

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Jack, Robert, Residence
other name/site number: Jack House

2. Location

street & number: 536 Marsh Street

not for publication: NA

city/town: San Luis Obispo

vicinity: NA

state: CA county: San Luis Obispo

code: 079 zip code: 93401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - Local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 2 </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> 1 </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 3 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Stacy R. Gray Signature of certifying official 2/25/92 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Stacy R. Gray Signature 4/3/92 Date
~~National Register~~

 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Recreation and Culture Sub: Museum

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Italianate

Other Description: NA

Materials: foundation: concrete roof: cedar shingles
walls: wood other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: at the local level .

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Commerce
Development

Period(s) of Significance: 1882-1894

Significant Dates: NA

Significant Person(s): Jack, Robert Edgar

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Evans, William

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Leo W. Pinard, II, Member

Organization: SLO Cultural Heritage Committee Date: August 28, 1991

Street & Number: 714 Buchon Street Telephone: (805) 544-4566

City or Town: San Luis Obispo State: CA ZIP: 93401

Revised by OHP 1/21/92

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The Robert Jack Residence is a two story wood frame Italianate residence completed in 1882. The exterior is distinguished by a low pitched asymmetrical roof surmounted by a roof balustrade; widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets; tall, narrow windows with flat and corniced window heads; two single story bays; and a shallow, full width, single story porch with a balustrade over the slightly projecting entry way. In 1970 an elevator shaft was added to the side elevation. A partial single story addition was added to the rear of the house, soon after 1882. The original interior is little changed. Also located on the property are the original wash house, moved, but little changed and counted as a contributing building; the original carriage house, altered and considered noncontributing; a utility room and gazebo, both built in 1980 and considered a noncontributing building and noncontributing structure respectively. A picket fence, replicating the original, is a 1980 addition and is not being counted.

In 1875, Robert Jack bought the property and began construction of the house about five years later. The original size of the property was 225 feet x 300 feet (1.55 acres) and extended between Marsh and Higuera Streets with frontage on both streets. The portion of the property that faced Higuera Street (0.71 acres) was sold for development prior to 1926.

When construction of the house was completed in 1882, the residence's style and proportions reflected the importance of the Jack family. The house is a two story wood frame building sitting on a raised concrete foundation. The overall shape is rectangular with eight major rooms located off a central hallway on both floors. The stairs and railing in the hallway are original, and the first thing seen as you enter the front door. All ceilings in the house are 12 feet high. The height of the ceiling in the stairwell is over 24 feet. The plaster cornice work and medallions on the ceilings demonstrate a construction skill almost non-existent today.

The front parlor is on the left and contains a fireplace with its original Italian marble mantel. The first room on the right is the library. The kitchen is at the back of the hallway on the right and has its original wainscot and pantry. The dining room is across the hallway from the kitchen. It is unique because it has a square cut oak floor, as it was also sometimes used for dancing. The tub in the upstairs bath is original as are the sinks in the bedrooms. There is one fireplace in

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the northwest bedroom. It has a cast iron mantle and firebox. All the walls, ceilings and doors on the interior are original, except for some plaster repair and new wallpaper done after the city acquired the house in 1974.

The exterior of the house is much the same as when R.E. Jack lived there. A full porch extends across the front of the house with a balustrade over the centered entrance section. The tall, thin windows are double hung and evenly spaced with a cornice head. The hip roof has a balustrade and a decorative vent: The eaves are decorated with paired brackets, medallion blocks and a decorative frieze. The single story bay windows are found on each side of the house. The exterior sheathing is shiplap redwood, typical of the era.

The only change made to the house is the addition of an elevator in 1970. The elevator provided alternative access to the second story for aging Jack family residents. Structures added to the property in 1980 are the utility room that contains restrooms, a kitchen and a small meeting room to serve various functions held on the grounds, and a gazebo. The present picket fence that extends along the property's Marsh Street frontage was constructed by the 4-H Club in 1989 and is a replica of the original fence, copied from photographs.

Major components of the landscape, such as the palm trees in the front of the property and the large trees in the rear, were all present at the time the Jack family occupied the residence. The driveway and the surrounding grounds are covered with many mature trees planted by Nellie Jack, who was particularly fond of trees and exotic plants.

The gravel driveway enters the property from Marsh Street and continues straight back to the rear of the lot where it makes a 90 degree turn to the right, past the wash house and continues to the carriage house. The carriage house is approximately 18 x 28 feet and still retains its original wood floor. The building originally had a cedar shingle roof and the siding was vertical redwood board and batten. The roof is now covered in asphalt and asphalt has been added to the north and east elevations. The south elevation is now covered with plywood and battens. The west elevation is also new. The carriage house is considered a noncontributing building because of the number of changes to the exterior.

The combined wood shed and wash house are approximately 14 x 20 feet. The single story wood frame building was moved in 1979 10 feet to the west, to accommodate the new utility building. A door has been added to the arched wood shed entrance for security.

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The concrete walkways were all installed as part of a master landscape plan commissioned after the city acquired the property in 1974. The flagstones near the bench, on the northeast side, are original. When the heirs of Robert and Nellie Jack deeded the house and gardens to the city in 1974, much of the original furnishings, bric-a-brac, kitchen and dining dishes and utensils, library and personal papers that document the Jack family's involvement in San Luis Obispo County were included as part of the gift.

Twelve hundred items of furniture, art works, and bric-a-brac seen in the house today were purchased or acquired by members of the Jack family. The majority of the larger pieces of furniture, silver and art were the original property of the Nellie and Robert Jack. Other pieces were brought to the "Town House" from the Jack Ranch, located east of Cholame.

The library contains over 2,000 volumes collected by the Jack family, ranging from the Odes of Keats to a history of the French Monarchy, from the entertaining novel to the depth of the law. A 2,000 volume library in a private house was considered large and demonstrates that Nellie Hollister Jack was an avid reader, as well as a collector of writings.

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The Jack Residence is significant under Criterion B in the area of commerce and development for the association with Robert Jack who lived in the house from 1882 until his death in 1916. Jack was a central figure in the San Luis Obispo area during the years 1870s-1894 promoting the expansion of the railroad through the central coast. As a banker and land speculator, Jack was also a major benefactor of the growth and development spurred by the railroad.

The house was built by Robert Edgar Jack, a prominent banker and land developer and wool grower in Central California. The last two decades of the 19th century were a time of economic expansion caused by the coming of the railroad. Jack was a major force in this economic development as he was a central figure in organizing San Luis Obispo to promote the expansion of the railroad through the central coast. His original business was wool growing but in the early 1870s he moved into the City of San Luis Obispo and started banking. This led to other business ventures such as hotels and public transport. R.E. Jack died in 1916.

The house was continuously occupied by the family until 1974 when Howard, the youngest son, died and the house was deeded to the city.

Robert Edgar Jack was born near the Kennebec River in Bowdoinham, Maine on September 4, 1841. He attended Maine Wesleyan Seminary at Kents Hill, Kennebec County and graduated in 1860. At the age of 21, he went to New York City and took a job in shipping in the Commission House of William J. Dewey & Company.

During the Civil War, Jack was a member of the New York militia at the time of Lee's raid on the Suquehanna. He was a volunteer in the 56th New York Infantry and took part in the Battle of Gettysburg.

After the Civil War Jack came to California and joined with W.W. Hollister in sheep raising on the Cholame Rancho, which they purchased together. Originally 28,000 acres, the ranch was later increased to 58,000 acres. When Hollister died, Jack purchased the entire ranch and operated it as a sheep and cattle range. These operations ranged along the central coast from the Tehachapi's north to Monterey County, and made Jack the largest wool grower in central California.

R.E. Jack married Nellie Lucy Hollister on November 20, 1870 in San Francisco. She was the daughter of Joseph Hubbard and Ellen

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Hollister, holders of several large ranchos, including El Chorro and San Lusito. The Jacks had five children: Ella, Gertrude, Ethel, Robert Edgar, Jr., and Howard Vail. Mrs. Jack and her sisters, Ida and Mamie, had been sent to school in the east. She collected the fine library still in the house. She was fluent in both French and Spanish, and interested in anything to do with learning. She like to garden and was especially interested in trees. She gave trees to others in the county to plant around their houses. Both she and her husband were active in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and many of the church garden parties were held in the Jack garden.

The drought of the 1860s had encouraged diversification, but the transportation of agricultural products out of the county was difficult without a railroad. In 1873, the Southern Pacific line extended south to Soledad and everyone expected it to go through the county in a few years. R.E. Jack anticipated the changes the railroad would bring by establishing himself as a banker and real estate speculator in the 1870s. He was the cashier of the First National Bank, which was later the Bank of San Luis Obispo. He was a principal in the banks of Paso Robles, Santa Maris and Lompoc. According to Myron Angel, he was the second largest land holder in the county, with 30,000 acres in 1883. the largest land holder in the county was P.W. Murphy of Santa Margarita with 60,000 acres.

By 1886 the rails had reached Templeton and local business elite in San Luis Obispo were concerned that it continue through their town. To accomplish this, the Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) was established with E.W. Steele as president and R.E. Jack as treasurer. He was already the treasurer of the West Coast Land Company, which was selling land adjacent to the railroad in Templeton. Jack was also the secretary and co-treasurer of the California Southern Hotel Company which built the Ramona Hotel in anticipation of the coming of the railroad. To get hotel guests from the narrow gauge Pacific Railroad, Jack bought the City's horse drawn rail trolley.

In 1887, the Southern Pacific asked R.E. Jack, Isaac Goldtree, and J.P. Andrews to procure the right of way for the railroad throughout the city. Prominent citizens were enlisted for this job, since the railroad expected the landowners along the proposed route to give up their land for the "good of all" citizens in the community.

This pattern of land sales and hotel building continued south to Los Olivos and Lompoc. However, before the land boom was over, Jack was a millionaire. The San Francisco Examiner listed him as the richest taxpayer in the count in 1890. Jack's involvement in promoting the

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railroad ended in 1894 with the completion of the coastal line. However, Jack continued his involvement in banking and commerce, and development activities as the rail line was extended south. As an example, in 1895 when the railroad reached Oceano, Jack built a spur line to the beach and arranged for the construction of a Victorian style pavilion to accommodate conferences, dances, and recreational activities.

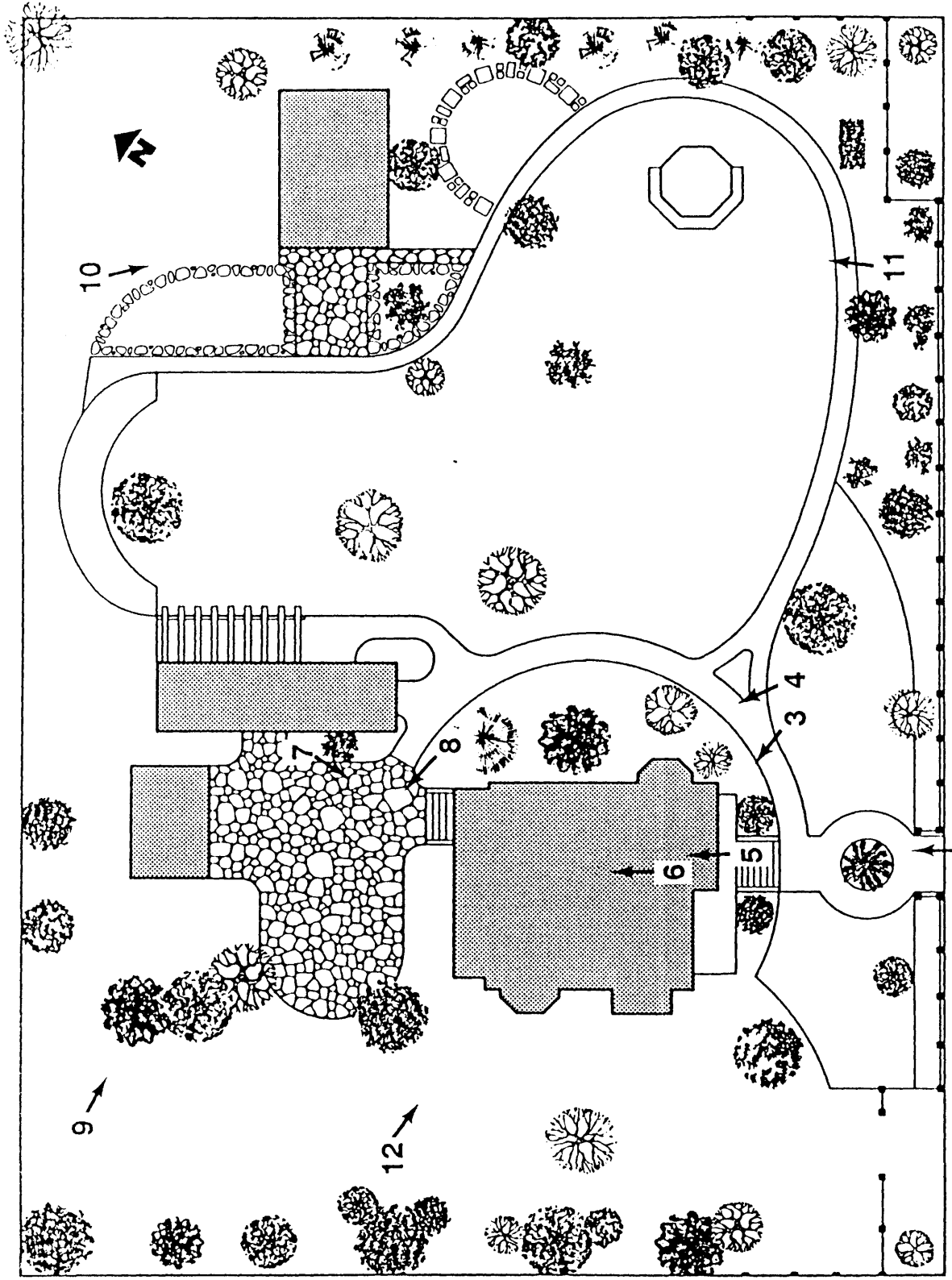
Jack was the Chairman of the City Trustees (1890-1893), the governing body of San Luis Obispo before the turn of the century. He represented the city in conferences with Charles Crocker and C.P. Huntington of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, during the years when the city sought a coastal line. Fraternally, Jack was a Knight Templar Mason. He was a leader in the Republican party and served on both county and state central committees. He was a delegate to the national Republican Convention in Minneapolis, which nominated Benjamin Harrison for President.

It is very likely the Jack House is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good example of Italianate design retaining a high level of integrity. This is not, however, supported in the nomination.

523, 11th St.
San Luis Obispo, CA
Landscape Design Co.

JACK HOUSE GARDENS

CAMERA LOCATIONS AND VIEWING DIRECTIONS



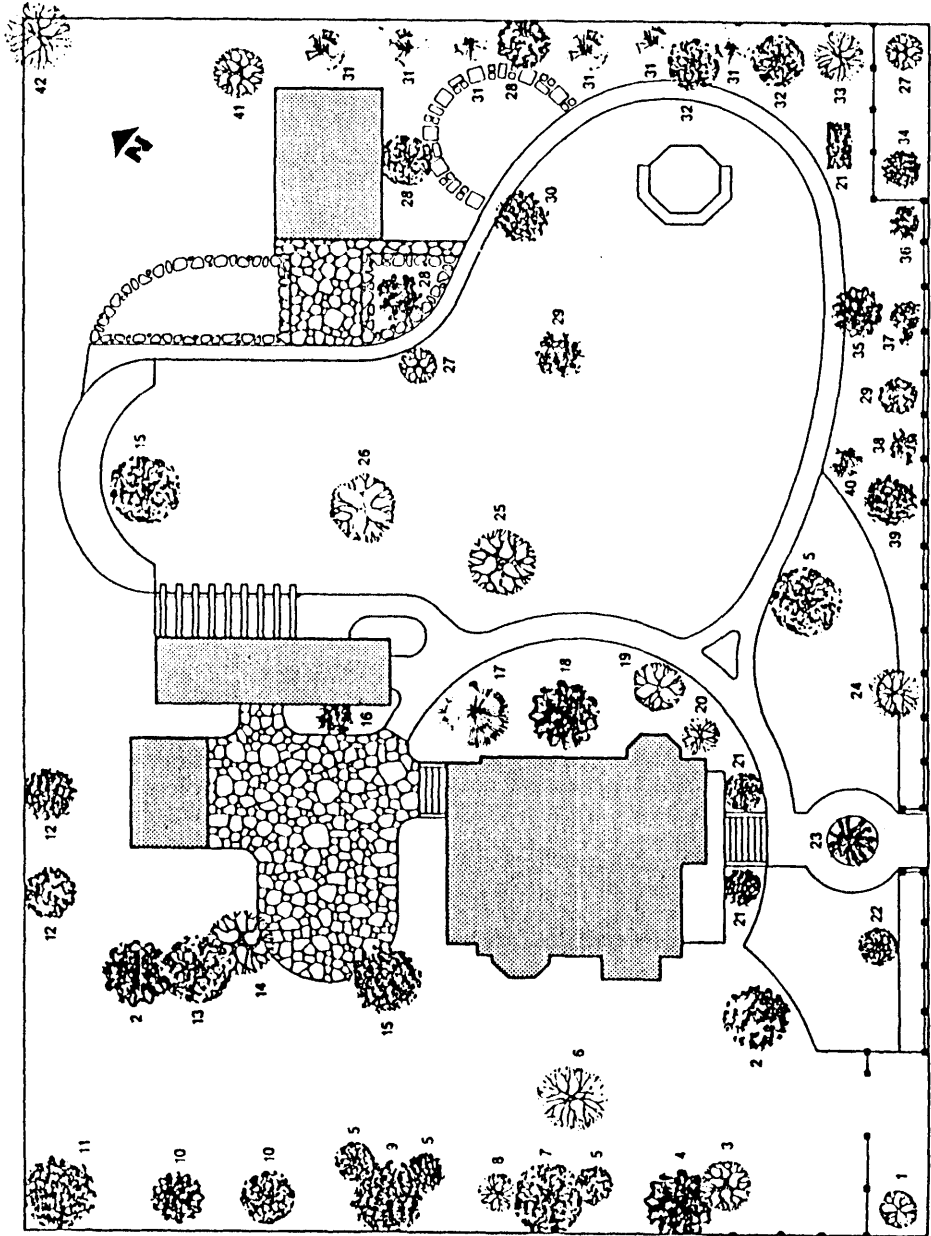
SCALE: 1" = 27'

MARSH STREET



JACK HOUSE GARDENS LEGEND

SCALE: 1" = 27'
 536 Marsh Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA
 San Luis Obispo County



MARSH STREET

PLANT LIST

Common Name	Botanical Name
1. Horsechestnut	<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>
2. Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>
3. European Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>
4. California White Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
5. Tobira	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>
6. American Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
7. White Dove Tree	<i>Bauhinia forficata</i>
8. Fruiting Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>
9. Evergreen Ash	<i>Fraxinus ublei</i>
10. Olive	<i>Olea europea</i>
11. Tipu Tree	<i>Tipuana tipu</i>
12. Victorian Box	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
13. California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
14. Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>
15. Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>
16. Evergreen Pear	<i>Pyrus kautakamii</i>
17. Port Orford Cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis laursoniana</i>
18. Pummelo (Shaddock)	<i>Citrus maxima</i>
19. Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus caerulea</i>
20. Black Magnolia	<i>Magnolia nigra</i>
21. Japanese Boxwood	<i>Buxus microphylla japonica</i>
22. Snowball Viburnum	<i>Viburnum opulus 'Sterile'</i>
23. California Fan Palm	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>
24. Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>
25. Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>
26. Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia soulangiana</i>
27. Grape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>
28. Pineapple Guava	<i>Fujoo sellowiana</i>
29. Washington Navel Orange	<i>Citrus sinensis 'Washington'</i>
30. English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
31. Coast Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>
32. Silver-leaf Cotoncaster	<i>Coloneaster pannosus</i>
33. Maidenhair tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba 'Fairmont'</i>
34. Variegated Tobira	<i>Pittosporum tobira variegata</i>
35. Grapefruit	<i>Citrus x paradisi 'Marsh'</i>
36. Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>
37. Blue Potato Bush	<i>Solanum rantonnetii</i>
38. Red Cestrum	<i>Cestrum elegans</i>
39. Rangpur Lime	<i>Citrus x limonia</i>
40. Weigela	<i>Wigeta florida</i>
41. Silk Tree	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
42. So. Calif. Black Walnut	<i>Juglans californica</i>

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Guinn, J.M., History of the State of California, (Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo), Chapman Publishing Co., Chicago, 1903.

Nicholson, Loren, Rails Across the Ranchos, Valley Publishers, Fresno, 1980.

Storke, Mrs. Yda Addis, A Memorial and Biographical History of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties, Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1891.

Angel, Myron, History of San Luis Obispo County, Thompson & West, Oakland, 1883.

__X__ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- __ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
__ previously listed in the National Register
__ previously determined eligible by the National Register
__ designated a National Historic Landmark
__ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
__ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- __ State historic preservation office
__ Other state agency
__ Federal agency
X Local government
X University
__ Other -- Specify Repository: (1) San Luis Obispo County Recorder's Office; (2) California Polytechnic State University - Robert E. Kennedy Library

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: 0.84 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: A, B, C, D. Row 1: A 10 712400 3906100 B. Row 2: C D.

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: __X__ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: __X__ See continuation sheet.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Jack House Page 10.1

The following described real property in the City of San Luis Obispo, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California:

Commencing at a point on the southerly line of Higuera Street South 53° 7' West, one hundred and eighty-three feet, six inches (183 - 6/12 feet) from the Southwest corner of Higuera and Nipomo Streets and running thence south 53° 7' West on the south line of Higuera Street two hundred and twenty-five (225) feet, thence south 36° 53' east to the line of Marsh Street; thence Northeasterly along the line of Marsh Street, two hundred and twenty-five (225) feet; thence at right angles northwesterly to Higuera Street and the point of beginning and being all that portion of Block 62 of the City of San Luis Obispo, occupied as a residence of R.E. Jack and wife, and extending from Higuera Street to Marsh Street according to two deeds: One made by J.M. Warden to Nellie Hollister Jack, dated August 9, 1875; and the other made by Thomas Higuera and others on February 11, 1876 to R. Edgar Jack, and both of record in the Recorder's Office of San Luis Obispo County, State of California.

Excepting therefrom that portion thereof conveyed to Manuel F. Lima, et ux, by deed dated September 29, 1922, and recorded October 2, 1922 in Book 157, Page 410 of Deeds.

Also excepting therefrom that portion thereof conveyed by deed dated November 14, 1917 and recorded November 22, 1917, in Book 118, Page 449 of Deeds to Nicholas F. Schlicht.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Jack House Page 10.2

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The original property owned by the Jack family extended between Marsh and Higuera Streets and measured 225 feet by 300 feet. Prior to 1926, portions of the property facing Higuera Street was subdivided and sold. These parcels were shown as vacant on Sanborn Maps published in 1926, but have subsequently been developed with commercial uses. The site of the Jack Residence and accessory buildings contains all elements that contribute to its historical value. There is no related elements of historical value visible on parcels facing Higuera Street that were previously owned by the Jack family.