

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

Primary #
 HRI #

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*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Odd Fellows Home

B1. Historic Name: Odd Fellows Home

B2. Common Name: 14500 Fruitvale Ave. - Saratoga Retirement Community

B3. Original Use: Retirement Home

B4. Present Use: Convalescent Home

*B5. Architectural Style: Mission Revival

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Constructed in 1912. Infirmary added in 1958. New wing with 79 rooms called the California Villa was added in 1981.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

Gardener's cottage, cook house and nursery, all built in 1915. Barn - predated main building (before 1912).

B9a. Architect: Ralph Warren Hart (John McLaren - landscape) b. Builder: C. H. Hopp

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area: Fruitvale / Sobey Road

Period of Significance: 1912 - 1958 Property Type: Residential Applicable Criteria: (1), (2), (3)
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The Odd Fellows Home is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria a, b, c, and d:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of the City;
- b) the property is identified with persons and events significant in local history;
- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Mission Revival style, type and period; and
- d) the property is representative of a notable design of architect Ralph Warren Hart.

The Odd Fellows Home also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (1), (2), and(3), as the property is significant as a special building type created to serve elderly residents during the pre-social security era, for its association with numerous important Californians during the time of construction, and as a distinctive architectural work within Saratoga's City of Homes period, representing the work of master architect Ralph Warren Hart.
 (Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) None

*B12. References:

- Architect & Engineer of California, Hart obit., July 1915.
- San Jose Mercury News. June 10, 1987.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.
- Saratoga News. June 17, 1987.

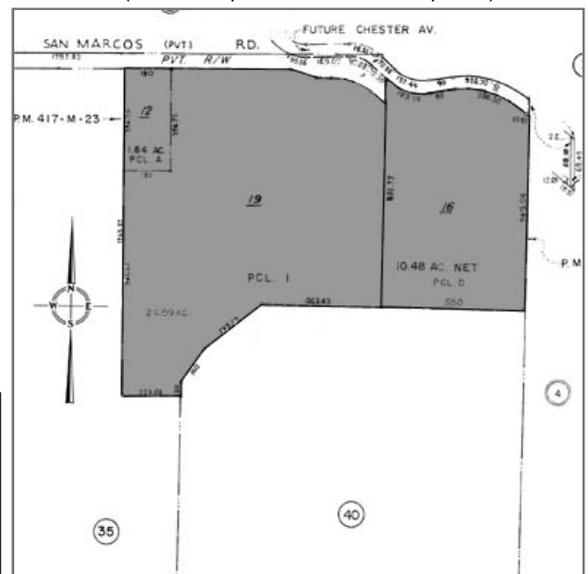
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

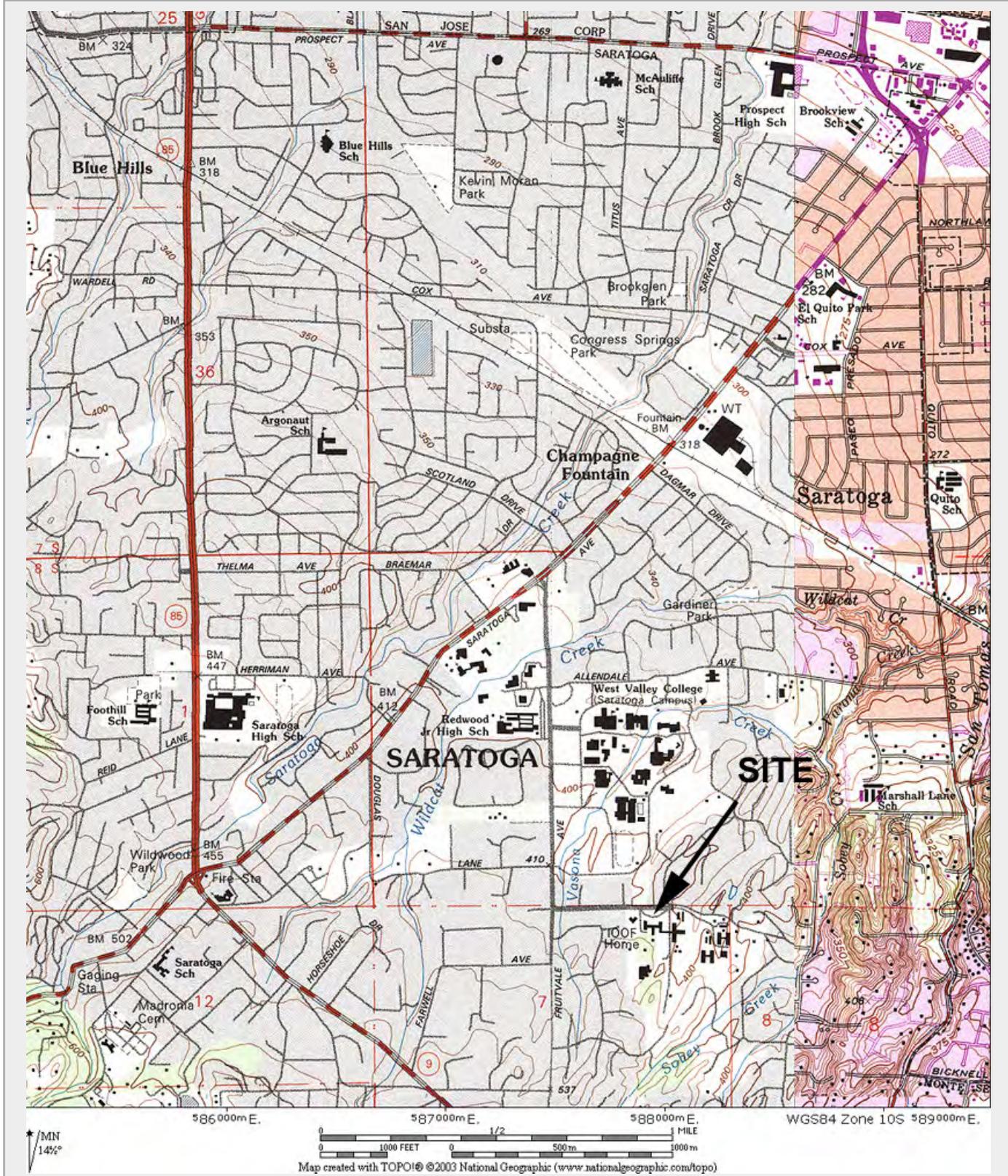
*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





CONTINUATION SHEET

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* Recorded By F. Maggi, L. Dill, & J. Kusz * Date 10/26/2009 Continuation Update

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

Historical Background

This property was originally called Oakwood Farm and was owned from 1880-1906 by the Dexter family. In 1906, it was purchased by the Odd Fellows for \$16,500. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows of California moved 150 elderly residents from an existing facility near Oroville to Saratoga in 1912. They occupied the new Mission Revival building which was dedicated on May 15, 1912. The formal gardens were designed by John McLaren, who was a member of the Odd Fellows. The property also contains a barn and other outbuildings, which most likely are remnants from the original farm. Some of these buildings and farm facilities were used by the retirees to run a working farm, helping to make the home more self-sufficient. The infirmary was built in 1958, and 79 new rooms were added in 1981 by Barry Swenson Builder as the California Villa. The complex is known today as Saratoga Retirement Community.

Architectural Context

The 1912 Odd Fellows Home was designed by San Francisco architect Ralph Warren Hart. Hart does not have an extensive career, having died of cancer in 1915 three years after this project. At the time of his death, the Odd Fellows project was mentioned as one of his "best efforts."

Integrity

The integrity of this property cannot be determined for this survey.

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