

607 CABRILLO AVENUE

607 Cabrillo Avenue

(9 AND 5 SANTA YNEZ, 505 SANTA YNEZ, 723 SANTA YNEZ)



1905 ~ Shingle style (as built)

BUILDER: William Thompson OWNERS: Ryan ~ Danforth ~ Mason ~ Dallin ~ Lapidus

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When Harris J. Ryan and his wife, Katharine, arrived at Stanford in 1905, they took up temporary residence at 2 Salvatierra Street while their house in the new San Juan subdivision was being built. From the subdivision's land survey of April–May 1905, it seems Arthur B. Clark had been hired to design the house on lot 9, but his name does not appear on the original plans, as it does for other houses he designed. Instead, the name of William Thompson, a builder and contractor in Palo Alto, is recorded.

It is possible that Clark advised the Ryans on the design and then turned it over to the contractor, or, as was the case in many of the early campus houses, the design was an owner-builder collaboration drawing ideas from other houses.

Ryan had been recruited to Stanford by William Durand, professor of engineering, whose similarly styled house was being built next door. The Ryans' house was on the corner of Aibonito Avenue and San Juan Street, just off Santa Ynez Street. When finished in 1905, the house address was 9 Santa Ynez; a year or so later, the street number became 5 Santa Ynez.

The house was built with a redwood shingle exterior, which was replaced with painted stucco after a fire in 1939. The moderately pitched roof has a second-story gable above the inset front door on the north side of the house. Eaves are set relatively close to the wall. Three chimneys are widely spaced. Front steps are brick. The house has nine rooms in two stories, plus an attic and a detached carriage house. No construction specifications have been found in the Stanford Archives, and no early photographs of the house are known.

The plans show an entry porch and front door on the east side of the house. Inside are a vestibule and entry hall. Stairs to the second floor are off the vestibule. To the left of the hall is the 17- by 18-foot living room, with a bay on the south wall. A nook on the street-facing north wall has a fireplace and tiled floor, and built-in shelves; it may have served as a den. A hall next to the nook and the living

room led to the dining room, which overlooked the garden to the west; a porch to the north had stairs down to the driveway. The 17- by 18-foot kitchen, to the right of the vestibule, included a pantry, a pass-through, and a swinging door to the dining room. Beyond the kitchen were a servant's room and bath, and stairs to the second floor.

The second floor had four bedrooms and a sewing room, as well as two full baths side by side off the central hall. A "loggia" on the northwest corner was probably an open porch for sitting or sleeping.

Over the years, particularly under later owners, the house has been upgraded and reconfigured, though without compromising its original style; see text below.

THE OWNERS

Harris Joseph Ryan. Ryan was born in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, in 1865. After attending Baltimore City College in 1880–81 and Lebanon Valley College in 1881–83, he attended Cornell, where he graduated in 1887 as a mechanical engineer. For a year, he joined two partners in the Western Engineering Company in Lincoln, Nebraska. Realizing that he preferred academic life, he returned to Cornell as assistant professor of electrical engineering at age 23, associate at 26, and full professor at age 29. In 1888, he married Katharine K. Fortenbaugh in Halifax, Pennsylvania.

Ryan came to Stanford in 1905 as head of the Electrical Engineering Department and remained there until he retired, in 1931. His most famous contributions lay in the fields of

generation of extreme high-voltage currents and transmission of electrical power over long distances. He was director of the Harris J. Ryan Voltage Laboratory, a large corrugated metal building built on the south side of Stanford Avenue, replaced in 1991 with the Ryan Houses for faculty.

Ryan was president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. For 14 years, he was consulting engineer to the Los Angeles Aqueduct Power Project and helped bring power from Hoover Dam to the city of Los Angeles. He died in July 1934.

In 1916, the Ryans moved to 435 Webster Street, Palo Alto, and leased the campus house until 1930. The first tenant was John S. P. Tatlock, professor of English philology, and later George Bliss Culver, dean of men from 1927 to 1930, lived there.

Charles Haskell Danforth. The next owner, a professor of anatomy in the Stanford Medical School, bought the house in 1931. At that time, the address of 723 Santa Ynez became 607 Cabrillo, which it remains today.

Danforth was born in Oxford, Maine, in November 1883 and received an A.B. in 1908 and an A.M. in 1910, both from Tufts College. He earned his Ph.D. in 1912 at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was on the faculty of the Department of Anatomy until 1922. That year, he came to Stanford as associate professor of anatomy and was promoted to full professor the following year. He headed the department from 1938 until his retirement, in 1949.

He was widely known for his scholarly

and scientific research in a range of disciplines, including anthropology, genetics, and endocrinology as well as anatomy. His colleagues considered him to be a pillar of strength in the School of Medicine. He was elected to the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences and served on the editorial board of several scientific journals.

Danforth was married to Florence Garrison for over 50 years, and they had three sons. She died in 1968, and he died the following year.

In 1931, the Danforths made some alterations to the house to accommodate their family, at a cost of \$2,142; what these alterations were is not recorded. In 1939, a fire extensively damaged the house and destroyed a manuscript of Professor Danforth's work. Reconstruction after the fire followed the original layout of the first floor, though the second floor had many changes. Willis P. Goodenough was the contractor.

Financed by the insurance payment, the exterior was stuccoed and a family room added next to the living room, in place of the original porch. It has wood paneling and a cone-shaped beamed ceiling for a tower effect. The door to the front entry vestibule was moved to the north side of the house. Second-floor changes of the time cannot be documented. All these changes, completed in 1940, cost \$11,254. One other result of the fire was replacement of a kitchen beam that had been hollowed out and used as a hiding place for family records. The Danforths sold the house in 1968.

Robert George Mason. The next owner

was born in 1932 in Rochester, New York, and received his B.A. in 1955 from Oberlin College. After earning his M.D. from the University of Chicago, in 1957, he was chief surgeon at the UC Irvine Medical Center, then teaching assistant in physiology at Stanford in 1960–62 and acting instructor in surgery in 1965–66. He received a Ph.D. in physiology from Stanford in 1968. Between 1966 and 1971, he rose from instructor to associate professor.

Dr. Mason had plans drawn up to expand the entry and driveway from Santa Ynez. Though many variations were explored, it is difficult to tell what, if anything, was actually done. He did convert and enlarge the carriage house on the property into a cottage for his mother-in-law. He left for Johns Hopkins three years later, in July 1971, and the house was sold again.

For a short time after 1971, one of the tenants in the cottage was Forrest Church, son of U.S. Senator Frank Church, of Idaho, and for the past 26 years senior minister of the All Souls Church (Unitarian) in New York City. Since that time, the cottage has been rented to students or postgraduate fellows.

Alexander Dallin. Dallin, who was the Raymond A. Spruance Professor of International History, was born in Berlin in May 1924 and, as a child, fled Nazi Germany with his family to France. He emigrated to the United States in 1940 and earned an undergraduate degree from City College in New York and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

His classic study of occupation and resistance, *German Rule in Russia, 1941-45*, was

based on work done in the late 1940s for the Harvard Interview Project at the Russian Research Center. At Stanford, he moved easily between history and political science, active service and retirement as he was called back to teaching. With Condoleezza Rice, he led the development of Stanford's New Democracy Program. He was a long-time board member and president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, which moved its headquarters to Stanford in the 1980s. Dallin died in July 2000, survived by his wife and collaborator, Gail Lapidus, and three children from a previous marriage.

When Dallin moved into the house in the early 1970s, he switched the kitchen and the dining room and changed the orientation of the back deck to wrap around the west corner of the house. At this time, the laundry area was eliminated to expand the first-floor bedroom, and the porch on the west corner of the house was walled in, becoming an extension of the new kitchen and a breakfast nook. Cabinets were built in the new dining room. M. Michaelson was the contractor for Dallin's designs.

The old garage between the house and cottage was by this time ready to collapse under its own weight. Dallin had it torn down soon after moving in and built a shed on its concrete platform. The present two-car garage was built in 1986.

Gail Lapidus. Dallin's widow and long-time colleague now owns the house. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1939, and received her B.A. from Radcliffe and M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. As a professor of

political science at the University of California at Berkeley from 1976 to 1994, she directed the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and the Berkeley-Stanford Program in Soviet and Post Soviet Studies. Lapidus has served as a president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and as chair of the Social Science Research Council's Joint Committee on Soviet Studies. In 1994, she accepted a research associate position at Stanford and is senior fellow emerita at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

In the early 1990s, when Lapidus joined Dallin at Stanford, a further renovation doubled the size of the first-floor master bedroom and enlarged the master bathroom. On the exterior of the expanded bedroom they designed two bays similar to ones in the original design on the south and east walls of the house. They also built cabinets in the breakfast nook and added a bay window overlooking the garden; new French doors opened to the back deck, which was enlarged in the late 1990s. The pass-through from the kitchen to the dining room was walled in. This project was designed by Moyer Associates Architects, Palo Alto. Stephen Johnson of Johnson Woodcraft, Redwood City, was the contractor.

In 1999, the kitchen was once again updated, with a new configuration and new appliances, cabinets, and granite countertops.

The family room added next to the living room in 1940 is currently used as a library and study. It has multipaned windows and a fireplace, and it can be entered from an inside hall or by its own outside door, just beside the east-side front door to the house. Balustrades surround the small, second-floor decks on the north and west sides. A recently added raised deck for entertaining, with balustrades and wooden steps to the ground, is off the kitchen. In the kitchen, a bay window on the southwest corner of the house faces the cottage.

Inside, some details from the original house add to its charm. Bay windows on the living room's west and south walls match ones in the bedroom on the second floor. From the Danforth renovations, a shallow Gothic arch, first encountered in the front door, is repeated on the door to a south outside entrance in a small hall off the living room and in the door that connects the paneled library to the living room.

A December 2005 break in a water pipe over the dining room caused serious damage in the dining room and to the kitchen floor, requiring extensive repairs, which were just beginning in the spring of 2006.

SOURCES

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Memorial Resolution: Alexander Dallin (1924-2000). Stanford University Academic Council.

Memorial Resolution: Charles Haskell Danforth (1883–1969). Stanford University Academic Council.,

Memorial Resolution: Harris Joseph Ryan (d. 1934). Stanford University Academic Council.

Original house plans. In possession of owner. Faculty Housing records.

Renovation plans for Dallin (early 1970s). Stanford Maps and Records.

Renovation sketches and records for Mason and Dallin (1960s and 1970s). In possession of owner.