

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1985

date entered SEP 12 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

RECEIVED

historic GRISWOLD HOUSE

APR 5 1985

and/or common N/A

OHP

2. Location

street & number 639 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Sausalito N/A vicinity of

state California 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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 Patrick Christopher

street & number 639 Main Street

city, town Sausalito N/A vicinity of

state California 94965

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marin County Courthouse

street & number N. San Pedro Road

city, town San Rafael

state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys * (Continuation Sheet)

title California State Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento

state California 95811

7. Description

*(Continuation sheet)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house has been described as carpenter gothic in style. Built entirely of redwood, this year around residence is of single wall construction. It is two stories with an aboveground basement. The house is sited fifty feet back from the street on a gently sloping lot adjacent to a creek. The multi-gabled roof with corner tower and curved roof ends is decorated with hanging points "icycles" along the entire roof edge. The roof ridge included wooden cresting running between spires located at the gable intersections.

Designed to face east, down-valley towards the bay, the many varied window types and window bays all face the east or north (into the front garden). The overall form of the small structure is surprizingly complicated due to the display by the millwright builder of his talents in what was at that time a new residential development. The house has always been surrounded by a lush English style garden which remains spectacular today, providing the historical setting for this architectural folly.

The original integrity of the house is largely intact; perhaps 80 percent of the exterior has survived, with only one room addition to the rear of the structure in the 1950's. Since construction of the house in 1893 it appears the house has received only a few coats of paint, the glass enclosure of the east porch, alterations of the porch and balcony railings and a new roof of asphalt shingles over the original wood. Presently, following restoration, the house has a wood shingle roof, original colors of paint and complete repair of windows, doors, trim etc. retaining all original features.

North elevation: twostory, vertical tongue and groove siding, with projecting two story wing; projecting wing gable roof connects with hipped gable roof of primary north facade; gingerbread dropped spikes decoration follow roofline; midsection small skirt of decorative diamond shingles wraps around the house; first floor central door beneath small shingled canopy roof with lattice vine fence attached to one side and additional decorative spikes hanging from roof edge; in projecting wing, one small sliding wood window on each story.

East elevation: two story, vertical tongue and groove siding; irregular facade with projecting southeast corner two and one-half story five sided tower and projecting first floor entry porch and recessed second floor balcony and 1950's room addition extending to the south; this facade includes one over one double hung windows on both floors of the tower, one over one double hung windows which extend to the floor beneath the balcony in the first floor diningroom, one over one double hung windows which extend to the floor on the second floor, one of which swings open as a door on to the balcony, two pair of casement windows in the east facade of the glazed entry porch, and a diamond shaped fixed window on the second floor; all roofs are wood shingled, including the entry porch, and have the pervasive hanging spikes decoration on the roof edge.

*(CONTINUED)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893 **Builder/Architect** Charles Willard Griswold

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This is one of a very few houses in the town of Sausalito dating from the nineteenth century. It survived the disastrous Sausalito fire of 1919 as well as the impact of suburban development following the construction of the Golden Gate bridge. Although its original residential lot has been reduced in size by half, it still has one of the largest parcels in the area preserving the important garden setting. The house was constructed by a local millwright who had moved to Sausalito from New York, Charles Griswold, and he apparently used the opportunity to demonstrate his skills by incorporating the myriad of carpentry forms in the dwelling. It is not believed that any design or architectural drawing was prepared in advance of construction based on the eccentric manner of construction employed. There is no other house of this style with this detailing in all of Marin county. While little is known of the builder it is probable that this was his only house in the area. The combination of gothic form and decoration with strong oriental influences sets the house apart from other victorians in Sausalito. The house appears remarkably similar to some shown in mid-nineteenth century "chinoise" wallpaper designs. Sausalito and the San Francisco area had a major trade connection with the Tall Ships travelling to the orient at the turn of the century and so became familiar as well as enamored with a broad range of goods and art forms from Japan and China. At the time this house was constructed it looked out with an unobstructed view of San Francisco bay and what was the anchorage of many trading ships.

According to Sausalito's director of the Historical Society there are no gardens in southern Marin County which represent the victorian middleclass residential garden better than at the Griswold house. It is unique in the way that it has retained its original plan and configuration of walks, perennial beds, fruit trees, fencing and exotic specimens. Some of the original plants are believed to be in place including: the large umbrella-like cotoneaster tree, the plum near the northwest corner of the house, the enormous jade tree, four rose bushes one of which has green blossoms, two tree-like fuscias, a redwood tree and various herbs. Other flower beds have been kept for spring bulbs or summer annuals for as long as anyone can remember. There are many stories about the owner and her silver tea tray serving gentlemen callers under the shade of the cotoneaster. While there are grander gardens from the period in Sausalito, none reflect the middleclass life which prevailed as does the Griswold house.

As mentioned in Section #9, the property is cited in Here Today , Moments in Time, Sausalito History, Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California and in the California State Inventory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Tracy, Jack. Moments in Time, Sausalito History. Sausalito: Windgate Press, 1984
 Olmsted, Roger and Watkins, T.H. Here Today. San Francisco. 1975
 Gebhard, David. Guide to Architecture of San Francisco and Northern California.
 Peregrine Press.

10. Geographical Data

*(Continuation sheet)

Acree of nominated property 0.11 acre

Quadrangle name San Francisco North

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	4	5	4	1	0	4	1	8	8	9	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

*(Refer to additional sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Christopher, Historical Architect

organization Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area date 1 April 1985

street & number Fort Mason, Bldg. 201 telephone (415) 556-2922

city or town San Francisco state California 94123

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 Kathryn Gualteri

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Aug. 7, 1985

For NPS use only

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

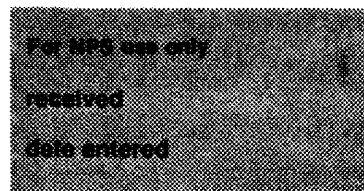
for Melissa Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9/12/85

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

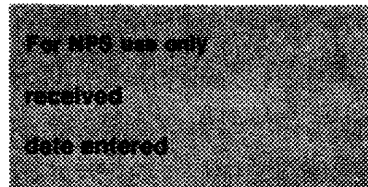
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6. Representation in Existing Surveys:

The house is included in the Junior League of San Francisco's Historic Sites Project published in the book Here Today, and also listed in the Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California written by David Gebhard.

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7. Description:

South elevation: two story, vertical tongue and groove siding; first floor 1950's square room addition with flat roof, no gingerbread, and no south windows; first floor southeast corner two and one-half story tower with window bay on each floor, one over one double hung windows in tower bay; second floor, one one over one double hung window over flat roof of room addition and southeast corner tower bay with one over one double hung windows; south elevation has raised basement full eight feet above grade with horizontal one by eight siding painted dark green, access to basement area; all roofs, including midsection decorative band with wood shingles, tower roof extends higher than primary hipped gable roof, all roof with the exception of the midsection band, have hanging spikes "icycles".

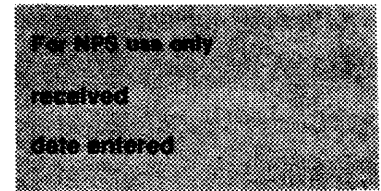
West elevation: This is the real back side of the house with very little decorative detailing, few windows and no irregularity of form; two story, vertical tongue and groove siding, unbroken facade with one window on each floor for bathrooms; stair along side of house to second floor apartment entry door (1950's addition); midsection band of decorative diamond shingles extends the length of the facade; the primary roof hipped gable wood shingle with decorative hanging spikes, "icycles".

There are no significant interior spaces in this house although the original room arrangement has been preserved except for the opening of a wall dividing the two primary first floor rooms.

Garden: The original garden, as seen from photographs, indicate a style which exists today, an English style planting of traditional perennials and wild-flowers and massive numbers of bulbs with pathways lined with rock walls and benches under small shade trees combined with an assortment of exotic plants. The white picket fence surrounding the front north garden is 70 percent original. The primary garden area, measuring approximately 50 feet (the width of the lot) by 40 feet (the setback of the house) has retained its appearance of over-abundance and complete mix of plant materials in the turn of the century style. Some of the oldest plants which are suspected of being planted by the original owners include the largest shade tree, the cotoneaster, an enormous jade tree, four rose bushes, one of which has green blossoms, a plum tree, two tree-like fuscias, a redwood tree on the east side and various herbs. While new introductions to the garden have been made, the original configuration has remained unchanged.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Assessor's Parcel No. 65-253-04

ALL THAT CERTAIN real property situate in the City of Sausalito, County of Marin, State of California, described below as follows:

BEGINNING at a stake set in the Southerly line of Main Street, distant 450 feet West from the Westerly line of West Street in that part of the Town of Sausalito known as South Sausalito, thence West along the South line of Main Street 50 feet to a stake, thence at right angles South 100 feet, thence at right angles East 50 feet; thence at right angles, North 100 feet to the stake and place of beginning.

Being further described as Villa Lot No. 79 in Block 29, as shown on that certain map entitled, "Map No. 3 of the Property of the Sausalito Bay Land Company", filed April 24, 1890 in Volume 3 of Maps at page 86, Marin County Records.

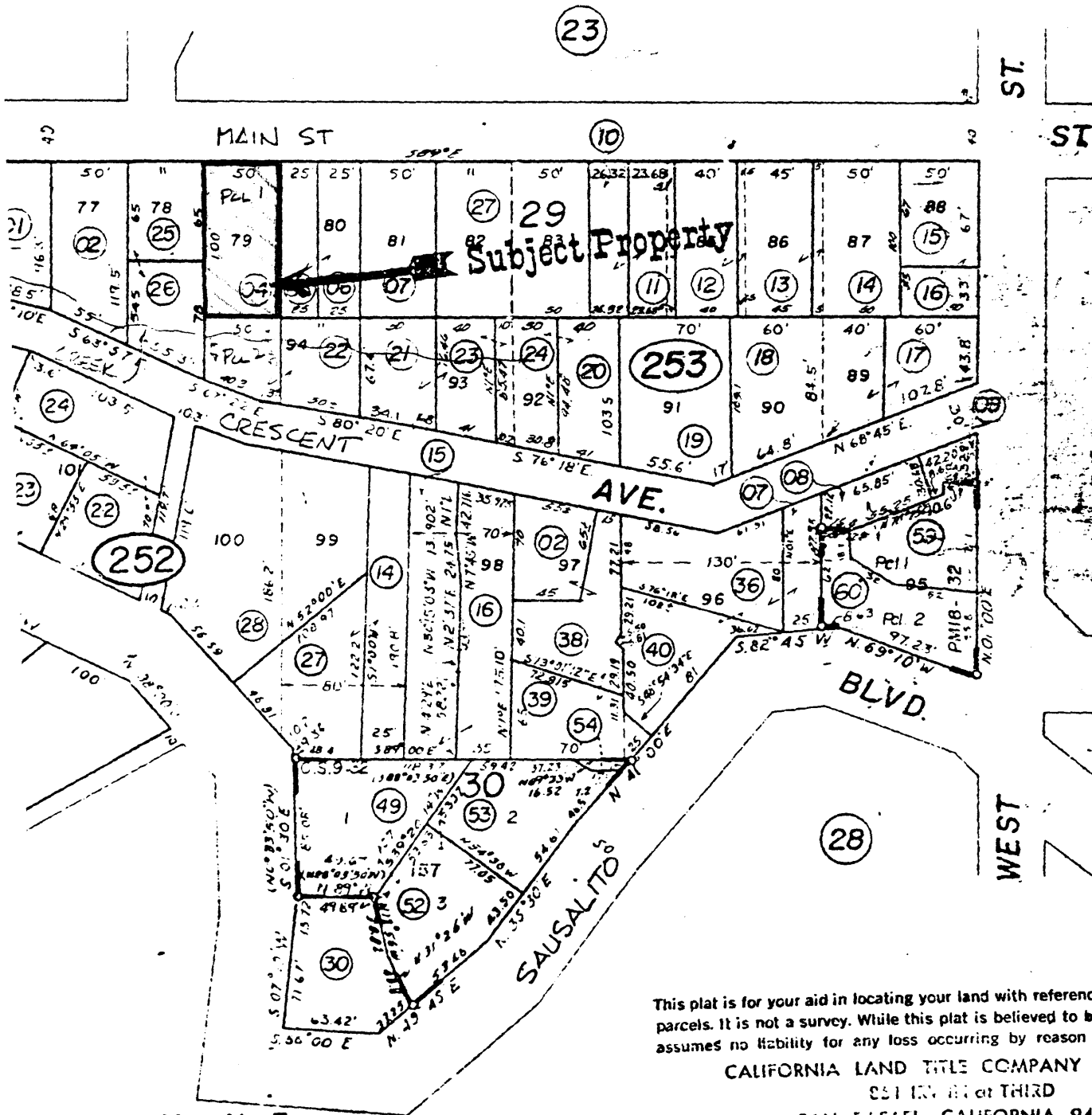
The original lot has been reduced in size over the years through subdivision into smaller parcels. Boundaries encompass the house and its historic grounds on the largest remaining parcel.

B-2981H

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

GRISWOLD HOUSE, 639 Main Street, Sausalito, Marin County, California

12 100'



This plat is for your aid in locating your land with references to streets and other parcels. It is not a survey. While this plat is believed to be correct, the company assumes no liability for any loss occurring by reason of reliance thereon.

CALIFORNIA LAND TITLE COMPANY OF MARIN
551 E. BAY ST. or THIRD
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94901

id, Co. Map No. 3,

CITY OF SAUSALITO
Assessor's Map Bk. 65-Pg. 25
County of Marin, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses