

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

RECEIVED

AUG 16 1983



1. Name

historic ST. GEORGE HOTEL

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 16104 ~~Pine Grove~~ Volcano Road (#2 Main Street) N/A not for publication

city, town Volcano N/A vicinity of congressional district 14th

state California code 06 county Amador code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Marlene and Charles Inman (see continuation sheet)

street & number P.O. Box 9

city, town Volcano N/A vicinity of state California 95689

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Amador County Courthouse

street & number 108 Court Street

city, town Jackson state California 95642

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State Historical
title Landmark #29 (Town of Volcano) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1, 1932 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento state California 95811

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The St. George Hotel, Volcano, California, is a three-story, brick, 14-room rectangular-shaped hotel built in 1867. The hotel faces west on Main Street (now Pine Grove-Volcano Road). It is the first building seen upon entering the town and is the most impressive building there. The building has approximately 8800 square feet including the encircling porches. The entire Volcano commercial district is within two blocks of the hotel. Drawings from the Thompson and West History of Amador County 1881 show that the St. George appears much the same today as it was in 1880, thirteen years after it opened.

The St. George Hotel is the only remaining operating hotel of several hotels built in Volcano in the 1800's. The original appearance of the building has been changed little by three alterations. In 1932, a truncated hipped metal roof was added over the original flat metal roof to prevent snow damage. The hipped roof is only visible from a distance. Also in 1932, a small (522 square foot), one-story frame structure was added on the north side of the main building as the hotel bar. Visible from Main Street, this false front addition was an attempt to fit the 1800's atmosphere of the community. Two other additions made in 1932 to the rear of the hotel are the first floor kitchen attachment on the north corner and the second floor lavatory attachment on the south corner. The lavatory addition has clapboard siding and the kitchen addition has metal siding. Both have composition shed roofs. These are only visible in the rear. The third alteration, made in the 1950's, was the replacement of the original porch railings with the Chinese-Chippendale type railing that exists today.

The west elevation (main facade) is almost symmetrical. The three-tiered encircling porch wraps around the west and south sides only, however, and on the north is the bar. The three-tiered encircling porch is supported by six inch by six inch by ten foot 12 inch porch posts on the first floor and by six inch by six inch by nine foot porch posts on the second floor and by six inch by six inch by seven foot porch posts on the third floor. The first floor front and south porch posts are replicas of the original porch posts and were installed by the present owners in place of round log columns that were installed in 1932. The rear first floor porch log columns remain. The three-tiered porch is on the west (front) and south sides of the hotel and is only two partial tiers on the rear. All three levels of the porch have wood plank floors. The building foundation visible at the perimeter of the first floor porch is from local stone.

The massive front door is nine and a half feet high and five and a half feet wide. The door is a double sash design with sixteen window panes. This same design repeats for the other four window/doors on the first floor front, the three on the south side, and the second and third floor doors directly above the front door. The second and third floor fronts also each have four double sash French glass doors. The north side of the first floor bar has no windows, and the rear first floor has a door leading from the bar, two windows in the kitchen addition and the main rear door. The north side of the second floor has three double hung windows, the rear has seven windows and two doors and the south side has three double sash French glass doors. The north side of the third floor has three double hung windows, the rear six and the south side three.

(see continuation sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1867 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. George Hotel is significant on the state level because it is an outstanding example of California Gold Rush era commercial architecture. The building clearly shows the influence of Greek Revival architecture upon California building in the early years of statehood. The St. George is the fourth hotel on the site, the other three having been destroyed by fire. It has served as the community's major hotel since its construction in 1867 having remained in almost continuous operation for over 115 years. The hotel is also especially significant to the local community because it is the predominant building on the historic main street and is the landmark of the community.

The architectural style of the St. George Hotel is based heavily upon Greek Revival antecedents popular in the eastern United States in the mid-19th century. Like other Mother Lode architecture, the design was also adaptive to the climate and particular problems of location: the brick building was cool in the summer and more fireproof than earlier frame structures on the site. Kirker, in California Architectural Frontier adds, "The rapidity with which the gold-rush communities changed their architectural character make any generalization regarding pioneer urban building even month to month exceedingly hazardous."

The St. George Hotel is on the same site as three earlier hotels, each of which were destroyed by fire. The earliest, the two-story Eureka, had just been completed in 1853 when it was destroyed by fire later that same year. The second fire occurred in 1859 and destroyed the Empire Hotel (formerly Eureka). The third fire occurred in 1862 beginning in the first St. George Hotel (formerly Empire, Eureka) and burning the whole block on which it stood. The present St. George Hotel was built in 1867 by B. F. George and was so renamed the St. George Hotel to "thwart the demonic Fire Dragon" (Doble's Diary).

Volcano was founded in 1848 by a group of soldiers mining the creek at the site. Originally named Soldiers Gulch, the miners changed the name in 1850 to Volcano because of the volcanic appearance of the location. Volcano reached its peak in 1854 and had 5,000 residents and polled 1100 votes. Besides miners, a community of intellectuals had taken up residence.

At the time of the construction of the St. George Hotel just prior to 1867, Volcano was still a prominent community. Gold production in Volcano had become important to financing the Civil War effort, mainly Union activities. Shortly after 1865 the gold fields became expended and the population began to decline. As Anglo miners began to move out, Chinese and Italian settlers moved in. The St. George Hotel was purchased by Italian settlers during this period. Major land owners in the valley continue to be of Italian descent.

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.1 acres

Quadrangle name Pine Grove

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	7	0	6	8	8	0	4	2	5	7	3	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are drawn on historic lot lines and include the hotel bar and addition and hotel grounds; boundaries are shown on the attached assessor's map. Assessor's Parcels 29-044-002 and 29-044-001.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie P. Barrow and Mara C. Sides

organization Planning & Development Co. date August 12, 1983

street & number P.O. Box 464 telephone (415) 753-3644

city or town Jackson state California 95642

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *K. Miller*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/20/83

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the

National Register

date

9/7/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Owner of Property	4	1

Charles and Shirley Thagard
5446 Lockhurst
Woodland Hills, California 91367

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CONTINUATION SHEET

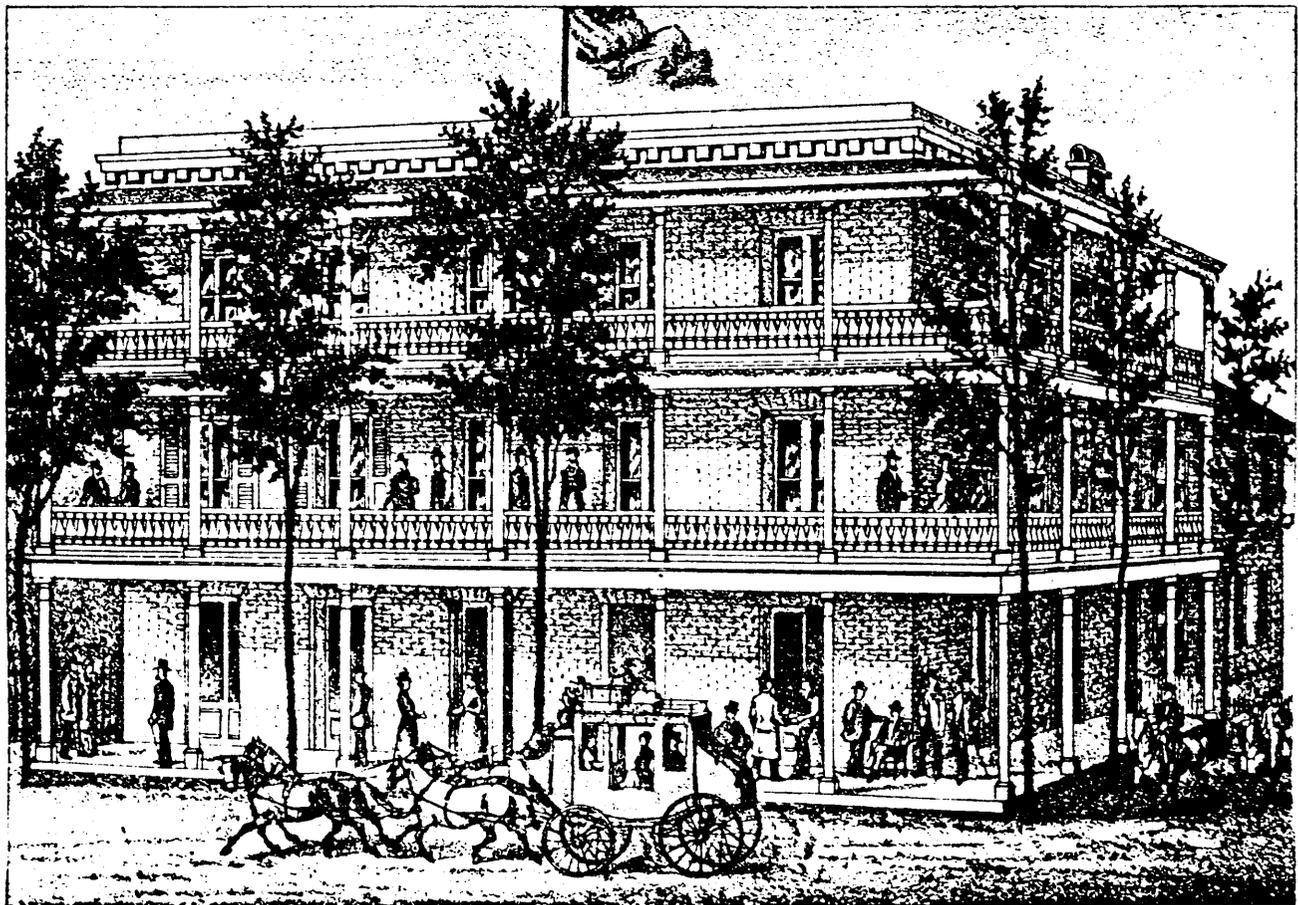
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Description

7

1



ST. GEORGE HOTEL.
A. PETTY, PROP., VOLCANO, AMADOR CO. CAL.

LITH BRITTON & REY. S. P.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET **ITEM NUMBER** **PAGE**

Description 7 2

The main hotel building has brick masonry walls 14 inches thick. There are also four brick chimneys. The one on the southeast side is still in use for the lobby fireplace. The other three on the southwest, northwest and northeast are closed and not in use. They served woodburning stoves at one time.

The front door opens into a long entry hall from which the curved wood staircase ascends to the second floor. The room to the right of the front door is a large lobby with an 11 foot open beamed ceiling. A large river rock fireplace at the east end of the room was added in the 1930's to replace a woodburning stove. To the left of the front door is the dining room in which breakfast, lunch and dinner is still served. Behind the dining room is the kitchen. To the left of the dining room is the bar which can be entered either from Main Street or the dining room.

The second floor has five hotel rooms and the owners' living quarters. This floor has a nine foot ceiling. A simple wood staircase ascends from the second floor central hallway to the third floor. The third floor has eight hotel rooms and an eight foot ceiling with a few exposed beams. Throughout, the interior is simply and functionally finished with lath and plaster and some wood paneling.

The landscaping surrounding the hotel is simple and gracious. The porch is shaded by Virginia Creeper and Trumpet Vine. Immediately south of the hotel, beyond a narrow driveway lane (which leads to the back of the property), the yard slopes into a slight ravine where Sutter Creek flows. The ravine has native California Willow and wild blackberry thickets growing there. The rear lawns extend east from the hotel and are shaded by mature deciduous pine, liquid amber, magnolia, locust, catalpa and willow trees. Hybrid poplar trees have been planted in the last few years to provide additional shade. On the southeast corner of the porch, a directional marker made of river rock and carved granite was placed on the concrete pathway leading east from the porch onto the lawn.

Four additional structures (a laundry and workshop, a pumphouse and storage building, and two cottages) are located on the property in addition to the hotel. All have been built since 1930 and are non-contributing architecturally and historically. They are mapped in the attachment.

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Significance	8	1

The St. George Hotel provided miners' lodging, meals and livery to the community. In 1880 when A. Petty purchased the St. George Hotel, it was recognized as one of the best hotels in the county. A. Petty is typical of many who came to Volcano to seek his fortune. He was born in Ohio in 1820. He lived in several midwest states until 1852 when he started to California with ox teams, accompanied by his wife and two children. Crossing, they encountered trouble with Indians and bad weather. They finally reached Volcano in 1853. Mr. Petty unsuccessfully mined gold for a time. He started several other business ventures, none living up to his financial expectations. In January 1880 he bought the St. George Hotel. At the time he was the County Assessor of Amador County. Thompson and West reported, "he fully understands catering to the wants of the traveling public and is one of the few men who know how to keep a hotel." He owned the hotel until 1883.

The St. George had nine more owners until 1932 when Walter Blomquist bought it, although he did not take title until 1942. During those ten years, his work in the hotel went toward his ownership. Before 1932 it had been used as a boarding house, then stood vacant for awhile and fell into disrepair. Mr. Blomquist restored the building as a hotel and added the bar, rear additions and new roof. Much of the labor he hired on trade for meals and lodging because of the nationwide Depression.

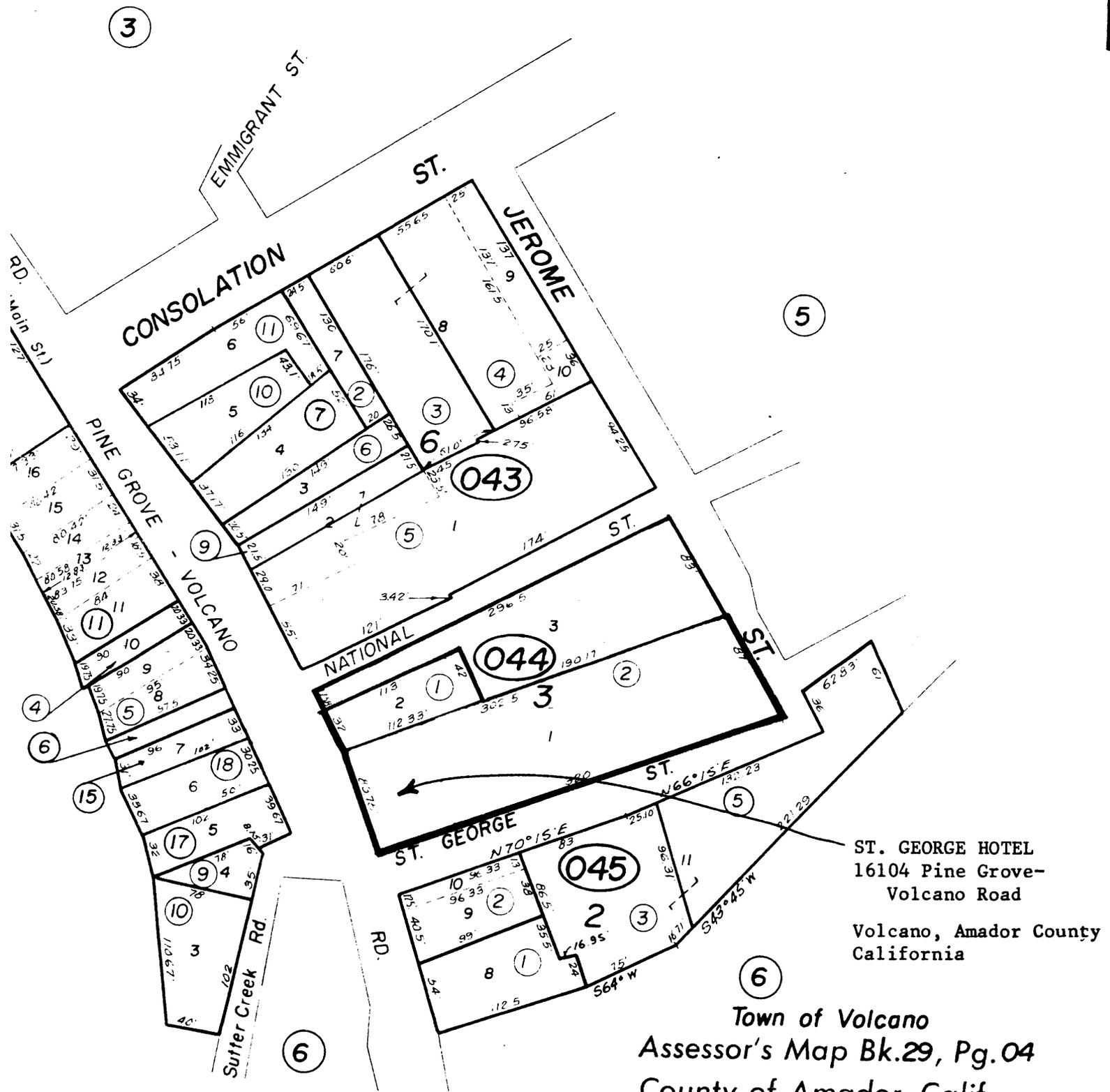
There was one more owner prior to the present owners. The Griffiths replaced the 2nd and 3rd floor porches and railings. The Inmans have continued to operate the St. George Hotel taking care to preserve its original simplicity and ambience. They are also anticipating replacing the remaining porch posts and railings in the original style.

Volcano is now a town of only 85 people (and officially, 37 dogs). It is still considered a community for artists and intellectuals. Life for the most part is quiet and slow paced. The St. George Hotel still offers the visitor all the charm and history of Gold Rush Volcano.

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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Major Bibliographical References	9	1
<p>Amador County Clerk. "Chain of Title Research: 1853-1938." June 1983.</p> <p>Blumenson, John J.-G. <u>Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945.</u> Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981. Pp. 2-3, 26-27.</p> <p>California State Office of Historic Preservation. <u>Volcano State Landmark</u>, Number 29, 1932. Sacramento, California.</p> <p>Camp, Charles L., ed. <u>John Doble's Journal and Letters from the Mines: Mokelumne Hill, Jackson, Volcano and San Francisco 1851-1865.</u> Denver, Colorado: The Old West Publishing Company, 1962.</p> <p>Genotto, Larry, ed. <u>Amador County History: 1927.</u> Jackson, California: Amador County Federation of the Womens Clubs; Golden Anniversary Reproduction, The Fun Times Publishing Company, 1977.</p> <p>Funke, Ed. H. Correspondence. December 19, 1980.</p> <p>Gebhard, David; Montgomery, Roger; Winter, Robert; Woodbridge, John; Woodbridge, Sally. <u>A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California.</u> Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1973.</p> <p>Kirker, Harold. <u>California Architectural Frontier: Style and Tradition in the 19th Century.</u> Santa Barbara and Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1973.</p> <p>Thompson and West. <u>History of Amador County with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers.</u> Oakland, California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1880.</p> <p><u>Volcano Weekly Ledger.</u> Volumes I-III, October 27, 1855 through July 17, 1858. Amador County Library, Jackson, California.</p> <p>Weston, Otheto. <u>Mother Lode Album.</u> Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1948.</p>		

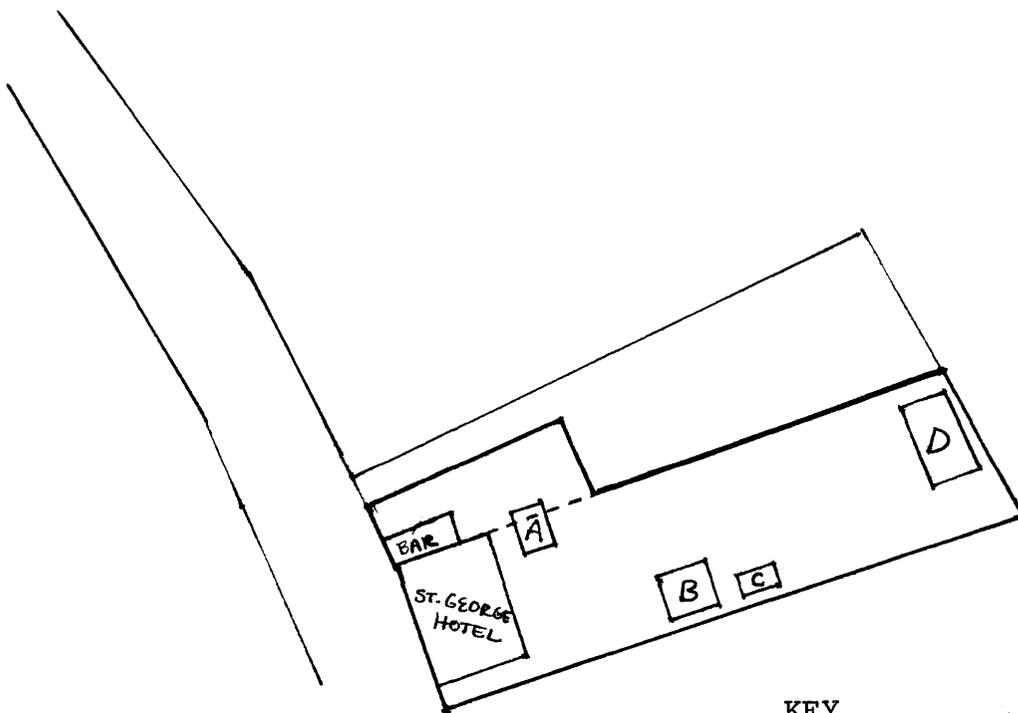


ST. GEORGE HOTEL
 16104 Pine Grove-
 Volcano Road
 Volcano, Amador County
 California

Town of Volcano
 Assessor's Map Bk.29, Pg.04
 County of Amador, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.
 Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

St. George Hotel Property
Volcano, California



KEY

- A Laundry and workshop
- B Cottage
- C Pumphouse and storage
- D Cottage

All non-contributing structures
built after 1930

————— Nomination boundary