

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): Saratoga Foothill Club

P1. Other identifier: HP-88-01 HP-1

\*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 Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted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 .2 W. ; Mount Diablo B.M.

c. Address: 20399 Park Place 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)

east side of Park Place near Saratoga Avenue. APN# 397-22-031

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

This one-story redwood clubhouse is a master design by architect Julia Morgan.

The property was the subject of a 2005 National Register nomination and evaluation by Beth Wyman. Those National Register application forms are attached to this recording, and provide a detailed survey and evaluation of the property.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP13. Community center / social hall

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



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

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
 1915-1916, 94 years old.

\*P7. Owner and Address:

Saratoga Foothill Club  
 PO Box 2233  
 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
- Location Map
- Building, Structure, and Object Record
- Linear Feature Record
- Artifact Record
- Sketch Map
- Archaeological Record
- Milling Station Record
- Photograph Record
- Other (List):

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 1S

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Saratoga Foothill Club

B1. Historic Name: Saratoga Foothill Club

B2. Common Name: 20399 Park Place - Saratoga Foothill Club

B3. Original Use: Clubhouse

B4. Present Use: Clubhouse

\*B5. Architectural Style: Bay Region/Craftsman

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

Constructed 1915-1916. Chimney repair/replacement in 1992.

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

Original Location: n/a

\*B8. Related Features:

None

B9a. Architect: Julia Morgan

b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Social, Arts, and Leisure Area: Saratoga Village

Period of Significance: 1915 - Property Type: Quasi-public Applicable Criteria: C (1), (3)  
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

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

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga;
- b) the property is identified with persons significant in local history;
- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Bay Regional/Craftsman style, type and period;
- d) the property is representative of a notable design by architect Julia Morgan; and
- e) the property embodies unique physical characteristics that represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

Saratoga Foothill Club is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources, as it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP38. Women's property

\*B12. References:

National Register Listing, #05000069, added 2005.  
 Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

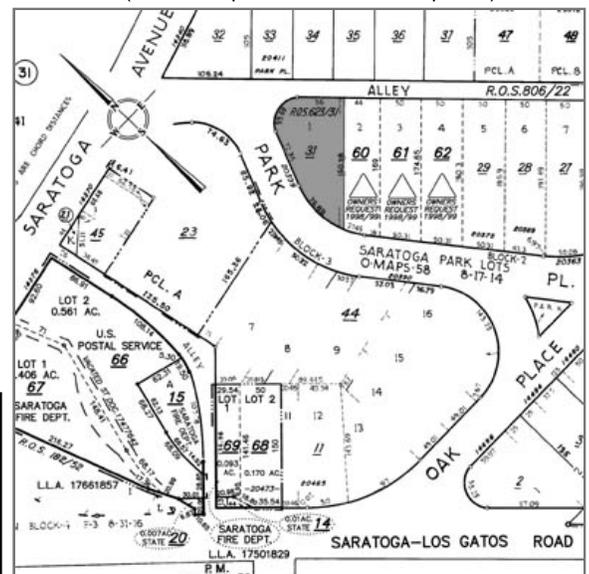
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

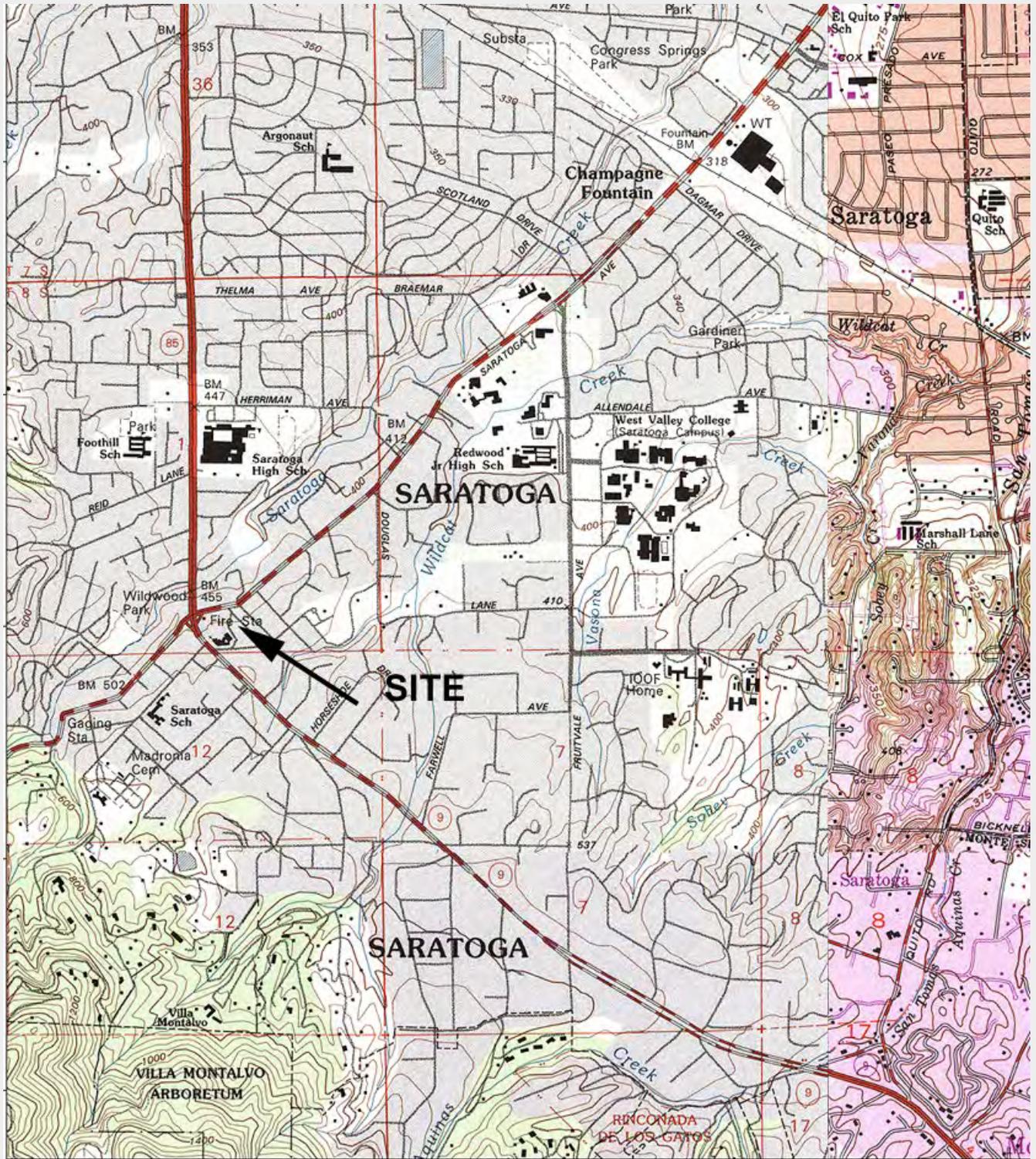
B13. Remarks: Designated Landmark Structure  
 Listed on National Register

\*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

\*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)





MN  
14°

586000m E. 587000m E. 588000m E. 589000m E. WGS84 Zone 10S  
0 1000 FEET 0 500m 1000m  
Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4 of 4 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Saratoga Foothill Club

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

*(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)*

### Historical Background

In 1915 the ladies of the Foothill Study Club solicited contributions from the community for construction of a clubhouse. The property for the building was donated by Mrs. D.C. Bell and Mrs. G.A. Wood, two women who were active in the community. Prominent architect, Julia Morgan from San Francisco, was engaged to design the building. The clubhouse was completed in 1916, and is now known as an excellent example of the Bay Region/Craftsman style. The club is noteworthy as one of "California's distinguished small redwood buildings." In 1923 the cost to build the structure was \$5,200. The Foothill Club has been in continuous use as a women's club, but is also used by the community and individuals for meetings, cultural events and receptions. The Historic American Building Survey of the Department of Interior documented the Foothill Club. The building was also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Architectural Context

Julia Morgan (1872-1957) was an architect of over 700 building in California. She is best known for her work on Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California. Born in San Francisco, she graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1894 with a degree in civil engineering, and attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, being the first woman to graduate in architecture from that acclaimed school. Returning to San Francisco, she first worked for Galen Howard who was designed the Berkeley campus at that time, and then opened her own office in 1904 in San Francisco. Her best known works not commissioned by William Randolph Hearst include a number of YWCAs, Mills College Bell Tower, Asilomar Conference Grounds, and Berkeley City Club. She was inducted into the California Hall of Fame in 2008. In Saratoga, she was the designer of the Foothill Club, Saratoga Federated Church, and a number of large residences. She also designed Montezuma Boys School in the Los Gatos foothills.

### Integrity

The Foothill Club retains its architectural design, workmanship and materials, as well as its compatible setting and original location, and the property continues to embody the significant historical associations and feelings of this resource.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Saratoga Foothill Club

other names/site number Foothill Women's Club; The Foothill Study Club

**2. Location**

street & number 20399 Park Place  not for publication

city or town Saratoga  vicinity

state California code CA county Santa Clara code 085 zip code 95070

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National  
Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Women's Clubhouse \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Women's Clubhouse \_\_\_\_\_

Community Meeting Hall \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman/Bungalow \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE \_\_\_\_\_

roof WOOD - Shake \_\_\_\_\_

walls WOOD \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

SOCIAL HISTORY 1907 - 1954

ARCHITECTURE 1915

**Significant Dates**

n/a

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Morgan, Julia 1872-1957

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CA-2014\_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Saratoga Historical Museum

Saratoga Foothill Club  
Name of Property

Santa Clara County, California  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 7,409 sq. ft. or .17 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	10S	586032	4124030			
2	—	—	—	4	—	—

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Beth Wyman, Historian

organization Saratoga Foothill Club date July 20, 2004

street & number 12231 Fredericksburg Drive telephone (408) 867-1195

city or town Saratoga state CA zip code 95070

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Copies of HABS drawings CA-2014, 1978. Various elevations of the building.

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Saratoga Foothill Club

street & number 20399 Park Place telephone (408) 867-5008

city or town Saratoga state CA zip code 95070

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse, designed by California architect, Julia Morgan, was erected in 1915 at 20399 Park Place in what was then Saratoga Village in Santa Clara County, California. It is a modestly-scaled redwood building whose bungalow-style design and low, horizontal massing, blends nicely with a well-established residential neighborhood and it complements another Morgan-designed structure located directly across the street, the 1923 Saratoga Federated Church Chapel. The Clubhouse is sited inside the 90 degree angle curve of Park Place, a city street. The one-story shingled structure with its courtyard and landscaping occupies the entire site, a slightly sloping 7,409 square foot city lot. An imposing 40' tall pine tree sets off the entrance with two original highback redwood benches. An original pergola surrounds the two sides of the building which face the street. A spacious 33' 9" x 40' 3" Assembly Room has large windows on two sides and opens onto an attractive enclosed courtyard. A 70' trellis extends from a side door of the building into the courtyard and out to the street. The building and courtyard are obscured from the street by a 5' tall hedge. A service alley runs behind the kitchen area, and at the back of the building there is a fenced property boundary.

The rooms inside include a vestibule, a hall, a dining room, an assembly room, a stage and two stage dressing rooms, a kitchen and storage area, and a mens' and a ladies' restrooms. The original interior finishes are intact and continue to emanate the comfortable ambiance created by the architect. The building's exterior and courtyard remain virtually unchanged from the 1915 original except for a 1936 expansion of the kitchen and a restroom which modified the building's footprint by adding a 6' x 54' rectangle (324 sq. ft.) to the building on the alley side. See Photo Number 4 and compare with Photo Number 5. Morgan drew up plans for the renovation project in early 1936 and the project was finished by November of that year at a cost of \$2,200. No plans were found for this project and the alteration was so skillfully completed that it is nearly indiscernible on the exterior. Inside, there is a clear difference in construction, i. e. painted plaster with no wood paneling or ceiling trusses. At the same time, the interior stage area was expanded and the anteroom adjacent to the stage was expanded by 8'. An interior pergola, shown on the original plans, HABS Sheet 10 of 10, CA2014, 1978, which apparently extended across the Assembly Room's northwest side, was also removed, the dining room was remodeled, and other minor repairs were completed.

**Current building vs. original:**

The building remains in its original historical configuration except for the 1936 kitchen addition on the alley side. The grounds were first landscaped in April 1918. An early photo of the building shows no landscaping. In 1949 and, again, during 1965-66, the garden was renovated, the landscaping expanded and new trees and shrubs planted. A sidewalk approaching the clubhouse from the street was laid in 1966. During the summer of 1975 the northeast side garden was converted into a patio; slabs of aggregate concrete were poured and divided by bricks, and low ground cover and other ornamental plants completed the natural landscape design. Today the garden is contained within a large quarter circle, extending around the building's side and rear and the 70' original trellis extends the length of the garden to the sidewalk.

The one-story building measures 74' across the front facade by 60' deep, with projections at several points around the building.

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**Description of the Exterior**

The front (nw) entrance is on Park Place. The side facing the courtyard (sw-se) is also on Park Place. The is age is at the back or fence side (se-ne) and the kitchen/restroom addition runs along the alley (ne-nw).

The exterior walls are covered with natural redwood shakes, placed in horizontal bands and alternately exposed 3"-by-12" and 3"-by 3-1/2". The roof consists of two gables, set at a right angle to one another. The gable which runs 61 feet northwest-southeast covers the Assembly Room. It is a large wooden and metal truss structure. The second gable runs southwest to northeast and is 48 feet long. The main roofs are covered with three foot shakes, exposed one foot. The front and side entry bays are protected by flat roofs, trimmed with trellis-work around the eaves.

Porches: The entry vestibule projects 7'-4" beyond the front facade. It is topped by flat-bracketed bungalow style roof and fronted by flanking wooden benches. Extending out from the side rear doorway is a bracketed wooden trellis, creating a protected walkway. Two raised porches with plain redwood railing and balusters are located at the back and alley doorways.

Chimneys: One chimney serves the dining room fireplace. A second chimney serves the basement furnace.

Doorways and Doors: The main entry has double redwood panel doors with an attached carved ornament on each. The club's name is inscribed on a redwood panel overhead. There are three additional exterior doors.

Windows: A large circular multi-paned rose window is set in the Assembly Room's northwest gable. In the center is a four-light pivoting window. Each of the three large Assembly Room openings on the front facade are filled with three window sets; each set includes a nine-light window with a three light transom overhead. Of the three window sets, only one in each opening is operable; the remaining two are fixed. Most of the other windows around the building are grouped in the same manner, with the exception of the windows on the alley side and those in the service and stage room which are six-light casements.

**Description of the Interior - Floor Plan**

Basement: A partial basement is under the stage area and a small furnace room extends under the Assembly Room. Access to the basement is through an exterior door at the rear of the dining room bay.

Main Floor: The main floor is dominated by the spacious Assembly Room. Adjoining the Assembly Room are three rooms of equal width - the vestibule, the hall, and the dining room. These culminate in the projecting bay of the dining room. The service area includes the men's and lady's dressing and restrooms, the kitchen and two pantries. Flanking this are a storage room and a stage room with a side entry.

Stairways: Three risers leading to the stage is the only interior stairway.

Floorings: Hardwood boarding covers all principal rooms. The vestibule and dressing rooms are carpeted. The kitchen, pantry and lavatories are covered with sheet linoleum.

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Wall and Ceiling Finish: In the principal rooms, redwood paneling extends ten feet up from the baseboard and plaster covers the area between the paneling and ceiling. In the Assembly Room, redwood strips are laid over plaster to suggest half-timber construction. An additional truss is suggested in the framing above the stage. The stage storage room is unfinished with ceiling and wall framing exposed. The service rooms are painted plaster. Wallpaper covers the dressing room walls. The Assembly Room ceiling is an exposed wood-and-iron truss with exposed redwood decking. Other rooms are covered with acoustical tiles.

Doorways and Doors: The doors complement the wood paneling pattern in the hall and dining room. An exception to this is the Dutch door to the left of the dining room fireplace. Two sets of accordion doors, with three-and-one-half doors in each set, are between the dining and assembly rooms. The remaining doors in the principal rooms are glass-paneled French doors, varying in the number and size of the lights.

Hardware: Most of the window and door hardware is brass and quite simple in design.

Lighting: The Assembly Room is lighted by large cylindrical hanging lamps with incandescent bulbs. Also, floor lights are attached to ceiling trusses. Most of the building is lighted by hanging incandescent fixtures. The service area has fluorescent lighting. The stage has a single row of stationary floodlights.

Heating: A central hot air furnace in the basement is connected to floor registers in the main rooms.

**Description of Alterations and Additions**

Since its construction in 1915, the Clubhouse has required constant and costly maintenance including replacement of woodwork, oiling of exterior shingles, replacement of sections damaged by termites and dry rot and four roof replacements. The Club's membership has sponsored numerous fund-raising projects to finance the upkeep and alterations.

1918 Grounds landscaped.

1921 The fireplace in the Dining Room heated the building until this year when funds were raised for a furnace. The 1921 furnace was replaced in 1955.

1922 A 6' strip of land was purchased from the adjacent property owner on the back side (se-ne) to provide better access to the cellar.

1923 A doorway was opened from the dining room into what was the original motion picture booth and remodeled as the kitchen pantry.

1925 The kitchen was fueled by wood or coal until March 1925, at which time it was electrified. The present kitchen utilities date from the 1980s.

1927 New curb and gutter installed on the street side.

1936 The only change to the footprint of the original structure has been the addition of space to the kitchen and kitchen storage. The men's dressing room was also slightly enlarged to provide a room in which guests could wait during business meetings.

1948 New roof installed.

1949 Garden renovated.

1955 New furnace installed.

1966 Garden renovated, a new walkway to the clubhouse installed and the road around the clubhouse repaved.

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**National Park Service**

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- 1974 In January, 1974, a windstorm blew through the center section of the circular rose window, breaking six of the original panes. The old rose glass was not replaceable, so crinkle amber glass was substituted. This was obtained from a supply at the Saratoga Federated Church, located across the street from Foothill Club. Two new furnaces installed.
- 1975 Renovation of the garden to the current courtyard design with aggregate and benches.
- 1980s-90s Sump pumps positioned in the basement, kitchen utilities upgraded and an automatic sprinkler system installed throughout the interior and on sections of the exterior roof.
- 1985 A new roof which was installed improperly by a contractor immediately began to leak. The building was covered with plastic for months as members hastily collected funds for a replacement roof. Legal action was initiated against the contractor and the Club eventually received a substantial settlement for the damage incurred.
- 2004 Current work includes repairing a leak in the roof and subsequent replacement of water-stained interior wall paneling.

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

We propose that the 1915 Saratoga Foothill Club has significance in two National Register criteria areas. Under Criterion A, SOCIAL HISTORY and under Criterion C, ARCHITECTURE.

**Criterion A - SOCIAL HISTORY 1907 - 1954**

The Saratoga Foothill Club, a 1915 building designed by California architect, Julia Morgan, is historically significant in the area of social history for the indisputable importance the Club has played in the civic and cultural life of Saratoga since its inception in 1907. No history of the Foothill Club building would be complete without an account of the indefatigable Club women who have not only persevered and prospered as an organization for 97 years but who have remarkably maintained uninterrupted ownership of their beloved facility.

In 1907, Saratoga Village had dirt roads and Santa Clara Valley's economy was based on agriculture. In Saratoga, fruit ranches had replaced the earlier sawmills. The chief method of local transportation was by horse and buggy. Therefore, it is no surprise that the twelve women who began meeting in January of that year as the Foothill Study Club, were as concerned about their community as they were about expanding their own horizons. As part of a turn-of-the-century trend, the organization of strong, active Women's Clubs, the Study Club members worked closely with other civic groups such as the County Grange and the Mother's Club (PTA) and they sponsored joint events with the Saratoga Improvement Association. The organization's stated goal was *"to foster and encourage intellectual and civic activities within the club and in the community."*

The Foothill Club is the oldest social organization in the city and it has been the cohesive element that kept an active group of women together to promote the welfare of the Saratoga community in civic, cultural, educational and philanthropic areas. The time periods for the women's movement and the organization of the Saratoga Foothill Club coincide. The period of significance for the Saratoga Foothill Club in its original configuration as a women's study group probably ended sometime after World War II, in 1945. A definite change in women's role and status in Santa Clara County occurred after 1950 when suburban housing replaced the orchards, cities began to expand and Saratoga was incorporated as a city. For the purposes of this application, we have ended the period of significance in 1954, based on the National Register's policy of not listing events that have occurred in the last fifty years.

**CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

As early as 1909, the Foothill Study Club launched a movement to remove unsightly billboards along Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. Since many of the billboards advertised a certain brand of butter, thirty Club members took direct action by boycotting that brand until the signs were removed.

In 1910, the women lobbied for a scenic highway through the Saratoga foothills. Although that initial effort failed, the highway was eventually protected and is now County Scenic Highway 9. In the same year, the Club voted to seek removal of an objectionable curtain at the Victory Theater in San Jose which displayed a large colored picture of a nude woman. This effort was successful and a new curtain was subsequently installed

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California Governor Hiram Johnson was an honored guest at the famed Blossom Festival in 1914. He supported national prohibition, one of the Club's continuing causes. In 1917, the women endorsed the resolution of the San Jose Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in support of an amendment to the U. S. Constitution prohibiting the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. Although later repealed, this became the 18th Amendment to the Constitution adopted in 1919.

In 1917, the Club initiated a community Memorial Day celebration which continues today and is still managed and coordinated by the Foothill Club. The ceremonies begin at the Memorial Arch in Blaney Plaza and proceed to the historical Madronia Cemetery for a patriotic program that features important speakers and involves children in all of the local schools and youth organizations.

In 1921, the Club joined forces with California's *Save the Redwoods League* urging passage of the Redwood Preservation Bill. This was an early conservation endeavor that became the basis of later successful efforts to purchase open space and to create county parklands.

In 1922, the Saratoga Investment Company had formed to improve the visual and physical entrance to the Village. They achieved their goal with the creation of Blaney Park and wanted to dissolve the company and turn over title. Since the town was not yet incorporated, the Foothill Club held the deed in trust for Blaney Park until the City of Saratoga was incorporated 34 years later.

During WWII, the Clubhouse was a center of civic related activity. On December 12, 1941, less than a week after the United States declared war, the 31st Field Artillery, Headquarters Division, was quartered in the clubhouse during the billeting of soldiers in Saratoga. Although the ladies were assured that the building would be left in perfect order, it wasn't. After two and one half months of military occupancy, the floors needed to be refinished, the stage repaired and a major cleaning of the kitchen and bathrooms was required. However, the women were dedicated to war work and often assisted the soldiers who were bivouacked in Saratoga. They regularly provided hospital kits and donated thousands of articles to the war relief and to the Red Cross.

In 1949 the Foothill Club was solidly on record in favor of having a proposed State Highway bypass the town (today's Highway 85).

Although this is outside the period of significance, it is important to mention that the first woman elected to the Saratoga City Council was Foothill Club member, Peggy Corr, appointed to City Council in 1976 and then elected for two terms. She was one of the early women office holders in a County renowned as *The Feminist Capital of the World* from 1975-1985 because so many local women were elected to office during those years.

**EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In 1912, the group proposed an ambitious project, a California history-themed *Blossom Festival*. This event included an elaborate parade with portrayals of Native Americans, Mission Padres, Mexican rancheros and Gold Rush miners. Sarah Brown, daughter of famed abolitionist, John Brown, was a Saratoga resident and a Club member who proudly led the parade in a covered wagon pulled by oxen. Other themes were chosen for subsequent years. Speeches, music and pageantry always followed the parade and these events were first held at the Saratoga Elementary School grounds on Oak Street, then moved to the Village Green, the site of the present Clubhouse. After the Clubhouse structure was built in 1915, the Festival moved to the Glen, a natural amphitheater leading from Saratoga Avenue to Saratoga Creek. The *Blossom Festival* was a regionally acclaimed affair for 28 years, until 1940. Throughout the entire period, the Club remained a Festival Co-sponsor with the Saratoga Improvement Club. Lillian Fontaine, mother of actresses Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland, was a Foothill Club member and both of her daughters often starred in *Blossom Festival* performances directed by their mother.

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In 1934, Kathleen Norris, a resident and well-known author, became a Club member and allowed her play, "Victoria" to be performed in May of 1935.

From 1917 to 1920, the Club hosted a weekly movie night at the building. A projection booth was part of Morgan's original design and a Club committee reviewed the content of the films to be shown.

In 1927 the Club members worked hard to raise funds for the construction of a community library building. Having lobbied the County Supervisors to establish a county library system, they were finally successful in 1914. However, the location of the Saratoga branch shifted from place to place around town until the new building, completely funded by community donations, was completed.

The Club's History and Landmarks Committee was founded in 1938 under the leadership of Florence Cunningham. This group recorded the history of Saratoga and amassed a priceless collection of historical records, artifacts, photos and memorabilia. After Cunningham's death in 1965, the committee incorporated as the Saratoga Historical Foundation, an organization that was instrumental in saving two structures from demolition and moving them to a new site. These buildings currently house the Saratoga Historical Museum whose holdings include the Foothill Club collection.

**PHILANTHROPIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Beginning in 1931 in conjunction with the Community Chest, and continuing until the present-day, the Club has annually served needy families in the community with hundreds of holiday food baskets.

From 1950 to the present, the Club has annually provided scholarships for as many as half a dozen outstanding high school students.

The Saratoga Foothill Club continues to be a strong and enduring force within Saratoga's social, civic and cultural community. From the beginning, the Club's annual schedule of events has included programs of broad interest on timely subjects that were open to the public. The current schedule lists monthly public lectures and the Clubhouse facility is always available for public and private use. In the last five years Club members have been active members of important community planning committees for several projects that impacted the Clubhouse property. These included construction of a new Saratoga Fire Station whose property is across the street, an addition to the Saratoga Federated Church - also across the street, and a controversial housing development adjacent to Foothill Club property. In addition, Foothill Club members participate in almost every community endeavor. These include serving on city commissions, the successful passage a library bond issue, and working with non-profit organizations on large-scale events such as the two day *Saratoga Art Show* in the spring and a week-long, multi-cultural program called *Building Bridges*. The women continue to fulfill their original goal to *foster and encourage intellectual and civic activities within the club and in the community*.

Today, in 2004, the 250 members of the Saratoga Foothill Club look forward to observing a century of continuous existence in 2007. Their plans include a grand celebration with a replication of the historic *Blossom Festival*, the purchase and permanent placement of a *Blossom Festival-themed* sculpture in the courtyard and the nomination of the building to the National Register.

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**CRITERION C – ARCHITECTURE**

The early 20th century period of social ferment which resulted in the vastly improved status of women coincides with the critical period of development of Julia Morgan's career. Through high-profile clients such as Phoebe Hearst, Morgan was in touch with the so-called women's movement and, through her University contacts, she was well-connected to the women's network in California.

Morgan's stature among women architects is indisputable. She was the first licensed female architect in the state, the first woman graduate in engineering at UC Berkeley and the first female architecture graduate of the prestigious *Ecole des Beaux Arts* in Paris. She was influenced by her friend and mentor, Bernard Maybeck, an early member of what became known as the *Bay Area School*, a group of architects who endorsed the use of natural materials, created light within structures, and used informal plans that connected the outside of a building with the interior. Morgan's design of the Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse reflected this new attitude. The Saratoga commission was her first for a private Women's Club and only one of two, the other being the Sausalito Women's Clubhouse built in 1918 which was listed on the National Register in 1993.

The Saratoga women's club, founded in 1907, began raising funds to build their own Clubhouse in 1914. They were fortunate to have two members who generously donated a plot of land and it was no surprise that they chose Julia Morgan to design and supervise the construction of their building, the Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse. Morgan was a close friend of the Club's president, Grace Fisher Richards because the two had been sorority sisters at UC Berkeley.

The Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman/Bungalow style of architecture during the early twentieth century in California. It is representative of the work of master architect, Julia Morgan, and of the *Bay Area School of the Arts and Crafts Movement*. It displays Morgan's usual concern for context in the informal design of the rustic shingled building with a welcoming entry and lobby area. Her designs for buildings of benevolent organizations were remarkable for their well-worked out plans and quiet dignity. The simple building seems as right for its site and purpose today as when it was built. Within Morgan's body of work, the building is a unique design of non-residential architecture and is a distinguishable entity in the City of Saratoga. It is one of two of Morgan's designs that have been documented by the Historic American Building Survey.

In addition, Morgan planned many projects for women clients, designing and building an extraordinary variety of institutions *commissioned by women, for use by women*, with much of the work *performed by women*. Of the 480 Morgan projects listed in Boutelle's Julia Morgan, Architect, 1995, from 1896 to 1946, more than one third were for women clients or for women's organizations. These include Mill's College, girls' schools, ladies' clubs and YWCA buildings in most of California's major cities, as well as numerous residential projects for women clients who were listed as "Mrs." During this period, women's organizations were establishing headquarters and building hospitals and orphanages for children. Concurrently, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Emanu-el Sisterhood for Jewish women both played important roles for young women who crowded into cities for relatively low-paying factory and office jobs.

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Even more relevant to the above mentioned women-related connections is the fact that Morgan also *hired* women professionals. By 1927, six of her fourteen employees were women. For an established profession, this number is remarkable, especially in the years before the 1930s Depression, the time when women began entering the job market in large numbers.

All of these activities were a daring departure for any architect at that period of time in history. Although few of Morgan's completed projects match the grandeur and scope of William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon estate, and so many are deliberately understated by the unassuming designer herself, when they are considered together, as a group, they firmly establish the growing force of *women-led organizations using women professionals* for projects *intended for women*. The emerging prominence of women as social contributors in communities was a turning point in American history and it coincided with Morgan's career. By 1915, Morgan was established in her profession, having completed work at UC Berkeley and at Mills College, taken on dozens of residential commissions, and worked with institutional groups such as churches, schools and the YWCA. That the 89 year old Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse remains structurally intact, continues to be managed and maintained by its original owners, and remains in continuous use for a wide variety of community purposes is a testament to the Morgan legacy.

The Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse was designated Saratoga Landmark No. 1 in 1988.

**Original Plans and Construction**

The original set of blueprints drawn by Julia Morgan is in possession of the Foothill Club. The specific origin of the design is not known but the building resembles several other known projects. The unique rose window is very similar to the one in the 1898 Berkeley Unitarian Church designed by A. C. Schweinfurth, another early member of the *Bay Area School*, but there is no record of such an influence on Morgan's Saratoga building. The set of blueprints consists of ten sheets, including the northwest, southwest, southeast and northeast elevations, transverse and cross sections, main floor plan, foundation plan and building details. These sheets were reproduced as measured drawings for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) collection in 1978. HABS teams studied and submitted reports for 32 historic buildings in Santa Clara County from 1977 to 1980. Their report on the bungalow as a uniquely California building type was a first, and the fact that the Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse was included in their study demonstrates their regard for its national significance.

On January 7, 1915, the *Saratoga Record* noted the opening of the new clubhouse as follows:  
*A low, shingled structure of the bungalow type, its interior shows the soft hue of unstained redwood. Particularly to be commended is the well-proportioned stage, which, with its cozy book shelves in the corner and its comparatively small dimensions, can easily be made to represent a most delightful room of almost any character. Opposite the large bay window which floods with sunlight the roomy and comfortable reception hall, is the motion picture booth . . . Also opposite the bay window is the dining room, which is in reality an alcove or wing of the main hall. The old-fashioned open fireplace in the dining room is perhaps the most attractive feature of the building.*

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**Consultants:**

- Espinosa, Gary. Longtime resident, professional appraiser, co-manager, Foothill Clubhouse,
- Halberstadt, April. Professional Historian and Curator, Saratoga Historical Foundation/Museum.
- Heid, Warren, AIA. Professional architect, longtime Saratoga resident, member of Saratoga HPC.
- Livingstone, John, Saratoga City Planner and HPC Liaison.
- Maggi, Franklin, Architectural Historian

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is located on the northwest-southwest side of Park Place, bounded on two sides by Park Place with an alley at the rear of the building and a property line fence on the southeast-southwest side. The present parcel consists of Lot 1 and six feet of Lot 2 in Block 2 of the Saratoga Park subdivision. The land in Lot 1 was given to the Club in May 1914 by two members, Mrs. George A. Wood and Mrs. Davis C. Bell. The 6' strip of land in Lot 2 was purchased in 1922 to provide better access to the cellar. The entire parcel was recorded on May 8, 1939 when both Wood and Bell executed quit claim deeds. The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Saratoga Foothill Club.

**Photographs**

1. Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place

Saratoga, CA 95070

Santa Clara County, CA

Photographer: Beth Wyman

Date: June 14, 2004

Negative C: 12231 Fredericksburg Drive Saratoga, CA 95070

Saratoga Foothill Club Entrance - NW elevation - Looking SW.

2. Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place

Saratoga, CA 95070

Santa Clara County, CA

Photographer: Gabriel Marra

Date: 2003

Negative\* 2553 Borax Drive Santa Clara, CA 95051

Saratoga Foothill Club Front Facade - NW to SW elevation - Looking NE.

3. Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place

Saratoga, CA 95070

Santa Clara County, CA

Photographer: Gabriel Ibarra

Date: 2003

Negative\*: 2553 Borax Drive

Santa Clara, CA 95051

Saratoga Foothill Club Courtyard and 70' Trellis - Looking NE.

Trellis extends from SE side of building, through the courtyard and to the street.

4. Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place

Saratoga, CA 95070

Santa Clara County, CA

Photographer: B. Wyman

Date: June 14, 2004

Negative@: 12231 Fredericksburg Drive

Saratoga, CA 95070

Saratoga Foothill Club Alley elevation - Looking NW to NE

Shows 1936 Julia Morgan-designed kitchen/dressing room alteration. Original building was enlarged by 6' x 54' addition.

5. Saratoga Foothill Club

20399 Park Place

Saratoga, CA 95070

Santa Clara County, CA

Photographer: unknown

Date: unknown

Negative@: 12231 Fredericksburg Drive

Saratoga, CA 95070

Early day photo before landscaping was installed in 1918.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

P.O. BOX 942896  
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(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824  
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov



April 12, 2005

APR 18 2005  
C. Council John L.  
CB

Ann WaltonsSmith, Mayor  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, California 95070

**Re: Saratoga Foothill Club  
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mayor WaltonsSmith:

I am pleased to notify you that on February 27, 2005, Saratoga Foothill Club was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a result of being placed on the National Register of Historic Places, this property has also been listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, pursuant to Section 4851(a)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Placement on the National Register affords a property the honor of inclusion in the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and provides a degree of protection from adverse affects resulting from federally funded or licensed projects. Registration provides a number of incentives for preservation of historic properties, including special building codes to facilitate the restoration of historic structures, and certain tax advantages.

There are no restrictions placed upon a private property owner with regard to normal use, maintenance, or sale of a property listed in the National Register. However, a project that may cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a registered property may require compliance with local ordinances or the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, registered properties damaged due to a natural disaster may be subject to the provisions of Section 5028 of the Public Resources Code regarding demolition or significant alterations, if imminent threat to life safety does not exist.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Cynthia Howse of the National Register Unit at (916) 653-6624.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer

NR Notification of Listing