

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000316 Date Listed: 4/2/92

W. W. Durham House
Property Name

Butte CA
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fr *Antoinette A. Bee*
Signature of the Keeper

4/2/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1874-1907.

This information was confirmed with Cynthia Howse of the California State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

316

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Durham, W.W., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2280 Durham-Dayton Road N/A not for publication
city, town Durham N/A vicinity
state California code CA county Butte code 007 zip code 95938

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Stade R. Craig 3/25/92
Signature of certifying official Date
California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet. Curtis J. Lee 4/2/92

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:
Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof Metal/tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

- PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET -

See continuation sheet

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Settlement and Development

Period of Significance

1874

1895

Significant Dates

1895

1895

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person Durham, William Wellington

Architect/Builder Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

- PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET -

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET -

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
California State University, Chico
Meriam Library, Special Collections

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.4 acres

UTM References

A 110 610315410 438190410
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is the southwest portion of Parcel 2 of Parcel Map #90-33359 as illustrated on the accompanying sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the land surrounding the W.W. Durham House and mark the limits of concentration of historic features.

Western & Southern Boundaries: These correspond with existing property boundaries.

Northern & Eastern Boundaries: These boundaries are drawn to immediately encompass the significant resources of the site, and include the W.W. Durham House itself flanked by the two heritage oak trees, the 1912 garage on the eastern boundary, and the existing well and pump on the northern boundary (see accompanying diagram). There are no other structures on the parcel, and the additional acreage consists of an old (25± years) and untended almond orchard which does not convey the house's historic setting nor contribute directly to its historic significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol DiGiovanni, Partner

organization Durham House Preservation Partnership date December 30, 1991

street & number P.O. Box 1797 telephone 916/893-8982

city or town Chico, state CA zip code 95927-1797

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PRESENT AND HISTORICAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

W.W. Durham House
Durham, California

INTRODUCTION

The W.W. Durham House* is now and has historically been a detached two-story single family dwelling of approximately 4,000 square feet. It is a wood frame structure on a brick and concrete foundation and is Italianate in style. It has a low hipped tin roof and bracketed eaves.** The house is basically rectangular in shape with two protruding bays. (Please see attached floor plan and elevations--Exhibits 1 & 2.) Built in 1874 for W.W. Durham and his bride, Minnie Van Ness Durham, it is located on its original site in the town bearing his name, Durham, California.¹ The only other structure on the grounds is a small stucco garage with a corrugated tin roof, its cornerstone is dated 1912 (see photo 19). The house is flanked by two enormous heritage oak trees, the larger on the east and the second on the west side. The one on the east side is pictured rising above the house in an 1880 lithograph (see photos 10 & 20). The palm tree in front of the house was planted by Minnie Durham and can be seen at varying stages of growth in photos 4, 5 & 21. W.W. Durham planted various types of grafted citrus trees on the property and several remain in front of the house.² Most of the alterations to the house's exterior appearance were made by the Durhams. Minnie enclosed the front porch and used the space for growing flowers year-round. A second-door window replaces a door that matched the front door and led to the balcony at the front of the house and the balustrade was removed. This alteration also occurred early in the house's history. There is a much later addition of a bathroom on the west porch accessed by what were originally exterior portals from the billiard room and dining room. It is an unattractive and poorly done addition, but will be easily removed in the process of restoration. Two exterior portals leading to original balconies were filled in, though no attempt was made to hide their original location. Only photographic evidence of the original balustrade remains, but is sufficient for accurate reproduction. The grounds are currently overgrown and the original farm buildings are gone, all traces of them long since ploughed under for what is now an aged and untended almond orchard. The major landscape features, however, remain: the huge oaks (see photo 20), Minnie Durham's palm and some of W.W. Durham's citrus trees (see photo 21). The oak and palm are in good condition, while the citrus trees are not.

*William Wellington Durham was commonly referred to and signed documents and personal letters as W.W. Durham. This application is, therefore, made under that name.

**Only one original bracket remains. (See photo 6.) It will be used as a pattern for accurate reproduction.

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Exterior

The W.W. Durham House has bay windows on the south (front) facade and west side which extend to the full height of the house. The bays are deep and attractive consisting of three double hung 2/2 windows and two smaller 1/1 double hung windows on either side of the larger ones (see photos 1 & 12). This feature remains unchanged. The four original porches have been significantly altered. The original wood decks have been replaced with concrete on one of the two east side porches, the west porch and a section of the front porch. The original balustrades have all been removed. Two second story exterior portals have been filled.

The original brick foundation remains partially intact. Sections of the foundation have been replaced with concrete at different times over the past 40 - 50 years. Overall, the foundation seems to be sound.

The structural system of the W.W. Durham House is balloon framing. No changes were made to the structural system for the small bathroom addition, as it occupies a section of an original porch and is accessed by doors which were originally exterior portals.

Interior

The interior spaces are not especially large though the first floor ceiling height is twelve feet and the second floor eleven feet, six inches. The house was built with an original interior bathroom off the master bedroom which included an enclosed metal tub and small sink, but no toilet (see photo 11). Remarkably, this feature remains unchanged but for age and deterioration. Another original corner sink remains in an upstairs bedroom and plumbing for a third remains in the office below. The house originally had wallpaper in many of the rooms, including Lincrusta Walton in the billiard room. All of the wallpaper is in very poor condition. The Lincrusta has been painted repeatedly, thus much of the detail has been obscured. The floors were originally carpeted, they are now painted. The house did not have electricity until 1906, therefore there are no original lighting fixtures (natural gas was not available in Durham during the 19th century). An original marble mantle in the main parlor was removed by the second Mrs. Durham (married 1896) and replaced with a walnut mantle with mirrored over-mantle. The over-mantle is now gone. Many of the downstairs doors were originally grained, though some have been partially or completely painted over.

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SPECIFIC FEATURES

The house originally had, and still has, four porches. One of the four original wood porches remains, the other three have been replaced with concrete. All the porches originally had balustraded balconies above. The balconies above the south (front) entrance and the west side remain, though the original balustrade is missing. The other porches are now covered by sloping corrugated tin roofs. (Please see photos 1, 3, 5 & 22.) The porches are an important feature of the W.W. Durham House and their alteration has caused a negative effect on its appearance. The restoration of the porches and bracketed eaves is essential to returning the house to its original appearance.

There are forty-one (41) windows in the house. They are wood frame double hung windows and all but two (one in a downstairs bathroom addition and one that replaced the door leading to the south balcony) are original to the house. With the exception of four 1/1 windows in the two bays all are 2/2.

There are eight exterior doors and eighteen interior doors, all original. Also, there were originally three additional exterior doors leading to the balustraded balconies. Two have been filled in and one (above the south/front entrance) was replaced with a window before 1910 (see photos 4 & 5). One interior door and transom at the north end of the upstairs hall is missing. Many interior doors and some exterior doors have transoms. Most of the downstairs doors retain original graining. The historic integrity of the doors and windows is very much intact.

There are four chimneys; the three believed to be original to the house have decorative brickwork at the top. The fourth chimney vents a non-original furnace. All chimneys are in need of repointing, but are original materials. The non-original furnace chimney will be removed in the process of restoring the house.

DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

Exterior decorative elements are restrained, but reflective of the Italianate style. All but one of the large brackets are missing and will have to be reproduced (see photo 6), though many of the smaller brackets (on the exterior of the second dining room and pantry) remain. Only photographic evidence (see photos 5, 10 & 22) of the balustraded balconies remains. All doors and windows were embellished by an original decorative piece above. (See photos 7 & 22—Please note that the decorative detail above the windows is difficult to see in period photos, but can be seen on close inspection). The four panel front door has two curved panels at the top (see photo 8). The original doorbell remains (see photo 9).

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In original condition, the house had four wooden deck porches with some lattice work and balustraded balconies above. There were doors leading to the balconies from three of the five upstairs rooms and a doorway matching the downstairs front door at the head of the stairs. This second floor doorway also had a decorative hood on the exterior.

The current appearance of the house's exterior is most effected by the loss of the original brackets and the balustraded balconies. Two of the wood porches have been replaced by concrete and the columns cut down to support a slanting tin roof on the east side. The front porch was enclosed (by Minnie Durham for use in growing flowers year-round), but the flat deck of the balcony above remains, sans balustrade. A section of the front porch wood deck was replaced with concrete. The remaining wood deck on the front and west side porches is badly deteriorated. The second floor doorway was changed to a window by the Durhams prior to 1910. The effect of these alterations on the interior is minimal with the exception of the filled doors. These doorways were filled and plastered over, though their placement is easily determined from the exterior.

INTERIOR FEATURES

UPSTAIRS: Bedroom #1 (***) The interior spaces remain largely intact. The plaster is in poor condition throughout the house, indeed, birds have pecked their way through exterior clapboard, lath and plaster to gain entry in the bedroom in the south west corner. The west facing bay window is an attractive feature of this room. The fireplace on the east wall retains its original simple wood mantle. This bedroom has a tiny original closet and the later addition of a very rough "walk-in" closet accessed by an exterior door that originally led to the west balcony. This was a clumsy addition with exterior clapboard left untouched, floor unfinished and back wall made up of exterior clapboard. It will be removed in restoration. The indoor bathroom (corner sink and metal tub--no toilet) off this bedroom remains unaltered but for age and deterioration.

Bedroom #2: The floor in the southeast bedroom bounces underfoot, indicating the possible need for reinforcement or replacement of floor joists. This bedroom originally had a door leading to the east balcony, now filled. It has a very small original closet and a door connecting it directly to another small bedroom behind. The south facing bay window is an attractive feature of this room. The original simple wood mantle still surrounds the fireplace on the north wall of the room.

***Please see Exhibit #1, Floorplans

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Bedroom #3: The small bedroom behind the southeast bedroom also has a very small closet, an original corner sink and a door off the main stairhall.

Bedroom #4: A closet was added to a small bedroom on the west side of the upstairs hall and the door leading to the west balcony was filled. Originally this small room had no closet and a door leading directly to the west porch. Its original westward facing window remains unchanged.

Incomplete Bathroom Addition & Storage: The two tiny rooms at the back (north) end of the upstairs hall were originally one larger room. One of the rooms created by this alteration was converted to a bathroom (that was "always there" in the memory of Bill Durham, W.W.'s grandson who was born in the house in 1907 and lived there into his early teens).³ The other small room was then used for storage. This room now has a lowered (8 foot) ceiling and plasterboard walls. This area will become a single room again in restoration.

DOWNSTAIRS: Main Hall: The entry hall's most important feature is, of course, the original staircase with walnut handrail and banister. The staircase, handrail and banister remain in very good condition (see photo 13). There is currently a c. 1960 suspended light fixture hanging just inside the door which will be removed in restoration. A tiny closet under the stairs retains its original painted graining. There are doors leading to the billiard room, the main parlor, Mr. Durham's office and the dining room off the main hall.

Billiard Room: The room Mr. Durham used as a billiard room has a Lincrusta wainscot that has been painted repeatedly, thus obscuring the detail. The oak mantle and over-mantle (believed to be original) remain in the billiard room and are in good condition. As mentioned below, the exterior door leading to the west porch now accesses a tacked-on bathroom. The door, however, is original.

Parlor: There is also a main parlor with entrances from the main hall, the east porch and Mr. Durham's office. The original marble mantle (as described by Edna Reynolds Durham) was removed by W.W. Durham's second wife and replaced with a walnut mantle and over-mantle.⁴ The over-mantle is missing. The main features of the parlor are the deep bay and twelve foot high ceiling.

W.W. Durham's Office: Mr. Durham's office is behind the main parlor. It has an original exterior portal leading to a porch on the east side of the house. The original corner sink is missing, however the original oak bookshelves with glass doors remains.

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Dining Room: The dining room is small with entrances from the main hall, the east and west porches and the kitchen. The original pass-through cupboard (kitchen to dining room) remains in the northeast corner of the room. There is currently a gas heater on the north wall that shares a vent with the kitchen stove; it will be removed in restoration.

Bathroom Addition: There is a bathroom addition downstairs (directly beneath the original bath off the master bedroom), which occupies a section of the original porch (see photos 2, 14 & 15). The doorways leading into the bath were originally exterior portals to the west porch. This bath addition is a clumsy, tacked on type of addition that will be easily removed in restoration. It is accessed by what were originally exterior portals from the dining and billiard rooms onto the porch. The original doors remain in place.

Kitchen: The kitchen is in very poor condition. The original wood cookstove and sink are gone, replaced by a modern stove and kitchen cupboards with inset sink. There is a walk-in pantry in the northwest corner of the room and a pass-through cupboard (mentioned above), both are original.

Second Dining Room: The second dining room (where the farm hands were served) is at the back (north) end of the house and has entrances from the kitchen and west porch. The second dining room had, and still has, an unfinished interior (studs & clapboard). The wood floor is in very bad condition, but the room remains essentially unchanged.

There is evidence of several layers of wallpaper throughout the house, all in very bad condition.

CONCLUSION

The W.W. Durham House has fallen into a serious state of disrepair. As described above, birds have pecked their way into the house, interior plaster is crumbling and falling from the lath in many upstairs rooms. The porches have been altered to the detriment of the house's historic character. The exterior paint is almost nonexistent in places due to sun and weather damage. As a result there is damage to the clapboard, etc. Left unattended for a few more years, the W.W. Durham House would surely be lost to the elements.

The major features of the historic landscape--the oak, palm and citrus trees--remain intact and will, of course, be retained. The garage to the east of the house is not an original feature of the W.W. Durham House grounds, but was built by his son, R.W. Durham in 1912.

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Though the deterioration suffered by the W.W. Durham House is significant, it is repairable and the house has escaped major alterations to its original shape and form. The goal of the Durham House Preservation Partnership is to return the house to its original exterior size and shape. The concrete porches will be removed and original wood deck porches and balustraded balconies reproduced. The remaining original large cornice bracket will be reproduced as will doors leading to balconies.

Thus, it is the conclusion of the writer that the W.W. Durham House retains its historic integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

¹Harry L. Wells, History of Butte County, (San Francisco: Published by Harry L. Wells, 1882), pp.249-250.

(OTHER SOURCES AFFIRMING VILLAGE OF DURHAM NAMED FOR W.W. DURHAM)

Butte Record, 22 August 1874.

J.M. Guinn, History of the State of California & Biographical Record of the Sacramento Valley, (Chicago: The Chapman Publishing Co., 1906) p. 1401.

²Edna Reynolds Durham, (No publisher--publish date c. 1950), p. 73.

³William W. Durham, Personal Interview, 14 February 1991

⁴Edna Reynolds Durham, (No publisher--publish date c. 1950), p. 72.

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PHOTO EXHIBITS*

<u>For Physical Description:</u>	<u>Photo Number</u>
South Facade	1
West Facade	2
Sloped Roof of East Facade	3
1910 Photo of House (Special Collections)	4
1890 Photo of House (Special Collections)	5
Detail Photo of Bracket.....	6
Detail Photo of Window Embellishment.....	7
Detail Photo of Front Door	8
Detail Photo of Door Bell.....	9
1880 Lithograph of W.W. Durham House	10
Original Bathtub.....	11
Front Bay (Photographer facing east).....	12
Newel Post & Railing	13
Bathroom Addition (2 angles).....	14 & 15
Garage.....	19
Heritage Oak Tree.....	20
Front Yard Vegetation.....	21
c. 1900 Photo of House.....	22

For Statement of Significance:

(PHOTOS 16 & 17 WITHDRAWN FROM APPLICATION)

Context Photo (taken from west with camera facing east, across adjoining property)	18
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OTHER EXHIBITS

<u>For Physical Description:</u>	<u>Exhibit Number</u>
Floor Plans	1
Elevation	2

*PLEASE NOTE: Many of the W.W. Durham House windows were removed for reglazing in July of 1991 when some of the above photos were taken.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

W.W. Durham House

Durham, California

SUMMARY

In 1874 W.W. Durham built a spacious new home for himself and his bride, Minnie Van Ness Durham. The W.W. Durham House* is located a quarter mile east of the Central Pacific railroad tracks and the current center of the community of Durham on the Durham-Dayton Highway in Butte County, California. The house served as home and headquarters for W.W.'s successful farming endeavors from its completion in 1874 until his death in January 1907--a period generally matching the height of the community's early growth and prosperity. Durham came to California in 1861 with his brother, George, to help their Uncle Robert Durham run his farm (which, incidentally, he inherited from famed California pioneer, Samuel Neal). W.W. learned the farming business well and inherited 440 acres of Robert Durham's larger ranch at his uncle's death in 1871. In 1870 the California and Oregon Railroad was put through to Chico, and Durham Station (so named because it cut through the Durham Ranch) became a convenient shipping point for local crops. In 1873 W.W. deeded land for the Durham Flour Mill, the first business building erected in Durham. The railroad stop and the establishment of the flour mill were central to the emergence of a new community. As the community grew, the need for a church was brought to Mr. Durham's attention and in 1895 he deeded land and helped establish the first church in the village. Mr. Durham planted grain and fruit crops and spent much time experimenting with budding and grafting of fruit and nut trees in the front and back yards of his home. He often consulted with General John Bidwell of Chico with whom he shared an interest in horticulture. Evidence of his experimentation remains at his old home in the form of grafted fruit trees (one bearing both lemons and limes) and English walnut trees grafted on claro walnut root stock. Thus, W.W. Durham and his home (the first of such size and relative grandeur) became standard bearers for the community which developed around the efforts and successes of W.W. Durham. (See photo 18—context.)

*William Wellington Durham was commonly referred to and signed documents and personal letters as W.W. Durham. This application is, therefore, made under that name.

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W.W. Durham played an important role in the development of the community of Durham. In 1873 Mr. Durham deeded land for the construction of the Durham Flour Mill which was to ". . . be made as nearly perfect as possible, having all the appliances of the best mills."¹ The flour mill was the first business building in Durham and was central to the early growth and development of the community. Indeed, an article in the May 8, 1873 Northern Enterprise refers to Durham as "Flour Corners."² When the milling operation was incorporated in 1895, Mr. Durham became its first president.³

Around the Durham Flour Mill grew other related businesses, as indicated by the following excerpt from a short article in the August 22, 1874 edition of the Northern Enterprise,

"The new town at Durham [refers to Durham Station, the name of the railroad stop] is commencing to improve, and from its location cannot fail of becoming an important country point of trade and shipment. Judge Pratt has built one of the largest and finest warehouses in the county. Mr. Tabor is building a storehouse and Mr. Campbell a variety store room. The Durham flour mill is located here, and on last Saturday vast piles of sacks surrounded the mill. The lumber is on the ground for the construction of a new warehouse as an addition to the mill."

The same article queries, "What shall the new town be called--Durham or Prattville?" The contributions of W.W. Durham to the growth, development and prosperity in agriculture and associated business were affirmed in the choice of "Durham."⁴

In 1880 W.W. Durham's status as community leader was again confirmed when he was elected to the California State Assembly.⁵ A recent article in the Chico News & Review (researched and written by Joe Martin) even likens the local importance of the W.W. Durham House in Durham to Bidwell Mansion in Chico. Martin goes on to quote Durham historian Jan Holman, who said, "The house is a sort of keystone to the history of the town. It really gives roots to the people of the town. How many places have the original home of the originators of the community still standing?"⁶

The tiny community of Durham was at its economic peak from the time the Durham Flour Mill was completed in 1874 (the same year the W.W. Durham House was built) until Durham's death in 1907. An August 15, 1874 Northern Enterprise article announced, "Durham now has a post office and the mail is regularly dispatched to that place."⁷ W.W. Durham was postmaster from 1872-1878. Another Northern Enterprise article dated September 18, 1874 gives an enthusiastic description of the new prosperity in Durham, telling of warehouses, the Durham flouring mill, a variety store, the post office and a hotel.

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The article goes on to say, "W.W. Durham's fine residence is near its completion and is one of the prettiest farm houses in the State." The same article boasts, "If Chico fails in getting the county seat, we are going for it." These were heady times!⁸

There were, of course, other successful farmers and businessmen in the Durham area during W.W. Durham's time, but none so widely involved in the founding and early stewardship of those institutions which were the core of the community. In 1894 Reverend Fisher of Gridley began to make weekly trips to Durham for open air church services. As his following grew the need for a meeting house became apparent. Reverend Fisher brought this need to Mr. Durham's attention and he donated a lot near the center of town for the construction of a church. Mr. Durham and the Reverend Fisher then set out in Durham's carriage to canvas the community for contributions. W.W. purchased the building materials and advanced the money needed for construction in order to encourage donations from other citizens. In March of 1895 the United Brethren Church was dedicated "practically debt free," according to Reverend Fisher.⁹

The W.W. Durham House, which embodies the economic growth of Durham during W.W.'s lifetime, is the only extant building associated with him. It is Italianate in style and remains in its original location. The character of the setting has changed, as it is no longer headquarters for a large working ranch. All the original outbuildings (water tower, animal pens, granary, etc.) are gone, some lost to fire and others torn down to make way for orchards. All traces of the farm buildings have been ploughed under and where they once stood is now an aged and untended almond orchard.

The house retains most key exterior materials with the exception of original balustrades on the balconies and only one of the heavy cornice brackets remains. Additionally, there have been some changes made to the house in its 100+ year history, many by W.W. himself. The front porch was enclosed during his occupation for a make-shift hot house in which to grow flowers year-round. An upstairs door leading to the front balcony was replaced with a window, the balustrades were removed, and shutters were added during W.W. Durham's occupation.

Similarly, interior spaces have changed, most notably the kitchen, now lacking its original wood stove and sporting mid-twentieth century cabinets. The tack-on addition of a bathroom is the only attempt to add floor space to the house, and it confines itself to a section of the west porch. [This addition will be removed in restoration.] The only other interior space which has been significantly altered is a room at the back (north) end of the second floor that has been made into two rooms and an antechamber. One room was

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converted to a bathroom and the second room was used as storage space. The addition of this bathroom was done during W.W.'s occupation of the house and a much later attempt at updating it (mid-1980s) was left incomplete. Remarkably, the original bathroom off the master bedroom (tub and sink, no toilet) remains unaltered but for age.

Overall, the house retains its original form and plan, exterior materials, fenestration pattern and simplicity of ornament. It would surely pass the basic test of historic integrity: if W.W. Durham could see it today he would recognize it as his home, though he would probably groan a little, then send for painters and a housewright.

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NOTES

¹Alma Jones Blasingame, "The Town of Durham," Butte County Historical Society Diggin's, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Fall 1971), p. 5.

²Blasingame, p. 5.

³George C. Mansfield, History of Butte County, California, (Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1918), pp. 904-906.

⁴Butte Record, 22 August 1874.

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⁵A Memorial and Geographical History of Northern California, (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1891), p. 406.

⁶Joe Martin, "History Project," Chico News & Review, 5 December 1991, pp. 32-33.

⁷Northern Enterprise, 15 August 1874.

⁸Northern Enterprise, 18 September 1874.

⁹Jan Holman, History of Durham, California, [Unpublished Manuscript, chapter entitled "United Brethren Church"].

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PHOTO EXHIBITS*

<u>For Physical Description:</u>	<u>Photo Number</u>
South Facade	1
West Facade	2
Sloped Roof of East Facade	3
1910 Photo of House (Special Collections)	4
1890 Photo of House (Special Collections)	5
Detail Photo of Bracket.....	6
Detail Photo of Window Embellishment	7
Detail Photo of Front Door	8
Detail Photo of Door Bell	9
1880 Lithograph of W.W. Durham House	10
Original Bathtub.....	11
Front Bay (Photographer facing east)	12
Newel Post & Railing	13
Bathroom Addition (2 angles).....	14 & 15
Garage.....	19
Heritage Oak Tree.....	20
Front Yard Vegetation.....	21
c. 1900 Photo of House.....	22

For Statement of Significance:

(PHOTOS 16 & 17 WITHDRAWN FROM APPLICATION)	
Context Photo (taken from west with camera facing east, across adjoining property)	18

OTHER EXHIBITS

<u>For Physical Description:</u>	<u>Exhibit Number</u>
Floor Plans	1
Elevation	2

*PLEASE NOTE: Many of the W.W. Durham House windows were removed for reglazing in July of 1991 when some of the above photos were taken.

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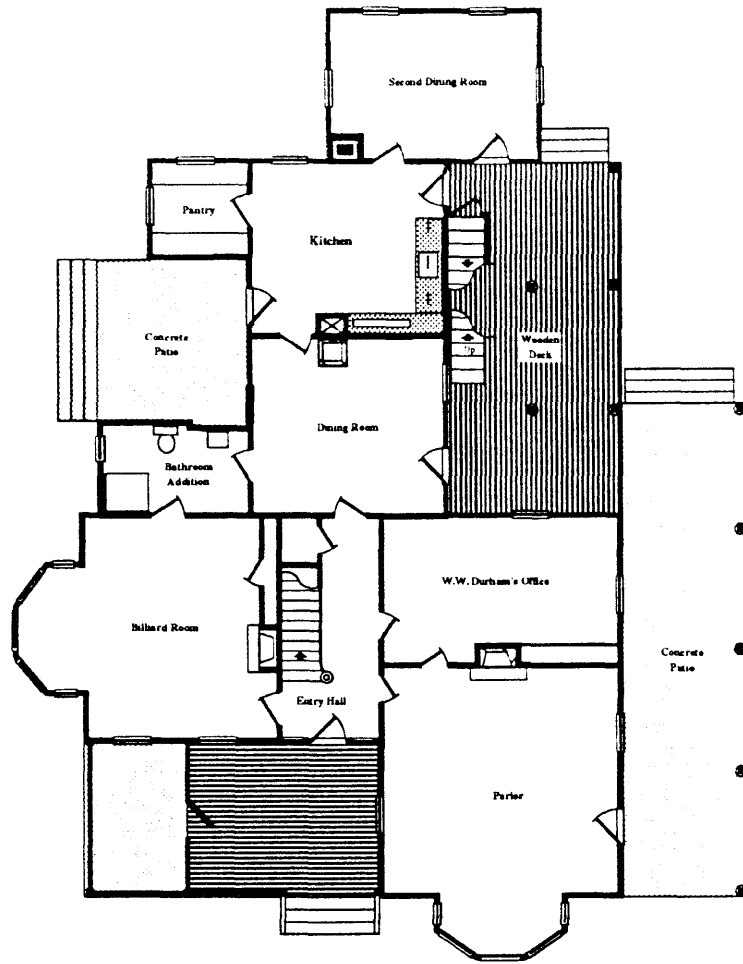
Butte County Probate Records--Robert W. Durham Probate File. Butte
County, California. 1871.

Butte County Probate Records--William W. Durham Probate File. Butte
County, California. 1907.

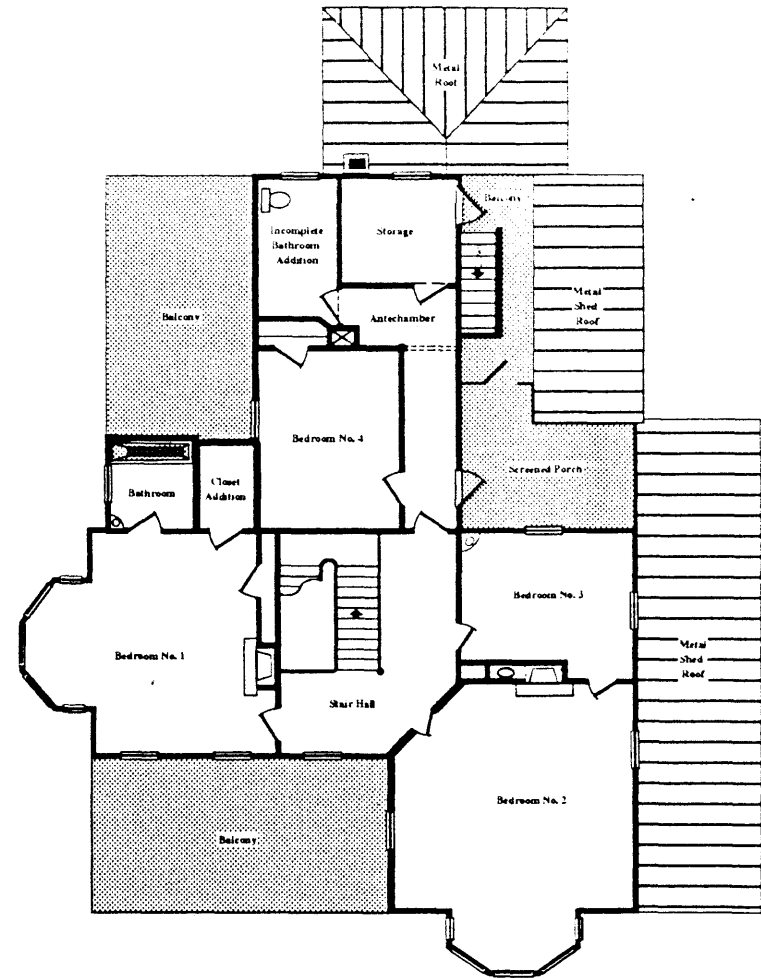
*All sources listed are available at Meriam Library, California State University, Chico unless otherwise indicated.

#Private Collection of Jan Holman, Durham, California.

@Durham House Preservation Partnership files.



First Floor



Second Floor

**Durham House
Preservation Partnership**

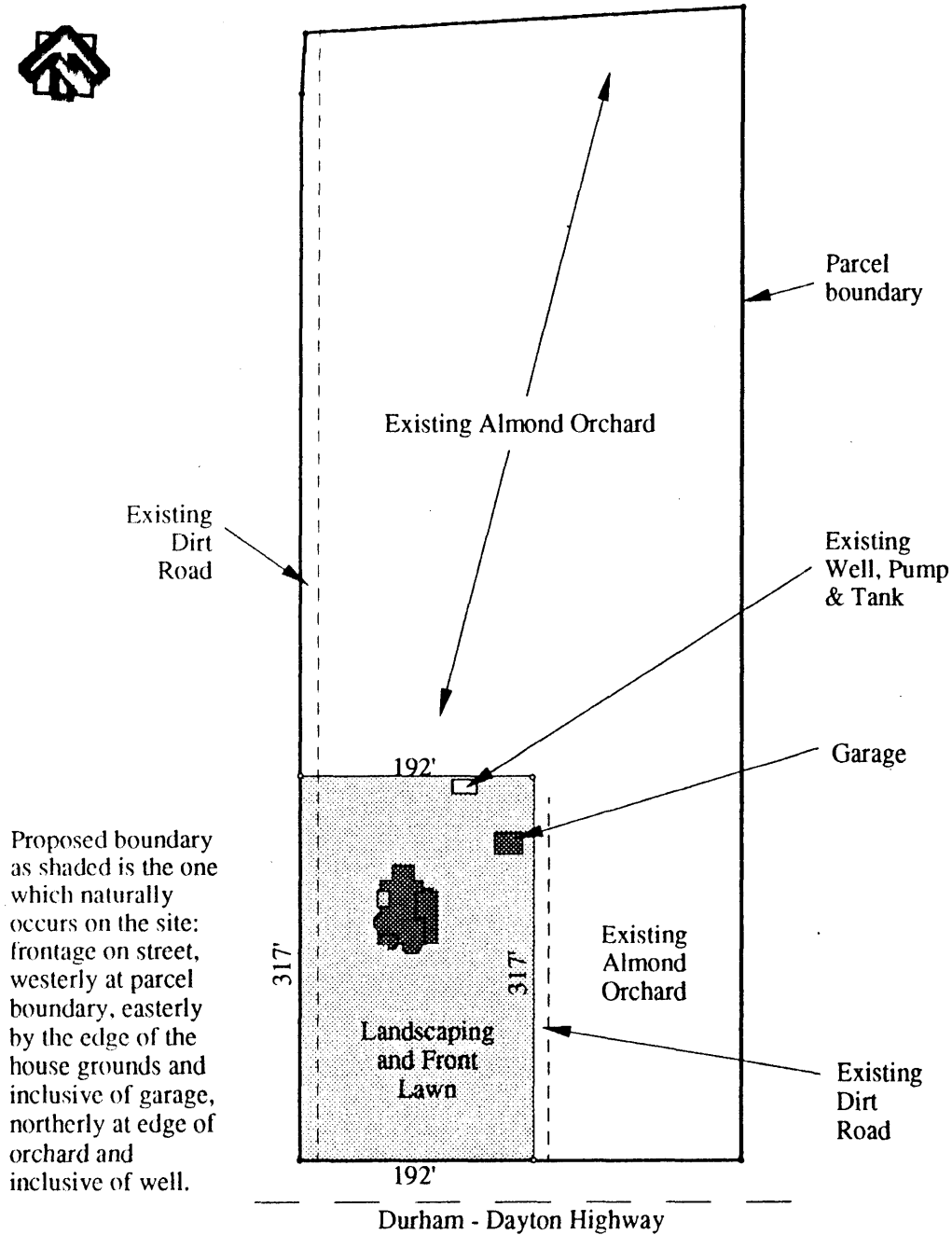
**W. W. Durham House
Durham , California**

**Exhibit 1:
Floorplans - Existing**

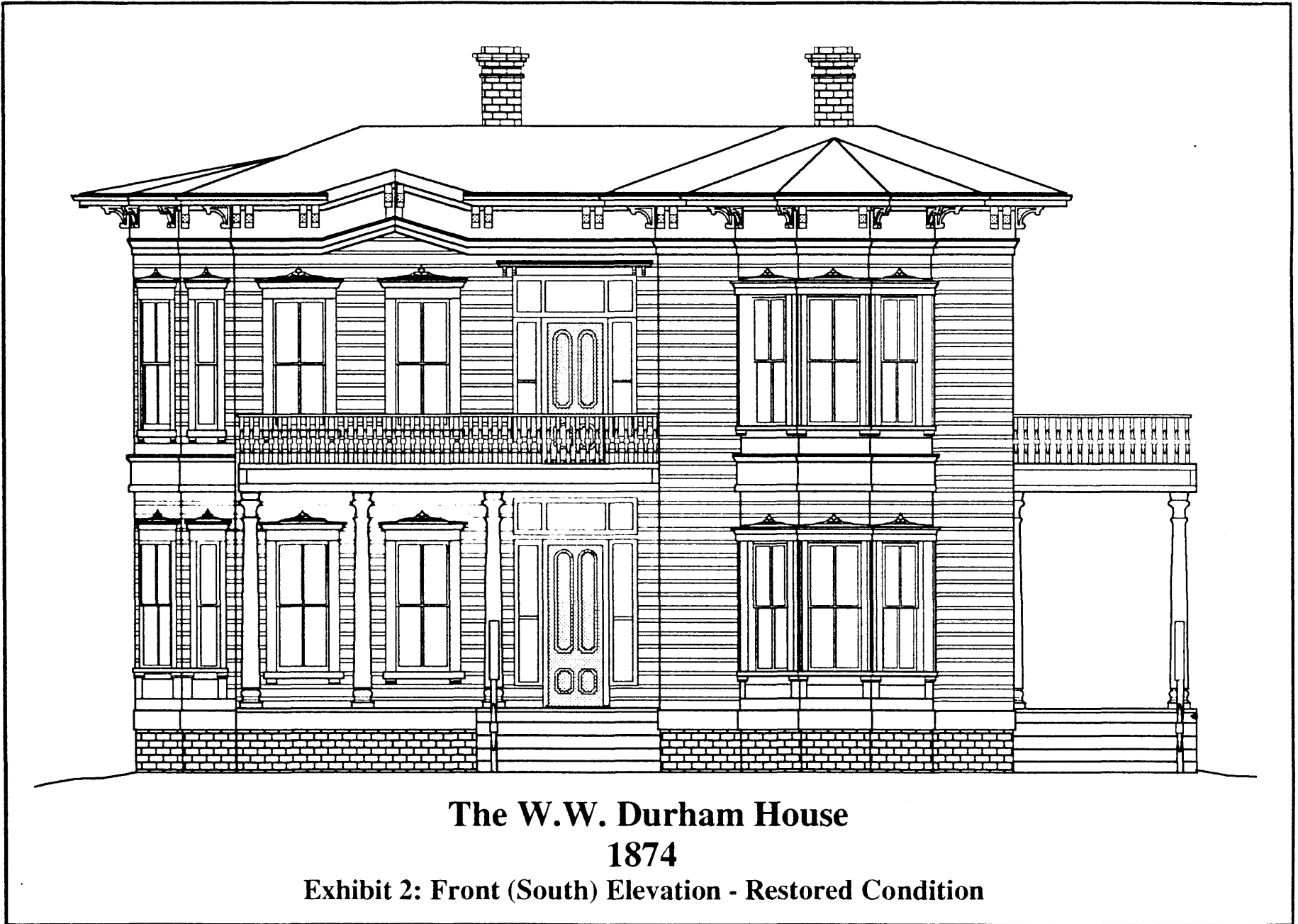
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Proposed boundary as shaded is the one which naturally occurs on the site: frontage on street, westerly at parcel boundary, easterly by the edge of the house grounds and inclusive of garage, northerly at edge of orchard and inclusive of well.



**The W.W. Durham House
1874**

Exhibit 2: Front (South) Elevation - Restored Condition