

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lyford's Stone Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Lyford's Tower - The Stone Tower - The Castle - Stone Lodge

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2034 Paradise Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tiburon

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th California

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Marin

CODE

041

## 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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER Overlook

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alfredo L. & Doris Caceres

STREET & NUMBER

1 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Belvedere

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marin County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Civic Center

CITY, TOWN

San Rafael

STATE

California

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical Sites & Landmarks in the City of Tiburon

DATE

October 23, 1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of Tiburon

CITY, TOWN

Tiburon

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

"The tower is a circular, well constructed, cut ashlar sandstone edifice, formerly with a similarly constructed sandstone arch passing over the road between the tower and a miniature tower on the nearby hillside. The battlemented stone portion of the tower is surmounted by a wooden superstructure; this consists of several turned wood pillars supporting a conical roof of low profile.

"Originally the open space under the roof was partially enclosed in a wood framed 'office' with slat-shingles, painted in striped patterns. In the lower stone portion of the tower were two doors with glassed transoms, each with eight lights, and four windows of double-hung design, having twelve lights. The whole structure is positioned on a rocky promontory overlooking Raccoon Straits of San Francisco Bay, and Angel Island. Surrounding the tower at ground level is a battlemented parapet."

--- Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr., Professor  
of Art and Architectural History,  
University of California, Davis  
(Complete text of letter enclosed)

Measurements: Tower is 14 feet, three inches high from floor to top of the stone parapet (bottom of crenel) and the wood structure rises 12 feet more to the point of the roof. Outside diameter is 15 feet, ten inches.

Dimensions of the original archway, plotted from an early photograph, are as follows:

Smaller circular stone tower at foot of hill: 5 ft. in diameter, 15 ft. in height (road level to top of battlements).

Distance between stone towers (face of stone to face of stone): 14 feet, eight inches.

Stone archway: height (road level to bottom of keystone) 11 ft., 3 inches width  
(face of stone to face of stone) 13 ft. point of spring 5 ft. above road

Thickness 1 foot

Height of battlements above ground (road) 14 ft. 2 in.

- Alterations: 1. Removal of archway and smaller stone tower  
2. Removal of second floor of main tower, shingled second-floor walls and original stairway, following deterioration from exposure and vandalism.

NOTE: Enclosed please find early photo of tower and archway, and photo of the tower as it appears today.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Map No. 3 of Lyford's Hygeia. 1889. Marin County Recorder's Office.  
 Photostatic copy in files of Landmarks Advisory Committee.  
Lyford's Hygeia or Goddess of Health. 1895. Xerox copy in files of Landmarks  
 Advisory Committee.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .13 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 0	5, 4, 8, 5, 4, 0	4, 1, 9, 1, 7, 2, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lyford's Stone Tower is located on a high point of land on Paradise Drive, overlooking Raccoon Straits of San Francisco Bay. The site is irregular in shape, extending about 54 feet along Paradise Drive and 97 feet along the shore.

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

Eugenia Marans, Chairman, and Louise Teather, former Chairman

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Landmarks Advisory Committee, City of Tiburon

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

80 Main Street

435-1078 (Marans); 435-4810 (Teather); 435-0956 (City)

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tiburon, CA 94920

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

*Arwen Hodges*

TITLE

DIRECTOR

DATE NOV 4 - 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*Ref L Nelson*

DATE

12/2/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles L. ...*

DATE

12.1.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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1

Re: Architect, Gustav Albert Behrnd. He is listed as an architect in Langley's San Francisco Directory <sup>(1)</sup> from 1885 through 1907 with these exceptions: 1890 through 1894, 1896 and 1897. Behrnd's known work includes five buildings in San Francisco, two in Sausalito, and one in San Leandro. <sup>(2)</sup> According to local Tiburon stories, Behrnd designed Lyford's Tower and provided other architectural services for Lyford in payment, or in return for, a lot in Lyford's Hygeia. <sup>(3)</sup>

Behrnd's residence was "Lyford's Point, Marin County" from 1902 through 1907, <sup>(4)</sup> according to the city directories. In 1909 he lived in Midlake, Lake County. When his wife died in 1913 he still resided there. <sup>(5)</sup> After that we know nothing of him. The Department of Health in Sacramento has no record of his death in California.

- (1) Rare Book - Special Collections Room, San Francisco Public Library
- (2) California Architectural & Building News, San Francisco, 1880-1900. Courtesy of Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr.
- (3) One long-time resident, the later J. F. C. von Rosen, who knew Behrnd, related this in an interview about 1956 with Mrs. Louise Teather, local historian and member of the Tiburon Landmarks Advisory Committee. Records in the Marin County Recorder's Office show that Lyford transferred Lot 4, Section 6, of Lyford's Hygeia to Behrnd's wife, Anna, on February 27, 1901, and that she deeded it to her husband on September 17, 1904.
- (4) Behrnd sold Lot 4, Section 6 to the Hotaling Banking Co. on June 16, 1909 (Marin County Recorder's Office).
- (5) Behrnd was informant as to details of his wife's death on December 15, 1913 (death certificate, County Recorder, Lake County).

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2

Re: History of "Utopian" development: The term Utopian was used in the medical/health sense and did not refer to a visionary socio-political colony. Lyford is believed to have been influenced by the example of Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, British physician and pioneer in public health work, and particularly by Richardson's address on "Hygeia, A City of Health" in Brighton, England, in 1875. The address appeared in book form.<sup>(6)</sup> Richardson extolled the idea of health and happiness through sanitation and the elimination of disease, all subjects in which Lyford as a physician was greatly interested.

"Medical-Utopia" was the theme of Dr. Benjamin Lyford's residential development, Lyford's Hygeia. The first sentence in the 1895 pamphlet about the development reads: "The one supreme possession of man... is health." Lyford appears to have been motivated by a wish to provide homes in a healthy environment as well as a desire for profit and prestige.

Lyford worked as an embalmer outside Gettysburg prior to the Civil War. He did participate in the Civil War, afterward becoming a physician with a private practice in San Francisco.

Lyford also had a large dairy farm and house on nearby Strawberry Point.

Lyford was married to Hilarita Reed, daughter of land grantee John Reed, from whom she had inherited much property including the southern end of the Tiburon Peninsula. Lyford subdivided part of this property, naming it Lyford's Hygeia or Goddess of Health.<sup>(7)</sup> The first subdivision on the Tiburon Peninsula, its street pattern followed the contours of the land instead of being laid out in gridiron form as were many subdivisions of the day. The subdivision is now part of the City of Tiburon, suburban area on San Francisco Bay.

(6) The book formerly was in the California State Library but is no longer to be found there. A zeroz copy was obtained from the Edinburgh, Scotland, Public Library.

(7) First map dated 1883. Stone Tower first shown on 1889 map (Marin County Recorder's Office)

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"It (Lyford's Stone Tower) is 'Richardsonian' because of its overall design (heavy arch over road, medievalizing tower now standing), but also because of its rough-faced stone of a warm tone. It is obviously not by Richardson, but is very clearly 'Richardsonian' by the well accepted standards of that ~~xxxx~~ era." (1)

- (1) Statement by Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr., architectural historian, UC/Davis.

NOTE: In the Glossary of architectural terms in Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1968), with which Doctor Baird assisted, descriptive terms under "Romanesque" also apply to Lyford's Tower: "Generally characterized by use of semicircular arches, extremely solid masonry construction, heavy piers."

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3

References of Lyford's Stone Tower as a significant local historical landmark are found in:

Shark Point - High Point. 8th graders of Reed School District, 1954-58. Revised edition, Parent-Teacher Club, 1970. Pp. 33-35. (Tiburon, CA)

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California. David Gebhard, etc. Peregrine Smith, Santa Barbara, 1973. P. 207.

Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage. Junior League of San Francisco. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1968. P. 221.

Discovering Marin. Louise Teather. Tamal Land Press, Fairfax, 1974. P. 28.

The Making of Marin. Jack Mason. North Shore Books, Point Reyes Station, 1975. P. 104.