

PH0065897

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: San Francisco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 7110060066	DATE 10/4/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Golden Gate Park Conservatory

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Golden Gate Park Conservatory

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Mount Lick, north of John F. Kennedy Drive, east end of Golden Gate Park

CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: San Francisco CODE: 075

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City and County of San Francisco (under jurisdiction of Recreation and Park Commission)

STREET AND NUMBER: McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bureau of Engineering (Division of Recreation and Park Engineering) Department of Public Works

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

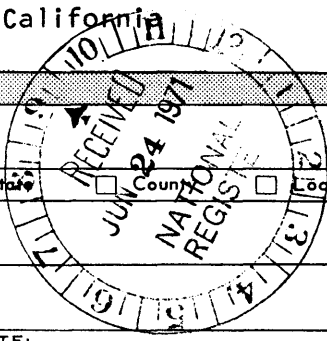
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal Building (Room 14321)

STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue

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



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Conservatory measures two hundred and fifty feet wide and seventy-five feet deep. It is constructed in three parts with the emphasis concentrating on the center of the structure, suggestive of an old tradition of Baroque focus. The main part of the building is an elongated octagon topped with a dome; this is flanked on two sides with an "L" shaped wing (east and west of the central space). The smaller rooms at the end of each wing resemble the center room on the exterior in that they each contain a modified gable window and a "spire". The foundations are of brick, laid with several rows of stretchers topped by a single row of headers directly beneath the wood superstructure. This superstructure is an ingenious 19th Century modification of extremely old, medieval traditions of wood arch construction, with iron bands and tie rods to interlock and extend arches over large spaces.

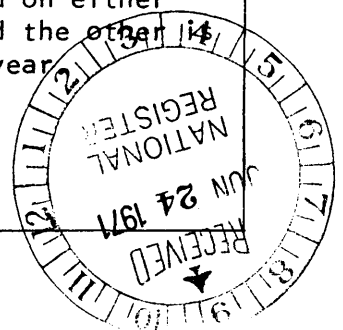
The multiple and rigid glass plates which form the basic character of the building are cleverly lapped over each other like shingles or tiles to form a continuous down curving surface with non-curved materials. These are set into the simple wood framework, and held together where necessary by putty. A small percentage of the glass is tinted and forms a simple band of color above the transparent walls.

The style of the architectural detail is basically a mixture of later Victorian Gothic and Italianate, which can be seen most clearly on the exterior of the building. In this ornamental melange, classical anthemia emerge along with spiky quasi-Gothic finials. Some of the details are closely related to then fashionable Eastlake patterns of turned and faceted forms. The overall effect is of some delicately opulent Oriental palace.

A glassed-in vestibule leads into the main rotunda, where rare palms from tropical and semi-tropical countries are present. Some other plants include giant Brazilian Philodendrons. The east wing contains ferns and palms from the jungle countries. The last room of the east wing known as the "Pond Room", houses ferns, other small plants, and a small pool stocked with goldfish. In the center room or hallway of the west wing, semi-tropical plants grow. Permanent plants include huge Bird of Paradise clumps and a small orchid case. The last room of the west wing offers rotating seasonal exhibits of potted, flowering plants. In the years that the Conservatory has been in use, the arrangement in the rooms has changed very little.

The Conservatory is located north of Main Drive in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It is situated above the lawns of the shallow Conservatory Valley where formal flower beds bloom all year long. A broad flight of stairs leads to the Conservatory, and these stairs are bound on either side by two floral plaques; one plaque is a simple clock and the other is used to greet conventions and honor holidays throughout the year.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

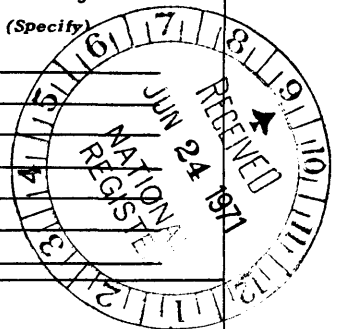
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This "exquisitely anachronistic Victorian conservatory" was constructed between 1878 and 1879. The Conservatory is one of the largest in the United States, covering 12,533 square feet. The great glass building was the first municipal greenhouse in California and the first and most important building in Golden Gate Park. The building's 33 tons of glass are supported by a wood and iron framework and three tons of putty. The Conservatory combines in a handsomely restrained manner the fantasy of the Brighton Pavillion and the stately soaring majesty of a simple Gothic church, all expressed in half-modern technical forms in a Baroque silhouette.

The Conservatory utilizes fully the principles of assemblage and the reuse of elements made possible by the early techniques of mass production, and thus reflects not only the period of architecture in which it was built, but also some proto-modern technical features.

Although constructed late in its period due to the death of James Lick, the Conservatory actually was far advanced for the time, taking into consideration the prefabrication of elements, the vast use of glass, and its placement in a functional framework of great structural simplicity.

William Hammond Hall, planner of Golden Gate Park, had included the idea of a conservatory in his original concept and had chosen a site near the northwest corner of the park known as Plateau Mound (renamed Mount Lick in 1874). There was considerable opposition to a conservatory, however, primarily on the basis of estimated cost. However, Hall helped engineer an appropriations bill through the State Legislature in 1873, which included funds for the Park and Conservatory (expenditures and responsibility for Golden Gate Park were not placed under the jurisdiction of the City until 1900).

Built by Lord and Burham, greenhouse manufacturers, at Irvington, New York, upon order of San Francisco magnate James Lick, the building was shipped in crates to California around Cape Horn in a vessel chartered for that purpose. Lick had intended to have the structure erected on his estate near San Jose, and there is evidence that he considered giving it to the City of San Jose, but no actual construction was begun on the project by the time of Lick's death in 1876.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baird, Joseph A., Jr., Time's Wondrous Changes San Francisco California Historical Society, 1962.
 Federal Writers' Program (American Guide Series) San Francisco The Bay and Its Cities, New York, 1947.
 Griffin, Guy and Helen, The Story of Golden Gate Park San Francisco Society of California Pioneers, 1949.
 Gibson, Richard M., "Golden Gate Park", Overland Monthly, Vol. XXXVII March, 1901.
 Gilliam, Harold, Natural World of San Francisco New York, Doubleday, 1967.

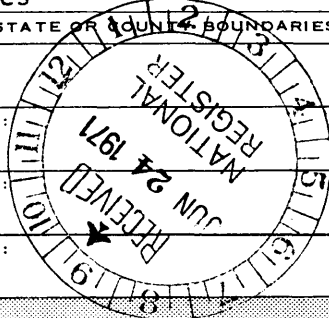
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	46'	22"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	122°	27'	32"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM
 10/54762L
 4180520
 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ralph A. Mead, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: **San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board** DATE: **April 5, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 Larkin Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>Ralph A. Mead</i></u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>June 21, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Ernest A. Connelly</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date OCT 14 1971</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William J. Murtagh</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date AUG 6 1971</p>
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71-10-06-0066	DATE 10/14/91

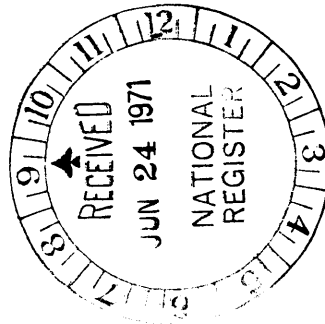
8. Significance (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The Conservatory, still in crates, was put up for sale by the executors of James Lick's estate on behalf of the Society of California Pioneers. A group of 27 prominent San Franciscans, including Charles Crocker, William Alvord, William Franklin Whittier, James Irvin, Claus Spreckels and Leland Stanford contributed equally to the purchase of the building and gave it to the park. Lord and Burham, the original builders, were hired by the City to finally erect the structure at its current site.

The Conservatory was partly destroyed by fire in 1883, but was rebuilt the following year with the aid of \$10,000 donated from Charles Crocker.

The Golden Gate Park Conservatory has been designated a California Registered Historic Landmark.



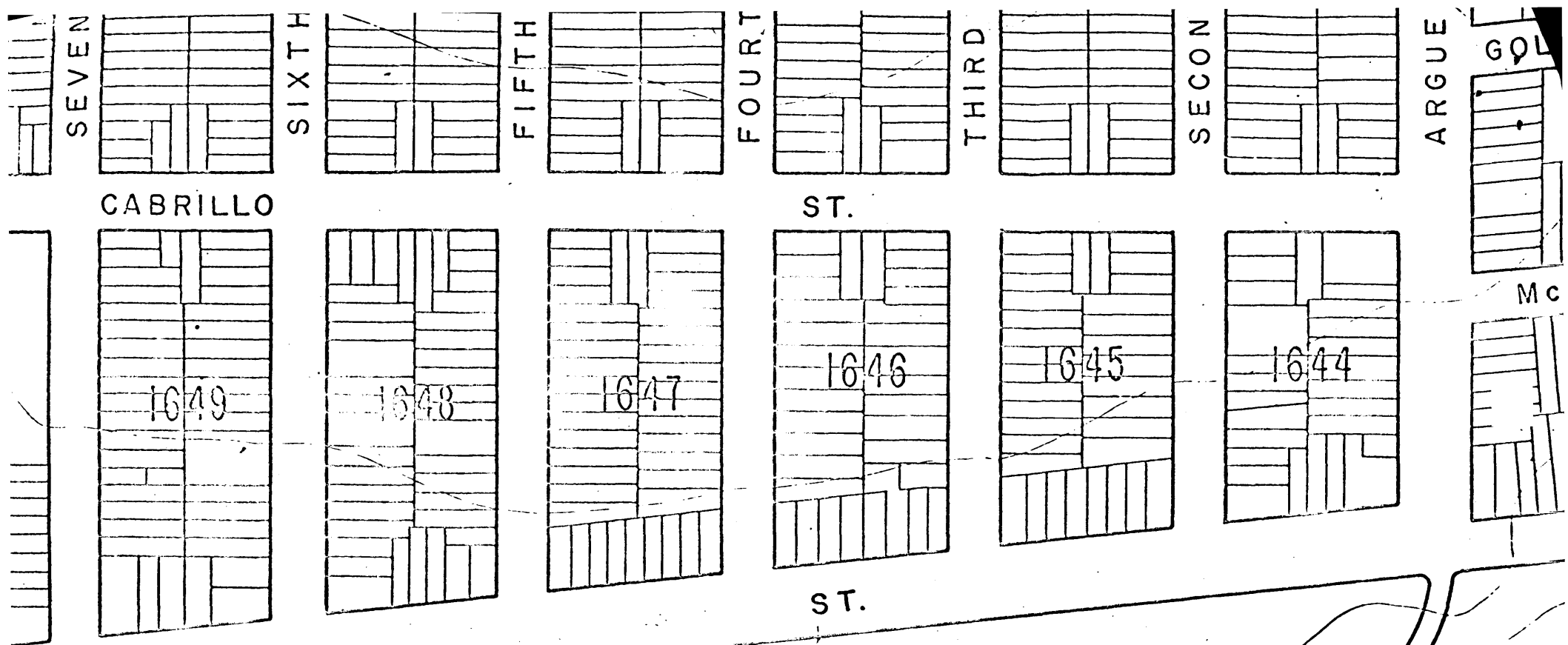


COMMUNITY AREA LAND USE STUDY

ARGUELLO

COMMUNITY 2 · PLANNING AREA 3

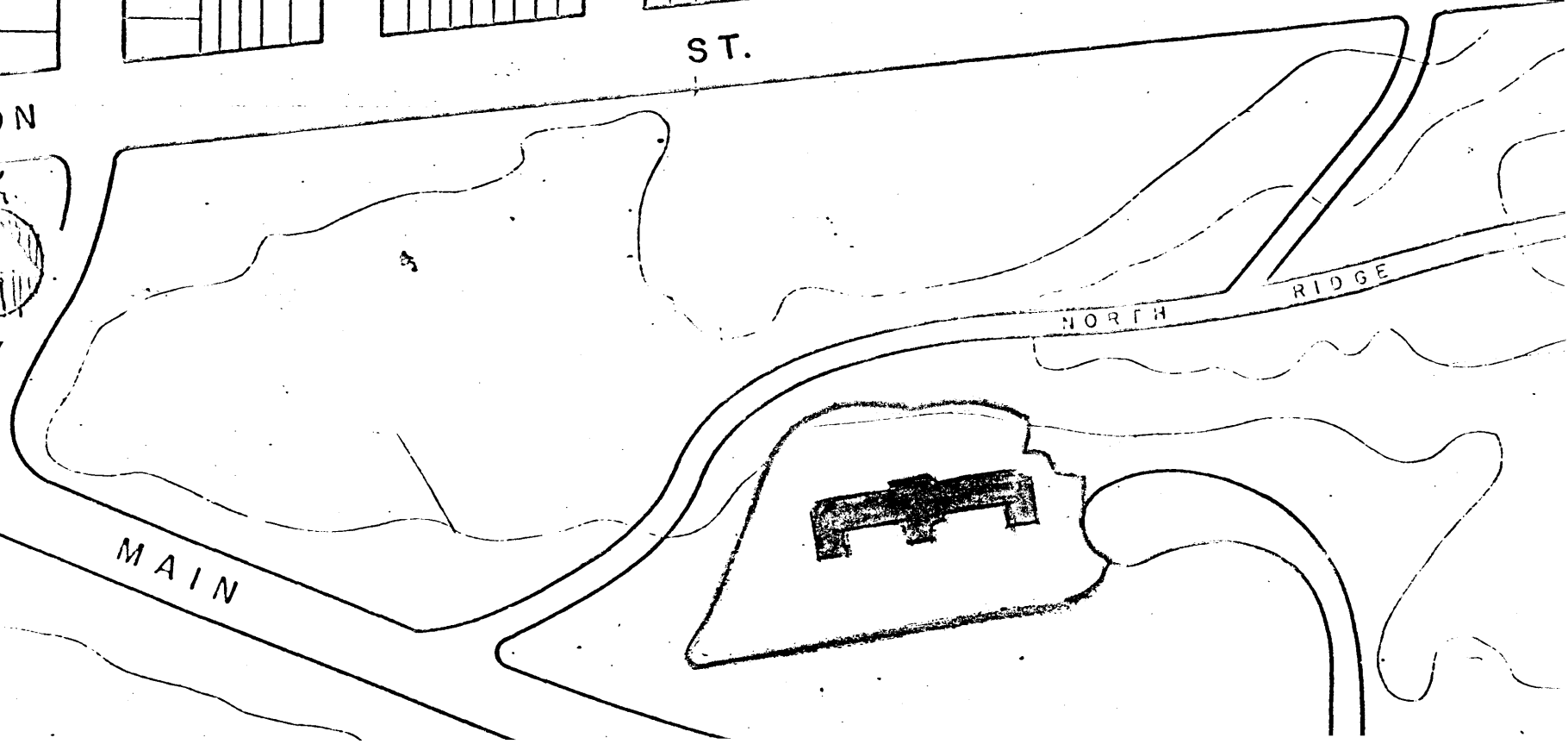
GOLDEN GATE CONSERVATORY



FULTON

ST.

SCALE 1" = 200 FT.



MAIN

NORTH RIDGE

