

Other Listings  
Review Code                      Reviewer                      Date

Page 1 of 4                      \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Kerr 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 Location:     Not for Publication     Unrestricted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    Castle Rock Ridge    Date 1973    Photoinspected    T .8 S. ; R .1 W. ; Mount Diablo    B.M.

c. Address:    13361                      Argonne Dr.                      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 Argonne Drive at Glasgow.

APN# 393-32-036

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

This one-and-one-half-story bungalow is typical of the Craftsman style designed by the architectural firm of Wolfe & McKenzie. The upper story is shingled and the lower portion is tri-bevel drop siding. The distinctive crossed bargeboards flare up at the ends and are notched; these are supported by multiple decorative outlookers. The original front porch features a solid handrail that supports short, paired columns and posts. There is a large decorative quatrefoil medallion in the center of the upper level, between the symmetrical paired window units. The chimney is constructed of field stone. The upstairs rear family room was added to the house in approximately 1930. At some point, the house was reversed; the original front facade faces a high fence at Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, now the rear of the parcel. The bargeboard design is similar to, but more detailed than, the Rowen House at 13471 Saratoga Avenue.

\*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 east, July 2009.

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic     Prehistoric     Both  
c1909, from visual inspection,  
101 years old.

\*P7. Owner and Address:

James & Mary Ellen Stamos  
13361 Argonne Dr.  
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 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Kerr House

B1. Historic Name: Johnson and Leone Kerr House

B2. Common Name: 13361 Argonne Dr.

B3. Original Use: Ranch

B4. Present Use: Single family residential

\*B5. Architectural Style: Craftsman

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
 Constructed circa 1909.

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

\*B8. Related Features:  
 None.

B9a. Architect: Wolfe & McKenzie

b. Builder: John Rodoni

\*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture Area: Triangle South

Period of Significance: 1909 - 1930s 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 Kerr House is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria a and c:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga; and
- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman style, type and period.

The Kerr House also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3), as the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman house-type within Saratoga's *City of Homes* period, and represents the work of master architects Wolfe & McKenzie.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

\*B12. References:

- Interview w/ Joanne Berry, 2/88.
- Interview w/ Nick Miljeovich & Mary Miljeovich Gacamich, 6/88.
- San Jose Mercury News 1-24-1909.
- San Jose Mercury News 8-30-1917.
- San Jose Mercury News 3-10-1912.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

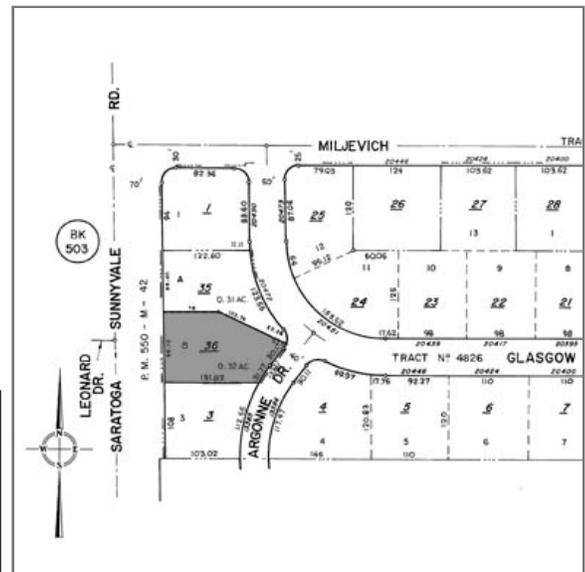
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

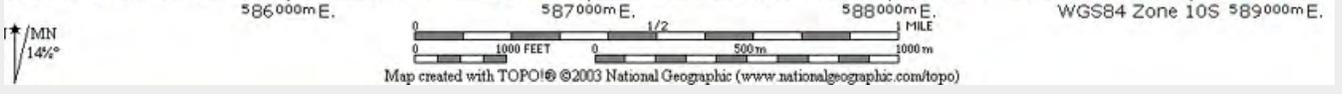
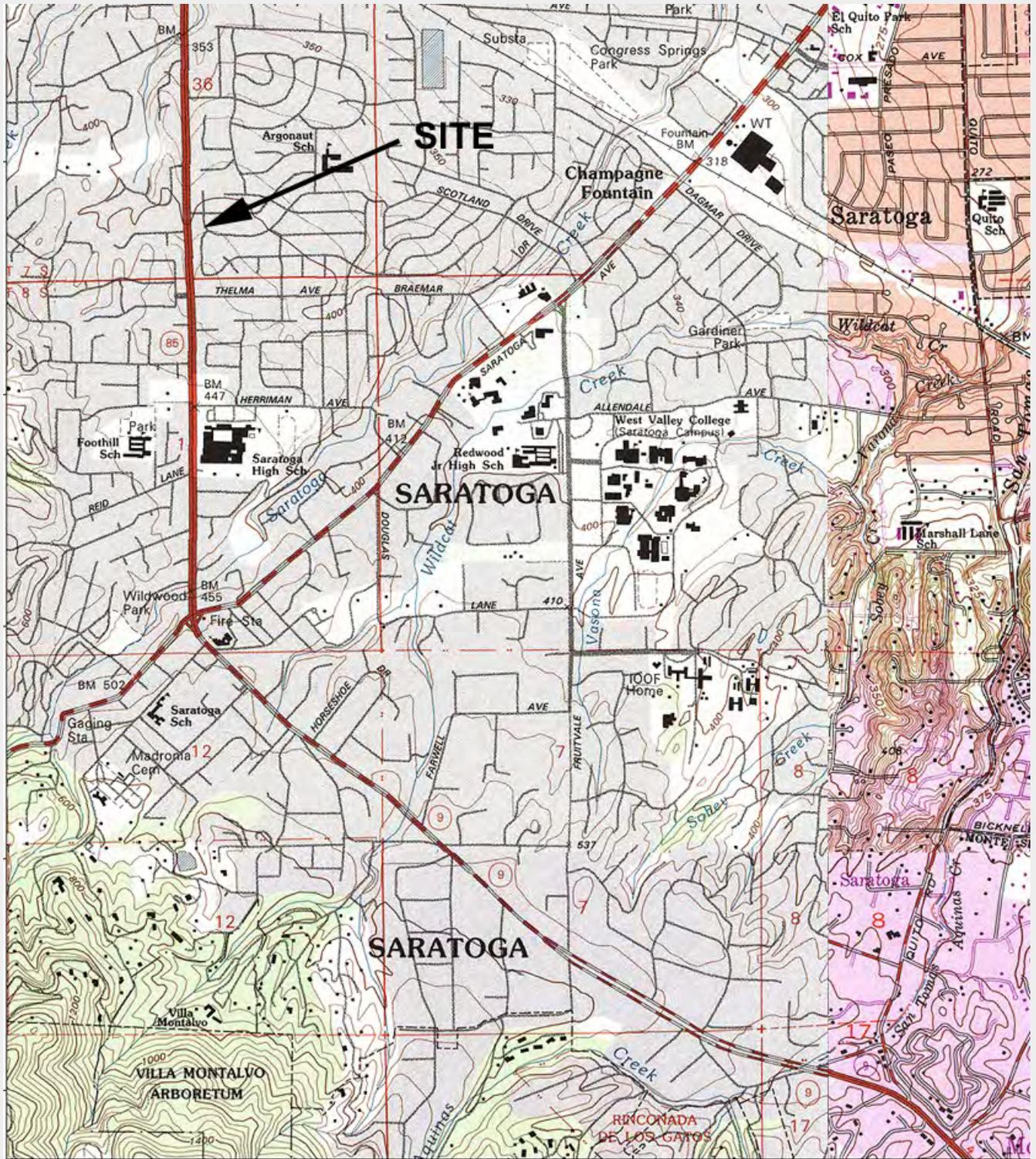
\*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

\*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





Page 4 of 4 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Kerr 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 about 1909 by contractor John Rodoni for Johnson and Leone Kerr. Johnson Kerr's father, John Kerr had come to California in the 1860s, emigrating from England. He worked in San Jose as a carpenter. Johnson Kerr was an orchardist who owned a large prune and apricot orchard ranch at this location on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road. This Craftsman house was the first ranch houses in this part of Saratoga. In 1912, a stone bridge was built at the entrance to the house. As a prominent businessman in the Saratoga area, Kerr built the Kerr Building in the Saratoga Village in 1910, and he was also one of the founders of the Saratoga State Bank in 1913. In the late 1930s, Kerr sold the house to Miya and Annie Miljevich. The Miljevich family emigrated from Yugoslavia in 1905, and owned the house until the early 1980s. Their uncle, Theodore Miljevich, had worked as a farmer for Johnson Kerr. The house has been incorporated into a 1960s-era subdivision.

**Architectural Context**

The architectural firm of Wolfe & McKenzie practiced in San Jose from the late 1890s until about 1911. Frank Delos Wolfe (1863-1926) was born in Green Springs, Ohio, and came to San Jose with his father, builder Jeremiah Wolfe and family in 1888 after working briefly for architect W. L. Ross in Newton , Kansas. First working as a builder, he established his own architectural office in 1892. Soon working with veteran architect J.O. McKee, he took over his office when McKee retired in 1894. Early designed include San Jose's Grace Lutheran Church and the King Conservatory of Music. Charles McKenzie (1874-1957), who had been working for McKee as a draftsman, became Wolfe's partner in the late 1890s, and together are responsible for many significant commercial and residential buildings in Santa Clara County. Wolfe & McKenzie designed a large portion of the prestigious houses in the Naglee Park, Palm Haven, and Shasta-Hanchett residential neighborhoods in San Jose. In 1907, they published their *102 Designs from Wolfe & McKenzie*, a pattern book that defined local residential architecture during the early years of the twentieth century. By 1911 the firm had split, Wolfe later partnering with his son Carl Wolfe, and then later Ernest Higgins. McKenzie continued to practice architecture until the beginning of World War II.

**Integrity**

The house retains much original architectural design, workmanship and materials; however, the front door location was moved, altering the historic setting, and only some of the historic associations and feelings are preserved in this property.