

PH0065684

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: San Diego
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: DEC 16 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The George W. Marston House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3525 7th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
San Diego

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
40

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

COUNTY:
San Diego

CODE:
073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

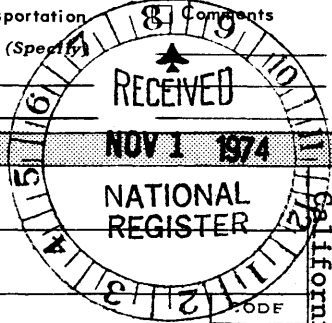
OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Mary G. Marston

STREET AND NUMBER:
3525 7th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
San Diego

STATE:
California

CODE:
06



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
220 W. Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
San Diego

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey CAL-1960

DATE OF SURVEY: **August, 1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington, D. C.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D. C.

STATE:

CODE:
11

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marston House sits on a gently sloping portion of its extensive site overlooking Balboa Park. From the east side (rear) of the building, the ground slopes down more sharply to State Highway 163, located at the bottom of the canyon. To the south of the house is a large, well maintained lawn; to the north there is a formal garden and service buildings. The landscaping is original and dates from the completion of the house.

Construction is of brick veneer to the height of the second floor level, with a frame wall system and plaster surface above that line. Portions of the second floor project beyond the first floor wall. The gable roof forms with their sweeping eaves are covered with shakes (originally with redwood shingles). A major ridge runs east to west, with a second one near the east end of the house tying into its north slope. There are two flat dormers on each side of the main roof.

The house is "L" shaped in plan with the long leg of the L facing south, and the foot facing east. Entrance is at the top of the L, on the west, through a porte-cochere. Along the south flank of the building is a broad brick-tiled terrace terminated at the eastern end by a covered and partially enclosed pergola. The service entrance and service yard is situated at the toe of the L, facing north. The structure is today covered extensively with vines.

The interiors of the house are essentially unaltered. The entry hall leads to the central stair hall. The stairway is an important element within the central hall. Light floods the stairway from the large north windows at the upper level. The stairs are a generous 6' - 0" wide; details are simple, with an unmolded railing and square ballusters. In the northwest corner of the house is the library; across the hall is the music room (SW corner). At the center of the south side is the living room; the dining room is located in the SE corner. These rooms are unchanged with exception of the black painted woodwork in the dining room and the windows along the south wall. Along the foot of the L are situated the service rooms (butler's pantry, kitchen, pantry, and service porch) and the service stairs to the second and third levels.

The second floor contains a spacious hallway and six roomy bedrooms. Every pair of rooms has a complete bathroom and walk-in closets. The third floor is accessible only by the service stairway. It contains one very large attic room with two small chambers opening off it on the west and one large chamber on the east.

The Marston House exists today practically unaltered from the time of its construction. Only minor changes have been made and they are compatible with the original work. Those changes, executed by William Templeton Johnson, employ details similar to those of Irving Gill. With the exception of the noted changes, limited to window enlargements on the south side, the house is remarkably similar to its appearance at time of its original completion.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1904**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art		<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George W. Marston house was designed by Irving John Gill, of the Hebbard and Gill architectural partnership of San Diego, in 1904.

The house was built during the formative years of Gill's architectural practice. During that period Gill was experimenting with architectural details, methods of construction and composition which would find their ultimate expression a decade later. In this commission, Gill was apparently somewhat restricted in his design freedom by a strong willed client with specific directions. He did, however, present some of his own ideas, especially with regard to the simplicity of detailing and qualities of space. On the third floor he was allowed a greater design freedom and he presented for the first time in his work the slab doors and flat board moldings, flush with the wall surface, which were to be so much a part of his later works. Gill insisted on the elevation of the floors of the bathrooms and closets for sanitation purposes. The interior stairway is especially noteworthy. Light is introduced into the center of the house, emphasizing that point as the center of circulation within. The spacious hall contains a broad, open stairway.

The house is a prelude to much of Gill's later work with its emphasis on simplicity of detail, absence of ornament and convenience and comfort. Natural wood is used exclusively to give the house a dark rich quality in a contemporary interpretation of the heavily wooden Victorian interiors.

This building begins to mark the transition of Gill's work. In it there is still a retention of the eastern brick, gabled house form. In his later works he pursues a simplicity of design through the creation of unadorned cubical masses. Gill's emphasis on simplicity in the Marston House was in the form of details rather than in the building mass.

For three-quarters of a century George W. Marston was identified with the history of modern San Diego. He arrived from Wisconsin in 1870, a few years after Alonzo E. Horton laid out "New Town". Beginning his San Diego career as a clerk in the Horton House, he opened a successful dry goods store known as "Marston's" eighteen years later.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Los Angeles County Museum, "Irving Gill: 1870-1936," 1958
 McCoy, Esther, "Five California Architects," 1960
 Ferris, Helen M., "Irving John Gill: San Diego Architect,"
 THE JOURNAL OF SAN DIEGO HISTORY, fall, 1971.
 Heilbron, "History of San Diego County," 1936.
 Christman, Florence, "The Romance of Balboa Park," 1969.
 Marston, George W., "My Personal Business History," Reprint 1938,
 1956 articles.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32 ° 44 ' 29 "	117 ° 09 ' 23 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 11/485280
 3622435
 0

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7.55 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John D. Henderson, A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION: **Member - Historical Site Board** DATE: **10 May 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
City of San Diego, City Administration Building

CITY OR TOWN: **San Diego** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**
 Date: **SEP 30 1974**

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/16/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: Dec 12, 1974

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(Continued)

Marston's contributions to the City of San Diego are countless. In 1872, he, along with Charles Hamilton, opened a free reading room, the forerunner of the San Diego Public Library. In 1873, he organized the Benevolent Society of San Diego, a prototype of our modern social agencies. In 1882, a few young men met in his store and started the local YMCA (Marston continued to serve the YMCA Board until his death and was President of the Board for 24 years). He was active in the Presbyterian Church and in 1886, he helped to organize the Congregational Church.

George Marston served the Chamber of Commerce from 1878, as Secretary, Vice-President, and President. In 1902, he aided in organizing the San Diego and Eastern Railroad Company with the object of securing for the city a direct connection to the East. He also took a leading part in organizing the Park Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, forerunner of the City's Park and Recreation Board. In addition, he underwrote the expense for the layout of Balboa Park, a 1400 acre park in the heart of the City. He also brought the celebrated planner, John Nolan, to San Diego and commissioned him to prepare what is known as the Nolan Plan for the development of the City (1908).

The crowning expression of his public spirit took place in 1929 on the 160th birthday of San Diego and the anniversary of Father Serra's simple service on the hillside. Marston presented to the City the beautiful Presidio Park (John Nolan, Landscape Architect) and the Junipero Serra Museum (William Templeton Johnson, Architect) home of the San Diego Historical Society.

In 1878 Mr. Marston married Miss Anna Lee Gunn, daughter of Dr. Lewis C. Gunn, who came to California in 1849. Marston's early business partner, Charles S. Hamilton, married Elizabeth Gunn (sister of Anna Lee) in 1877. George Marston died on May 31, 1946, after a lifetime of service and dedication to the City of San Diego.

