

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Nevada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Martin Luther Marsh (Christie) Home

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Martin Luther Marsh Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
254 Boulder Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Nevada City

STATE: California	CODE: 06	COUNTY: Nevada	CODE: 057
----------------------	-------------	-------------------	--------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. E. Lucille Marsh Christie

STREET AND NUMBER:  
254 Boulder Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Nevada City

STATE: California	CODE: 06
----------------------	-------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Nevada County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Nevada City

STATE: California	CODE: 06
----------------------	-------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Point of Historic Interest Program

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation - State Landmarks Advisory Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1416 9th Street (Resource Agency Bldg.)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento

STATE: California	CODE: 06
----------------------	-------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California
COUNTY: Nevada
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Marsh house is a handsome two-story Georgian wooden structure, topped with a cupola having seven arched windows along its facade, three on each side. Except for those in the cupola, other windows are uniformly crowned with a pediment supported by abbreviated brackets. The cornice line of the main roof is supported by modillions, and the corners of the house are quoined, with the facade scored to give it the appearance of masonry.

Four pillars, simply panelled front and back, support the veranda. Rounded balusters border this part of the house, a few of which are reproductions matching the originals.

The overall design of the house closely compares with a plan disclosed by "The Model Architect", a book written by architect Samuel Sloan, and published in 1852. The resemblance to Sloan's design is striking.

The floor plan consists of a central hall extending through the house, with two rooms on either side (front and back parlors, a sitting room and dining room) and a kitchen in the rear. There are five bedrooms and two baths on the second floor, all of which are reached by a stairway balustraded and banistered in cherry wood.

First to the east at the rear of the second floor is the bedroom of the eldest son, Sherman Marsh. Original furnishings of the 1870-80 period are shown. Wall papers comparable in design to those used in that period help project the spirit of the times.

The right front bedroom, called the "Maria Jane" room (less lavishly furnished with period furniture) faces toward Boulder Street. Its one original piece is a framed mirror painted in the style of the times by daughter Maria Jane Marsh.

A modern bathroom converted from a small bedroom used by Charles Deterick Marsh and John Minze Marsh, when they were children, occupies the front center of the upper story.

To the left is the Preston Room, occupied during Mr. M. L. Marsh's declining years by his daughter Maria and her husband Benjamin Preston.

The master bedroom, located at the top of the stairs on the left, was occupied for 38 years by M. L. Marsh, the head of the family. His wife, Emma Ann (Ward) Marsh, never lived in the building, having died just prior to its completion.

At the rear of the upper part of the structure one enters a hallway leading to a small bedroom, a small water closet with an ornate "Elephant trunk bowl", and a commodious bathroom containing a copper tub, tin covered and incased in wood.

Water for this tub was heated through coils inserted into the firebox of the kitchen stove (below) and piped to the tub through a water boiler.

(Continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
California	
COUNTY	
Nevada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Page 2)

The lower hall is bordered by four rooms, each entered through paneled doors brushed in a grained effect on one side, and with white on the other. Over each door is a transom.

Beneath the main stairway is a door leading to a basement under the rear parlor. A storm door leads outside into the back yard. Inspection of the house's brick and stone foundations and timbering shows evidence of excellent craftsmanship and durability. Today a furnace and flues for heated air are located in the old cellar.

In the sitting room, located to the right of the front entrance, we find a library. Not all of the furnishings in this room are antiques. There is, however, an impressive fireplace with an original foot high fire-guard, an antique cabinet, a red velvet late Victorian sofa, and a charcoal portrait of Emma Ann Marsh, the wife and mother for whom the house was built.

Back of the sitting room is the formal dining room. Here, as with many of the other rooms, an intricate molded paneling extends to the baseboards, surrounds doors and windows as well as the walls eighteen inches below the molding. A clear crystal chandelier of Louis XIV design hangs from the center of the ceiling. Dining room table and chairs fit the period theme.

As was common in fine houses of the 1870-80's, a front and back parlor is located to the left of the front door. Those at the Marsh home are for the most part furnished in period furniture, are well carpeted and draped, and are tasteful in appearance. Though the main parlor today is heated by furnace heat, a fireplace paneled in choice sugar pine with a hearth of tiles made of native clay testifies to the type of heating originally used.

All windows are double hung; ceilings are high; the outside shutters are original.

The kitchen, unlike the other rooms, has been somewhat modernized. It has been widened by incorporating a former screen porch into its present dimensions, though showing strong evidence of its former proportions and design. A large fireplace occupies one end of the room, balanced on the other end by an equally large cupboard. At the right of the kitchen is a glass enclosed conservatory constructed when the house was built in 1873.

Next to the building toward the east is a restored woodshed and cooks' quarters. This has lost much of its architectural integrity by the addition of portions which were never a part of the original structure, and the modernization of the interior.

(Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Nevada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Page 3)

A restored barn constructed in a lower level next to the woodshed is also without historical integrity. We are not attempting to register these.

The main building (the residence previously described), however, does retain its original architectural values. Spacious well kept grounds, flowers, foliage and trees of many varieties add to the charm of the property, making the Marsh home one of Nevada City's most impressive attractions.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1873

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1873, the building was the home of Martin Luther Marsh (1831-1911), a prominent Nevada City resident. Marsh immigrated to California from Ohio during the Gold Rush and after an attempt at mining returned to his former trade of carpentry. He later became involved with sawmill operations, served on the Board of Supervisors, Board of Equalization, Board of Directors of the Bank of Nevada County, and was active in formulating plans for construction of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad between Nevada City and Colfax. Marsh's wife died a month prior to completion of the house; Marsh and his four children moved into the building on August 21, 1873. After Marsh's death in 1911, the home remained in family ownership for a number of years, but eventually was abandoned. In 1954, Emily Lucille Marsh, granddaughter of M. L. Marsh, visited the old home and found it in a state of disrepair. She and her husband, the late James B. Christie, purchased the building and began its restoration that same year.

Virtually unaltered since its construction in 1873, the Martin Luther Marsh home is an exceptionally well preserved example of mid-18th century American architectural values. Primarily of Georgian derivation with its symmetrical facade, simulated masonry quoins, and shuttered, double-hung windows capped by small triangular pediments, the building is a composition of architectural refinement and restraint more characteristic of earlier buildings of the East rather than the emerging flamboyant eclecticism of California's growing urban centers of the period. That the building is similar to a design which appeared in a popular Eastern stylebook of the 1850's is probably more than coincidental, considering Marsh's trade as a carpenter and exposure to popular Eastern styles in his native Ohio. The lack of alterations and good condition of the house and its period furnishings make it an exceptional example of an early California residence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gold Cities - Doris Foley

Martin Luther Marsh Family - A Biography, Doris Foley.

Marsh Residence - U.C. Davis Report, Sandra S. Sodolski.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 °	16 ' 02 "	121 ° 00 ' 32 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Leland S. Lewis, Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

DATE

10/1/72

STREET AND NUMBER:

529 E. Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Nevada City

STATE

California

CODE

06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

[Signature]

Title

State Liaison Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date



Marsh House 1972

November 3, 1972

Dear Allen:

Thanks for your October 24 letter enclosing the Marsh house application and discussing source material ofr OE trail research and NARS seminar programming.

We are grateful the Marsh house may eventually become the property of State Parks and I appreciate being relieved of the work to complete application forms. In view of all this, I hope I can convey the following comments as candid observations and not jarping criticism.

I believe when a private dwelling is nominated the application should report one of two things - the architectural aspect or the personal aspect of a former owner or resident. Naturally the choice would be based on which of the two is more significant. Perhaps my conservative attitude is showing, but I question such sweeping statements as, " .... one of the best examples .... in California." Unless, of course, this is based on a qualified opinion and so reported. I would prefer reporting it as a good .. fine .. excellant example of such and such. Such an application would be immeasurably strengthened if it contained the recommendation of an architect - preferably A.I.A. .. no doubt the initial application could be qualified by Ray Girvagian's recommendation, as an addendum or however it is handled. I only assumed the initial application represents what is submitted to National Registry. Ms.Sodolski who prepared the report for UC@avis may be wholly qualified either as an architect or art historian but it would be helpful to have her qualifications noted. Otherwise she may appear to be a student preparing her thesis or a term paper.

Unquestionably there are good reasons to delay public announcement of the possible future ownership of this property. But I believe John Michael and his staff might have been advised of these pending plans prior to presenting the application. At least, it was my impression in the October 27 meeting Mr Michael believed the application was being initiated by the subject county. However this is a minor point.

Due to the good news coverage now being given to the State Parks program much information is available to the public which may have once been confined only to those attending a state committee meeting. Our county program has made every attempt to establish standards and upgrade the selection of nominations whether for county points of historical interest or nominations to N.Registry. Consequently we have received many calls re. the Marsh house being nominated for N.R. We do support this nomination and so state but to try to cut through the questions we simply state we are supporting what State Parks desired and initiated.

Allen Welts      November 3, 1972      -2-

OE trail research: Thanks for your helpful suggestions and we will check on these. I am sure Bert Wiley is glad to know the 1950 survey maps have been found for he thought this might be questionable. I believe Bert referred to the current supervising surveyor as a possible source of information. I assume Bert or someone equally qualified will have to be used to interpret records as technical as these appear to be.

Gene Chappie is now making appointments to the OE trail committee. This should afford excellent publicity for all concerned, even though the timing makes any release now subject to being inundated in the niagra of election news. I shall keep you advised on our progress.

NARS program: Bob McCabe might wish to use the Nevada Theatre as a "clinical" case to demonstrate restoration and develop a topic for group discussion.

This week I received a glowing account of the recent week end program in Santa Cruz - the subject "Victoriana" - the sponsorer U.C. Santa Cruz. A copy of the brochure and printed program are expected and I will send them on for your information. Osborn/Woods were two of the speakers and it is likely they would be available if you desire for the NARS seminar.

The little man with the early films and slides is

Dr T.K.Peters  
Westport, California 95488  
Phone - 707 - 964-2974

Please do not hesitate to use my name. Dr Peters knows how much we enjoyed his program and that we wanted much to have him give it here. You should give him explicit information on TIME -what he initially prepared for California Heritage Council consisted of two hours or longer and had to have considerable editing to fit the council's time schedule. Perhaps he could give TWO showing for obviously he has a vast amount.

I should also mention that he is a man of modest means and would need to have travel expenses .. perhaps even a gratuity if that is possible.

Allen, I believe the Peters' collection may merit consideration for possible acquisition by the state. I know nothing of your policy but can guess there is always problem of budget. My concern is that this collection be properly preserved and used. Dr Peters dreams of developing a film center in an area like San Francisco. But this plan may be fraught with problems due to his advanced age and his admitted lack of financial backing.

Thanks again for your interest and help. And I shall keep in touch.

Most sincerely,

Allen Welts  
Resource Historian  
Dept Parks and Recreation  
P.O.Box 2390  
Sacramento 95811

Mrs Leland S. Lewis, Chairman