

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Luther Burbank Home and Garden

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 Block of Santa Rosa Avenue

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Santa Rosa

__ VICINITY OF

1st

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Sonoma

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Santa Rosa

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1657

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Santa Rosa

__ VICINITY OF

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sonoma County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

100 Santa Rosa Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Santa Rosa

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site consists of three acres of land, including the 1883-1926 experimental garden and his home, the original greenhouse and a stable. Two acres, with the gardens are owned by the City of Santa Rosa and are operated as a park. The home and $\frac{1}{5}$ of an acre are utilized by Mrs. Luther Burbank as a residence and will revert to the city on her death. Mrs. Luther Burbank died on June 19, 1977. The home and the $\frac{1}{5}$ acre are now in the process of being transferred to the City of Santa Rosa. The home is unaltered and in excellent condition; it also contains original furnishings.

The gardens are arranged around a large inner circle of grass, with planting beds along both sides of the paths. Plants on exhibit include the Burbank Paradox Walnut and Prunus Thundercloud, an ornamental blackleaf plum tree with beautiful purple-crimson, metallic leaves. Between 1899 and 1916, Burbank developed a pure white lily of the Nile and worked on a flowering plant known as the red-hot poker and produced the Tower of Gold varieties.

Included in the memorial gardens are dozens of varieties of the Shasta Daisy, which many feel was Burbank's greatest accomplishment. Next to the gardens is the Burbank residence which is not open to the public. In front of the house is the 118 foot Cedar of Lebanon tree under which Burbank lies buried; just behind the tree is one of Burbank's original greenhouses. The memorial gardens are situated on Santa Rosa Avenue and are visited by over 40,000 people annually.

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 type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1875-1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Often called the "Plant Wizard," Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, on March 7, 1849. He was educated in the public school and Academy of Lancaster, but received no other formal education or scientific instruction. At the age of 19, he obtained a copy of Darwin's Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication through the public library and became deeply interested in this subject.

In 1870, Burbank purchased a 17 acre tract near Lumenburgh, Massachusetts, and took up market gardening. In 1875, he sold this land and moved to California, where he settled at Santa Rosa. Here he purchased 4 acres of land and developed an experimental garden. When his Santa Rosa garden proved too small, he established a second garden, the Burbank Experimental Farm of some 18 acres at Sebastopol, in 1885. For half a century he experimented with thousands of plants and developed a series of plants that he called "new creations."

His experiments, however, were not conducted to prove or test any particular discovery or theory, but solely to produce more and better varieties of cultivated plants. Scientific results in the way of contributions to the knowledge of such subjects as variation, heredity, selection, hybridization, acquired character, and mutations were not his goal. Thus, although he inevitably accumulated masses of data of scientific value in the course of his experiments, as soon as his "new creation" was established, the records were destroyed in most cases.

Burbank introduced over 250 varieties of fruit alone. These consisted of 10 varieties of apples, 16 blackberries, 13 raspberries, 10 strawberries, 35 fruiting cacti, 10 cherries, 2 figs, 4 grapes, 5 nectarines, 8 peaches, 4 pears, 11 plumcots, 11 quinces, 1 almond, 6 chestnuts, 3 walnuts and 113 plums and prunes. Of his fruits the plums were his greatest contribution. Twenty varieties of his plums are still widely planted throughout the United States and other countries. Ten of the number are standard shipping varieties wherever Japanese plums can be grown. In California alone they form the basis of a huge industry.

The exact number of new strains and varieties of plants introduced by Burbank during a span of 50 years is not known and is difficult to determine at this date when so many of them have disappeared. However, the number is over 800. Burbank performed selection or hybridizing experiments with almost 200 plant genera. Of these, 121 genera yielded varieties and strains that were deemed worthy of introduction.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Walter L. Howard, Luther Burbank, a Victim of Hero Worship.

Henry Smith Williams, Luther Burbank, His Life and Work.

William Clampett, Luther Burbank Our Beloved Infidel.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 | 52,52,8,0 | 4,2,5,4,10,3,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Approximately 12' from the intersection of Santa Rosa Avenue and Charles Street, proceed north along the fence that encloses the entire site 150' to a point, thence east parallel to Tupper Street 135' to a point, thence south along the property line 150' to a point, thence west along the fence 135' to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey Division, NPS

DATE

10/17/77

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

(202) 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D.C.

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 89-664), 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Handwritten signature: Henry Campbell
Handwritten date: June 28, 1978

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Handwritten signature: William L. Howard

DATE

Handwritten date: 11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

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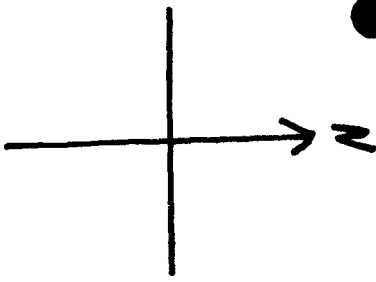
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

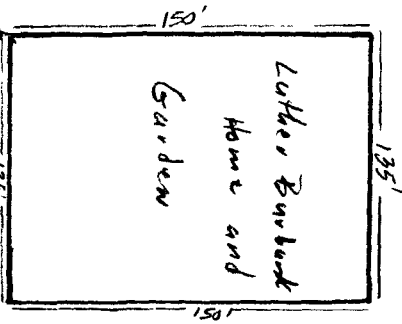
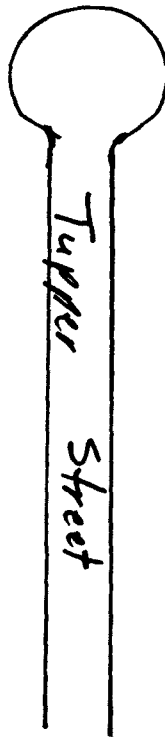
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Luther Burbank's professional reputation was nation-wide and exceedingly high at the time of his death in 1926. However, since that date severe criticism has endeavored to place a somewhat lower estimate on the value of the contributions made by Burbank. Although Burbank's reputation as a "Wonder Worker" may well have been blown up out of due proportion during his lifetime, Burbank's actual achievements appear to indicate that the plant breeder did make significant contributions to the development of agriculture.



SANTA ROSA Avenue



Begin Here

Charles Street