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

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

(State use only)
Ser _____ Site _____ Mo. ____ Yr. ____
UTM _____ Q _____ NR 3 SHL ____
Lat _____ Lon _____ Era ____ Sig ____
Adm ____ T2 ____ T3 ____ Cat ____ HABS ____ HAER ____ Fed ____
UTM (Aetna Sprgs. Quad.) 10/545060/4278240

IDENTIFICATION

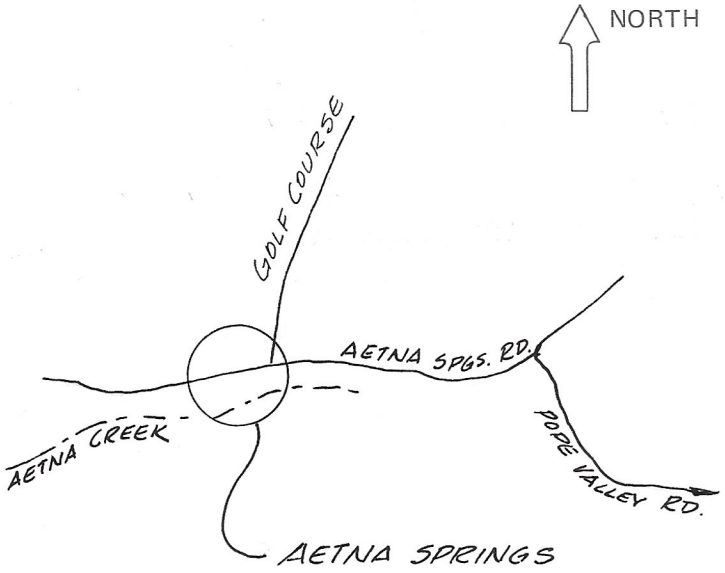
1. Common name: Aetna Springs
2. Historic name, if known: Aetna Springs
3. Street or rural address 1621 Aetna Springs Rd.
   City: Pope Valley, CA ZIP: 94574 County: NAPA
4. Present owner, if known: New Education Development Systems Address: 2717 Hearst Ave.
   City: Berkeley, CA ZIP: 94709 Ownership is: Public ☐ Private ☒
5. Present Use: proposed educational-recreational retreat Original Use: resort/ mineral spa

Other past uses: _____

DESCRIPTION & SIGNIFICANCE (see also: Aetna Springs (AS)- Winship Building; AS-Social Hall; AS-Soda Fountain/Bar; AS-Frances Marion Cottage ; AS- Dining Hall)

Aetna Springs achieved California fame in the mid-19th century for its quicksilver mines and in the late-19th century as a mineral spa. It is unique in that its complex of 30- plus late 19th and early 20th century structures stand remarkably unaltered reflecting the early design influences of architects Bernard Maybeck and Albert Farr in the first decades of th Bay Area Tradition. Within Napa County, only Napa Soda Springs shared the stature of Aetna Springs during the resort/spa era and it is now in ruins. In 1867, the first quicksilver mining claims were taken on the Springs area. Mine flooding and falling prices ended mining in 1877. That year Chancellor Hartson, a well-known Napa financier, began development of the Springs as a spa. Aetna Mineral Water, bottled at the site, was eventually distributed throughout the western states. In the 1890s, under new owner Len Owens, major architectural improvements to the site carried the imprint of Maybeck and Farr. In 1944, George Heibel acquired the resort and ran it until it closed in 1972.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:
   Lot size (in feet) Frontage _____'
   Depth _____';
   or approx. acreage 25 (of 672 acre property)

9. Condition: (check one)
   a. Excellent ☐ b. Good ☒ c. Fair ☐
   d. Deteriorated ☐ e. No longer in existence ☐

10. Is the feature a. Altered? ☒ b. Unaltered? ☐

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)
   a. Open land ☒ b. Scattered buildings ☒
   c. Densely built-up ☐ d. Residential ☐
   e. Commercial ☐ f. Industrial ☐
   g. Other ☐ _____

12. Threats to site:
   a. None known ☐ b. Private development ☒
   c. Zoning ☐ d. Public Works project ☐
   e. Vandalism ☐ f. Other ☐ _____

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): #38JM27 11-77

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone [X] b. Brick [ ] c. Stucco [ ] d. Adobe [ ] e. Wood [ ]
f. Other [ ] _____

15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? [X] b. Moved? [ ] c. Unknown? [ ]

16. Year of initial construction 1900 This date is: a. Factual [ ] b. Estimated [X]

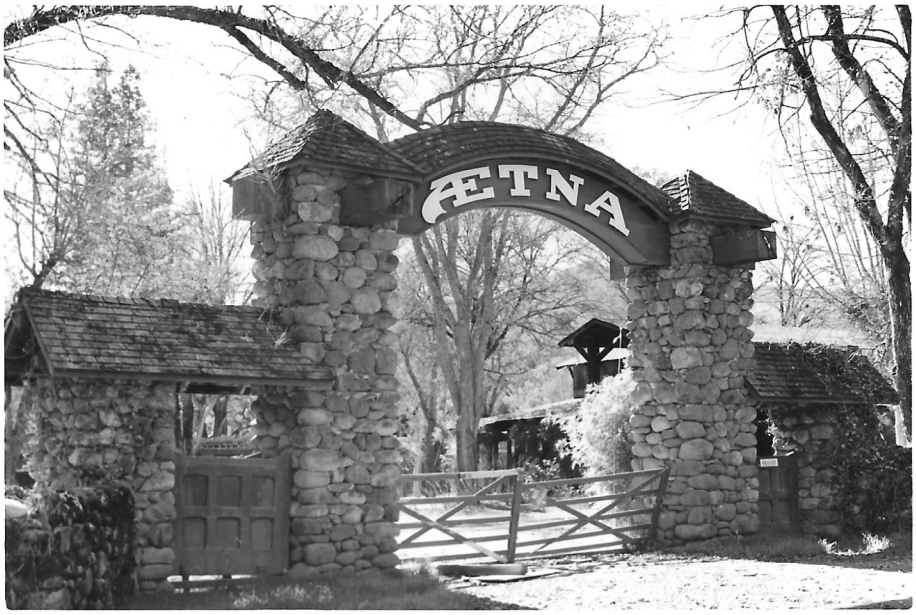
17. Architect (if known): _____

18. Builder (if known): _____

19. Related features: a. Barn [X] b. Carriage house [ ] c. Outhouse [ ] d. Shed(s) [ ] e. Formal garden(s) [ ]
f. Windmill [ ] g. Watertower/tankhouse [ ] h. Other [X] resort facilities i. None [ ]

PHOTOGRAPH

AETNA SPRINGS:
Gate



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21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture [1] b. Arts & Leisure [2]
c. Economic/Industrial [3] d. Exploration/Settlement [ ] e. Government [ ] f. Military [ ]
g. Religion [ ] h. Social/Education [ ]

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:
Napa City/County Library Newspaper Index for issues of Napa Register, NApa Daily Register, and Napa County Reporter for 1878-1895
Deeds C/476-480; Slocum & Bowen. History of Napa & Lake Counties (1881), 168.
St. Helena Star misc. issues 1876-1880

23. ~~Date form prepared:~~ 7-12-78 By (name): Napa County Historic Resources Survey
Address: P.O. BOX 702 City NAPA, CALIF. 94558 ZIP: _____
Phone: (707) 255-1836 Organization: NAPA LANDMARKS, INC.

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