

NIVEN NURSERY GREENHOUSE (NN-21)
2 WARD STREET
MARIN COUNTY
LARKSPUR, CA

HABS NO. CA-2867-I

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, Niven Nursery Greenhouse
(Building NN-21)

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

Significance: The Niven Nursery Greenhouse was constructed ca. 1950 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 20th Century Commercial nursery development and Agriculture/Horticulture of the Larkspur area of Northern California. The Niven Nursery Greenhouse was used for commercial nursery operations for over thirty years.

Description: Niven Nursery Greenhouse was constructed ca. 1950 in a utilitarian style. 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 on the east facade. A transom window is present over the entrance door. The interior was not accessible for assessment because of personal safety and hazardous material issues. The building is extremely overgrown with berry bushes, the windows are broken, and the building is in poor condition. The building is rectangular in shape and measures 78 feet in length by 30 feet in width. No additions are known to have occurred.

History: The Niven Nursery Greenhouse was constructed ca. 1950 in a utilitarian style 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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