

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

1. Name

historic Theodore Parker Lukens House

and/or common Roger E. Kislingbury House

2. Location

street & number 267 North El Molino Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Pasadena N/A vicinity of congressional district 22nd

state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Roger E. Kislingbury

street & number 267 North El Molino Avenue

city, town Pasadena N/A vicinity of state California 91101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Assessor's Office

street & number Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Room 225

city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pasadena Architectural & Historical Inventory
Urban Conservation Program has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Urban Conservation Division, Housing & Community Development Agency

city, town City Hall, Room 207, Pasadena state California 91109

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The impressive two-story residence is noteworthy for its eclectic styling, well-landscaped yard and extensive setback. Essentially unaltered, the house remains one of the best examples of Victorian architecture within Pasadena. It is situated between newer buildings in a neighborhood undergoing transition due to development pressures.

Built in 1886-87, the Theodore Parker Lukens house is an elaborately decorated Victorian house; it is primarily Stick/Eastlake in character, but incorporates some elements of Queen Anne. Despite its age, the structure has suffered no alterations which compromise the original architecture. It is a painted wood-frame residence with a high unpainted brick foundation. Basically rectangular in plan (approx. 50' x 60'), the wood-frame structure rises two stories from its foundation, past wood shiplap siding to a gabled, shingled roof with deep overhangs and boxed cornices, some with sloping soffits, that are supported by slender, fluted brackets. The deep, wide front gable (on the east side of the house), the three side gables (two on the north and one on the south), and the three smaller gabled dormers (one each on the north, south and west) are all adorned with lacy stickwork, sawn and drilled bargeboards and pendants. A wide second-floor frieze of vertical sawn and drilled boards encircles the house except for the north bays where it is half-timbered. A plain board below this frieze completely encircles the house forming the lintels of the second-story windows. The decorative frieze is copied in all of the porch balustrades. The front porch has a brick-based, high wood foundation which has three decorative vents, each with horizontal scalloped wooden slats. The abbreviated fish-scale-shingled mansard roof of the front porch is supported by pairs of highly decorative wooden posts whose bases and tops are square with spindle-shaped center sections. They are topped with vertical drilled brackets. Between these posts at the top is a gable-shaped section with matching bargeboards, giving the effect of lace curtains. An open porch on the second floor front is partially covered on the north end by the overhang of the main east-facing offset gable. A wood door with a glass panel and glass transom above provides access to the second-floor porch.

The wooden front steps are set in the corner of the first-story porch at a diagonal angle to the entrance driveway and walk. Square newel posts topped with urns mark these stairs leading to the double front door which has exquisite large beveled and etched glass upper panels and carved natural-wood-finished lower panels. A single glass transom window is set over this double door entry. The rear (west) porch wraps around the house to the south. Here the wooden posts supporting the porch roof are larger and single and are capped with horizontal ornamental brackets.

All of the windows are double-hung sash, with the upper sash bordered with rectangular panes of amber, green-blue and opaque glass. The windows have drilled and sawn slipsills. These windows are shown to their fullest advantage in three (two on the north, one on the south) two-storey deep half-octagon-shaped bays. Each window in the bay is separated by rounded pilasters which match the porch posts; the brackets and the abbreviated fish-scale-shingle mansard roof over the first-floor section of the bay also match the front porch brackets and roof. More of the matching sawn frieze appears above the first-floor windows. The bays are additionally adorned under the windows with dentils and rectangular panels inset with vertical and diagonal boards. There are two red brick chimneys with stepped corbeling: the south one is single and the north one is multiple.

See continuation sheet

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

LUKENS-KISLINGBURY HOUSE
267 North El Molino Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

CONTINUATION SHEET

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In contrast to the siting of its neighboring buildings to the south and north, the house is set well back from the street on a dichondra lawn bordered on the north and south by magnificent palm trees. The front lawn has a 10-foot circular pond with a fountain at its center. There are also large orange, magnolia, and camphor trees on the lot. Large hand-hewn stone block posts with iron buffalo heads mark the drive and walk. A wrought-iron fence is set on a matching stone block foundation across the front of the property and is backed by an evergreen hedge. This fence has ornamental "neo-Gothic" posts and gates. There is a large lantern of wrought-iron on the top of one of the entrance posts. A low retaining wall of large fieldstones, which are set on end, borders the west edge of the sidewalk in front of the property. Along the parking strip next to the street, grow two large magnolias and a palm. The only other feature on the property is a garage at the rear, which does not contribute to the historic or architectural significance of the property.

According to the current owner, the second story was partially extended over the one-story rear porch in 1901. During the 1970s, the owner slightly enlarged this portion over the rear porch and added three small gabled dormers to the rear roof (one on the north, south, and west), for which he had specially fabricated lacy lathwork which is identical to the original found on the larger gables. Originally, the rear porch wrapped around the north as well as the south side of the house; however, the kitchen has been slightly enlarged by extending its north wall to the north boundary of the original porch, so that its wall now lines up with the rest of the north wall of the residence. Access to the raised rear porch is via wooden stairs on the northwest corner of the house, whose balustrades match those of both the front porches. Except for these minor additions, the house remains essentially unaltered. Having carefully preserved and restored the exterior, the current owner is now restoring the interior to its original condition.

Near the central business district of Pasadena to the south and slashed through by the 210 freeway on the north, the residential neighborhood in which the Lukens house lies is in danger of further encroachment by commercial interests. An apartment building lies directly to the south side of the property and a church directly to the north.

The Lukens house serves as the western terminus of Locust Street, a tree-shaded avenue with a quiet residential character. As the largest and most imposing house in the neighborhood, the structure serves as its focal point. Approaching it along Locust, a street of modest cottages, the Lukens house looms as a dramatic surprise, a "fairy-tale castle" at the end of the street.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <u>Forestry</u>		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1886-1887 **Builder/Architect** Harry Ridgway

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Lukens house is one of the few remaining Victorians in Pasadena and one of the oldest houses in the city. The house in its setting exudes great presence and charm. Despite its large size (5000 sq. feet), it has a fairy-land quality because of its delicate and finely detailed dripping lathwork. Architectural writers David Gebhard and Robert Winter, in their Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, describe the Lukens house as "one of the few vestiges of Victorianism left in the central city -- and it is a good one" (p. 343). Its unique and abundant decoration make it an exceedingly fine specimen worthy of preservation. The house is also significant because of its architect, Harry Ridgway, and its original owner, Theodore Parker Lukens. Ridgway was the first professional architect in Pasadena; he is noted for the quality and volume of his work as well as the diversity of styles in which he designed with equal ease. Theodore Parker Lukens is an important figure in Southern California because of his early association with the Sierra Club, his pioneering reforestation efforts, and his many civic offices as a pillar of early Pasadena.

Transplanted Canadian Harry Ridgway, the architect of the Lukens house, was born in 1843. In 1878, just four years after the Pasadena area had been settled by a group of Indiana colonists, he became the first architect to open an office there. In 1884 he became associated with C.B. Ripley, Pasadena's earliest contractor and builder, in a business venture: the first planing mill in the city which supplied lumber, house trimmings and furnishings for many of Pasadena's earliest structures. Ridgway's output was prodigious: he designed and built several hundred residences, nearly all of Pasadena's public school buildings, the public library, several churches and almost all of the commercial structures on West Colorado Blvd., the early central business district. Among his notable individual buildings are the First National Bank, the Masonic Temple, the old Throop Institute (California Institute of Technology), the Arcade and Carlton Hotels, and Pasadena City Jail. Although almost all of Ridgway's buildings have been demolished or drastically altered, the Lukens house (1886-1887) and Hillmont (1887), two of the finest of Pasadena's Victorians, remain. He prided himself on not having an identifiable "Ridgway style." H.A. Reid, author of History of Pasadena (1895), credits Ridgway with "many original and diverse combinations of Venetians, Normans, Eastlakes, Old Spanish, Old Plantation, Italian, French Mansards, English and Colonial Dormers, Old English Queen Anne, Old English Elizabethans...." (p. 226). Ridgway died at his home in Pasadena in September 1913.

Theodore Parker Lukens commissioned Harry Ridgway to build his two-story Victorian on a six-acre lot on Moline Avenue (El Molino Avenue) in 1886, six years after he had arrived in Pasadena. Born in Ohio in 1848, Lukens lived most of his early life in Illinois where he became interested in horticulture and, as a civic-minded citizen, served as town tax-collector, town trustee and treasurer of the fire company. Lukens helped Pasadena on its way to becoming a city of trees by growing fruit trees and grape vines for the early settlers. He later became the first real estate agent in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gebhard, David and Robert Winter, A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California, Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, 1982.

Guinn, J.M. Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California, Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1902, p. 921.

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .31 acre (approx. 1/3 acre)

Quadrangle name Pasadena

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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1	1
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3	7	7	9	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Los Angeles County Assessor's Parcel 5723-007-021

The Lukens-Kislingbury property is a rectangular lot the southern boundary of which begins at a point 245 feet due north of the northwest corner of the junction of El Molino Avenue

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cheryl L. Graunke

organization Volunteer - Pasadena Heritage date March 17, 1983

street & number 54 West Colorado Blvd. telephone 213-793-0617

city or town Pasadena state California 91105

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 89-665), 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/20/83

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I hereby certify that this property is

Delores B...
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Historic Preservation

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

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town, and earned considerable income in Pasadena's real estate/building boom of 1885-86. An enthusiastic promoter of the city, he authored the first booklet written exclusively about it: "Pasadena, California, Illustrated and Described", and was the driving force behind the establishment of Pasadena's first public library. His many civic posts include: Justice of the Peace (1884), President of the Pasadena City Council (i.e., Mayor)(1890-96), President of the Pasadena Board of Trade, of the Pasadena Mutual Building and Loan Association, and of the National Bank of Pasadena, member of the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Star newspaper, member of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and member of the Boards of Trustees of the Los Angeles State Normal School and Throop Polytechnic Institute.

During the 1890s, Lukens made extensive pioneering explorations of Yosemite, the San Gabriels and San Bernardino Mountains, taking voluminous and detailed notes of his observations, collecting botanical specimens, and recording many nature scenes in hundreds of photographs. As he shared his research with prominent naturalist, his reputation as a forester grew. In 1894, Lukens became a charter member of the fledgling Sierra Club; in 1895, he met John Muir on an outing in Yosemite and they became life-long friends. Through the Sierra Club, John Muir vigorously promoted conservation in Northern California, while Lukens spearheaded the Club's efforts in Southern California.

In 1892, planting thousands of pines, Lukens carried out the first experiments in reforestation ever made in California in the Henninger Flats area of the San Gabriel Mountains above Pasadena, which remains today as an experimental nursery and recreation area run by the Los Angeles County Department of Forestry. For six years, Lukens was associated with the U.S. Department of Forestry directly under Director Gifford Pinchot, famous conservationist who instituted the first forestry program in the United States. In 1904, in San Luis Obispo County, California, Lukens began a eucalyptus plantation which today has turned into an aromatic forest which stretches for miles. He died in 1918 and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Pasadena.

In his honor were named Lukens Lake in Yosemite National Park and Mt. Lukens in the San Gabriel Mountains. Because of his overwhelming contributions to woodland conservation, Theodore Parker Lukens has fittingly earned the title "Father of Forestry".

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Reid, Hiram A., History of Pasadena, Pasadena, CA: Pasadena History Company,
1895, p. 458, 226.

Wood, J. M., Pasadena, Historical and Personal, published by the author, 1917.

City of Pasadena Urban Conservation Program file: "Harry Ridgway"

Sargent, Shirley, Theodore Parker Lukens, Father of Forestry, Los Angeles:
Dawson's Book Shop, 1969.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Continuation sheet

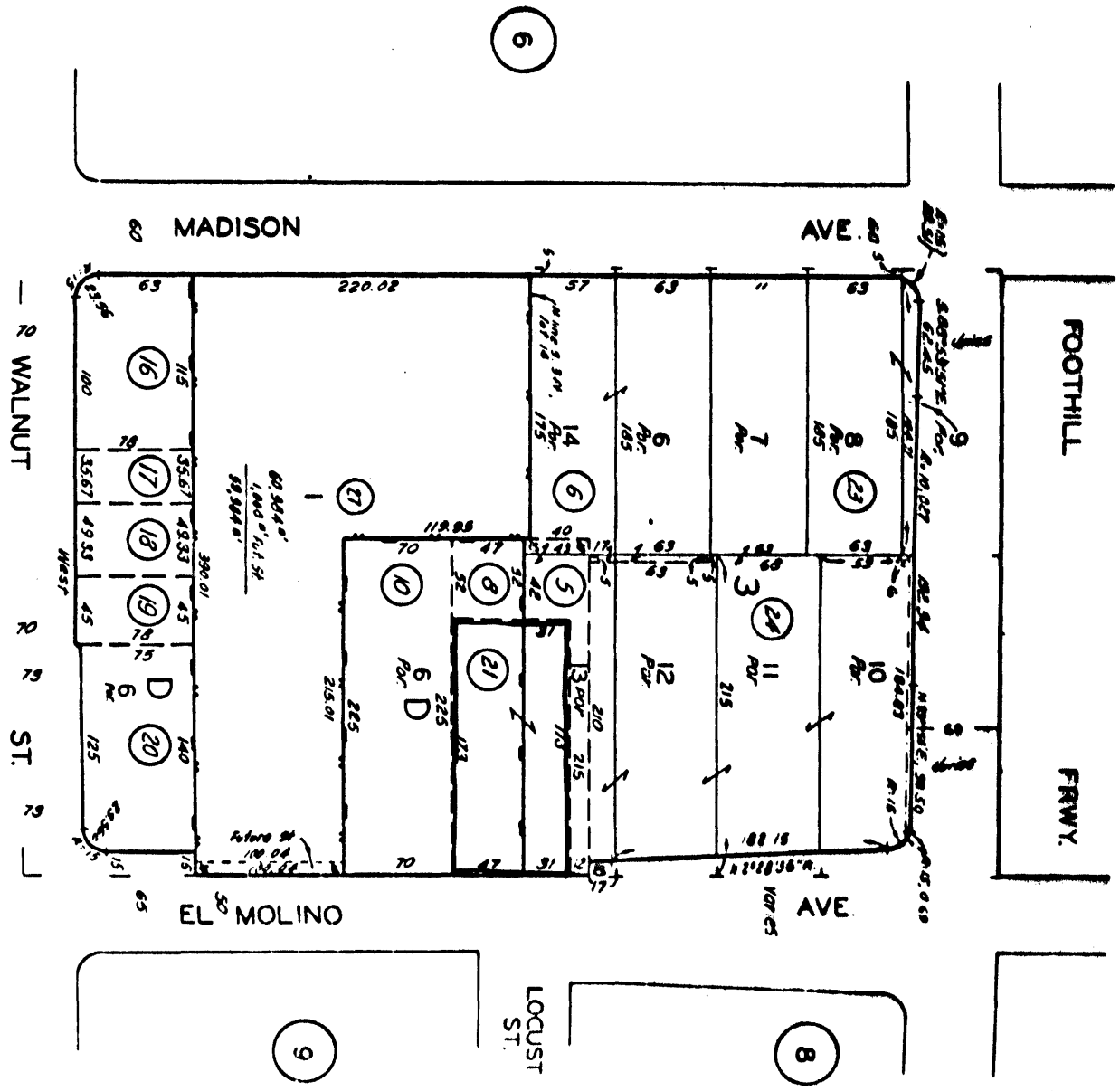
Item number 10

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and Walnut Street, continues straight west for 173 feet, makes a right angle and continues due north for 78 feet, makes another right angle, continuing due east for 173 feet, makes a right angle and continues due south for 78 feet to the beginning point of the boundary. Boundary encompasses the historic building and its grounds.

5723
7

LUKENS-KISLINGBURY HOUSE Los Angeles County
 267 N. El Molino Avenue
 Pasadena, CA 91101
 Lot No. 21 Assessor's I.D.#: 5723-007-21



BK.
5731