



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

September 28, 2017

**AGENDA DATE:** October 2, 2017

Historic Resources Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**SUBJECT: 1438 Capitola Road, the Merriman House: Review of the process assigning an NR-6 rating to the property (a property not eligible for designation as a historic resource) and the current status of the property**

### Members of the Commission:

Live Oak history has played an important role in the historic development of our County. In 2006 Santa Cruz County completed a reconnaissance level historic resources survey of 46 properties in Live Oak. The survey and research efforts were led by CIRCA: Historic Property Development, Sheila McElroy principal. Ms. McElroy was assisted by the Historic Resource Commission and the Live Oak Landmarks Subcommittee, a volunteer group of community members with extensive knowledge of Live Oak history. The survey process included a report prepared by CIRCA with recommendations to designate or not designate as historic each property surveyed, a staff report and recommendations for each property, public hearings by the Historic Resources Commission with recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, and public hearings and final action by the Board of Supervisors to designate or not designate each property. A Department of Parks and Recreation Form 523A (DPR form) was completed for each property surveyed. The property at 1438 Capitola Road was included in the survey.

In the survey, properties were evaluated to determine if they "retained their architectural integrity and historic value" and if they met one or more of the designation criteria in Section 16.42.050(C) of the Santa Cruz County Code:

- (1) The resource is associated with a person of local, State or national historical significance.
- (2) The resource is associated with an historic event or thematic activity of local, State or national importance.
- (3) The resource is representative of a distinct architectural style and/or construction method of a particular historic period or way of life, or the resource represents the work of a master builder or architect or possesses high artistic values.

- (4) The resource has yielded, or may likely yield, information important to history.

If a resource was determined to have met one or more designation criteria and to have retained its architectural integrity and historic value, then a recommendation was made to designate the property as an NR-5 resource, meaning "a property determined to have local significance." Properties that were found to not meet one or more criteria or not to have retained sufficient integrity were recommended to be assigned a rating of NR-6, meaning properties not eligible for designation as historic resources.

The residence at 1438 Capitola Road, the Merriam House, was among 24 properties in Live Oak that were surveyed for the first time. Research provided by Live Oak Subcommittee members Ross Gibson and Phil Reader (Attachment 1), and the DPR form for the property prepared by Ms. McElroy (Attachment 3), noted that Robert Merriman lived in the residence, which was owned by Robert's aunt, during his teen years from 1922 until 1927. The research from Mr. Gibson and Reader was also provided to the Board of Supervisors. Robert Merriam was an interesting historic figure, involved in organizing anti-Franco forces, and fighting in the Spanish Civil War. Additionally, Earnest Hemmingway modeled an important character in his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" after Robert Merriam. Both the Historic Resources Commission and the Live Oak Committee recommended that the property be assigned a rating of NR-5.

However, analysis from Ms. McElroy provided to the Board of Supervisors (Attachment 4) notes that although Robert Merriman lived in the house during his teen years, he did not live in the house during his adult life when he was active in the Spanish Civil War. As Robert Merriman did not live in the residence when he was an important historic figure, Ms. McElroy noted that his historic significance is not associated with the house. Therefore, the DPR form prepared by Ms. McElroy recommends that the property be assigned a rating of NR-6 and not be designated as historic. County staff also recommended that the property not be designated as historic. The Board of Supervisors, after considering the recommendations of the Live Oak Subcommittee, the Commission, the Historic Resources Consultant, and County Staff, assigned a rating of NR-6 to the property.

The final action by the Board of Supervisors included designating 18 properties in Live Oak as NR-5 resources and adding these structures to the Inventory. New additions to the inventory included properties associated with the flower industry, chicken ranching, tourism, public use, and residential uses.

#### **Guidance from the Department of the Interior for evaluating properties for historic significance**

County Code Section 16.42.050(C) states that County designation criteria are "based upon guidelines published by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service." Santa Cruz County Code Criteria (1) "The resource is associated with a person of local, State or national historical significance", is based upon National Register Criterion B, which states: "Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past." Therefore, the guidance in The National Register Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" for Criterion B as provided in Attachment 5 would also apply to determining if a property qualifies for listing in the Santa Cruz County Inventory under Criteria (1).

The National Register Bulletin includes the following guidance for Criterion B:

Properties eligible under Criterion B are usually those associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance. In some instances this may be the person's home; in other cases, a person's business, office, laboratory, or studio may best represent his or her contribution. Properties that pre- or post-date an individual's significant accomplishments are usually not eligible.

The National Register Bulletin further notes that "properties associated with an individual's formative or later years may also qualify if it can be demonstrated that the person's activities during this period were historically significant or if no properties from the person's productive years survives."

Staff is not aware of any information or research which has determined that no properties from Robert Merriam's formative years survives. The analysis provided by the Historic Consultant Ms. McElroy and County Staff noting that Robert Merriam did not live at 1438 Capitola Road during his productive life, and that therefore the property would not meet this significance criteria, is consistent with the guidance from the National Park Service.

### **Process for Adding a resource to the County Historic Resources Inventory**

To initiate an amendment to add a resource to the County's Historic Resources Inventory, including NR-6 rated properties, the County Code requires the submittal of a historic documentation report including a DPR 532 form prepared by a qualified historic consultant meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards, demonstrating that the property meets one or more of the criteria for designation and has retained its architectural integrity and historic value. For properties previously surveyed and assigned an NR-6 rating, the application should be accompanied by new information or research to substantiate that the resource meets one or more criteria for designation. The research and analysis provided by Mr. Gibson (Attachment 1) was part of a 2006 report that was provided to the Board of Supervisors which they considered prior to their assigning an NR-6 rating to the property at 1438 Capitola Road.

### **Current status of 1438 Capitola Road**

The property at 1438 is currently owned by the County along with 3 adjacent parcels totaling 3.7 acres. As the site was previously owned by the County Redevelopment Agency, under state law the County is required to sell, lease or transfer the site and to maximize sale proceeds and long term economic and community benefit. On April 20, 2017 the County held a community meeting to discuss the future of the site, and hear from the community about their vision for the site, which is zoned for neighborhood commercial uses. At the meeting, local Historian Norman Poitevin provided a brief presentation on Live Oak History, including comments on Robert Merriam. At the meeting, participants emphasized wanting a family friendly gathering place, affordable housing, and locally-owned businesses. It was also noted that new development should reference the history of the site in some manner.

The County released a Request for Proposals to develop the site, noting that the selected development proposal should maximize the use of the property's central location in Live Oak for neighborhood-serving commercial uses, and reflect the community vision established at the April 20 community workshop. The County Economic Development Department is currently in the process of negotiating with MidPen Housing who was the top candidate from among the Proposals submitted. After the developer has been selected and a development application is submitted for the site, environmental review of the site pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of the proposed project will be required. If at that time it is determined that the project has the potential to impact historic resources, then additional information and analysis would be required.

### **Conclusion**

The research provided by Mr. Gibson has added to our knowledge of the rich history of our County, especially regarding the significance of Robert Merriam to local and national history due to his role in the Spanish Civil War. The article written by Earnest Hemmingway provided by Commissioner Swift (Attachment 2) confirms the important role that Robert Merriman played in the war. However, staff does not believe that the information provided at this time would support a re-designation of the property at 1438 Capitola Road as a historic resource, especially as this information has been previously considered by the Board of Supervisors. The CEQA review process required for any development proposal for this site will include a detailed and thorough analysis to determine if the project has the potential to impact historic resources. It is recommended that your Commission be consulted as part of the CEQA review of any development applications for this site, to ensure that any potentially significant impacts to historic resources are identified, and that appropriate mitigation measures are required to address any significant impacts that are identified.

Sincerely,

*Annie Murphy*

Annie Murphy

Secretary to the Historic Resources Commission

**Attachments:**

1. Correspondence from Mr. Gibson
2. New York Times article, published 9/14/37
3. DPR form for 1438 Capitola Rd.
4. Live Oak Historic Resources Inventory Update Recommendations
5. National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation;  
Criterion B: Person

**Annie Murphy**

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**From:** Ross Gibson <rossericgibson@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** Annie Murphy  
**Subject:** Hemingway's S.C. Hero  
**Attachments:** Merriman PDF.pdf

Dear Commissioners

I served on the Live Oak Landmarks subcommittee of the County Historic Resources Commission in 2006, seeking overlooked landmarks to add to the county's inventory. Our committee was unanimous in our desires to protect the Bob Merriman Ranchette (1438 Capitola Road, near Live Oak Market). Here was the home of the Santa Cruz man who from 1936-1938 headed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" in the Spanish Civil War (the earliest international Anti-Fascist Movement to oppose Hitler and Mussolini), and who inspired his friend Ernest Hemingway to write the novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls," basing the novel's hero Robert Jordon on Robert (Bob) Merriman.

In 2006, the Bob Merriman Ranchette was owned by the County of Santa Cruz, representing the People of Santa Cruz County. The Andraes Ranchette next door to it was already listed on the county historic resources inventory, even though it was less historic than the Merriman Ranchette. But because the site was being considered for housing by the Redevelopment Agency, county leaders didn't want to consider the Merriman House for landmark status at the time. However, we received vague assurances that it *might* be retained on the site as a clubhouse for the complex, or moved to another site.

Today, however, the fate of the Merriman House is again up for debate, with redevelopment still framing the discussion. The only time we hear about Bob Merriman locally is in connection with this house, proving the building is the most viable interpretive tool for honoring those who foresaw World War II, and stood up for Democracy under the leadership of Merriman. Below is a PDF of my 2006 report "Ernest Hemingway's Forgotten Santa Cruz Hero: How Bob Merriman Inspired *For Whom the Bell Tolls*."

Please find a way to preserve this landmark.

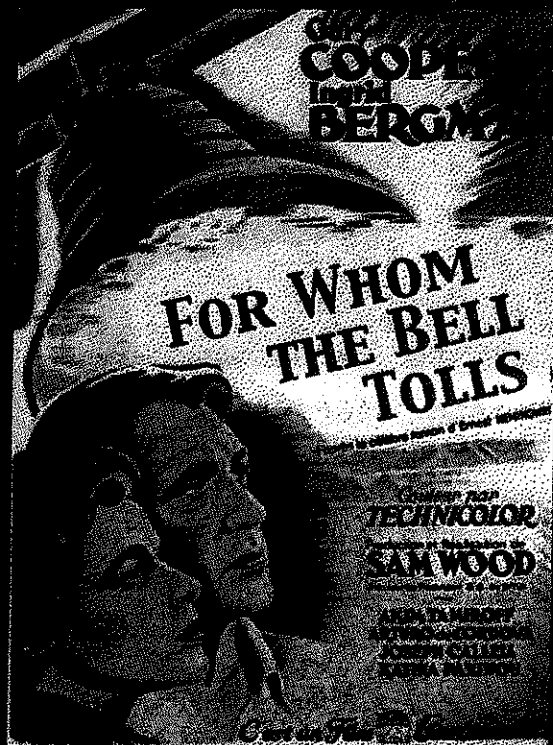
Sincerely

Ross Eric Gibson





# Ernest Hemingway's FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO



## The Last Landmark of BOB MERRIMAN

by  
Rex Eric Gibson

# Chain of Title

FOR THE BOB MERRIMAN HOUSE

*From Research by Steve Benson—Title Searcher  
For Ross Eric Gibson*

1916 (June 6): JAMES MORRISSEY'S "WILSON BROS. TRACT #1"

1918 (Apr. 29): JOHN & SUSIE GOETSCH

1921 (Nov. 4): I.A. & ELSIE GRAVELL

1922 (Feb. 28): V.E. ECKSTEIN

1922 (Apr. 28): F.E. CLARK

**1923 (Apr. 25): HENRY & FAYE MERRIMAN**

1930 (Sept. 29): WALTER & LOLA GOULARD

1973 (Apr. 27): DORIS C. [GOULARD] SCHLOSSER (on death of Walter)

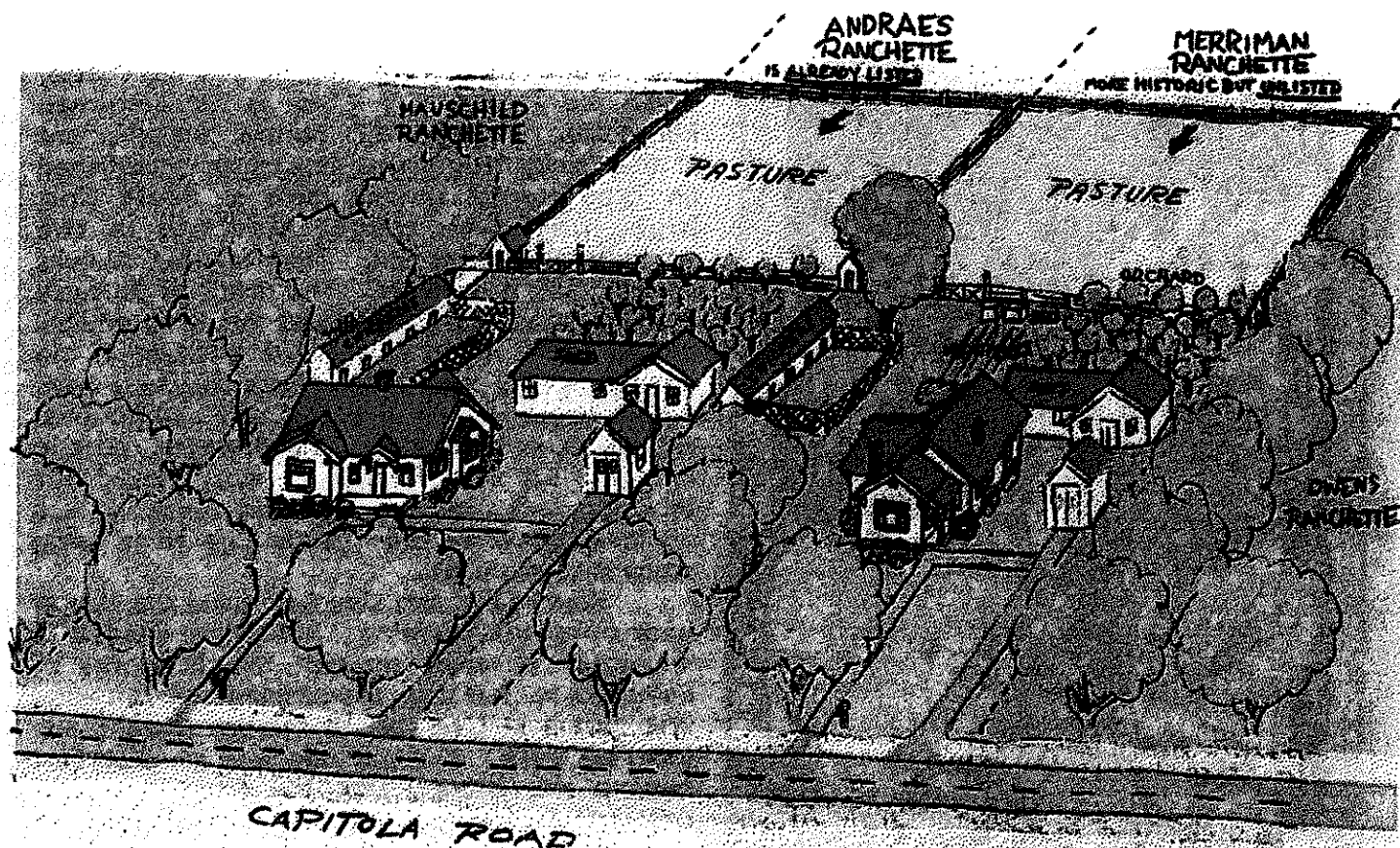
1977 (Aug. 5): HERBERT & ROSEMARIE LACKI

1985 (Feb. 6): JAMES & GERTIE JOHNSON

1994 (Oct. 24): REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY







## ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO: How Bob Merriman Inspired "For Whom the Bell Tolls"

By  
Ross Eric Gibson

*With Research Information from Phil Reader*

In 1908, Robert Hale Merriman (called "Bob") was born to Henry and Faye Merriman in Eureka, California, where his father was a logger. The family later relocated to San Jose, then in the summer of 1922 they moved over the hill to Santa Cruz where they had relatives. Henry's mother—Mrs. J. Merriman Johnson—lived in town, while the Merrimans stayed at the Live Oak poultry farm of Henry's sister and her husband, Clarence E. Freitas. This was only a few doors west of the Live Oak Market on Capitola Road. Henry worked in an auto repair shop, and Faye wrote popular romance novels under several pseudonyms for lending libraries.

Live Oak looked like your typical suburban neighborhood, with craftsman homes in rows along the street, spaced about 20 feet apart behind a corridor of native live oak trees. But what made Live Oak unusual was that all the lots were deep three-acre ranchettes, mini-ranching subdivisions for raising poultry or

flowers. Unlike most rural areas with isolated farmhouses, the ranchettes placed the homes side-by-side for a sense of community.

The concept was born during the depression of the 1890s, when the failure of a single industry could throw hundreds of people out-of-work, creating a burden for the community. Santa Cruz County responded by encouraging backyard industries selling to a central co-op, so that if any individual failed, it wouldn't impact the industry as a whole. Santa Cruz became the state's *Queen City of Poultry* (second largest after Petaluma), and even developed its own Santa Cruz breed noted for prolific egg production. Chicken manure was used as a desirable fertilizer for the companion flower industry. By World War I, a stem nematode infestation on Holland bulbs resulted in an embargo on imports, and Santa Cruz became the *Bulb Capital of the Pacific*.

While attending Santa Cruz High School,



BOB MERRIMAN  
DURING THE HIGH SCHOOL'S  
"OLD CLOTHES DAY"



Bob helped out at the Freitas Poultry Ranchette, which for a time was listed as the Merriman Ranchette. Professor R.E. Burton, the president of the *County Poultrymen's Association*, established an experimental chicken farm at Santa Cruz High, where he taught students in the Agricultural Department. This included student poultry raising contests. The result of Burton's student-aided research helped the local poultry industry, and made Santa Cruz a leader in the science, widely read in the *"Santa Cruz West Coast Poultry Magazine"* and other industry publications. A class picnic was held at "the Pinnacles" park in neighboring San Benito County, noted for towering rocky outcroppings and caves, it was an ideal place for their Easter Egg Hunt using student-raised eggs.

Santa Cruz and Live Oak were the hub of experimental farming, having initiated a volunteer program through the *University of California at Berkeley*, establishing experimental bulb farms in Live Oak to combat disease and increase yield. The program was so important beyond the county, that the *Santa Cruz Bulb Growers Association* led tours of dozens of experimental Live Oak farms for visiting farmers and government officials. This innovative farming atmosphere would eventually have a major influence on the direction Bob's life would take.

Bob entered Santa Cruz High School as a sophomore. Some of the kids in his grade were judge's son Clifford Bias, Soquel wine-maker's daughter Sylvia Bargetto, Willett Ware who'd become County Auditor, and George Penniman who'd founded his own Land Title Company. The families of Wesley Campbell and Dorothy Leibbrandt owned large portions of the San Lorenzo rivermouth. Freshmen included the department store founder's son Charles Ebert, and the attorney's son Louis Rittenhouse.

Bob's girlfriend in high school was Ella Moody (the daughter of the game warden), and his friend Gorman Woody remembered that Bob preferred taking a drive up Highway 9 through the redwoods, than go to the popular tourist beach next to the boardwalk. Bob loved the peace of the redwood forests, and would also hike or drive in the Soquel groves near their Live Oak Ranchette. He also visited coastal lumber camps north of Santa Cruz, courtesy of classmate Viola Stoddard, daughter of the owner of San Vicente Lumber.

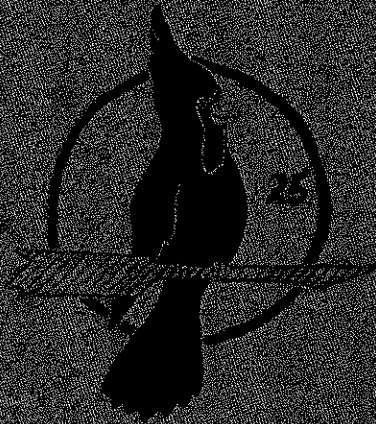
In Bob's Junior and Senior years, Santa Cruz became host to the original Miss California

Pageants, which became an annual event for over half a century. Yet the first was steeped in controversy, as the skin-tight bathing suits were deemed indecent by some, and presenting progressive women's roles that emphasized college and career, was seen as "turning out innocent daughters into wanton Flappers," who were "losing their femininity by aspiring to do men's work." To answer the preposterous idea that beauty queens were considered too "manly," Bob's class put on their own "Follies" fund raiser, consisting entirely of boys in drag. The debate over women's roles in the modern world would have a major influence in Bob's feelings about female equality.

The seniors staffed the yearbook, and Bob was its business manager, directing the sales of print ads to local merchants, and the sales of yearbooks. His friends also served on the yearbook staff, such as Don McHugh as assistant editor (later to be a firebrand journalist), Gorman Woody as art editor, and John Helms as sports editor. John and Bob attended all the games, John as a team member, and Bob as a yell leader but not an athlete. Home games were held at the high



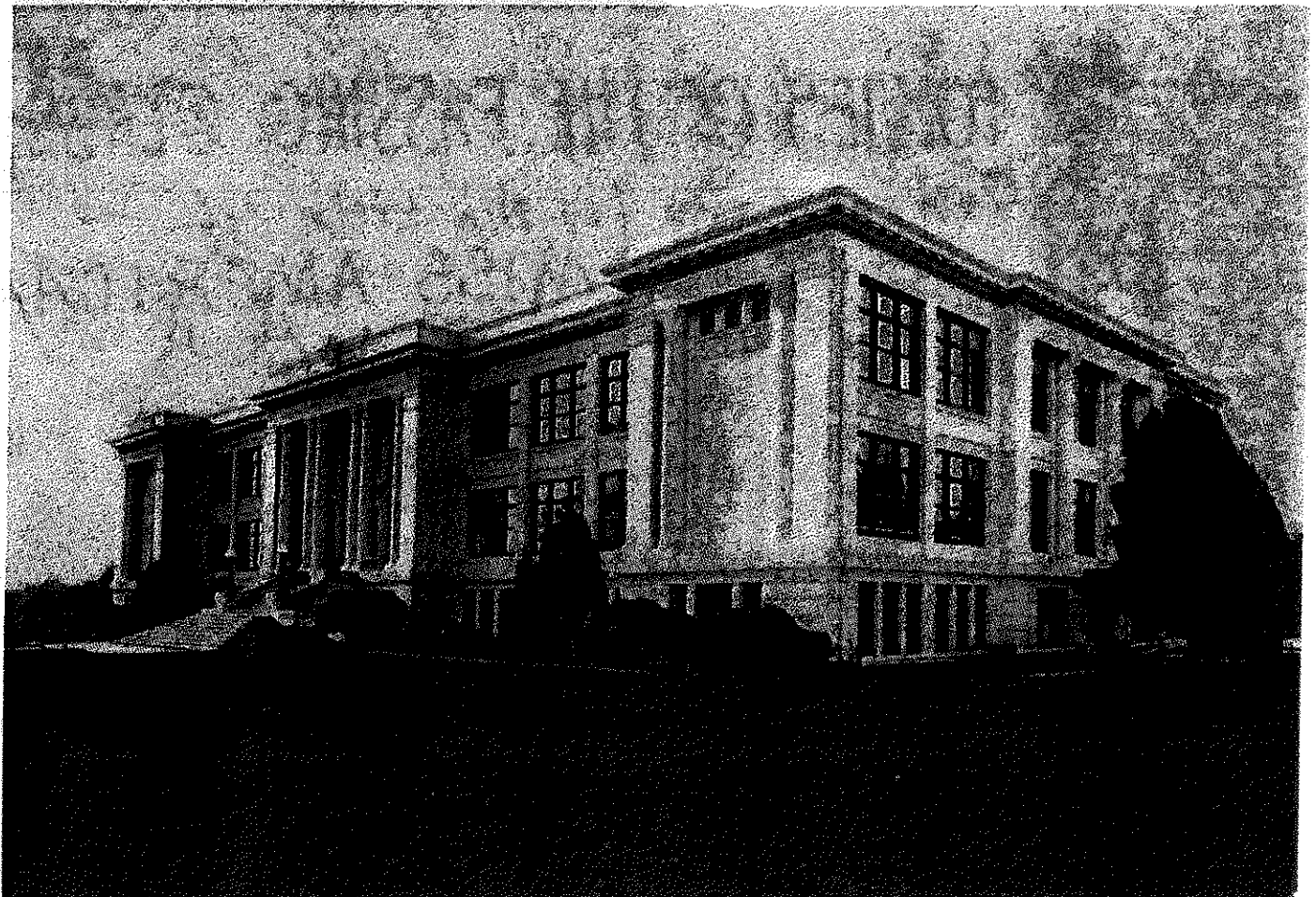
# CARDINAL



dedicated as Memorial Field to the 11 Santa Cruz High graduates who died in World War I.

Bob got his start in debating, not in the debating club (which he later joined), but arguing before the Student Body council. In his senior year, Don McHugh was student body president during the first semester, then John Helms became student body president in the second semester. Helms nearly missed his swearing-in when he discovered the seat of his pants showing too much of his student body, and he hurriedly patched his trousers in a private room as the public assembly waited. The student body was very active in local issues, once even debating a subject 3½ hours. They came out against smoking, long before it was seen as a health hazard. Philip Jordan and a younger Lillian McPherson (later Rouse) were children of the rival editors of the Santa Cruz News and the Santa Cruz Sentinel, and saw issues debated in their papers also debated in Student Body meetings.

On March 4, 1925, the students assembled to hear Calvin Coolidge inauguration live on the radio, a marvel for its





# MORNING SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCHES

DAILY EXCEPT MONDAY

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1925

EIGHT PAGES

FOUR P.M.  
A.P. SERVICE

## SANTA CRUZ NEWS

LATEST  
NEWS

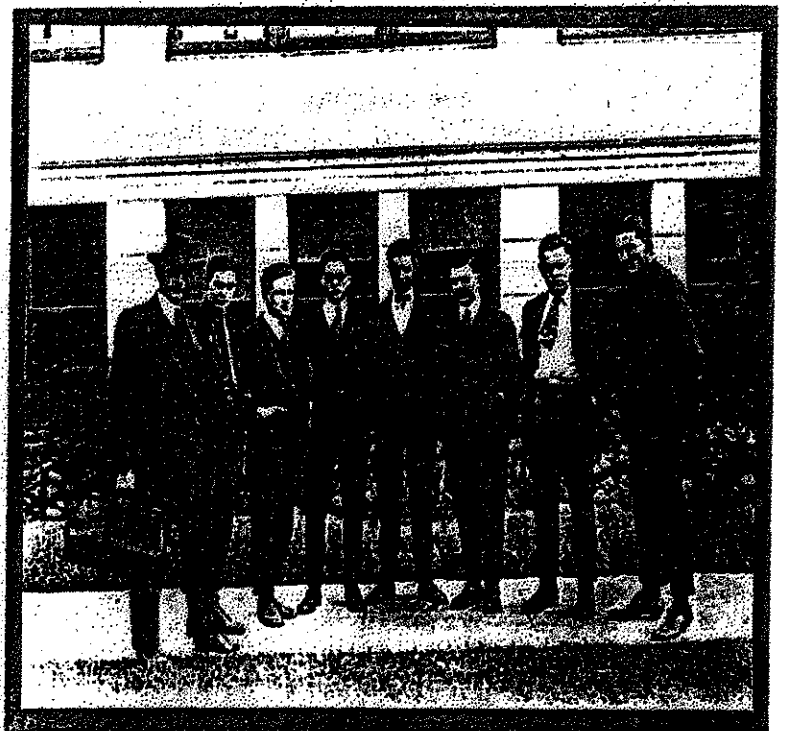
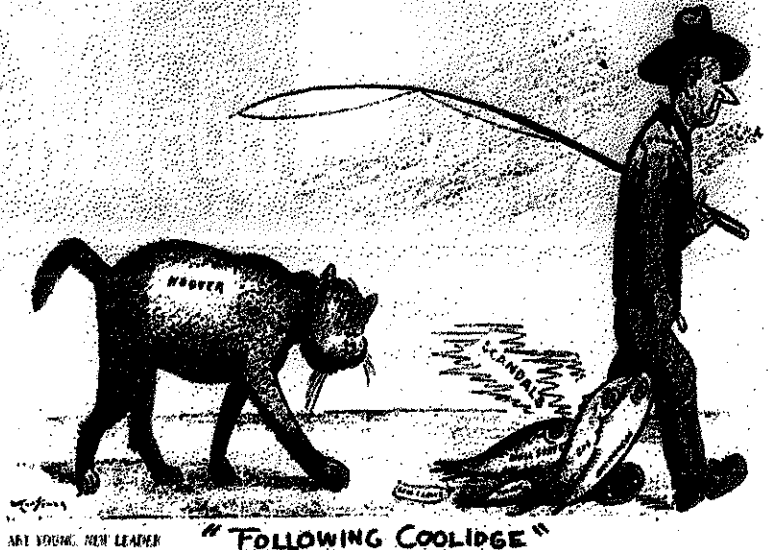
TWO SECTIONS

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1925

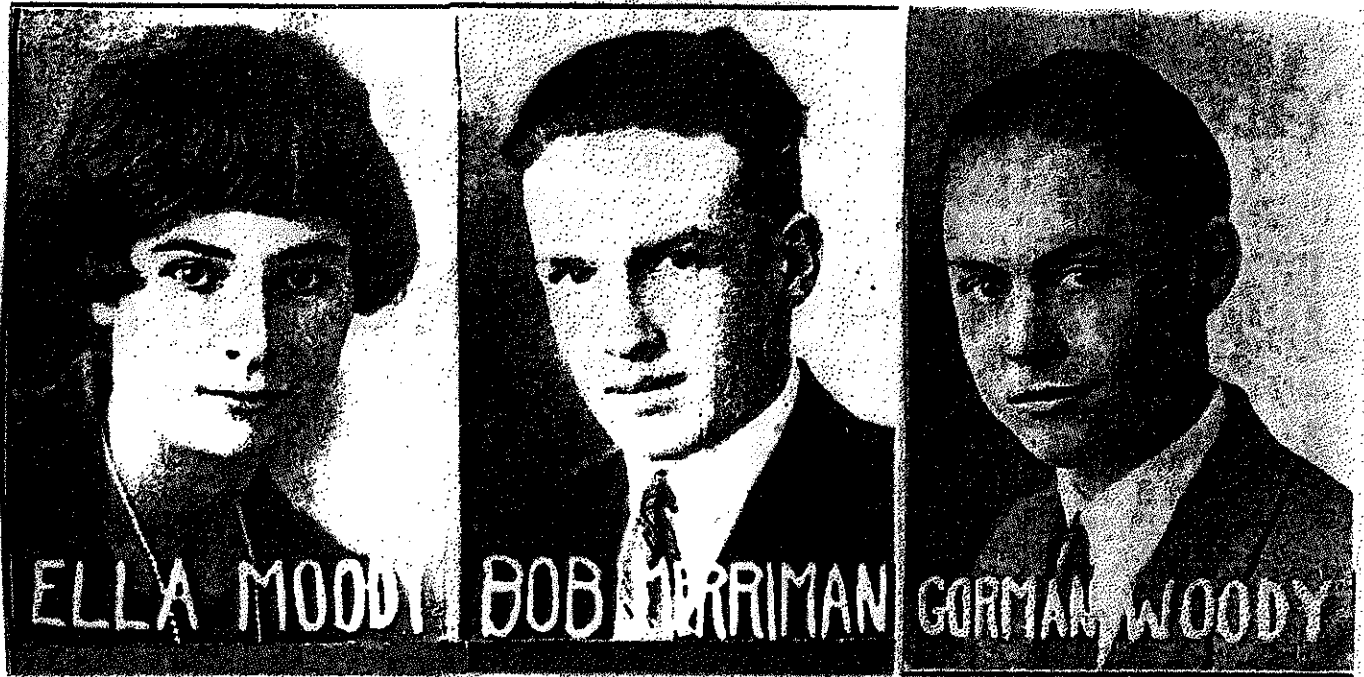
time. Coolidge was Vice President to Warren G. Harding in 1921, becoming president when Harding died in office August 2, 1923, then was reelected in November 1924. Santa Cruz felt a personal tie to the Harding/Coolidge administration because their Secretary of Commerce was Herbert Hoover, whose relatives owned the ranch at Waddel Creek, with Dorothy Hoover just a grade behind Bob at the high school. This branch of the Hoover family were strong conservationists in the Teddy Roosevelt tradition.

But the Merriman and Frietas families disliked the administration. Coolidge had become Vice President due to his national reputation as a strike breaker. Harding and Coolidge were politically stingy, cutting taxes while refusing to honor bonuses for the recent World War I veterans, and opposing Federal aid to farmers. As they maintained high import tariffs and National Prohibition, the administration pointed to Robber Barons getting richer and the climbing Stock Market as a sign of the nation's economic health (a false indicator built on unsustainable speculation). Then just before the election, their Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, was indicted for taking a \$100,000 bribe to sell to private operators the public oil-reserve lands in Teapot Dome, Wyoming, and Elk Hills, California.

Bob became a champion debater, able to see all sides of a subject, simplify complex issues, and present a convincing argument. But he was also starting to develop political positions that required an ethical justification. In 1925, one of the topics for debate was "Should Santa Cruz adopt the managerial form of government?" Bob was undefeated in



INTERSCHOLASTIC DEBATERS



## Cardinal

The Senior Pictorial

### STAFF

EDITOR  
*Audrey Marcum*

BUSINESS MGR.  
*Robert Merriman*

### ASSISTANT EDITORS

*Ester Fields*

*Donald McHugh*

*Geneva Henderson*

### ART EDITORS

*Gorman Woody*

*Audrey Edwards*

### SPORTS EDITOR

*John Helms*

every local debate that year, and the high schooler even placed 4th in a statewide debating competition held just over the hill at Stanford University.

Following Bob's Santa Cruz High graduation ceremonies in 1925, a reception was held for the graduates at the Unitarian's Hackley Hall. The Unitarians were well known supporters of progressive causes and issues, often taking courageous stands. They supported Woman's Suffrage, and during the 1918 Influenza Epidemic when the sick became outcasts even to treatment, the Unitarians made Hackley Hall available for the Red Cross Influenza Hospital. This kind of Social Justice advocacy had a profound influence on Bob's outlook on life. And Hackley Hall would later become one of Bob's lifelines at the darkest time in his life.

After graduation, Bob followed in his father's footsteps working two years in the Sierra lumber camps. Then he went to Reno in 1927 to enroll at the University of Nevada as an economics major, and second-string football recruit. But recruits had to be Nevada residents, so he worked his way through college with odd jobs as a pulp feeder at the paper mill in Floristan, a ranch hand, and cement worker. He earned \$7.50 a month in this campus Reserve Officers' Training Corp (R.O.T.C.) where he became a second infantry lieutenant. He



joined the Sigma Nu fraternity, was active in the yearbook, debating, and plays, and flew airplanes with his buddies.

When he met Marion Stone at a dance hall in Verdi (near Reno), she found the 6-foot 4-inch tall Bob to be dashing and adventurous. Marion was a Santa Barbara native just a year younger than him, a popular member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, but employed as a live-in domestic to earn her way through college. When she graduated from the university in 1932, Bob married her, and took her to Lake Tahoe for their honeymoon. That summer they visited Bob's relatives in Santa Cruz, and enjoyed an outing to Paradise Park, a Masonic resort.

Bob became a U.C. Berkeley professor, and spent vacations in Soquel and at the Frietas Ranchette. He taught economics during the depths of the Great Depression, a subject that was a matter of life and death to many. The Hoover Administration seemed preoccupied with preserving "police state" Prohibition, while following a Do-Nothing "Be-Patient-for-Prosperity-Is-Just-Around-The-Corner" approach. This radicalized many who needed help right away, and legitimized fringe groups that seemed responsive to public needs.

Bob supported the famous San Francisco General Strike. In the face of penniless Dust Bowl refugees pouring into California, Bob started taking the lessons of the Live Oak Ranchettes seriously, the product of the previous depression, and investigated other farming models as well. His work soon won him the Newton Booth Traveling Fellowship, to study first-hand the agricultural problems of various European countries that were also experiencing hard times.

The Merrimans went to Europe together and toured the continent. Bob was studying the economics of the Soviet Collectivist experiment in 1936 when the Spanish Civil War broke out. But



*Merriman & friend at Paradise Park in the summer of 1932.*



The "California Farm Bureau" building on Pacheco Ave. was the University of California's official Egg-Laying Contest headquarters



Bob Merriman & wife Marion. Cartoon about Merriman below.



**BUT IT'S NOT A HARMLESS BLOWHARD  
WAVING ITS ARMS! IT'S A MONSTER!**

when Spanish democratic Loyalist forces faced an arms embargo from the world's democracies, only Russia sent supplies to the Spanish Loyalists. It wasn't because Russia supported democracy (being only a month away from a bloody Stalinist purge of Russia's anti-totalitarian Bolsheviks). It was because Spain's dictator Francisco Franco was supported by anti-Communists Benito Mussolini of Fascist Italy and Adolph Hitler of Nazi Germany, as well as importing Moroccan troops and North African Legionnaires. Americans generally believed we had our own problems at home and Isolationism would keep us out of another war. But Bob worried this was only going to strengthen Fascism in Europe, and lead to a wider conflict if Spanish democracy was killed.

So Bob left his studies and his wife in Moscow in late 1936, and went to Spain to be among the earliest Americans to join Europe's first Anti-Fascist movement. They gathered in Figueras near the French border, and in early 1937 organized a 96-member International Brigade. While condemned as violating America's neutrality, the American fighters were dubbed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" to stress that defending democracy was not anti-American. Bob's R.O.T.C. experience led to his assignment training the American volunteers in field stripping rifles and machine guns, reconnaissance, signaling and fortifications. In February 1937, Bob led a battalion in the battle of Jarama. Bob was injured by shrapnel, cracking his shoulder in three places, and replaced as battalion commander by Oliver Law, the first American black man to ever lead a military force. When Marion received a telegram that Bob had been injured in battle, she rushed to be with him, and nursed him back to health.

In Spain, Marion encountered the marginalization of women so common in conservative Spanish society. Yet as she involved herself working with refugees and keeping records, she became accepted as the only woman in the foreign brigades. Bob eventually rose to command the now 450-member Abraham Lincoln Brigade with Marion as his staff assistant; then Bob became Chief of Staff of the International Brigade, which represented fighters from 54 countries.

The war attracted journalists and writers such as George Orwell and Ernest Hemingway. But they didn't find the romantic war they had envisioned. Conditions were miserable, and casualties extremely heavy in this Dress Rehearsal for World War II. Hemingway met with Bob and Marion in war-torn Madrid, and together they conceived a broadcast for American radio to





describe the deprivations under which the Loyalists fought. Later, as conditions got worse, Bob couldn't convince Marion to return to the U.S. for a rest, even though she was suffering from dental pain. Marion feared if she went home, U.S. authorities wouldn't allow her to return to a forbidden battle-zone. But Bob finally convinced her that his forces desperately needed financial support, and sent her home on a fund-raising tour. Marion took the precaution of having her passport identify her as providing humanitarian medical support, the only aid to Spain not banned by the U.S.

Marion arrived in the States in November, 1937, stopping in San Francisco, where the "Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade" were headquartered. This support group had been created because friends and relatives were not permitted to send parcels to individual brigade soldiers; but by mailing in bulk, their supplies periodically got through. Marion was joined on a statewide speaking tour by the executive secretary of the "Friends," Miss Lee Levy of San Francisco, and by Mrs. Ann Hawkins of Berkeley, the wife of a Lincoln Brigade officer.

Meanwhile, the Frietases were actively involved in (if not the founders) of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the "Friends of the Lincoln

Brigade," and were growing concerned from newspaper reports and Bob and Marion's correspondence, of the brigade's activities and needs. In February, 1938, Marion, Levy and Hawkins brought their fund-raising drive to Santa Cruz county, and stayed with Marion's in-laws.

On February 24, Marion's trio appeared in Santa Cruz at the Unitarian's Hackley Hall, under the sponsorship of the "Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church," the "Women Today Club," and the Santa Cruz Friends of the Lincoln Brigade. Bob's grandmother and the Frietases were featured at the local events. The speakers were treated to a noon luncheon at the Hall, sponsored by the women's groups, before the evening lecture.

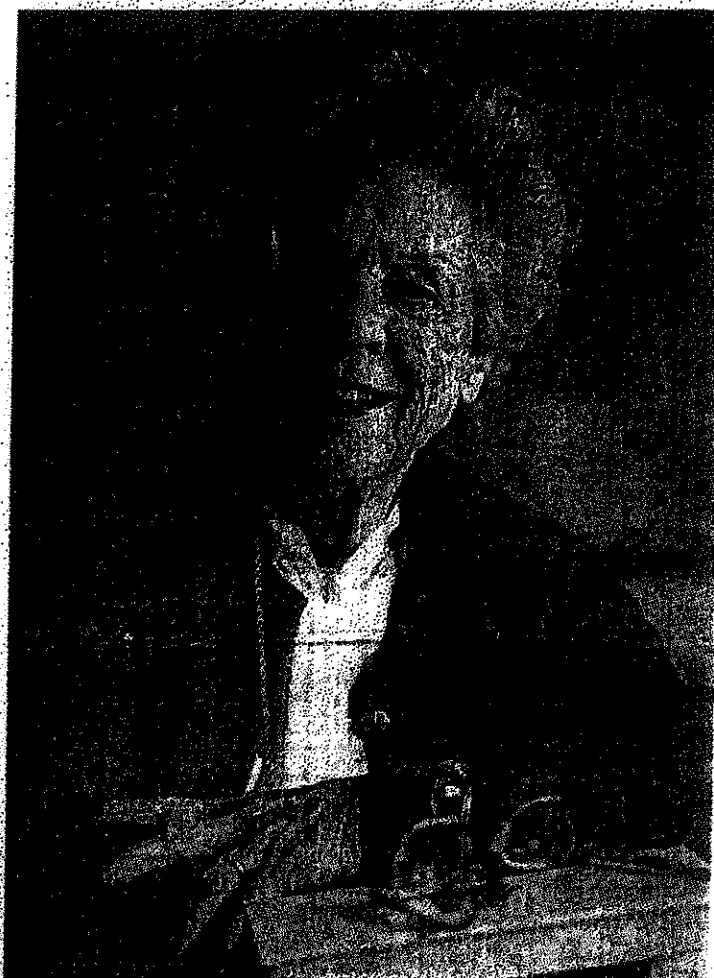
Because of widespread curiosity and misinformation, Marion asked for time after the talk to answer questions. Many of Bob's local classmates were surprised at his involvement, not having regarded him as politically active, much less a Communist. Marion explained that while over 50% of the brigade were Socialists or Communists, she and Bob were not, and they made no distinction with those fighting Fascism to save Democracy. Kasper Bauer offered the first donation, which produced an outpouring of



financial support. They spoke next in Salinas on their southward lecture tour.

Eight weeks later, the situation had changed radically. Bob disappeared in the battle of Gandesa in April. Early reports were that he had been captured by Franco, and held as a prisoner-of-war. Marion was again in Santa Cruz seeking public support to petition the U.S. government to negotiate his release. Then word came from the Franco regime that there was no paperwork showing he'd ever been logged into prison. The big fear was this meant Franco had executed him, although conflicting reports also suggest he died in battle.

Ernest Hemingway turned Robert Merriman into the character *Robert Jordan*, in his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls." The message in the title was that the Spanish Civil War wasn't announcing the lone death of Spanish democracy, but our own as well, if we didn't defend democracy even in distant lands from the rising tide of totalitarianism. The

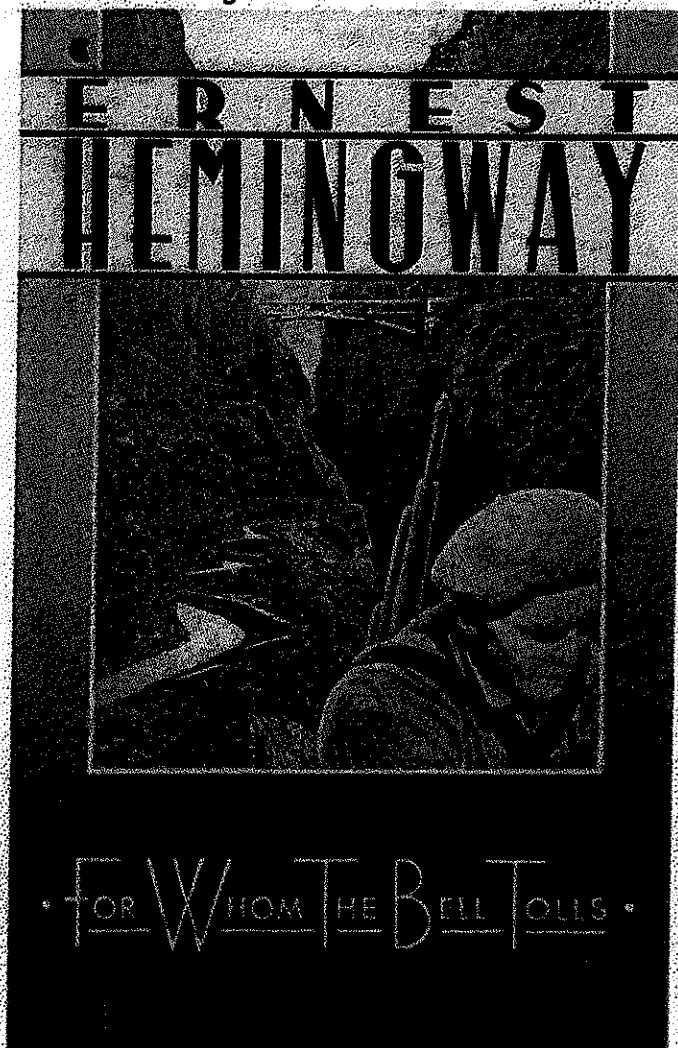


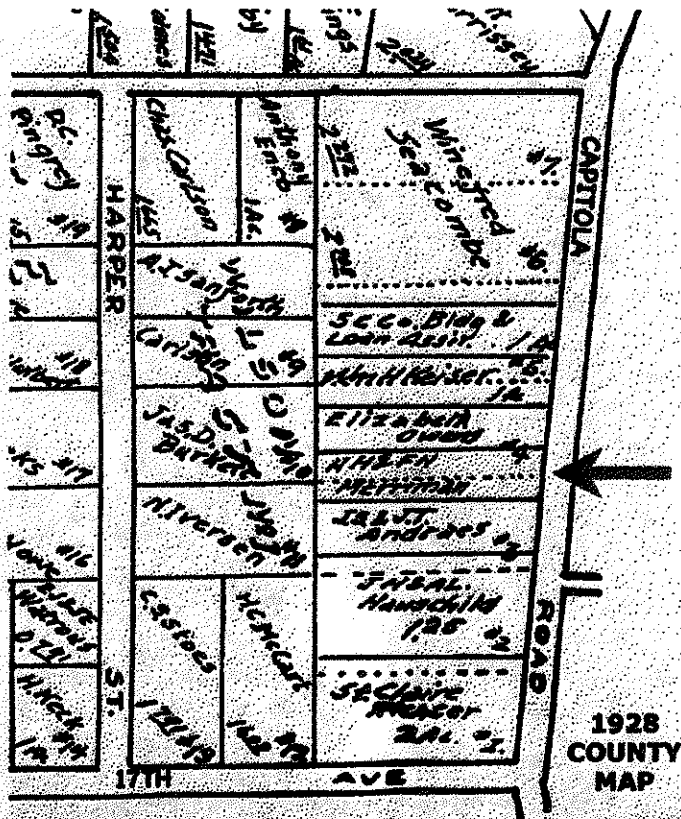
MARION MERRIMAN IN SANTA CRUZ IN 1987

Spanish Civil War was won by the Fascists, yet as the dress rehearsal for World War II with the same cast of dictators, the fight itself may have changed the course of history. Franco sat out the war rather than give the axis powers a third front against America and England. And when the United States entered the war, it followed the same strategy as the Lincoln Brigade of allying with Soviet Russia, even after Stalin had briefly been an ally of Hitler.

Yet when World War II ended, and the Cold War with Communism began, Lincoln Brigaders were subject to the first angry "Viet Nam home-coming" type experience. They were targeted in Joseph McCarthy's Communist Witch Hunts, which made Brigade veterans and their supporters (a number from Live Oak) fearful to speak of their experiences for half-a-century.

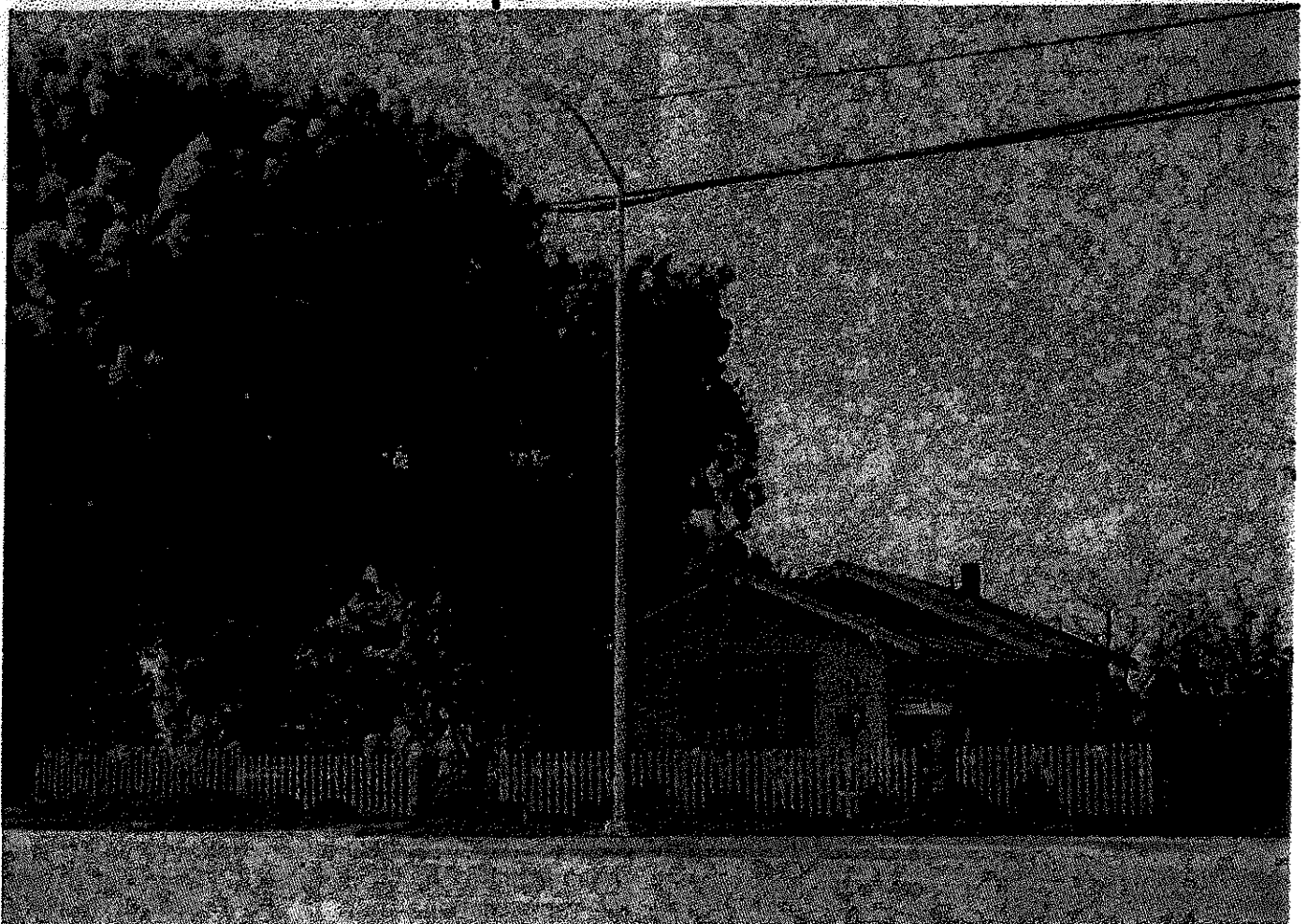
In the 1980s, Marion Merriman Wachtel was convinced by Pulitzer-prize-winning Reno journalist Warren Lerude to co-author "American Commander in Spain-Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade." She said it was far more candid than if she'd written it right





after the war (especially her reluctance to admit she'd been raped during the war). The book was published in 1986 on the brigade's 50th anniversary, and during the book tour to Santa Cruz in 1987, other Santa Cruzans still spoke reluctantly of their own involvement in the brigade, while one acquaintance of a brigade member preferred to remain anonymous in comments to Sentinel reporter Marybeth Varcados. Marion died two years later in 1989.

Even eulogized by Hemingway as a character in his important novel, no community has claimed Merriman's legacy as a subject for commemoration. Support from his Santa Cruz friends and relatives helped for a time to overcome American resentment and apathy, and they called him a Santa Cruz boy with pride. Yet much of this important chapter of our heritage has been lost because of the straight jacket of silence imposed upon it. And lessons bought with blood are being forgotten, and paid for again in suffering as the cost of forgetting. "...So send not to ask for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."





# HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BOB MERRIMAN HOUSE

Gibson's 2006 Analysis for the County Historic Resources Commission and County Board of Supervisors

The Merriman House is significant for the following seven reasons:

**1. BACKYARD INDUSTRIES:** The Merriman House is a model ranchette. The 3-acre ranchette was a significant innovation promoted by the County in response to the Depression of the 1890s. It represented a way people could be self-employed on a small scale, while selling goods to large county co-ops. If any single ranchette failed, it would not impact the industry as a whole.

**2. RANCHETTE SUBDIVISION #1:** No less innovative than the Backyard Economy, was the Ranchette Subdivision. The transformation of Live Oak into a Farming Suburbia is unusual in the history of developments. The Wilson Bros. led the way, and the Merriman House is part of the first of these subdivisions in 1916, called "Wilson Bros. Tract #1," leading the way for all others.

**3. FLOWER & POULTRY CAPITALS:** These ranchettes served Live Oak's flower and poultry industries. By the end of World War I, Live Oak had become the Bulb Capital of the Pacific with famous locally developed hybrids, plus the state's Queen City of Poultry production (after Petaluma), with a popular Santa Cruz strain of high egg-yield chickens. Live Oak being giants in two industries is more notable in that it was based on mostly small scale backyard farming. Many pocket farms like Merriman Ranchette produced both poultry and flowers.

**4. JAME MORRISSEY:** James Morrissey is a well-known local philanthropist, who owned and developed the Merriman ranchette. He is remembered for creating *Morrissey Boulevard*, landscaped as the grand entrance to the City/County-owned *De Laveaga Park*. He also donated land for the *Santa Maria Del Mar* Catholic retreat, as a vacation spot for women and the poor. It was for Morrissey that the Wilson Bros. created their Ranchette Subdivision #1 in 1916.

**5. WILSON BROS. BUNGALOWS:** The Wilson Bros. had their own variety of Craftsman bungalow, interpreting the normally broad-beamed style in a distinctive delicate manner.

**6. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE:** Previous information showed Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. Freitas as residents of the ranchette from around 1920 to the mid-1930s. We now learn this was not as the ranchette's owners, but as its caretakers. In fact, it was owned by Mrs. Freitas's brother Henry Merriman from 1923 to 1930. Henry's mother lived in Santa Cruz, and his wife Faye was a novelist under several pseudonyms. The Merriman/Freitas family living at the ranchette became the nucleus of a large group of *Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade* thriving in the Santa Cruz / Live Oak area. This was the brigade of American fighters in the Spanish Civil War against Franco, Hitler, and Mussolini just prior to World War II.

**7. HEMINGWAY'S HERO:** Bob Merriman, the son of Henry and Faye Merriman, would outshine them all as commander of the *Abraham Lincoln Brigade*. But during his years at the Merriman Ranchette, Bob distinguished himself in Santa Cruz High School as a champion debater and yearbook staffer, and his experiences in ranchette farming led to a study of alternative farming methods around the globe to aid in combating world hunger. As commander of the *Lincoln Brigade*, he was a friend of Hemingway and George Orwell, and when Merriman was captured and killed by Spanish dictator Franco, local headlines called him a Santa Cruz man. Hemingway changed his name to *Bob Jordan* as the hero of his novel *"For Whom the Bell Tolls."*

## = CONCLUSION =

There is nothing in a local landmark designation that would preclude new development on the site. The Merriman House is small enough that, if necessary, it could be re-situated on site as a club house for the new complex. Or it could be moved to a location where it can be better appreciated and featured as an historic attraction, museum, interpretive center, and-or-research center for Live Oak. While moving a landmark is *not preferred* with a state or national listing in losing historic context, the best local example was when Watsonville's historic Rogers House was moved to the County Fairgrounds, a setting better suited to its farmhouse origins than the commercial strip that had overwhelmed its original site.



(PROPOSED 2006  
APPLICATION FOR COUNTY  
LANDMARKS PLAQUE. NEVER  
SUBMITTED, BUT STILL VALID)

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

NOT APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

### HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

Address: 1438 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz

Popular Name/Designation If Any: "BOB MERRIMAN RANCH HOUSE"

#### CONTACTS:

Owner: The People of Santa Cruz County Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1701 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If the building is NOT owner occupied:

Building Occupant(s) Name: Live Oak Family Resource Center Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  

#### BASIC INFORMATION ON BUILDING:

Date Built: June 6, 1916 (Definite ☒ Approximate \_\_\_\_\_)

Architect: Wood Bros. Style: California Bracketed/Craftsman

Builder/Developer: James Morrissey's "Wilson Bros. Tract #1"

Original Use: Chicken Ranchette

Original Owner If Known: John & Susie Goetsch

Additional information about architect, use, style, original or subsequent owners, other features i.e. major exterior remodeling:

The C.E. Freitas Chicken Ranchette was part of a unique chicken farm suburban subdivision of deep lots, with ranch homes aligned like a suburban neighborhood.

Proposed Landmark  
Page 2

DOCUMENTATION:

Nomination Prepared By: Ross Eric Gibson  
Phone Number: (831) 423-1932 Email: rossericgibson@comcast.net

Chase's "Sidewalk Companion"

County's "Survey of Historic Resources"

City's "Historical Building Survey"

☒ Other published source (s), old or new: "Ernest Hemmingway's Forgotten Santa Cruz Hero--The Last Landmark of Bob Merriman," by Ross Eric Gibson, 2006

☒ Specific research (photos, title search, old newspapers, etc.)

Info. on Bob Merriman: "American Commander in Spain--Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade," by [his wife] Marion Merriman and Warren Lerude, 1986

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUGGESTED WORDING FOR PLAQUE:** Wording (see attached sample)

1916

"BOB MERRIMAN HOME"

Led Abraham Lincoln Brigade

in Spanish Civil War,

Inspired Hemingway's

Signature "For Whom the Bell Tolls" Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CURRENT PHOTO AND ANY ATTACHMENTS TO:  
The Museum of Art & History, 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Attn: Marla Novo**

**Questions? Call (831) 429-1964 ext. 7019**

**Supplementary material in the form of photocopies, newspaper clippings, etc. is encouraged.**





# AMERICANS IN SPAIN VETERAN SOLDIERS

ITEM 8.A.2

Writer Visits War-Hardened  
Troops on the Dust-Coated  
Aragon Front in East

## LED ASSAULT ON BELCHITE

Joined by Spaniards, They  
Fought From House to House  
to Expel Last of Rebels

By HERBERT HEMINGWAY

Copyright, 1937, by The New York Times  
Company and the South American  
Newspaper Alliance, Inc.

ON THE ARAGON FRONT, via  
Valencia, Spain, Sept. 12.—When we  
got up with the Americans they  
were lying under some olive trees  
along a little stream. The yellow  
dust of Aragon was blowing over  
them, over their blanketed machine  
guns, over their automatic rifles  
and their anti-aircraft guns. It  
grew in blinding clouds raised by  
the hooves of pack animals and the  
wheels of motor transports.

But in the lee of the stream bank  
the men were clenching, fearful and  
grinning, their teeth flashing white  
in their yellow-powdered sta-  
tion.

Since I had seen them last Spring  
they have become soldiers. The  
romantic have pulled out; the re-  
sistant ones have gone home along  
with the badly wounded. The dead,  
of course, aren't there. Those who  
are left are tough, with blackened  
mud-colored faces; and, after  
seven months, they know their  
trade.

### Led Assault on Belchite

They have fought with the first  
Spanish troops of the new Govern-  
ment army, captured the strongly  
fortified heights and town of Quinceo  
in a brilliantly conceived

and con-  
coated attack, and have in-  
with three Spanish brigades  
final storming of Belchite,  
twenty miles southeast of  
sa, after it had been sur-  
Spanish troops.

After the taking of Quinceo  
had marched twenty miles  
country to Belchite. They  
in the woods outside the town  
had worked their way for-  
the Indian fighting tactics  
still the most life-saving  
industry man knows. Cover  
heavy and accurate artil-  
lery, they stormed the  
the town. Then for the  
they fought from house to

from room to room, breaking walls  
with pickaxes, bombing their way  
forward as they exchanged shots  
with the retreating insurgents from  
street corners, windows, roof tops  
and holes in the walls.

Finally they made a juncture with  
Spanish troops advancing from the  
other side and surrounded the Bel-  
chite cathedral, where 400 men of  
the town garrison still held out.  
These men fought desperately,  
bravely, and an insurgent officer  
wrecked a machine gun from the  
tower until a shell crumpled the  
masonry spire upon him and his  
men. They fought all around the  
square, keeping up a covering fire  
with automatic rifles, and made a  
final rush on the tower. Then, af-  
ter some fighting of the sort you  
never know whether to classify as  
hysterical or the ultimate in brav-  
ery, the garrison surrendered.

### California Was in the Van

Robert Merriman, former Univer-  
sity of California professor and  
chief of staff of the Fifteenth  
Brigade, was the leader in the final  
assault. Unhaved, his face smoke-  
blackened, his men tell how he  
bombed his way forward, wounded  
six times slightly by hand-grenade  
splinters in his hands and face, but  
refusing to have his wounds dressed  
until the cathedral was taken. The  
American casualties were 22 killed  
and 60 wounded out of a total of  
200 of all ranks who took part in  
the two operations.

The total of Government casual-  
ties given in the entire offensive  
was 4,000 killed and wounded. The  
entire insurgent garrison of 2,000  
troops in Belchite was either cap-  
tured or killed, except for four of-  
ficers who succeeded in escaping

from the town during the last night  
before the final assault.

The Government forces took 2,000  
prisoners in the whole offensive, of  
which your correspondent was able  
to see 600, the others having been  
removed to concentration camps,  
and claimed to have inflicted losses  
of more than 7,000 in killed and  
wounded on the Nationalist troops.

The prisoners I questioned said  
they had lost 1,500 killed in Bel-  
chite alone. There is no way of  
verifying these casualties.

1871

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ATTACHMENT 3

# **Live Oak Historic Resources Inventory Update Recommendations**

Properties in bold are those where staff has an alternative recommendation to that of the Historic Resources Commission.

*NR6 in italics indicates a recommendation to not designate a property as a historic resource.*

NR5 in regular font indicates a recommendation to designate a property as a historic resource.

Address	APN	Consultant Recommendation to Historic Resources Commission	Staff Recommendation to Historic Resources Commission	Historic Resources Commission Action and Recommendation to Board of Supervisors	to Board of Supervisors
2223 Soquel Drive*	025-351-12	NR5	NR5	NR5	NR5
2950 Soquel Drive*	026-031-13	NR6	NR6	NR6	NR6
2606 Paul Minnie	026-041-17	NR5	NR6	NR6	NR6
2500 Paul Minnie	026-041-26	NR5	NR6	NR6	NR6
2501 Paul Minnie*	026-042-10	NR5	NR6	NR6	NR6
1345 Capitola Road*	026-143-25	NR6	NR6	NR6	NR6
1615 El Dorado	026-181-2	NR5	NR5	NR5	NR6
1438 Capitola Road	026-193-41	NR6	NR6	NR5	NR5
<p>This house was the boyhood home of Robert Merriman who was involved in organizing anti-Franco forces and fighting in the Spanish Civil War and who was the model for a character in Ernest Hemingway's novel For Whom the Bell Tolls. However, Merriman never lived in the house during his adult life when he was involved in the Spanish Civil War. Had he lived there during a time when he was historically significant, then historical significance would attach to the house. Additionally, whatever his historical significance, it is not associated with the building at 1438 Capitola, nor does it approach that of, for example, Herbert Hoover, whose boyhood house in Iowa is a historical resource, even though he did not live there when he was historically significant as an internationally known engineer, humanitarian, Secretary of Commerce, or President of the United States. Therefore, neither staff nor the County's consultant believe that 1438 Capitola Road rises to the level of a historic resource. The consultant's recommendation for rating the property NR6 (not a historic resource) is part of Attachment 24, which includes a resolution for designating the property a historic resource with a rating of NR5, per the HRC recommendation.</p>					
1500 Capitola Road*	026-193-42	NR5	NR6	NR6	NR6
1175 7th Avenue*	026-211-19	NR5	NR6	No recommendation	NR6

The 1986 evaluation of this house called it "a good example of the craftsman summer cottage and it is also a good example of the cottages that were developed during the 1910-1925 era." CIRCA concluded that there have been no physical changes except for a single window replacement, that it retains integrity and should be designated a historic resource and rated NR5. However, unlike other situations where an existing NR6 rated property is recommended to be designated as a historic resource and rated NR5, there are better examples of this style and there is no additional information on this site to justify the change. Staff therefore believes the NR6 rating should be retained. (see Attachment 26).



State of California—The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code NR6

Other Listings  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

\*Resource Name or #: #002

P1. Other Identifier: Merriman House

\*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

\*a. County: Santa Cruz County and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad:

Date: T ; R ; \_ of \_ of Sec ; M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 1438 Capitola Road

City: Santa Cruz

Zip: 95062

d. UTM: Zone: mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
APN 026-193-41

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Single story Craftsman-style single family dwelling, irregular in plan, intersecting gable roofs, corner entry, boxed eaves with brackets on gable end and open eaves on sides. Sloped roof over entry porch. Entry porch has coffered square support posts. Porch deck has been replaced with brick. Combination wood-frame one-over-one sash windows, multi-pane over single sash, and three-part center window. Minor changes to doors and windows on secondary elevations. Brick chimney on side elevation. The property was the home of Robert Hale Merriman during his teen years. The property is sited on a flat parcel with surrounded by mature trees and recent landscaping.

See BSO and Continuation Sheet

Significance: The property retains the original features including material, elements, forms and setting of an early twentieth-century Live Oak chicken ranch and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR6.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2; NR6

\*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) front view

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric  
☐ Both

ca. 1916-1920

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Redevelopment Agency  
701 Ocean Street #510  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)  
Sheila McElroy  
Circa: Historic Property Development  
One Sutter St. # 910  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
with Ross Gibson & Phil Reader

\*P9. Date Recorded: 7/28/04

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)  
reconnaissance survey

\*P11. Report Citation:  
Robert Hale Merriman Collection  
UC Berkeley

\*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI#

Page 2 of 3

\*NRHP Status Code NR6

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 002

B1. Historic Name:

B2. Common Name: Merriman House

B3. Original Use: Poultry Farm House

B4. Present Use: Vacant

\*B5. Architectural Style: Craftsman Style

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
Circa 1916-1920

\*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date:

Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme: poultry farm development; R. Merriman Area: Santa Cruz County

Period of Significance: 1916-

Property Type: Residence

Applicable Criteria: SC C1

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Merriman dwelling was the home of Robert Hale Merriman. In 1908, Robert Hale Merriman ("Bob") was born to Henry and Faye Merriman in Eureka, California, where his father was a logger. The family later relocated to the San Jose, then in the summer of 1922 they moved over the hill to Santa Cruz where they had relatives. The Merrimans stayed at the Live Oak poultry farm of Henry's sister and her husband, C. E. Freistas. Bob entered Santa Cruz High School as a sophomore. Bob graduated from Santa Cruz High in 1925, and worked for two years in the Sierra lumber camps. Then he went to Reno in 1927 to enroll at the University of Nevada as an economics major. He joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) where he became a second infantry lieutenant. Bob met Marion Stone, a Santa Barbara native. They married when she graduated from the university in 1932. Bob became a U. C. Berkeley professor, and spent vacations in Soquel. He taught economics during the depths of the Depression. Bob supported the famous San Francisco General Strike, and won the Newton Booth Traveling Fellowship, to study firsthand the agricultural problems of various European countries. Bob was studying the economics of the Soviet Collectivist experiment in 1936 when the Spanish Civil War broke out. Bob left his studies and his wife in Moscow in late 1936, and went to Spain to be among the earliest Americans to join Europe's first Anti-Fascist movement. They gathered in Figueras near the French border, and in early 1937 organized a 96-member International Brigade. (See Continuation Sheet)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

\*B12. References:

RL Polk St. Directory, Santa Cruz Co., 1924-1928; Santa Cruz Evening News 5/10/1932, 1/24, 2/2, 2/19 1938; American Commander in Spain by M. Merriman, 1986; Merriman files by P. Reader; For Whom the Bell Tolls by E. Hemmingway; A Field Guide to American House, McAlester and McAlester, 1997

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator:

Sheila McElroy

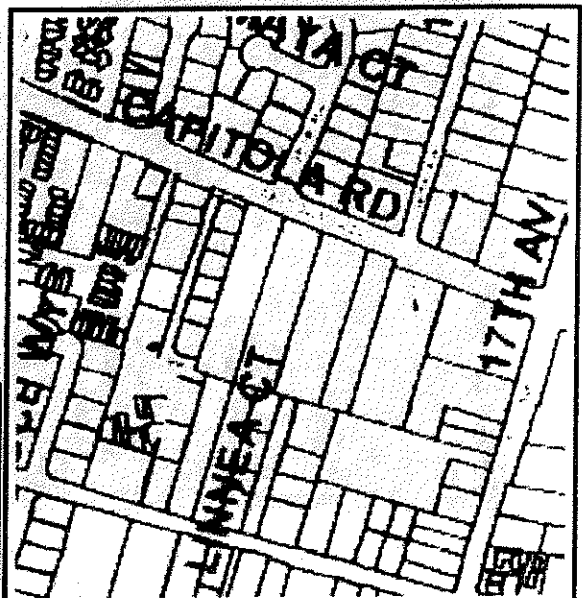
Circa: Historic Property Development

One Sutter St. # 910

San Francisco, CA 94104

\*Date of Evaluation: 8/22/05

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Primary #  
HRI#  
Trinomial

Page 3 of 3

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Merriman Property

\*Recorded by: Sheila McElroy

\*Date: 8/19/05/05    x Continuation    Update

The American fighters were dubbed the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" to stress that defending democracy was not anti-American. In February 1937, Bob led a battalion in the battle of Jarama. Bob was injured by shrapnel, and Marion joined him in Spain to nurse him back to health. She involved herself working with refugees and keeping records, and was accepted as the only woman in the foreign brigades. Bob rose to command in the now 450-member Abraham Lincoln Brigade with Marion as his staff assistant. Bob became Chief of Staff of the International Brigade, which represented fighters from 54 countries. Ernest Hemmingway met with Bob and Marion in war-torn Madrid, and planned a radio broadcast to describe the deprivations under which the Loyalists fought. As conditions worsened, Bob convinced Marion that his forces desperately needed financial support, and sent her home on a fund-raising tour. She arrived in the States in November, 1937, stopping first in San Francisco and then on February 24, 1938, appeared in Santa Cruz at the Unitarian's Hackley Hall, under the sponsorship of the "Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church," the "Women Today Club," and the Santa Cruz Chapter of "Friends of the Lincoln Brigade." Eight weeks later, the situation had changed radically. Bob disappeared in the battle of Gandesa in April. Early reports were that he had been captured by Franco, and held as a prisoner-of-war, but there was no paper work showing he'd ever been logged into prison. Merriman was thought to have been executed, although conflicting reports also suggested he died in battle. Ernest Hemingway turned Robert Merriman into the character Robert Jordan, in his novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls" published in 1940.

Significance: The property retains the original features including materials, elements, forms and setting of an early twentieth-century Live Oak chicken ranch and is associated with a significant person, and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR6.





## NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

### HOW TO APPLY THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

#### CRITERION B: PERSON

**Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.**

*(For further information on properties eligible under Criterion B, refer to National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons.)*

#### *Understanding Criterion B: Person*

Criterion B applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. Persons "significant in our past" refers to individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, State, or national historic context. The criterion is generally restricted to those properties that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person's important achievements. (The policy regarding commemorative properties, birthplaces, and graves is explained further in Part VII: How to Apply the Criteria Considerations.)

Several steps are involved in determining whether a property is significant for its associative values under Criterion B. First, determine the importance of the individual. Second, ascertain the length and nature of his/her association with the property under study and identify the other properties associated with the individual. Third, consider the property under Criterion B, as outlined below.

#### *EXAMPLES OF PROPERTIES ASSOCIATED WITH PERSONS*

##### *Properties associated with a Significant Person:*

- *The home of an important merchant or labor leader.*
- *The studio of a significant artist.*
- *The business headquarters of an important industrialist.*

#### *Applying Criterion B: Person*

##### **Significance of the Individual**

The persons associated with the property must be individually significant within a historic context. A property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group. It must be shown that the person gained importance within his or her profession or group.

##### *Eligible*

- The residence of a doctor, a mayor, or a merchant is eligible under Criterion B if the person was significant in the field of medicine, politics, or commerce, respectively.

### ***Not Eligible***

- A property is not eligible under Criterion B if it is associated with an individual about whom no scholarly judgement can be made because either research has not revealed specific information about the person's activities and their impact, or there is insufficient perspective to determine whether those activities or contributions were historically important.

### **Association with the Property**

Properties eligible under Criterion B are usually those associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance. In some instances this may be the person's home; in other cases, a person's business, office, laboratory, or studio may best represent his or her contribution. Properties that pre- or post-date an individual's significant accomplishments are usually not eligible.

The individual's association with the property must be documented by accepted methods of historical or archeological research, including written or oral history. Speculative associations are not acceptable. For archeological sites, well reasoned inferences drawn from data recovered at the site are acceptable.

### **Comparison to Related Properties**

Each property associated with an important individual should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. The best representatives usually are properties associated with the person's adult or productive life. Properties associated with an individual's formative or later years may also qualify if it can be demonstrated that the person's activities during this period were historically significant or if no properties from the person's productive years survives. Length of association is an important factor when assessing several properties with similar associations.

A community or State may contain several properties eligible for associations with the same important person, if each represents a different aspect of the person's productive life. A property can also be eligible if it has brief but consequential associations with an important individual. (Such associations are often related to specific events that occurred at the property and, therefore, it may also be eligible under Criterion A.)

### **Association with Groups**

For properties associated with several community leaders or with a prominent family, it is necessary to identify specific individuals and to explain their significant accomplishments.

### ***Eligible***

- A residential district in which a large number of prominent or influential merchants, professionals, civic leaders, politicians, etc., lived will be eligible under Criterion B if the significance of one or more specific individual residents is explicitly justified.
- A building that served as the seat of an important family is eligible under Criterion B if the significant accomplishments of one or more individual family members is explicitly justified.

### ***Not Eligible***

- A residential district in which a large number of influential persons lived is not eligible under Criterion B if the accomplishments of a specific individual(s) cannot be documented. If the significance of the district rests in the cumulative importance of prominent residents, however, then the district might still be eligible under Criterion A. Eligibility, in this case, would be based on the broad pattern of community development, through which the neighborhood evolved into the primary residential area for this class of citizens.
- A building that served as the seat of an important family will not be eligible under Criterion B if the significant accomplishments of individual family members cannot be documented. In cases where a succession of family members have lived in a house and collectively have had a demonstrably significant impact on the community, as a family, the house is more likely to be significant under Criterion A for association with a pattern of events.

### **Association with Living Persons**

Properties associated with living persons are usually not eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Sufficient time must have elapsed to assess both the person's field of endeavor and his/her contribution to that field. Generally, the person's active participation in the endeavor must be finished for this historic perspective to emerge. (See Criteria Considerations C and G in Part VII: How to Apply the Criteria Considerations.)

### **Association with Architects/Artisans**

Architects, artisans, artists, and engineers are often represented by their works, which are eligible under Criterion C. Their homes and studios, however, can be eligible for consideration under Criterion B, because these usually are the properties with which they are most personally associated.

### **Native American Sites**

The known major villages of individual Native Americans who were important during the contact period or later can qualify under Criterion B. As with all Criterion B properties, the individual associated with the property must have made some specific important contribution to history. Examples include sites significantly associated with Chief Joseph and Geronimo. (*For more information, refer to National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties.*)

