

NIVEN NURSERY,
GREENHOUSE #7 (NN-4)
2 WARD STREET
MARIN COUNTY
LARKSPUR, CA

HABS NO. CA-2867-B

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NIVEN NURSERY, GREENHOUSE #7
(Building NN-4)

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

Significance: Greenhouse #7 was constructed ca. 1921 as part of the overall nursery complex and nursery operation created by James Niven and members of the Niven family from 1921-1983. The building derives its significance as an example of Early 20th Century Commercial nursery development and Agriculture/Horticulture of the Larkspur area of Northern California. The building was used for commercial nursery operations for over sixty years.

Description: The building contains a metal plate at the front entrance delineating it as Greenhouse #7 (original building designation). The building is a one-story, rectangular-shaped, symmetrical structure. The lower portion of the walls are formed from wood horizontal shiplap siding. The upper portion of the walls contains glazed glass panes in wood frames. The building has an asymmetrical front-gabled roof with glazed glass panes in wood frames. The front entrance to the greenhouse is one double-hinged wood and glass door with four lights. A transom window is present over the entrance door. The interior of the building contained long wood tables for plant placement. The interior was not accessible for assessment. The building is extremely overgrown with berry bushes, the windows are substantially broken, and the building is in very poor condition. No interior access was obtained because the extremely poor condition of the structure created safety and liability issues. The building is rectangular in shape and measures 200 feet in length by 27 feet in width (see Site Plan). No additions are known to have occurred.

History: Greenhouse #7 was constructed ca. 1921 in a utilitarian 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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