

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 LANTARNAM HALL

and/or common FORD COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

**2. Location**

street & number 12355 Stonebrook Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Los Altos Hills N/A vicinity of congressional district 12

state California code 06 county Santa Clara code 085

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Brent Warner (Trustee)

street & number 26210 Catherine Court

city, town Los Altos N/A vicinity of state California

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Santa Clara County Building

street & number 70 W. Hedding St.

city, town San Jose state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Santa Clara County Heritage Resource has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Commission

city, town 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose state California

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>    N/A    </u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lantarnam Hall, a large Tudor Revival structure of two and a half stories, is constructed in an "L" shape with legs of approximately 150 feet. Facing east, the structure is situated on the top of a knoll. The architecture embodies Tudor, Jacobean, and Elizabethan elements in an interpretation based upon the c. 1589 Speke Hall in Lancashire, England.

Construction of the Percy Morgan estate, originally known as Lantarnam Hall and now known as the Ford County Day School, began in 1914 and was completed two years later. The original estate covered 132 acres and consisted of prune orchards and gravel paths with carriages houses, stables, and eleven cottages. The Manor House is a large, articulated, two-story "L" shaped building. The two legs extend to the north and west (approximately 154 feet and 150 feet respectively), from a central entrance hall with grand stairs. The house has approximately 11,000 square feet of floor area with 26 major rooms and spaces. The front east facade of the house is bisected to the south by a "porte cochere" (a drive-thru entry) providing an entrance to the family portion of the house. To the north, the Great Hall and the expansive, formal terrace surround the eastern and northern portions of the house.

The basic structure remains in very sound condition and the character, embellishments, and decorations remain intact, although in need of repair and conservation.

The exterior of the manor house is Tudor English and "Jacobethan" revival. It is modeled after Speke Hall, a Lancashire house built in 1589, embodying elements of Tudor, Elizabethan, and Jacobean styles. The many-gabled roof and massing are typical of all three periods. The house's half-timbered walls with plaster in-fill, strapwork, and magpie surfaces are typical of the great houses of the Tudor Midlands. Tudor arches are used at the porte cochere. Incorporated in this design are the Gothic stone tips of window arches of Greyfair's Abbey, a 12th century religious house confiscated by Henry VIII and converted into Bluecoat School which was attended by Mr. Morgan's father. The large windows divided into rectangular lights by mullions, the Gothic tracery at the window's head, and the diamond leaded glass are very Elizabethan. The chimney flue terminations and decorative wrought iron braces of these flues are Jacobean.

The public, formal east facade of Lantarnam Hall contains all of the aforementioned elements of style. At the base of the facade is a balustrade around the front terrace and entrance. This facade, coupled with the use of brick in the terrace steps, is Renaissance/Jacobean. Incorporated into the design of the balustrade are urns and stone obelisks of the 17th century, imported from the estate of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, an Irish dramatist and statesman. The foundation is concrete, following the owner's instructions that the house be designed to withstand earthquakes. The half-timbered, plastered facade has diamond strapwork and typical quatrefoil decorative banding above and below the large windows. There are three very large (story and a half) windows with diamond leaded glass and Gothic tracery

<sup>1</sup>The original 132 acre estate has been reduced to 7 acres through subdivision of the property; The nomination includes the main house and several modern non-contributing features. (tennis court, swimming pool, pool house, and carport.)



# 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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1916 **Builder/Architect** John H. Powers

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Lantarnam Hall is significant as one of the best examples of Jacobean/Tudor revival architecture on the San Francisco Peninsula. Modeled after an existing English landmark, Speke Hall (1589), this summer residence is in the "grand mansion" scale exhibiting an excellence of proportions and workmanship and the integration of historic fragments of European architecture and fine art. Additional historical significance is derived from the buildings direct association with its original owner Percy T. Morgan, a well-known financial baron in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 1916 Percy Tredger Morgan completed the construction of Lantarnam Hall. This manifested his dream of building a manor house complex inspired by Speke Hall, an English country house

constructed in Lancashire, c. 1589.(1) The grand mansion was built just below the ridgeline of his 132 acre estate in the foothills six miles south of Mountain View. Although the estate has been diminished by land sales and urbanization (including a college and a section of the interstate highway), the prominence of siting and remaining 7 acres maintain a setting of dramatic presentation that prevents recent development from impacting the visual integrity of the original location.

Designed by a relatively unknown architect, John H. Powers, Lantarnam Hall displays great architectural refinement of the Tudor revival style. This work of Powers has been judged by his profession as exemplary. Lantarnam Hall has been featured in several issues of The Architect and later California Architect and Engineer. (2) Although little was said about the architect, the building was extensively presented by photographic coverage. Currently the structure has been acclaimed by architects as one representing outstanding architectural quality in the county. The statement made by regional architects (3) attests to the professional appreciation of the excellence in architectural skill embodied in Lantarnam Hall.

Integrated into the Manor House and Great Hall are artifacts and fine art from throughout Europe. Fireplace mantels in two bedrooms are of the type popular c. 1100 in England. Later dates have been ascribed to other architectural fragments, fireplace mantels, carved wood tracery screens, and colored glass windows. The ceiling of the Great Hall is a collage of heavy frames and oil paintings depicting the fame of Venice. The ceiling was taken from the Venetian Palace of Marino Grimini, a Doge of Venice in the fifteenth century. The mezzanine of the hall is fenced by a Van Amstel balcony balustrade from Holland. So skillful were the builders of Lantarnam Hall in integrating artifacts within the modern construction, that it is difficult to identify historic building materials from those of 1916. It is possible that future research will allow a greater awareness of both the architect and craftsmen responsible for this superlative example of talent. (3)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7 Acres

Quadrangle name Cupertino

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u>   <u>0</u>	<u>5</u>   <u>7</u>   <u>7</u>   <u>7</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>0</u>   <u>0</u>	<u>4</u>   <u>1</u>   <u>3</u>   <u>4</u>   <u>6</u>   <u>0</u>   <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Book 336, page 28, parcel 59, Santa Clara Assessor's Maps. Located on the northwestern slope above El Monte Road. The seven acres are in an irregular shape entered off Stonebrook Drive which is surrounded by residential parcels of one or more acres. Boundaries are shown on the attached map and

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** encompass the remnant of the once larger site.

state N/A code  county N/A code

state N/A code  county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie L. Bamburg, Revitalization Consultant

organization The Firm of Bonnie L. Bamburg

date November 5, 1985

street & number 247 N. Third Street, Suite 200

telephone (408) 971-1421

city or town San Jose

state California 95112

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kathryn Guattieri

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/18/85

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places as entered in the National Register

date 12-19-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Lantarnam Hall is an "L"-shaped structure composed of the Manor House and Great Hall. The two are divided by a central opening that provides a covered entrance to each element and a formal landscape plan of terraces and garden sculpture in both the east and west. The service and utility entrance was on the south side. Two important garden fountains, one on the north taken from a French fountain c. 1600 and a free-standing circular fountain from an English setting c. 1700 embellish the landscape.

Arriving in California in 1881, the 19 year old P.T. Morgan entered the mining business. Within ten years he began buying the land on which to build his dream. Financially successful, Percy T. Morgan became director of the Union Trust Company and Wells Fargo Bank, and was also a trustee of Stanford University and president of the Wine Growers' Association of California.

P. T. Morgan's father, Cosmo George Morgan, and his mother, Laura, served as resident project managers and assisted in acquiring the architectural elements to be part of the construction. Lantarnam Hall commenced in 1914. Like other San Francisco financial barons, Morgan selected, purchased, and then constructed around interior features gleaned from numerous homes, palaces, and churches of Europe. In the same manner that William Randolph Hearst sent art and interiors to San Simeon, Morgan sent them to his hilltop estate. The resulting manor house was enjoyed only five years when in 1920 financial concerns, including the \$400,000 cost of Lantarnam Hall, and world instability led to Percy Morgan's suicide. After an abandonment of nine years, the next 23 years brought owners who were colorful in their parties and associations with Hollywood movie personalities and San Francisco's prominent families.

In 1952 the property was purchased by John C. and Margaret Ford to house a prep school based upon John Carter Ford's philosophy of eclectic integration of educational subjects. The school attained a regional reputation for quality instruction and became a pre-prep school introducing several languages and "classic good manners" within the day's program. Activities established by the Fords to enhance and repair the estate became community traditions. Mayfair, a time for planting flowers with a festival spirit, has been continued each year. The Fords retired and sold the school in 1963 to Brent Warner who has recently agreed to permit the school to continue under a non-profit board of directors. A local institution with important ties to the community and the South Bay area, the Ford Country Day School is attempting to continue the operation of the school and provide for the preservation and conservation of Lantarnam Hall.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Lantarnam Hall is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under criterion C (Architecture/High artistic value) and B, (associations with persons of historic importance.)

- (1) Fletcher, Banister, Sir, The History of Architecture on the Comparative Method, 1963, Scribner & Sons, page 456.
- (2) Architect, August, 1918, Plates 13 - 16.  
California Architect & Engineer, May, 1920 Pages 83 - 87.
- (3) Selected 1985 San Francisco Symphony Showcase location by architects and interior design Professionals.
- (4) Research is continuing by students of San Jose State University.

LANTARNAM HALL (AKA FORD COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL)  
National Register, Significance

Footnote:

The acreage, originally part of the San Antonio Rancho, in 1909 was recorded as the Oneonta Hill Subdivision. The 132 acres was divided among family members and in 1929 the Manor House was sold with approximately 30 acres of hillside land. Subsequent owners reduced the acreage purchased by John Carter Ford in 1952. Residential acreage in 1 - 5 acre sites was sold between 1955 and 1979.



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CALIFORNIA ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER, May, 1920, pages 83 - 87.

FAVA, FLORENCE M., Los Altos Hills, 1976, pages 98-100.

FLETCHER, BANISTER, SIR, The History of Architecture on the Comparative Method, 1963, Charles Scribner's Sons, pages 456,459.

PEVSNER, FLEMING, HONOUR, A Dictionary of Architecture, 1976, Overlook Press, N.Y.

SAN JOSE MERCURY HERALD, April 17, 1920, Vol. XCVIII, Num. 108, page 1.

INTERVIEWS, John Carter Ford, 1984.

LANTARNAM HALL - SKETCH MAP

MURRAY  
3.8 AC.

SEMAN'S  
1 AC. +

EXISTING Buildings  
are below the grade  
of the MAIN HOUSE.

"A 32' WIDE

66.77'

(147.67)

151.84

154.56'

133'

WARNER  
1 AC.

MORMON CHURCH  
7.17 AC.

Lantarnam Hall  
12355 Stonebrook Drive  
Los Altos Hills,  
Santa Clara County, California

130.09

95.05

27.59

MELLDQUIST  
2.6 AC.

462.32'

EXIST  
POOL

EXIST.  
BATH HSE

ACCESS  
DRIVE

230.06

MATHEWS  
1 AC.

60'

PROPOSED  
TENNIS COURT

EXIST MAIN  
BLD. (FRONT)

LINCOLN  
1.5 AC.

CAR PORT

ACCESS  
DRIVE

GLOVER  
1.0 AC.

101.79'

105'

55

KAPLAN  
1.0 AC.

151.80'

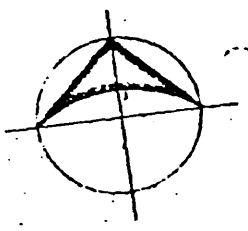
115.50

HIELSCHER  
2 AC.

MULLALY  
1.0 AC.

53.05'

140.12



SCALE: 1" = 100'

122.78'

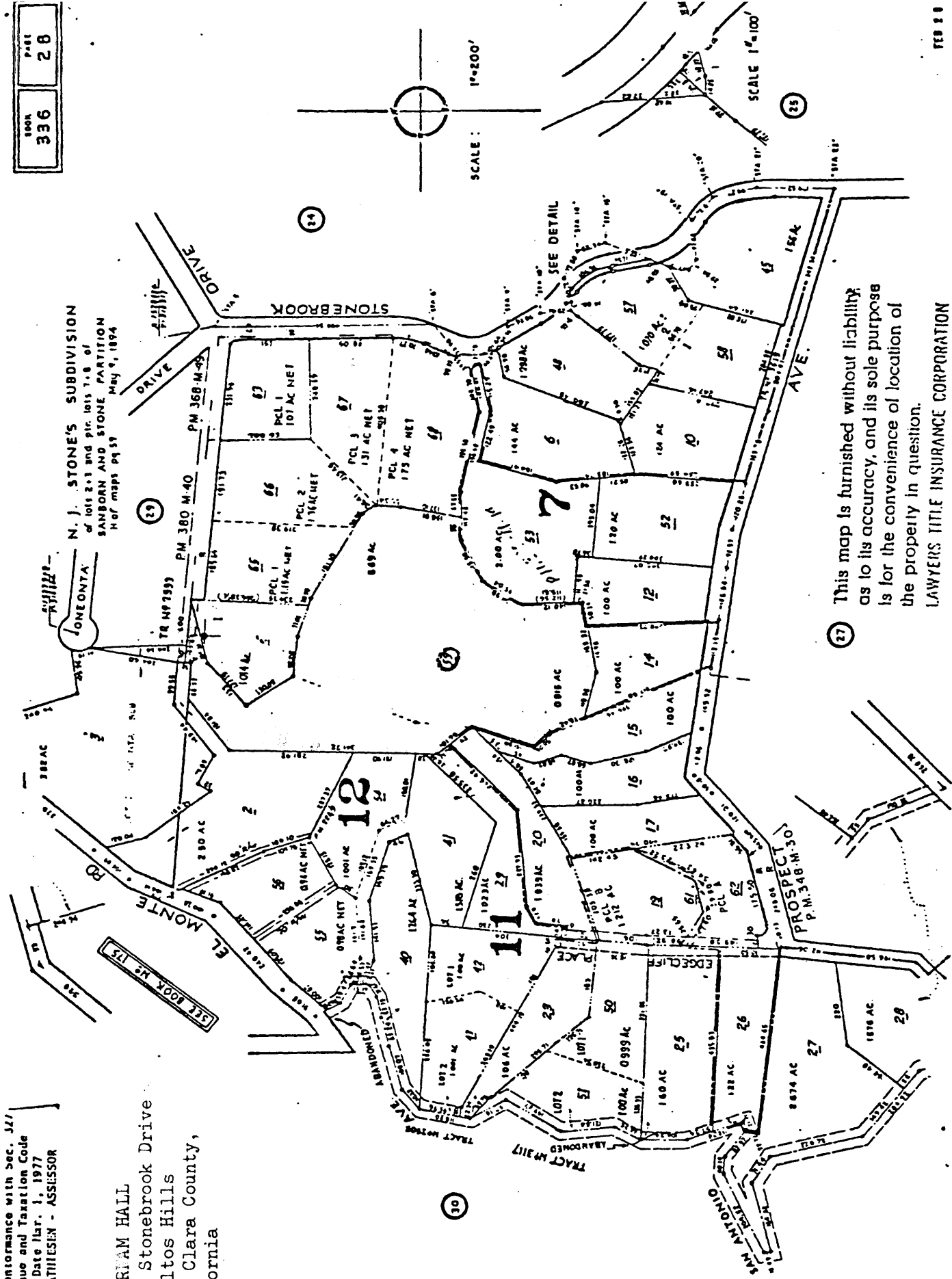
56.0

93.25

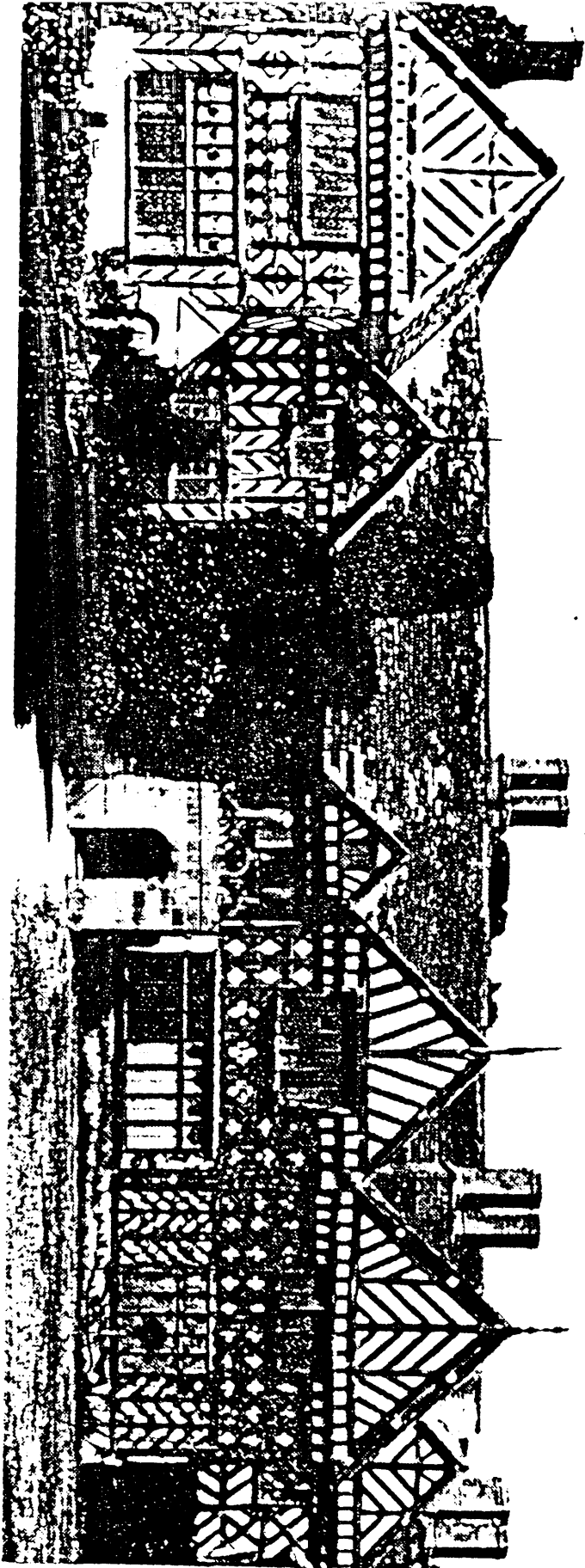
137

Compiled in conformance with Sec. 321  
of the Revenue and Taxation Code  
Effective Date Mar. 1, 1977  
DWIGHT L. MATHIESEN - ASSESSOR

LANTARIAM HALL  
12355 Stonebrook Drive  
Los Altos Hills  
Santa Clara County,  
California



This map is furnished without liability  
as to its accuracy, and its sole purpose  
is for the convenience of location of  
the property in question.  
LAWYERS TITLE INSURANCE CORPORATION



B. Speke Hall, Lancs: garden front (15th and 16th cents.). See p. 459

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