

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 24 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Major Myles Moylan House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 2214-2224 Second Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town San Diego N/A vicinity of Congressional District 45

state California code 06 county San Diego code 073

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Douglas F. Olins, Barrett J. Foerster, and Susan S. Foerster

street & number 2718 Fifth Avenue

city, town San Diego N/A vicinity of state California 92103

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Recorder of San Diego County

street & number 1600 Pacific Highway

city, town San Diego state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historical Site No. 153 designated by  
title City of San Diego on

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 7, 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of San Diego

city, town San Diego state California

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## 7. Description

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

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

The Major Myles Moylan House is an early local example of Colonial Revival residential architecture. The house is 28 feet and 4 inches wide, and 45 feet and 6 inches in length. The foundation is made of concrete scored to look like stone. There is horizontal siding on the exterior walls of the first floor, and square-cut shingles on the exterior walls of the second floor. The roof was originally made of wood shingles. The interior walls are plaster. The house is located on its original 50 foot by 100 foot lot and now stands between two massive buildings of a much later vintage. It is an important remnant of the original character of the neighborhood. The house was altered by additions to its south and west sides. The addition on the south side has been removed in the recent renovation, leaving the front of the house looking as it did when it was first constructed. The west side addition is approximately 7 feet in width by 24 feet, 4 inches in length. It is located at the rear of the house and is not visually noticeable. These alterations were probably made 20 to 30 years after the construction of the house.

The house is a two-story plus attic rectangular structure with two angled bays at the east and south facades. The front (east) elevation gives us a clue to the asymmetrical plan within.

The exterior elements consist of a concrete foundation that has been formed and scored to look like stone. The first story is sheathed in 4-inch horizontal siding. No corner boards are present. The windows appear to have been one-over-one double-hung, although many have been replaced over the years.

The front porch has a hip roof and is dominated by a classical portico with heavy cornice returns above the entryway. This pediment design is attributed to Gill and occurs in early structures that he designed. The porch columns repeat the classical design and are grouped in threes at the projecting gable to accentuate and add importance to the entry. Here we see what may be one of the first uses of the arch in Gill's work - a small arch that links the column capitals to each other. The column bases are round, the shaft is round and slightly tapered, and the Scamozzi capitals are composed of large spiral-like scrolls or volutes with egg and dart enrichment. The railing at the porch combines panels and turned spindles. The decorative panel in the pediment is an approximation of the original, based upon the best remaining evidence.

The second story uses straight-cut shingles as the exterior finish, flaring out at the intersection between the first and second floors to form a strong horizontal element that wraps the building. Again, one-over-one windows, both singularly and in pairs, are used for light and ventilation. An exterior concrete stairway with wrought-iron railings leading to the second story on the northerly side was added about 30 years ago.

The hip roof caps the house and terminates at the eaves with a concealed gutter system. A gable at the easternmost bay window repeats the broken pediment design. Research in the attic shows that a half-round window (perhaps, a fan-light) occurred in the gable; a similar feature was reinstalled during the renovation. Although there are no known early photographs of the house shortly after its construction, the half-round window in the attic was visible and obvious from the exterior by virtue of the curved shape of the window frame.

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Three hip roofed dormers admit light and ventilation to the attic. The roof of the dormers repeat the bell-cast element at the first and second floor line. Here original six-paned casement wood windows are evident at the dormers.

Interior features that are significant include the parlor fireplace mantle with surround and hearth of ceramic tile, the unique six-panel doors and the existing baseboard and trim.

The first floor of the interior consists of a foyer (as one enters), a reception room where the fireplace is, and three offices. The second floor consists of five offices. There is a parking lot to the rear of the building with space for six vehicles. The front yard has been landscaped with small ivy, several bird of paradise plants, and a liquid amber tree.

To rehabilitate the house, the following alterations were made: A handicapped access lift was installed next to the front porch, metal sheathing was placed over the wooden gutters around the house so as to cause rain to flow over the side of the roof (the wooden gutters were rotted in numerous locations), the glass around the front porch was removed, one of the existing front doors (which was installed in the mid-20th century) was replaced with a reconstructed door characteristic of the age of the house, and double-paned thermal windows have been installed.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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		

<b>Specific dates</b>	1894	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Builder: Hanson & Engebretson Architect: Falkenhan & Gill
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Major Myles Moylan House is architecturally significant as the design of Falkenhan & Gill. Irving Gill has been recognized as one of Southern California's most influential architects, and Joseph Falkenhan is beginning to obtain a measure of prominence as his work is becoming more known. This is the first known work associated with Gill in San Diego. Gill is best known for his innovative designs where simplicity and harmony were the dictating design elements. In addition, the house is an early local example of Colonial Revival styling. The house has historical significance for its direct association with an individual who was notable in the military history of the American West.

The shingled upper story, early use of Colonial Revival detailing, and Sullivanesque ornamentation on the newell post on the Moylan house all point to Gill's hand in the design of the structure. The Moylan house also provided an early example of various design elements that Gill would use on other projects for the next fifteen years. A smaller porch pediment, clustered porch columns, and Neo-Georgian details were used in the Garrettson (1895) and Frost (1896) residences in San Diego. The treatment of the columns is similar to that used in the design of the State Normal School (1897-1903) and Horton Plaza Electric Fountain (1909) in San Diego. Sullivanesque ornamentation was used in the Granger Music Hall (1896-98) and Pickwick Theater (1905) in San Diego.

The Major Myles Moylan House was designed by the firm of Falkenhan & Gill. According to Bruce Kamerling, a leading expert on Irving J. Gill, this is the earliest building that Gill is credited for. Previously, it was felt that the 1895 George Garrettson House was his first work. Kamerling feels in a firm as small as Falkenhan & Gill, that both architects collaborated in the design and that there are definite design elements of Gill's which appeared a year later in the Garrettson house. Irving J. Gill, probably San Diego's most noteworthy architect, arrived in San Diego in 1893, coming from Chicago where he had studied under Louis Sullivan. From Sullivan, Gill was influenced to strive for sensible originality rather than repetitive revivalism, and this undoubtedly led to his later designs where simplicity and harmony were the dictating design elements. Many examples of his style still stand in San Diego.

The Moylan house is the earliest residential structure by Gill still standing. As such, it is a significant link between Gill's training in Syracuse and Chicago and his later stripped-down cubistic work in Southern California. We know that Falkenhan preferred Queen Anne and other more flamboyant Victorian architectural styles. Gill, however, had just arrived in San Diego from Chicago in 1893 with fresh ideas. In Chicago, he had worked with Joseph Silsbee, who was responsible for introducing the shingle style into the Midwest, and Louis Sullivan, who had been advocating an "American Style" of architecture. McKim, Mead, and White had reintroduced Georgian architecture about 1890, and Gill must have been familiar with their Lathrop house, constructed in Chicago in 1892. Although notable as an early local example of Colonial Revival, the Moylan house has a number of individual touches which point to Gill's hand in the design.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.11

Quadrangle name Point Loma

Quadrangle scale 1:24000  
(7.5 minute series)

### UTM References

A 11 484800 3621020  
Zone Easting Northing

B                 
Zone Easting Northing

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The building occupies its historic lot, 50 feet by 100 feet, bounded on the East side by Second Avenue. The legal description is Lot H, Block 256 of Horton's Addition, in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California, according to Map thereof made by L. L. Lochling on file in the Office of the

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** County Recorder.

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barrett J. Foerster/owner

organization N/A date October 7, 1983

street & number 1524 Vista Vereda telephone (619) 238-1601

city or town El Cajon state California 92021

# 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 *K. M. Allen*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/20/83

### For NPS use only

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

*for Melissa Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/22/84

Attest:  
Chief of Registration

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Joseph Falkenhan was born in 1855 in Ohio and probably came to San Diego because of the building boom of the late 1880's. It is this time that his name first appears. He first lived in Coronado and is credited with many houses there. For a period, in 1892, he went to Los Angeles but returned shortly afterwards. The Falkenhan and Gill partnership appears to have lasted only a year or two.

Major Myles Moylan

The historical significance of the house lies in the prominence of its first owner, Major Myles Moylan. He served in the Seventh Cavalry at the campaign at the Little Big Horn of 1876 in which Lt. Col. George Custer was killed. He was later at the 1890 Battle of Wounded Knee in South Dakota and he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Bear Paw Mountain. Moylan was also in the campaign to apprehend Chief Joseph and Nez Perce Indians as they tried to reach Canada and freedom in 1877. He was a prototype of the early Indian fighter.

Myles Moylan was born in Galway, Ireland on December 17, 1838. (1) On June 8, 1857 Christopher Leonard, a friend of Moylan, of Boston, Massachusetts was appointed guardian of Myles Moylan by the Probate Court for the County of Suffolk, Massachusetts. His father, Thomas Moylan, was deceased. (2) Myles Moylan was then twenty years old. That very same day of June 8, 1857 he enlisted in the regular Army and was assigned to Troop "C", Second Regiment, of the U. S. Dragoons which in August of 1861 became known as Troop "C", Second U. S. Cavalry. (3) As an enlisted man he fought at Fort Donelson and at Shiloh in 1862. He won a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Fifth U. S. Cavalry in February, 1863. The First Lieutenant of his company was George A. Custer. (4) In orders dated October 20, 1863 he was dismissed from the Army for being in Washington, D.C. without proper authority and for failing to report at Headquarters, Military District as ordered. (5) He thereafter enlisted in the Fourth Massachusetts Cavalry under the name of Charles E. Thomas and soon was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and in January, 1864 was commissioned a First Lieutenant. (6) He was promoted to Captain in December, 1864 and served on the staff of Major General John Gibbon. He participated in the Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns until mustered out in August, 1865.

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In 1866 Moylan enlisted as a Private in the regular Army. In August, 1866 he was assigned to the Seventh Cavalry at Fort Riley. He became a sergeant major of the regiment by order of Lieutenant Colonel Custer. (7) In November, 1866 Moylan received the endorsement of Colonel Smith, Lieutenant Colonel Custer, Major Gibbs and Captains Sheridan, West and Keogh for his application for a commission. Although he was issued an appointment of First Lieutenant in the Seventh Cavalry, he failed the written examination. Lieutenant Colonel Custer appealed to General Hunter, the President of the examining board, to give Moylan a second chance. Custer wrote,

"He is thoroughly conversant with the duties of a soldier and a subaltern, and in case his examination had been satisfactory he would have been the unanimous choice of the officers of this regiment as Adjutant. Being a young man of extreme modesty and diffidence I cannot but feel sure that his failure to pass a satisfactory examination is attributable to this cause rather than incompetence." (8)

Moylan passed the second examination that he was given. However, Moylan did not obtain immediate acceptance of his peers. According to Elizabeth Custer (wife of George Custer) in her book "Tenting on the Plains", the junior officers ostracized Moylan because he had been an enlisted man. He was not invited to join bachelor officers' mess. Custer then took Moylan into his personal family until the erring officers relented.(10)

On October 22, 1872 Myles Moylan married Charlotte Calhoun in Jefferson County, Indiana. (11) Charlotte Calhoun was the sister of Lieutenant James Calhoun who also served with Custer in the Seventh Cavalry. James Calhoun was married to Custer's half-sister, Margaret. Consequently, Moylan's ties to the Custer household were substantially enhanced.

Moylan was part of the "Custer Clan" which included Lieutenant James Calhoun, Lieutenant William Cook, Lieutenant Frank Gibson, Lieutenant Donald McIntosh, and Lieutenant Benny Hodgson. (12) In 1872 Moylan was promoted to the rank of Captain. At the Little Big Horn he commanded "A" Troop which was under the command of Major Reno. When the Sioux attacked the left flank of Reno's troops, Moylan ordered Troop A to mount and charge. (13) When Reno ordered his troops to withdraw, Moylan took charge of the wounded. (14) One week after the Battle of Little Big Horn Moylan sent a letter to Lieutenant Fred Calhoun, Second Infantry, who was the brother of James Calhoun. In that letter, Moylan described in substantial detail what he discovered of the remains of Custer's troops that were annihilated. (15) At the Battle of Bear Paw Mountain with the Nez Perce Indians in 1877 he received a severe wound. (16) His pension records

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reveal that he sustained a gunshot wound to his right thigh on September 30, 1877. On that day the troops, under the command of Colonel Nelson A. Myles came upon the Nez Perce village in the Valley of the Snake Creek. The Seventh Cavalry and Fifth Infantry charged the village. It was in that charge that Captain Moylan was wounded. The very next day on October 1, 1877 Chief Joseph came into Colonel Myles camp under a flag of truce. (17) Moylan, in 1890, was awarded a Medal of Honor and brevet of Major for his distinguished gallantry at the Battle of Bear Paw Mountain. He was later at the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890. He was promoted to Major of the Tenth Cavalry in 1892 and retired a year later to San Diego, California where he died on December 11, 1909 of cancer.(18)

Moylan has been described as a man of quiet and capable dependability. (19) The historian, Robert Utley states that Moylan played a "long and important part in the affairs of the Seventh Cavalry". (20) Moylan's testimony is referenced in numerous books on the Little Big Horn incident.

- (1) Records of the Commissioner of Pensions of the War Department, the Adjutant General's Office, dated February 14, 1910 (National Archives) and letter from Myles Moylan to Brigadier General L. Thomas, dated March 28, 1863.
- (2) Appointment of Guardianship of Myles Moylan by the Court of Probate for the County of Suffolk, Massachusetts dated June 8, 1857 (No. 41104).
- (3) Records of the Commissioner of Pensions, War Department, the Adjutant General's Office, dated February 14, 1910 (National Archives).
- (4) Life in Custer's Cavalry - diaries of Albert Barnitz, edited by Robert Utley, Appendix A, page 269.(1977)
- (5) Records of Commissioner of Pensions, Supra.
- (6) Records of Commissioner of Pensions, Supra, and Robert Utley, Supra, at Page 269.
- (7) Utley, Supra, at page 269.
- (8) Utley, Supra, at page 269.
- (9) Utley, Supra, at page 269.
- (10) Utley, Supra, at page 269.



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- (11) Marriage License issued by James J. Searing, Clerk, by J. C. Roberts, D.C. dated October 22, 1872, State of Indiana, Jefferson County (National Archives).
- (12) Lawrence A. Frost, General's Custers Libbie (1976) at pages 207-209.
- (13) Custer in '76, Walter Camp's Notes (1976) at page 107.
- (14) Custer in '76, Walter Camp's Notes (1976) at page 70.
- (15) Frost, Supra, at page 245.
- (16) Records of Commissioner of Pensions, Supra, dated February 14, 1910; and Notes on photographic mounting card, number 82945 bearing photograph of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians taken from "Record of Engagements with Hostile Indians Within the Military Division of the Missouri from 1868 to 1822," a government publication (National Archives).
- (17) Notes set forth on photographic mounting card of Chief Joseph, number 82945, Supra, (National Archives).
- (18) Utley, Supra, page 270.
- (19) Utley, Supra, at page 269.
- (20) Utley, Supra, page 268.

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1. Kamerling, Bruce  
Irving Gill: The Artist as Architect  
The San Diego Historical Society  
P.O. Box 81825, San Deigo, CA  
1979
2. McGrew, Charles Alan  
City of San Diego and San Diego County  
The American Historical Society  
Chicago & New York  
1922
3. San Diego Union Newspaper Index and papers  
9-3-94:1 "The Building Record" and "Real Estate Sales"  
10-21-94:5:1 "Their Contract Completed"  
12-12-09:4:2-3 "Noted War Veteran Answers Call"  
12-2-48:B10:2 Obit Minne E. Chapin  
1-22-54:B12:6 Obit Mattie Engler
4. Records of the Commissioner of Pensions of the War Department, the Adjutant General's office, dated February 14, 1910 (National Archives of the United States).
5. Utley, Robert  
Life in Custer's Cavalry - diaries of Albert Barnitz  
1977
6. Frost, Lawrence A.  
General Custer's Libbie  
1976
7. Camp, Walter  
Custer in '76  
(1976)



Sketch map for  
 Major Myles Moylan House  
 (Addresses indicate locations of Victorian houses)

Scale  
 50' 100'

2508  
 First Ave.

2408  
 First Ave.  
 LONG-  
 WATERMAN  
 MANSION (1887)

110  
 Juniper  
 Miller,  
 Boyko,  
 Bell  
 Law  
 Offices

136  
 Juniper  
 Judge  
 Torrance's  
 House  
 (1887)

2214  
 Second  
 Ave.  
 Myles  
 Moylan  
 House  
 (1894)

2169  
 First Ave  
 Ethel  
 Siegelman  
 A.I.S.D.

Major Myles Moylan House  
 2214-2224 Second Avenue  
 San Diego, San Diego County  
 California

FRONT

STREET

FIRST

AVENUE

Second

Avenue

Third

Avenue

IVY

JUNIPER

KALMIA

LAUREL

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

HAWTHORN

STREET