

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

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Ellis House

P1. Other identifier: HP-88-01

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Santa Clara County and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a location map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Cupertino Date 1980 Photorevised T .8 S. ; R .1 W. ; Mount Diablo B.M.

c. Address: 14711 Fruitvale Ave. City Saratoga Zip 95070
 d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; mE/ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

west side of Fruitvale Avenue south of Farwell Avenue. APN# 397-18-024

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

Set in a large, landscaped property and barely visible from the street, this house was originally built of redwood siding in the Folk Victorian style, according to City records. The house sits at the top of a low rise, above a well-maintained orchard, and has several large trees at the side of the house. The original, generally symmetrical design includes a steeply gabled main roof with small raised gables on the sides, and a side wing in which a small gable was centered. The porches and decorative elements were removed, leaving a simple farmhouse design. The entrance is set flush in the front facade of the main wing; the door is surrounded by multi-lite sidelights and a small transom. Two narrow double-hung windows are set to the side of the door; similar windows are set in the second-story gable and on the ground floor of the side wing. Between the wings, a brick chimney rises through the center of a small gable. There is a small terrace across the front.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2. Single family property

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
(View, date, accession #)
View facing northwest, July 2009.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic Prehistoric Both
c1885, 124 years old.

*P7. Owner and Address:

Drinker Trust et al
14711 Fruitvale Ave.
Saratoga CA 95070

*P8. Recorded By: (Name, affiliation, and address)

F. Maggi, L. Dill, & J. Kusz
Archives & Architecture, LLC
PO Box 1332
San Jose, CA 95109

*P9. Date Recorded: 10/26/09

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Archives & Architecture: City of Saratoga Statement of Historic Context, 2009.

*Attachments:

- None Continuation Sheet District Record Rock Art Record Other (List):
 Location Map Building, Structure, and Object Record Linear Feature Record Artifact Record
 Sketch Map Archaeological Record Milling Station Record Photograph Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

* Required Information

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

Primary #
 HRI #

Page 2 of 4

*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Ellis House

B1. Historic Name: J. B. Ellis House, "Old Orchard"

B2. Common Name: 14711 Fruitvale Ave.

B3. Original Use: Ranch

B4. Present Use: Single family residential

*B5. Architectural Style: Folk Victorian

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

Constructed circa 1885. Original porches removed, windows enlarged, fireplace and chimney added.

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

*B8. Related Features:

One-story outbuilding behind main house, garage and carport.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area: Fruitvale West

Period of Significance: c1885 Property Type: Residential Applicable Criteria: (3)

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

The Ellis House is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria a and e:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga; and
- e) the property embodies or contributes to unique physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood within Saratoga.

The Ellis House may also be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3), as the house appears to embody the distinctive characteristics of the Folk Victorians from Saratoga's period of *Horticultural Development*, although that determination would require a more intensive-level investigation into the building.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

*B12. References:

Pierce, M. Undated, unnamed newspaper article, "Old Orchard Trees on Wane."
 Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.
 Santa Clara Cnty, McMahon to Drinker 7/23/1963. B6117, P450.

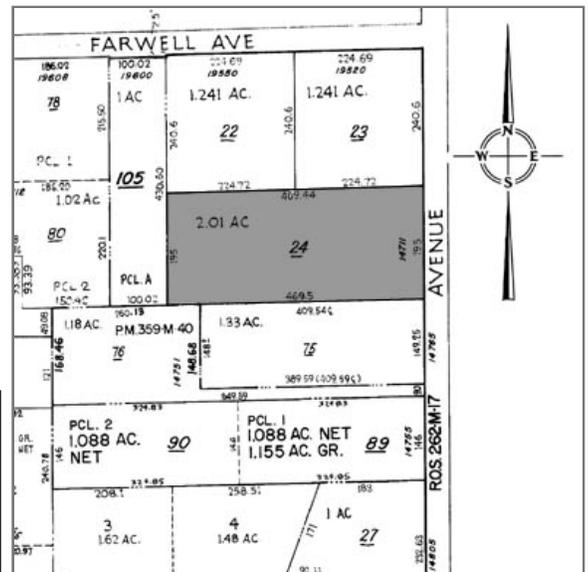
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

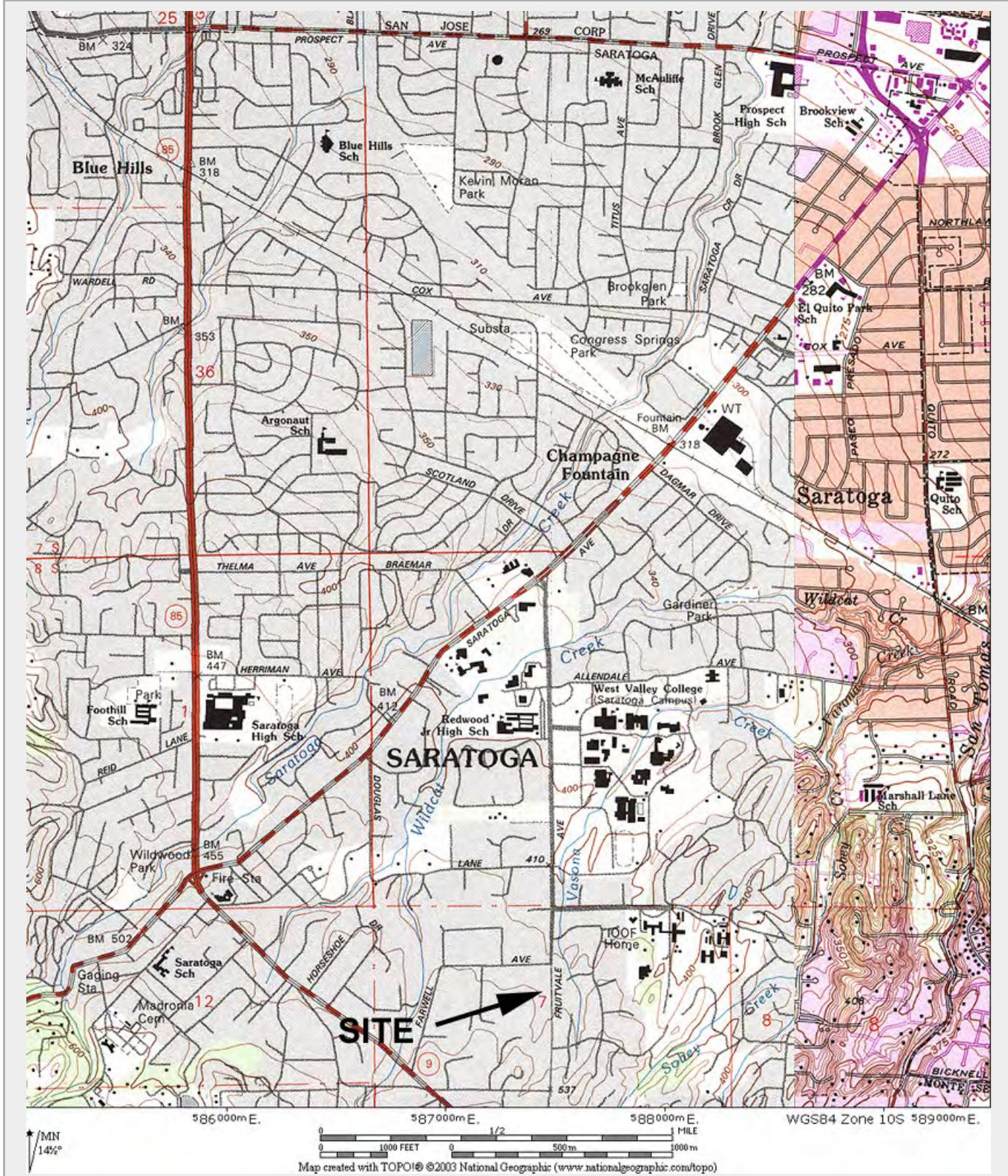
*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Ellis House

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

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

Historical Background

This house was built by J. B. Ellis about 1885 on about 15 acres of land that was purchased from Franklin Farwell, an early landowner in Saratoga. The land surrounding the house consisted of large orchards where, according to a newspaper article, Ellis grew 150 prune, 430 peach, 10 cherry, 6 apricot and 50 pear trees. The house was later owned by George Foster and his wife Ethel who lived in the residence until 1907. Ethel Foster was a founding member of the Saratoga Foothill Club. The house was subsequently owned by Herman and Adelaide Clark and in 1938 was purchased by retired Naval Lt. Commander R.C. Higleyman. Higleyman remodeled the home working with architect Clifford Conolly to add a brick front porch, alter the windows as well as incorporate new landscaping surrounding the residence. In 1949 the house was purchased by John and Charity McMahon and in 1962 the house was owned by Henry and Joy Drinker who moved to Saratoga from Palo Alto. The Drinkers added a bedroom addition to the house. Their family continued to own the property until at least the 1980s.

Integrity

Although altered over time with the removal of trim, the house retains adequate character-defining architectural form, workmanship and materials, as well a compatible setting and original location, and the property continues to represent the historic associations and feelings over time of this residence.