

PH0661023

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HOURS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 24 1978
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 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

DOLLIVER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1977
OHP

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 Madrone Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Larkspur

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

586

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Marin

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: under-

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

going interior remodeling only

NAME

Dennis and Joyce Hurley

STREET & NUMBER

58 Madrone Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Larkspur

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marin County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Marin Civic Center Building

CITY, TOWN

San Rafael

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET,
ITEM #6 PAGE 1

TITLE

WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC LARKSPUR

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Larkspur Library

CITY, TOWN

Larkspur

STATE

California

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET, ITEM #7, PAGE 1

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1800-1899 *1880* BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gustave Nagel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM #8, PAGE #1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marin County Recorder's Office, Book 6, p. 594.

San Francisco Directory, 1860, p. 114.

Independent Journal, March 14, 1958, p. 2.

"Larkspur Pamphlet File," Larkspur Library, pages unnumbered.

Holmes, James, "The Dolliver-Frederick Mansion," Larkspur Heritage Committee Files, September 25, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60' by 105'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	54,0	7,40	4,1	9,8	1,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 2, proceeding east along Madrona Avenue approximately 60 feet to the property line, then north approximately 105 feet, then west approximately 60 feet to property line, then south along property line approximately 105 feet to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(see Continuation Sheet, Item #11, Page 1)

NAME / TITLE

Joyce D. Hurley, property owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

November 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

58 Madrone Avenue

TELEPHONE

(415) 924-9329

CITY OR TOWN

Larkspur

STATE

California

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

Knay McEllon

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

ATTEST:

Matthew Cole
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5 22 78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 4-26-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: "Marin County Historic Resources Inventory"

Date: Spring, 1977, submitted to state 7/1/77

Depository: Civic Center Library

City: San Rafael

Depository: Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of
Historic Preservation

City: Sacramento

County

State: California

State

State: California

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ORIGINAL AND PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dolliver House is in the California Stick-Eastlake mode and has basically the same footprint and appearance as when it was constructed in 1888. The 2½ story house is located within a now overgrown garden with a 24 foot magnolia grandiflora at the street entrance, brick paths lined with roses, azaleas, hydrangas and studded with snowball bushes, lilacs, camellias and lillies with a strawberry ground cover. In the late 1940's it was a showplace¹. A back garden also overgrown has avacado, citrus, plum and apple trees.

The house combines a gable with a cross hip roof and has a wide double veranda with 6x6 posts that line up for the two stories.

A breakfast room on the uphill side was added between 1910 and 1920 and was tucked under the existing porch eaves and extended an additional 6 feet. A 7x7 bath was similarly added within the upper veranda space at the other end of the house.²

Redwood shiplap mounted with square nails covers the lower portion of the house with 2x6 redwood vertical trim boards at the corners. The saw pattern on the boards indicates that they were cut with a circular saw, probably, according to family descendents, at the saw mill located in the adjacent Madrone Canyon. The upper ends of the house have been shingled, at the back and sides with a serrated pattern and on the front with a patterned motif. The front end of the roof eaves is trimmed with bullseyes and decorative wood strips.

The original 8'x3'x10" double sash windows trimmed on the exterior with 2x6 redwood have with only a few exceptions the original rolled glass divided into six panes at the top and two panes at the bottom. The street facing window at the end of the gable roof has been trimmed at the top with a 12" wide panel composed of eleven 1½" half dowels. The window has nine panes at the top composed of a large center pane with smaller border ones.

The 9' front door has recessed molding panels on the bottom and glass panels divided into two large center panes with an irregularly spaced border of twelve smaller panels on the top. The front door and interior doors have the original brass embossed hardware. Simple curved brackets with a hole drilled in the center have been used on the lower porch. Corner brackets on the second floor porch are 2x6s with beveled edges. The stair access to the upper

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ORIGINAL AND PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (CONTINUED)

veranda have been changed as has the original Chinese lattice work ballastrades on the upper veranda which have been replaced by simple horizontal 4x4s.

The original shake roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles.

The interior of the house is the original floor plan consisting of eight rooms: a double parlor, kitchen, breakfast room, two bedrooms on the main floor, two bedrooms on the second floor and one bedroom on the ground floor. While the stair location has not been changed, several walls and a closet have been removed to open up the stair space. The original embossed hardware on doors and windows (except for the dormer window) is in place as is the 6" square bullseyes (convex in the living room and concave in the bedrooms) that trim the doors and windows. The 12" top trimmed baseboard molding in the living room is still in place. The bedrooms have 2x8 baseboard moldings without top trim. Ceilings are all 10 foot on the first floor with 1½" wood with plaster embossed trim mounted 18" down from the ceiling.

The original fireplace of brick faced with polished bricks and 2x2 glazed tile hearth with decorative border is framed with carved and rounded redwood molding 6" wide topped with an 11" rounded edge mantle. The flooring is the original redwood. Walls are lath and plaster. The original chimney has been modified with an arched top.

The house has a 3' stepped brick foundation and frame construction consisting of 4x6 girders, 2x12 joists and 2x4 studs on 16" centers. The roof rafters are 2x6 with 1x6 decking.

Forced air heat and electricity were added in the early 1900s. The light fixtures were installed about 1916 according to family descendent's. 3

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FOOTNOTES

1. Interviews with Eda Nagel, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977.
2. Interview in 1974 with Walter Frederick, Jr. (family descendent)
3. Interview in 1974 with Walter Frederick, Jr. (family descendent)

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AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE:

The Dolliver House is California modified Stick-Eastlake, a late 19th century mode emphasizing angular lines and a minimum of "gingerbread" carving, built in 1888 entirely of redwood with varying sized square nails used in construction. Its wide verandas are a typical victorian hallmark. The house is typical of the more simple, utilitarian type structures that were built as summer homes by upper middle class San Franciscans in the late 19th century. Strong vertical lines are emphasized by the 2x6 trim boards at the corners, the steep pitched gable roof and the 6x6 porch posts which line up for the two story veranda. The bracket trim on the verandas has been detailed but in a more simple manner than would be found in a city dwelling.

Other hallmarks of the Stick-Eastlake: the mix of shingle patterns on the gable ends and sides, the trim panel above the front window, the 9 foot front door with paneled glass and recessed molding, the 8'x3'x10" double sash windows with top 6 panes and lower 2 panes of rolled glass with brass hardware, the wide verandas and the bullseye and wood trim on the fascia.

On the interior, the 10 foot ceilings, door and window moldings with 6x6" bullseyes (convex in the living room and concave in the bedrooms), wood and plaster moldings mounted 18" down from the ceiling and 12" and 8" wide baseboard moldings are in keeping with the 1880 period of construction.

Since the Dolliver House is today little changed from its original physical appearance excepted as noted in section 7 and has all its original trim both on the interior and exterior, it reveals a way of life that was typical of the 19th century. It is a prime example of a substantial summer residence built for a prosperous San Francisco businessman.

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AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: CONSERVATION

On Dolliver's property just to the east of his summer home stood a dense grove of redwood trees. Across the street there were more of these trees and Dolliver bought the land on which they stood on September 11, 1889. 1 Extensively logged in the 1850's, these second growth trees had multiplied and formed a "forest" setting.

Today, thanks to the efforts of Ellen Dolliver Jewell, who inherited the Larkspur summer home and the redwood grove just east of it after her father's death in 1911, the redwood groves are still in tact. On July 5, 1922, she donated the redwood grove adjacent to the house to the city for a park with the conditions that: "no buildings be erected...for rent or profit, that the redwoods be preserved, and that the grounds be used for the recreational purposes of the people of Larkspur. 2 In 1923, the land was deeded to the city. 3

A plaque commemorating her gift states: "This first redwood grove on the Redwood Highway was the gift of Ellen Dolliver Jewell to the town of Larkspur in 1923".

The park was the first individually owned private property deeded to the city for park and public uses.

In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Burtchael (grandson of Thomas Dolliver) deeded the remainder of the redwood grove across Madrone Avenue to the city of Larkspur to be used as a park in memory of Ann C. Dolliver, his grandmother. The park is currently named Dolliver Park and has a family placed historic marker located at the corner of Madrone Avenue.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ASSOCIATION WITH LOCAL MASTER BUILDER

The house was constructed by San Francisco and Larkspur Architect/Builder Gustave Nagel, also a San Francisco resident at that time. This was the first home he constructed in the new township, and in the next twenty years it was followed by many substantial as well as modest homes and buildings. He built the large victorian style Larkspur Hotel in 1895 and remodeled it in 1912 when it was renamed the Blue Rock Inn Hotel which still stands today. He built the original Larkspur/Corte Madera School in 1894-1895. Nagel became a permanent Larkspur resident when he and his family fled the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He built his own family home that year and it remains today just as he built and furnished it. It is occupied by his daughter Eda, who has furnished much information about homes her father built, including the Dolliver House. 4

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AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Dolliver House was the first house built in the new township of Larkspur. 5

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: OTHER: ASSOCIATION WITH AN EARLY CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

Dolliver family residents recall that their ancestor was an authentic pre-gold rush immigrant to California from Massachusetts. Born on May 1, 1821 in Cambridge, Thomas and his brother first came to San Francisco in the late 1830's. Both returned to Massachusetts where Thomas married Ann Coxiter, a native of England in 1840. 6

Dolliver and his brother returned to California with the gold rush, arriving in San Francisco in November, 1849. Thomas sent for his wife and three daughters in 1856. Failing at prospecting, Dolliver returned to San Francisco and by 1860 had established a ladies and childrens shoe business. 7 He was later joined by his brother in this business. Eventually the firm was called Dolliver Enterprises and continued in operation as a wholesale leather merchandizing firm until 1973. Throughout its 113 years of operation, it was controlled by family descendants.

Thomas Dolliver is typical of the California immigrants whose dreams of striking it rich in the gold mines never came true. He turned from failure at gold digging to success as a San Francisco businessman and as such made a significant contribution to the economic development of the bay area. The Dolliver House is the only remaining example of his contribution to the San Francisco Bay Area.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: OTHER: ASSOCIATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE BOOM
OF THE 1870's and 1880's:

In 1887 land speculator C. W. Wright bought a 600 acre Marin County cattle ranch and had it surveyed and divided into lots and blocks, He launched a promotional campaign to sell homesites in his new township named "Larkspur" and advertised as "The gem of California".

Prior to Wright's arrival only six families resided in the surrounding areas known then by their Mexican landgrant titles, "Corte Madera Del Presidio" and "Punta De Quentin". This was an agricultural area of cattle ranchers, dairy and hay farmers and wine makers. Scattered brickmaking was the only industry.

Land speculator Wright's 1887 purchase was representative of the California

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AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: OTHER: ASSOCIATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE BOOM
OF THE 1870's and 1880's (CONTINUED)

real estate boom during the 1870's and 1880's. Wright and his two partners sought to enlarge their business profits thru land development.

At the same time, prosperous San Francisco businessmen were buying Marin County land on which to build summer residences, definitely the accepted symbol of status and prosperity in the late 1800's.

Thomas Dolliver, well-to-do San Franciscan, purchased 2 acres of land from C. W. Wright on April 2, 1888, for \$1,000.00 gold coin.⁸ According to family sources and a long-time Larkspur resident (Miss Eda Nagel, 1977), the home Dolliver had constructed that year was the very first built in the new Larkspur Township. It remains today as it was then with only minor changes having been made to its exterior over the succeeding eight decades.

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FOOTNOTES

1. County Recorder's Office, Book 10, Page 351
2. Minutes of the City Council, City of Larkspur, July 5, 1922
3. Minutes of the City Council, City of Larkspur, September 20, 1923
4. Interviews with Eda Nagel, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977.
5. Interviews with Eda Nagel, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977.
6. San Francisco Directory for the year commencing 1860. p. 114
7. "The Dolliver-Frederick Mansion and its story" by James Holmes, Larkspur Heritage Committee, September 25, 1974.
8. Marin County Records Office, Book 6, Page 594.

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ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Nancy W. Curley, member
Organization: Larkspur Heritage Committee
Street & Number: 130 Elm Avenue
City: Larkspur State: California
Telephone: (415) 924-3133
Date: November 10, 1977

