

**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

1. Name

historic Longfellow/Hastings House

and/or common Octagon House

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1981

2. Location

street & number 85 South Allen Avenue

not for publication

city, town Pasadena

vicinity of

congressional district

22nd

state California

code 06

county

Los Angeles

code 037

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Walter K. Hastings

street & number 85 South Allen Avenue

city, town Pasadena

vicinity of

state California 91106

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Assessor, County of Los Angeles

street & number 300 East Walnut St.

city, town Pasadena

state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles
title and Southern California has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 D. Gebhard and R. Winter federal state county local

depository for survey records general distribution in libraries

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1917</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Longfellow/Hastings octagon house is a two-story tongue-and-groove sided structure with a belvedere, basement, and brick foundation. The house, 38 feet in diameter with each wall 16 feet in length, contains four square rooms on each floor. As originally constructed at 1515 San Pasqual Street in 1893, the house possessed a continuous verandah, and a large combination barn/carriage shed was located behind the house. Neither was moved when the house was relocated about one mile away in 1917 to 85 South Allen Avenue. After the move two new porches were constructed, however no other exterior alterations have since been made. The house is presently situated on two lots in a neighborhood developed primarily in the 1920's with single family houses. Today the area is punctuated with apartment buildings several stories in height. The lots contain no surfaced driveways or walkways, and despite having only a 20 foot setback, dense trees and shrubbery almost totally obscure the house from view. On the north side of the property behind the house is a one-story, gabled, vertical wood plank garage with swinging doors. The design indicates a construction date contemporary to the 1917 relocation. The garage is also enclosed by foliage.

The symmetrical fenestration pattern comprises tall one over one sash windows, one per floor on the north, east, south, and west elevations, two per floor on the adjoining four faces. The window surrounds are plain wide boards applied over the siding. Some original window screens and hinges remain, forming a flush surface with the surrounds when in place.

The ornamentation consists of a classical frieze and dentilated cornice below the projecting roofline. The deterioration of the shake roof has resulted in water damage under the eaves.

The octagonal belvedere crowning the truncated pyramidal roof contains a large window on each face except the southeast, where the remaining one of two original central, brick, corbelled chimneys projects through the roof. The belvedere mirrors the main structure design of frieze, dentilated cornice, and projecting roof. A finial tops the pyramidal belvedere roof.

The house has several porches and entrances. The main entrance porch (east elevation), one-story in height with a shallow pitch pyramidal roof, was constructed after the relocation. Plain square posts with bases and capitals of larger wooden blocks, reminiscent of classical design, replaced the original turned supports. They carry, however, the same frieze and dentilated cornice elements of the main structure, perhaps reused from the original verandah. Concerning the entrance, the frames of the front double doors and transom repeat the window surround design. A large window

(see continuation sheet)

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

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

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occupies the upper section of each door, while the lower contains three rectangular panels, one horizontally aligned above two vertically, all emphasized by bold moldings. A side entrance (north elevation) consists of a five panel door (top two panels now glass), transom, screen door, and small shed roof. The entrance porch along the southwest and south elevations was also added after the relocation. It is enclosed, screened on the upper section, with matchboard siding below.

No detailed description of the interior is available, since the owner has refused to allow viewing.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893, c.1917 **Builder/Architect** Gilbert Longfellow

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Longfellow/Hastings house merits recognition as a rare Western example of an architectural style in which only a limited number of structures remain extant through the entire United States.

Gilbert Longfellow, a native of Maine and cousin of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was engaged in farming and the lumber business in Roque Bluffs, Maine, near Machias. It is known that he owned an 1856 edition of A Home for All, or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building written by Orson Squire Fowler, the primary advocate of that style. Shortly thereafter, Longfellow had an octagon house constructed on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. His association with the West began in the early 1890's, when Longfellow accompanied one of his sons who was in ill health to Southern California. Believing the climate would be better for his son's recuperation, he moved the entire family to Pasadena in 1893. He then superintended construction of a second octagon house for his family, repeating the overall design of the earlier structure, although substituting a belvedere for the balustraded roof deck. The design employed by Longfellow--two stories with four large square rooms on each floor, a front and rear entrance, central stairway and chimneys--was one Fowler preferred. It retained, the author noted, "all the peculiarities and advantages of our octagon style, namely compactness and contiguity of rooms, central stairway, closets, and bedrooms and more sunshine in every room." Longfellow lived in the house until his death in 1912, and ownership has remained continuously with descendants, the present owner being his grandson Walter K. Hastings.

The Longfellow/Hastings house received two local honors in 1973, named a city landmark by the Cultural Heritage Commission of the City of Pasadena and listed as a historical landmark in the Greater Los Angeles area by the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Los Angeles. In both instances the boards echoed the observation of noted architectural historians David Gebhard and Robert Winter that the Longfellow/Hastings octagon house is worthy of preservation, since it represents "one of the few tributes to Orson Squire Fowler's ideas remaining in California."¹

¹D. Gebhard and R. Winter, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, 1977, pp. 348-349.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Orson Squire Fowler. A Home for All, or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building. 1856 edition.

Pasadena Daily News. 27 March 1912. Obituary: Gilbert Longfellow

Pasadena Star News. 13 Dec. 1953. "Octagonal House Object of Interest in Pas."

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.4

Quadrangle name Mount Wilson, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 11 397440 3778540
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the northeast corner of the property known as 85 S. Allen Ave., proceed 172½ feet west, then 100 feet south, then 172½ feet east, then 100 feet north to point of origin. Assessor's book 5736, page 25, parcels 14 and 15.

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 Richard J. Sicha Research Assistant

organization Pasadena Heritage date 25 June 1981

street & number 54 West Colorado Blvd. telephone 213/793-0617

city or town Pasadena state California 91105

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 R. M. Ellen

title date 12-22-81

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Bradshaw date 3-2-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD

LONGFELLOW/
HASTINGS
OCTAGON
HOUSE

SOUTH ALLEN AVENUE



1 inch = 80 feet

85

KEYSTONE

STREET

