

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 8 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 13 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Willard Griffin House and Carriage House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

12345 South El Monte Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Los Altos Hills

12

STATE

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

CODE

California

CODE

Santa Clara

085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	—OCCUPIED	—AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	—PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	—MUSEUM
—STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—COMMERCIAL
—SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	—EDUCATIONAL
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	—YES: RESTRICTED	—ENTERTAINMENT
	—BEING CONSIDERED	—YES: UNRESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT
		—NO	—INDUSTRIAL
			—MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

STREET & NUMBER

12345 South El Monte Avenue

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Los Altos Hills

VICINITY OF

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse/Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

191 North First Street

STATE

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Point of Historical Interest SCI-035

DATE

January 17, 1975

—FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

STATE

P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, 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"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	<input type="checkbox"/> DATE		
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The brown-shingled Willard Griffin House and Carriage House were built in 1901 by Willard M. Griffin, a shipbuilder from Maine. He had purchased 98 acres of the beautiful rolling hill land from Daniel T. Ames at the turn of the century.

According to architectural historian, Richard Longstreth, "The Griffin house is a fine example of domestic design of the early twentieth century and every effort should be made to preserve it. The exterior represents a very interesting combination of forms found on Craftsman houses of the period and the steep pitch roof and tall, thin dormers characteristic of George W. Maher's (Chicago) early work. I have seen many houses of its period in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and consider this to be one of the most interesting. The fact that the exterior has experienced almost no alterations and that the main rooms retain much of their original finish make it the more desirable for preservation purposes. To demolish the house would certainly prove to be a great cultural embarrassment for the community in years hence."

This beautiful home today remains the same in its outward appearance but the inside has been miserably mistreated.

The carriage house, in its early days, housed six work horses, stalls for two cows and the carriage, as well as a workshop and upper loft. Today the building serves as the Foothill Fire Department.

The property was purchased by the Foothill Community College District in 1959. The Willard Griffin House and Carriage House are now a part of that college campus. They were retained on the original site; these structures of another age and another style of architectural design and construction materials lend a pleasant contrast to the newer structures of the Foothill College campus.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-P
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-H
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATION

SPECIFIC DATES 1901 (cc)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willard Griffin House was at one time part of a large estate in western Santa Clara County.

According to no one, the house was at one time part of the lat of Charles Voysey Brothers, it still retains the medieval renaissance window forms which is a very fine example of its kind.

When Griffin's wife died, he decided that he wanted to live in a lovely grey and white house near the tennis courts. He wanted to see which section of the house was best suited for his needs. The Willard Griffin House was chosen and it was built in 1901.

It was at this time that the Griffins moved from Japan to the United States. They designed a garden structure in front of the house where they could sit and watch the garden before retiring.

The elder Willard Griffin died in 1925. His widow and two sons moved to a smaller house in the hills above the town. They often dotted the land with trees and flowers. In 1935, Charles and Andrew Griffin sold the house to the Foothill College. The Foothill College is now a part of the California State University system.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
MOVED DATE _____

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The Griffin
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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"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1901 (construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wolfe & McKenzie

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willard Griffin house and carriage house are structures of a bygone era. Built in 1901 by Willard M. Griffin, a shipbuilder from Maine, they were part of a large, private 98 acre estate in the rolling hill land of north-western Santa Clara County.

According to noted architectural historian Joseph A. Baird, Jr., "The Griffin house was at its time one of the most interesting combinations of architectural form of the late 19th and early 20th Century. Like the houses in England of Charles Voysey and a few rare houses in California by one of the Greene Brothers, it shows the still powerful impulse to sharp vertical forms of the medieval revivals of the 19th Century combined with progressive interests in window forms--the whole clothed in a subtle covering of shingles....It is a very fine example of Shingle- Modern with period overtones; aside from that it is a very handsome house."

When Griffin's sons, Charles W. and Andrew G., were approaching manhood he decided that he should have another house for one of them. Therefore the lovely grey and white flat roofed home, nestled between the large oak trees near the tennis courts, was built in 1906. He proceeded to "flip a coin" to see which son would be given the newer home. Andrew, the present Willard Griffin's uncle, won the "toss". (This home was demolished by the college in 1970).

It was at this time that Griffin brought three or four Japanese artisans from Japan to landscape and maintain the gardens throughout the estate. They designed and built the Japanese tea house, arched bridge and other garden structures in and around the pond or lake about 1906. This was where they came to worship and drink their tea, as was their custom, before retiring.

The elder Willard Griffin passed away in 1913 and the estate went to his widow and two sons. During this era the gently rolling hillsides were often dotted with tray upon tray of drying fruit which was grown on the land. In 1916, after operating under the name of Griffin & Skelly, Charles and Andrew and four other companies consolidated to form the California Fruit Canners Association, which later became the California Packing Corporation, now the present Del Monte Corporation.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED APR 8 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 13 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Willard, the son of Charles W., named for his grandfather, married in 1921 and left the area. After an absence of about 16 years and upon hearing that the family desired to sell the "family homestead", he returned and bought the 100 + acres in the year 1936. In reminiscing, he states that the tea-garden and pond area was a "magnificent and wonderful part of the estate". He recalls the many days spent there with his cousins "boating and playing" at the age of four or five.

The eight or ten beautiful oak trees still remaining around the pond have large circles of black around the upper trunks. Mr. Griffin explained that they are the remaining evidence of "tanglefoot" or flypaper which he put on the trees to keep the caterpillars from crawling back upon them.

Twenty-five acres of the estate was sold to Sidney Treat, the first Mayor of Los Altos Hills, who had his entrance on Robleda. The estate itself was later sold to William Cusack who held it for about two years then sold it to the Foothill Community College District (1959).

Willard Griffin and his wife retired to Portola Valley where he resides today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal interview with Willard Griffin, Portola Valley, California, May and June, 1970.

Dr. Joseph Armstrong Baird, Jr., written correspondence, June 30, 1975.

Richard W. Longstreth, written correspondence, July 22, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	0	5	7	7	5	8	0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

B	1	0	5	7	7	5	8	0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Florence M. Fava, Los Altos Hills Town Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

July 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

26691 Moody Road

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Los Altos Hills

California

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Florence M. Fava

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE OCT 1 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

John D. Jones

DATE 11/3/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

John D. Jones

DATE 3/28/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CPO 892.451





APR 13 1977























PUBLIC
TELEPHONE
←

LOS ALTOS
FIRE DEPARTMEN
EL MONTE STATION



WILLARD M. GRIFFIN HOUSE

June 14, 1970

FROM: Aaron Gallup

Enclosed are the requested current photos for the Willard Griffin Home and Carriage House, a pending nomination to the National Register. The Home is located in Santa Clara County.

Should you require further additions or assistance, please contact Aaron Gallup at 916-322-5635.

In response to your recent inquiry,
the enclosed information

is

supplied with the
COMPLIMENTS
of the

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
P. O. Box 2390 Sacramento 95811

Willard M. Griffin Home
Los Altos, California vicinity

Willard M. Griffin Home
Los Altos, California vicinity

The Griffin Carriage House - now the Fire
House

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

NAME: Willard Griffin House and Carriage House

APR 8 1976

LOCATION: Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara County, California

APR 13 1977

PHOTO REFERENCE:

Photo Credit: Willard Griffin

Date of Photo: 1906

Negative Filed at: Los Altos Hills City Hall
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

IDENTIFICATION

Sideview of the house facing northeast

Photo No. 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

APR 8 1976

APR 13 1977

NAME: Willard Griffin House and Carriage House

LOCATION: Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara County, California

PHOTO REFERENCE:

Photo Credit: H. Lawrence Fava

Date of Photo: June 1970

Negative filed at: Los Altos Hills City Hall
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

IDENTIFICATION

Front entrance of the house, facing southeast

Photo No. 2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

APR 8 1976

APR 13 1977

NAME: Historic - Willard Griffin House and Carriage House

LOCATION: Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara County, California

PHOTO REFERENCE:

Photo Credit: H. Lawrence Fava

Date of Photo: 1971

Negative Filed at: Los Altos Hills City Hall
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

IDENTIFICATION

Willard Griffin Carriage House, rear of the building facing northeast

Phone No. 3

Correspondence for this property is in the microfiche collection.