United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places **Inventory**—Nomination Form



not for publication

code ⁰⁵³

16th

congressional district

Monterey

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name

GOSBY HOUSE INN historic

and/or common

Location 2.

643 Lighthouse Avenue street & number

city, town Pacific Grove

06

code

state California

C

3. Classification

Category district building(s) structure	Ownership public _x_ private both	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress	Present Use agriculture _X_ commercial educational	museum park private residence
site object	Public Acquisition in process being considered	Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	entertainment government industrial military	religious scientific transportation other:

vicinity of

county

Owner of Property

Roger R. Post name

street & number P.O. Box 3073

citv.	town	Monte	rev
ony,	LOWIT	HOLLE	TCX

vicinity of

state California 93940

Location of Legal Description 5.

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monterey County Recorder's Office

street & number Court House

Salinas city, town

state California

Representation in Existing Surveys 6,

Stat	e Historic I	Resources	Inventor	у				
title				has th	nis property been dete	ermined eleg	ible?y	es no
date	1977				federal	_x_ state	county	local
		State C	office of	Historic	Preservation			
depository	y for survey reco	ords P.O. I	Box 2390					
city, town	Sacramento	D				Ca state	lifornia	95811

7. Description

X excellent deteriorated	Check one unaltered _Xaltered	Check one _X_ original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gosby House Inn is a two story wood frame structure resting on a concrete foundation. It is irregular in plan and has evolved stylistically through additions from a rather simple and straightforward western stick motif to its current Queen Anne configuration. Most of the alteration took place before the turn of the century. The multi-gabled roof is capped with an asphalt composition shingling sympathetic to the original wood shingle covering. The first addition, one bay deep (1890s), terminates in the south with a hipped roof-end while the most recent addition (1979) is a one story. shed-roofed 15' by 25'5" extension in the rear of the main structure on the west. 0f the three original corbeled brick chimneys, none remain, probably due to the earthquake of April 18, 1906. However, a more recent brick chimney does appear centered in the forward quarter of the structure. The building skin is of redwood in a combination of forms. A horizontal drop siding was the earliest to be employed, with fishscale shingling in the major gable-ends. With the Queen Anne expansion in the 1890s, a two story turreted entry and reception area was added and sheathed at the second story level with square butted shingles. At the same time, the forward east-facing bay was angled to match the existing bay of the facade, and a two story drop sided extension was added to the rear of the structure on the south, repeating already extant dormer windows at stair-heads and hall-ends. Detailing is fairly simple with stick-work in the gable-ends, and sawn and turned trim in the angled bays and the open porch of the turret entrance. Most changes in fenestration have occurred in the turret entrance addition. A 3/3 glazed casement window facing east has been replaced with 1/1 sash and the three 3/3 half-basement casement windows below have been infilled with drop siding--this probably just after the turn of the century. There is evidence on the west side of the structure that another set of paired windows were closed at this time. The fenestrations, like the building, is asymmetrical. However, most windows are paired 1/1 sash, creating a pleasant rhythm throughout the entire ensemble. First floor windows in the Queen Anne addition are 1/1 sash with those of the entrance hall and reception area being more elaborate, with segmented bands of stained glass bordering the upper lights, a typical decorative application of the period. At the junctions between windows are slender colonettes. Panel molding of diagonal or vertical boards serve as a frieze under the bay windows. The uper story turret windows are 6/1 in keeping with common Queen Anne traditions. The tower cap is topped with a finial and weathervane. A few small vertical side lights have been added recently to two pent-roofed bays in the rear gable on the 18th Street side to offer more light for guests. They in no way detract from the overall quality and ambience of the building. The Gosby House Inn is irregularly shaped, measuring 81' at its longest and 45' at its widest.

Landscaping on the Lighthouse and 18th Street sides of the Inn is in progress, employing 19th century photographs of the facility to insure accurate presentation of the gardens. The Gosby House Inn is an excellent example of stylistic transition without adverse effect to the whole. Design strengths were incorporated and reinforced while extending the practical use of the structure for its chief economic function, the housing of tourists. It continues to perform that function today.

8. Significance



Specific dates 1887 (date built) Builder/Architect J. F. Gosbey *

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE:

The Gosby* House Inn is a particularly fine example of changing styles and fortunes in the far west. Constructed in 1887 by J. F. Gosbey, Pacific Grove's first shoe dealer, the structure began life as a rather staid and straightlaced vernacular stick style boarding house and home. Gosbey, recognizing the economic potential of Pacific Grove as a tourist mecca as well as religious retreat, placed his forst home opposite the chief center of Methodist activity, the First Methodist Church, thus assuring himself of a high-class and genteel clientele on a steady basis. As the tourist replaced the pilgrim and life became less staid, so did architectural styles. In the mid-1890s, owing to an increase in patronage and possibly social station (Gosbey was a Town Council member from 1892-1896), the civic-minded businessman overlaid his original structure with a new and handsome skin. Whether the Queen Anne style was chosen for its contemporary fashion or to maintain appearances with Gosbey's immediate neighbor, Dr. Andrew J. Hart, who constructed an exceptional example of the mode in 1896, is not known. However, purposes notwithstanding, the Gosbey remodeling was extremely well handled without damage to the sense or scale of the original. The street facades on Lighthouse Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the community, and 18th Street were unified by repeating the Lighthouse Avenue angled bay on the 18th Street side while opening up the first floor entrance with multiple windows to take advantage of all available light. The popular turret of the Queen Anne style was employed as an open porch entrance and second story sitting room with a shingled skin to add differentiation to the surface textures. Little, if any, of the earlier stick detailing was lost, and new sawn and turned work was carefully integrated into the original ensemble. A rear addition, one bay deep, carried the earlier forms except for a hipped roof at the rear. Economy and fashion combined to present a delightful and expressive mien indicating the transition from camp meeting grounds to community at an important period of Pacific Grove's evolution. The Gosby House Inn is the expression of continuity in our community as it began as a guest house and still fulfills that function. It defines an important aspect of our community life and in so doing, represents a building that possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the cultural heritage of Pacific Grove.

COMMERCE:

J. F. Gosbey left his native Nova Scotia in 1853, seeking his destiny in the milder climes of California. He traveled south from Canada, crossed the Isthmus of Panama, and then turned northward again through California to Pacific Grove. In days when the West was still quite wild, Gosbey was attracted by the quiet character of this Christian summer retreat by the sea. Religious conference grounds were founded by the Methodist Church in 1875 and operated mostly during the summer months. A large tent city appeared

* The "e" in Gosbey's name was inexplicably dropped in the name of his hostelry, The Gosby House Inn.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McLane, L.N. <u>A Piney Paradise</u>, San Francisco, 1952.

"This Month on the Monterey Peninsula", March, 1978, Vol. 15, No. 3

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FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

CONTINUATION SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

each season to house the many visitors and participants in the religious and cultural activities. Gradually businesses developed to serve the community and slowly a town started to grow in the midst of these conclaves. Having learned the shoe-making trade at an early age, Gosbey established himself as a shoemaker in the business center of the town and purchased the land for his home in the early 1880s. He built his comfortable boarding house and home in 1887 and rented rooms to visitors who attended the various meetings that took place all summer long. Gosbey chose the site of his house with the specific purpose of using it as a commercial venture. It was located across the street from the First Methodist Church and became a perfect place for the visiting clergy and guest speakers to stay. Gosbey was civic-minded, gregarious and a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church. He was a Town Council member from 1892 to 1896 and a member of several lodges. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company extended their tracks to Monterey and built the beautiful Del Monte Hotel in 1880. This attracted visitors in great numbers from the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Valley of California. The Southern Pacific also built the smaller but equally elegant El Carmelo Hotel in Pacific Grove to handle the overflow guests, thus bringing even more visitors into the town. Just as this vacation area became firmly established, the Del Monte Hotel burnt to the ground and the demand for accommodations on the Peninsula caused a flurry of building by local residents. All these events caused Gosbey to improve his boarding house for the newly acquired business opportunities. It was during this time that the round corner tower and bay windows were added (late 1890s), as well as the electric wiring (1900), indoor plumbing, connecting doors, new windows, and other changes to accommodate his patrons. The building has been in continuous use commercially as a hostelry since it was first built. Gosbey even changed the name in the 1920s to the "El Carmelo Hotel", no doubt to take advantage of the more famous caravansary's name. By 1930 the business was sold and rooms by the week and apartments were offered by the new owners. It changed hands a few more times, finally being purchased by the present owners in 1976. The Gosby House has recently been rehabilitated in a manner which reflects its original glory. Over 12,000 man-hours have been spent in adorning the Inn with fresh paint, brass fixtures, marble sinks and authentic antique furnishings. Much care has been taken to preserve the original wood and beautiful window glass. The house is now operated as a "Bed and Breakfast" Inn in the tradition of "taking in lodgers" and is called by its original name: The Gosby House Inn.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.

Parcel No. 006292-02. Beginning at the corner of Lighthouse Avenue and 18th Street, thence running southwesterly 84.5 feet, flanked on the east by 18th Street, thence running in a northwesterly direction 60 feet, thence northeasterly 95.95 feet to the intersection with Lighthouse Avenue, thence 61.1 feet, flanked on the northeast by Lighthouse Avenue, to the point of beginning.







