

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): Sunshine Williams Caretaker House
 P1. Other identifier: HP-91-01

*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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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: 14901 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 north of Three Oaks Way. APN# 397-18-072

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

This two-story, wood-frame National-style farmhouse was originally surrounded by agricultural lands on McCall Road (now Fruitvale Avenue). At the rear of the house is a shallow tree-studded canyon that separates the house from its neighbors. The home has been altered with additions over time. The underlying cottage form was a classic foursquare box with a hipped roof, wide eaves and exposed rafters. The cottage is clad with horizontal lap siding on the first story and square shingles on the second, above a sill band. The enclosed entry porch may represent a modification. Double-hung windows are symmetrically placed at the second floor of the front facade; these have shutters. A second-story fixed picture window on the north side is an alteration. The house was under construction during this survey; many additions have been removed, and a new two-story addition is planned for the rear of the house.

*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 southwest, July 2009.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:
 Historic Prehistoric Both
 pre-1900, over 110 years old.

*P7. Owner and Address:
 Thang N Do Trust et al
 14901 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

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 5S3

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Sunshine Williams Caretaker House

- B1. Historic Name: Nils Larson Cottage
 B2. Common Name: 14901 Fruitvale Ave.
 B3. Original Use: Single family residential B4. Present Use: Single family residential

*B5. Architectural Style: National

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
 Constructed prior to 1900. Living room, porch, bathroom and garage added.

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

*B8. Related Features:
 None

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Sidney Williams

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area: Fruitvale West
 Period of Significance: c1900 Property Type: Residential Applicable Criteria: None

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

The Sunshine Williams Caretaker House is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-91-01. It qualified under Criteria a and b:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga; and
- b) the property is identified with persons and events significant in local history.

The Sunshine Williams Caretaker House does not appear eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, as it lacks adequate integrity to the original design, and does not distinctively represent the era in which it was built.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

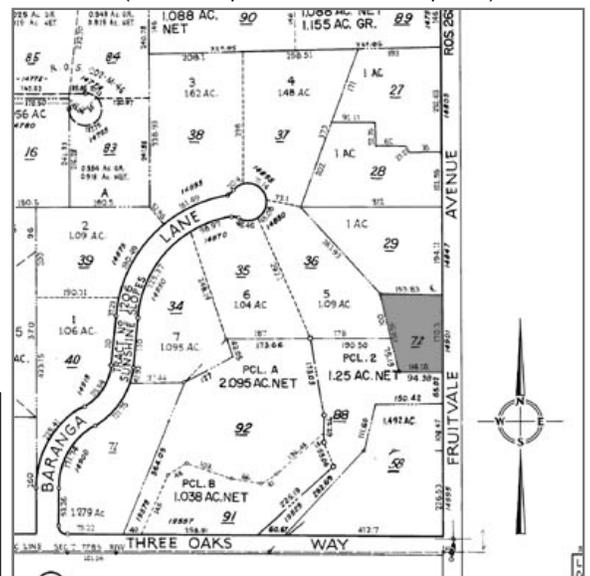
*B12. References:
 Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1989.

B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi
 *Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

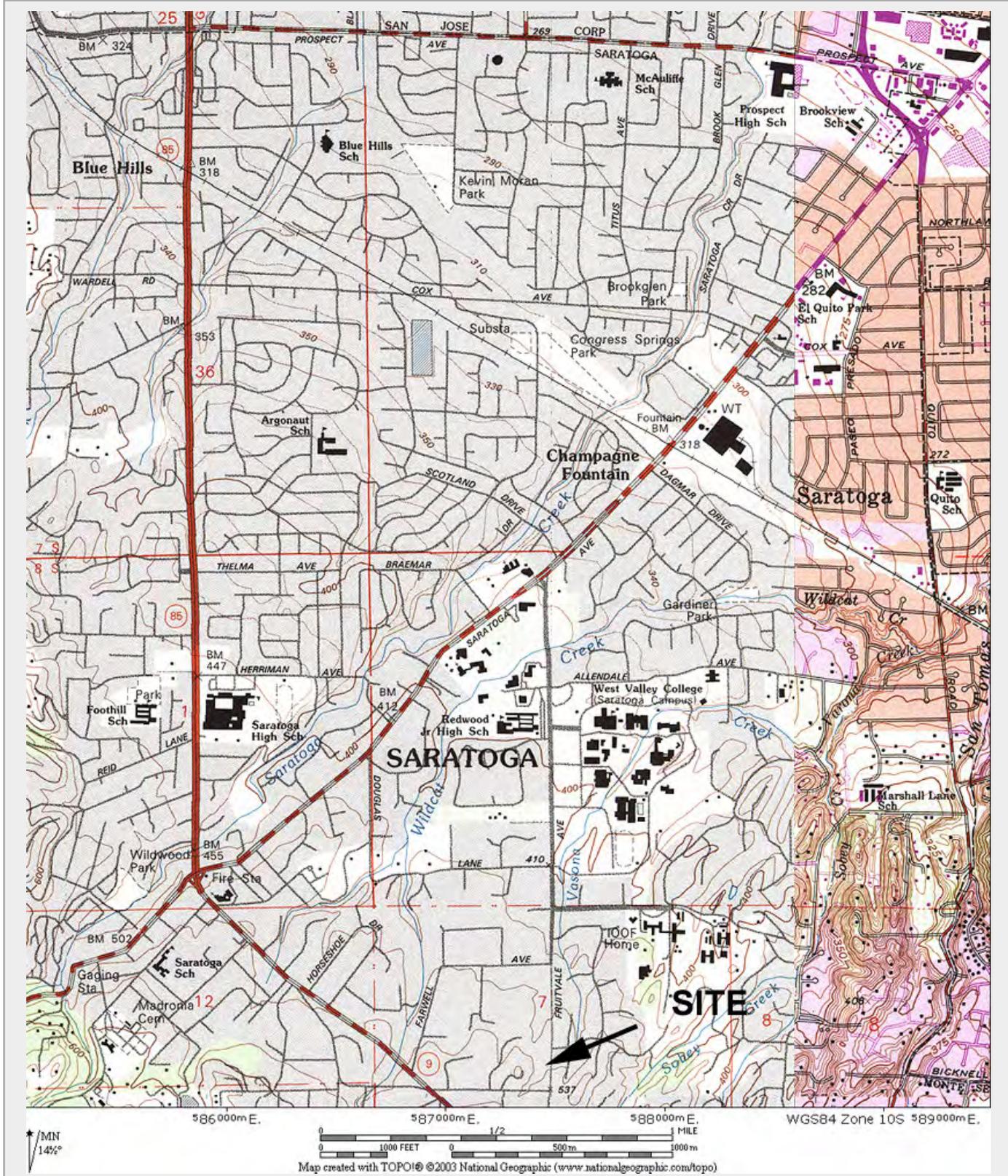
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



* Map Name: Multiple

* Scale: n.t.s.

* Date of Map: Varies



CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Sunshine Williams Caretaker

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

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

Historical Background

This was the home of a Swedish man, Nils Larson, and his wife prior to 1900. Nils was the caretaker and grounds maintenance man for The Reverend "Sunshine" Williams. Larson cultivated the orchards and cared for the carriage horses. The Reverend Edwin Sidney (Everlasting Sunshine) Williams was a retired Congregational minister (1837-1918). In the spring of 1899, following two years of drought, Williams conceived the idea of a Saratoga Blossom Festival of Thanksgiving. The first festival was held in March 1900. His hilltop home on Three Oaks Way was part of the Bella Vista Ranch. He had boundless energy and enthusiasm and called his Thanksgiving Festival "jollification". He also established the Missionary Settlement in 1900 to give counsel, comfort or assistance to returned missionaries. He was an original member of the Sempervirens Club which proposed that Big Basin become a state park. He is buried at Madronia Cemetery.

Integrity

The house retains much of its character-defining architectural workmanship and materials; however, the front porch has been altered, windows have been altered, and new additions are being constructing, altering the historic design and setting, and only some of the historic associations and feelings are preserved in this property.