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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**
RECEIVED JAN 24 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 1 1978

**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 Villa Montalvo

AND/OR COMMON Montalvo Center For The Arts

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 14800 Montalvo Road

CITY, TOWN Saratoga

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

STATE California

VICINITY OF
CODE 06

COUNTY Santa Clara CODE 085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: art gall

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Montalvo Association

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 158

CITY, TOWN Saratoga

VICINITY OF

STATE California 95070

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Santa Clara County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER 70 West Hedding Street

CITY, TOWN San Jose

STATE California 95110

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Santa Clara County Heritage Commission Survey

DATE 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Villa Montalvo was carefully sited between two creeks on a sloping ridge that allowed a 2000 ft. North-South axis of gardens terminating in garden structures of architectural importance, with overviews of the Santa Clara Valley at one end and the steep wooded hillsides at the other. The 177 acre setting in the foothills of the Coast Range gives complete privacy for the Villa and gardens. The immediate surroundings are residential estates along the one-half mile entrance roadway from the Los Gatos-Saratoga road.

Three original entrance gates lead to an Italian style villa, of the type found outside major Italian cities. Both the house and the gardens are formal in character and designed for entertaining. The relationship between the house and gardens is very close. The scale of the building is large with a symmetrical plan. The major rooms of the house open onto spacious terraces and courtyards. An outdoor garden theatre is an important feature of the architectural complex. Villa Montalvo can be regarded as a typical country house of the 20th century--an oversized version of the vacation home we know today.

The house is U-shaped with a 40'x104' central block, with wings of 14'x 48' and 34'x48'. An extended Serving Wing is 34'x60'. Area of the first floor is 7,820 sq. ft. Covered porches and Loggias have an area of 2,380 sq. ft. The foundations are reinforced concrete; basement walls are concrete with brick veneer. The upper walls are 2"x6" wood stud with exterior sheathing and stucco. The interior finish is gypsum plaster. The framing is concrete on the first floor with wood frame above.

The central roof is hipped tile with a tile gable roof over the Service Wing. Covered porches have level, built up roofing. Overhanging eaves of tile roofs are open, with exposed rafters and gutters. The covered porches have classical cornices and projecting lattice.

Three brick chimneys serve five fireplaces. The entrance has double carved wood panel doors from Spain. Typical interior doors are single panel eucalyptus matching the wood panelling of the main rooms. Doors between central living area and flanking rooms are glazed. Lower floor has French windows with bronze hardware. All other windows are wood casements. The windows are divided by muntins.

The flooring is parquet oak. Walls and ceiling are plastered throughout, with boxed wood beams in first floor rooms. Cornices are molded in wood or plaster. The major stair is monumental in design, finished in eucalyptus. Its feature is a pictorial stained glass window at the landing. The second floor sitting and sleeping rooms open to balconies and are entered through a spacious gallery with a barrel vaulted ceiling.

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The lower court is enclosed by wings of the house. It has a center marble fountain and a large bronze wall fountain with its historical plaque relating the origin of "Montalvo " as a name. This fountain is flanked by a pair of monumental stairs leading to a Garden Court. This upper court is enclosed by trellised colonnades and a pavilion. Backing up to the Garden Court is an amphitheatre accommodating 500 people; the seating follows up the hillside and is surrounded by a circle of linden trees that border the natural wooded slopes above.

The Main House is the central element of an overall design of buildings and grounds. Accessory structures include:

Carriage House

A 64' octagonal garage with center turntable, now a 299 seat theatre.

Guest House

A multi-level building with guest apartments which open to a generously proportioned studio containing a small stage.

Sculpture Studio

A picturesque thatched roof small building.

Temples

Two - one rectangular and one circular, are focal points of garden axis. Both are classic in style.

Buildings and grounds remain substantially in their original condition as designed. The sixty year period since it was completed has allowed for the growth of many trees and specimen shrubs, so that the barren hillscape is greatly changed. It is maintained as an Arboretum by the Park and Recreation Department of Santa Clara County. Only minor changes have been made in the buildings and gardens to accommodate their use as a cultural center open to the public. Alterations and additions include:

Swimming pool - filled in because of the impossibility of supervision has created a garden court of considerable beauty.

Library - converted to art gallery.

Screened porch, East side - replaced with glass; no architectural change.

Second floor and Guest House - converted to apartments for residents.

Front terrace and basement - new waterproofed concrete and brick pavement and repair of structure below.

New steps on East end of terrace - conforming to architectural detail.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1914	<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 1912-1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wm. Curlett; Charles Gottschalk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Villa Montalvo, conceived by the late Senator James D. Phelan with execution by William Curlett and Charles E. Gottschalk of San Francisco. It was designed primarily for the large scale entertaining of his friends and visitors. He was Mayor of San Francisco when it was built, and he entertained many international figures, particularly those who came to San Francisco in 1915 for the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

It is one of the few remaining "grand" houses of the early part of the century in California. It has remained intact with buildings maintained in good condition and with only minor modifications. Its architectural significance lies in its completely conceived and executed integration of buildings and grounds in a harmonious design that relates naturally to the beauty of the surrounding landscape. Its 177 acres provide a completely protected environment of peace and relaxation, ideally fulfilling its purpose of public and private enjoyment of nature and the arts.

It has had no other owners intervening between its builder and the present Trustees, the Montalvo Association. It is an estate that belongs to the public with its grounds open free to the public every day of the year and the main building open six days a week (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., except holidays). It is unlikely that such an estate will ever be built again. It will stand as a completely unique landmark, owned by the public but maintained and operated through endowment and private donations.

The house and gardens were a setting for a large collection of art collected by Senator Phelan; an obelisk, marble sphinxes, garden ornaments, benches and statuary remain in classical groups. The lower floor of the main house is used for three art galleries with monthly exhibits. The grounds were planned by John McLaren; formal gardens, dramatic trails to lookout points on the hillside or inviting groves featuring rare trees and shrubs and designation as an official bird sanctuary enhance the acreage.

Senator Phelan was a philosopher and patron of the arts; Montalvo was home to the Edwin Markham Poetry Society in 1925, site of the "Poesy Olympiad" in 1928 from which has grown a perpetual poetry award in Phelan's name. George Sterling, Gertrude Atherton, Ruth Comfort Mitchell, Jack London, Edwin Markham, Fannie Hurst, Henry Meade Bland, and Kathleen Norris were friends and guests of Phelan.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adventures of a Novelist, Gertrude Atherton;
James Duval Phelan, A Portrait, Dorothy Kaucher, Skyline Publications 1965
Saratoga's First 100 Years, Florence Cunningham, Harlan-Young Press 1967

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 177
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain property situated at 14800 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, California known as "Villa Montalvo", consisting of 177 acres more or less, at the end of Montalvo Road, Approximately one-half mile southerly from its intersection with Los Gatos-Saratoga Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Chester A. Root, FAIA; Past President, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, American Institute of Architects
 Begun by the late Chester Root; completed by Jole Crall, New Dimensions
 ORGANIZATION Committee, for the Montalvo Association DATE

14 November 1977

STREET & NUMBER 21 North Santa Cruz Avenue TELEPHONE (408) 354-1212 354-3161
 CITY OR TOWN Los Gatos STATE California 95030

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 Kroy McKen

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 1/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION [Signature] DATE 5/11/78
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 5/11/78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Montalvo was the country residence of a former mayor of San Francisco. Due to its 60 mile distance from San Francisco it became the place of government for considerable periods of time. Foreign diplomats came during the Panama Pacific International Exposition; Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke at the Villa; William Jennings Bryan and Ethel Barrymore were among scores of guests lavishly entertained by Phelan. The guestbook, now in the Bancroft Library at the University of California contains cartoons, poetry and drawings by celebrities and friends.

The musical development at Montalvo continues under the direction of the Music Festival Committee. Yehudi Menuhin and Adolph Baller have performed at Montalvo and the present Director is the internationally known composer-conductor George Barati. Music education in special workshops is offered. Composers are encouraged to apply for the Artist-in-Residence facilities and are given the opportunity to perform for the public. Free programs include recitals and outdoor concerts by the United States Army Band. Debuts of original chamber orchestral works, light opera performances in the amphitheatre and ballet in the Carriage House - these are only a sampling of the varied musical offerings at Montalvo.

James Duval Phelan's contributions as a humanitarian include this bequest from his will:

"I would like the property at Saratoga, California, known as Villa Montalvo, to be maintained as a public park open to the public under reasonable restrictions, the buildings and grounds immediately surrounding the same to be used as far as possible for the development of art, literature, music and architecture by promising students." His philanthropy included University of California scholarships, generous gifts to the San Francisco Art Association, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish orphanages, the purchase of a San Francisco playground, monuments in Golden Gate Park, medical research grants and the establishment of the James D. Phelan Foundation for "charitable purposes".

Programs at Montalvo today include classes in the arts, a resident theatrical company, three art galleries and fund-raising activities by more than 250 volunteers who work to carry out the provisions of Senator Phelan's will.

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U.T.M.

- A 10/586300/4122880
- B 10/586280/4122490
- C 10/586200/4122270
- D 10/586220/4122060
- E 10/586380/4122060
- F 10/586390/4121270
- G 10/585990/4121260
- H 10/586000/4121630
- I 10/585530/4121620
- J 10/585530/4121860
- K 10/585690/4122280
- L 10/585810/4122380
- M 10/586060/4122330

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