

NIVEN NURSERY,
NIVEN FAMILY RESIDENCE (NN-6)
2 WARD STREET
MARIN COUNTY
LARKSPUR, CA

HABS NO. CA-2867-A

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC

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NIVEN NURSERY, Niven Family Residence
(Building NN-6)

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Location: 2 Ward Street, Larkspur, Marin County, California

Significance: The original Niven Family Residence was constructed as part of the original nursery greenhouse complex and nursery operation created by James Niven and members of the Niven family from 1921 to 1983. The buildings derive their significance as an example of Early 20th Century Commercial nursery development and Agriculture/Horticulture of the Larkspur area of Northern California. The buildings were used for commercial nursery operations for over sixty years.

Description: Niven Family Residence, was constructed ca. 1921 as a single family residential building and one of the original buildings in the western portion of the property. The rectangular shaped building has a wood foundation and the building is raised almost a full story in height from the ground level. The ground level contains a basement. The living space is basically on a second floor level due to potential for flooding from the nearby creek. The building has wood horizontal shiplap siding, a front gable roof with shingles and a brick fireplace on the south façade. A large front porch is present on the west façade. The front entrance porch is accessed by a tall flight of wood stairs. The entrance porch has been enclosed with wood framed casement style windows. The main entrance door is accessed from the porch and includes a single wood and glass door with a metal security grille. Windows vary in size, shape and placement around the facades and include wood or metal framed, slider, casement, fixed pane, or double hung sash style windows. The rear of the building is located on the east façade and has been altered by the addition of a rear porch and staircase. The interior was not accessible for assessment. The building is extremely overgrown with bushes, vandalism has occurred, and the building is in poor condition. The building is rectangular in shape and measures 56 feet in length/NW-SE by 30 feet in width/NE-SW (See Site Plan). No additions are known to have occurred.

History: The Niven Family Residence was constructed ca. 1921 in a Folk Vernacular style as one of the original buildings in the western portion of the property. It is believed to have been designed and constructed by owner James Niven as part of his nursery complex. (See HABS No. CA-2867 for a historical overview of Niven Nursery.)

Sources of Information:

Hill, Ward. *Historic and Architectural Assessment of the Niven Nursery, 2 Ward Street, Larkspur, CA*, April 2000; Historicaerials.com.

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