

NIVEN NURSERY,  
ROOFING MATERIALS STORAGE BUILDING (NN-8)  
2 WARD STREET  
MARIN COUNTY  
LARKSPUR, CA

HABS NO. CA-2867-E

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
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1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC

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NIVEN NURSERY, Roofing Materials Storage Building  
(Building NN-8)

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

Significance: The Roofing Materials Storage building was constructed ca. 1921–1924 as part of the overall nursery complex and nursery operation created by James Niven and the Niven family from 1921 to 1983. The building derives its significance as an example of Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial nursery development and Agriculture/Horticulture of the Larkspur area of Northern California. The building was used for storage and commercial nursery operations for over sixty years.

Description: The Roofing Materials Storage building is a one-story building constructed ca. 1921-1924 in a Folk Vernacular building style. The building is stud-wall, wood-frame construction on a concrete foundation. The building is irregular in shape with wood horizontal shiplap siding. The original section of the roofing materials warehouse has a cross gable roof with wide eaves with brackets. A shed roof is present on the south façade over a wood ramp and loading dock for movement of goods to and from the interior of the structure. The shed roof is supported by wood posts with wood braces. A secondary loading dock is also present on the east façade covered by a shed roof. The exterior walls are covered with rustic siding. The building has two sections of six light windows on the north façade and one on the east façade. The north façade also has a large sliding door. The building is in poor condition from neglect and lack of maintenance. The building is irregularly shaped and measures 43 feet in length by 63 feet in width (see Site Plan). The 1942 Sanborn Map shows building NN-8 had a large, southern addition for a carpentry shop.

History: The Roofing Materials Storage building was constructed ca. 1921-1924 in a Folk Vernacular building style as one of the original buildings in the western portion of the Niven 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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