

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): Memorial Arch and Landmark Plaque  
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 Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted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: Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. City Saratoga Zip 95070

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; 585855 mE/ 4124051 mN

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

east corner of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and Big Basin Way.

APN# 397-22-018

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

This simple Neoclassical arch is constructed of brick and stucco painted white. The arched opening is supported by two facing Tuscan columns; these are backed by parapeted wing walls that curve upward to the gabled pediment roof. The wing walls are accented by stucco wreath ornaments. A stucco keystone is decorated by floral bas relief. Earlier recordation forms note a red-tile roof, but the current roof is shingled. The arch was originally located across Saratoga Avenue, and is now part of a prominent wedge-shaped park at the entrance to downtown.

On the right side of the arch are listed the names of those who gave their lives in the World War I; on the left side is an inscription dedicating the crossroads park (Blaney Plaza) in honor of those citizens who serve "without reward, the public good." Below this inscription is attached a plaque designating the Village of Saratoga as State Registered Landmark #435.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP26. Monument/mural/gravestone

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



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

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
1919, 90 years old, Cunningham.

\*P7. Owner and Address:

City of Saratoga  
13777 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 #**

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**\*NRHP/CRHR Status Code** 5S3

**Resource Name** (Assigned by recorder) Memorial Arch and Landmark Plaque

B1. Historic Name: Memorial Arch and State Landmark Plaque #435

B2. Common Name: Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd.

B3. Original Use: Memorial arch

B4. Present Use: Memorial arch

**\*B5. Architectural Style:** Neoclassical

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

Constructed in 1919. Relocated in the 1960s and returned to the Blaney Plaza in 2006.

**\*B7. Moved?**  No  Yes  Unknown **Date:** 1960s

**Original Location:** Blaney Plaza. Moved to fire station and then back to Blaney Plaza in 2006.

**\*B8. Related Features:**

Blaney Plaza.

B9a. Architect: Robert Bruce Porter

b. Builder: unknown

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

**Area:** Saratoga Village

**Period of Significance:** 1919

**Property Type:** Park

**Applicable Criteria:** None

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

Memorial Arch and Landmark Plaque 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 Neoclassical style, type and period;
- d) the property is representative of a notable design by architect Robert Bruce Porter; and
- e) the property embodies unique physical characteristics that represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

Memorial Arch and Landmark Plaque also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3), as the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style from Saratoga's *City of Homes* period.

(Continued on page 4. DPR523L)

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

**\*B12. References:**

- Cunningham, F., *Saratoga's First Hundred Years*, 1967.
- Halberstadt, A. and, K. Alexander, *Images of America-Saratoga*, 2009.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1918.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

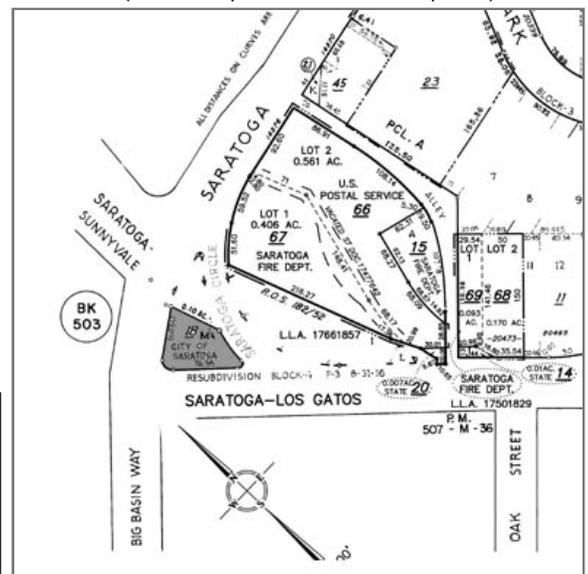
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

**\*B14. Evaluator:** Franklin Maggi

**\*Date of Evaluation:** October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

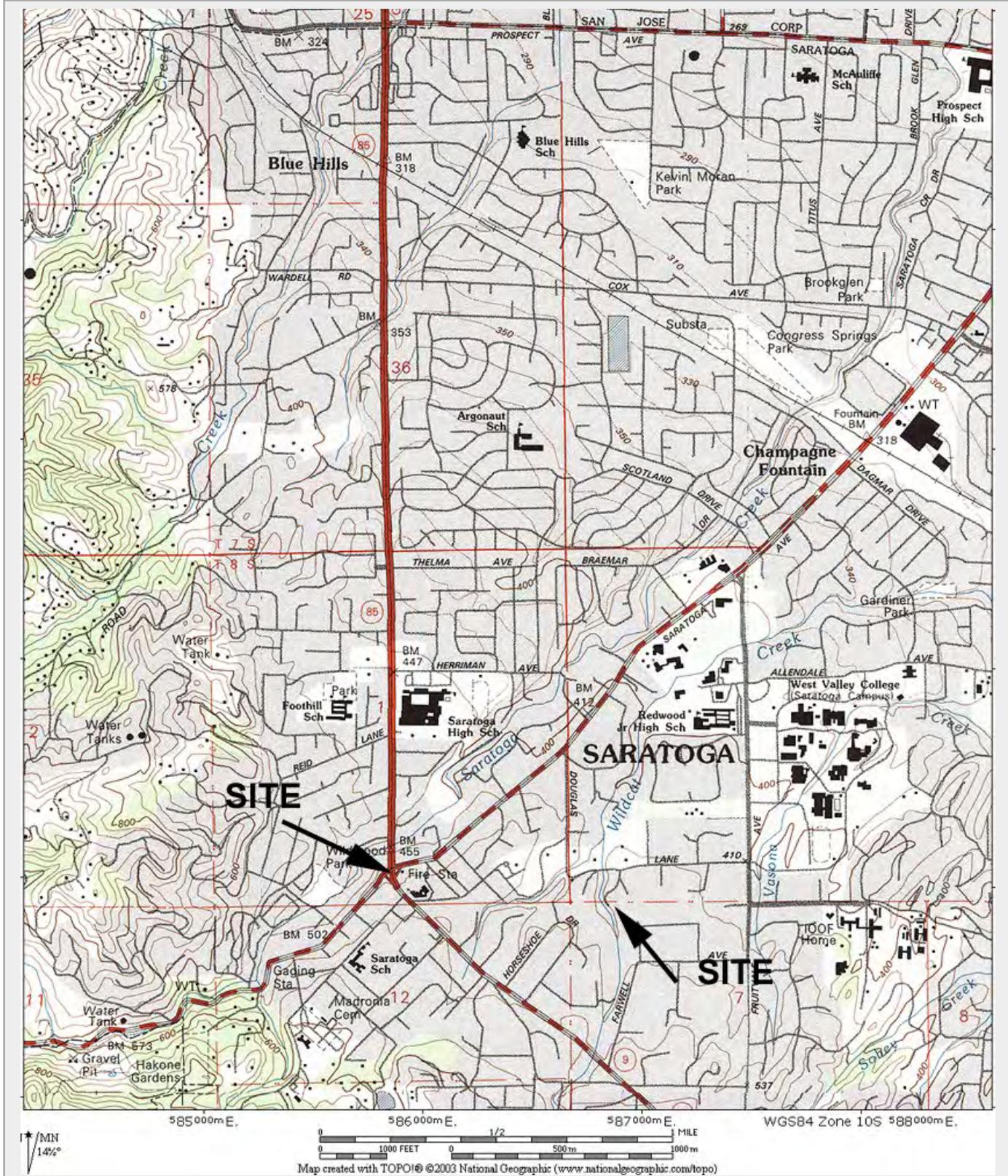
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



\* Map Name: Multiple

\* Scale: n.t.s.

\* Date of Map: Varies



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4 of 4 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Memorial Arch and Landmark

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

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

### Historical Background

The Memorial Arch was designed by architect, Bruce Porter, and erected in 1919 in Blaney Plaza. Blaney Plaza was created in 1916 when a group of ten citizens, headed by developer Charles D. Blaney, concerned with unsightliness of the entrance to town, each invested \$1,000 for the purchase of land for a small park at the crossroads of Saratoga (Big Basin Way, Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, Saratoga Ave and State Highway 9).

Bruce Porter was a painter, stained-glass designer, writer, landscape designer and art critic. He designed stained glass windows in many churches throughout Santa Clara County as well as in Monterey, Stockton and San Mateo. As a landscape designer, he created gardens at Filoli Estate in Woodside and in many private homes. The arch designed by Porter commemorates the six Saratogans who lost their lives in World War I. An inscription on the arch dedicated the park in honor of those "who serve the public good." The Memorial Arch was placed in the center of the park, flanked by Italian Stone pines and other trees.

In 1950, a plaque representing State Registered Landmark #435 was placed on the Arch by the California Centennial Commission. In the 1960s, State Highway 9 was realigned and widened to 4 lanes. This realignment necessitated not only the destruction of two buildings but also the creation of new park boundaries for Blaney Plaza. During this time, the Memorial Arch was relocated near the Fire Station. In 2006, the Memorial Arch was returned to Blaney Plaza, closer to the south end of the park.

### Integrity

Although relocated across the street from its original location, the arch retains most of its architectural design, workmanship and materials, as well as a nearby location and orientation in a compatible setting, and the structure continues to embody the historical associations and feelings of this monument.