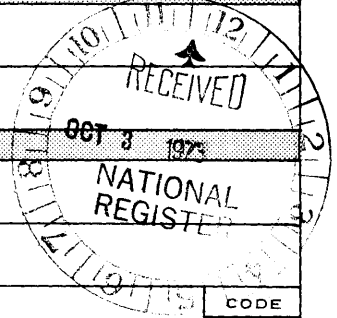


PH0076406

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Santa Clara	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 30 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
T. B. Downing House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
706 Cowper Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Palo Alto

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Santa Clara	CODE 085
---------------------	------------	------------------------	-------------

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bernice G. Seavey (one of 5 relatives who own building jointly)

STREET AND NUMBER:
183 Thompson Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Mt. View

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Santa Clara County Recorder's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
191 North First Street

CITY OR TOWN:
San Jose

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
A.A.U.W.

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Palo Alto Historical Association's archives

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Library -- Newell Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Palo Alto

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California	COUNTY: Santa Clara	ENTRY NUMBER: 007 3 1973	DATE: OCT 30 1973
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

7. DESCRIPTION

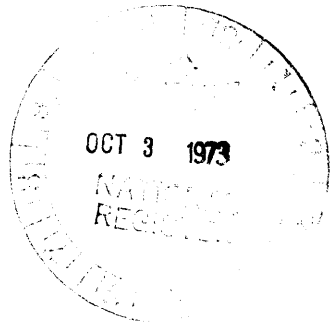
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<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 Downing House is rich in decorative features. Outstanding is the round corner tower with its finial, brackets, dentil and window molding, as well as the different types of shingles. The gable is used in the facade three times: over the porch, at the second floor roof line, and on the attic dormer. The rich motifs on the bargeboards and in the peaks are also repeated. The porch abounds with more of what is often called gingerbread: the columns, the balustrade, and the spindles at the eaves. On the side of the house is still another gable below which is a slanted bay framing a round window. The popular bracket and pendant decoration softens the cut-off corners.

The exterior has been unaltered through June 1972, when a fire confined to the third floor caused smoke discoloration at that level and partially destroyed the roof.

The interior was divided into five apartments many years ago, but the original elaborate woodwork and fixtures have remained. The recent fire will require considerable construction work on the third floor.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input 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

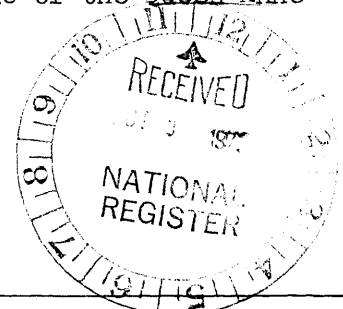
The following statement has been condensed from ...Gone Tomorrow?, a publication on Palo Alto's architectural heritage, published in 1971 by the American Association of University Women, Palo Alto, California Branch:

In 1890 Palo Alto was a grain field with five houses. The reason for Palo Alto's founding was the founding of Stanford University. The early close ties with the university were largely responsible for Palo Alto's solid origins and consequent growth. The nucleus of the new town in the grain field was immediately around University Avenue. There were located what contemporary newspapers called the "neat cottages," the homes of the artisans and merchants. Sprinkled between were the homes of the more affluent, known as "handsome residences." Toward the bay were the dairies, orchards, and strawberry ranches.

In Palo Alto's first decade there were occasional undeveloped blocks even near the center of town. T. B. Downing, a member of the first city council of Palo Alto and an early member of the school board, had one of the largest and most ornate homes in the fast-disappearing grain fields, built in 1894 at 706 Cowper.

This house is the most outstanding, extant example of the Queen Anne Style in Palo Alto.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A.A.U.W., Palo Alto Branch. Gone Tomorrow? Palo Alto, California, 1971.
 Palo Alto Times, September 18, 1916.
 Palo Alto Times, September 14, 1894.
 Palo Alto Live Oak, January 1, 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

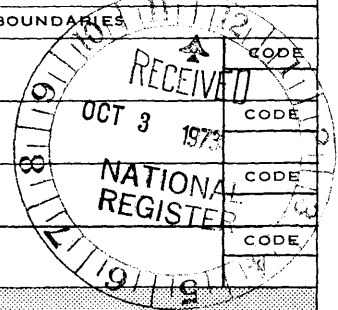
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37	26	47
NE	° ' "	° ' "		122	09	20
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
10/57470
414453
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gay Woolley R

ORGANIZATION: ----- DATE: 28 June 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 1605 Mariposa Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Palo Alto STATE: California CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name [Signature]
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 Title
 Date SEP 11 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director, Professional Services
 Date OCT 30 1973

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 10.25.73