

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



980

**1. Name**

historic White Mansion

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 604 East 17th Street not for publication

city, town Oakland vicinity of congressional district 8th

state California code 06 county Alameda code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John L. Herrick

street & number 1939 Addison Street, Suite "A"

city, town Berkeley vicinity of 94704 state California

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alameda County Recorder, County Courthouse

street & number 1225 Fallon Street

city, town Oakland state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The White Mansion is sited on a large lot (75' X 128') at the northeast corner of 6th Avenue and East 17th Street in Oakland. Generous setbacks separate the house from the street and the property lines are delineated by an elaborate wrought and cast iron railing. Large gardens to the rear of the house have been lost. An immense Magnolia grandiflora in the front yard is a survivor of the original landscaping.

The large frame house is one of the outstanding examples of the Italianate style in the East Bay. Both formal and romantic influences are evident. The date of construction (ca. 1878) and the general character of the house place it in the later stages of the Italianate style. A general attenuation of the classical decorative elements and an overall vertical feeling to the whole call to mind late Renaissance, particularly, Venetian palaces.

The various elements of the decorative scheme are applied over a horizontal siding. All work is executed in redwood. Above a six foot high basement story of false ashlar, the siding is carried up to the cornice and all corners are heavily quoined. The windows, except single windows directly over the 17th Street entrance and on the 6th Avenue elevation, are framed by slender colonnettes. Slanted bay windows, double windows, and most single windows are topped by cornices with dentil ornamentation. All windows are 1/1 double-hung. First story windows are round headed, **except under the 6th Avenue veranda**; second story windows have segmental arch heads. Surmounting the whole is a deep bracketed cornice, with decorative panels and a dentil course. Small rectangular double-hung windows pierce the cornice. The roof is hipped. Decorative work throughout is bold and crisp and generally in excellent condition.

The principal mass of the house is a rectangle with a broad main facade. Wide steps lead to the porch and formal entry. Corinthian columns, with cast iron acanthus leaves, support the porch. The keystone is a carved 'grotesque' mask, a rather correct "Mannerist" touch. Above is a single window on the second floor. To the left are panes of windows; to the right a two story bay window. The secondary facade includes the narrow side of this main mass, with a bay window. Set back from this is a rear 'wing.' On the first floor is a large veranda with a handsome balustrade and slender corinthian columns support an arcade. A large door provides access to the core of the house. Above are various single windows and a bay window.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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** 1878 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The nominated property is located in Brooklyn Township, Oakland, and was built as a residence for Asa L. White, a lumber dealer in San Francisco, in 1878. Asa White and his family occupied the property until 1922 when he retired to a ranch in Los Gatos. The White brothers, Asa, Jacob and Peter, were native of New Brunswick, Canada, who came to San Francisco and established White Brothers, dealers in carriage and wagon stock, in 1872. By 1882 the business was expanded to include trade in hardwood lumber to supply materials for carriage parts, and eventually hardwood lumber for construction in San Francisco, the Bay Area, and the gold country. The business has remained family owned, passing from Asa to his son and grandson. It is now located in Oakland and is managed by Don White, Jr., whose great-grandfather was Jacob White.

Asa White purchased the property in 1877 from the Remillard Brothers. The Remillard family, which began its brick industry in Oakland in the 1860's, grew to a dominant position among masonry manufacturers. The family business thrived for three generations and produced materials for numerous significant structures in northern California. One of the brickyards for the Remillard Brothers was located a block away from the nominated property in the 1870's.

In 1879 and 1882, Asa White acquired property (150' x 150') adjacent to his home which eventually contained a formal garden, pergola, greenhouse and carriage house. As early as 1880 a gardener lived on the property. In 1922, when the property was sold, the garden portion passed to other owners and is now occupied by several apartment buildings.

The facade of the house remains intact. The interior was divided into apartments in 1944 for officers' housing during World War II. The use of wood on the interior is extensive, perhaps a reflection of the occupation of the owner.

The property is of both architectural and historical significance. The home is one of the few large Italianate homes remaining in the area once known as Clinton Park. One other, a more modest structure, is located across the street, and next door is a somewhat altered home of about the same size and period. The property is located in what was once a highly desirable suburban residential area, populated by up and coming merchants and capitalists of the period. The area was subdivided in 1854, but the greatest development period began in the

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Insurance maps 1889-1906  
United States Census 1880, 1900  
Alameda County Assessors Block Books 1877-1920  
Voter Registration/City Directories 1872-1925  
Alameda County Recorders Office: grant deeds 1877-1974

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 122 . 22 (7.5 minutes)  
Quadrangle name Oakland East Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>566060</u>	<u>41183370</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the intersection of the northeastern line of E. 17th St. with the southeastern line of 6th Ave., running southeasterly along E. 17th st. 75 ft.; thence at right angles northeasterly 128 ft.; thence at right angles northwesterly 75 ft.; thence ~~southwesterly along the line of 6th Ave. 128 ft. to the point of beginning.~~

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn E. Douthat Attorney at Law

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 14, 1980

street & number 2135 8th Avenue telephone (415) 763-5370

city or town Oakland state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *K. M. [unclear]*

title SAPU date 8-18-80 *see phone report of 10/27/80*

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *[Signature]*

Chief of [unclear]

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	OCT. 31 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The above describes the original construction. Approximately 10 years later the rear wing was extended, and a large parlor was added adjacent to the dining room. In about 1910 the second story was extended to the rear, adding a 'morning room' over the kitchen. The construction and detailing of each addition were matched exactly to the original exterior work.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

8

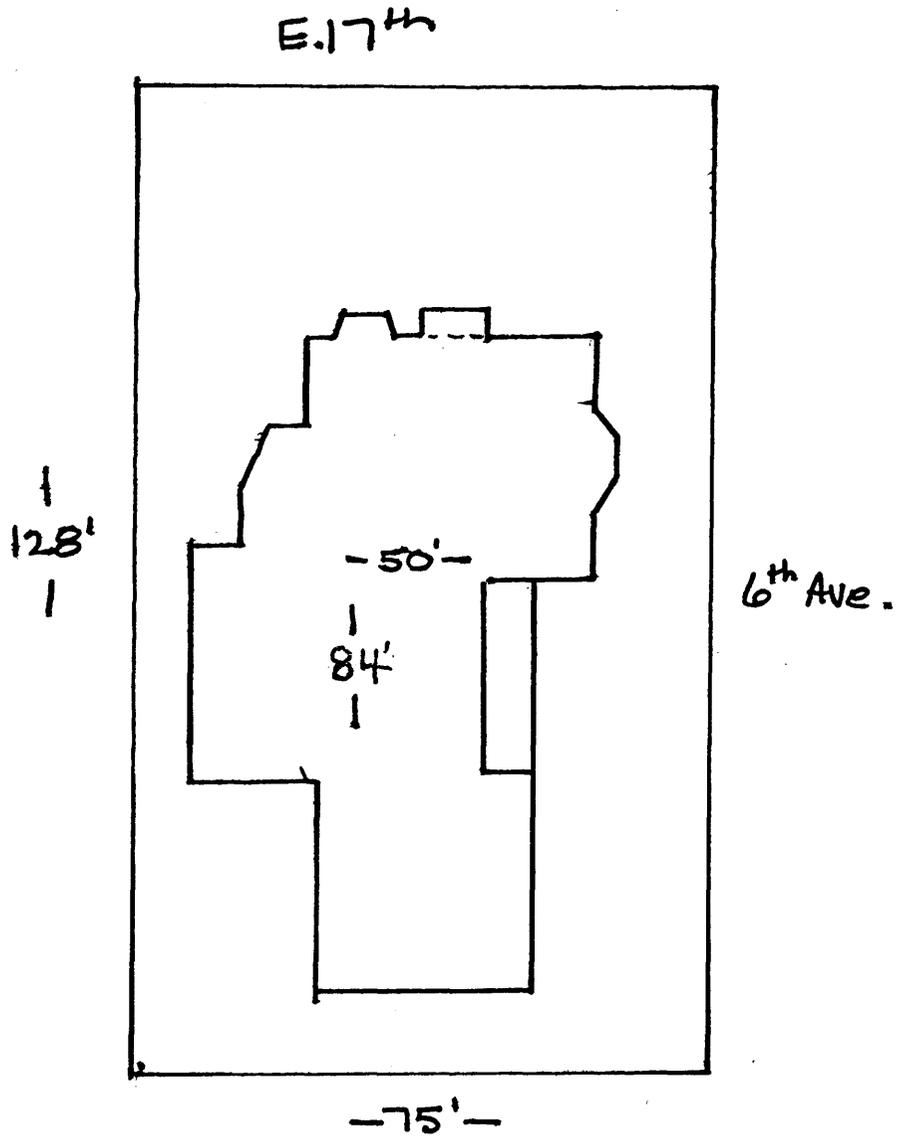
PAGE

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1870's and continued to the turn of the century. Ferry service connected Clinton Park to San Francisco, and both a rail line and horse car trolley connected to downtown Oakland. The nominated property is within several blocks of the site of the Tubbs Hotel and mansion, and the homes of Frederick and William Henshaw, both still standing. The former home was determined eligible for the National Register in 1979.

The property is one of the early examples of the first phase of Brooklyn's development, and remains substantially intact. Of some note is the remodeling which took place over the years the White family owned the property. The exterior of the additions are carefully matched to the original style, and the interior changed reflect the changes in popular styles of the period, with the addition of marble mantles and hearths, plaster embellishment on the upper walls of the reception parlor, and Eastlake detailing in the wainscoting and mantle in the added parlor.

In addition to the significance of the property to the development and architecture of the area, the family itself is representative of those who came to California during the period from all over the world, settled, and established themselves, beginning the development of the Bay Area as an urban center.



White Mansion  
604 East 17<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oakland  
Alameda County  
California

SEP 2 1980

4/80