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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.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1899		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	•
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Back in history, this property was a portion of Don Luis Peralta's original Spanish Land Grant known as RANCHO SAN ANT ONIO. 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.

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES						
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