

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAY 31 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 9 1979

**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

ATHERTON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1990 California Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

San Francisco

5

STATE

California 94109

VICINITY OF
CODE

06

COUNTY

CODE

075

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Natali, Inc. (Leslie A. Natali, President)

STREET & NUMBER

1034 Kearny Street

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

California 94133

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records / Tax Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall - City & County of San Francisco

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco, California 94102

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

 (1) San Francisco Dept. of Planning Architectural Inventory, 1976.
 (2) Jr. League of San Francisco, Inc. Survey, 1968.

DATE

above

__FEDERAL __STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

(1) San Francisco Dept. of Planning, 100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102

CITY, TOWN

 (2) San Francisco Public Library, Special Collections Room, Main Branch
 San Francisco, California 94102

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(The following architectural description is given in the March 20, 1974 Revised Case Report of the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board)

Eclectic and even bizarre in conception, the building's dominant architectural styles are Queen Anne and Stick-Eastlake. The Victorian structure occupied a substantial portion of the entire lot, rendering an appearance of solidity and bulk. The house has two facades: a principal facade facing California Street, and a western facade facing Octavia Street. The eastern side of the house is barely visible, staying close to the neighboring house on California Street. Although the principal facade on California Street is not symmetrical, it is basically balanced. The dominant features of the building include a round Queen Anne corner tower to the west, balanced on the east by a two story, strongly projecting gable. The tower supports a conical or "witch's hat" roof, upon which rests a small "cap" at the peak. The curving linear bargeboards below the gable compliment the conical formations of the western tower.

Two dormer windows, one on the first and one on the second floor of the principal facade, occupy the space between the tower and the gable. The dormers are wide, with low round heads. A low transverse-pitched roof surmounts the first floor dormer, located above the front entrance. The double doors of the entrance are housed within a columned porch, recessed beneath the high curved roof containing the small projecting room and first floor dormer.

The principal facade is broken by excrescences, or wings, on either side of the entrance. A sloping roof below the central dormer, and a similar small sloping roof under the large eastern projecting gable shelter main story windows. On the west side under the prominent round tower, an extension of the porch roof slopes and shelters a small projecting wing.

The conical roof of the tower rests upon a range of consoles. The base of the tower, at the main level, is shaped in a polygon. The polygonal base contains two windows, one immediately above the other, which illuminates the stairway in the tower. Narrow horizontal sheathing covers the main story walls of the tower, with wooden quoins distinguishing the corners of the polygon. Stretching around the tower wall and Octavia Street facade is a band of carved moulding of foliate decorative motifs with shields. The large gable on the principal facade has the same frieze or carved moulding and supporting brackets. In addition, centered between the two large windows in the gable is a carved wooden urn. The columns supporting the front porch have ornately carved Corinthian capitals. Both the small dormer over the entrance and the curved pedimental head over the central paired window facing Octavia Street contain ornamental foliate designs. The date 1881 appears over the paired window.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet Page #1 - Item #7.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The roof of the Octavia Street facade is supported by consoles. Slightly projecting window pediments on the upper story rise above the eaves and break the roof line along this facade. The sheathing of the Octavia Street facade is varied: vertical board and batten on the lower portions of each story and horizontal shiplap timber along the upper portions. A horizontal band of dentillation separates the main floor from the second story. A triangular pediment between the tower and the main building facing Octavia Street shelters a small dormer at the attic story level.

The fenestration is rectangular; the size and placement of the windows is irregular form the exterior for it depends upon the internal requirements of the enclosed space.

The house is approached by a double flight of steps, divided by a simple iron rail. A retaining wall of approximately eight to ten feet encloses the front garden.

* * * * *

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 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) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On a scale of Zero to Five, the Atherton House was given a "summary" rating of Five in the 1976 Architectural Inventory (Survey) of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Planning. The House is officially designated as Landmark Number 70 of the City and County of San Francisco.

(The following history of the Atherton House is given in the March 20, 1974, Revised Case Report of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.)

The house was built in 1881 for Mrs. Dominga de Goni Atherton after the death of her husband Faxon Dean Atherton. Previously the family had lived at the country estate known as Valparaiso Park in San Mateo County (named in honor of Mrs. Atherton's birthplace in Chile) where Faxon Dean Atherton had established his permanent residence in California in 1860.

A native of Dedham, Massachusetts, Faxon Dean Atherton played a significant role in the commercial history of early California. Trading primarily in the hides and tallow between Valparaiso, Chile, and the eastern seaboard in the 1830's, he was lured to California by tales of business opportunities. His diary of the years 1836-1839 recounts the travails of life in Mexican-ruled California and records his foresight as the future value of San Francisco Bay.

In succeeding years, Atherton based himself principally in Valparaiso where he married into the wealthy de Goni family. He continued varied trading activities in Boston, Chile and California, but by the late 1840's, with the discovery of gold in California, he began to concentrate on supplying foodstuffs and commodities to the fast-growing San Francisco region. With the aid of United States consul Thomas O. Larkin, Atherton made substantial investments in California real estate. In 1859-60, Atherton secured U.S. citizenship for his wife and his six children and moved to San Francisco, settling temporarily on Rincon Hill. Thereafter, the family moved to Fair Oaks, which is today known as Atherton. Until his death, Atherton continued to expand his already profitable holdings.

Prominent members of the San Francisco social and business communities, the Atherton family received additional public acclaim due to the writings of Gertrude Atherton, Faxon and Dominga de Goni Atherton's daughter-in-law. Widowed in 1887, after 11 years of marriage to George Atherton, Gertrude became even more dedicated to writing and travelled extensively to New York,

(Continued on Continuation Sheet Page #2 - Item #8)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Here Today - San Francisco Architectural Heritage"
 Published in 1968. Junior League of San Francisco, Inc.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .22 (9480 square feet)

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>10</u>	<u>550540</u>	<u>4182460</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the point of intersection of the Northerly line of California Street with the Easterly line of Octavia Street and running thence Easterly on and along said Northerly line of California Street 68 feet 9 inches; thence at a right angle Northerly 137 feet 6 inches; thence at a right angle Westerly 68 feet 9 inches and to a point on said Easterly line of Octavia Street; and thence Southerly on and along said Easterly line of Octavia Street 137 feet 6 inches and to the said point of commencement.

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

STATE	<u>none</u>	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Leslie A. Natali (Owner) with the cooperation and support of

ORGANIZATION

San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

(Natali, Inc.: 1034 Kearny Street, San Francisco, CA 94133)

(415) 558-3056

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

94133

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Knorr Mellon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams

DATE 1-7-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce

DATE 1/9/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Architectural and Historical Significance of Atherton House

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The Atherton House is architecturally significant as an unusual example of the Queen Anne and Stick/Eastlake style. It is notable for its successful massing of diverse spaces, its basically balanced assymetrical facade, and its eclectic combination of roof styles. Its appearance of solidity and bulk is successfully enlivened with an underlying tension created by the movement of interrelated spaces, and decorative motifs.

Historically, the house is significant as the home of a prominent early California pioneer whose daughter-in-law, Gertrude Atherton, achieved international notoriety as a prolific author and world traveller. Although there is no evidence that Gertrude occupied the house herself, her mother-in-law raised Gertrude's children there from 1881 to 1890.

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ITEM NUMBER #8

PAGE #2

London, Paris and Washington seeking both ideas and publishers for her novels. Although her mother-in-law continued to occupy the house on California Street from 1881 until her death in 1890, and even cared for Gertrude's children there for a time, all indications are that the prolific authoress never actually resided there herself.

After the senior Mrs. Atherton's death in 1890, this residence was purchased by Edgar Mills, the brother of D. O. Mills, of the Bank of California, for whom the town of Millbrae is named. Edgar Mills, a native of New York, had come to California during the Gold Rush and soon became associated with his brother in various mercantile endeavors including the National Bank of D. O. Mills and Co. of which Edgar later became President. He also served as President of the Eureka and Palisades Railroad.

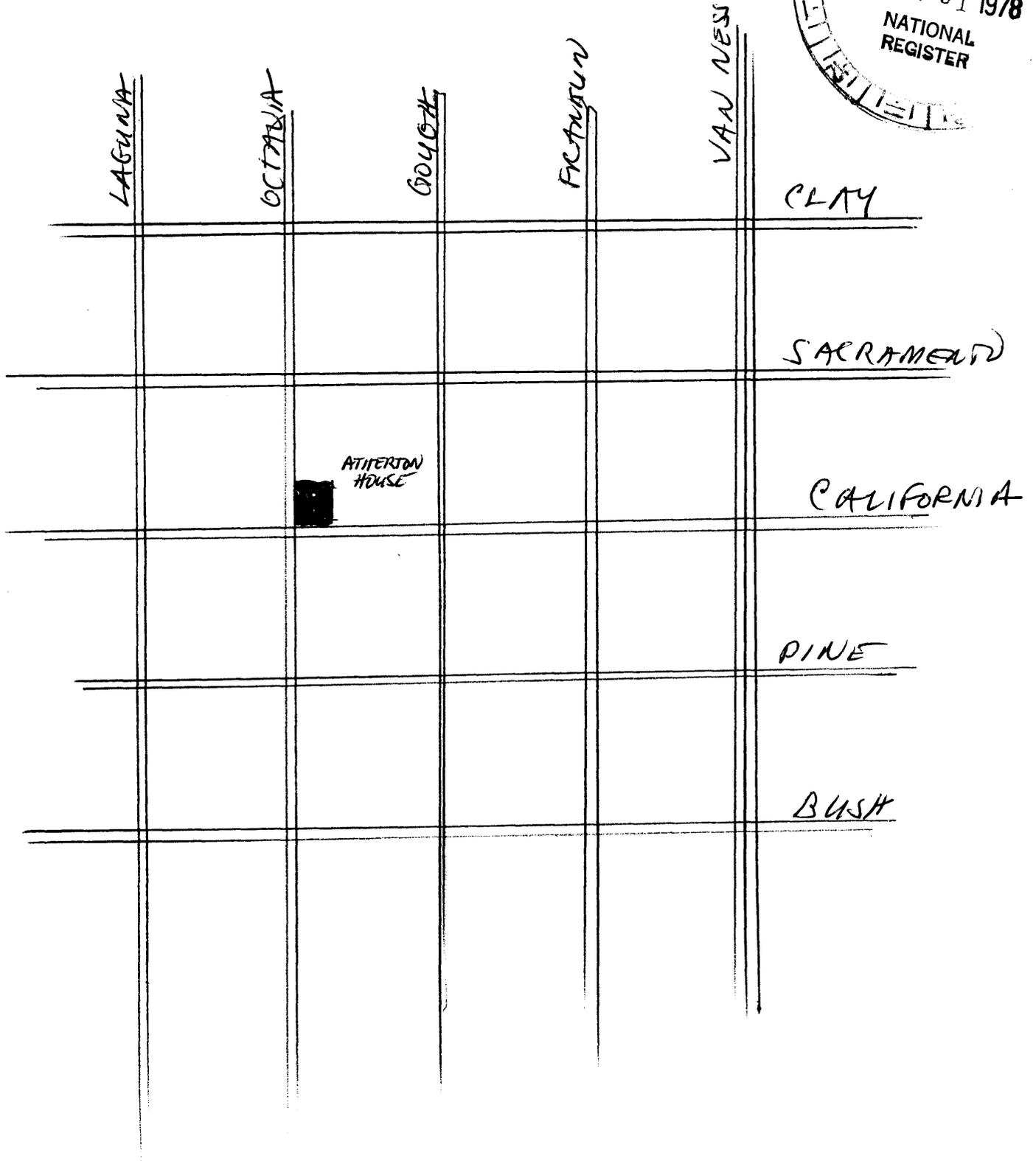
In 1900, the address of the residence was changed from 1950 to 1990 California.

In 1905, the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Leventritt, long time residents of the Palace Hotel. Upon his arrival in San Francisco in 1863, Mr. Leventritt associated with the firm of Rosenstock and Company, manufacturers, importers and wholesalers of boots and shoes. He became President of the company in 1872, continuing in that capacity until the firm's demise in 1892. Mr. Leventritt was also a prominent member of Temple Emanu-El and the Argonaut Club.

In 1908, the residence was purchased by George Chauncey Boardman, prominent in real estate matters, whose brick mansion at the southeast corner of Franklin and Sacramento Streets had been destroyed in the 1906 fire. In the 1860's, Mr. Boardman was president of San Francisco Fire Insurance, an early San Francisco insurance company, and later represented Aetna Insurance in California. In 1913-14, when the Boardman's granddaughter, Cora Winn, (later Mrs. Lovell Langstroth), became the first president of the Junior League of San Francisco, their residence became an early headquarters and meeting place for the fledgling organization. After her husband's death Mrs. Boardman continued to live in the house until her death on November 6, 1921. Other members of the family then resided there until the property was sold in 1923.

In 1923, the property was purchased by architect Charles J. Rousseau who continued to reside across the street at 1991 California. Under his direction, however, the house was carefully divided into thirteen dwelling units. Today the property is owned by Mr. Rousseau's heirs and continues to be a rooming house.

* * * * *



ATHERTON HOUSE - SAN FRANCISCO

1990 CALIFORNIA ST-