## 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	Patterson, George W	ashington Ranch (/	Ardenwood)	
and/or common	Same			
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	34600 Newark Boulev	ard	n,	/a_ not for publication
city, town	Fremont	n/a vicinity of	Congressional Dis	trict 10
state Cali	fornia 94536 <mark>code</mark>	06 county	Alameda	<b>code</b> 001
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered n/a	Status         occupied         unoccupied         work in progress         Accessible         yes: restricted         yes: unrestricted         no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum _X_ park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
name	City of Fremont		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
city, town	39700 Civic Center Fremont Ation of Lega	<u>n/a</u> vicinity of		California 94536
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. City of	of Fremont		
street & number city, town	39700 Civic Center Fremont	Drive	state	California 94536
6. Repr	resentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
title Patterso	on House (Ardenwood)		Dept. of the Inter perty been determined el	
date May 1974	4		X_federal sta	te county local
depository for su		Fremont PHR E-6		California
city, town Fre	emont		state	California

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# 7. Description

Condition       Check one        excellent      deteriorated      unaltered        good      ruins      altered        fair      unexposed	Check one X_original site moved daten/a
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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance** General Description

The site being nominated to the National Register is comprised of 131 acres and contains the most important elements of the old Ardenwood Ranch, including the George W. Patterson House and its outbuildings. The house, originally built in 1856, has undergone a number of major changes including a significant addition in 1883. It is in good condition and is partially occupied. Current plans call for it to become a house museum, administered by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

The house is approached from a 1/4-mile-long driveway flanked by original black walnut and oak trees. The remainder of the property is still populated with a variety of trees planted by the Patterson family. "Many of these specimens are notable for their age and size as well as for their place in the history of landscaping in the San Francisco Bay area." The most valuable tree in this regard is a dawn redwood tree, which is one of seven specimens of that species smuggled out of China in 1947 when the species was "rediscovered" (Lindenmeyer 1982). All vegetative features were in poor condition due to little or no maintenance over the years. More recent efforts by the present lessor, the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), has concentrated on improving the condition of these landscape features.

#### George W. Patterson House

By all accounts, the original house was built by George W. Patterson and a friend, James Hawley, whose daughter was eventually to become Patterson's wife. The year 1856 is generally given as the date of construction, although concrete records validating this date are not available. The original house was a small two-story farmhouse having a rectangular plan and a gable roof. Only a portion of the original structure can still be seen due to later additions. Windows in this portion are one-over-one, double hung; horizontal shiplap siding clads the exterior. Visible portions of the foundation are constructed of large rocks.

On the interior, the original house is now represented by the dining room, original kitchen, the smaller of two stairways, an anti-room off the dining room, and two upstairs bedrooms and bathroom. Construction is all redwood.

The second major change to the house came sometime between the original construction date and the large Queen Anne addition in 1883. This change consisted of enclosing the porch to the south for a full two stories. A gable roof covers this extension, which is characterized by a horizontal band of windows on the second floor, and a door and large multi-pane window on the first floor. The double hung windows in this addition are six-over-six.

The largest and most impressive addition was constructed in 1883 and resulted in more than doubling the square footage of the house. This addition, built to the west of the original residence has, as its most exuberant feature, a three-part west facade with a corner tower and large arched entrance. All three sides of the addition are dividied into three parts: the first level finished in horizontal shiplap, the second in decorative shingles; and the third, the attic, consisting of the roof and two dominant gables, also finished with decorative shingles. The addition has a gable roof, is wood framed, and rests on a cut-rock foundation.

# 8. Significance

#### Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_ archeology-prehistoric \_\_\_\_\_ community planning landscape architecture \_\_\_\_\_ religion \_\_\_\_ archeology-historic 1400-1499 \_ conservation \_ law \_\_\_\_\_ science <u>X</u> agriculture \_ 1500-1599 \_\_\_\_\_ sculpture \_\_ literature <u>X</u> architecture \_ 1600-1699 \_\_\_\_\_ education \_ military \_\_ social/ \_\_\_\_ art \_ 1700-1799 \_\_\_ engineering \_\_\_ music humanitarian <u>×</u> 1800–1899 \_\_\_\_ exploration/settlement \_\_\_\_\_ philosophy \_\_ commerce \_ theater <u>X</u> 1900– \_\_\_\_ communications \_\_\_ industrv \_\_\_\_ politics/government <u>transportation</u> \_ invention \_\_ other (specify)

Specific dates CA 1856,1883,1914 Builder/Architect George W. Patterson & James Hawley

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ardenwood today represents what is left of one of Alameda County's largest ranching operations. "The Patterson family's economic and social position was influential in the history and development of the county (Alameda). A history of the ranch and family is illustrative of 19th and 20th century rural life in California. The rapid growth in urbanization of the eastern margins of San Francisco Bay beginning in the mid-20th century had its impact on the ranch and Patterson family, so that only a small portion of that rural life is still reflected..." (Baker 1984). The extant structures and landscape elements at Ardenwood reflect both the evolution of a ranching operation of great size and importance in Alameda County and the history of one of its prominent families. The evolution of the George W. Patterson House itself reflects the growth of the operations and the family through numerous small changes and two major additions (in 1883 and ca. 1910-1914) to the original house built in ca. 1856. The addition, built in 1883, is a major example of the Queen Anne style. The house, together with the outbuildings and landscape elements, form a cohesive complex possessing a high degree of integrity (7 buildings remain from the historical period) and is one of the few such collections in Alameda County.

George W. Patterson was born in Pennsylvania in 1822 and migrated west as a Forty-Niner. After an unsuccessful series of attempts in mining, he came to Alameda County about 1851 and began his ranching operations. The land that he eventually acquired consisted in part of lands which were originally part of Mission San Jose and which later became part of the Rancho Potrero de los Cerritos. Patterson's "acquisition of land seems to have been rapid. By 1854, he was listed as one of the ten largest landholders in Alameda County (Sandoval 1961a). By 1860, Patterson had 1,100 acres of improved land... worth \$18,000 cash. The total value of Patterson's real estate was \$40,000 and of his personal estate was \$20,000 (U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, 1860:45; U.S. Census, Population Schedule, 1860:191). This was impressive wealth for 1860." (Baker 1983)

Ardenwood continued to grow and, by the end of the next decade in 1878, Patterson was listed as Alameda County's largest landholder (Thompson and West 1878:27). The ranch produced a number of agricultural products, including: 32,000 bushels of barley, 11,000 bushels of wheat, 2,000 bushels of potatoes, 1,000 bushels of apples, 20 bushels of buckwheat, 20 tons of hay, and 800 pounds of butter (U.S. Census, Agricultural Schedule, Washington Township, 1880:23).

Patterson's early help consisted of a small number of farm laborers, who, in the 1870 population census were listed as being mainly of Caucasian stock. They were eventually supplemented by Chinese laborers. "Apparently the family hired Chinese agricultural workers and domestic servants and leased land to Chinese tenant farmers. Some sources state that the Pattersons employed 30-40 laborers, mostly Chinese,..." (Baker 1983). Portuguese and Japanese laborers also may have played a part on the ranch (Simpson 1982). Employment practices are thus characteristic of patterns here and elsewhere in the state.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

-See Continuation Sheet-

Acreage of nominated property       131 Acres         Ousdrangle name       Newark, California         Ousdrangle name       Newark, California         Outmark       Northing         Cone       Easting         Northing       Dissiparties         Northing       Dissiparties         See Continuation Sheet-       Code         List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county       Code         11.	10. Geog	raphical Data			
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The west facade is dominated by a large horseshoe arch framing the entrance to the house. The archivolt carries a floral motif as do the two spandrel elements. The entire entrance carries upward for the full height of the house and has on the second floor a balcony framed by two arches. It has its own separate gable or tympanum with two centrally placed windows, six-over-one. Other windows are either one-over-one, double hung, or are mutiple lights (exact number varies) over a single light, double hung.

The tower on the northwest corner is topped by a conical roof. Under the eaves is a colored glass and stucco frieze. The pieces of glass of assorted sizes, shapes, and colors, are placed in a random pattern in the stucco. Windows in the tower consist of a single light below, with the upper consisting of a single large light surrounded by small multiple lights.

On the south facade is a large chimney extending the full vertical distance of the 1883 addition, and which effectively divides this facade into two equal horizontal parts. Protruding from the wall is a centrally placed, covered porch built after the 1906 earthquake, during which the original chimney fell and demolished the original porch. Simple Doric columns support the hip roofed porch. They symmetry of this facade is broken by the placement of two second-story windows, one vertically and one horizontally.

The last major addition was built ca 1910-1914. It consists of a two-story wood-framed addition containing a kitchen and upper floor bedrooms. It was constructed to the northeast of the original house and completes the house as it stands today. The multiple additions have resulted in an irregular floor plan, but one which still manages to function quite efficiently; some thought did go into the development of the floor plan through these series of changes.

Extant features of interest in the interior include the main stairway and a fireplace in what is called the music or redwood room. The stairs are approached from the foyer through an arched opening with wood lattice work above. All the wood used in the main stairway is sycamore. The fireplace has its original coal grate and is constructed mainly of redwood, although the mantel is maple.

One not readily visible feature of the house is its ventilation system. Above the main stairway is a circular skylight. The skylight protrudes into the attic space above and receives sunlight only during the morning hours through a separate window. This, however, is not its primary function. The skylight itself is removable and, on warm days, it along with other windows in the house are opened. The skylight acts as a funnel up which the warm air rises and, aided by the suction effect created by prevailing winds blowing through the attic, provides natural air conditioning in the summer months.

The overall condition of the house appears to be good, although internal problems have been acknowledged. "This structure has termite damage and dry rot in its lower structural members and powder post beetle damage to various internal wooden features" (Lindenmeyer 1982). The City of Fremont has undertaken fumigation, but the most recent observations (Lewton 1984) indicate that a pest problem still exists, and further steps to eliminate them will have to be instituted.

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Outbuildings and Other Features (All are contributors unless otherwise noted)

Milk House: This is a small rectangular structure, measuring approximately 20' x 15', located just north of the George W. Patterson House. "It is constructed of hand chiseled, tan and grey colored sandstone blocks with mortar in the interstices" (Baker 1983). It has a gable roof, one door on the northeast side, and two windows on the northwest and southeast ends. Date: ca. mid-1850s, about the same time as the first George W. Patterson House.

Cook House: This is a rectangular wood-framed structure, located about 20 feet north of the George W. Patterson House. It has a gable roof and two doors on the south facade leading to two connected, but separate rooms on the interior. Windows are one-over-one and are placed on each facade. A lean-to addition has been constructed to the north. Date: ca. 1910-1914, about the same time as the last addition to the house.

Swimming Pool (and Bath House): A concrete swimming pool, built in the 1920s (Lindenmeyer 1982), is located about 100 yards to the west of the Patterson House. It is in poor condition and empty. A bath house once adjoined the pool, but the original structure has been replaced by a reconstruction built in 1983. Both are noncontributing elements.

Tennis Court: The remains of a tennis court exists about 50 feet southeast of the Patterson House. The original concrete surface is now covered with asphalt and used as a parking lot. Exact construction date is unknown, but likely to be the late-19th to early-20th century. (Noncontributing.)

Bean Barn: 35' x 45', built on concrete pillars 10" above the ground. Possible later addition to the east--concrete floor flush with ground. Two other portions of this addition have wood floors. Main Building: gable roof, double doors to north and south, 9" tongue-and-groove siding (common for the area, but not manufactured in 50 years, according to Lindenmeyer). Date: ca. mid-1850s.

Milk Barn/Equipment Shed: A long, narrow structure, about  $115' \times 35'$ . An enclosed shed to the east 20' x 30', was the actual area used for milking. Another enclosed portion to the west was used as a blacksmith shop. The remainder was an open shed used for equipment storage. Date: ca.mid-1850s.

Hay Barn: Consists of two connected structures. Both wood-framed with gable roofs with composition shingles. Siding is similar to what is found on the Bean Barn and Milk Bark/Equipment Shed. Northern portion is taller and narrow than the southern part. Sliding double doors on the north, east, and west sides. Four 24" x 24" windows are located on the west and east sides, closed from the interior with wooden doors. "The southern component of the barn was undoubtedly a hay and stock barn and the northern component probably used for equipment and hay storage" (Baker 1983). Date: 1910.

Garage: 20' by 25', wood framed with tongue-and-groove siding. It has a gable roof covered with corrugated galvanized metal, and the floor is plank set on earth. Double wall construction with interior walls of bare lathe, set vertically. West end has double sliding doors. Date: 1901.

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

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Water Tower: "The remains of a square, ca.  $15' \times 15'$  concrete foundation and wooden water-tower frame and platform are found just west of the milk barn (equipment shed). The water tank no longer exists... The platform is supported by a frame made of 4" x 6", 6" x 6", 3" x 6", and 4" x 6" timber" (Baker 1983). Date: ca. 1930s. (Noncontributor.)

#### Archeological Site

Archeological Site CA-Ala 392: A portion of this archeological site lies within the property being nominated. In February 1983, the East Bay Regional Park District contracted with Archaeological Consultants of Oakland, California, to conduct a surface archeological reconnaissance of a portion of the property currently being nominated to the National Register. In the course of this inquiry, a record search and review of existing documents relating to the archeological resources of the area was undertaken. The results showed that a number of previous archeological investigations had been carried out between 1977 and 1982. These reports, together with the 1983 report and an opinion from Dr. David Fredrickson of the Northwest Information Center of the California Archaeological Inventory, Sonoma State University (Fredrickson 1984), confirm that CA-Ala-392 may yield additional information. As the EBRPD is currently undertaking another archeological project west of the current property in the Coyote Hills, it would be appropriate to include 392 in their work program, from which a firm determination can be made as to the potential for it to be nominated based on its own merits and significance.

#### Landscape

The following description of the landscape features on the property has been taken from the Final Resource Analysis, Ardenwood Regional Preserve:

"An impressive element of the vegetation is the landscaping in the vicinity of the George Patterson and William Patterson houses (see Fig. 4). (Note: the William Patterson House was burned in the 1960s following the terms of his will, and is not included as part of this nomination). About three dozen tree species have been identified in these landscaped areas (see Appendix A). Many of these specimens are notable for their age and size as well as for their place in the history of landscaping in the San Francisco Bay Region. The most valuable tree in this regard is a dawn redwood tree which is one of seven specimens of that species smuggled out of China in 1947 when the species was "rediscovered." Prior to 1947, the species was known to science only among paleobotanists who regarded it as extinct. The southern magnolia, hickory hawthorn and sassafras trees represent some of the earliest use of these species for landscaping in Northern California. The landscaping also includes a variety of herbs and shrubs (see Appendix A). Taken together, these landscaping species represent introductions from virtually every continent and major island on earth."

Continuation sheet

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

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The eucalyptus groves are among the most prominent features on the property. They are visible from the nearby freeway and are quite apparent viewed from the air (they are sometimes on the southerly approach to San Francisco International Airport).

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#### Property Boundaries

The property being nominated is a small portion of what was Ardenwood Ranch. "At the time of his (George W. Patterson) death in 1895, he owned about 3,000 acres in the Fremont area and another 3,000 acres near Livermore, California" (Fountain 1981). Although the Patterson family still owns some of the land associated with the ranch, most has been sold to private developers. The property being nominated is part of the land given by the Patterson family to the city of Fremont and the Fremont Park Facilities Corporation. This land is in turn leased to the East Bay Regional Park District for development and use as a park facility. Within the boundaries of the nominated property are the most important elements associated with the history of Ardenwood--the George W. Patterson House; six outbuildings; three related, but non-contributing structures; and the ornamental landscaping. This central area was the heart of the ranch and its operations and includes the home of the Patterson family, the offices of the ranch, and the major facilities used for storage and maintaining equipment. The boundaries exclude the eastern portion of the property, which is currently undergoing development by the East Bay Regional Park District. This area is being heavily altered by the removal of orchards, construction of new facilities, and the creation of a "heritage village" of moved and reconstructed buildings; this area has already lost sufficient integrity to justify its exclusion from the nomination.

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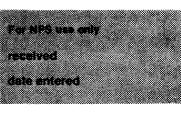
In 1877, Patterson married Clara Hawley, a daughter of a good friend who helped him build his original house. The Pattersons were active in community affairs, exemplified by their giving land for an elementary school and, later, supporting the construction and furnishing of the local high school. With Patterson's death in 1895, Clara Patterson took over the running of the ranch with her two sons, Henry and William. The ranching operations grew even after Patterson's death with the addition of land in other parts of the state. The <u>San Francisco Daily Call</u> reported that, in 1903, the ranching operations consisted of 6,000 acres of farm land and 27,000 acres of grazing land.

Although the scope of the ranching operations was progressively scaled down in reaction to urbanizing pressures, they have been carried down to the present day. The property which is the subject of the nomination contains the most important elements of the history of the ranch and the family. Spanning almost 100 years, Ardenwood will eventually be the only rural artifact among the new subdivisions and freeways which are planned for its surroundings.

The site of Ardenwood comprises 131 acres and includes the Patterson House, its outbuildings, and the ornamental landscaping. Although only a small part of the once thousands of acres owned by the Patterson family, it is the most important and is a fine example of an integrated set of ranching buildings. The approach to the house remains a part of the property and, thus, preserves the 1/4-mile-long driveway flanked by black walnut and oak trees. "...English walnut trees together with three dozen other species stand on the property" (Lindenmeyer 1982), and much of the original landscaping is extant, although neglect and lack of maintenance have taken their toll. The existence of vegetation planted by George W. Patterson and his family is of extreme importance and contributes immensely to the overall character of the property. The Patterson House, outbuildings, and other features are all on their original sites.

The George W. Patterson House represents the evolution of a rural family home over 60 years. The original house is the most obscured from view from the exterior, but all the interior spaces are intact; only the interior finishes have been changed. The date of this original portion is important--1856, making it one of few such structures still in existence in southern Alameda County. The 1883 addition, in the Queen Anne style, is a fine example of its type: a variety of surface treatments are used, including decorative shingles and the unusual use of colored glass pieces embedded in stucco; window types and sizes vary as does the glazing pattern; a massive chimney, now partially hidden by a porch, extends up the south facade; a tower, characteristic of the style, takes its place at the northwest corner. The west front is characterized by balance and dynamics. The tower acts to counter the mass of the projected bay and upper gable, while the entrance is postioned almost squarely in the center of the facade. Adding to the tension of this composition is the use of a horseshoe arch framing the main entrance. Of less importance, but nevertheless an integral part of the architecture is the last addition constructed ca. 1910-1914. Although it does not have the obvious quality of the 1883 addition, it was designed to meld with the earlier architecture and is in scale and proportion to those entities. The roof pitch and siding materials are similar to the earlier architecture. The house in its entirety is an integrated unit with its most exuberant features confined to the 1883 addition.

### **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

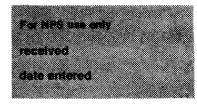
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Continuation sheet	Item number	8	Page 3
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This portion of the house can stand on its own as an architectural statement, but it is still the whole which has true significance as an example of the growth and development of a rural home between ca. 1856 and ca. 1914.

The six outbuildings consist of five simple wood-framed and sided, gable-roofed structures and the milk house, which is built of sandstone. Their significance lies in their integrity--they have not been altered and, except for periodic reroofing and painting, the materials are original--and their assemblage, together with the house, into what is probably the finest ranch complex in Alameda dating from the historical period.

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet	Item number	9	Page 2

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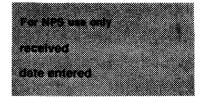
#### Stein, Mimi

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#### Thompson and West

1878 Official and Historical Atlas Map of Alameda County, California. Oakland: Thompson and West (Bicentennial Reprint, Fresno Valley Publishers, 1976)

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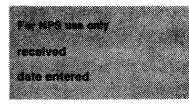
Page 3

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Personal Interviews

Fisher, Dr. Robert 1984 Interview with Dr. Knox Mellon. Fremont, California. September 25, 1984.
Lewton, David 1984 Interview with Dr. Knox Mellon and Hisashi B. Sugaya. Fremont, California. October 1, October 15, and November 5, 1984.
Milne, Larry 1984 Interview with Dr. Knox Mellon. Fremont, California. September 26, 1984.

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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		10	

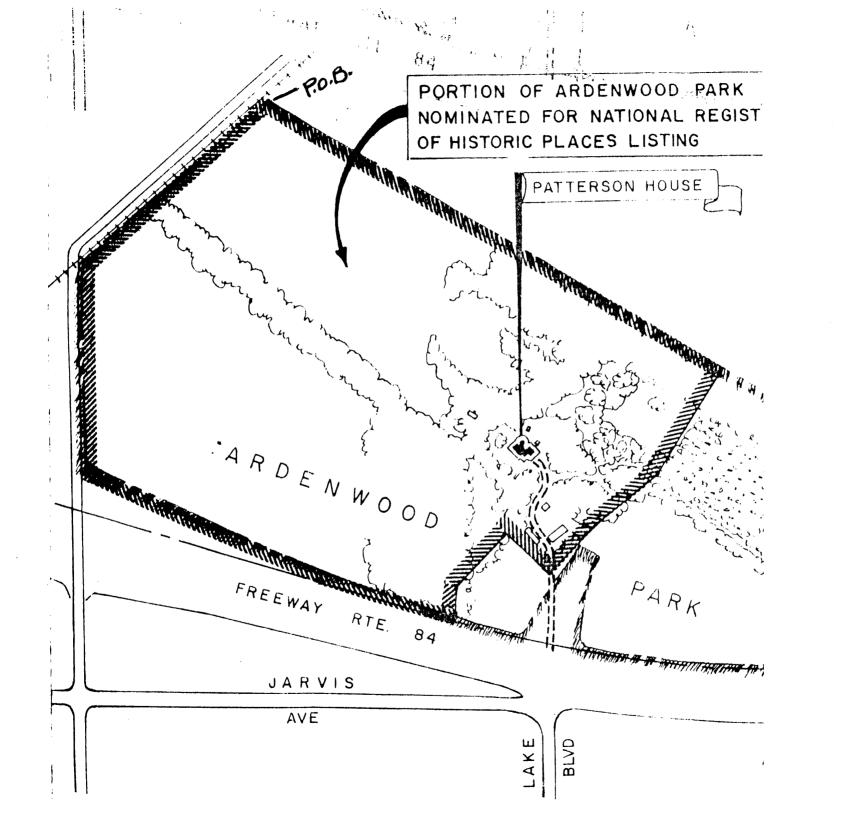
Beginning at the intersection of the northerly line of that certain 38.197 acre parcel described in that deed to the City of Fremont from Sally P. Adams, as temporary conservator for Marjorie Patterson, a widow, recorded September 21, 1984, No. 84-192451, Official Records, Alameda County, California, with the easterly line of right of way, 60 feet in width, of the Southern Pacific Transportation Company;

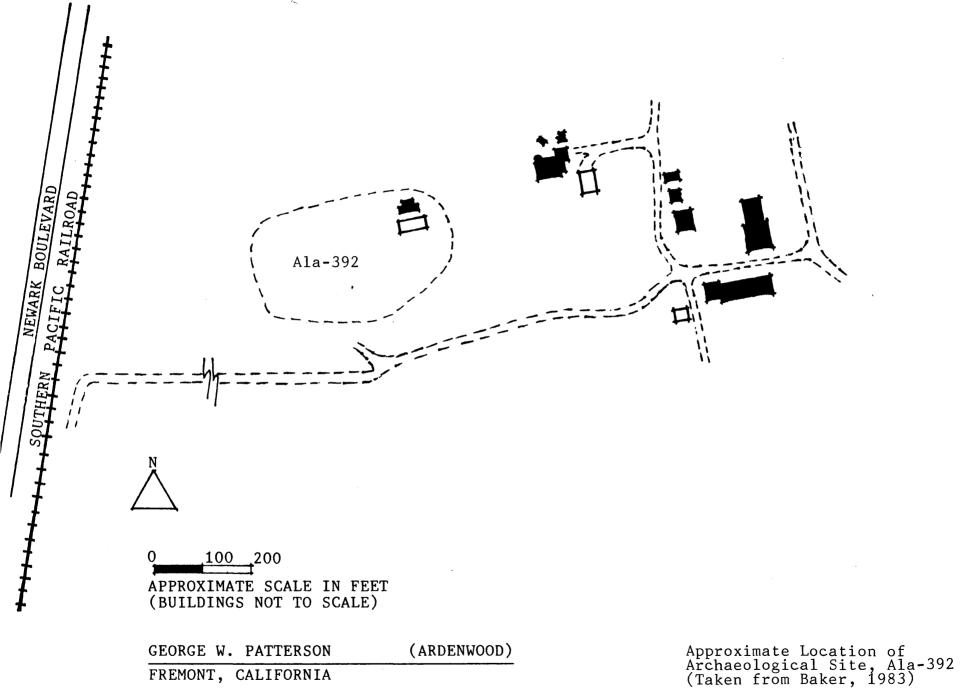
Thence along the following 17 courses:

- 1. N. 62<sup>0</sup> 48' 08" E., 2,850 feet along said northerly line of said 38.197-acre parcel; thence leaving said northerly line,
- 2. S. 22<sup>0</sup> 11' 52" E., 820 feet;
- 3. S. 07<sup>o</sup> 11' 52" E., 260 feet;
- 4. S. 15<sup>o</sup> 11' 52" E., 410 feet;
- 5. S. 77° 18' 08" W., 370 feet;
- 6. S. 12<sup>o</sup> 41' 52" E., 380 feet;
- 7. S. 61° 11' 52" E., 225 feet to a point on the northerly right of line of freeway Route 84; thence along said northerly line on a curve to the right with a radius of 7,390.45 feet,
- 8. 318.02 feet arc length, a central angle of  $02^{\circ}$  27' 56";
- 9. S. 52° 36' 11" W., 279.90 feet;
- 10. S. 57° 28' 19" W., 449.17 feet;
- 11. S. 59<sup>o</sup> 34' 11" W., 251.54 feet;
- 12. S. 66<sup>o</sup> 24' 44" W., 100.73 feet;
- 13. S. 59<sup>o</sup> 34' 11" W., 746.98 feet to the easterly line of right of way of Newark Boulevard; thence along said easterly line,
- 14. N. 58<sup>o</sup> 03' 25" W., 487.50 feet;
- 15. S. 31<sup>o</sup> 56' 35" W., 52.00 feet;
- 16. N. 58<sup>o</sup> 03' 25" W., 512.15 feet;
- 17. N. 09<sup>o</sup> 18' 52" W., 1,350.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Boundaries are shown on attached site plan.

B-3137H





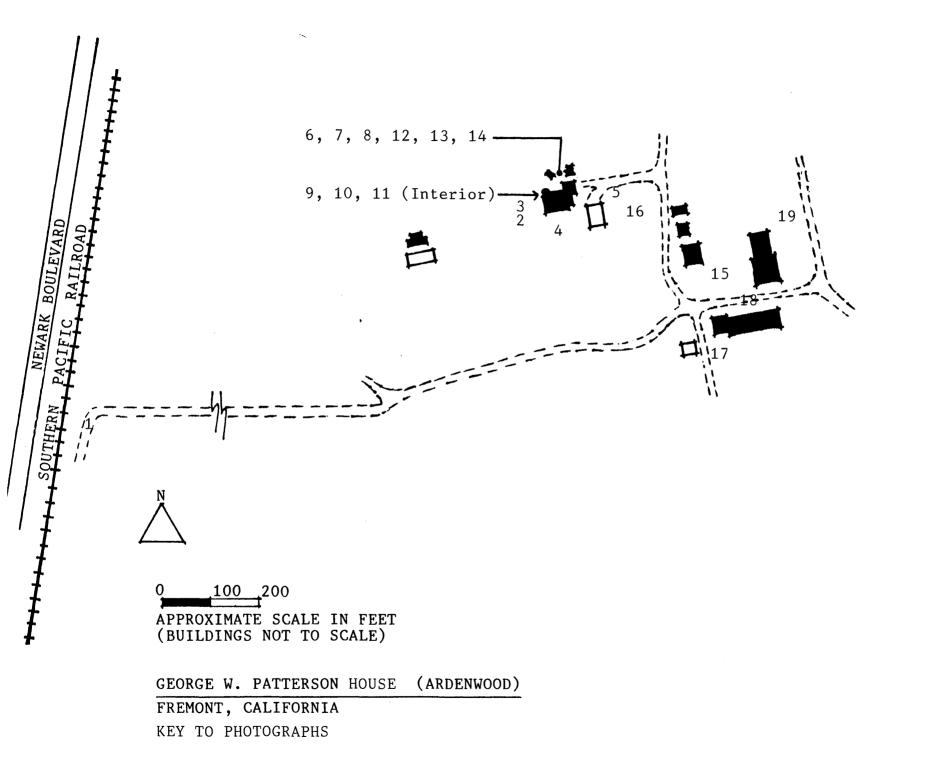
George Washington Patterson Ranch (Ardenwood) 34600 Newark Boulevard Fremont, Alameda County, California

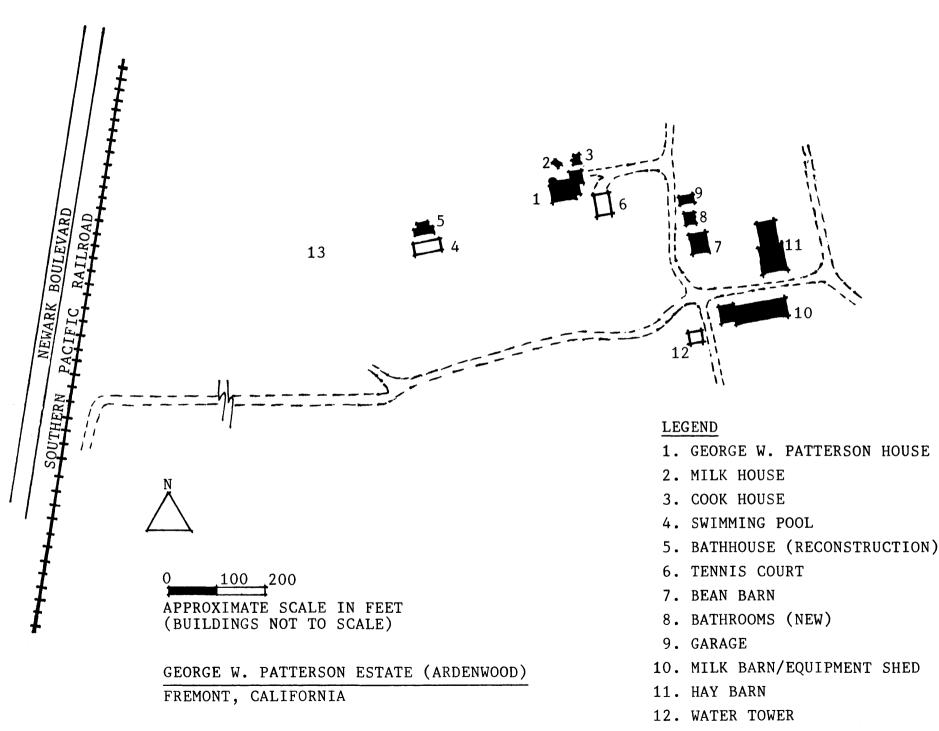
Boundary Map

# LEGEND

Park Boundary Ĩ See Sheet 2 Patterson House - Elevations 1st Floor 2nd Floor Attic 345 4 2 Servant's Quarters S 3 Milk House 6 (a)Bath House & SwimmingPool " 7 5 8 Small Barn G 8 Large Barn (Ì Packing Shed 9 (10) Garage 10

Boundary of property nominated to the National Register





13. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (CA-Ala-392)

