

# Lilian Rice Gets Her Due from State

By *Lorine Flemons Wright*

Thanks to the herculean efforts of two Ranch residents, an Association staff member and a USD professor, an application for a National Register of Historic Places listing for eight Lilian Rice buildings on the Ranch has been approved by the State Historical Resources Commission.

Pat Cologne, president of the RSF Historical Society and a member of the State Historical Resources Commission, told the Association board Feb. 7 that the application was approved in Sacramento Feb. 1 and will now be forwarded to the keeper of the National Register in Washington.

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"Because the criteria at the state level is the same as the criteria at the national level for a National Register listing, it is almost certain that the application will be approved by the keeper in Washington," Cologne said. "The last hurdle was passed when the state gave its stamp of approval."

Cologne said she, Phyllis Paul, Association senior planner Keith Behner, and USD history professor Ray Brandes have been working for a year on the project.

"The last three months were very difficult," she said. "We had to do a lot of rewriting and additional research."

Behner agreed, saying the application that had to be completed for the listing was more difficult to understand than "any tax form the IRS has ever come up with."

The eight buildings approved by the state are: the RSF Properties office and the Clotfelter townhouse located in the Village, and the residences of Jack and Pat Manion, Donald and Dragon Sherman, James Stoltzfus-Floyd Humphreys, Tom and Leith Clotfelter, Martha Hilton and Gwen and John Warton, according to Cologne.

"These were homes where the owners were enthused about

the project, alterations have been minor and the documentation was clear-cut and accurate," Cologne said.

Cologne added that the National Register listing of a property does not in any way limit property owners from remodeling their buildings if they so desire.

Behner said the National Register application for Rice's buildings was approved under a new "multiple property" category, which allows several properties to qualify together using the same historical research. He added that now that Rice's work has been recognized, it will be easier to add more buildings to the National Register after these eight have been approved. There are several other homes on the Ranch that could also qualify for a future listing, according to Behner.

Cologne, who co-chaired the National Register effort with Phyllis Paul, said the project grew as an offshoot of research conducted through the RSF Historical Commission — a committee established by the Association board last year. At that time Brandes was hired to do a historical survey of all the historical properties on the Ranch, according to Cologne. Although the Association

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helped to pay for that project, Cologne said all the funds required to pursue the National Register application were raised privately.

"We raised the funds ourselves because we felt the pro-

ject was a benefit to the entire Ranch," Cologne said. "I think it is terrific that the work of Lilian Rice is being recognized. If she had not contributed as much as she did to this area, we would probably be looking at a vast mixture of architectural styles on the Ranch today."