

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 Bank Building

P1. Other identifier: HP-88-01 HP-18

\*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 Location:     Not for Publication     Unrestricted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: 14421 Big Basin Way                      City Saratoga                      Zip 95070

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources)                      Zone 10S ; 585809 mE/ 4124038 mN

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

west side of Big Basin Way near Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd.                      APN# 503-24-059

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

This well-preserved building typifies the Classical Revival style of architecture (also known as Neoclassical) popular at the beginning of the twentieth century. The one-and-one-half-story building features a smooth, finished brick at the front facade, unusual for the South Bay Area. The structure includes a more typical and utilitarian brick design at the sides and rear. The intricate brickwork of the front facade creates three bays divided by full-height pilasters. The brick forms a full-width pedestal above a granite base, which supports four pilasters with stylized brick capitals. The building is ornamented by what appears to be a pressed-metal entablature. The entablature contains dentils and an embossed egg-and-dart molding within its Classical cornice form. Two main windows and a recessed entry door are

(Continued on page 4)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)    HP6. 1-3 story commercial building

\*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  
 1914, 95 years old.

\*P7. Owner and Address:

Leonard M Sullivan Trust  
 20570 Canyon View Dr.  
 Saratoga CA 95070-5876

\*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 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Saratoga Bank Building

B1. Historic Name: Saratoga Bank Building

B2. Common Name: 14421 Big Basin Way - The Bank Bar

B3. Original Use: Bank

B4. Present Use: Bar

\*B5. Architectural Style: Neoclassical

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

Constructed in 1913. Addition to the rear of the building.

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

Original Location: n/a

\*B8. Related Features:

None

B9a. Architect: Charles McKenzie

b. Builder: John Rodini

\*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture

Area: Saratoga Village

Period of Significance: 1913

Property Type: Commercial

Applicable Criteria: (3)

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

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

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga;
- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Neoclassical style, type and period; and
- e) the property contributes to the unique physical characteristics of The Village.

The Saratoga Bank Building also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3), as the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Neoclassical commercial building within Saratoga's *City of Homes* period, and represents the work of master architect Charles McKenzie.

(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, Alexander, Katie. *Images of America-Saratoga*, 2009.
- San Jose Evening News, Architect's Plans Completed.* 11/23/1913.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

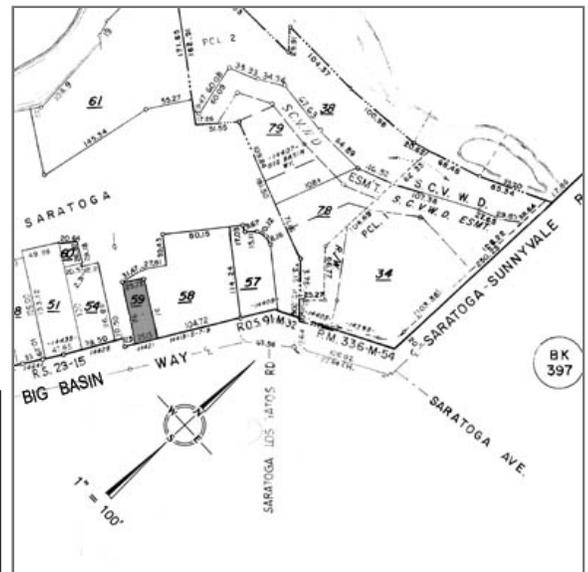
B13. Remarks: Designated Landmark Structure

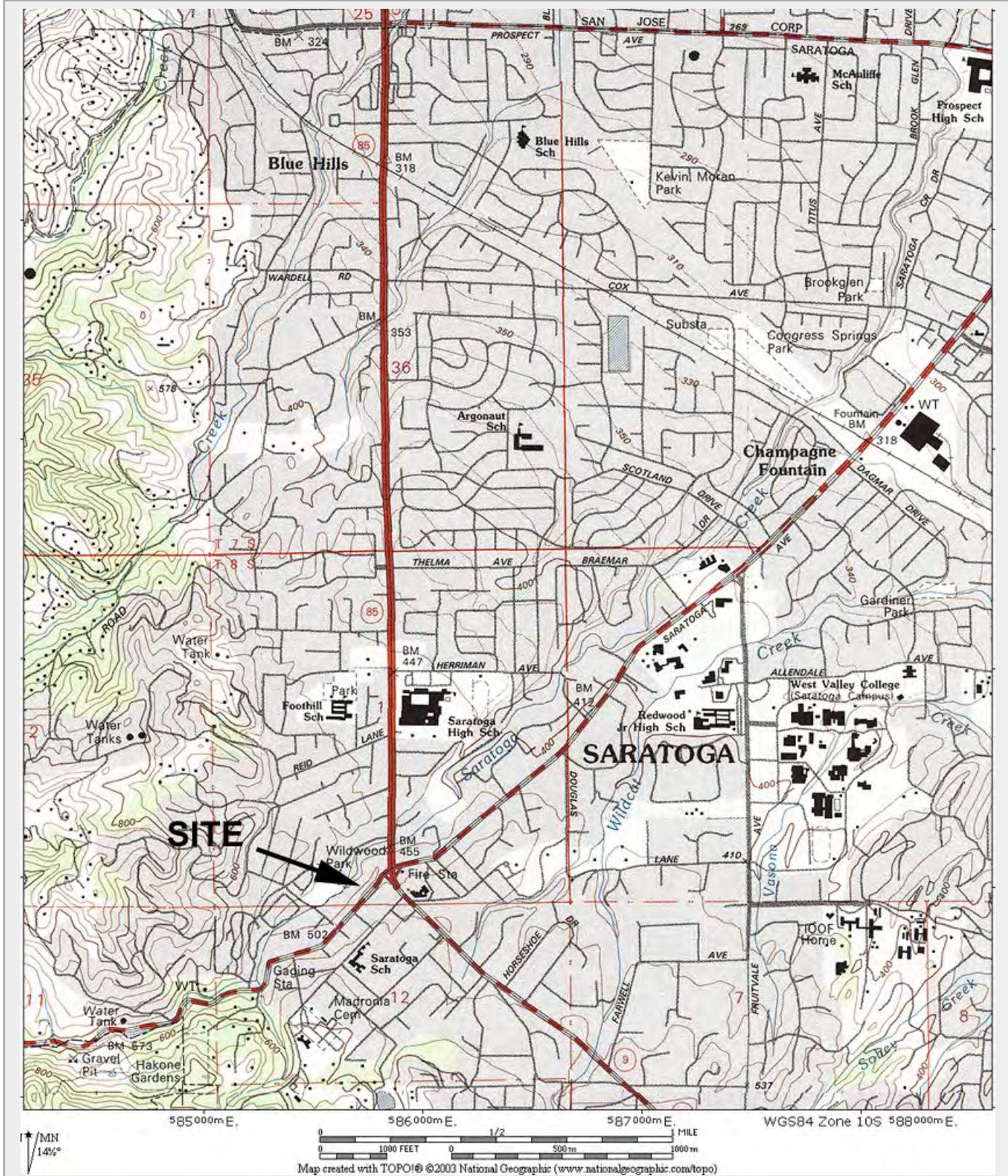
\*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

\*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) Saratoga Bank Building

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

*(Continued from page 1, DPR523a, P3a)*

inset into the bays; the three openings are topped by large transoms. Dentils accent the inset cornice-like mullions below the transoms. The recessed entry area is oak paneled, and the entry floor features mosaic hexagon ceramic tiles which spell out the word "BANK". The hexagonal design is surrounded by small square tiles in a simplified Greek key pattern. There is a large focal window near the front of the south side; it has a one-lite lower display window and a 2-lite transom above a wooden inset cornice. The two side windows near the rear are double hung and protected by heavy iron bars.

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

#### **Historical Background**

This bank building was constructed in 1913 in the commercial core of Saratoga, to serve the needs of the burgeoning population in town. The building was constructed as the Saratoga State Bank and was owned and managed by residents L.H. Schellbach, J.A Kerr, and C.P. Kjelstrup. The brick building was constructed to withstand fire and included a 'first class fire and burglar proof vault.' By 1917, it served as a a branch of the Garden City Bank of San Jose. Louis G. Heid was one of the early managers, traveling from the willow Glen area of San Jose by Peninsular Railroad each day. Garden City Bank sold the building to American Trust, who eventually closed this branch. It was later owned by The Bank of America who occupied the building until 1958, when they moved into a new building on Big Basin Way. The brick building was later occupied by a real estate firm and in the 1970s became a cocktail lounge operated by Leonard Sullivan. It now operates as the Bank Bar and the original vault remains as part of the interior decor.

#### **Architectural Context**

The building was designed by architect Charles McKenzie (1874-1957), who had established his own firm in 1911 after having been in partnership with Frank Delos Wolfe since the late 1890s. Wolfe and McKenzie are responsible for many significant commercial and residential buildings in Santa Clara County. McKenzie arrived in California as a child from Boston, Massachusetts. With no formal training, he landed a drafting position at age 18 with San Jose architect J.O. McKee, and two years later when McKee retired, he continued with Frank Delos Wolfe, soon becoming a partner which evolved into the busiest firm in Santa Clara Valley by the turn of the century. Wolfe & McKenzie designed a large portion of the prestigious houses in the Naglee Park, Palm Haven, and Shasta-Hanchett residential neighborhoods in San Jose. After establishing his own practice, Charles McKenzie continued designing projects throughout Santa Clara County for another thirty years, and is considered one of the area's more distinguished architects during the first half of the twentieth century.

#### **Integrity**

The building retains adequate architectural design, workmanship and materials, as well as a compatible setting within Saratoga Village, and continues to represent the historical associations and feelings of this commercial property.