

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

JUL 30 1986

date entered

8-28-86

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

1. Name

historic Barron-Latham-Hopkins Gate Lodge

and/or common Gate House

2. Location

street & number 555 Ravenswood Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Menlo Park n/a vicinity of 12th Congressional District

state California 94025 code 06 county San Mateo code 081

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"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Menlo Park

street & number 701 Laurel Avenue

city, town Menlo Park n/a vicinity of state California 94025

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Mateo County Hall of Records

street & number Marshall Street

city, town Redwood City state California 94063

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Barron-Latham-Hopkins gate lodge appears basically as it did after 1906. The redwood frame, wide ship lap covered cottage is dominated by a steep, shingled Mansard roof. Its present appearance evolved in three stages -- built in 1864, added to in 1897 and 1906. It now rests on a high concrete foundation. The 1906 addition nestled second floor rooms beneath the modified roof on the north end. Heavy, window moldings -- characteristic of the Second Empire style -- are the architectural exterior feature of the (1864) original and the (1897) second addition, or mid-section. The gate lodge has a characteristic, protruding bay on the south by which a keeper of the gate could more readily observe vehicles and pedestrians approaching or leaving the estate.

Continuation Sheet, Item 7, page 3, is a reduced copy of modern measured drawings of the first floor.

The three-side bay of the Barron 1864 gate lodge protrudes functionally on the south end a few feet from the century-and-a-quarter old main gate. Its middle window molding is an elaborate, heavy, arch extending into the Mansard roof. The smaller bracketed windows on either side reach only to the eaves; otherwise their moldings resemble those of the other 19th century windows in the house. It is unlikely that the original glazing would have been such large panels.

To the north on the street side there are three more windows with exactly the same molding arches as the main bay window. The original octagonal shape of the gate lodge is apparent with a small, angle window facing northwest. Beyond it, in the 1897 addition, is a third large window exactly like its predecessors.

When the house was modified in 1897 a major renovation occurred in the southeast inner corner eliminating a jog-like segment with its small entry for the present French doors with sidelights differentiated by simple wooden pilasters. The two windows facing south in the original east wing are the same style reaching into the Mansard roof; they remain in the same relationship to the south bay. The square bay which juts out from the east wing was without an opening until the Army's modification of a rectangular plate glass window. The window to the east of the wing was inserted in 1906.

The mid-section was added in 1897 by Timothy Hopkins to accommodate his tenants. The gate lodge was rented as the parish house for a nearby Episcopal church. A three bay for the vicar's study extends to the east. On its third, or northeast, side a door, rather than a window provided access to the study without disturbing the household.

After the 1906 earthquake Hopkins had the lodge raised to its present height and placed on a concrete foundation. Plumbing and more fireplaces were added; the size of the house more than doubled by extending rooms to the north with a second floor.

A large open porch was added east of the study during the subsequent modification. Recently it was opened with additional steps for easier public access. In the 1940s a window in the dining room was replaced with a huge, plate glass window, nearly comparable to the end of the room. The east wing has French doors opening onto the porch. The end of the wing was opened with a large plate glass window.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1864, 1897 & 1906 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barron-Latham-Hopkins gate lodge is significant because it is the last remnant of the fabulous 1860s' large, fashionable country estates in California. Due to the opening of the San Francisco Peninsula by the San Francisco & San Jose Rail Road such estates became established as summer country home for wealthy commuters. Gate lodges of this date no longer exist in California. The Second Empire style with Mansard roof became popular about the time its second owner assumed control of the estate. The gate lodge is significant because of its association with its three private owners, each of whom made notable contributions to California history. The gate lodge, now serving the community of Menlo Park, appears much as it did when its last private owner occupied it from 1906 to 1941.

This gate lodge pre-dates the nearby, earliest extant railroad station in California. Only one other gate lodge of the era exists in California. John Parrott's in San Mateo has been so modernized as to be unrecognizable as a gate keeper's residence, and nothing remains of the gate he watched.

Its builder and first owner was William Eustace Barron, the California representative for Barron & Forbes, the developers of the Almaden Mines. Barron was a leading San Francisco capitalist in the formative days of the state. Barron subdivided the exterior edges of his 280 acre estate, but his successor re-accumulated them. The appearance of the 1860 estate are documented by photos taken by Eadward Muybridge.

Following Barron's death Milton Slocum Latham purchased the estate in 1871 and named it Thurlow Lodge. Latham had become an important California politician. He was a U.S. Representative from 1853-1855. In 1859 he was elected Governor of the State, but he was immediately chosen to fill the term of slain U.S. Senator David C. Broderick. As a Southern Democrat he advocated that California secede from the Union to form an independent Pacific Republic. After the Civil War Latham developed Thurlow Lodge into the most elaborate estate in California. He organized the London and San Francisco Bank, Ltd., and served as its President in San Francisco until 1878. A series of photos of the estate, including details of the lodge and its gate, were taken by Carleton E. Watkins and are now priceless international treasures.

Obviously the names of the gatekeeper occupants have been lost in the passage of time.

The recent widow of railroad magnate Mark Hopkins purchased the country estate in 1883. She renamed it Sherwood Hall. After her re-marriage she deeded the property in 1888 to her adopted son Timothy Hopkins. He served as Treasurer of the Southern Pacific Railroad, was a close confidant of Leland Stanford and served as a lifetime Trustee of Leland Stanford, Jr., University. In the 1890s Hopkins developed the adjoining campus town, now known as Palo Alto. With frugality Hopkins did not retain a gatekeeper and the gate lodge stood empty. From 1897 until 1904

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Palo Alto

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	5	7	2	6	8	0	4	1	4	5	4	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy F. Regnery on behalf of the

organization Junior League of Palo Alto, Inc. date 23 April 1986

street & number 488 Westridge Drive telephone 415-854-5074

city or town Portola Valley state California 94025

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 Kathryn Guattieri

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/25/86

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

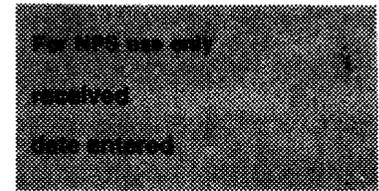
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attain:

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet one

Item number 6

Page 1

Title: Junior League of San Francisco, Inc.
Date: 1964
County
Depository: San Mateo County Historical Association
City, State: San Mateo, California

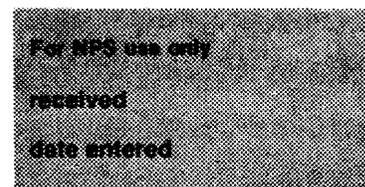
Title: San Mateo County Historic Sites
Date: 1966
County
Depository: San Mateo County Planning Department
City, State: Redwood City, California

Title: SMA-009 Point of Historical Interest
Date: 1971
County
Depository: State Parks & Recreation Department
City, State: Sacramento, California

Title: Junior League of Palo Alto, Inc.
Date: 1973
County
Depository: San Mateo County Historical Association
San Mateo, California

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

On the northeast end of the house is a large, glassed enclosed porch. In 1982 a handicap ramp was inserted between the north porches. It is so well integrated that it does not alter the integrity of the gate lodge. The northwest porch functioned as an entrance to the service rooms.

The Hopkin's addition "turned its back" to Ravenswood Avenue. An exterior stairway to the second floor was added in the 1950s when the upper floor was converted into an apartment. The service rooms extend to the west. On either side are a pair of two-over-two windows. The scattering of windows for the second floor seem more apparent on the (west) street side than they do on the (east) garden side. Simple window and door frames help to date the 1906 construction.

The mid-section designed in 1897 as a kitchen became a bathroom and interior stairs and now has a simple half window on the west side.

The 1864 Mansard roof was restored in 1968 with handcrafted shingles in a two-color pattern. In 1983 the geometric color pattern was painted over, but the shingle design is discernible.

In 1890 the lodge, its gate and all of the estate buildings dramatically were deprived of their crisp, white, wedding cake appearance. Mary Frances Sherwood, widow of Mark Hopkins and by then married to Edward Searles, had everything painted (including her Nob Hill mansion) with a dark green paint she purchased in Europe. The trim was "Venetian" red. The buildings remained like this until the property was acquired by the U.S. Army who returned it to white trimmed with green. In 1983 the City of Menlo Park painted the gate lodge in multi-colors simulating the "San Francisco Victorian Ladies."

The gate lodge, readily identifiable in its three stages, and its 1864 gate are in excellent condition. Regardless of the intrusion of plate glass windows, handicap access, colorful paint and steps on the porch, the lodge retains its 1906 appearance.

Continuation Sheet, Item 7, page 4, is a reduced copy of the 1868 sales map. It clearly shows the bay end of the lodge.

Continuation Sheet, Item 7, page 5, is a sketch map showing the relation of the lodge to the present Civic Center.

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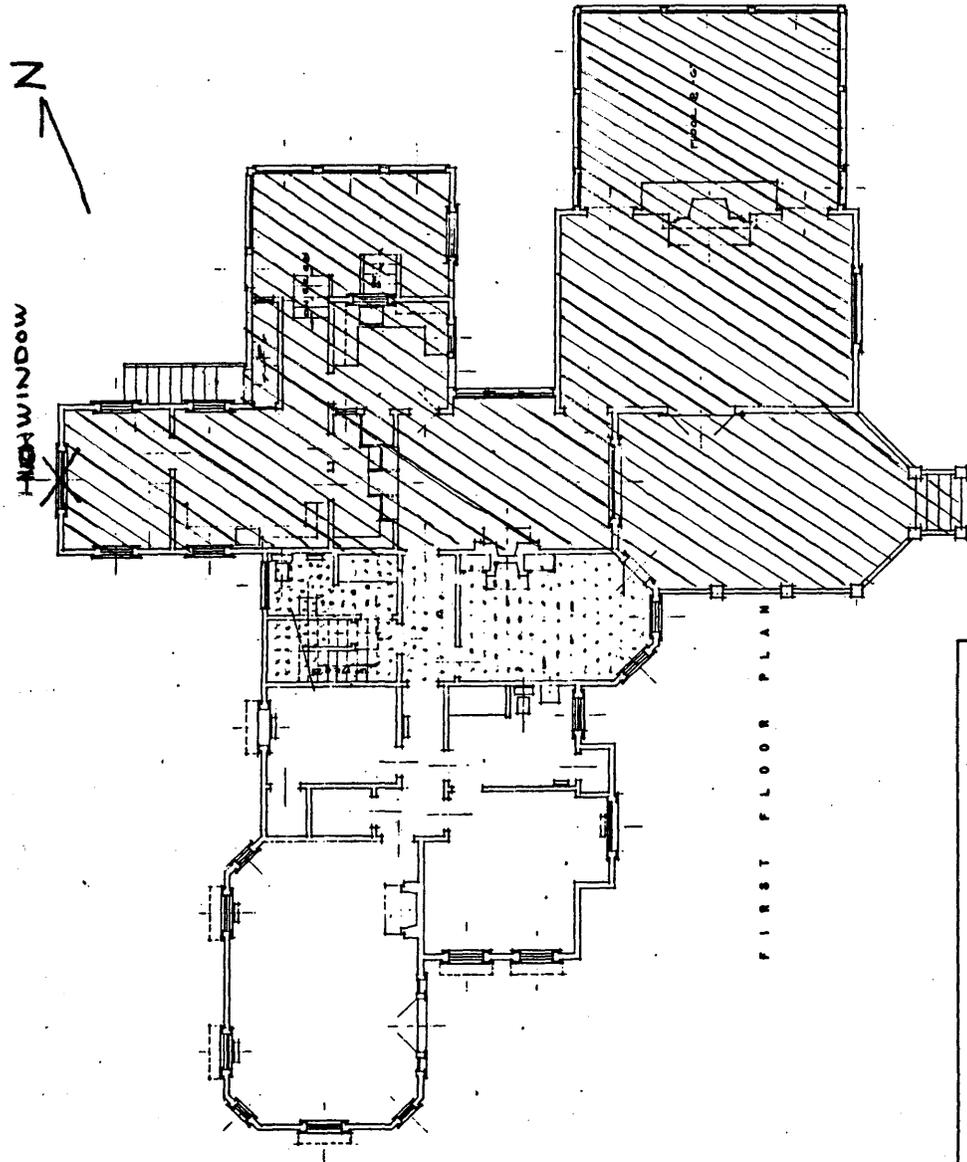
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Continuation sheet

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Page 3

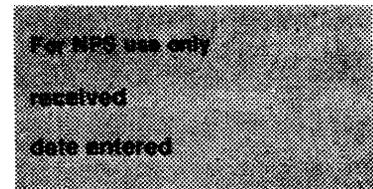


- 1864
- 1897
- 1906

G A I T H E R H O U S E
L A Y O U T - H O N O R S O U R C E S

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

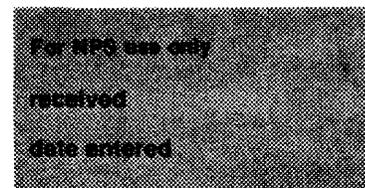
he rented the gate lodge to an Episcopal vicar. After the 1906 earthquake to avoid the costly repair of the interrupted gas lines in the mansion or equally costly installation of electricity, Hopkins renovated the gate lodge to function as his family's summer cottage. (Traditionally country estate owners lived in San Francisco overwinter.) Due to his financial reverses due to quake losses the Hopkins thenceforth rented San Francisco homes of friends until his status recovered. Hopkins was the first owner of the estate to conceive that the property could be self-supporting. On the grounds he started the agricultural enterprise, Sunset Seed & Plant Co., which developed into the largest seed business in the West. Hopkins died in 1936; his wife continued to live at the lodge in the summers until her death in 1941.

In 1942 all of the estate buildings, except the gate lodge and its gates, were demolished. The next occupants of the gate lodge were the Commandants of the U.S. Army Dibble General Hospital which was built on half of the estate. After the war Stanford University purchased the gate lodge; in 1968 it was sold to the City of Menlo Park.

Within the nominated area two contributing items are closely associated with the lodge. The gate is obvious. The statuary is exemplary of French cast bronze placed in 1872 throughout the estate landscape. The modern parking lot is included within the boundary of the nomination because in the future it could be landscaped to compliment the important historic subjects.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Muybridge, Eadward 1860s photos in the archives of Bancroft Library, California State Library, California Historical Society, Menlo Park Historical Association, and San Mateo County Historical Museum.

Neville, Amelia Ransome. The Fantastic City. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1932.

Neville Scrapbooks. California Historical Society.

Pearce, Stanley. Lift Up Your Hearts. Menlo Park: Trinity Parish, 1974.

Personal interviews with
Dwight Adams
Alex Brammer
Katherine Doyle
Margaret Hall
Esther Kelly

San Mateo County Recorder: deeds, mortgages, miscellaneous records, maps.

Scaroni, Margaret. ms. of reminiscences of Susan Gale. Menlo Park Historical Association.

Stanford Archives. Hopkins, SC-37.

Stanford Historical Society Newsletter, Summer, 1984, Vol. 8, no. 4
Dorothy Regnery. "That old horse statue near the Red Barn is not 'Sherwood.'"

Stanger, Frank. South from San Francisco. San Mateo: San Mateo County Historical Association, 1963.

Watkins, Carleton E. 1875 photos in the archives of Canadian Centre for Architecture; San Mateo County Historical Museum, and Stanford University Library Special Collections.

Woods, James. Recollections of Pioneer Work in California. San Francisco: Joseph Winterburn & Co., 1878.

Newspapers, such as:

Menlo Recorder July 27, 1950

Palo Alto Times June 27, 1962

Redwood City Democrat January 23, 1913

San Jose Mercury August 29, 1984

San Mateo County Gazette and Times-Gazette December 16, 1871;
February 17, 1872; January 25, 1873; May 17, 1873; November 22, 1873; January 13, 1874; December 29, 1877; September 21, 1878; September 23, 1882; April 7, 1883; April 28, 1883; August 8, 1885; December 5, 1885; November 16, 1889

San Mateo Times November 7, 1890

San Francisco Daily Alta July 8, 1876

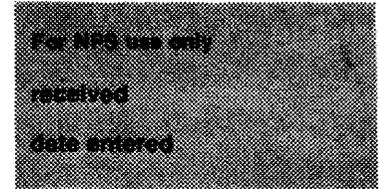
Call September 8, 1882

Chronicle May 21, 1871

Examiner September 25, 1882

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Boundary description and justification:

To encompass the lodge and its historic gate with sufficient land for appropriate landscape, begin at the southeast corner of Ravenswood Avenue and Laurel Street..

184 feet east on Laurel Street

351 feet south

180 feet west to Ravenswood Avenue

and 392 feet north on Ravenswood Avenue to place of beginning.

Attached is the "Site Plan of the Gatehouse" prepared for this nomination by the Engineering Department, City of Menlo Park.

In addition attached is Assessor's Map, Book 62, page 39, with the site outlined.

POR



BARRON-LATHAM-HOPKINS GATE LODGE
 555 Ravenswood Avenue
 Menlo Park, San Mateo County, CA
 Sales Map of 1968

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 City and County of San Francisco } 55

