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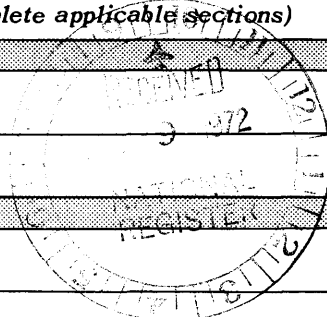
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Alameda
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 19 1972	



1. NAME

COMMON: **Dunsmuir House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Peralta Oaks Court**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oakland**

STATE: **California 94605** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Alameda** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Present use: tours, open houses, special meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	In a proposed public park.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **City of Oakland**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oakland** STATE: **California 94612** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Engineering Department, City of Oakland - City Clerk, City of Oakland**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oakland** STATE: **California 94612** CODE: **06**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Not applicable**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	California
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

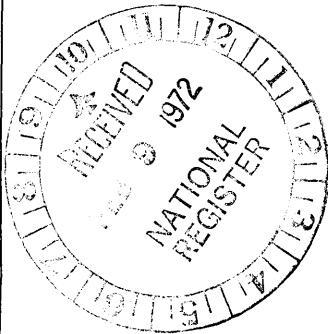
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dunsmuir House was built by Alexander Dunsmuir in 1899. When the property was purchased by the City of Oakland in 1962, the Dunsmuir House had experienced over the years relatively few alterations. The principal alteration was the addition of a wooden fire escape at the back of the building. The early plumbing fixtures, lighting fixtures, and other fixtures of the house remain substantially the same as when built.

Since 1962, the City of Oakland has made minor alterations to provide for some heating on the first floor. It has also made some improvements in the electrical work on the first floor. Basically, today, the house is changed little from the time it was built by Alexander Dunsmuir.

The gardens and grounds on which the house stands were designed by Mr. John McLaren. Many of the features included in the original design are still there.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

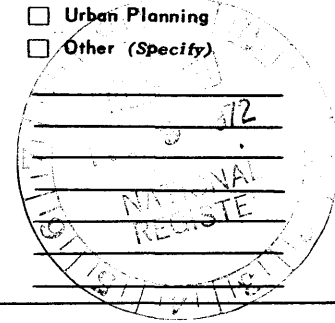
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1899

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"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Back in history, this property was a portion of Don Luis Peralta's original Spanish Land Grant known as RANCHO SAN ANTONIO. His son, Ignacio, deeded it to William Souther and Ellis Haines in 1856. After a varied ownership and history as a fruit, vegetable, and trotting-horse farm, it passed into the hands of Josephine Wallace.

Alexander Dunsmuir became a resident of San Francisco in 1878. He became the lover of Josephine Wallace the following year. In 1899, he built the elegant seventeen-room DUNSMUIR HOUSE for her, and they were married in December. He died a month later and she the following year. In 1906, the property was purchased by I. W. Hellman, Jr., San Francisco banker and financier. Three months later the earthquake and fire induced the Hellman family to move to Dunsmuir House. In later years, it was maintained as a summer home.

Action is already under way by the City of Oakland to renovate the property. Crews are cleaning out debris, weeds, and underbrush. Hazardous dead and dying trees have been removed and more will go. Plans are in progress to repair, clean, and paint the outside of the Dunsmuir House. Extensive inside work must wait on financing.

The Dunsmuir House is the central feature of the forty-five acre estate in a hidden valley in the City of Oakland. Its unusual architecture and romantic history has created considerable interest since its presence has been made known to the people in the East Bay. This interest is demonstrated by the fact that 12,000 people attended a special public open house in April of 1971. A series of weekly open houses during August and September, 1971, have recorded 5,506 paid and unpaid visitors.

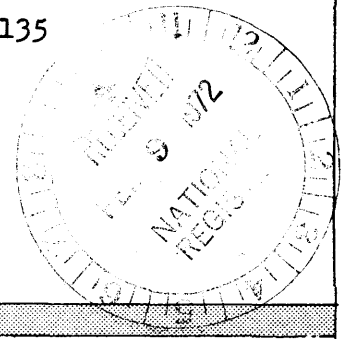
Interest has been heightened by the romantic story surrounding the construction of the house and its builder, Alexander Dunsmuir. The unusual setting in a beautiful valley which has been set aside as a park and horticulture center has enhanced the value of the house as an architectural and historical feature.

The significance of the project: More than twenty-five clubs and organizations have banded together to form the Hellman Park-Dunsmuir House, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

THE ULTIMATE VICTORIANS -- Elinor Richey, pp. 132 and 135
Copyright 1970
 Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 71-139213
 ISBN-0-8310-7081-1



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		37° 45' "	122° 8' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/575226
 4177 45
 (C)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Dunsmuir House - 1/2 acre

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:
Jay M. Ver Lee, Director

ORGANIZATION: Office of Parks & Recreation DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
1520 Lakeside Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Oakland STATE: California 94612 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 Liaison Officer

Date: 1/27/72

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/19/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: May 18, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Alameda	
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(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance

The principal purpose of the corporation is to preserve Dunsmuir House as an educational and historical feature for the enjoyment of the public in the East Bay.

