

PH0037 010

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Marin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

DEC 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Marin County Historical Society Museum Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Boyd House (also Ira Cook House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1125 B Street

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Ninth

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Marin	CODE 041
----------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of San Rafael

STREET AND NUMBER:
1400 5th Ave

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

STATE:
California

CODE
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:
Marin County Civic Center

CITY OR TOWN:
San Rafael

STATE:
California

CODE
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

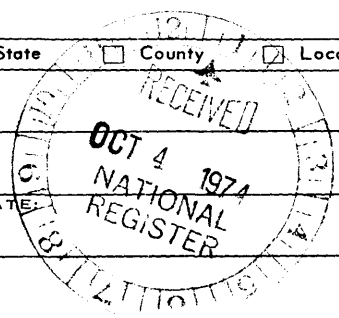
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: California
COUNTY: Marin
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE DEC 17 1974
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

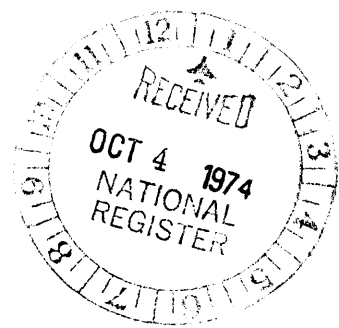
The building presently retains the essentials of its original appearance; exceptions being (1) less decorative roof covering, (2) loss of ornamental cresting atop the bays and porches, (3) a protrusion into the front porch, and (4) enclosure of the back porch.

Set into a hillside, the house has three stories on the south and west sides and two stories on the north and east. It is a wood frame structure covered on the exterior with vertical siding with battens on the top story, horizontal lapped siding on the main floor, and cement plaster over concrete on the lower floor. The steeply pitched roofs are shingled. Siting of the building, which is set off by nicely landscaped grounds and a granite and iron fence, gives it an impressive and dominating appearance. Elaborate ornamentation under the rake overhangs, heavy moldings around fenestration, carved brackets under eaves and rakes, ornamental bands of jigsaw work, and complex massing all combine to give the building a picturesque but slightly overheavy appearance which is typical of much Victorian Gothic work. The apparent size is deceptive, which one realizes upon examining the interior.

The rooms on the main floor, which is the only one open to the public at this time, are small to medium sized with ceilings ten to twelve feet high. Walls and ceilings are plastered, and have fairly ordinary plaster moldings and ornamentation. Openings are framed with heavy wood moldings, which also run around the base of the walls. There is minor wood paneling under the double-hung sash. Doors are large, fairly elaborate stile and rail type with glass transoms. There are several white marble fireplace mantels enclosing gas heaters. Floors are tongue and groove vertical grain wood, painted. Several fairly elaborate ceiling-mounted light fixtures remain.

The design of the building is basically A.J. Downing "Cottage Style" popular during the latter half of the 19th century. Examples of this style were common in New York, particularly in the Hudson River valley. Ira Cook, the man for whom the house was built, came from Rochester, N.Y.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1879**

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 type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This building is one of the most elaborate and picturesque 19th century houses in Marin County. It is associated with several generations of a family prominent in the history of the area.

The earliest known owner of the land upon which the house stands was Thomas Hawkins Hanson, County Treasurer from 1855 to 1861 and District Attorney from 1869 to 1871. The property was then owned by Sidney V. Smith and then by Richard Hellman. In a transaction of which no record apparently remains, title was transferred by sale to Seth Cook. This occurred sometime during 1873 or 1874. Seth and his brother Dan then built a pretentious mansion on part of the property; named "Maple Lawn", it is now the San Rafael Elks Club building.

In 1874 Ira Cook, Seth and Dan's father, came to San Rafael with his widowed daughter and his granddaughter. Seth and Dan, in the latter half of the decade, invested in some mines in Bodie, California. They, along with one John Franklin Boyd and others formed what became a highly successful mining company. In 1879, Ira Cook had erected the Victorian Gothic edifice which we see today. Construction Cost was \$10,000. Adam Murray was the builder and probably the designer.

Ira Cook died in 1880. In 1883 the granddaughter who had accompanied him to San Rafael, Louise Cook Arner, married John Franklin Boyd. As a wedding gift from the Cook family, the couple was given the property we are here describing. They had three children, Seth Cook Boyd, John Franklin Boyd, Jr. and Louise Arner Boyd. The boys both died in their teens. These tragic events led the family to offer this house and the surrounding property to the City of San Rafael as a memorial park. The City gratefully accepted, and grandiose dedication ceremonies were held on April 29, 1905. In attendance were many prominent local officials, about 1,200 school children and thousands of other citizens.

Louise Arner Boyd grew up to become a world-famous explorer. The Marin County historical Society has occupied the building under an agreement with the City since 1945. It is operated as a museum of local history.

This property adjoins two other well preserved historic properties; "Maple Lawn" referred to above, and "Falkirk", the Robert Dollar mansion which is listed in the National Register.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Marin County Historical Society Bulletin - October 1973
article by Helen Park, "The Gate House"
2. Here Today - San Francisco's Architectural Heritage
Junior League, Inc. - Chronicle Books, San Francisco
1968
3. A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco & Northern Calif.
Perigrine Smith Inc, Santa Barbara & Salt Lake City 1973

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

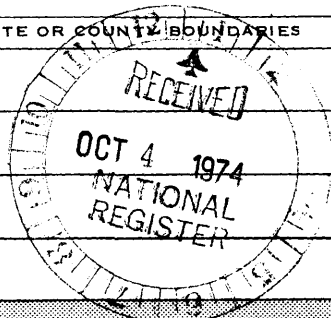
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES								
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	58'	32"	122°	31'	40"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

UTM
10/511420
4201000
(0)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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:
Roger Taylor Panek - Architect, Director & Mary Dekker, Exec Dir

ORGANIZATION: **Marin Heritage** DATE: **3/21/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 Center Street

CITY OR TOWN: **San Rafael** 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: July 30, 1974

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/17/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: Dec. 12, 1974