living quarters, 1/2 acre and  
Large parking area. Good business.  
nets approx. \$550 per mo. Sale price  
of \$18,000 includes bldg., real prop-  
erty, fixtures and stock of clean,  
movable merchandise. A very good  
set up for man and wife. Some terms.  
Call or write Freestone Store, FREE-  
STONE, CALIF.

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Figure 7 North Pacific Coast Rail Road Map, 1875.



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**Photo 1** Façade, camera facing west





Freestone Store  
Name of Property

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**Photo 3** Façade and side elevation, camera facing south



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 5** Rear elevation of right side, camera facing northeast



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
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**Photo 7** Southeast elevation, camera facing west



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
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**Photo 9** Interior of main store, camera facing north



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

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**Photo 11** Interior of ground floor apartment unit, former commercial space, camera facing northeast



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 13** Interior of ground floor apartment unit, closeup of historic window, camera facing south



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 15** Rear porch of second floor apartment unit, camera facing northeast



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 17** Second floor side porch of second floor apartment unit, camera facing southwest





Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 19** Interior of second floor apartment unit, living area, camera facing west



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

Sonoma County  
County and State

**Photo 21** Interior of second floor apartment unit, hallway view, camera facing southwest



Freestone Store  
Name of Property

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**Photo 23** Interior of second floor apartment unit, bedroom, camera facing southwest

