

PH 003 7036

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Marin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 11 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Robert Dollar Estate

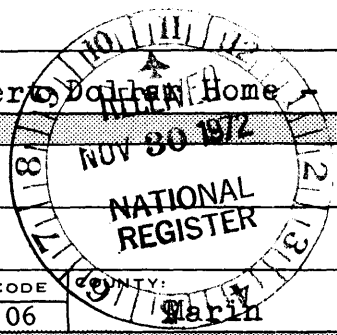
AND/OR HISTORIC: James D. Walker Home/Robert Dollar Home "Falkirk"

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 1408 Mission Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: San Rafael

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Marin CODE: 041



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: R. Dollar Estates Trustees: R. Stanley Dollar, Jr., Mrs. Baar, Mrs. Gorham Knowles (nee Dollar)

STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Robert Dollar Co., 311 California Street

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco STATE: California CODE: 06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Marin County Recorders Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Marin Civic Center

CITY OR TOWN: San Rafael STATE: California CODE: 06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 S.F. Bay Area Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Marin County Library, Civic Center (Jr. League Historic Sites Project)

STREET AND NUMBER: San Rafael STATE: California CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California

COUNTY: Marin

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 11 1972

DATE: DEC 11 1972

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robert Dollar Estate is an outstanding example of late 19th Century architecture representing the Eastlake and Queen Anne styles of the late Victorian Era. The 17 room mansion is situated on 11.1 acres of land with a winding drive, spectacular views, imaginative landscaping and natural wooded hillside. It is a prime example of the grand country estates once so prevalent in the suburban Bay Area, most of which have now been lost to subdividers.

The original 3 story home, built in 1879 according to available records, at a transition point between two Victorian styles: Eastlake (1870-1880) and Queen Anne (1876-1900) "blossoms with gables, dormers, slanted and rounded bays and porches."\* The style of the exterior, though somewhat modified in the 1920s is clearly Queen Anne which, if the 1879 date is correct, would be avant-garde for its time as the Queen Anne style was developed to its fullest between 1885 and 1890. The masonry insets, oriel windows changing shape at each floor, successive overhangs, picturesque profile and applied wood paneling imitating half timbering above shingle siding are all typical Queen Anne characteristics. The stucco infills in the paneling would originally have been mortar or jigged and turned wood applied decoration. It is probable that some of this decoration may still be under the stucco, depending on the thoroughness of the contractor who made the modifications. The entire exterior was painted white about 15 years ago but still shows the sculpturally interesting, varied and well integrated forms and voids. A 2 story wing was added to the rear corner of the house in 1925.

The arrangement of the downstairs rooms is also consistent with the Queen Anne style. The library, living room and dining room are grouped around a lozenge shaped central hall containing a large, exquisitely decorated fireplace. Access to the hall from the exterior is made through a major vestibule between the library and the living room and a minor vestibule between the living room and dining room.

The main stairway to the second floor is built around the fireplace in the hall. In addition to the imaginative and remarkably functional arrangement of the floor plan the architect employed considerable skill in planning by raising portions of the second floor to accommodate the living room ceiling which is a vaulted ceiling at least 3 feet higher than those of the adjacent rooms. This interesting separation of levels is repeated on the third floor.

Cont'd on Form 10-300a

\* From Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage Junior League Inc., Chronicle Books, 1968.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation)



STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7. Description (Cont'd)

The interior decor follows closely the ideas of Charles Locke Eastlake in his Hints on Household Taste published in America in the early 1870s. Notable decorative features include:

1. The redwood paneled vaulted ceiling, 15 feet high with decoratively moulded cross beams in the living room. The dining room and hall ceilings are similarly paneled.
2. Inlaid burl and redwood wainscot paneling throughout the three main rooms.
3. Inlaid hardwood floors.
4. Delicately decorated bronze fittings and hardware.
5. Some hand painted ceramic knobs.
6. Original brocade and silk wallhangings.
7. Curved glass bay windows
8. Carved oak fireplaces. There are 7 fireplaces in all
9. Several large stained glass windows of exceptional quality. One on the staircase is at least 15 feet tall illuminating the hall of both the first and second floor.

All the carving, brackets, fireplaces and fabric trimmings are carefully conceived in accordance with Eastlake's suggestions, and are exceptionally well preserved. The woodwork, particularly that of the living room ceiling is executed with remarkable skill and restraint, avoiding the gloomy appearance so often associated with Eastlake interiors.

The mansion itself is set approximately 150' back from the street on 11.1 acres of grounds and is reached by a long curving drive. Four imposing stone lion-dogs from China guard the driveway entrance and two smaller ones guard the steps at the top of a foot path leading up to the house. Several large masonry urns and a brick lined lily pond add to the Victorian elegance of the gardens. Gently sloping lawns, boxwood hedges, azaleas and hydrangeas under mature trees, including a rare Sequoia "Gluaca" are but a few of the wide variety of interesting flora that provide a parklike setting for the house. Further back, behind the house are over five acres of natural wooded hillside adjoining public open space - 12 acres of which were donated to the city by Robert Dollar.

Other buildings on the estate include a circular lath house with a Gothic arched entrance. This connects to a greenhouse and gardeners cottage. There is also a 4 door garage. Unfortunately these outbuildings are in a state of disrepair.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

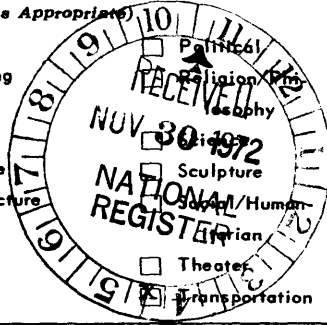
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879, 1906 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political             | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture             | <u>Association</u>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture          | <u>with famous</u>                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime/Humanitarian | <u>person</u>                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater               | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation |  |  | _____                                    |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Some of the characteristics which make this estate significant are as follows:

Architecture: The Dollar Estate is an outstanding example of late 19th century architecture - probably the finest example of Eastlake-Queen Anne architecture remaining in the San Rafael area. It has received an award of merit from the California Heritage Council. The mansion, built in 1879, represents a transition point between two styles of Victorian architecture, Eastlake (1870-1880) and Queen Anne (1876-1900), and skillfully combines the best of both.

The exterior of the residence is a typical Queen Anne combination of varied surface textures on a sculpturally interesting profile. As noted in the attached description this was one of the earliest examples of the Queen Anne style which did not reach its fullest development until after 1885.

Art: The interior, though based on a Queen Anne floor plan, is a classic example of the Eastlake tradition in decor and as such embodies a collection of the finest Victorian artistry available. The stained glass windows are exceptional in terms of design and craftsmanship and represent an art that has virtually disappeared. The carved woodwork, decorated bronze fittings and hardware and other decorative details are all of outstanding quality and remain interwoven to create the total impact of an Eastlake interior in its original condition. These details, so typical of the Victorian era also represent arts and crafts that have been lost in the contemporary era of mass production and production for the masses.

Landscape Architecture: The landscaping of the 11.1 acre estate is significant in that the extensive formal grounds and natural wooded hillside create a perfect foil in terms of color, texture and form for the mansion. The rolling lawns, mature shrubs and trees - some of which are rare botanical specimens - the winding drive, footpaths and pond all create a park like setting traditional for the grand country estates of the period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Here Today, San Francisco's Architectural Heritage Jr. League Inc.  
 Chronicle Books, 1968  
 Independant Journal, 100th Anniversary Edition, March 25, 1961  
 Who's Who in California, Justice B. Detwiller, editor, Who's  
 Who Publishing Co., San Francisco, 1929  
 Marin Journal, December 15, 1932  
 San Francisco Examiner, May 16, 1932  
 Independant Journal, September 21, 1957  
 Chronological History of Marin County, vol. 2, p. 368  
 Redwood Railways, G.H. Kneiss, Howell-North, Berkeley, 1956

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 58' 44"	122° 31' 54"				
NE	37° 58' 44"	122° 31' 42"				
SE	37° 58' 30"	122° 31' 42"				
SW	37° 58' 30"	122° 31' 54"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 11.1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mary Case Dekker, Chairman - Pro Tem

ORGANIZATION: San Rafael Historic Preservation Committee      DATE: Oct. 10, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 12 Center Street      or P.O. Box 1432

CITY OR TOWN: San Rafael      STATE: California      CODE: 06

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: NOV 8 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/72

ATTEST:

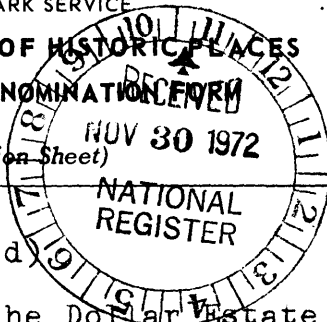
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/9/72

NW 10/541380/4203390  
 SF 10/541350/4202980  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	California
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Cont'd)

The location of the Dollar Estate makes it particularly important. It is situated directly across the street from the library and City Hall in the civic and historic center of San Rafael.

The plantings and natural growth of the hillside along with those of the Louise Boyd Estate (now the Elks Lodge) and Boyd Memorial Park which adjoin the Dollar property provide the natural aesthetic background for many of the city's public buildings. The estate, therefore, seems ideally suited to park and museum purposes and preservation of the estate for community use would be a far more valuable asset to the community than the 6 story condominium backed by 32 town houses that is currently being proposed for the property.

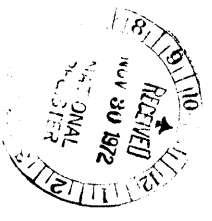
Historical Significance: The Dollar estate visually reflects the social, economic and creative forces of the late 19th century and marks the beginning of a new era for San Rafael. What had begun as a mission settlement in 1817 had suddenly become the transportation hub and consequently the commercial and civic center of Marin County with the advent of the first railroad in the county in 1869. During the 1880s San Rafael became a fashionable suburb and an elite summer resort for the wealthy of San Francisco.

This estate is particularly representative of this period in its association with 3 of Marin's early and most prominent citizens. Both Sidney Smith and James D. Walker who were co-founders of that first railroad, the San Rafael and San Quentin line and, later, the North Pacific Coast Railroad, were early owners of the property.

Association with famous personage: Robert Dollar purchased the property from Mrs. Trenor Park in 1906 and named it Falkirk after his birthplace in Scotland. Though first in the lumber industry, Captain Dollar began his career as a shipping magnate with one small ship in 1895. By 1924 the fleet had grown to become the world's first round-the-world passenger and freight line. The \$ sign on the smokestacks of the Dollar line were soon an internationally known symbol and Robert Dollar was called the "Dean of American Shipping" as well as the father of the American Merchant Marine.

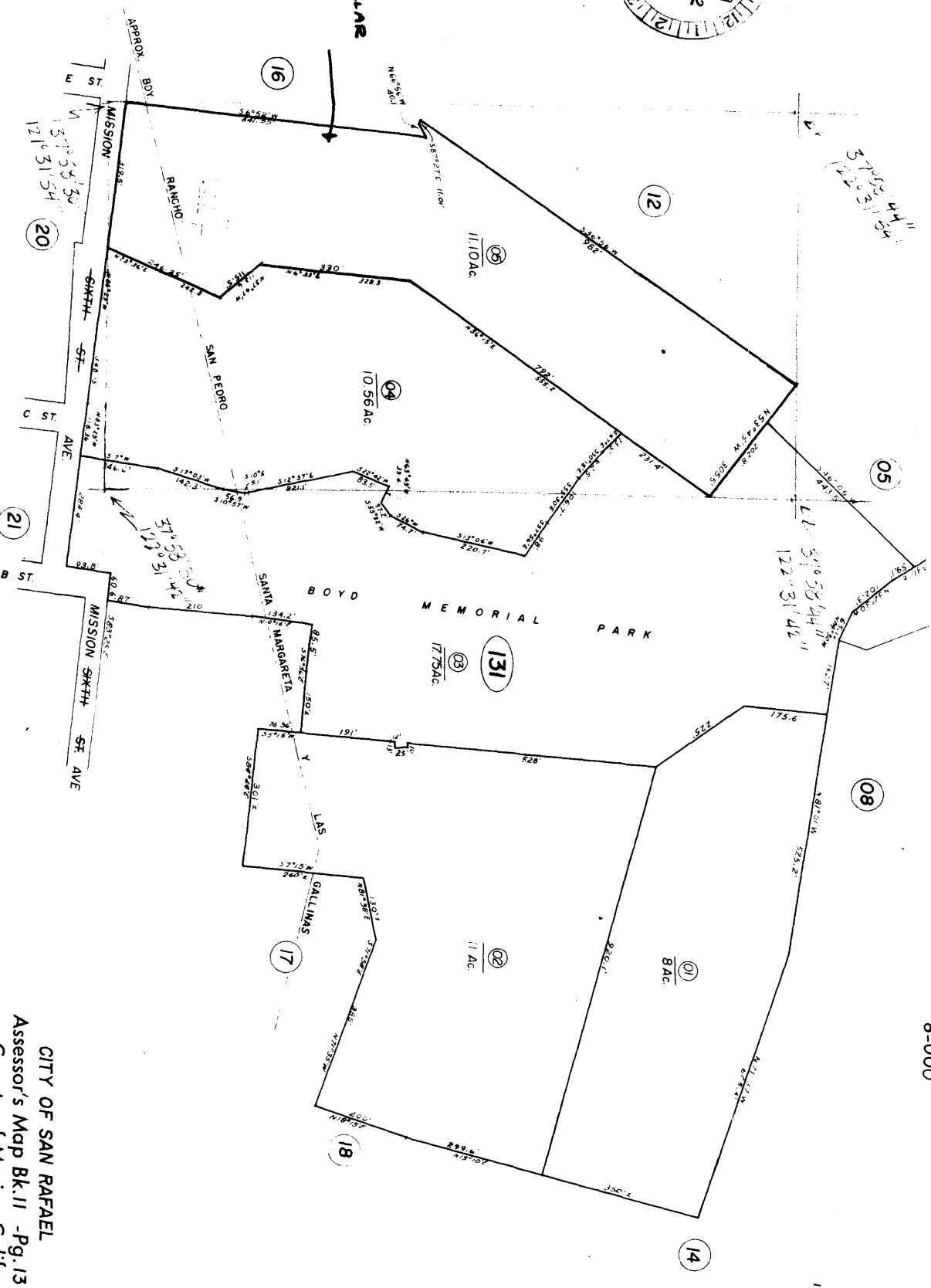
POR. SAN PEDRO, SANTA MARGARITA Y LAS GALLINAS RANCHO

Tax Area Code  
8-000



ROBERT DOLLAR  
ESTATE

THIS PAGE REVISED and/or CHECKED		
Date	By	
2-26-71	L.O.C.	
7-23-72	L.O.C.	
3-1-65	G.B.	
3-1-66	J.L.	
3-6-67	L.O.C.	
3-9-68	M.O.	
2-28-69	L.O.C.	
2-27-70	M.O.	



Plat of the Townsite of San Rafael

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses  
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

