

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0352233

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

AND/OR COMMON

Willard Griffin House and Carriage House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

12345 South El Monte Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Los Altos Hills

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Santa Clara

CODE

085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

X BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

X OTHER: storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

STREET & NUMBER

12345 South El Monte Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Los Altos Hills

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse/Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

191 North First Street

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Point of Historical Interest SCI-035

DATE

January 17, 1975

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

California Dept. of Parks and Recreation

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

— UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

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

—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-P
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-H
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE
—1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE
—1700-1799	—ART
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE
X.1900-	—COMMUNICATIO

SPECIFIC DATES 1901 (cc)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Willard Gr
Built in 1901 b
part of a large
western Santa C

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Willard Griffir
college in 1970

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California Fru
Packing Corpora

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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MOVED DATE

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PERIOD

PREHISTORIC

1400-1499

1500-1599

1600-1699

1700-1799

1800-1899

X 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

X ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

X INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SCULPTURE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

THEATER

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

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.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

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 10 577580 4135170
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

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 X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-666), 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

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
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/9/77

DATE

8/88/77





APR 13 1977
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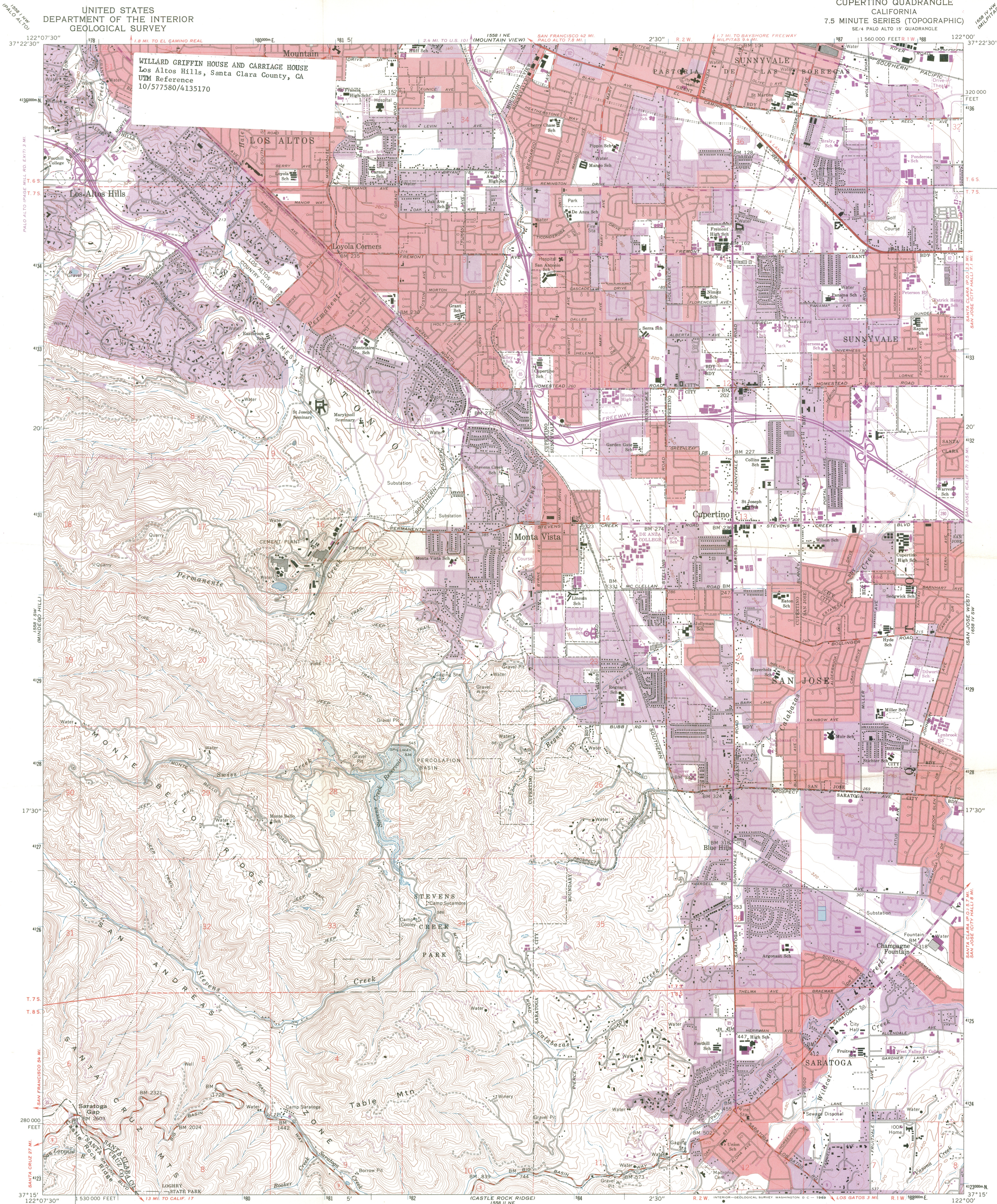






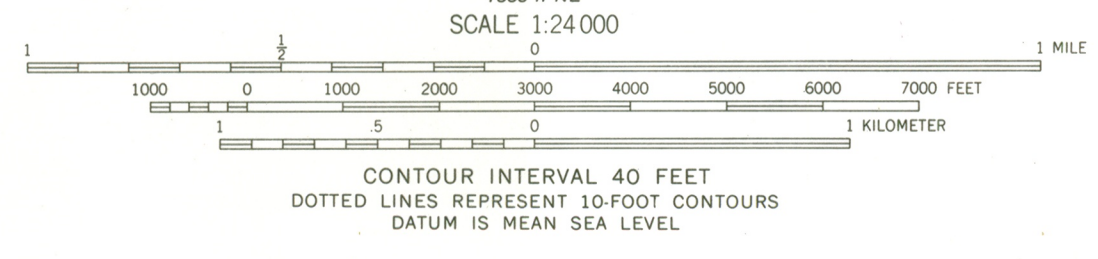
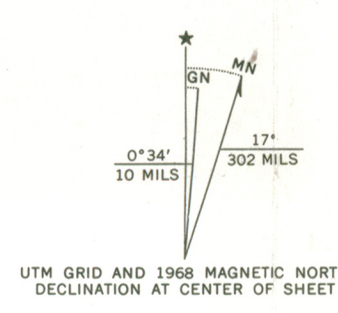
Willard M. Griffin House

June 14, 1970



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 check 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 areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
Land lines unsurveyed in parts of T. 8 S.-R. 2 W.
A portion of this map lies within a subsidence area
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to controlled inundation



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



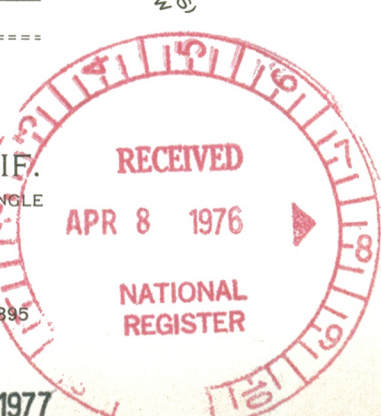
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route

CUPERTINO, CALIF.
SE/4 PALO ALTO 15' QUADRANGLE
N3715-W12200/7.5

1961
PHOTOGRAPHED 1968
AMS 1558 I SE-SERIES 1985

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



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

LOCATION: Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara County, California

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

APR 8 1976

APR 13 1977

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.