

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 20 1979

DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Norris*  
Norris Residence

AND/OR COMMON

Newman Center for Stanford

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1247 Cowper St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Palo Alto

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Santa Clara

CODE  
085

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arch Diocese of San Francisco

STREET & NUMBER

445 Church

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE  
California

94114

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Santa Clara County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

191 North First Street

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

STATE  
California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Palo Alto City Inventory

DATE

December 1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE  
California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Norris residence is located on a large corner lot in an upper middle class residential neighborhood of Palo Alto. The house is roughly U-shaped, with a wall across the open end to create a completely enclosed courtyard at the entrance.

The north and east wing are two stories in height. The west wing and the enclosing wall on the south, are one story. The building is of wood frame construction, surfaced with stucco, and the tiled roofs are gabled.

The entry is through a door in the courtyard wall, to an L-shaped gallery which runs along the inside of the courtyard and wall, and along the west wing to the entrance to the house proper. The major ground floor rooms open into the courtyard through glass doors, and also into garden areas on the other side of the house to the north and west. The only openings in the main street facade are the courtyard entry and a large window in the gabled end of the living room wing. There is an outdoor stair in the courtyard which leads to a second floor gallery.

In the center of the courtyard is a tiled fountain with a bronze dragon fly rising from it. Around the patio are various groupings of colored decorative tile, all made especially for the house. Besides the tile, a strong ornamental contribution is made by the specially crafted wrought iron gates, grilles, light fixtures, pierced stucco grilles and hand edged timbers also animate the building's surface textures. On the interior the same materials, wrought iron, tile, and hand crafted timbers are used extensively. The stairway railing and the living room light fixtures are particularly fine wrought iron pieces.

There is a stucco wall at the sidewalk with a wrought iron gate into the lawn area. In the garden to the west of the living room wing is the so-called "Spanish Kitchen", like the house it employs stucco walls and a tile roof. Also designed by Birge Clark, this small open structure was built in 1934, and provided space for outdoor barbecues. *see "V" shape on map*

At the northeast corner the building has been altered to connect with a later building. This was done at the time of the property's usage change from residential to religious student center. In 1949 the residence was sold to the Archdiocese and became a religious and educational facility. St. Ann's Chapel, a modern building to the north and rear of the property nominated, though now connected to the Norris House, is not part of this nomination due to its recent date, and architectural differences. The attached sketch map indicates the boundaries of the nomination and location of the chapel. The chapel, which is inconsistent in design with the nominated property, is excluded from the nomination. (A sign on the corner of the property identifies the property as St. Ann's and Newman Center for Stanford.)

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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JUL 7 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUL 24 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The roof line at the end of the original garage has been extended to abut the tower of the chapel, creating a breezeway between the original structure and the newer church edifice. The roof simply abuts the new building but is not structurally integrated into the structure. The current Sanborn Insurance Map of Palo Alto indicates that the buildings are not structurally integrated.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1927 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Birge Clark

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norris House possesses a high degree of significance due to both its historical associations with the nationally known authors, Kathleen and Charles Norris, and its excellent design, the work of an important local architect.

Both of the Norrises, for whom the house was designed by Birge Clark in 1927, achieved note in the literary world.

Kathleen Norris is regarded as one of the most popular and certainly prolific California women writers in this century. Her first novelette, Mothers, was published in 1911, and became a national success. Between the years 1911 to 1957 she wrote 90 novels; romantic stories and mysteries which were read by both men and women. Each of these works contained a female character who embodied her ideal of a fulfilled woman. Besides novels which she completed at the rate of about two a year, Kathleen Norris also contributed articles and short stories to many magazines. She wrote a weekly column and answered 700 letters a week for Bell Syndicate fulfilling a function that is today relegated to Dear Abby and Ann Landers. In the 1940's Kathleen Norris was the highest paid female author in the nation and as such, exemplified her written image of a woman who fulfilled herself as a wife, a mother and a professional.

Charles Gilman Norris, was also a literary figure in his own right. While he did not produce the volume of literary work that his wife Kathleen did, he did execute works of substance. Charles Norris was recognized as a novelist with something to say, who said it dramatically and well. His works which included the following, dealt with social values as opposed to his wife's novels which revolved around moral judgement and virtue: (The Amateur, 1915, Salt, 1917, Brass 1921, Bread 1921, Pig Iron 1925, and Zelda Marsh 1927). Before Charles Norris settled for the novelist lifestyle he was an editor of several magazines including Country Life, Sunset, and American. In addition to his writing career, Charles Norris acted as an agent and an editor for his wife. He was also very involved in social activities in San Francisco, belonging to many clubs, including The Bohemian Club, of which he served as president.

Built in 1928, the Norris House possesses considerable architectural significance as well as the historic importance gained through its associations with the Norrises. The building is a particularly fine design by a local master architect and incorporates the work of several outstanding craftsmen as well.

An interesting architectural composition is achieved through a careful balance of one and two story elements, arranged around the handsome courtyard/patio. The patio serves as a focal point for both the composition and the living activities of the house. Color from both building

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Binheim, Max, editor, Women of the West, Publisher's Press, LA, 1928 edition page 71
- Gumina, Deanna Paoli, "Kathleen Norris: The Philosophy of a Woman", Pacific Historian, Vol. 18, No. 4, Winter 1974, pages 69-73
- Hunt, Rockwell, editor, California and Californians, V. 5, Lewis Publishing Co., 1926, pages 159 and 183-4
- Who's Who in California, a biographical directory 1928-29

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .96 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Palo Alto

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7 1/2" = 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 | 5,7,5 | 3,4,0 | 4,1,4,4 | 1,3,0

B    |    |    |    |   

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |    |    |   

D    |    |    |    |   

E    |    |    |    |   

F    |    |    |    |   

G    |    |    |    |   

H    |    |    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Boundaries are shown on attached site plan.

A 200' wide and 208' deep property in a residential block bounded by Cowper, Kingsley, Webster, and Melville. Located on northwest corner of Cowper and Melville, lot 42, Book 120, Page 7 of Assessor's Records, Santa Clara Co.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NO OVERLAPPING BOUNDARIES CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Paula Boghosian & John Beach

ORGANIZATION Historic Environment Consultants

DATE May 31, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 2306 J St.

TELEPHONE (916) 446-2447

CITY OR TOWN Sacramento

STATE California

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE X 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/13/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER [Signature]

DATE 7/31/80

ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE 7-23-80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

materials (tile), and flowers among the walks contrasts with the white stucco surface of the structure.

Handcrafted materials occur both in the patio and interior. Iron work executed by Herman Bleibler, was carefully and skillfully crafted to the architect's specifications. Both interior and exterior beams and some woodworking were hand adzed by skilled carpenters under the direction of contractor Wells Goodenough. The tile was specially designed by A.L.Solon of San Jose. The stucco, now painted, contains integral color, which when intermittently troweled, assumed an interesting variegated surface coloration.

The house was the largest and most expensive work executed by Clark in Palo Alto up to that time. Its design is one of his best and the craftsmanship involved unusually fine in its execution.

Additionally, the Norris House is one of Palo Alto's best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival mode, an architectural style which has contributed strongly to both the character and building stock of the city.

The courtyard entry concept reflects one of the primary philosophies of the style; internal orientation to enclosed and private gardens and spaces, with relatively simple and undecorated street facades.

The style was first employed in Palo Alto during the early part of the 1920's, and quickly became an important model and prolific design mode for much of the city's development during that era. The prominent and prolific local architect, Birge Clark, in particular utilized the style for many of his best works, thus helping to establish the style and its image within the city,

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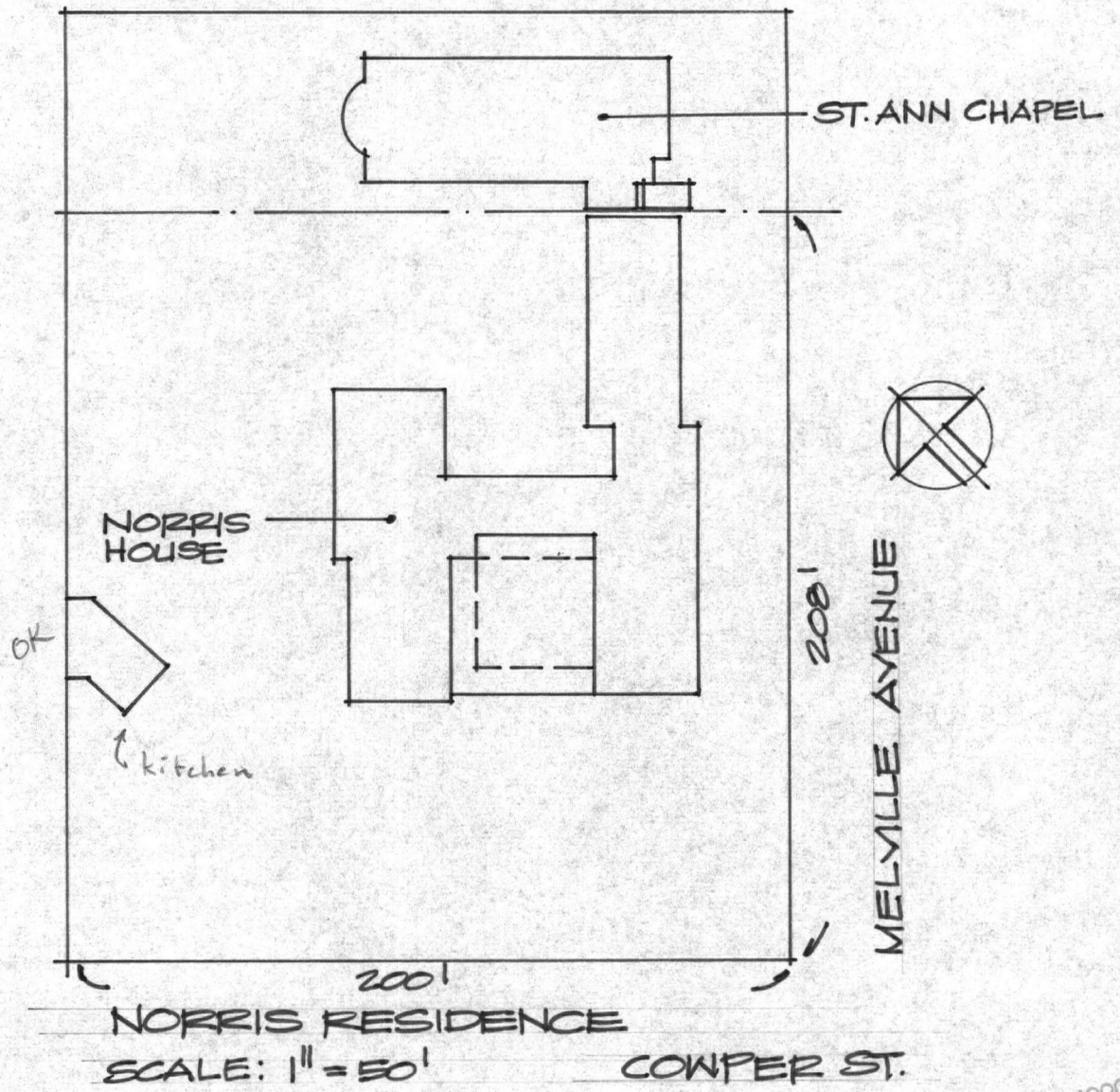
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Orr, Robert Gardin, "The Norrises, A Story of Success", The Coast, Vol. 4  
No. 3, March 1941, pages 13-14

Notes on the Norris House, Birge Clark

Clark, Birge, "Notes on the Norris House", (available at the Palo Alto  
Planning Department)



FROM SANBORN INSURANCE MAP - 9/1979  
 PALO ALTO, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CA.

JUL 24 1980

JUL - 1980

JUL 7 1980

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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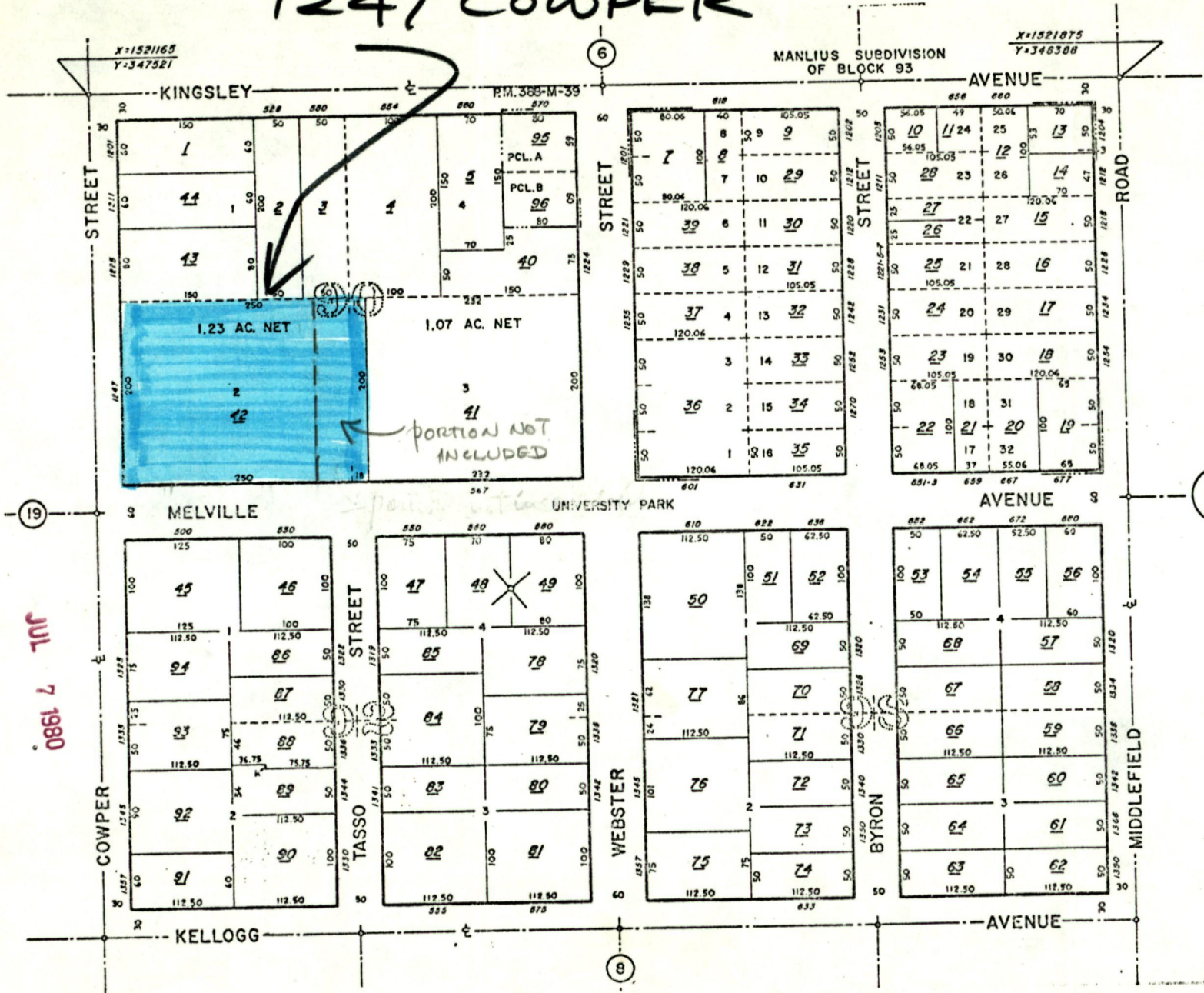
Norris Residence, 1247 Cowper, Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The boundaries are drawn to exclude St. Ann Chapel, a modern structure which occupies the north portion of the original property. The boundaries of the nominated property are based upon the remaining integrity of the original complex. Beginning at the northwest corner of Melville Avenue and Cowper Street, follow the property line parallel to Cowper northwest for 200 feet, then northeast along the property line for 208 feet, then southeast and parallel to the southeast property boundary for 200 feet, then southwest following the property line parallel to Melville Avenue, meeting the beginning point at Cowper Street and Melville Avenue.

# 1247 COWPER



X=1521875  
Y=348388

BOOK 120 PAGE 7

JUL 24 1980

BK. 3

JUL 7 1980

Norris Residence, 1247 Cowper, Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California

Property Norris House  
Norris Residence

State CA-Santa Clara Working Number 11-20-79 2781

80000859

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 4  
Maps 1

*Needs clarification of boundary:*  
1) bldg. on west side of lot  
2) connection to St. Ann Chapel

**HISTORIAN**

CALL Joe Tomma  
12-31-79

*Significant for association with nationally known authors Kathleen & Charles Norris.  
Local architectural significance as fine example of Spanish Colonial Revival dwelling, distinguished by local architectural and reflecting quality and diversity of local craftsmanship. Nom. claims house as one of town's best examples of this common type, which contributes strongly to town's overall architectural character.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back 4.15.80 Entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_ Re-submit 7.7.80

INT:2106-74

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: Please clarify structural relationships between Norris House and St. Ann's Chapel. Do the buildings share common walls or internal passageways or are they separate and physically discreet structures? If the buildings

8 ~~Statement of Significance:~~ are effectively one structure, the nomination should be appropriately amended and owners notified.

9 Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_

12 Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage: Please provide photographs in support of answers to #7 above.

Map Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: This information was requested from author of nomination on January 2, 1980, and from SHPO staff on January 28, 1980

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to The Towner / Linda Flint on the National Register staff, telephone (202) 343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Sally G Oldham  
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 4/10/80

Property Norris House

2nd Control

State CA, Santa Clara Working Number 11.20.79.2781

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 8  
Maps 1, 2

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept 7/22/80

Joe Tom

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Questions on boundary & structural relationship between two bldgs. have been answered. Significant for association with Norries & for expression of Spanish Colonial revival architecture.*

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUL 24 1980









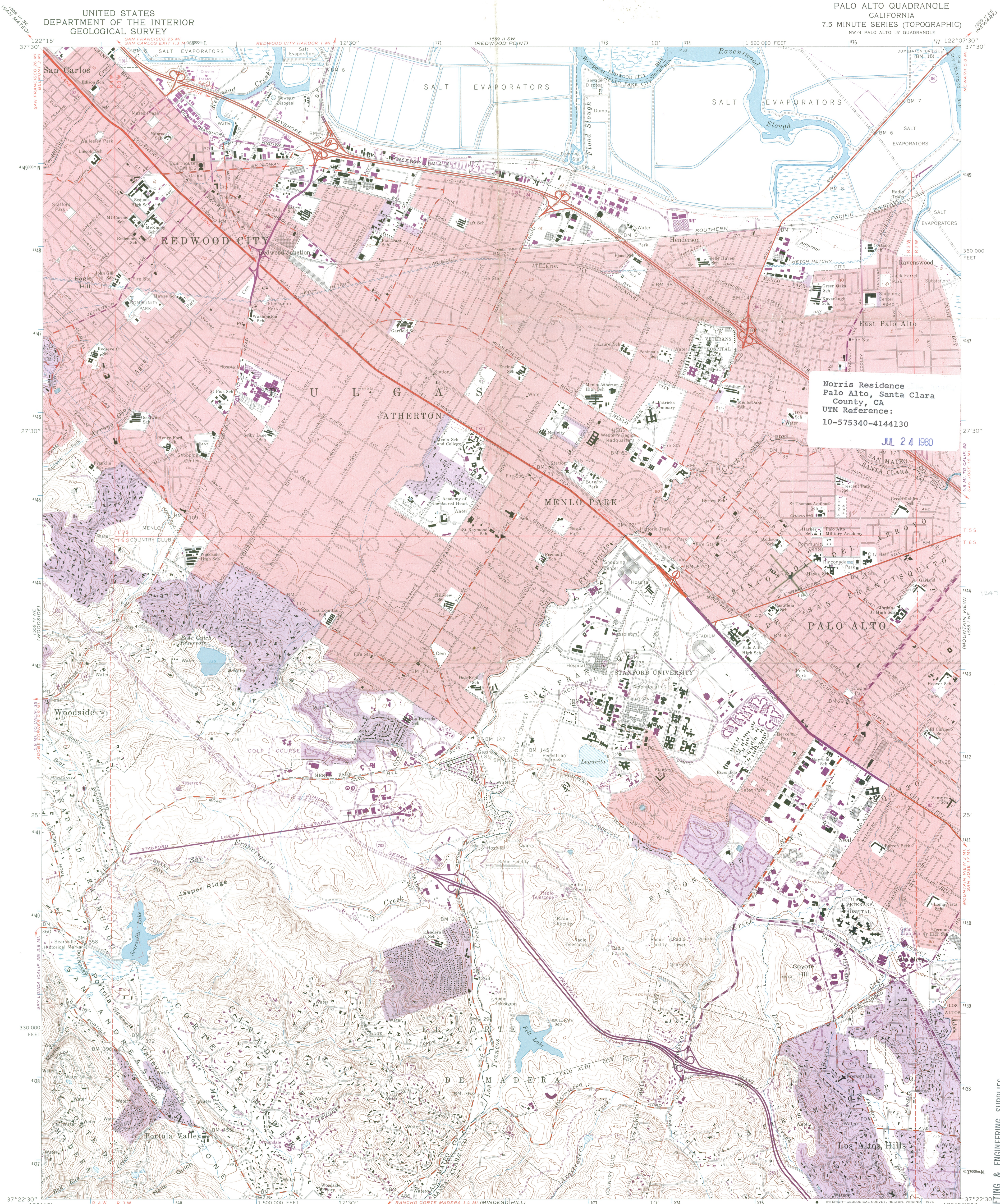


PARKING  
RESERVED FOR  
RESIDENTS  
ONLY



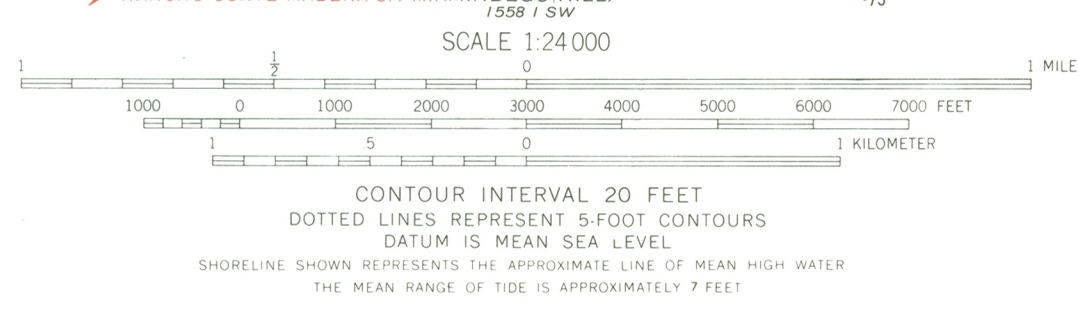






Norris Residence  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara  
County, CA  
UTM Reference:  
10-575340-4144130  
JUL 24 1980

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey with cooperation by the California Department of Water Resources Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1953. Aerial photographs taken 1948. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 10, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
A portion of this map lies within a subsidence area



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1961  
PHOTOREPRODUCED 1968  
AMS 1558 1 NW-SERIES 8985

DRAFTING & ENGINEERING SUPPLIES  
ODGEN SURVEYING EQUIPMENT CO.  
5520 ELVAS AVE.  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95819  
PHONE (916) 451-7253  
RECEIVED  
NOV 20 1979  
NATIONAL REGISTER

From Brothy regner 1/1/77

de LEMOS HOUSE

Since the nomination requests an exception be made to the 50 year limitation, the PAHA would call to the Commission's attention that although the property development began in 1931 (Item 8 -- Specific Date), its constructions were not adequate for habitation until 1934 and the house itself was not completed until 1941.

And the association questions if a real estate sales brochure and a society column write-up are creditable Major Bib. References.

NORRIS HOUSE

Item I, Name

Mr. & Mrs. Norris called this house their Casa Abierta, meaning open house.

Its present name is not St. Anne's. The Norris House functions presently as the Stanford Newman Center. It is misrepresenting and most confusing to use the name of a distinctly different building, St. Ann Chapel. (spelled without an "e" and is not possessive) St. Ann Chapel is a modern 1951 Catholic chapel occupying the back quarter of the lot being nominated.

This chapel was the gift of Clare Booth Luce as a memorial to her daughter, Ann Clare Brokaw, killed in an auto accident just a few blocks from this Council's Chamber.

The only reference made to the church in the entire nomination is elusively placed in the last paragraph of Item 7...Albeit the beauty and purpose of St. Ann Chapel it is a modern intrusion within the proposed nomination's boundary limits.

Item 8:

The construction contract for the Norris House was signed 15 December 1927. Its actual construction occurred during 1928.

Its building contractor was Wells P. Goodenough (spelled with an "e"). Although initially the nomination notes that Birge Clark was the architect, four lines below a sentence states "the house was built by Birge Clark."

The State. of Sign. is a biographical sketch which applies principally to the lives of the owners before 1928. Since the nom. relates<sup>P</sup> the Norris' acclaimed literary success, the PAHA feels that the nomination should also reflect their careers at the time they lived in the house.

The Norrises occupied this house from 1928 until 1946, but they considered this house as their "winter home." During the summers they lived on a ranch near Saratoga. Their houses in PA functioned prominently as social centers, and both of the Norrises actively participated in local civic and cultural affairs.

OVER

from Dorothy Kennedy 7/1/77  
PETTIGREW HOUSE

Item 9:

There is no reference, no mention, not a line regarding the Pettigrew House in the AAUW's Gone Tomorrow or in the Santa Clara County's 1975 inventory. Surely a passing comment in a bike tour folder is not considered to be a basic documentation.

Item 8:

Specific Date:

Both Gebhard's catalog and the U.C. Santa Barbara archival material (both itemized in the Major Bib. References) specify that the Pettigrew house was designed and built in 1925. The extant house plans are dated 18 March 1925; the detached garage plans are 18 July and 25 August 1925.

The nominator states the builder was the "client, " in the basic text of Significance. "The Pettigrew house designed for a client." (Aren't most architect's designs for a client?) The nomination never tells who the client was.

P. L. "Percy" Pettigrew was a distinguished partner in the Federal Telegraph Co. For the nomination of the Norris house located a few blocks north a whole page was filled with a description of its "clients." Pettigrew was equally successful in his own profession.

The next portion of the sentence: "a client for whom he (Smith) also designed an unbuilt project in San Francisco." This must be an incorrect assumption referring to Pettigrew's business address -- 315 Montgomery Street, San Francisco -- which is the address given on the house plans. No other work by Smith was commissioned by Pettigrew. In 1975 the PAHA withdrew their Nat. Reg. Nomination of this house in deference to the owner's wishes which were same as they are still requesting. At that time Lutah Maria Riggs who worked on the designing of the Pettigrew House recalled that all correspondence, etc. regarding the house went through Pettigrew's office. She also stated that Pettigrew intended to oversee its construction himself.

OVER

The conclusion of the same nomination sentence and its following sentence states: "The Pettigrew house shows Smith at his best. It is an [un]usual instance of Smith's work in Northern Calif...." The same year, 1925, Smith designed the Jackling house in Woodside. Two years later, 1927, he designed the Heller house in Atherton, described in the 1973 AIA Guide..., p. 142: "The most accomplished...works..."

With reference to the concluding statement, the PAHA agree that Smith's designs influenced California architecture. There are numerous superb examples of Calif. Colonial style architecture executed in Palo Alto. Granted Birge Clark designed many in this style (at the wishes of his clients); you have just considered his house for the Norrises. Some of the houses designed by Gardner Daily in the Crescent Park area of PA are very sophisticated interpretations of this style. There are other noted architects who used this mode for their clients in PA. One should not demean any of them as "local practitioners."

No mention is made of the subsequent owner of the house. Cressie Lyle Cummins, an inventor from Indiana, sold the house in 1949 to the Archdiocese. Thus, the usage changed from simply a residence to "a place to conduct religious and educational activities with a resident instructor in charge in conformity with the church's policy of maintaining a program near universities."

Second page, Item 8, mid-page sentence "The house was the largest and most expensive work executed by Clark in Palo Alto" requires the additional phrase: up to that time.

Item 9:

The first four Maj. Biblio. Ref. are concerned with the bibliographical aspects of the Norrises. Three of the four were written before the Norrises commissioned the Cowper Street house.

PAHA considers for those interested persons attempting in the future to ascertain information from this nomination that there should be some comment where "Notes on the N. Hs, Birge Clark" might be available.

PAHA considers an important reference to be the article written by Kathleen Norris herself for the March 1929 issue of Country Life, discussing all aspects of the house --designing, building, etc.

# HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CONSULTANTS

PENTHOUSE • 2306 J STREET • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

• (916) 446-2447

October 10, 1979

California State Historic Resources Commission  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Commission Member:

We have reviewed the comments regarding the National Register nominations for the Norris, de Lemos and Pettigrew Residences presented to you at the last regular Commission meeting.

Each point addressed in that presentation has been considered and this letter discusses reasons for either changing, or retaining as originally submitted, those questioned aspects of the nominations. The nominations will be discussed one at a time, addressing the points generally in the same order as presented.

## Pedro de Lemos House:

Commissioner Woodbridge, in her letter of September 21, 1979, to the Palo Alto Planning Department, does not generally appear to find this nomination inadequate, but expresses the desire that the nomination enhance the importance of de Lemos himself to a greater degree.

We have thus included in the nomination, a footnote that expands upon the education and background of de Lemos, adding substance to his importance and further information regarding his achievements.

It was suggested that the construction dates and period be clarified in the nomination.

Information to the effect that one wing was completed and occupied in 1934 and the house completed in 1941 has been included in the nomination.

Two resources utilized were questioned, a real estate brochure and a newspaper column.

The real estate sales brochure contains valuable photographs of the structure and thus provides an important photographic record of the house. The newspaper article provided insight into the background and atmosphere of the de Lemos house. Further, newspaper articles are a valid bibliographic source in any research project.

The Commission requested that some mention of de Lemos' activity as a noted landscape architect be included.

Major resource references utilized, including two lengthy biographies of de Lemos in the Who's Who on the Pacific Coast for 1947 and 1949, reveal no evidence of de Lemos' activities as a landscape architect. Although there may be an attitude present in Palo Alto that de Lemos was prominent in landscape design, there is no written evidence available to us that he was involved in such work even as a hobby. Whatever involvement de Lemos may have had with landscape design, it appears to be minimal in comparison to his contributions to the field of art and architecture and does not therefore seem necessary to include in the nomination.

It was requested that a list of de Lemos' publications be included in the nomination.

A list of six de Lemos publications was in fact included in the nomination. It was assumed that this list (his publications number 16) would be adequate to establish his importance as an art educator/author. It is our understanding that nominations be succinct and pertinent in establishing significance and the listing therefore limited to representative selections.

#### Pettigrew House:

Resources listed and utilized were questioned.

The Pettigrew House is discussed in the second AAUW publication "Exploring Palo Alto's Past" published in 1977. The house is also listed in the undated revised supplement to the 1975 Santa Clara County Inventory publication, given to the consultant by Ruth Wilson of the Palo Alto Historical Society. Clarification of which part of the Santa Clara County Inventory was utilized has been made in the nomination.

While the Sierra Club bike tour brochure was not a major resource in the documentation of the Pettigrew House, some information contained in the brochure was utilized and it was therefore listed in the bibliography.

The date of construction included in the nomination was questioned.

The date utilized in the nomination was derived from AAUW's "Exploring Palo Alto's Past". While Gebhard's catalog and the archives at University of California at Santa Barbara were utilized for other aspects of the nomination, the design date was not taken from this source. The appropriate correction on the nomination has been made.

It was stated that P.L.Pettigrew's significance equalled that of the Norrises and thus should be expanded.

While Mr. Pettigrew was undoubtedly successful in his field, he was not a notable figure in the same sense as the Norrises. Kathleen Norris was one of the highest paid and most popular female authors in the first half of this century. Charles was also a nationally known author and editor of popular magazines. Further, while much information regarding both of the Norrises is readily available in various sources, none of the State Library biography files or the standard references such as Who's Who in California, Who's Who on the Pacific Coast, Standard and Poor's Register of Corporations, Directors, and Executives, and the directory of the American Economic Association contain any information about Pettigrew.

Based on the availability of information in such resources, Pettigrew does not appear to be as notable a figure as the Norrises.

It was stated that the nomination incorrectly refers to an unbuilt project in San Francisco, and that the project must have been Pettigrew's business office. This assumption is incorrect.

The reference to the San Francisco project does not refer to Pettigrew's San Francisco business address but apparently to the design of a San Francisco residence by Smith for Pettigrew. However, the George Washington Smith Archive at U.C.S.B. is currently being moved and the pertinent material is presently inaccessible. Therefore the sentence regarding the project has been removed from the nomination until the reference can be precisely quoted from the original source.

The fact that the owner might not now want the house nominated to the National Register does not affect the preparation of the nomination. Further, the owner provided information to the consultants at the time the nomination was being prepared and did not object to the nomination at that time.

The statement regarding Pettigrew's correspondence and intention to oversee the construction of the house has no bearing upon the subject matter of the nomination form.

The nomination's discussion of the rarity and design quality of the Pettigrew House was questioned.

The statement regarding the rarity of Smith's work in Northern California and the question of the Pettigrew House as Smith at his best is somewhat unclear but we will deal with the inquiry as we understand it. The handful of buildings that Smith designed in Northern California (besides the two other houses quoted by Dorothy Regnery, there are three in the Monterey/Carmel area) can be considered rare instances when compared to the large number of Smith's works in Southern California.

Regarding the question of the quality of design of the Pettigrew House as compared to Smith's other works, it is the opinion of the nomination's architectural historian, who is familiar with the body of Smith's work, that the Pettigrew House is one of Smith's finest works. Although the smallest of his Northern California commissions, the Pettigrew House is among the most sophisticated from a design point of view. This opinion has been discussed with Dr. David Gebhard, author of the only available work on Smith, and curator of the Smith Archive at U.C.S.B., who agrees that the Pettigrew House is indeed a superb example of Smith's style.

The sentence referring to Birge Clark as a local practitioner of the style has been deleted.

#### Norris Residence:

The common name of the house was questioned.

We have noted that Kathleen Norris referred to her house as "Casa Abierta" in two written articles. However, no record of others referring to the house by that name was found in any of the researched materials.

A question was raised as to the correct current name of the property.

The nomination now reflects the second portion of the name present on the sign in front of the building; (St. Ann's and) the Newman Center for Stanford.

The information regarding the gift of Clare Booth Luce is not pertinent to the nomination, since the chapel is not part of the nomination.

The inclusion of the chapel in the nomination was questioned.

The chapel is not included in the nomination. A lack of communication between the Palo Alto Planning Staff (which prepared maps and lot sizes for Palo Alto Inventory forms), the Office of Historic Preservation Staff, and the consultant resulted in the use of an incorrect map. The nominated property has been clarified both in the sketch map and verbal boundary description.

The Palo Alto Historic Society questioned the date of the structure stated in the nomination.

The date of December 1927 was provided the consultant by the architect Birge Clark. Additionally, it is customary for architectural historians to use design dates, when available, as opposed to construction dates, when dating a building. The design date of 1927 remains therefore on the nomination.

The use of the term "built" was questioned .

The term "built" was used as a figure of speech in a sentence whose focus was the Norrises. The word "designed" is more accurate and has been substituted.

The statement was made that the nomination only discusses the importance of the Norrises prior to the construction of the house.

That statement is incorrect. The nomination does reflect the careers of the Norrises during their residence in the house. It states very clearly that Kathleen Norris was the highest paid female author in the 1940's, six years of which she lived in the house. Charles Norris acted as an agent for his wife during most of her career and his social activities are also mentioned. Further, the significance a structure gains due to its associations with notable individuals is essentially not affected by when that notability is achieved, particularly in an instance such as this one with such strong associations to the property.

The fact that the Norrises wintered in Saratoga is immaterial to the nomination.

It was stated that Cressie Lyle Cummins be included in the nomination information.

Cummins was not a notable figure whose significance added to the importance of the house.

It was requested that the change of use from residential to religious use be further clarified. A statement to this effect has been added.

The use of bibliographic references treating the importance of the Norrises prior to the construction of the house was criticized.

Some of the bibliographical references date prior to the construction of the Norris House because they are concerned with establishing that the Norrises were notable people, both then and later. Such use of bibliographical data is standard in National Register nomination preparation.

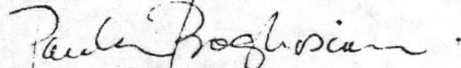
"Notes on the Norris House" by Birge Clark is part of the city inventory and is available at the Palo Alto Planning Department.

PAHA states that the article in the March 1929 issue of Country Life should be used as an important reference.

While this article, written by Kathleen Norris, reveals some amusing insights into the mind of the client, it does not add any factual or intellectual material to the collected body of information. Since it was not utilized, it has not been included.

To the best of our knowledge, these are all of the points in question. We have discussed these items at some length with Commission Staff. We would be happy to answer any questions or further explain this work.

Very truly yours,

  
Paula Boghosian

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

POST OFFICE BOX 2390

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811



(916) 445-8006

NOV 13 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington, Acting Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
440 - G Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

We submit the Norris Residence for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Santa Clara County in the 12th California Congressional District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Knox Mellon".

Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer

KM:aag

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

1-2-80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Paula Bogosian

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

consultant

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Norris House, Palo Alto, CA

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

called to clarify "V"-shaped bldg. on west edge of lot and connection between house + church. She will call back on letter; former's outdoor kitchen (discussed in #7) which runs up to but does not cross property line.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Joe Tomer

TITLE

OFFICE

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO:

*Joe Townes*  
 YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

*Paula Boghosian*  
OF (Organization)

*Sacramento, Ca.*

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT.  FTS

WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Re St. Ann's Chapel  
Palo Alto, Ca.  
Chapel touches the  
house. apt. between  
chapel and garage.  
garage is attached  
to house.*

RECEIVED BY

*Mary C.*

DATE

*1/3*

TIME

*4:30pm*

63-109

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

DATE

1-28-80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM  
PM

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Marianne

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

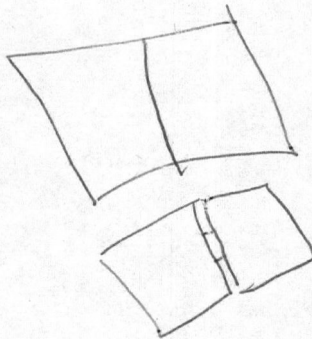
SHPO, CA

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Norris House (Stanford Newman Ctr.)

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

They will verify connection X bldgs & send photos. If one structure per NR definition, church will have to be included + notified per reg's.



NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Joe Towne

EJ - Has there been  
substantial change in non.  
property to merit  
renotice?

OK - Joe  
3/22/80

Steve

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 2390  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811  
(916) 445-8006



June 24, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
440 "G" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are resubmitting the enclosed National Register nomination for the Norris House, returned by your office in April 1980. The application sponsor has responded to questions raised by your staff. We trust this new information is sufficient to carry this nomination through the final stages of approval.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

sep



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA  
JUL 24 1980

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Norris House	Palo Alto Santa Clara County

Also Notified

Honorable Alan Cranston  
Honorable Samuel I. Hayakawa  
Honorable Paul (Pete) McCloskey, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. Knox Mellon  
Office of Historic Preservation  
California Department of Parks  
and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, California 95811

NR Byers/mjd 8/7/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.