

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

JUN 6 1980

**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 Bradford House

AND/OR COMMON Bradford Manor or Bradford/Sharp House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
333 G Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
San Rafael

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE California 94901

CODE
06

COUNTY Marin

CODE
041

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<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 Richard & Carol Ponzio

STREET & NUMBER
471 Molino Avenue

California 94941

CITY, TOWN
Mill Valley

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marin County Courthouse/Administration

STREET & NUMBER
Civic Center

CITY, TOWN
San Rafael

STATE
California 94903

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "San Rafael Historical/ Architectural Survey, Final Inventory"
by Charles Hall Page & Associates Inc.

DATE
1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Planning Dept. City Hall

CITY, TOWN
San Rafael

(cont.)

STATE
California 94902

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bradford House of San Rafael, an exceptional example of the Stick/Eastlake Style, is located on G Street, a cul de sac, in a park-like residential area known as the Forbes Addition, about a quarter mile northwest of the downtown. A two and one-half storey mansion, containing roughly 3000 square feet of living space, it is constructed largely of redwood, and platform framed. The foundation walls are brick.

A veranda, some porches, and a series of bays make it asymmetrical on all floors. The streetface measures sixty feet, and the width is fifty six. The roofline has a complex, irregular silhouette, and is covered with asbestos shingles. Built in 1883, for William Bushnell Bradford and his wife Pauline, it originally housed them, their daughter, his and her parents, and a few servants. In 1946 his descendents sold the home, and it has been divided into seven apartments.

Little of the original landscaping survives other than some trees, including three elms, four redwoods and an oak. A concrete horse or carriage block, with a diamond pattern incised in the top, remains near the curb and south driveway, not far from its position in 1893. An "L" shaped veranda, facing G Street, edges around the southern half of the first floor. The north third of the veranda has been glassed-in since the early 1890's.

The front entrance is covered by a gabled, pedimented canopy, supported by elaborately blocked and turned columns, which are topped by squared-off decorated capitals and knee braces. There is a pendant hanging from the crossbrace, and scroll work in the four right angled triangular gaps of the brace. Lightly filligreed bargeboards ornament the entrance canopy, and there are decorative "buttons" at the corners. The front entrance has casement screen doors, paneled three over three, with stick work decoration. Above the door is a rectangular transom, filled by a stained glass panel.

Identical white turned columns, support the front edge of the "L" shaped veranda, and continue along the south edge. These columns are paired at the corners, and each are topped by curved brackets which blend into the stick work rafters.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARCHITECTURE

The Bradford house is an outstanding example of the Stick/Eastlake style, an elaborate tradition of building in wood which flourished in the region particularly in the 1880's. All the elements of the style are here, the high steep roof, complex plan and irregular silhouette. The eaves are supported by large brackets, as is the extensive "L" shaped veranda, whose turned columns and squared, incised capitals are particularly well shaped. The patterning of the facades, a combination of horizontal shiplap, vertical board and battens punctuated by two stick work belt courses adds to the visual delight of the house. The furniture-like turned cross beams under the front gable, and the complex bracketed entrance canopy are especially fine examples of the Eastlake mode. Most of the wood ornamentation is in good condition. A painting and photos of the home in its first decade survive, which show it has survived largely unaltered, and also what were its original colors.

In comparison with houses recognized already as examples of the style, such as the Niehaus House, Berkeley, or the Nightingale House, San Francisco, the Bradford House is their equal in design, decoration and proportions. Charles Hall Page and Associates ranked this house of "Exceptional" architectural significance in their survey for San Rafael in 1976. Just recently the Cultural Affairs Committee of San Rafael has voted it a landmark, in recognition of its exemplary qualities of home design mode, which flourished in San Francisco and in other areas touched by the tastes and wealth which characterized the boom years of the 1880's - the Gilded Age. Clearly the Bradford House, on the basis of its design alone, possesses the distinctive characteristics of type, scale, ornament and craftsmanship that qualifies it for inclusion on the National Register.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Flack, Clifford J. Chronological History of Marin: 1542-1931 2 vols. San Rafael: Marin Civic Center Free Library, n. d.

Hoover, Mildred Brooke et al Historic Spots in California. 3rd. ed. rev. by William M. Abeloe. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1966. (cont.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.369 acres Assessors Parcel No. 11-151-30

QUADRANGLE NAME San Rafael QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A	110	540760	4203100	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property, 333 G Street, San Rafael is situated on a lot shown by the red line on the accompanying plat map "Forbes Reserve Map No. 1, R.M. Bk. 1. pg. 16, drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'

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
Peter Mellini, Ph. D., Professor of History, Sonoma State University

ORGANIZATION
DATE
December 14, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
141 Ward Street
TELEPHONE
415-924-6653

CITY OR TOWN
Larkspur, California 94939
STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 *Kenneth M. Egan*

TITLE DATE May 6 1980

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for *Sally G. Decker*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 6/6/80

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE 6-2-80

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6:Representation in Existing Surveys

Here Today: San Francisco's Architectural Heritage

San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1968 pp. 319-320.

Note: The description is not accurate. The barn survived
but the greenhouse did not. The house is not "Victorian Gothic."

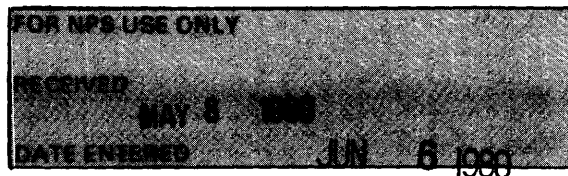
Decker, Mary Case and Elizabeth Mulryan. Recycling History:

New Lives for Old Buildings San Rafael: Marin Heritage, 1976.

Cover and pp. 22-23.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The facades of the house are unified by a deliberate siding pattern. The half/basement, the first, and two-thirds of the second floor are covered by horizontal shiplap which is followed by a belt course of stick work "doughnuts" and moulding, then vertical board and battens which end under the roof, except under the gables. Under the latter, the horizontal shiplap reappears. Moreover, under the left front gable, between the two pointed arch third floor windows, a second decorative band of flat stick work reappears, which is repeated over the sleeping porch on the southwest corner of the second floor.

The roofline is interrupted at intervals by three off-set gables; one on the streetface, a second on the southeast side which has a jerkin head covering a three and one half storey slant bay and a third on the northface. A hipped roof sleeping porch extends out from the southwest corner of the second floor. These features are supported by large brackets, under the eaves all around the house.

Under the streetface gable are crossed/turned diagonal, flat, horizontal braces tied together by a vertical brace from which hangs a stick work pendant. This pendant is replicated in the second belt course on the wall just behind it. Turned buttons decorate the corners of the gable, and the gable braces. Large plain bargeboards underline the roof. Two shed dormers pierce the roof on the street face, north of the entrance, two more face south, over the sleeping porch, and three face west over the back yard. All the dormers are bracketed in a manner similiar to the roof and veranda. There are four chimneys, situated toward, but not on the corners of the house.

Fenestration consists mainly of sash windows, mostly one over one. On the second floor streetface, all but the middle have bracketed window hoods. Under the streetface gable are two pointed arch sash windows.

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rear of this hall. To the south, entered through two sliding doors is the sitting room/parlour. The dining room occupied the northeast corner. On the northwest was a butler's pantry, a large kitchen and a porch. At the back was a smaller dining-room for children and servants and some sort of utility room or rooms. The woodwork on the first floor is largely intact, as are the turned and carved stair balustrades and rails. Much of the pressed fabric dado paneling, with a fleur-de-lis pattern survives as does practically all of the original incised brass hardware on all the floors.

Eight working fireplaces flourish, seven of them decorated by wooden mantelpieces, and colored tiles in either blue or brown patterns or both. These mantelpieces, two bedroom sets, and a large side board were built for the Bradford's at San Quentin in 1884. The furniture remain in the possession of Bradford's granddaughters. The two fireplaces at the front and rear of the sitting room have elaborate tall carved mantelpieces; the remainder are simpler. Two rectangular transome stained glass panels light into the lobby and entrance hall, as do casement doors through the glass panels on their top half. There are two more stained glass panels, one at the rear of the entrance hall, and another to the right of the entrance. A few of the original gas lighting fixtures still exist on the first and second floor. On the second floor all four fireplaces are intact, as is part of the bathroom. A washstand, and some cabinetry survived the many alterations. Two skylights, one between the second and third floor, and the second in the roof, light the stairwell, and halls. The flavor and feel of this "gracious and loving home" - the words of one of the Bradford's granddaughters who grew up there - is still evident, despite the many interior alterations.

Structurally there have been relatively few additions. Small porches have been extended over the driveway under the sleeping porch, and to the rear over the garden. A firescape hangs on the south wall, and an aluminum window has been inserted on the northwest corner of the first storey. These additions have not affected the structural or visual integrity of the Bradford house significantly.

The estate originally included a conservatory/greenhouse whose concrete foundation now supports a duplex next door to the south, 331 G Street, and a barn, located to the rear

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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of the mansion on H Street. The latter is now a two storey colonial revival home, 222 H Street, moved some feet northwest of the original site. It was remodeled for one of the Bradford granddaughters and her husband.

The property still includes an intrusive shed carport, constructed sometime in the 1940s.

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HISTORICAL - Economics/Commerce/Politics

The house was built in 1883 for William Bushnell Bradford (1844-1916) and his wife Pauline, after they had decided to settle permanently in San Rafael. He was a prominent San Francisco merchant associated with the development of the fish packing and canning business on the Pacific Coast. Born in Sheffield, Massachusetts, October 4, 1844, an only child and a direct descendant of the first governor of the Colony of New Plymouth, he joined his father Daniel Flint Bradford, in the Jim Fisk Jr. firm on Board Street in New York City. Both left this notorious firm after suffering reverses in the late 1860's and the panic of the early 1870's and came to the west coast. His father's log of his voyage around the Horn is at the Maritime Museum in San Francisco. The younger Bradford came to California in 1872 or 1873 and started anew in the fish packing business up the Sacramento River. With Sidney Booth, he organized the Black Diamond Canning Company. Subsequently he became one of the founders of the Alaska Packers Association. He was its secretary, its treasurer and retired as a vice president during the first decade of this century. He made several business trips with the fishing fleets to Alaska and was involved in the purchase of Alaska Packers "Star" ships. One of these was Elclutha, now docked at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf as a floating museum. Alaska Packers subsequently became part of the Del Monte business empire.

Bradford and his wife Pauline, had one child Grace, born in San Francisco in 1874. They moved to San Rafael in the late 1870's when he discovered the climate mitigated his asthma. The town was growing rapidly, spurred on by the new rail and ferry connections to San Francisco which made commuting practical. The Bradford's lived in several rented homes until in 1882 they bought a lot from Alexander Forbes on G Street above Sixth, now Mission, The Marin County Journal observed early in 1883: "Mr. W. B. Bradford is breaking ground on his new \$15,000 residence on G Street, between Whittimore and Menzies." By mid April, the plans for what the Journal called their "elegant mansion" were completed and in the hands

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of the contractors. Bradford purchased the lot next door to the north on G Street early in March. In July the Journal reported substantial progress: "Mr. Bradford's house is coming on rapidly. The contract price is \$17,000." In October the Journal noted: "Mr. W. B. Bradford will occupy his elegant new residence within a few days."²

The Bradfords lavished care and money on the grounds which were reputed to be the most attractive in the area. A glass conservatory was built south of the mansion, and a "fine stable" on H Street behind the home.³ The Bradfords, who were only children, lived in their "gracious and loving home," with his and her parents, their only daughter, Grace, two Chinese cooks, and at least one maid. When Grace married a San Francisco dentist, William F. Sharp in 1897, they moved into 343 G Street, and raised their family of four daughters there.⁴ The Bradfords had another home in Bolinas, and often rented 333 G out for the summer.

Along with his role in coastal commerce, Bradford was an influential figure in San Rafael. He was elected a town trustee in 1887, and re-elected in 1890. The board of trustees governed the town until the structure of city government was changed in 1913. He was also president of the exclusive San Rafael Club. In April, 1916 The Marin County Tocsin observed: "The career of a man of big affairs ended last Friday with the death in San Francisco of William Bradford, former chairman of the San Rafael Board of Trustees and president of the San Rafael Club."⁵ Clearly Bradford's role in the commerce of the Pacific Coast and in his hometown indicate he was a man of more than usual stature and influence in his day.

William B. Bradford is dead, his descendants have left San Rafael but their house remains. It has retained its visual integrity. Archeological research potential for the site is low. Its design, ornamentation and craftsmanship make it an exceptional example of the Stick/Eastlake style; a mode made possible by woodworking machinery and tools generated or developed during the industrial revolution, the

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abundance of milled lumber, especially redwood, and the wealth generated by Pacific Coast commerce in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

SIGNIFICANCE--SUMMARY

The Bradford House is significant as an expression of the Eastlake style of residential construction and for its association with William Bushnell Bradford, a leading figure in northern California commerce and politics in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The property is eligible under National Register criteria in that: it is associated with the life of a person significant to local and state history; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; and it possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

FOOTNOTES

¹ William B. Bradford Obituary, Marin County Tocsin, April 29, 1916, p. 8; Interview with the Sharps, May 14, 1978; letter from Margaret Sharp DeGraf, November 26, 1979.

² Marin County Journal: February 22, 1883, p. 3, col. 1; April 12, 1883, p. 3, col. 1; July 19, 1883, p. 3, col. 1; October 25, 1883, p. 3, col. 1.

³ The conservatory measured twenty-five by sixteen feet. San Rafael Tax Factor Appraisal October, 1929, Book No. 1, p. 59. The Stable or barn was subsequently remodeled as a home for one of Bradford's granddaughters, Pauline Sharp Covey and her husband. Marin County Journal, November 22, 1883, p. 3, col. 3. Sharp interview and letter from Margaret Sharp DeGraf.

⁴ His parents were the Daniel Flint Bradfords; hers were the Harrison Olmsteads. The gardener, Friz Ely, lived in the stable. The four Sharp daughters are: Margaret Sharp DeGraf, Pauline Sharp Covey, Dorothy Sgarp, and Evelyn Sharp, all living.

⁵ Bradford Obituary, Marin County Tocsin, April 29, 1916, p. 8.

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