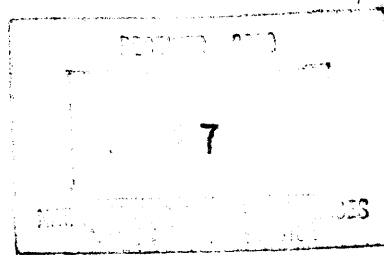


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places
Registration Form



350

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Merrill, Samuel, House

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 1285 N. Summit Avenue NA not for publication

city or town Pasadena NA vicinity

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 91103

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/21/01
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] 4.5.01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Residential Architecture of Pasadena, 1895-1918

0

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)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls wood

other brick, cobblestone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Greene, Charles Sumner and Henry Mather

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

City of Pasadena Planning & Permitting Dept.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10	394280	3781220	3	---	---	---
2	11	394205	3781400	4	---	---	---

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tim Gregory

organization The Building Biographer date August 15, 2000

street & number 400 East California Blvd. , #3 telephone 626-792-7465

city or town Pasadena state CA zip code 91106

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Heritage Homeownership Partners c/o Pasadena Heritage

street & number 651 South St. John Avenue telephone 626-441-6333

city or town Pasadena state CA zip code 91105

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description

The Samuel Merrill House is a single-family one-story residence built in 1910 in the Craftsman style. Design features, such as a low-pitched composition roof, walls of unpainted clapboard siding, bands of windows, use of clinker brick, and exposed structural elements such as rafter-tails, firmly identify the house as being a Craftsman Bungalow. Located in northwest Pasadena about five miles from the San Gabriel Mountains, this urban property retains its original rustic feeling due to its architecture, mountain backdrop, and remaining mature fruit and oak trees in the rear yard. Measuring approximately 32 by 47 feet with a 14 by 18 add-on at the rear dating from 1916, the house itself appears very much as it did historically, although it has suffered from lack of maintenance over recent years. Other improvements on the property, which once included a garage, a shed, and temporary living quarters, disappeared long ago. The original orchard downhill from the south-sloping lot was subdivided off and developed in the early 1920s.

The Merrill House is a basically L-shaped building. It has a low cobblestone foundation topped by an unusual continuous curvilinear redwood mud-sill that has been stained black. The walls are unpainted clapboard siding that still retains its original stain.

The roof is a double front-facing gable and is covered with composition shingles, replacing the original which was probably asbestos material or wood shakes. The roof is supported at the gable-ends by beams with rounded ends extending beyond the barge-boards which have been notched to accommodate them. The deep eaves are supported by rafter-tails, also with rounded ends. The underside of the eaves contains a continuous board running centrally along the length of the roof-line perpendicular to the beam-ends. All the gable-ends are vented by horizontally slatted openings with projecting down-sloping sills. There is guttering along the eave-ends with several angled down-spouts extending in to the walls where they end in collection boxes. Other down-spouts extend down the walls from the collection boxes to the

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Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

ground. A rectangular chimney appears mid-roof on the northerly slope. Its larger dimension is parallel to the street. It is made of clinker brick and has one row of bricks at the top that extend a bit farther out than the others. The bricks are surmounted by a plaster cap, the walls of which slope inward.

Window and door openings are framed, the horizontal members (lintels and sills) projecting beyond the vertical members. Many of the casement windows occur in bands and have a common pattern of two panes each--one smaller one at the top with a larger one underneath. The wooden screens are hinged and are designed with the same pattern of openings as the windows behind them.

The east (front) facade has a wing that projects easterly and southerly from its southeast corner. This wing contains the front door on its north wall. A band of three windows occupies the center of the wing's east wall, with a down-spout immediately to its north. The front door consists of three wooden vertical panels with eight panes of glass in its upper portion. The molding on the screen door replicates the position of the paneling. A sliding aluminum-and-glass door (a later alteration) occupies the southerly end of the house's main wall. On the northerly end of this facade is another band of three windows. On the wall above the windows on both the wing and the main structure (at about the height of the interior ceilings) is a continuous board that projects out somewhat from the boards above and below it. The gable-ends on this facade contain three vents--not only in the center but also on each side further down the wall, their sills parallel with the eave-line.

Adjoining the front of the house, extending from the front door north to the northerly wall-line is a raised concrete terrace, approached from the front path by three brick steps. The terrace, the floor of which is scored into identical rectangular shapes, is bordered by a low wall of cobblestone topped with a row of clinker brick. The walls project out north of the steps, at the northeast corner of the terrace, and next to the wall of the house to create two piers and a pilaster, also topped with brick. These projections taper gracefully up from the ground,

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Continuation Sheet**

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**Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA**

Description (continued)

the cobblestones at the bottom being much larger than those at the top. In the center of the terrace's east wall is an arched opening that drains the terrace floor.

The north facade of the house has a down-spout and an electrical box at its east end. West of these is a banded pair of casement windows. Another pair of casements appears higher on the wall further to the west. Beyond the projecting screened service porch are two single casement windows at the west end of the north facade.

The service porch projection has a roof which continues the main roof, its eave supported by a large timber. The exterior entrance to the porch is on its east side. (The door, probably originally screened, is missing.) The molding on all the screens covering the unglazed openings are patterned similarly to the other screens of the house. Above the door opening beneath the sloping roof is a triangular screened opening. Another narrow vertical screened opening appears to the north of the door, its sill protruding into the door-frame. The door, connected to the driveway immediately to the north by a brick stoop, is approached by one brick step and two wooden steps. The bricks at the step level continue around the entire porch just above the cobblestone foundation, indicating that the screened porch may once have been an open terrace. There is a long horizontal vent below the floor-level on the north side of the porch which is framed and has three wooden slats. The north wall of the porch has a band of three screened openings, while the west side of the porch has a pair of two screened openings.

Adjacent to the house, opposite the steps to the service porch, is an exterior storm-cellar type opening to the basement that extends northerly from the house. It has a cobblestone foundation with beams above, whose rounded ends cross at the northeast corner. The single door is made of planks with utilitarian metal hinges. There is horizontal basement venting in the foundation wall between the cellar door and the porch.

The west (rear) facade of the original house has three vents in

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Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

its gable-end similar to those on the front. There is a pair of casement windows on the northerly end and another southerly pair higher up the wall adjacent to the rear addition. A horizontal basement vent appears in the northerly part of the foundation.

The rear sleeping-porch addition does not show as much attention to design detail as does the original building. There is no cobblestone foundation: it is cripple-wall construction with the clapboard siding reaching all the way to the ground on its north side. There is a skirting of vertical boards at basement level on the west and south sides where the ground slopes away. The positioning of the clapboard siding on the walls does not quite match that of the original house, obvious where the two walls meet. The windows (except on the west wall) are single-paned casements inset into the walls and have no wooden screens, netting having merely been nailed over the openings. The beam-ends and rafter-tails are more roughly finished on the addition and are not as rounded as in the older parts of the house.

The north side of the addition has a single paneled door, the upper part of which is glass, with a wood screen-door in front of it. (The moldings of the door and the screen-door do not match as in the rest of the house.) The door is flanked at each side by a double-casement window. There are three concrete steps up to the door with basement venting in the wall to each side. A concrete terrace runs along the entire length of the addition's north side and half-way along the west wall of the original house. The terrace is connected to the asphalt driveway by a wide path of brick. Where the path meets the concrete is a raised are of more intricately laid brick which may indicate the concrete terrace replaced a more decorative brick one at some point. Between the house and the brick path is a brick-bordered planting area.

The west facade of the addition has a single vent in its gable-end that is somewhat similar in style to those on the other gable-ends of the house. One very narrow casement window appears on the northerly end and a pair of casements are at the southerly end. These windows and their screens match in style those on the original house. They probably occupied the same positions on the

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

original west wall before the addition was built and were saved to be used here. A low door to the basement, made of the same vertical timbers as the basement skirting, is at the southerly end of the wall.

Off-center toward the east on the south facade of the addition is a band of six single-paned casements with screening, similar to those on the north side. To the east of the windows is another door to the basement that has a venting opening adjacent to it on the east. At this point, a north-south cobblestone retaining wall that runs through the terraced side yard from the south property line joins the house just westerly of where the original south wall of the house begins. The cobblestone foundation reappears near this junction. A narrow north-south wall, with a single casement window in it, connects the addition to the more inset original wall.

The south wall of the original house has a pair of casement windows, with a down-spout to the east of them. The house projects out slightly at this point, although the eave-line remains the same. This slight bay is supported above the mud-sill line by intersecting rounded beams that cross at the southwest corner. In the foundation east of this is a horizontal basement vent. The east and west walls of the bay have very narrow windows, while pairs of larger windows occupy the westerly and easterly ends of the bay's south wall. This small bay ends at a covered terrace that, along with the south wall of the southeast wing of the house, project into the side yard.

This side-terrace was originally open, its northerly side inset under the eaves. It once looked out across approximately 62 feet of orchards before the southerly part of the property was sold off in 1923. Similar to the front terrace, it has a scored concrete floor approached on its westerly end by two brick steps from the side-yard. The terrace floor is supported by an extension of the cobblestone foundation, but there are no cobblestone walls or piers. The terrace is accessed from the house by a band of three screened french doors centered in the south wall. The projecting southeast wing of the house has no

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Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

openings looking out onto the terrace from its west wall.

The original terrace had a pergola roof, the rafters of which were built above the eaves at a flatter angle and projected over the terrace. Above this flat pergola roof a solid roof was later added. It is more sloped, beginning further back in the original house roof and projecting out further south than the pergola roof. Both of these roof elements are supported by two square wooden posts and a single pilaster attached to the house. A low board-and-batten wall connects the posts along the entire southerly facade of the old terrace.

The south facade of the southeast wing has a down-spout on its westerly end and a pair of casement windows centered in the wall. Horizontal basement venting appears below these windows.

Some original landscaping and amenities still remain on the grounds. Except for driveway openings, a cobblestone retaining wall extends along the entire front of this property and the property to the south (1275 Summit) which the Merrill family once owned. (A similar wall can also be seen outside the second property to the south--1267 Summit--but its workmanship is not of the same quality; it was probably not a part of the original wall.) The wall has a clinker brick top and is stair-stepped in five places as it proceeds downhill adjacent to the sidewalk. The remains of a brick-topped cobblestone pier at the same height as the wall can be seen between the driveway of the Merrill House and the north property line. A serpentine brick path connects the front terrace with the driveway. Landscaping in the front yard consists of a variety of deciduous and evergreen small trees and shrubs, such as bottle-brush, cypress, and bird-of-paradise. An old cactus occupies a spot at the northeast corner of the yard.

To the rear of the house close to the north property line, is a scored-concrete pad, oil stains on which indicates it was the

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Samuel Merrill House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

floor of a now-vanished garage. The pad rests on a foundation of cobblestones. A metal post that probably once supported a clothesline appears at the southwest corner of the pad. Curiously, the asphalt driveway curves southerly behind the house, missing the garage completely and ending in the center of the rear yard in a square flat area that was probably similarly paved. At the rear center of the back yard is another concrete pad laid directly on the ground. There is no discernible trace of the small structure at the southwest corner of the property that the Merrill family were said to have lived in while their home was being constructed. Mature trees and shrubs in the rear and side yards include walnut, fig, guava, citrus, pomegranate, and oak.

Mention should also be made of the interior of the Merrill House which is remarkably unchanged. The woodwork--probably Douglas fir, cedar, or a mixture--has never been painted except for the crown molding. The original sand-finish plaster applied over lath has had only a few coats of paint and exhibits some cracking. Light fixtures are largely original, but some globes have been replaced. Door hardware is almost all original and is of good-quality but not custom-made. The oak floors in the public rooms (covered with a linoleum "carpet" in the dining room) and the maple floors in the halls and bedrooms are basically in good shape.

The main entrance of the house opens into the library that still has its original built-in bookshelves, as does the living room. The brick fireplace in the living room was painted and some of the inset tiles have been removed as has the upper plaster portion that was earthquake-damaged. The dining room has a pass-through built-in buffet. The kitchen retains several original features--a "California cooler" (a ventilating cupboard for storing perishable foods), a built-in flour bin, and cabinetry on its east wall. The master bedroom once had window seats in the small bay on its south side. Wooden curtain-rod holders and the

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Samuel Merrill House
Los Angeles County, CA

Description (continued)

rectangular rods themselves still exist. Plumbing fixtures in the bathroom are newer, but the art-glass in the door from the hall is original. In the hallway there is a wood-detailed ceiling access to the attic. The inside of the original linen closet gives some indication of the original paint color of the walls.

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Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Statement of Significance

The Samuel Merrill house is a fine example of a single-family bungalow--a subtype of residential architecture within the context of the Arts and Crafts period in Pasadena between 1895 and 1918. It is one of the finest surviving examples of the small-scale works of famed Pasadena architects Charles and Henry Greene. It was the home for forty years of Samuel Merrill, Jr., a conservationist and friend of John Muir. Built in 1910, at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement in Pasadena, the Merrill House exhibits many of the characteristics associated with the Craftsman bungalow property type. Because of its integrity, its ability to meet the registration requirements as outlined in the Multiple Property Listing "The Residential Architecture of Pasadena, CA, 1895-1918: the Influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement," and its design by the significant Craftsman architectural firm of Charles and Henry Greene, the Merrill House is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C.

In 1984, historian Robert W. Winter and the Design and Historic Preservation Section of the City of Pasadena's Planning Department considered the Merrill House to be one of the finest examples of the small-scale work of Greene & Greene, due to its simplicity of design, its use of readily affordable local materials, and its overall charm. Charles and Henry Greene are singled out in the Multiple Property Listing form as the best-known architects of the Arts and Crafts period in Pasadena and one of three premier architects of the movement in the United States (the others being Frank Lloyd Wright and Bernard Maybeck). The Merrill House illustrates several of their design hallmarks, including broad overhanging eaves, distinctive casement windows, and clinker brick and Arroyo stone piers and retaining walls. Attention to detail and craftsmanship are evident throughout the house in such areas as the careful fitting of the gable structure into notched beam-ends, the design of screens to perfectly match

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Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA

Statement of Significance (continued)

the arrangement of the window panes behind them, and the intersection of beams that support the corners of the house above the mud-sills. More innovative in this particular house are its modified L-plan, horizontal gable venting, a raised front terrace rather than a more typical covered porch, the unusual siting of the main entrance, and the use of wide horizontal siding rather than shingles. Given the circumstances of the building's recent abandonment, it is worth noting that so many of its original interior features remain, including lighting fixtures, art glass, and built-ins.

Details of the career of Charles and Henry Greene can be found in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. The design of the Samuel Merrill House, credited to both Charles and Henry, was predominantly the work of Henry. It was one of only three houses built by the Greene & Greene firm in 1910. (Several commissions in that year never progressed beyond the design stage: the architects were beginning to get a reputation for being slow and costly.) Charles returned from a trip to England in 1910 and was probably not involved in the initial planning of the Merrill house. And, as mentioned above, the children of the family only remember Henry being present at the site. In any case, Charles was gradually becoming disinterested in smaller bungalows, preferring more artistic homes which required a total design of interiors and furnishings. Henry, on the other hand, was to maintain an interest in smaller residences and cottages right into the 1920s.

The Merrill House meets the requirements for registration under Criterion C of the Multiple Property Listing of The Residential Architecture of Pasadena, CA, 1895-1918: The Influence of the Arts and Crafts Movement. (Note: The property was also determined eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criterion C in January 1981 by the California Office of Historic Preservation; a copy of the letter is attached.) Among the requirements of the Multiple Property Listing is that the individual property must exemplify the values of the design, craftsmanship and materials which embody the philosophy and practice of the Arts and Crafts movement. The

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 11

**Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

house must also comprise the distinguishing features of the associated property type (in this case, the California Bungalow sub-type). It also must have a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and setting.

The Merrill House exemplifies the values of the Arts and Crafts Movement through the unornamented simplicity and horizontality of its design, the use of natural materials, such as redwood and arroyo stone, and the evidence of craftsmanship in its carpentry and joinery. Property-type characteristics include its gabled roof with wide over-hanging eaves and exposed rafter-tails, its clapboard siding, the use of arroyo stone in its foundation and clinker brick in its porch posts, and the bands of casement windows that bring light and views of the garden into the house. Despite years of neglect, the house retains a great deal of integrity inside and out with minimal alterations. Although its neighborhood setting has been changed somewhat by the introduction of multi-unit residences on adjacent lots, the immediate setting is preserved, consisting of the front, back, and side-yards and the clinker-brick retaining wall along the front property-line.

Samuel Merrill, Jr. was born in Indianapolis, the grandson of one of the founding partners of the Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Company. He attended public schools in Indiana and moved to California in 1884. As a young man, Merrill had become a friend of naturalist John Muir when his family took Muir in after a mill accident that had left him blinded in one eye. It is said that Muir encouraged Merrill to attend Stanford University. After attending Wabash College for a time, Merrill entered Stanford as a member of its pioneer class, and graduated with a degree in law in 1895. Herbert Hoover was one of his classmates. Merrill then served for three years as vice-consul under his father, Samuel Merrill, Sr., in Calcutta, India.

Around the turn-of-the-20th-century, Merrill, Jr., came to Southern California and set himself up as a rancher in the La Crescenta area, growing mainly citrus and apples. While in La Crescenta, he met and married his wife Emilie S. Merrill. They

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12

**Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

were to have one daughter and three sons. In 1908, Merrill moved his family to Pasadena. He purchased all of Lot 12 and the south fifty feet of Lot 13 of Block B of M. D. Painter's Subdivision. It is said he selected the Summit Avenue property because it was reminiscent of his ranch, with 25 fruit trees already planted on it. The family lived in a small three-room structure built in April 1908 at the extreme southwest rear corner of the lot, while the house was being planned and built. (This 566-square-foot structure was later called a barn by the City Assessor.) The Merrill children recalled that the interior of the new house took a surprisingly long time to complete due to the amount of hand-work involved. In the process, they became quite friendly with the principal architect, Henry Greene, who was often at the site making inspections. They often played with his children, and he sometimes led them on hiking trips into the local mountains.

The Merrill children recall that family life in their new home was centered around the living room hearth in the winter, since a furnace was never installed in the house and the only heat came from charcoal briquettes that burned in the fireplace. Merrill sold off the south fifty feet of Lot 12 in 1923. Much of his orchard was removed and another house (1275) was subsequently built on the parcel by another owner.

Merrill worked in downtown Los Angeles for 27 years as a clerk of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. He retired in 1942. While living in Pasadena, he assisted in the founding of the local Boy Scout troop.

Perhaps influenced by his friendship with Muir, Merrill took an active role in the Sierra Club, serving on its national board of directors in 1936 and 1937. Also a one-time chairman of the Southern California chapter, he remained active in its affairs until his death. Merrill took a particular interest in the San Gabriel Mountains and for thirteen years was the unpaid keeper of trails at Echo Mountain, Castle Canyon, and Sunset in Altadena. His gregariousness and good humor were long remembered by those hikers who would pass him as he pursued his maintenance work every Sunday morning. In September 1948, Merrill ran up one of

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Continuation Sheet**

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**Merrill, Samuel, House
Los Angeles County, CA**

Statement of Significance (continued)

the trails to help fight a fire started by some children. The exertion evidently proved too much for him, for he died in his sleep a few days later on September 4, at the age of eighty. The three-mile Echo Mountain trail was re-named the Sam Merrill Trail in 1949 in his memory.

Mrs. Merrill continued to occupy their Summit Avenue house until 1953. Porter and Blanche Grider, the next long-term owners, made few changes to the property during their forty-year occupancy. However, in recent years the Merrill House has sat vacant and become a tempting target for vandals and transients. After Washington Mutual Bank foreclosed on the property in October 1998, the house was in danger of demolition to make way for multi-family housing. However, the bank agreed to sell the property at a substantial discount to Heritage Homeownership Partners and Pasadena Heritage.

The Merrill House is soon to undergo restoration. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties will be used throughout the project. The building has had minimal alterations both on the exterior and interior, most of which will be reversed during the restoration. Original construction materials have been retained or will be replaced in-kind in a manner consistent with the original design and materials, including exterior sheathing and stone work. The entrance porch remains intact, doors and windows are largely original (except for the sliding glass doors at the front of the house that will be replaced by a window replicating the original), and the historic roof-line has been maintained. The sleeping-porch addition at the rear, although not of the same fine design and construction quality as the original house, was built only six years later than the residence itself. It will be retained as documentation of how the original three-bedroom house was adapted to meet the needs of the first owner's growing family. Financing for the project will come from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the City of Pasadena, and Pasadena Heritage. The property will ultimately be sold to a first-time low-to-moderate income buyer.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Documentation of the construction of the Merrill House includes building permit #8884, issued on August 13, 1910 for a one-story, seven-room house to cost \$4,500. Edward Z. Garwood, a contractor active in Pasadena between 1904 and 1914, was the builder.

An announcement of construction was published in the *Los Angeles Builder & Contractor* of August 18, 1910 which stated the house would have: cement porches and pergola, shingled exterior [evidently later revised to wood siding], and asbestos roof. The interior will have hardwood floors throughout, and will be finished in pine and cedar. The living and dining rooms will have beamed ceilings and paneled wainscoting, and large blue brick fireplaces [only one fireplace was built]. The bedrooms and bathrooms will have maple floors and white enamel trim. There will be plate and leaded glass windows, built-in furniture, screen porches, furnace [evidently never installed], water heater, and electric fixtures.

The property has remained relatively intact according to the public record. The small building at the rear of the property in which the family lived while the house was being built disappeared, probably sometime in the 1930s. A sleeping-porch, measuring 14 by 18 feet, was added to the rear of the house in 1916. The building permit reveals that it was built by day-workers at a cost of only \$100. The quality of its construction is obviously not equal to that of the original structure. The living-room window was replaced with sliding glass doors probably in the 1950s. The original bathroom was updated in April 1946 and a new bathroom was installed in the addition in May 1947. A new furnace was added to the house in October 1962. There is significant unrepaired earthquake damage to the fireplace.

The City Assessor's record shows there was once a board-and-batten garage measuring 14 by 16 feet at the northwest corner of the property that has since disappeared. The Assessor's record also shows that the open terrace on the south side of the house was enclosed at some unknown date.

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Strand, Jan. Greene & Greene Guide. 1974; p. 94.

Los Angeles Builder & Contractor, August 18, 1910.

Los Angeles Times: September 7, 1948; February 13, 2000.

Pasadena Heritage Newsletter: November 1999.

Pasadena News: August 20, 1910.

Pasadena Star-News: February 4, 1948; March 21, 1949;
November 20, 1955; April 28, 2000.

Architectural, permit and assessment files in the Design and Historic Preservation Section, Planning and Permitting Department, City of Pasadena.

Verbal boundary description

South 52 feet of Lot 13 and north 28 feet of Lot 12, M. D. Painter's Subdivision.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Sam Merrill house since 1923, the year the south 50 feet of Lot 12 were subdivided off.

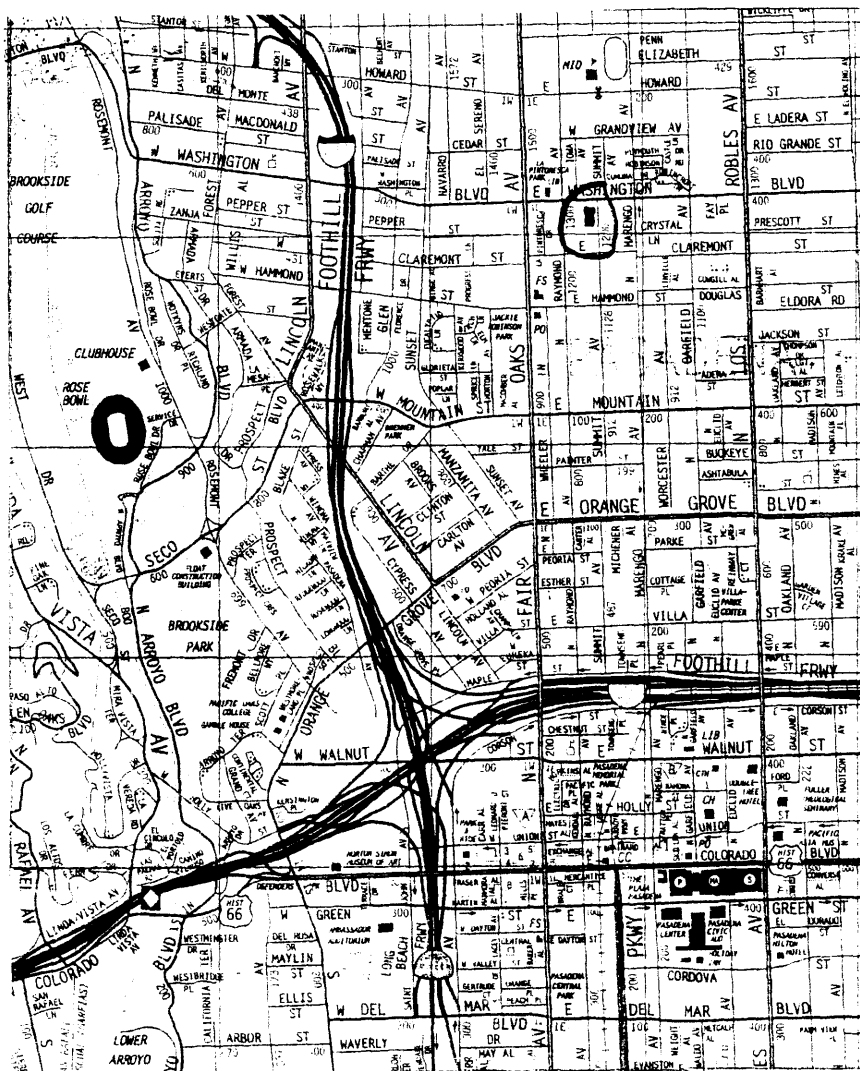
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Location Map



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**Merrill, Samuel, House
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Photographs

- 1 Sign in front yard announcing the upcoming restoration project
- 2 House from street, looking west
- 3 East (front) facade, looking west
- 4 East (front) facade, looking northwest
- 5 East (front) facade, north wall of easterly-projecting wing, looking south
- 6 Detail of front terrace, looking northwest
- 7 North facade, looking southwest
- 8 North and west facades, looking southeast
- 9 Detail of cellar door, looking southeast
- 10 West (rear) facade of original house, looking east
- 11 North and west facades of addition, looking southeast
- 12 South facade of addition and original house, looking northeast
- 13 South facade of original house, looking northwest
- 14 Detail of foundation of original house, southwest corner of bay on south facade, looking northeast
- 15 Detail of junction of brick path from driveway with concrete terrace outside north wall of addition, looking south
- 16 Pad of probable former garage in rear yard, looking northwest
- 17 Concrete pad at rear center of lot, looking southwest

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Photographs (continued)

- 18 Retaining wall along front property line, looking southwest
- 19 Interior, library/entry room; front door, looking north
- 20 Interior, living room; looking southwest
- 21 Interior, living room; looking northwest into dining room
- 22 Interior, middle south side bedroom; looking southeast
- 23 Interior, north side bedroom; looking southeast
- 24 Interior, addition; looking south from westerly south side bedroom

Photographer: Tim Gregory
Date of all photographs: January 6, 2001
Original negatives stored at the offices of Pasadena Heritage

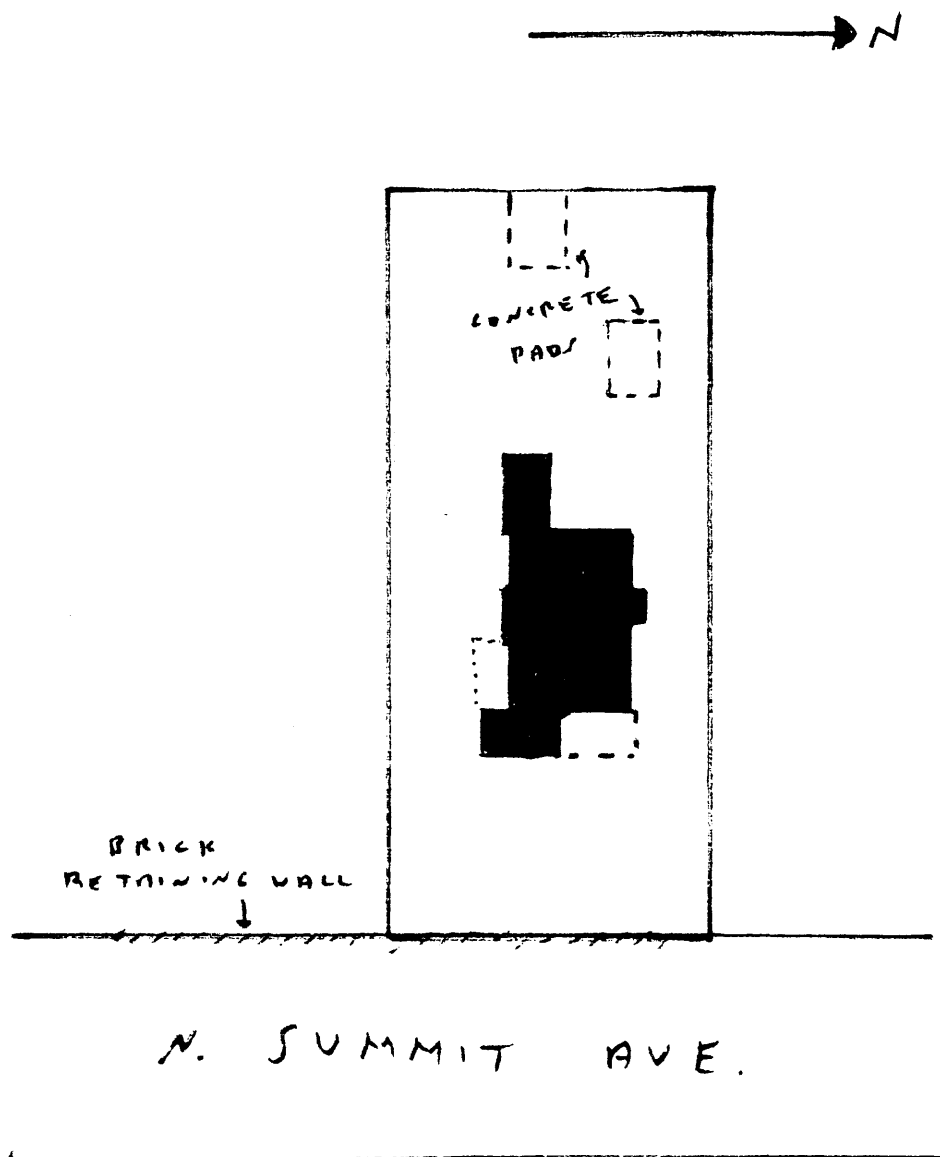
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SKETCH MAP



1" = 50'