

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE GEORGE AND ELIZA
WITHINGTON HOUSE

A Project

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by

Matthew James Walker

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Department of History

Abstract
of
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE GEORGE AND ELIZA
WITHINGTON HOUSE
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Matthew James Walker

This project establishes a historic context for, and determines the eligibility of, the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic single dwelling, with an accompanying nomination form. Sources used for this project include county assessor records, grant deeds, court documents, census records, city and county histories, maps, historic photographs, newspaper articles, and contemporary biographical texts and works on architectural history. The George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. Under Criterion B, the Withington House is eligible as the home of Ione Valley pioneers George and Eliza Withington. The house is also eligible under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

_____, Committee Chair
Dr. Christopher Castaneda

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my parents, Mark and Barbara. Six months prior to entering the Capital Campus Public History Program, a traumatic brain injury left me unsure of my future. It was only through their continuous support and encouragement that this project was possible.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House to the National Register of Historic Places was sparked by a referral from Dr. Patrick Ettinger, Director of the Capital Campus Public History Program at California State University, Sacramento. The project began in April 2014, when the owner of a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival house approached Dr. Ettinger with the desire of having a Public History graduate student produce a National Register of Historic Places (National Register) nomination for his home. Upon the property owner's inquiry, the information was relayed to me, and I soon initiated communication with the property owner. After completing three semesters of internships at the California State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), working part-time in the Registration Unit, which reviews National Register nominations for eventual submission to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., this became an opportunity to gain firsthand experience in the generation of National Register nominations. It was an opportunity to put my knowledge of the National Register criteria for evaluation to use and gain experience in historic preservation consultation.

This project examines the eligibility of the George and Eliza Withington House (Withington House) under National Register criteria. After establishing the property's significance and placing it within its historic context, I find the George and Eliza Withington House eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criteria B and C in the areas of art, architecture, and settlement. Under

Criterion B, the Withington House is eligible as the home of Ione Valley pioneers George and Eliza Withington. Eliza Withington was the only known female photographer working in Amador County during the nineteenth century, and her husband, George, was an entrepreneurial pioneer of the region. Under Criterion C, the Withington House is eligible for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

The purpose of this project is to document the process of nominating the George and Eliza Withington House to the National Register of Historic Places. In doing so, the project first examines the laws and regulations governing historic preservation, which are dictated by the Federal Government, and delves into the steps involved with getting a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. By presenting the George and Eliza Withington House as a case study, I will discuss the resources used in gathering information about the subject property, the available literature pertaining to the property's historic associations, and assess its place within the larger context of its associated history. Through these efforts, I will support my findings that the George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C.

Description of Resource

Located at 10 Welch Lane in Ione, California, a small city roughly 40 miles east of Sacramento in western Amador County, the George and Eliza Withington House is a large, two-story brick Greek Revival house, constructed in 1857. Sitting on just over

three acres of land along the northern banks of Sutter Creek, the house is situated in a primarily residential neighborhood at the eastern end of Welch Lane, just across Sutter Creek from historic downtown Ione. The lot is composed of two merged parcels, with a large lawn, trees, and many outbuildings, maintaining the agrarian feeling that once dominated the region. The outbuildings consist of a wood-clad shed northeast of the main house, a wood-clad stable in the center of the property, and a wood-clad guesthouse located in the center of the property's eastern perimeter.



Figure 1. Withington House, looking east.

The George and Eliza Withington House is a two-story brick residence. Primarily rectangular in plan, the house has a single story brick projection on the northeast corner

of the building and a one-room extension with horizontal tongue and groove siding on the center of its northern elevation. The house has a low-pitched hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves and a monitor at its peak. Wide, divided bands of trim emphasize the cornice lines. A full-façade front porch with second story balcony supported by vernacular squared columns dominates the primary elevation. Windows are primarily double-hung wood sash.



Figure 2. View of the Withington House property from its eastern perimeter.

Directly behind the main house is a small, two-story brick building with a low pitched, corrugated metal gabled roof, constructed at approximately the same time as the main house. The building is characterized by its use of brick on the second floor,

mirroring the main house, and its use of uncoursed stuccoed fieldstone on the bottom floor. A single six-over-six double-hung wood sash window with simple segmented brick lintels is located in the center of the western façade of the second floor. A small, single paned fixed window is located just above ground level on the center of both the east and west façades of the first floor. A short, straight staircase with a handrail with plain squared balustrades leads to a wood sash entrance door on the south elevation of the second floor. A small shed roof covers the entrance porch. Concrete stairs lead down to the first floor door, which is located mostly below ground.¹



Figure 3. Small brick building and rear of the Withington House, looking northwest.

¹ For a more detailed description of the property, see the Appendix for the National Register registration form.

Project Need

Settled during the California Gold Rush, as thousands of prospective miners fled into the region, mining camps and small towns sprung up across what later became Amador County. With this dramatic influx in population came a drastic change in the region's landscape, as well as its built environment. Due largely to the fact that the county experienced little growth over the next one hundred years following the Gold Rush, much of its Gold Rush-era and late-nineteenth century architecture remains in a state not found outside of the Mother Lode.

Among California's least populated counties, Amador County has had a difficult time listing its historic properties in the National Register of Historic Places. Despite Amador County's rich history of mining, and later farming, it is poorly represented in the National Register of Historic Places. As of September 2014, there were only 19 properties listed in the National Register in all of Amador County. Of the 19 listed properties, 14 of them were listed between 1970 and 1990. In Ione, a city founded during the California Gold Rush, and a city with a rich history of mining and agriculture, a mere four properties are listed in the National Register.² The eagerness to list the county's historic properties that took place during the 1970s and 1980s was likely spurred by the nation's rediscovered fascination with its history surrounding the Bicentennial.

However, as the years passed, so too did this rediscovered interest in history and the desire to have government recognition and protection of property. One of the primary

² National Register of Historic Places Online Database, <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome>, accessed September 29, 2014.

reasons for the lack of property listings in Amador County is a misguided fear of the National Register.³ Many people believe that, by listing their property in the National Register, they will relinquish some control to the Federal Government. Because of this fear of giving up property rights to the government, many Amador County property owners have little or no interest in having their property listed or oppose listing if nominated, regardless of the property's significance. Contrary to their fears, the National Register does not strip property owners of their rights. It simply provides recognition and limited protection from federally funded projects that might affect their property.

A related factor inhibiting preservation efforts in Amador County is the lack of city or county preservation programs. While some of the towns in Amador County have made efforts to preserve their historic main streets, adopting design guidelines and offering small matching grants for façade renovations, there are no official preservation boards working to list historic properties at the local, state, or federal levels. Much of the focus on preservation has been shifted towards preserving previously listed properties. In Ione, the Preston Castle Foundation has headed an ongoing effort to raise money for the preservation of the Preston School of Industry, a California Historical Landmark and National Register-listed property. Likewise, in Jackson, a movement titled "Save the Wheel" helped raise money to preserve the National Register-listed Kennedy Tailing Wheel #4, an important piece of Jackson's historic Kennedy Mine. Despite these efforts,

³ Per September 2014 conversation with Gary Reinoehl, President of the Amador County Historical Society.

an absence of official local preservation programs has contributed to the lack of federally recognized and protected cultural resources in the region.

In listing the George and Eliza Withington House in the National Register of Historic Places, there is hope of rekindling Amador County's interest in federal preservation efforts. While there have been a few nominations in recent years, National Register nominations for Amador County's historic properties have remained largely dormant over the past two decades. According to Deborah Coleen Cook, a local historical archaeologist and former manager of the Amador County Archives, the listing of the Withington House in the National Register could help spearhead a potential Ione Historic District.⁴ Though the production of a nomination for a potential Ione Historic District may be far off in the future, the listing of the George and Eliza Withington House would be a step in the right direction.

⁴ Per September 2014 conversation with Deborah Coleen Cook, historical archaeologist and local historian.

Chapter 2

THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND ITS PROCESS

Before the significance of this project can be fully appreciated, one must first have a firm understanding of the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register was established in 1966 as the result of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Passed by Congress under the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the NHPA was established as an attempt to help preserve our nation's cultural resources. Following the conclusion of the Second World War, redevelopment efforts in cities across America led to the destruction and loss of numerous local landmarks. As inner cities aged, they became viewed as blighted neighborhoods, and were increasingly being cleared out and replaced by new development. Local efforts to recognize historic properties soon gave way to national efforts, concluding with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.⁵

Along with the National Register, the NHPA established several other important institutions that remain cornerstones in the preservation field today. These institutions include: the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which oversees preservation issues on the Federal level; the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a State-run preservation office operating in cooperation with the Federal Government; and Section 106, a system of checks and balances intended to ensure that federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings.⁶

⁵ William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006), 47-49; King, *Cultural Resources*, 14-15.

⁶ Thomas F. King, *Cultural Resources Laws and Practice: An Introductory Guide* (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1998), 15.

Determining Eligibility

Maintained by the National Park Service, the National Register is the Nation's official list of historic properties, worthy of preservation. The National Register of Historic Places was established under Title 1 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This section stated that, "The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to expand and maintain a National Register of Historic Places composed of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture."⁷ Properties can be nominated for national, state, or local significance. Generally, properties must be at least 50 years old and be shown to retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic significance.

A key term included in the legislation is the word "significant." What makes a historic property *significant*? The National Park Service has defined four criteria by which properties can be evaluated for historic merit. The criteria are written in a manner that allows for the inclusion of a diverse array of resources, and offer some room for interpretation. According to the criteria, properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register are those:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.⁸

⁷ National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

⁸ As stated in National Register Federal Program Regulations, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.4.

To further assist nomination preparers, as well as government reviewers, the National Park Service issued a series of bulletins to clarify the criteria and present guidelines for the nomination process. The two primary documents used in preparing nominations are *National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (Bulletin 15)* and *National Register Bulletin 16A, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form (Bulletin 16A)*. *Bulletin 16A* provides a detailed outline of the nomination, with instructions on how to complete each section of the National Register form.⁹ In *Bulletin 15*, the four criteria for evaluation are discussed in detail, and an additional seven “Criteria Considerations” are laid out for properties that do not fit perfectly within the criteria.

As stated in *Bulletin 15*, in order to be listed in the National Register, “a property must not only be shown to be significant under the National Register criteria, but it also must have integrity.”¹⁰ A property needs to retain enough integrity to convey its significance. But what exactly is integrity? While determining the integrity of a property is a somewhat subjective judgment, it must always stem from historic research and understanding. The NPS has identified seven aspects of integrity as follows:

1. Location- Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

⁹ Linda McClelland, ed., *Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms: Part A, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (District of Columbia: US Department of Interior, 1997).

¹⁰ Patrick W. Andrus, ed., *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (District of Columbia: US Department of Interior, 1997), 44-45.

2. Design- Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property.
3. Setting- Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.
4. Materials- Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
5. Workmanship- Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
6. Feeling- Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
7. Association- Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.¹¹

The combination of significance and integrity is what determines whether or not a property is eligible for the National Register.

While all of the institutions created by the NHPA play important roles in the field of preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office is of particular importance to this project. One of the primary functions of the SHPO is to assist in the process of listing properties in the National Register. Nominating a historic property is not restricted to any particular group; nominations can be produced individuals, state and local agencies, tribes, or anyone with the means of producing a nomination. Once a nomination is

¹¹ Patrick W. Andrus, ed., *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (District of Columbia: US Department of Interior, 1997), 44-45.

submitted to the SHPO, staff reviews the nomination and communicates with the nomination preparer to ensure that the nomination meets National Register guidelines.

In California, after staff determines that the nominated property appears eligible for listing, and the nomination meets the guidelines of *Bulletin 15* and *Bulletin 16A*, properties are heard at the quarterly meetings of the State Historical Resources Commission. Composed of nine members appointed by the Governor of California, this state review board is responsible for identifying and registering California's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Once approved by the Commission at one of their quarterly meetings, the SHPO forwards the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., for final review and determination.

Chapter 3

DEVELOPING THE NOMINATION

Nominating a property to the National Register requires thorough research and documentation. As discussed in Chapter 2, National Register nominations must demonstrate that the nominated property meets one or more of the criteria for evaluation described in *Bulletin 15*. The nomination must also follow the guidelines laid out by *Bulletin 16A*, and meet National Register standards. Nominated properties must be situated within their proper historic context, and supported by thorough research and documentation. This chapter examines the process involved with developing the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House, and reviews the sources used to create it.

Methodology

The nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House to the National Register of Historic Places was an exercise in historical consultation. This project began in the early days of April 2014 through a series of e-mail exchanges and telephone conversations with the property owner. The project continued into early August with the submission of the completed National Register nomination to the SHPO, and concluded in November with the hearing by the SHRC and subsequent review by the Keeper of the National Register. From the time of my initial contact with the property owner, it was clear that the desired result of our communication would be the submission of a National Register nomination for his home at 10 Welch Lane in the city of Ione, California.

The first step in the process was a trip to Ione to meet with the property owner. My primary goals in this initial site visit were to establish an agreement of what would be provided through our arrangement, and also to explain the nomination process in detail. After arriving at the subject property, the owner took me on a brief tour of the more than three-acre plot of land and described to me what he knew about its history. During this initial tour, I began to make note of the property's character defining features and its possible alterations. I explained the relative time that it typically takes to produce a nomination and the length of time that it would likely take for the property to be listed in the National Register once it was submitted to the SHPO. The property owner also lent me a copy of *Logan's Alley: Amador County Yesterdays in Picture and Prose, Volume V*, a local history book that had a profile on the property and a brief discussion of the property's original owners: George and Eliza Withington.

After leaving the property owner's house, I began to develop a proposed schedule for the nomination process, which the owner requested, and sent it to the owner the following week. In the proposal, I outlined the start date, the likely repositories that I would visit to gather information, and the general writing schedule. The project would begin at the end of May, with the conclusion of the Spring Semester, and end in the second week of July with the submission of the nomination to the Office of Historic Preservation.

With the property owner's acceptance of this schedule, I began preliminary research. I started by checking to see if the property at 10 Welch Lane had been previously evaluated, either by survey or as the result of any other project. As an intern at

the California State Office of Historic Preservation, I was able to accomplish this task very quickly and easily, because the office has a database containing all of California's cultural resource evaluations reviewed by the Office of Historic Preservation. The search for the property at 10 Welch Lane revealed no results, so I was able to determine that the property had never been evaluated. Following this discovery, I started to compile a list of repositories that I intended to visit, which might hold information useful in developing the property's historic context. Organizing visitation dates proved challenging though, as many of the repositories had limited hours.

In June 2014, I made two site visits to the subject property to document the resource. In a normal contracting situation, it is likely that only a single visit would be made. However, because I had the luxury of creating my own schedule, and I was not pressed for time or limited to a specific budget, I decided to make two visits to best document the resource. The National Register requires that photographs accompany the submitted nomination. Adhering to the guidelines described in *Bulletin 16A*, I took photographs of the property to “give an honest visual representation of the historic integrity and significant features of the property.”¹² The National Park Service does not require a specific number of photographs, just enough to fully document the property's significance. Therefore, I decided to take photographs of all elevations of the main house as well as the secondary brick building and the four noncontributing resources. In addition to photographic documentation, I made written notes of the property's

¹² Linda McClelland, ed., *How to Complete*, 63.

significant architectural features as well as the orientation of the outbuildings in relation to the house.

To acquire information on the property's ownership history, I made multiple trips in late May and early June to Jackson, California, the county seat of Amador County. Both the Amador County Assessor's Office and the Amador County Recorder's Office are located within the same building, which made research convenient. I first visited the Assessor's Office, where I was able to obtain some general information on the property's construction history and ownership. Unfortunately, the office had lost the file for 10 Welch Lane, which would have contained any recent building permits. The Recorder's Office housed historic books of grant deeds. These deeds allowed for the tracking of property acquisition, which became a key factor in developing the property's significance.

The Amador County Archives held valuable primary source documentation relevant to the property's original owners. Located just off Highway 49 in the town of Sutter Creek, the holdings of the Amador County Archives are fairly eclectic, containing a wide variety of materials compiled from County offices and public donations. The most useful materials that I was able to access here were historic photographs of George and Eliza Withington, as well as dozens of photographs taken by Eliza. Other sources of information found at the Archives were historic court records. The most useful of these was the case titled "George Withington v. Creditors," which revealed information about George Withington's endeavors that led him to bankruptcy. Another source of information found at the Amador County Archives was a reprinted copy of Jesse D.

Mason's *History of Amador County*, published in 1881. This book contained the best information about the development of the region, as well as some information on George Withington's enterprises.

I visited facilities located in Sacramento in order to obtain secondary source information that would help place the property within its historic context. The Sacramento State University Library was a major source of information for the development of the property's local context. Judy Allen's Master's thesis "Risen from a Dream: A Portrait of the Ione Valley," contained a plethora of information on the development of the region. The library also provided many local history resources as well as information on the history of female photographers in California and the Greek Revival architectural style, which were consulted for general information. The California State Library contained many excellent sources on the general development of Ione, the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant, and female photographers in California. As a state employee, I was able to make copies of relevant material at no charge.

Literature Review

While the nomination relied heavily on primary source documentation, I consulted many secondary sources to assist in developing the property's historic context. The George and Eliza Withington House is associated with three primary historical themes: the history of the Ione Valley, the lives of significant local figures George and Eliza Withington, and the Greek Revival style of architecture. Literature relating to these themes was consulted and reviewed. This literature review is not intended to cover all

publications on these topics, but rather, it is intended to serve as a survey of the sources that were most useful in the production of the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House.

Scholarly literature on the development of Amador County and the Ione Valley is rather limited, with few sources published over the past century. In order to synthesize and compile a complete history of the region's early development, a number of sources were consulted. Providing the foundation for developing the local context of the Withington House nomination, Jesse D. Mason's 1881 work *History of Amador County, California, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Men and Pioneers* remains the most complete account of the early development of Amador County. While this text has individual chapters on the history of the many towns within Amador County, of particular importance to this project was the chapter dedicated entirely to Ione; the chapter covers the history of the Ione Valley from its initial settlement in the 1840s through the arrival of the railroad in 1876. "Who has not heard of Ione Valley," a chapter discussing the history of Ione begins, "Whether one rides over the dusty plains from Sacramento, or descends from the pine-clad hills of the Sierras, Ione comes on his view like the realization of a dream."¹³ Though Mason's work served as a sort of promotional history for the county, as did many county histories during the late nineteenth century, it contains great information on the early development of the city, the key figures in its development, as well as the mining and agricultural efforts that

¹³ Jesse D. Mason, *History of Amador County, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Oakland: Thompson and West, 1882), 182.

dominated the region during this period. Many Amador County histories published after Mason's *Amador County History* drew heavily from this landmark work. Published in 1927 by the Amador County Federation of Women's Clubs, *Amador County History* contains nearly identical information to Mason's earlier work, with only moderate updating.

For a detailed account of the early development of the Ione Valley, Judy Allen's thesis *Risen from a Dream: A Portrait of the Ione Valley* emerged as the best source of information. A graduate of the Capital Campus Public History Program at Sacramento State University, Allen's thesis examines the history of Anglo American settlement in the Ione Valley, from the time of the Gold Rush to the arrival of the railroad in 1876. Through her examination of the development of Ione, Allen argues that the region's development was a product of its environment, despite the early settlers' desire to recreate the lifestyle of the regions from which they came.

While it is clear that Allen consulted Mason's *History of Amador County*, the author differentiates her work by uncovering a plethora of information on the lesser-known people and events that played an important role in shaping the region. *Risen from a Dream* is divided into twelve chapters, discussing different aspects of the region's history, from the construction of the city to social life. In a chapter on the development of mining in Ione, Allen begins by stating that, "The discovery of gold swiftly changed the pastoral life that characterized northern California before 1848."¹⁴ While this

¹⁴ Judy Allen, "Risen from a Dream: A Portrait of the Ione Valley" (MA Thesis, California State University, Sacramento, 1992), 22.

statement is very general, it leads to a detailed and informative discussion of how miners operated in the hot, dry Ione Valley. Allen also touches on the lives of both Eliza and George Withington. In Allen's review of mining in Ione, she describes George Withington's early enterprising attempt to bring water to miners from nearby Sutter Creek through the creation of a ditch. Later, in a chapter on social change in Ione, Allen discusses the significance of Eliza Withington, describing her as a "photographer, artist, and business woman."¹⁵ Although these passages are brief, they played an important role in uncovering the lives of the original owners of the Withington House. Allen's work remains the best source of information on development of the Ione Valley.

Published material on the lives of George and Eliza Withington is scarce, but the books and articles produced by Peter Palmquist offer valuable information. A historian of female photographers in California, Palmquist first documented Eliza Withington's activity as an Amador County photographer in his work *Shadowcatchers: A Directory of Women in California Photography Before 1901*. In this authoritative compilation of information on female photographers in California, Palmquist gives an overview of Eliza Withington's life and accomplishments. Through comprehensive historical research, the author is able to convey Eliza Withington's importance in early California photography during her active years as an Ione Valley photographer. As a result of his discussion of Eliza's life, Palmquist also delves into the life of her husband, George Withington. Although George Withington is never the focus of Palmquist's writing, in an entry on Eliza Withington in *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West*, the author describes George

¹⁵ Allen, "Risen from a Dream," 67.

as a “shinglemaker” and as an “agent for the Pico Grant.”¹⁶ While literature on the lives of George and Eliza Withington is limited, clues such as these served as important sources for unraveling the story of the George and Eliza Withington House.

Talbot Hamlin’s *Greek Revival Architecture in America* provides a useful review of the development of the Greek Revival style of architecture in America. Originally published in 1944, this work continues to offer the best source of information on the history of the Greek Revival style. Hamlin argues that the style emerged in America in the early nineteenth century as a result of the new nation’s separation from England, and traces its spread across America as settlers moved westward throughout the course of the nineteenth century. Of particular interest to this project was a chapter dedicated to the westward migration of the style and its California variants. While discussing the style’s emergence in California, Hamlin states, “the settlers who flocked to California after the discovery of gold in 1849 brought with them an eastern taste largely nurtured on Greek Revival forms.”¹⁷ While Hamlin may be a year off with the discovery of gold in California, the quality and detail of his information on the development of the Greek Revival style in California has yet to be surpassed by more recent texts.

The Writing Process

The process of writing the nomination for the George and Eliza Withington House began in mid June 2014, once all relevant primary and secondary source information had

¹⁶ *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840-1965*, (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2002), 602.

¹⁷ Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), 313.

been gathered and reviewed and the resource had been sufficiently documented. Because the initial information gathering stage of the nomination process took longer than I had anticipated, I had roughly two weeks to prepare the written part of the nomination, which I had promised the property owner by the end of June.

The National Register Bulletin series proved to be extremely useful throughout the writing process. These bulletins were issued by the National Park Service to provide guidance on the evaluation and documentation of historic places for the purposes of producing National Register nominations. Because the house at 10 Welch Lane had strong connections to the lives of two figures significant in the history of Amador County, Bulletin 32, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties Associated with Significant Persons*, was consulted. This bulletin outlines ten guidelines for establishing National Register eligibility for a property associated with the lives of significant people. National Register *Bulletin 16A* was followed in detail while completing the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House. Bulletin 16A explains each section of the National Register registration form, and details how to properly complete it. These bulletins helped to guide me through the nomination process.

The architectural description of the George and Eliza Withington House was accomplished through the use of architectural field guides. Using photographs that I took of the subject property during multiple site visits in early June 2014, architectural field guides were employed to assist in the documentation of the resource. Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* served as the primary source for the architectural description of the Withington House. A foundational work in American

architectural identification, this text included a detailed profile of the Greek Revival style and the architectural features that define it. This detailed description of the style allowed for the identification of specific features of the Withington House. Other sources, including *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* by Rachel Carley, were also consulted during the writing process for additional information.

The assembled primary and secondary sources, as well as reviewed literature, were used to establish the property's significance under National Register criteria. To develop the property's historic context, I began by reviewing the collected materials to see where the information stacked up in relation to the National Register criteria for evaluation. Early on in my research, I believed the property had a strong connection to prominent female photographer Eliza Withington, but after examining the assembled materials, and assessing their value, it quickly became evident that the subject property also had a strong association with her husband George Withington, a notable figure in the history of Ione. It was also immediately evident that the property was an excellent example of the Greek Revival style of architecture. The nomination's historic context was developed to reflect these associations.

Chapter 4

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Determining the significance of a property is possible only when a property is evaluated within its associated historic context. *Bulletin 15* defines historic context as, “Those patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within history or prehistory is made clear.”¹⁸ Because the George and Eliza Withington House is associated with the lives of two individuals who played significant roles in the early history of Amador County, specifically in the development of Ione, and is an excellent local example of Gold Rush-era Greek Revival architecture, it is important to identify and discuss these themes. This chapter will examine the property’s associated historic context: the development of Ione, early California female photographers, the lives of George and Eliza Withington, and conclude with a discussion of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

Settlement of Ione

The City of Ione, California is located in western Amador County, roughly twelve miles west of Jackson, at the junction of Dry Creek, Jackson Creek, and Sutter Creek. Originally inhabited by indigenous people of the Plains Miwok tribe, the first Anglo American settlement of Ione occurred in 1848, following the discovery of gold in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Located in the fertile Ione Valley, gold seekers first passed through Ione on their way to the gold fields east of the Valley. In August 1848, on their

¹⁸ Andrus, *How to Apply*, 7.

way to try their hand at mining the Mokolumne River, miners James Porter Martin and William Hicks noted that the Ione Valley had enormous agricultural potential. Thinking the land was unclaimed, people soon began to make claims on land in the Ione Valley, believing that the land would be perfect for cattle ranching. Martin and Hicks opened the first livestock business on the land that later became Ione, raising cattle and selling them at the market. In early 1849, Hicks converted his makeshift home located at the confluence of Dry Creek and Mule Creek into the Ione Valley's first store. With its proximity to Jackson and the gold fields of the Mother Lode, the young settlement was quickly thrust into the role of a regional mining supply center.¹⁹

In 1853, miner Thomas Rickey filed a claim with the Calaveras County Recorder to establish the town site of Ione City. Prior to its establishment, the settlement went by the names of Bed Bug and Freezeout, among others, before local pioneer Thomas Brown named it Ione, for the beautiful heroine of English dramatist Edward Bulwer-Lytton's 1834 novel *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The original town site was located along the southern banks of Sutter Creek, just east of the road to Sacramento City. The town consisted of four primary streets: Main Street, First Street, Second Street, and Third Street. Constructed four years after the town was laid out, the Withington House is located directly across Sutter Creek from the original town site of Ione City. In 1855, Daniel Stewart erected the first brick general merchandise store on Main Street, furthering the town's distinction as a miners' supply hub. A town hall was constructed in 1856. By the mid-1850s, most of the lots within the original tract were occupied, as

¹⁹ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 182; Allen, "Risen From a Dream," 100.

prospective miners and ranchers found shelter in the young city. In 1854, Amador County was established and Ione City was included.²⁰

Rancho Arroyo Seco

It was not until 1853 that Ione City residents became aware of the existence of a purported Mexican land grant that included the Ione Valley. During the 1853 legislative session at the state capital in Benicia, two local representatives, Henry Carter and Dr. E.B. Harris, were informed that Andres Pico had filed a grant claim for the Rancho Arroyo Seco. Andres Pico, brother of Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of Alta California, claimed that he purchased the Arroyo Seco, translated as Dry Creek, grant from Theodosio Yorba, who received the grant from Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado in May 1840. According to Yorba and Pico, the grant was a floating grant for eleven square leagues, or approximately 48,810 acres, falling somewhere between the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada, Cosumnes River, Mokulumne River, and the Sacramento Road. Settlers questioned the plausibility of this grant: the supposed Rancho Arroyo Seco predated both John Sutter's and Charles Weber's grants to either side of the Arroyo Seco and neither of those were floating grants.²¹

After a series of legal battles between Pico and the settlers, Pico gained legal control of Rancho Arroyo Seco in May 1856, when the case was dismissed. Because the grant was a floating grant, in late 1856 Pico employed civil engineer Sherman Day to survey the region and define the boundaries of the Rancho Arroyo Seco grant. Believing

²⁰ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 182-185; J.L. Sargent, ed., *Amador County History* (Amador County Federation of Women's Clubs, 1927), 48-49.

²¹ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 98-101; Sargent, *Amador County History*, 53.

that they had rightful ownership of the property, settlers organized in protest. In 1861, after failing to come to an agreement with the citizens of the Ione Valley, Pico sold the title of Rancho Arroyo Seco to a group of San Francisco-Oakland based land investors. The investors included businessman Joseph Moravia Moss (J. Mora Moss), United States Surveyor General Edward F. Beale, and lawyer Horace Carpentier, Oakland's first mayor.²²

On February 3, 1863, the United States Superior Court confirmed the previously established boundaries, which included the Ione Valley. Settlers were forced to either pay for the land on which they had established their homes, or face eviction. Many residents remained unwilling to pay for their property, until on February 13, 1865, Company F of the 4th Volunteers of the California Cavalry, marched into the Ione Valley. Company F remained in the Ione Valley for roughly three months, ensuring that residents either paid what they legally owed or vacated the premises. Many residents left the region, either because they could not pay their debt or they were unwilling to do so. Over the next few decades, the Rancho Arroyo Seco land was overseen by various managers, selling off the land piece by piece.²³

Mining

Mining had a profound impact on the development of Ione. The city played an important role in both the selling of goods to miners as well as in the physical mining of minerals. When the settlement's first permanent residents arrived in 1848, miners James

²² Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 104-113.

²³ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 244-250.

Porter Martin, William Hicks, and Moses Childers recognized that the intersection of creeks had potential to yield mineral deposits. The three men set up claims along Sutter Creek and Dry Creek that year. The Ione Valley's first store, the converted Hicks home, sold goods to miners. With a high demand for products, and little means of getting them, the mercantile business was a lucrative one. A bottle of whiskey was said to be "worth its weight in gold."²⁴ Several other supply stores sprung up in the Ione Valley during the 1850s, as prospective miners flooded the surrounding gold fields.

With an influx of miners staking claims in and around the Ione Valley, there arose an increasing need to figure out effective ways of bringing water to the miners. While water was typically available during the winter and spring months, the land dried up in the summer and fall, and miners were unable to obtain the water necessary for placer mining. The winter of 1850-1851 was extremely dry, and during this period, industrious miners constructed ditches and canals to transport water from neighboring creeks and rivers to their prospecting locations. By the end of the 1850s, placer mining in the Ione Valley had subsided due to its low profits, and was soon replaced by hydraulic mining. Hydraulic miners used water taken from the ditches that were originally constructed for placer mining, and used it to wash away hillsides to reveal the gold-rich soil. As miners washed away the best soil throughout the 1860s, profits faded, and by the mid-1870s, hydraulic mining had drastically declined.²⁵

²⁴ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 183.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 261-265; Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 23-25.

During the Civil War years of the early 1860s, copper mining boomed in the region due to an increased need for the malleable metal to aid the war efforts. More than fifty mining companies sprung up in the region surrounding Ione during the 1860s, most notably the Newton Copper Mine which was located roughly three miles east of the city. When the Civil War came to a close in 1865, so too did most of the mines, as the demand for copper dropped drastically. The late nineteenth century and early twentieth century saw the emergence of dredging activity in the Ione Valley, as miners sifted through gravel for mineral yields, however this too died out due to a lack of return. While mining in the Ione Valley was not nearly as profitable or prolific as it was in the goldfields of the Sierra Nevada, it did contribute heavily to the economy of early Ione and was highly influential in its development.²⁶

Agriculture

Since its earliest settlement in 1848, the development of Ione and the surrounding land has been largely focused around agriculture. With its grassy rolling hills, early settlers viewed the Ione Valley as ideal for cattle grazing. While the Ione Valley had limited mineral resources, its fertile soil was exceptional for the production of fruits and vegetables. Ione and the surrounding valley became one of the largest suppliers of produce to the mining camps of the Sierra Nevada foothills, just east of Ione.

The cattle raising enterprise of Ione pioneers William Hicks and James Martin was the earliest known operation of its type in the region. During the hearings for the legality of the Arroyo Seco grant, Teodosio Yorba and Andres Pico claimed that Hicks

²⁶ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 26-29.

and Martin had grazed cattle on the property in 1849. In 1850, James Alvord and others opened the Q Ranch, located just outside of Ione, which became one of the largest suppliers of fruit, vegetables, and meat in the region during the second half of the nineteenth century. Local Ione historian Judy Allen noted that, “By 1852 a small community of settlers had brought the best land of the valley under cultivation, with orchards, grain fields, and vineyards in flourishing conditions.”²⁷ Stemming from the miners’ need for produce, agriculture was a significant driving force in the development of Ione.²⁸

Women in California Photography

Women have played an important, but largely forgotten, role in California photography since the Gold Rush. In 1847, twelve-year-old Epifania de Guadalupe Vallejo, daughter of Californio military commander and pioneer General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, captured a daguerreotype image of her mother, Francisca Benicia Carrillo. As the Vallejo family remembered it, the small image was placed in a ring, which General Vallejo wore on his finger until the time of his death. Epifania went on to become an accomplished amateur painter. Her story, however, has been largely forgotten, overshadowed by her father’s achievements.²⁹

²⁷ Ibid., 38.

²⁸ Ibid., 101-102; Mason, *History of Amador County*, 183.

²⁹ Peter E. Palmquist, “100 Years of California Photography: Women Innovators and Their Contribution, 1850-1950,” in *Women Artists of the American West*, ed. Susan R. Ressler (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2003), 201.

Following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in January 1848, thousands of people flocked to California in search of fortune. While the majority of them were single men, many women came to California during this period as well. Julia Shannon is recognized as California's earliest professional female photographer. Shannon opened a studio in San Francisco sometime in 1850 just one year after the first known male photographer opened a studio in California. Other photographers such as Julia Ann Rudolph of Nevada City and Mary Winslow of San Francisco left their mark on the regions in which they worked during the second half of the nineteenth century. Because photography equipment at the time was heavy and bulky, most of the female photographers of the time stayed in the studio and worked as portrait photographers.³⁰

While a few individuals of note are remembered in California photography, most early female photographers have been forgotten. Few women during the nineteenth century were able to support themselves, independently of their husbands, through photography. In the mid-nineteenth century, it was rare for women to participate in any kind of professional endeavor, and often frowned upon. Some women worked as assistants in their husbands' studios, without credit, only taking over the operation upon the husband's death. Most of the information related to women photographers in Gold Rush-era California has been lost due to poor record keeping. Because women rarely owned land during the mid-nineteenth century, they were often left off public records because they were not the head of household. In business issues, women often

³⁰ Jo Ann Levy, *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992), 1; Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography," 201-204; Martha Kreisel, ed., *American Women Photographers: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), vii.

exclusively used their husband's name, making it difficult to trace the work of early female photographers. Despite the gender inequality that existed during the mid- to late-nineteenth century, the work of a few early California female photographers survives, allowing some understanding of the work that was being done in California's early history.³¹

Eliza Withington, Pioneer Photographer

In the mid-nineteenth century, Eliza Withington was one of Amador County's most accomplished photographers, as well as the county's only female photographer. Born in New York on March 17, 1825, Eliza later moved to Michigan where she married shingle maker George Withington in 1845. In 1852, Eliza left for California with her daughters Sarah Augusta (Augusta) and Eleanor to meet her husband George who had left in search of wealth three years earlier. Upon their arrival, the Withington family settled in the Ione Valley, a small, fertile valley roughly 40 miles southeast of Sacramento, in the shadow of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Withingtons lived for a brief period in the small mining camps of Dry Creek and later in Muletown, both located in the Ione Valley. In 1857, four years after the town site of Ione City was laid out, the Withingtons constructed their large, two-story brick house in Ione City along the northern banks of Sutter Creek.³²

³¹ Kreisel, *American Women Photographers*, vii; Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography," 202-204.

³² Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West*, 602



Figure 4. Portrait of Eliza Withington, circa 1870.

Eliza Withington began her photography career shortly before 1857, when she traveled to the East Coast to learn the trade. While in New York, Withington visited numerous galleries of notable photographers, including that of famed celebrity and documentary photographer Mathew Brady. Research did not reveal why Withington decided to become a photographer, but in July 1857, she opened an ambrotype gallery along Main Street in Ione. The ambrotype was a popular method of photography in the mid-nineteenth century, which used a complicated process to capture a positive image on

a sheet of glass. An advertisement appearing in the July 25, 1857 edition of the *Amador Ledger* described Withington's gallery as being located on "Main Street, first door west of the bridge." The *Amador Ledger* commented on the arrival of Eliza Withington's photography studio, stating, "We are assured upon undoubted authority that she is an accomplished lady and most excellent artist. Just think of it – Your picture taken by a lady!"³³ By 1857, there were already a number of male portrait photographers in Gold Country, but there were few, if any, other female photographers; a female photographer, or professional in any field, was still viewed as a spectacle. Eliza was one of the most successful portrait photographers in Amador County during the 1860s and 1870s, capturing images of many of the area's residents. Eliza also participated in other, more typical, feminine activities; she offered instruction in "Oriental Pearl Painting," a popular women's hobby in Gold Rush-era California.³⁴



Figure 5. Silver Lake. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873.

³³ Jeanne Hamilton Watson, *To the Land of Gold and Wickedness: The 1848-59 Diary of Lorena L. Hays* (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1988), 225-228

³⁴ Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography," 203. Peter E. Palmquist, *Shadowcatchers: A Directory of Women in California Photography Before 1901* (Eureka, CA: Eureka Printing Co., 1991), 238-239; Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers*, 602.

Little is known about Eliza Withington's personal life and career during the 1860s. Examining her historic record during the period reveals some important information about her life and success. In the 1860 census, Eliza is listed as living with her husband George and their two children, Eleanor and Augusta. No profession is listed. In 1866, Eliza Withington became the titleholder for the roughly seven and one-half acre lot on which her family lived the previous nine years. The purchase stemmed from the 1863 Superior Court decision that upheld the proposed boundaries of the Arroyo Seco Mexican land grant, which encompassed the Ione Valley. The legality of this land grant had been questioned by early pioneers, including those in the Ione Valley, to no avail. The Withingtons, like all other residents of the Valley, were required to either pay for their property or abandon it. On October 13, 1863, George Withington signed an indenture for eight hundred dollars with Arroyo Seco investors J. Mora Moss and others for the property on which the Withington home was located. After George filed for bankruptcy in 1865 and was unable to pay his indenture, Eliza Withington completed the deal for eight hundred dollars on May 3, 1866. Eliza Withington became the sole owner of the property, an unusual achievement in 1860s California. While no information regarding her photographic work in the 1860s is known, that she was able to pay eight hundred dollars for her family's seven and one-half acre Ione property makes it likely that her photography business continued throughout the 1860s. Few women in Amador County during the mid-nineteenth century owned property, or were able to support

themselves independently of their husbands; Eliza Withington's achievements were formidable.³⁵



Figure 6. Mining family at Kirkwood. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873.

Eliza Withington's photographic talents were diverse and unusual for post-Gold Rush California. While Withington was primarily a portrait photographer throughout the early years of her career, her talents expanded in the 1870s. By 1871, Eliza was living apart from her husband, possibly due to their financial conflicts. During this period of separation, Eliza took multiple trips to mining camps throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 1873, Eliza went on a photography excursion that took her to Silver Lake,

³⁵ United States Census, 1860; Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to George Withington," Book G of Deeds, October 13, 1863, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA; Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to Elizabeth Withington," Book J of Deeds, May 3, 1866, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA.



Figure 7. Woman standing at the edge of a cliff, Carson Spur. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873.

Kirkwood, and Carson Pass where she captured many stereoscopic views (Figures 5-8). The photographs show mining camps, mountain families, and rugged landscapes. A selection of this series was submitted to the photography magazine the *Philadelphia Photographer*, that in turn described them as, “most artistically put together.” In 1876, Withington’s extended essay “How a Woman Makes Landscape Photography” was published in the *Philadelphia Photographer*. Eliza’s essay described efficient and effective ways of conducting landscape photography, and is considered by photography historian Peter Palmquist to be one of the finest instructional photography articles written by a woman during the nineteenth century. Eliza Withington died on March 4, 1877 at

age 51 after an extended battle with an unknown illness, leaving a permanent mark on early California photography.³⁶



Figure 8. Road to Silver Lake. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873.

George Withington, Pioneer of the Ione Valley

George Withington, husband of Eliza, was an entrepreneurial pioneer of the Ione Valley. Born in Seneca County, New York on May 10, 1821, George Withington moved

³⁶ Ressler, *Women Artists of the American West*, 203-204; Palmquist, *Shadowcatchers*, 239-243

to Monroe, Michigan, located on the western shores of Lake Erie, with his family at the age of two. Mr. Withington, a shingle maker by trade, married Eliza Kirby on December 3, 1845. In the spring of 1849, George Withington left his wife with their children, Augusta and Eleanor, and joined a company of men on a journey to California in search of opportunity. Upon arrival, George Withington and his team settled in Sacramento for a brief period. After surveying the region, Withington's team eventually settled on a cluster of springs 40 miles east of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. There, Withington and his team established a horse powered shingle mill and constructed the first shingled house in the region. The shingle mill was one of the earliest facilities of its type in the Sierra Nevada foothills, producing sixteen thousand shingles per day, and supplied the surrounding region with shingles. The town of Shingle Springs, El Dorado County, was later established on the surrounding land, named for the team's shingle mill.³⁷

In 1851, George Withington sold his property in Shingle Springs and moved south to the Ione Valley where he became involved in many of the important events in the region's early history. Eliza and their two children joined George on his homestead in Dry Creek in 1852, only to be evicted from their property in 1855 after a judge determined that Dry Creek was part of the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant. After settling in the mining camp of Muletown following eviction, George Withington established the Empire Ditch Mine and Fluming Company (Empire Ditch Company) with his brother

³⁷ *A Volume of Memoirs and Genealogy of Representative Citizens of Northern California* (Chicago: Standard Genealogical Publishing Company, 1901), 294-295; Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers*, 602; Paulo Sioli, *Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County, California with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Oakland, CA: Paulo Sioli, 1883), 200-201.

Richard Withington, Charles Hutz, Samuel Ewing, Isaac Perkins, and Edward Crowell. Drawing water from Sutter Creek about one mile east of the town of Sutter Creek, the Empire Ditch Company provided prospective miners with water in the towns and camps between Dry Creek and Sutter Creek. Ditch companies were important in the development of the Ione Valley, bringing water to an area that lacked the necessary water for mining in the fall and summer months. George Withington's Empire Ditch Company later merged with the Amador Ditch Company.³⁸

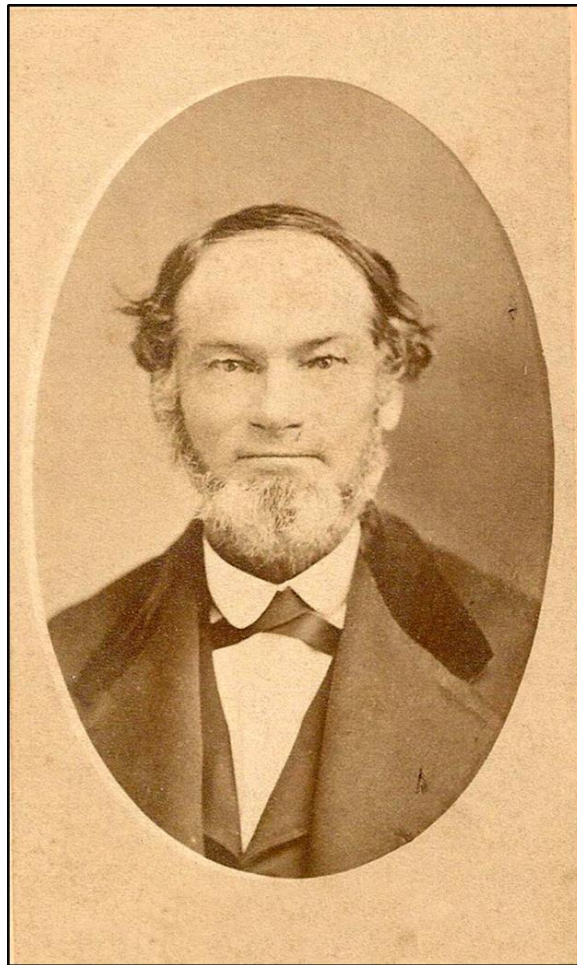


Figure 9. Portrait of George Withington, circa 1870.

³⁸ Ibid.; Grant Deed, "R.H. Withington et. al to George Withington," Book B of Deeds, June 2, 1856, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA.

In 1857, George Withington moved his family to Ione City, where he constructed a two-story brick home along the northern banks of Sutter Creek, just across from the original town site of Ione. The 1860 United States Census listed his profession as a farmer. On April 27, 1863, George Withington began a new venture: the Ione Copper Mining Company.³⁹ With the high demand for copper to support the war effort in the east, many investors saw an opportunity for riches, and more than fifty copper mining companies started in the Ione Valley during the Civil War years. With the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, the value of copper drastically declined and the Ione Copper Mining Company soon disbanded. In 1864, the region experienced an extreme drought, and the Withingtons lost the entirety of their wheat and barley in addition to 200 hogs. The following year, Mr. Withington filed for bankruptcy after his numerous business ventures failed to return the high reward that he anticipated.⁴⁰

By 1870, George Withington was working as an agent for the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant. Following the sale of the Rancho Arroyo Seco grant to a group of San Francisco Bay Area investors in 1861, agents were employed to oversee the sale and distribution of what remained of the nearly 50,000 acre grant. Research did not reveal the length of George Withington's service as the grant's sales agent. In the early 1870s, George and Eliza Withington separated, likely due to their financial hardships. Although Eliza was the sole owner of the property, George continued to live on the land, possibly

³⁹ United States Census, 1860; Stock Certificate, Ione Copper Mining Company, May 30, 1863.

⁴⁰ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 28-29; Amador County Court, "George Withington v. Creditors," January 25, 1865.

in the smaller brick building located directly behind the main two-story house. During this period, Mr. Withington farmed the property and began experimenting in agricultural technology. In February 1871, the entrepreneurial George Withington was issued a patent for an adjustable iron wheelbarrow wheel. After Eliza's death in 1877, their daughter, Augusta, inherited the property, but George continued to live on and farm their seven-acre ranch. In 1884, at the age of 63 and seven years after the death of his wife Eliza, George Withington married a widow, Mrs. S.J. Maddux. George died on February 20, 1900. An Ione Valley pioneer, George Withington was a man of many ventures associated with the development of the region. He never found the success he sought.⁴¹

Greek Revival Architecture

The Withington House is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture in the Ione Valley. The Greek Revival style dominated America's architectural landscape from approximately 1820 to 1860. The style has its American origins at the turn of the seventeenth century, as the United States looked to distinguish itself from its former colonial overlords. Earlier styles, such as the Georgian and Federal architectural styles, were heavily influenced by the architecture of Britain. Rather than looking to England for inspiration as they had in the Colonial years, mid-nineteenth century architects in the United States looked to the order and democratic traditions of ancient Greece for influence.⁴²

⁴¹ United States Census, 1870; *Volume of Memoirs*, 295; "A New Iron Wheel," *Pacific Rural Press*, March 22, 1873.

⁴² Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), xv.

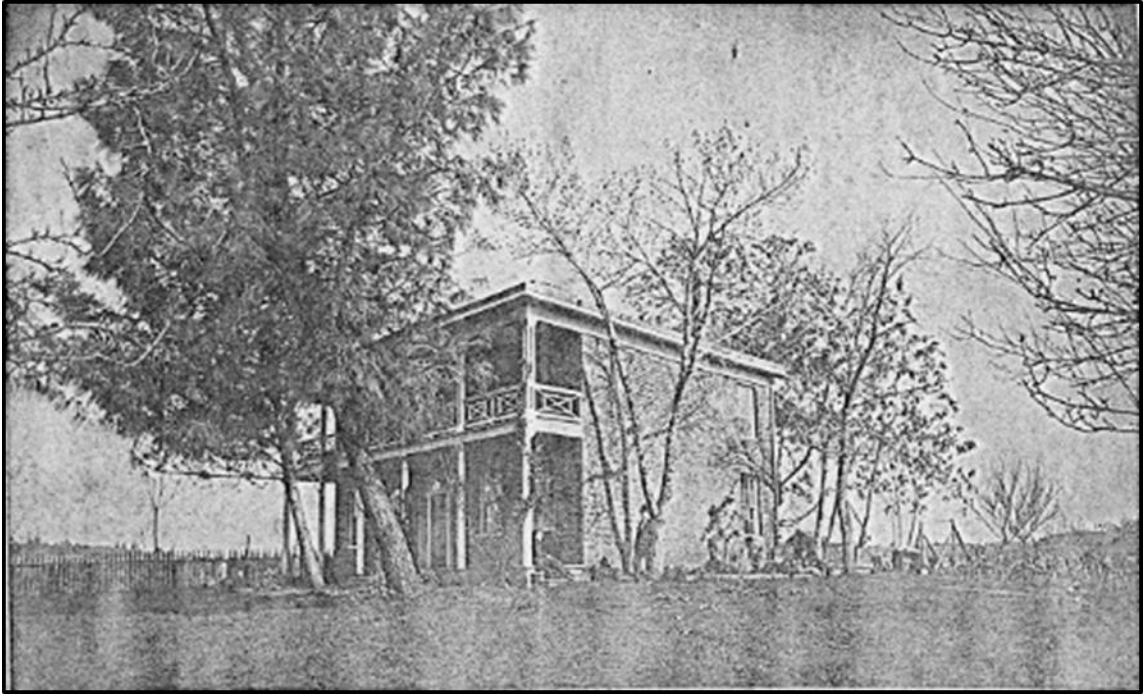


Figure 10. The Withington House, circa 1870.

Greek Revival architecture began and concluded with the construction of public buildings in New England. Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, the style spread across the western frontier, as settlers continued to migrate westward. Some of the earliest examples of the style appeared in Philadelphia, particularly common in the construction of government buildings. The style gained popularity in the South, where large homes, often made of brick with full-façade porches, were common on the rural landscape. As the United States expanded west, settlers brought their architectural styles with them. When thousands of people flooded the West after the discovery of gold in California in 1848, Greek Revival architecture began to appear in the regions' growing boomtowns and mining camps. Despite its long period of popularity, examples of the Greek Revival style in California are relatively uncommon, as Gothic Revival and

Italianate architecture began to emerge as the popular styles. By the end of the 1850s, the demand for the Greek Revival style began to fade away.⁴³

The Greek Revival style is defined by symmetry and order. Domestic examples of the style typically have low-pitched gabled or hipped roofs. Drawing on the architecture of ancient Greece, character defining features of the style include wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice line on the main roof to mimic Greek entablature (frieze and architrave), columned porches or porticos, and elaborate doorways with narrow sidelights. Buildings of the style are typically of wood siding, and variations often include brick or stone.⁴⁴

The Withington House employs many of the character defining features of the Greek Revival style. These include its low-pitched, hipped roof with full-façade front porch, symmetrical façade, wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice lines of the main house, a porch supported by columns, and narrow transom window door surrounds. The smaller vernacular brick building utilizes only mild elements of the Greek Revival style, mimicking the main brick house with its wide band of trim, overhanging eaves, and symmetrical façade. Though this building does not demonstrate many of the character defining features of the style, with its brick and fieldstone construction the secondary building adds to the overall character of the property. The George and Eliza Withington House is an excellent example of Gold Rush-era, Greek Revival architecture in Amador County.

⁴³ Ibid., 3, 310-314.

⁴⁴ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984).

Chapter 5

EVALUATION OF THE RESOURCE

Only after completing the necessary background research, and situating the property within its associated historic context, is it possible to evaluate the resource for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. In order to be eligible for listing in the National Register, a property must be at least 50 years old, be significant under at least one of the four National Register criteria for evaluation, and possess enough integrity to convey its historic significance. Although there are exceptions to the criteria for evaluation (criteria considerations), properties generally must meet these guidelines. This section will examine the significance and integrity of the George and Eliza Withington House and make a determination of eligibility.

Significance

The George and Eliza Withington House achieves its significance through its association with the lives of Ione Valley pioneers George and Eliza Withington, as well as through its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture. Constructed in 1857, the Withington House is an excellent local example of Gold Rush-era Greek Revival architecture in Amador County. A large, two-story single-dwelling, the Withington House possesses many of the character defining features of the style including a low-pitched, hipped roof with full-façade front porch, symmetrical façade, wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice lines of the main house, a porch supported by columns, and narrow transom window door surrounds.

Eliza Withington is the only known female photographer to have worked in Amador County during the nineteenth century, a time when few females ventured into professional work. One of Amador County's most prominent portrait photographers, Eliza separated herself from other photographers of the time through her landscape photography, which she took on trips to mining camps in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Eliza opened a photography studio in Ione in 1857, and operated the studio until sometime shortly before her death in 1877.

The George and Eliza Withington House is also significant for its association with George Withington. George Withington was an entrepreneurial pioneer of the Ione Valley. In 1849, George Withington and a team of men established a shingle mill along a cluster of springs in a town that was later named for their efforts: Shingle Springs, El Dorado County. George Withington left the shingle mill in 1851 and settled in the Ione Valley, where he eventually constructed his brick home in 1857. While in Ione, George Withington was involved in various ventures: he constructed a ditch along Sutter Creek to bring water to miners during the dry summer months, developed a copper mining company during the Civil War years, and served as a sales agent for the sale of land from the Rancho Arroyo Seco Mexican land grant. The George and Eliza Withington House is the only surviving property associated with George's role in settling the Ione Valley and Eliza's importance as an early California female photographer.

Integrity

The George and Eliza Withington House maintains sufficient historic integrity to convey its historic significance. Since its initial construction in 1857, the George and Eliza Withington House has experienced few additions and alterations. The lack of alterations has allowed the Withington House to retain the majority of its character defining features. While outbuildings on the property have come and gone over the years, the property has always continued its agrarian function. The Withington House maintains a high degree of integrity in all seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Location

The property remains at its original site and retains its integrity of location.

Design

Though the columns and porch have been altered multiple times since the building's completion in 1857 to support the second floor porch, the property retains enough of its original character defining features to convey its historic design. Originally designed without an interior bathroom, a rear second story wood-clad bathroom addition was constructed sometime in the early twentieth century. Other than these alterations, the design of the Withington House remains largely unchanged and retains a high degree of integrity.

Setting

The Withington House retains its historic setting. The house remains situated on a large lot bordering the northern banks of Sutter Creek, just across the creek from the

historic 1853 town site of Ione. While the house now sits on 3.27 acres of what was once a 16 acre parcel, the property retains its agrarian setting through its large grassy lot, and many outbuildings surrounding the main house.

Materials

The two-story brick house and rear brick and fieldstone building have had minimal alterations over the years, and retain the majority of their historic materials.

Workmanship

A two-story Greek Revival building of brick masonry, the resource remains an excellent example of Gold Rush-era architecture in the Ione Valley. Constructed primarily of locally manufactured brick, the building remains an excellent example of 1850s architecture in Amador County. With few significant alterations, the Withington House retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

While the amount of property on which the Withington House sits has decreased over time, enough of the property remains to maintain its original agrarian setting. The house has had few significant alterations throughout the course of existence, and has a high degree of integrity of feeling.

Association

The Withington House continues to be associated with the productive lives of photographer Eliza Withington and her husband George, as well as the Greek Revival style of architecture. With few significant alterations, the Withington House embodies the majority of the character defining features of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

Determination of Eligibility

The goal of this study was to establish a historic context for and determine the eligibility of the George and Eliza Withington House under National Register criteria. After thoroughly researching and documenting the property, I conclude that the George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria B and C in the areas of art, architecture, and settlement. Under Criterion B, the Withington House is eligible as the home of Ione Valley pioneers George and Eliza Withington. Settling in Ione in 1857, Eliza Withington is the only known female photographer working in Amador County during the nineteenth century. Withington was a highly regarded local portrait photographer. She is most notable for her landscape photography, which she took on numerous trips to the mining camps in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. While she worked out of a photography studio, the building no longer exists and the Withington House is the property most associated with Eliza Withington's productive life. She lived in the house from 1857, the year of its construction, until her death in 1877.

The house is also associated with the productive life of her husband, George Withington, who moved to the Ione Valley in 1851. He became involved in mining and farming, and was most significant for the time he spent as an agent for the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant that encompassed the Ione Valley. George Withington lived in the Withington House from 1857 until his death in 1900. Under Criterion C, the Withington House is eligible for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture. One of four brick houses constructed in the Ione Valley

during the 1850s, the Withington House is an excellent local example of Gold Rush-era architecture in Amador County. The period of significance for Criterion B extends from 1857, the year of the building's construction, to 1900, the entirety of the period that George or Eliza Withington lived in the house. Under Criterion C the period of significance is 1857, the year of its construction.

Hearing

In early August, I submitted the completed National Register registration form to the Office of Historic Preservation for staff review. Although the nomination was completed in late June in accordance with my agreement with the property owner, I held the submission until after the August State Historical Resources Commission meeting, in order to allow staff to prepare for the August meeting before reviewing the Withington House nomination. Staff provided detailed guidance for necessary revisions, and I made the recommended adjustments so that the nomination met National Register standards.

On November 7, 2014, the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington house was heard at the quarterly meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission. After a presentation of the property by OHP staff, the Commission approved the nomination of the George and Eliza Withington House and recommended the nomination be certified by the State Historic Preservation Officer and forwarded to the Keeper for listing in the National Register. Following the meeting, staff sent the nomination to Washington, D.C. for final review and determination by the Keeper of the National Register. If approved by

the Keeper, it is anticipated that the George and Eliza Withington House will be listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the early months of 2015.

Appendix – National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

Historic name: Withington, George and Eliza, House

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 10 Welch Lane

City or town: Ione State: CA County: Amador

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

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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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:) _____

 Signature of the Keeper

 Date of Action

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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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	<u>1</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic:
Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic:
Single Dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Mid-19th Century:
Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick; Stone; Fieldstone

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Located at 10 Welch Lane in Ione, California, the George and Eliza Withington House (Withington House) is a large, two story brick Greek Revival house, constructed in 1857. Sitting on just over three acres of land along the northern banks of Sutter Creek, the house has a low pitched hipped roof with a large monitor at its peak. The building has an essentially rectangular footprint, with a single story projection on its northeast corner and a rectangular projection in the center of its second story. A full-façade front porch with second story balcony supported by vernacular squared columns dominates the building's primary façade. Wide, divided bands of trim emphasize the building's cornice lines. The house has a poured concrete perimeter foundation and is of running bond brick masonry. A small two story brick and fieldstone building, constructed at approximately the same time as the main house, is situated directly behind the main house. Four noncontributing resources are located on the property: a converted shed/garage located north of the main house; a wood clad, side gabled stable located in the center of the property; an additional wood clad guesthouse located along the property's easternmost boundary; and an in-ground swimming pool just south of the Withington House. The Withington House is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The Withington House is located at the eastern end of Welch Lane in a primarily residential neighborhood. The 3.27 acre lot includes a lawn immediately adjacent to the house, with trees, horses, and outbuildings creating a feeling of the agrarian lifestyle that once dominated the region. Nearby is the National Register-listed Preston School of Industry, also a California Historical Landmark, and one of the earliest reform schools in California.

West (Primary) Elevation

The primary façade faces west toward Welch Lane and Preston Avenue. A prominent full-façade porch with second story balcony dominates the elevation. Vernacular, squared columns support the porch and balcony. There are six vernacular, narrow columns connecting the base of the second story balcony with the decorative cornice and four wider columns stemming from the foundation and supporting the second story balcony. Both the first and second floor porches have handrails with plain squared balustrades. Windows on the second floor are long, narrow single pane casement. Two windows on either side of the door on the first floor are six over six, double-hung wood sash. All windows have simple vertical segmented brick lintels and shallow ledges. Three stairs lead to the elevated brick entry porch. A full line of narrow transom windows surrounds a wooden door at the building's entrance.

North Elevation

The north facing elevation consists of the primary, two story boxed building and the lower, single story extension on the eastern portion of the elevation. A single six over six double-hung wood sash window with simple, vertically segmented lintels and shallow ledge, is located just below the north east corner of the two story building. On the first floor, two six over six double-hung wood sash windows and a paneled wood door with a single paned glass lintel above are set on the wall, evenly spaced from left to right. On the single story projection, there is a strip of three double-hung wood sash ribbon windows with simple vertical lintels and slight ledge above.

East Elevation

The east facing elevation is composed of the two story box, the single story northeast projection, and a second story projection with brick support columns. The central second story projection and the single story projection on the northeast corner create a tiered appearance. There is a single six over six, double-hung wood sash window on the southeast corner of second floor of the main brick building. A six over six double-hung wood sash window and ten-paned window are located on the first floor.

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A one-room projection with horizontal tongue and groove siding extends from the center of the second floor. Two fixed windows, one of six panes and one of ten panes, are located on the south side of the second story projection. A single six over six double-hung wood sash window is located on the southern corner of the eastern façade of the second story projection. A small four-paned casement window is located on the northwest corner of the north façade of the projection.

The single story first floor projection, original to the house and also made of brick, has a single paned sash wood door and double-hung wood sash window on its southern wall. An additional single paned sash wood door is located in the center of the east wall of the first floor projection.

South Elevation

The southern facing elevation is characterized primarily by its largely bare brick wall. Two six over six double-hung wood sash windows with simple segmented brick lintels are located on the eastern corner of the façade; one is on the second floor and one directly below on the first floor.

Secondary Contributing Resource

Directly behind the main house is a two story brick building with a low pitched, corrugated metal gabled roof, constructed at approximately the same time as the main house. A previous resident of the property indicated the building may have been constructed as a kitchen. It was later referred to as the "tack house," and used as a laundry room and changing room for the pool.¹ The owner at the time of nomination refers to the building as a guesthouse. The building is characterized by its use of brick on the second floor, mirroring the main house, and its use of uncoursed stuccoed field stone on the bottom floor. A single six over six double-hung wood sash window with simple segmented brick lintels is located in the center of the west façade of the second floor. A short straight staircase with a handrail with plain squared balustrades leads to a wood sash entrance door on the south elevation of second floor. A small shed roof covers the entrance porch. Concrete stairs lead down to the first floor door, which is located primarily below ground. A small, single paned fixed window is located just above ground level on the center of both the east and west façades of the first floor.

Noncontributing Resources

Three buildings and one structure were built after the property's period of significance and have not achieved significance independently.

Buildings

A rectangular shed/garage with a saltbox form and a corrugated metal roof, constructed circa 1910, is located on the center of the property near its northern perimeter. The building shares the southern half of its eastern wall with the brick and fieldstone guesthouse. A circa 1950 brick façade was added to the northern portion of the eastern façade of the shed, where the guesthouse

¹ Per November 2013 correspondence from neighbors G.W. and Eileen Gebhardt.

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and shed meet, to create the appearance of a separate, front gabled garage. Located at the far eastern end of the property near Sutter Creek, there is a circa 1920 converted guesthouse. The building originally functioned as a dairy under the property's previous owners.² A circa 1950 side gabled stable with vertical tongue and groove wood siding and a corrugated metal roof is located at roughly the center of the three and a quarter acre property.

Structure

An in-ground swimming pool is located just south of the southern elevation of the main house, and was constructed in 1962.

Additions/Alterations

Since the main building was constructed in 1857, outbuildings on the property have come and gone. From the time of its initial development, the property has been used primarily for agriculture, and the outbuildings on the property have reflected that. The noncontributing resources were built long after the main house's construction in 1857, to fit the needs of the property's use.

Sometime between 1900 and 1940, the columns on the primary façade of the main building were replaced. Originally, there were six columns on both the first and second stories (see Figure 1). Columns on the first story appear to have been Roman Tuscan unfluted columns, while columns on the second story were vernacular squared. Today, there are four much wider vernacular squared columns on the first floor and six vernacular squared columns on the second floor. This alteration was likely made for increased support of the second story balcony. Though the change is significant, the Withington House has had discontinuous columns since at least 1870, as historic photographs reveal, lessening the impact of the alteration.

A second story wood-clad bathroom addition on the rear of the main house was constructed sometime in the early twentieth century. The house was originally designed without an interior bathroom, so the wood-clad addition was constructed out of necessity. A monitor was added sometime in the early twentieth century at the peak of the hipped roof. This monitor was likely added for ventilation purposes.

Integrity

The George and Eliza Withington House maintains sufficient historic integrity to convey its historic significance. Since its initial construction in 1857, the George and Eliza Withington House has experienced few additions and alterations. The lack of alterations has allowed the Withington House to retain the majority of its character defining features. While outbuildings on the property have come and gone over the years, the property has always continued its agrarian function. The Withington House maintains a high degree of integrity in all seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

² Per April 2014 conversation with Dan Sinclair, property owner at the time of nomination.

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Location

The property remains at its original site and retains its integrity of location.

Design

Though the columns and porch have been altered multiple times since the building's completion in 1857 to support the second floor porch, the property retains enough of its original character defining features to convey its historic design. Originally designed without an interior bathroom, a rear second story wood-clad bathroom addition was constructed sometime in the early twentieth century. Other than these alterations, the design of the Withington House remains largely unchanged and retains a high degree of integrity.

Setting

The Withington House retains its historic setting. The house remains situated on a large lot bordering the northern banks of Sutter Creek, just across the creek from the historic 1853 town site of Ione. While the house now sits on 3.27 acres of what was once a 16 acre parcel, the property retains its agrarian setting through its large, grassy lot, removed from the surrounding houses.

Materials

The two story brick house and rear brick and fieldstone guesthouse have had minimal alterations over the years, and retain their historic materials.

Workmanship

A two story Greek Revival building of brick masonry, the building remains an excellent example of Gold Rush-era architecture in the Ione Valley. Constructed primarily of locally manufactured brick the building remains an excellent example of 1850s architecture in Amador County. With few significant alterations, the Withington House retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

While the amount of property on which the Withington House sits has decreased over time, enough of the property remains to maintain its original agrarian setting. The house has had few significant alterations throughout the course of existence, and has a high degree of integrity of feeling.

Association

The Withington House continues to be associated with both the productive lives of photographer Eliza Withington and her husband George, as well as the Greek Revival style of architecture. With few significant alterations, the Withington House embodies the majority of the character defining features of the Greek Revival style of architecture.

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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.)

Architecture
Art
Settlement

Period of Significance
B: 1857-1900
C: 1857

Significant Dates
1857, House Constructed
1877, Death of
Eliza Withington
1900, Death of
George Withington

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Withington, Eliza
Withington, George

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.)

The George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria B and C in the areas of art, architecture, and settlement. Under Criterion B, the Withington House is eligible as the home of Ione Valley pioneers George and Eliza Withington. Settling in Ione in 1857, Eliza Withington is the only known female photographer working in Amador County during the nineteenth century. Withington was a highly regarded local portrait photographer. She is most notable for her landscape photography, which she took on numerous trips to the mining camps in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. While she worked out of a photography studio, the building no longer exists and the Withington House is the property most associated with Eliza Withington's productive life; she lived in the house from 1857, the year of its construction, until her death in 1877. The house is also associated with the productive life of her husband, George Withington, who moved to the Ione Valley in 1851. He became involved in mining and farming, and was most significant for his time spent as an agent for the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant that encompassed the Ione Valley. George Withington lived in the Withington House from 1857 until his death in 1900. Under Criterion C, the Withington House is eligible for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style of architecture. One of four brick houses constructed in the Ione Valley during the 1850s, the Withington House is an excellent local example of Gold Rush-era architecture in Amador County. The period of significance for Criterion B extends from 1857, the year of the building's construction, to 1900, the entirety of the period that George and Eliza Withington lived in the house. Under Criterion C the period of significance is 1857, the year of construction.

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

Criterion B: George and Eliza Withington, Amador County Pioneers

The George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the productive life of Elizabeth (Eliza) Kirby Withington, a pioneer female photographer in California. Mrs. Withington is the only known female photographer to work in Amador County during the nineteenth century, a time when few females ventured into professional work. Eliza opened a photography studio in Ione in 1857, and operated the studio until sometime shortly before her death in 1877. While she was primarily a portrait photographer, she is most significant for her landscape photographs, which she took on several trips to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, just east of Ione. Today, her work can be found in the collections of the Huntington Library and the California State Library, with a large collection of her photographs housed in the Amador County Archives.

The George and Eliza Withington House is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with California pioneer George Withington. A

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shingle maker by trade, George Withington came to California in 1849 with a team of men and established one of the earliest shingle mills in California in what later became Shingle Springs, El Dorado County. In 1851, Withington left the shingle mill and looked for fortune in the Ione Valley, where he remained until his death in 1900. Withington was involved in various ventures: he constructed a ditch along Sutter Creek to bring water to miners during the dry summer months, developed a copper mining company during the Civil War years, and served as a sales agent for the sale of land from the Rancho Arroyo Seco Mexican land grant.

Women in California Photography

Women have played an important, but largely forgotten, role in California photography since the Gold Rush. In 1847, twelve-year-old Epifania de Guadalupe Vallejo, daughter of California military commander and pioneer General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, captured a daguerreotype image of her mother, Francisca Benicia Carrillo. As the Vallejo family remembered it, the small image was placed in a ring, which General Vallejo wore on his finger until the time of his death. Epifania went on to become an accomplished amateur painter. Her story, however, has been largely forgotten, overshadowed by her father's achievements.³

Following the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma in January 1848, thousands of people flocked to California in search of fortune. While the majority of them were single men, many women came to California during this period as well. Julia Shannon is recognized as California's earliest professional female photographer. Shannon opened a studio in San Francisco sometime in 1850 just one year after the first known male photographer opened a studio in California. Other photographers such as Julia Ann Rudolph of Nevada City and Mary Winslow of San Francisco left their mark on the regions in which they worked during the second half of the nineteenth century. Because photography equipment at the time was heavy and bulky, most of the female photographers of the time stayed in the studio and worked as portrait photographers.⁴

While a few individuals of note are remembered in California photography, most early female photographers have been forgotten. Few women during the nineteenth century were able to support themselves, independently of their husbands, through photography. In the mid-nineteenth century, for a woman to participate in any kind of professional endeavor was rare, and often frowned upon. Some women worked as assistants in their husband's studios, without credit, only taking over the operation upon the husband's death. Most of the information related to women photographers in Gold Rush-era California has been lost due to poor record keeping. Because women rarely owned land during the mid-nineteenth century, they were often left off of public records because they were not the head of household. In business issues, women often exclusively used their husband's name, making it difficult to trace the work of early female photographers. Despite the gender inequality that existed during the mid- to late-nineteenth

³ Peter E. Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography: Women Innovators and Their Contribution, 1850-1950," in *Women Artists of the American West*, ed. Susan R. Ressler (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2003), 201.

⁴ Jo Ann Levy, *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992), 1; Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography," 201-204; Martha Kreisel, ed., *American Women Photographers: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), vii.

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century, the work of a few early California female photographers survives, allowing some understanding of the work that was being done in California's early history.⁵

Eliza Withington, Pioneer Photographer

In the mid-nineteenth century, Eliza Withington was one of Amador County's most accomplished photographers, as well as the county's only female photographer. Born in New York on March 17, 1825, Eliza later moved to Michigan where she married shingle maker George Withington in 1845. In 1852, Eliza left for California with her daughters Sarah Augusta (Augusta) and Eleanor to meet her husband George who had left in search of wealth three years earlier. Upon their arrival, the Withington family soon settled in the Ione Valley, a small, fertile valley roughly 40 miles southeast of Sacramento, in the shadow of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Withingtons lived for a brief period in the small mining camps of Dry Creek and later in Muletown, both located in the Ione Valley. In 1857, four years after the town site of Ione City was laid out, the Withingtons constructed their large, two-story brick house in Ione City along the northern banks of Sutter Creek.⁶

Eliza Withington began her photography career shortly before 1857, when she traveled to the East Coast to learn the trade. While in New York, Withington visited numerous notable galleries, including that of famed celebrity and documentary photographer Mathew Brady. Research did not reveal why Withington decided to enter the field of photography, but in July 1857, she opened an ambrotype gallery along Main Street in Ione. The ambrotype was a popular method of photography in the mid-nineteenth century, which used a complicated process to capture a positive image on a sheet of glass. An advertisement appearing in the July 25, 1857 edition of the *Amador Ledger* described Withington's gallery as being located on "Main Street, first door west of the bridge." The *Amador Ledger* commented on the arrival of Eliza Withington's photography studio, stating, "We are assured upon undoubted authority that she is an accomplished lady and most excellent artist. Just think of it – Your picture taken by a lady!"⁷ By 1857, there were already a number of male portrait photographers in Gold Country, but there were few, if any, other female photographers; a female photographer, or professional in any field, was still viewed as a spectacle. Eliza was one of the most successful portrait photographers in Amador County during the 1860s and 1870s, capturing images of many of the area's residents. Eliza also participated in other, more typical, feminine activities; she offered instruction in "Oriental Pearl Painting," a popular women's hobby in Gold Rush-era California.⁸

Little is known about Eliza Withington's personal life and career during the 1860s. Examining her historic record during the period reveals some important information about her life and success. In the 1860 census, Eliza is listed as living with her husband George and their two

⁵ Kreisel, *American Women Photographers*, vii; Palmquist, "100 Years of California Photography," 202-204.

⁶ Peter E. Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840-1965*, (Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2002), 602

⁷ Jeanne Hamilton Watson, *To the Land of Gold and Wickedness: The 1848-59 Diary of Lorena L. Hays* (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1988), 225-228

⁸ Peter E. Palmquist, *Shadowcatchers: A Directory of Women in California Photography Before 1901* (Eureka, CA: Eureka Printing Co., 1991), 238-239; Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers*, 602.

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children, Eleanor and Augusta. No profession is listed. In 1866, Eliza Withington became the title holder for the roughly seven and one-half acre lot that her family had lived on for the previous nine years. This purchase stemmed from an 1863 Superior Court decision that upheld the proposed boundaries of the Arroyo Seco Mexican land grant, which encompassed the Ione Valley. The legality of this land grant had been questioned by early pioneers, including those in the Ione Valley, to no avail. The Withingtons, like all other residents of the Valley, were required to either pay for their property or abandon it. On October 13, 1863, George Withington signed an indenture for eight hundred dollars with Arroyo Seco investors J. Mora Moss and others for the property on which the Withington home was located. After George filed for bankruptcy in 1865 and was unable to pay his indenture, Eliza Withington completed the deal for eight hundred dollars on May 3, 1866. Eliza Withington became the sole owner of the property, an unusual achievement in 1860s California. While no information regarding her photographic work in the 1860s is known, that she was able to pay eight hundred dollars for her family's seven and one-half acre Ione property makes it likely that her photography business continued throughout the 1860s. Few women in Amador County during the mid-nineteenth century owned property, or were able to support themselves independently of their husbands; Eliza Withington's achievements were formidable.⁹

Eliza Withington's photographic talents were diverse and unusual for post-Gold Rush California. While Withington was primarily a portrait photographer throughout the early years of her career, her talents expanded in the 1870s. By 1871, Eliza was living apart from her husband, possibly due to their financial conflicts. During this period of separation, Eliza took multiple trips to mining camps throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 1873, Eliza went on a photography excursion that took her to Silver Lake, Kirkwood, and Carson Pass where she captured many stereoscopic views (See Figures 4-7). The photographs show mining camps, mountain families, and rugged landscapes. A selection of this series was submitted to the photography magazine the *Philadelphia Photographer*, who in turn described them as, "most artistically put together." In 1876, Withington's extended essay "How a Woman Makes Landscape Photography" was published in the *Philadelphia Photographer*. Eliza's essay described efficient and effective ways of conducting landscape photography, and is considered by photography historian Peter Palmquist to be one of the finest instructional photography articles written by a woman during the nineteenth century. Eliza Withington died on March 4, 1877 at age 51 after an extended battle with an unknown illness, leaving a permanent mark on early California photography.¹⁰

George Withington, Pioneer of the Ione Valley

George Withington, husband of Eliza, was an entrepreneurial pioneer of the Ione Valley. Born in Seneca County, New York on May 10, 1821, George Withington moved to Monroe, Michigan, located on the western shores of Lake Erie, with his family at the age of two. Mr. Withington, a shingle maker by trade, married Eliza Kirby on December 3, 1845. In the spring of 1849, George Withington left his wife with their children, Augusta and Eleanor, and joined a company of men

⁹ United States Census, 1860; Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to George Withington," Book G of Deeds, October 13, 1863, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA; Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to Elizabeth Withington," Book J of Deeds, May 3, 1866, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA.

¹⁰ Ressler, *Women Artists of the American West*, 203-204; Palmquist, *Shadowcatchers*, 239-243

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on a journey to California in search of opportunity. Upon arrival, George Withington and his team settled in Sacramento for a brief period. After surveying the region, Withington's team eventually settled on a cluster of springs 40 miles east of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. There, Withington and his team established a horse powered shingle mill and constructed the first shingled house in the region. The shingle mill was one of the earliest facilities of its type in the Sierra Nevada foothills, producing sixteen thousand shingles per day, and supplied the surrounding region with shingles. The town of Shingle Springs, El Dorado County, was later established on the surrounding land, named for the team's shingle mill.¹¹

In 1851, George Withington sold his property in Shingle Springs and moved south to the Ione Valley where he became involved in many of the important events in the region's early history. Eliza and their two children joined George on his homestead in Dry Creek in 1852, only to be evicted from their property in 1855 after it was decided that Dry Creek was part of the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant. After settling in the mining camp of Muletown following eviction, George Withington established the Empire Ditch Mine and Fluming Company (Empire Ditch Company) with his brother Richard Withington, Charles Hutz, Samuel Ewing, Isaac Perkins, and Edward Crowell. Drawing water from Sutter Creek about one mile east of the town of Sutter Creek, the Empire Ditch Company provided prospective miners with water in the towns and camps between Dry Creek and Sutter Creek. Ditch companies were important in the development of the Ione Valley, bringing water to an area that lacked the necessary water for mining in the fall and summer months. George Withington's Empire Ditch Company later merged with the Amador Ditch Company.¹²

In 1857, George Withington moved his family to Ione City, where he constructed a two story brick home along the northern banks of Sutter Creek, just across from the original town site of Ione. Research did not reveal when the Empire Ditch Company merged with the Amador Ditch Company, but the 1860 United States Census listed his profession as a farmer. On April 27, 1863, George Withington began a new venture: the Ione Copper Mining Company.¹³ With the high demand for copper to support the war effort in the east, many investors saw an opportunity for riches, and more than fifty copper mining companies started in the Ione Valley during the Civil War years. However, with the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, the value of copper drastically declined and the Ione Copper Mining Company soon disbanded. The year of 1864 saw an extreme drought, and the Withingtons lost the entirety of their wheat and barley in addition to 200 head of hogs. The following year, Mr. Withington filed for bankruptcy after his numerous business ventures failed to return the high reward that he anticipated.¹⁴

¹¹ *A Volume of Memoirs and Genealogy of Representative Citizens of Northern California* (Chicago: Standard Genealogical Publishing Company, 1901), 294-295; Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers*, 602; Paulo Sioli, *Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County, California with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Oakland, CA: Paulo Sioli, 1883), 200-201.

¹² *Ibid.*; Grant Deed, "R.H. Withington et. al to George Withington," Book B of Deeds, June 2, 1856, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA.

¹³ United States Census, 1860; Stock Certificate, Ione Copper Mining Company, May 30, 1863.

¹⁴ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 28-29; Amador County Court, "George Withington v. Creditors," January 25, 1865.

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By 1870, George Withington was working as an agent for the Rancho Arroyo Seco land grant. Following the sale of the Rancho Arroyo Seco grant to a group of San Francisco Bay Area investors in 1861, agents were employed to oversee the sale and distribution of what remained of the nearly 50,000 acre grant. Research did not reveal the length of George Withington's service as the grant's sales agent. In the early 1870s, George and Eliza Withington separated, likely due to their financial hardships. Although Eliza was the sole owner of the property, George continued to live on the land, possibly in the brick guesthouse located directly behind the main two story house. During this period, Mr. Withington farmed the property and began experimenting in agricultural technology. In February 1871, the entrepreneurial George Withington was issued a patent for an adjustable iron wheelbarrow wheel. After Eliza's death in 1877, their daughter, Augusta, inherited the property, but George continued to live on and farm their seven acre ranch. In 1884, at the age of 63 and seven years after the death of his wife Eliza, George Withington married a widow, Mrs. S.J. Maddux. George died on February 20, 1900. An Ione Valley pioneer, George Withington was a man of many ventures associated with the development of the region. He never found the success he sought.¹⁵

The Withington House After George and Eliza

Following Eliza's death in 1877, ownership transferred to Eliza's eldest daughter, Augusta. Augusta Withington married William Henry Welch in 1883, and moved with him to Los Angeles. After George Withington's death in 1900, Augusta and her husband William decided to sell the property. In an article published in the *Amador Ledger* on April 4, 1902, William Henry Welch called on letters of support to change the title on the property from Augusta's name to his, upon Augusta's request. According to the article, the property had increased to 16 acres and had a value of two thousand dollars. The property was sold soon following the *Amador Ledger* article to the Amick family, a longstanding Ione Valley family. Augusta's name by marriage, Welch, remained as the street's name. The Withington House is currently located at 10 Welch Lane.¹⁶

Comparison to Related Properties

Eliza Withington lived in Ione from 1857 to 1877. In 1857, Mrs. Withington opened a photography studio on "Main Street, first door west of the bridge."¹⁷ This property, if standing, would be the most representative property of her significance as Amador County's first female photographer. That property is no longer extant. The Withington House, in which she lived from 1857 to 1877 during her entire career as a professional photographer, is the most representative property associated with her productive life.

George Withington came to California in 1849. One of George Withington's most significant achievements was constructing the shingle mill for which the town of Shingle Springs, El Dorado County was later named. This mill remained until the mid-twentieth century, but has

¹⁵ United States Census, 1870; *Volume of Memoirs*, 295; "A New Iron Wheel," *Pacific Rural Press*, March 22, 1873.

¹⁶ Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to George Withington," Book G of Deeds, October 13, 1863, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA; Grant Deed, "J. Mora Moss to Elizabeth Withington," Book J of Deeds, May 3, 1866, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Amador County, CA; "Estate of Eliza W. Withington," *Amador Ledger*, April 4, 1902.

¹⁷ Palmquist, *Pioneer Photographers*, 602.

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since been torn down. After moving to the Ione Valley in 1851 and living in temporary housing, George and Eliza Withington eventually constructed their two story brick home in 1857. George lived there from 1857 until his death in 1900, while he served as manager for the Rancho Arroyo Seco grant and got involved in various mining activities in the area. The Withington House is the property most closely associated with his productive life.

Criterion C: Greek Revival Architecture

The George and Eliza Withington House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C at the local level for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style. Constructed in 1857, this two-story brick house has a low pitched hipped roof with full-façade front porch and a brick and fieldstone guesthouse. The Withington House is one of four brick houses constructed in the Ione Valley during the 1850s that remains to this day and is one of the finest examples of the style in the region.

Greek Revival Architecture

The Withington House is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture in the Ione Valley. The Greek Revival style dominated America's architectural landscape from approximately 1820 to 1860. The style has its American origins at the turn of the seventeenth century, as the United States looked to distinguish itself from its former colonial overlords. Earlier styles, such as the Georgian and Federal architectural styles, were heavily influenced by the architecture of Britain. Rather than looking to England for inspiration as they had in the Colonial years, mid-nineteenth century architects in the United States looked to the order and democracy of ancient Greece for influence.¹⁸

Greek Revival architecture began and concluded with the construction of public buildings in New England. Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, the style spread across the western frontier, as settlers continued to migrate westward. Some of the earliest examples of the style appeared in Philadelphia, particularly common in the construction of government buildings. The style gained popularity in the South, where large homes, often made of brick with full-façade porches, were common on the rural landscape. As the United States expanded west, settlers brought their architectural styles with them. When thousands of people flooded the West after the discovery of gold in California in 1848, Greek Revival architecture began to appear in the regions' growing boomtowns and mining camps. Despite its long period of popularity, examples of the Greek Revival style in California are relatively uncommon, as Gothic Revival and Italianate architecture began to emerge as the popular styles. By the end of the 1850s, the demand for the Greek Revival style began to fade away.¹⁹

The Greek Revival style is defined by symmetry and order. Domestic examples of the style typically have low pitched gabled or hipped roofs. Drawing on the architecture of ancient Greece, character defining features of the style include wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice line on the main roof to mimic Greek entablature (frieze and architrave), columned

¹⁸ Talbot Hamlin, *Greek Revival Architecture in America* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944), xv

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 3, 310-314.

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porches or porticos, and elaborate doorways with narrow sidelights. Buildings of the style are typically of wood siding, and variations often include brick or stone.²⁰

The Withington House employs many of the character defining features of the Greek Revival style. These include its low-pitched, hipped roof with full-façade front porch, symmetrical façade, wide bands of trim emphasizing the cornice lines of the main house, a porch supported by columns, and narrow transom window door surrounds. The vernacular brick guesthouse utilizes only mild elements of the Greek Revival style, mimicking the main brick house with its wide band of trim, overhanging eaves, and symmetrical façade. Though the brick guesthouse does not demonstrate many of the character defining features of the style, with its brick and fieldstone construction the building adds to the overall character of the property. The Withington House appears much as it did at the time of its construction (see Figure 1), with only minor alterations as noted in Section 7. The George and Eliza Withington House is an excellent example of Gold Rush-era, Greek Revival architecture in Amador County.

Development History/Additional Historic Context Information

Settlement of Ione

The City of Ione, California is located in western Amador County, roughly twelve miles west of Jackson, at the junction of Dry Creek, Jackson Creek, and Sutter Creek. Originally inhabited by indigenous people of the Plains Miwok tribe, the first Anglo-American settlement of Ione occurred in 1848, following the discovery of gold in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Located in the fertile Ione Valley, gold-seekers first passed through Ione on their way to the gold fields east of the Valley. In August 1848, on their way to try their hand at mining the Mokolumne River, miners James Porter Martin and William Hicks noted that the Ione Valley had enormous agricultural potential. Thinking the land was unclaimed, people soon began to make claims on land in the Ione Valley, believing that the land would be perfect for cattle ranching. Martin and Hicks opened the first stock business on the land that later became Ione, raising cattle and selling them at the market. In early 1849, Hicks converted his makeshift home located at the confluence of Dry Creek and Mule Creek into the Ione Valley's first store. With its proximity to Jackson and the gold fields of the Mother Lode, the young settlement was quickly thrust into the role of a mining supply center.²¹

In 1853, miner Thomas Rickey filed a claim with the Calaveras County Recorder to establish the town site of Ione City. Prior to its establishment, the settlement went by the names of Bed Bug and Freezeout, among others, before local pioneer Thomas Brown named it Ione, for the beautiful heroine of English dramatist Edward Bulwer-Lytton's 1834 novel *The Last Days of Pompeii*. The original town site was located along the southern banks of Sutter Creek, just east of the road to Sacramento City. The town consisted of four primary streets: Main Street, First Street, Second Street, and Third Street. Constructed four years after the town was laid out, the Withington House is located directly across Sutter Creek from the original town site of Ione City.

²⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984)

²¹ Jesse D. Mason, *History of Amador County* (Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1881), 182; Judy Allen, "Risen From a Dream: A Portrait of the Ione Valley (MA Thesis, California State University, Sacramento), 100.

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In 1855, Daniel Stewart erected the first brick general merchandise store on Main Street, furthering the town's distinction as a miners' supply hub. A town hall was constructed in 1856. By the mid-1850s, most of the lots within the original tract were occupied, as prospective miners and ranchers found shelter in the young city. In 1854, Amador County was established and Ione was included.²²

Rancho Arroyo Seco

It was not until 1853 that Ione City residents became aware of the existence of a purported Mexican land grant that included the Ione Valley. During the 1853 legislative session at the state capital in Benicia, two local representatives, Henry Carter and Dr. E.B. Harris, were informed that Andres Pico had filed a grant claim for the Rancho Arroyo Seco. Andres Pico, brother of Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of Alta California, claimed that he purchased the Arroyo Seco, translated as Dry Creek, grant from Theodosio Yorba, who received the grant from Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado in May 1840. According to Yorba and Pico, the grant was a floating grant for eleven square leagues, or approximately 48,810 acres, falling somewhere between the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada, Cosumnes River, Mokulumne River, and the Sacramento Road. Settlers questioned the plausibility of this grant: the supposed Rancho Arroyo Seco predated both John Sutter's and Charles Weber's grants to either side of the Arroyo Seco and neither of those were floating grants.²³

After a series of legal battles between Pico and the settlers, Pico gained legal control of Rancho Arroyo Seco in May 1856, when the case was dismissed. Because the grant was a floating grant, in late 1856 Pico employed civil engineer Sherman Day to survey the region and define the boundaries of the Rancho Arroyo Seco grant. Believing that they had rightful ownership of the property, settlers organized in protest. In 1861, after failing to come to an agreement with the citizens of the Ione Valley, Pico sold the title of Rancho Arroyo Seco to a group of San Francisco-Oakland based land investors. The investors included businessman Joseph Moravia Moss (J. Mora Moss), United States Surveyor General Edward F. Beale, and lawyer Horace Carpentier, Oakland's first mayor.²⁴

On February 3, 1863, the United State Superior Court confirmed the previously established boundaries which included the Ione Valley. Settlers were forced to either pay for the land on which they had established their homes, or face eviction. Many residents remained unwilling to pay for their property, until on February 13, 1865, Company F of the 4th Volunteers of the California Cavalry, marched into the Ione Valley. Company F remained in the Ione Valley for roughly three months, ensuring that residents either paid what they legally owed or vacated the premises. Many residents left the region, either because they could not pay their debt or they were unwilling to do so. Over the next few decades, the Rancho Arroyo Seco land was overseen by various managers, selling off the land piece by piece.²⁵

²² Mason, *History of Amador County*, 182-185; J.L. Sargent, ed., *Amador County History* (Amador County Federation of Women's Clubs, 1927), 48-49

²³ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 98-101; Sargent, *Amador County History*, 53.

²⁴ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 104-113.

²⁵ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 244-250.

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Mining

Mining had a profound impact on the development of Ione. The city played an important role in both the selling of goods to miners as well as in the physical mining of minerals. When the settlement's first permanent residents arrived in 1848, miners James Porter Martin, William Hicks, and Moses Childers recognized that the intersection of creeks had potential to yield mineral deposits. The three men set up claims along Sutter Creek and Dry Creek that year. The Ione Valley's first store, the converted Hicks home, sold goods to miners. With a high demand for products, and little means of getting them, the mercantile business was a lucrative one. A bottle of whiskey was said to be "worth its weight in gold."²⁶ Several other supply stores sprung up in the Ione Valley during the 1850s, as prospective miners flooded the surrounding gold fields.

With an influx of miners staking claims in and around the Ione Valley, there arose an increasing need to figure out effective ways of bringing water to the miners. While water was typically available during the winter and spring months, the land dried up in the summer and fall and miners were unable to obtain the water necessary for placer mining. The winter of 1850-1851 was extremely dry, and during this period, industrious miners constructed ditches and canals to transport water from neighboring creeks and rivers to their prospecting locations. By the end of the 1850s, placer mining in the Ione Valley had subsided due to its low profits, and was soon replaced by hydraulic mining. Hydraulic miners used water taken from the ditches that were originally constructed for placer mining, and used it to wash away hillsides to reveal the gold-rich soil. As miners washed away the best soil throughout the 1860s, profits faded, and by the mid-1870s hydraulic mining had drastically declined.²⁷

During the Civil War years of the early 1860s, copper mining boomed in the region due to an increased need for the malleable metal for the war efforts. More than fifty mining companies sprung up in the region surrounding Ione during the 1860s, most notably the Newton Copper Mine which was located roughly three miles east of the city. When the Civil War came to a close in 1865, so too did most of the mines, as the demand for copper dropped drastically. The late nineteenth century and early twentieth century saw the emergence of dredging activity in the Ione Valley, as miners sifted through gravel for mineral yields, however this too died out due to a lack of return. While mining in the Ione Valley was not nearly as profitable or prolific as it was in the goldfields of the Sierra Nevada, it did contribute heavily to the economy of early Ione and was highly influential in its development.²⁸

²⁶ Mason, *History of Amador County*, 183.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 261-265; Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 23-25.

²⁸ Allen, "Portrait of the Ione Valley," 26-29.

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Agriculture

Since its earliest settlement in 1848, the development of Ione and the surrounding land has been largely focused around agriculture. With its grassy rolling hills, early settlers viewed the Ione Valley as ideal for cattle grazing. While the Ione Valley had limited mineral resources, its fertile soil was exceptional for the production of fruits and vegetables. Ione and the surrounding valley became one of the largest suppliers of produce to the mining camps of the Sierra Nevada foothills, just east of Ione.

The cattle raising enterprise of Ione pioneers William Hicks and James Martin was the earliest known operation of its type in the region. During the hearings for the legality of the Arroyo Seco grant, Teodosio Yorba and Andres Pico claimed that Hicks and Martin had grazed cattle on the property in 1849. In 1850, James Alvord and others opened the Q Ranch, located just outside of Ione, which became one of the largest suppliers of fruit, vegetables, and meat in the region during the second half of the nineteenth century. Local Ione historian Judy Allen noted that, "By 1852 a small community of settlers had brought the best land of the valley under cultivation, with orchards, grain fields, and vineyards in flourishing conditions."²⁹ Stemming from the miners' need for produce, agriculture was a significant driving force in the development of Ione.³⁰

²⁹ Ibid., 38.

³⁰ Ibid., 101-102; Mason, *History of Amador County*, 183.

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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

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Name of repository: Amador County Archives; Amador County Recorder's Office;
Amador County Assessor's Office; Amador County Historical Society; California State
Library; California State University, Sacramento

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.27

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

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

1. Latitude: 38.354663 Longitude: -120.933769

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

The boundaries of the George and Eliza Withington House are defined by Assessor's Parcel Numbers 004-090-013 and 004-090-014, which correspond to the attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the George and Eliza Withington House encompasses the brick main house, brick guesthouse, and surrounding outbuildings. The boundary includes the remaining 3.27 acres of what was once Eliza Withington's 16 acre estate.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Matthew Walker
organization: California State University, Sacramento Public History Program
street & number: 515 18th Street #2
city or town: Sacramento state: CA zip code: 95811
e-mail: Matt.Walker@zoho.com
telephone: 510-703-3830
date: June 27, 2014

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** Latitude/Longitude Reference Point Map in place of USGS map.
- **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.)

Latitude/Longitude Reference Point Map

Latitude: 38.354663

Longitude: -120.933769



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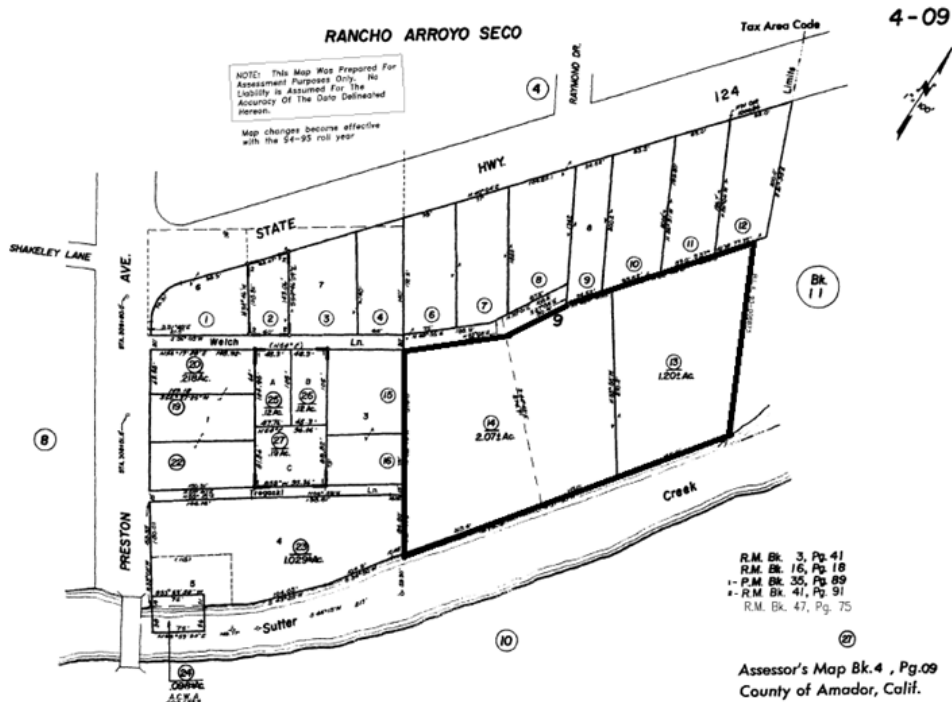
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Sketch Map

Property boundary outlined in bold.

Source: Amador County Assessor's Map Book 4, Page 9.



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Withington, George and Eliza, House
 City or Vicinity: Ione
 County: Amador
 State: California
 Photographer: Matthew Walker
 Date Photographed: June 16, 2014
 Number of Photographs: 12
 Description of Photographs and number:

- 1 of 12 Looking east toward the Withington House. The brick guesthouse and the shed/garage are visible just behind the house.
- 2 of 12 Looking east toward the western (primary) façade of the Withington House.
- 3 of 12 Looking northeast at the primary façade of the Withington House.
- 4 of 12 Looking northeast at the primary façade of the Withington House.
- 5 of 12 Looking southwest at the northern elevation of the Withington House. The wood-clad second story bathroom addition is visible.
- 6 of 12 Looking northeast toward the Withington House.
- 7 of 12 Close-up view of the first floor of the primary façade of the Withington House.
- 8 of 12 Looking west at the eastern elevation of the Withington House. The brick guesthouse and shed/garage are seen in the foreground.
- 9 of 12 Looking northwest at the brick guesthouse and attached shed/garage.
- 10 of 12 Looking northeast at the noncontributing ca. 1950 stable.
- 11 of 12 Looking east at the noncontributing ca. 1940 converted wood-clad guesthouse.
- 12 of 12 View of the rear of the Withington House property, looking west.

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Withington, George and Eliza, House
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Additional Documentation: Historic Photographs

Figure 1: The Withington House, circa 1870. George Withington is seen standing against a tree in front of the house. Eliza Withington, photographer. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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Withington, George and Eliza, House
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Figure 2: Portrait of Eliza Withington, circa 1870. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.

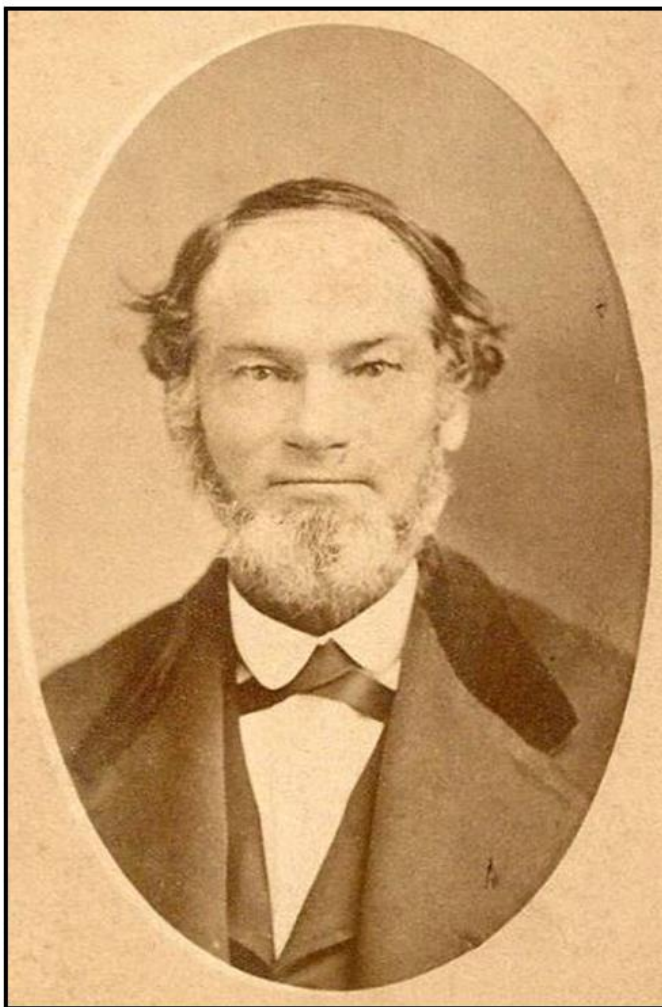


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Figure 3: Portrait of George Withington, circa 1870. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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Figure 4: In 1873, Eliza Withington took a trip to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, east of Ione. She captured images of mining camps, families, and rugged landscape. This stereoscopic image was taken at Silver Lake. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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Figure 5: Mining family at Kirkwood. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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Figure 6: Woman standing at the edge of a cliff, Carson Spur. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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Figure 7: Road to Silver Lake. Photograph by Eliza Withington, 1873. Courtesy of the Amador County Archives.



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