

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FWA

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**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 Pettigrew House

AND/OR COMMON
Pettigrew House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1336 Cowper

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Palo Alto

VICINITY OF
12

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Santa Clara

CODE
085

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME H.R. and Mary Johnson

STREET & NUMBER
1336 Cowper

CITY, TOWN
Palo Alto

VICINITY OF

STATE
California 94301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER
191 North First Street

CITY, TOWN
San Jose

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Palo Alto City Inventory

DATE
December 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 2390

CITY, TOWN
Sacramento

STATE
California 95811

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pettigrew house is located in a well landscaped suburban upper middle class neighborhood with ample building separation. The building is L-shaped with the one wing along the street front, protecting a garden area to the rear. The front wing is one story in height, with a two story section at the west end projecting to the rear. The building is of frame construction, surfaced with stucco. The roof is a series of low gables covered with red tile.

The street facade presents a massive stucco plane pierced by only 3 openings; the entry door and 2 windows. To the rear, on the two garden facing walls, the house opens up through numerous sets of French windows to a paved terrace area. There are wooden balconies along both sides of the second story wing. The windows in the walls which face the public street and lawn area are covered with wrought iron grilles whose decoration design is drawn from Spanish prototypes.

The ceilings of the living room features a structurally simple but visually elegant truss/beam support interrupted in several places by an unusual star shaped configuration in wood. Alternate beams of the dining room ceiling are incised with an ornamental motif of great delicacy. The major ground floor rooms are surfaced with handmade tiles of the same material, but in patterns which change from room to room. There is a pierced, geometric grille in the two story stair hall.

Above the paved patio/terrace are a series of cables which are supports for sliding canvas sunshades. These cables also function, at the east end, as a trellis for a very fine wisteria. A visual focus for this terrace is a tiled fountain in the center of a rectangle of which the house forms two sides.

The only outbuilding is a garage, part of the original design.

There have been only minor alterations to the structure; successive kitchen remodelings, and some partition removal in what were originally the servant's quarters in the 1920's. The only exterior indications of these alterations are a kitchen window larger than the original and a pair of French doors; as these are screened by a ground floor loggia their visual impact is minimal. A small section of stucco garden wall was removed to provide access to tennis courts at the rear of the property.

A large swimming pool stands on the garden side of the tennis court walls. It is not part of the original complex, but was added several years after the construction of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE

RIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
0-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
0-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
0-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
0-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
0-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
0-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

IFIC DATES 1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Washington Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1925, the Pettigrew house is a major building by an important designer, in a style which is specifically associated with California.

There are at least three architectural styles which have originated in and/or reached their full expression in California: the Mission Revival; the Craftsman; and the Spanish Colonial Revival. All are concerned in various ways with the romance of California's past, the potential of its lifestyles, and the benignity of its climate. The Spanish Colonial Revival was a mode which attempted, in the 1920's, to recreate the ambience of a largely mythicized Hispanic past. It was, in this respect a more sophisticated successor to the earlier Mission Revival style, but rather than limit its imagery source to a few ruined California missions, it integrated elements from both vernacular and high art buildings from Spain, southern France, Italy, and occasionally Morocco. The resultant California home, at least in the hands of the more sophisticated designer, tended to turn its back on the street, and open up to protected gardens or courtyards.

One of the early important designers in the style to emerge to national attention was the Santa Barbara figure, George Washington Smith. Smith's buildings, while usually not patterned as specific Spanish or Spanish Colonial prototypes, utilize massive forms, large wall areas, and intricate decorative devices to produce sophisticated structures of real evocative power. The Pettigrew house shows Smith at his best. The house reflects Smith's ability to articulate building forms to powerful effect. It is an unusual instance of Smith's work in Northern California; although there are a few of his buildings on the San Francisco peninsula and in the Carmel area, his work was for the most part limited to Southern California.

The house aroused considerable controversy at the time of its construction because its largely blank street facade was felt to be "insulting" to the passerby. It has, however, exercised a strong influence upon other Palo Alto architectural works.

P.L. "Percy" Pettigrew, for whom the house was built, was a distinguished partner in the Federal Telegraph Company.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gebhard, David, George Washington Smith Catalog, published by U.C. Press Archives, University of California, Santa Barbara
 MAUW, Exploring Palo Alto's Past, 1977, Palo Alto, CA
 Fox, Ed, "A Leisurely Bike Tour of Palo Alto", Sierra Club, 1978
 Pace, Pauline, editor, Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory, Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, San Jose CA, 1975

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

undated revision and supplement distributed by Ruth Wilson of the Palo Alto Historical Association

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .61 QUADRANGLE SCALE 7 1/2" 1:24,000
 QUADRANGLE NAME Palo Alto

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 10	575380	4144010	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A predominantly rectangular shaped lot 150' by 182.62' with a small section (14.50' by 56') deleted from the rear. Lot is part of a residential block bounded by Cowper, Embarcadero, Waverley and Melville. Shown on attached plat.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
 Lot 11, Book 120, Page 19 of Santa Clara County Assessor Records

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
no overlapping boundaries			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Boghosian & John Beach

ORGANIZATION

Historic Environment Consultants

DATE

May 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

2306 J St.

TELEPHONE

(916) 446-2447

CITY OR TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

95816

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

K. M. Egan

TITLE

DATE 5/13/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

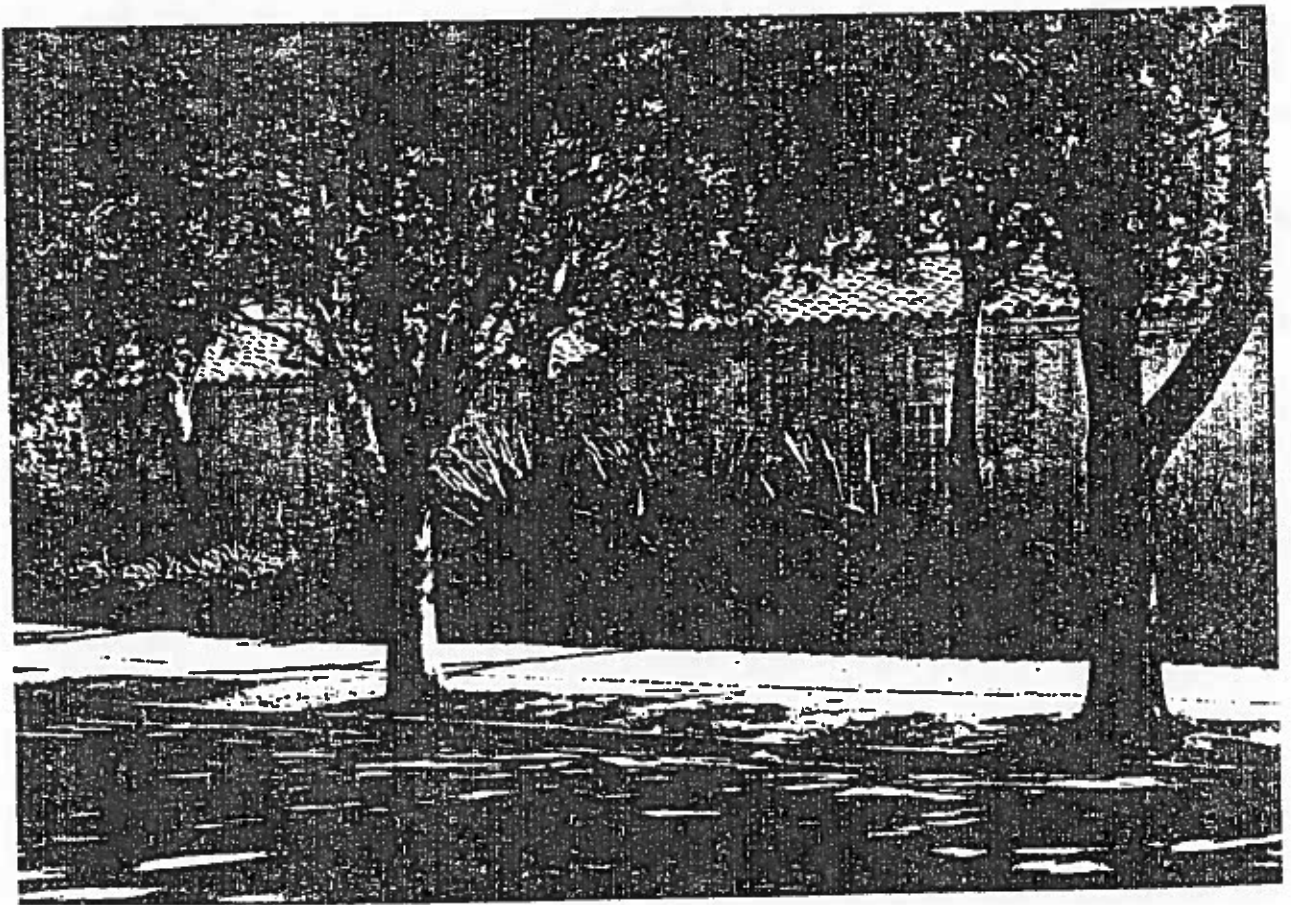
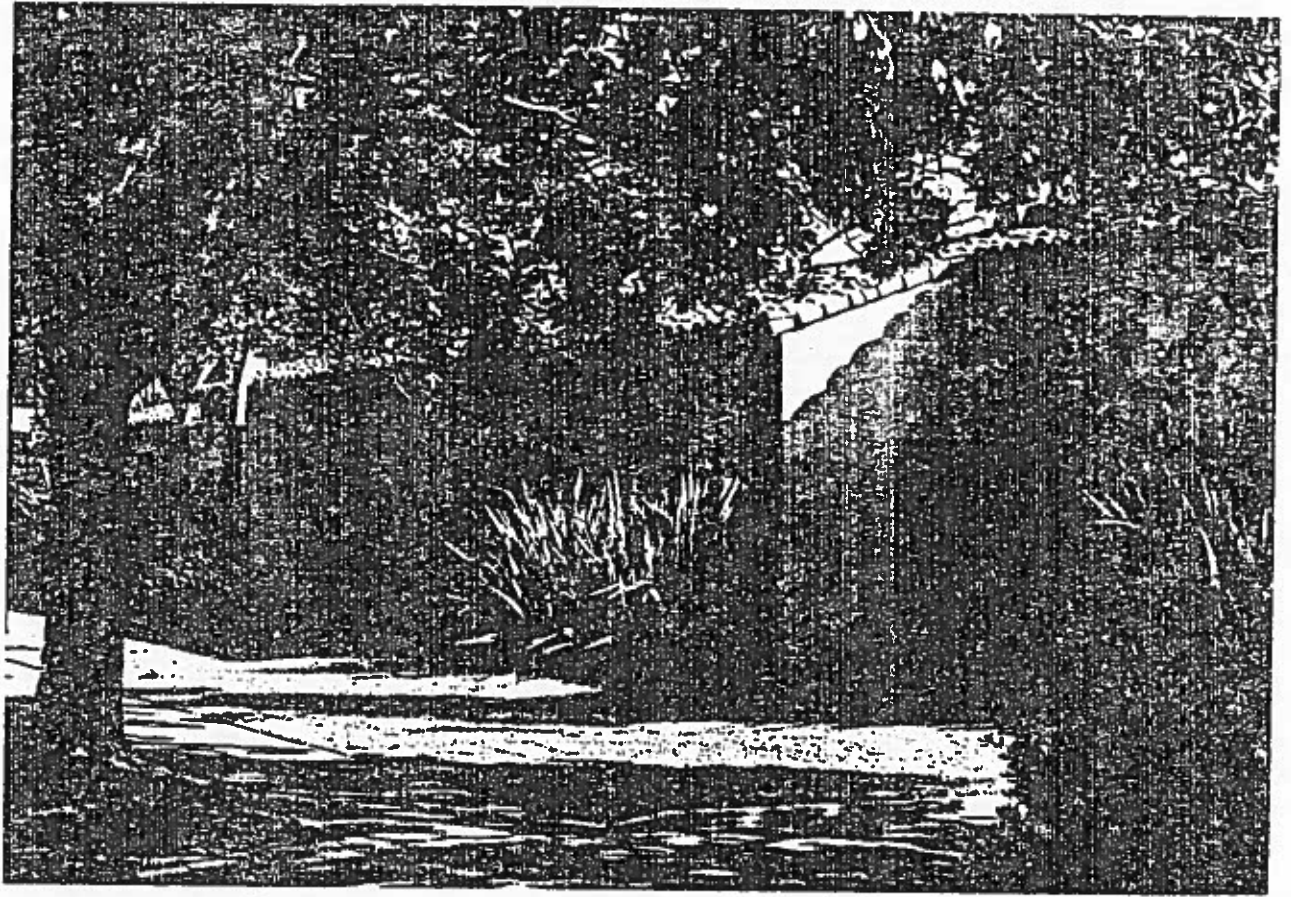
DATE

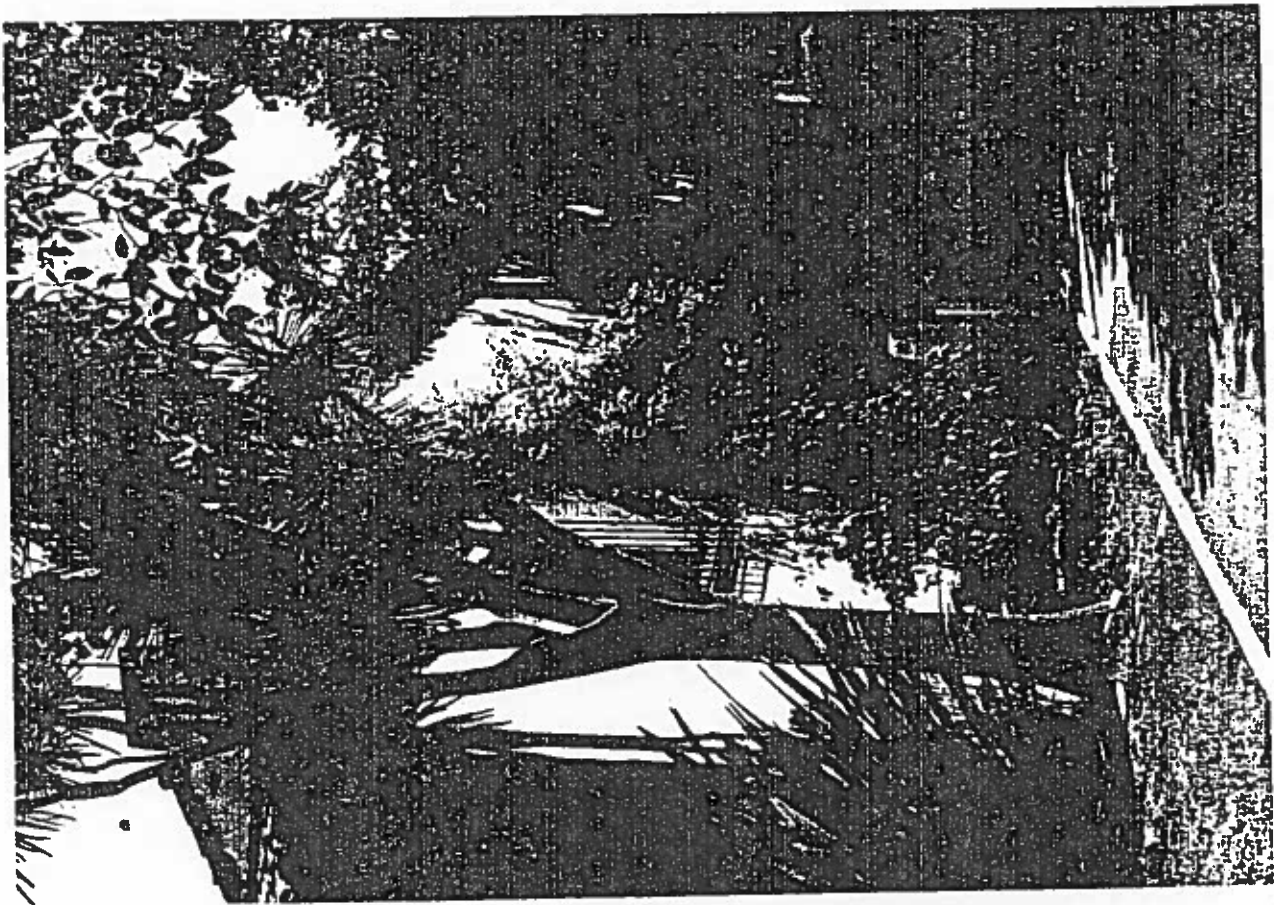
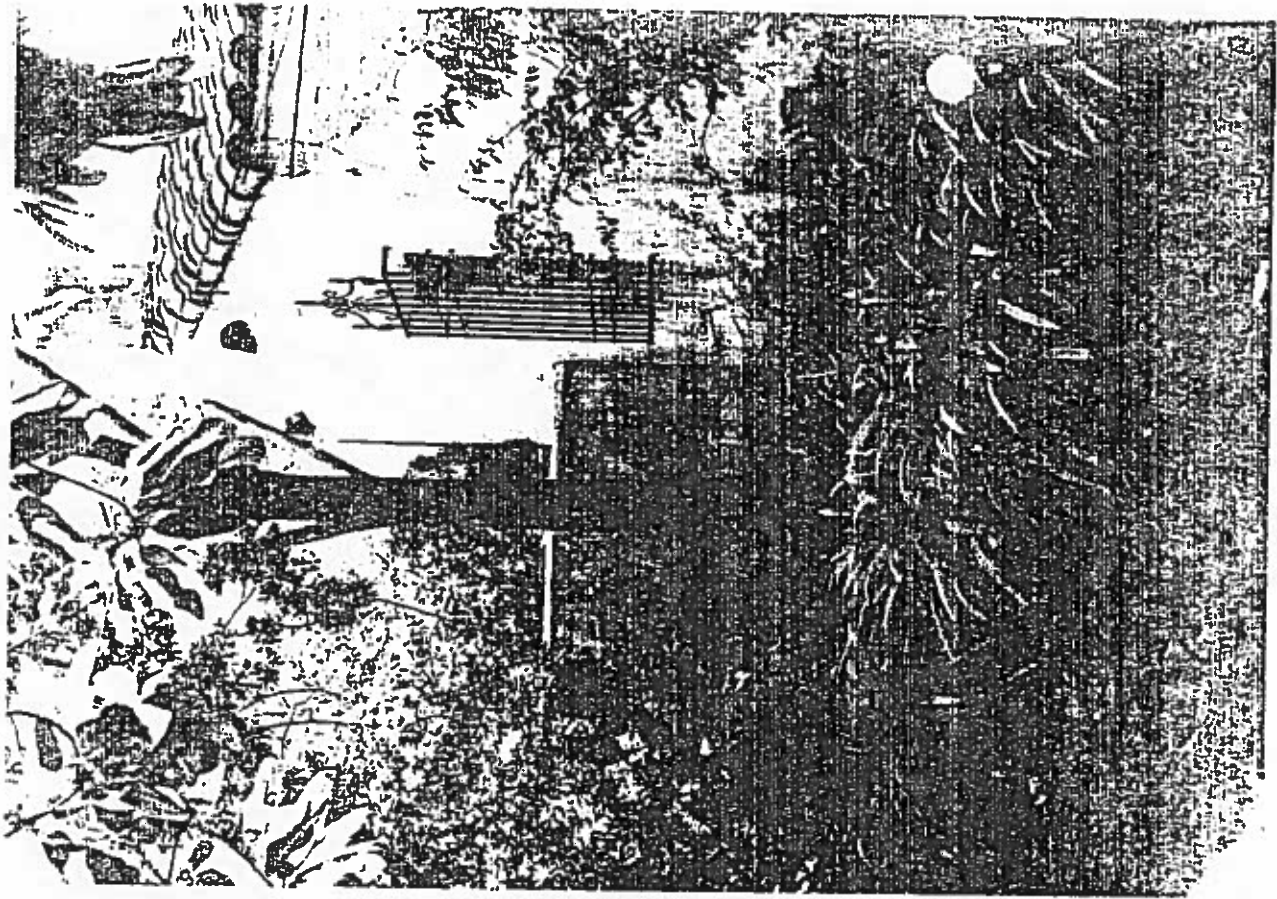
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

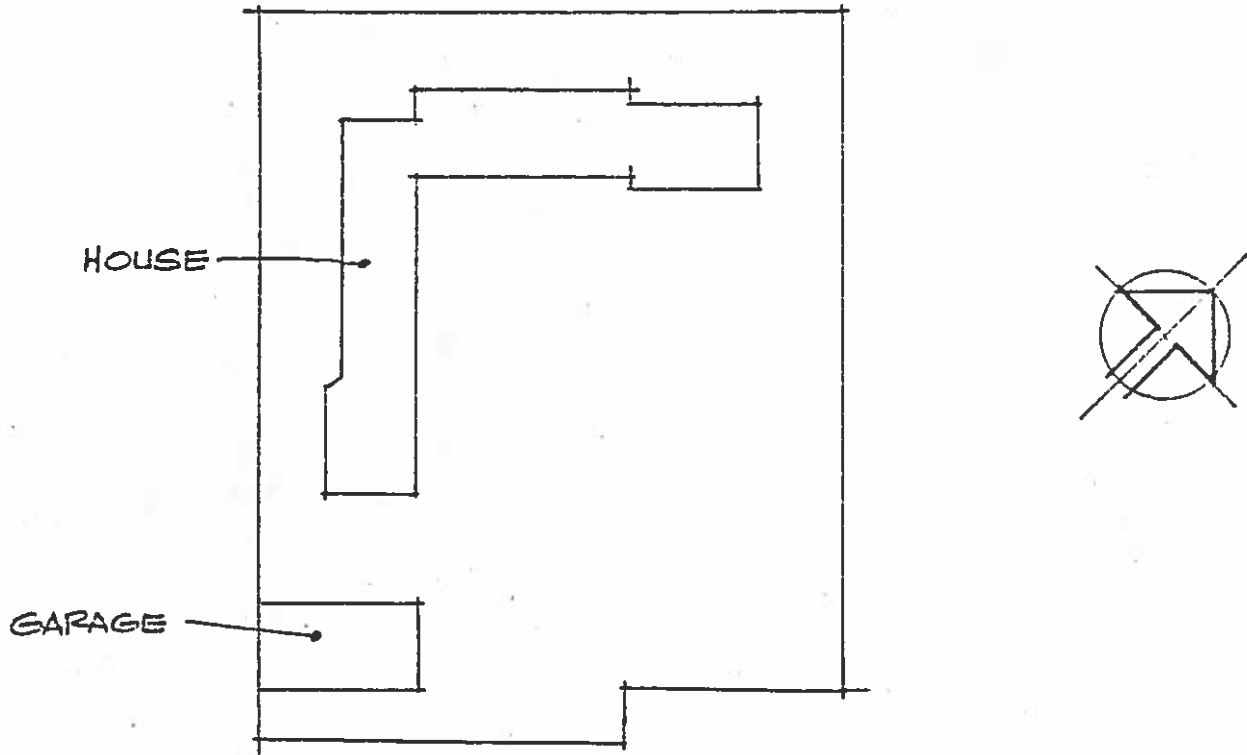
DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION





COWPER ST.



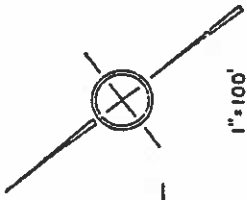
PETTIGREW RESIDENCE

SCALE: 1" = 50'

FROM SANBORN INSURANCE MAP 9/1979

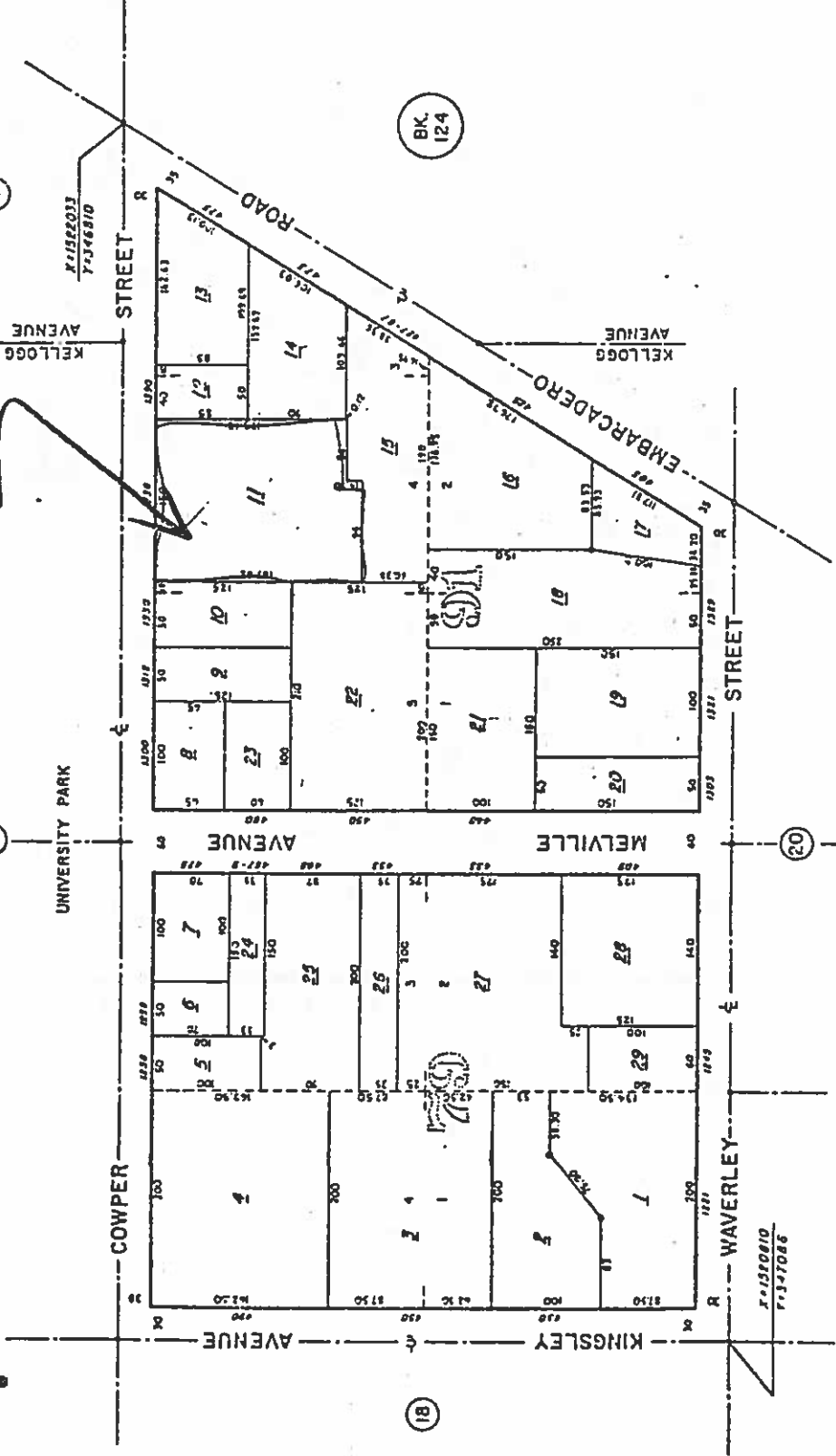
PALO ALTO

Pettigrew House
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California



1"=100'

1336 COWPER



Pettigrew House
1336 Cowper
Palo Alto, California

Pettigrew House
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, California

Pettigrow House
Palo Alto, Santa Clara
County, CA
UTM Reference:
10-575380-4144010

