

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): Madrone Hill site

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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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: Madrone Hill Rd. 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)

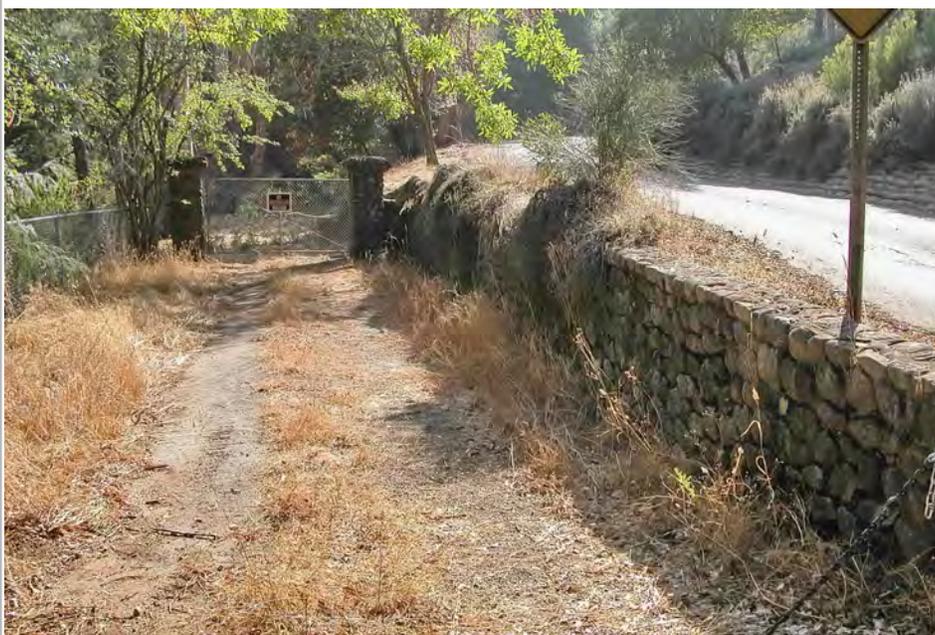
southeast side of Madrone Hill Road west of Peach Hill Road. APN# 517-38-001, -002

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

The site is not generally visible from the public right-of-way, and is surrounded by a number of developed residential properties. The focus of what was once a 22-acre site are the approximately 5 acres of improved garden hardscape consisting of stone walls (reportedly totaling about 4,000 linear feet of varying height), fountains and ponds. Also identified were several pedestrian bridges and one large arched bridge large that could accommodate a car, but designed for non-vehicular foot traffic. As of 1988, when the site was first recorded, there were some remnants of extensive gardens, most prominent being a stand of bamboo. The hilly site is accessed by a long driveway lined with rock walls that drops off Madrone Hill Road. A large rock wall lines a drive that winds to the near the top of this site from Peach Hill Road.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP46. Walls/gates/fences

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
(View, date, accession #)
View facing southwest, October 2005.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

Historic Prehistoric Both
c1930, 79 years old.

*P7. Owner and Address:

Leslie Pelio
14573 Big Basin Way
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 #

Page 2 of 4

*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Madrone Hill site

B1. Historic Name: Scannavino House site (Piedmont Ranch)

B2. Common Name: Madrone Hill Road

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: Vacant

*B5. Architectural Style: Mediterranean Gardens

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

Cottage on site apparently demolished in 1979.

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

Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

Residence no longer extant.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture

Area: Glen Una

Period of Significance: c1930 - c1950

Property Type: Residential

Applicable Criteria: (1), (2), (3)

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

Madrone Hill site is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria c and g:

- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Interwar Period; and
- g) the property embodies a unique natural setting constituting a distinct area within Saratoga having special character and special historical and aesthetic interest and value.

Madrone Hill site may be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (1), (2), or(3), given more information about the site.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

*B12. References:

- DiManto, John, interview in 1988.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.
- Real estate sales brochure, 1937.
- McMillan, Map of Santa Clara County, 1903.

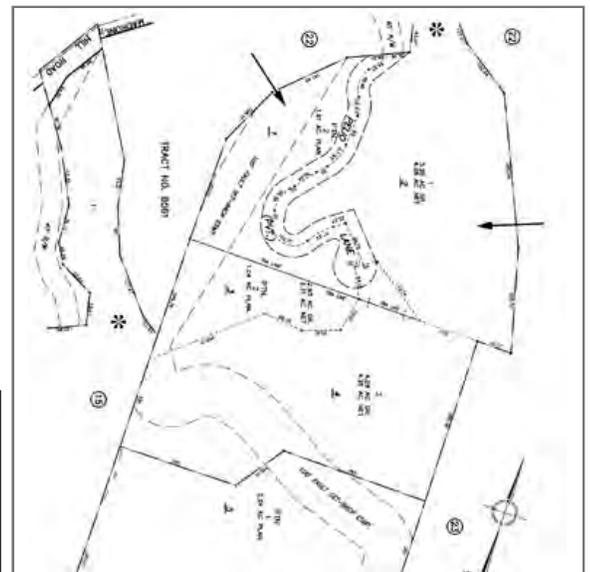
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

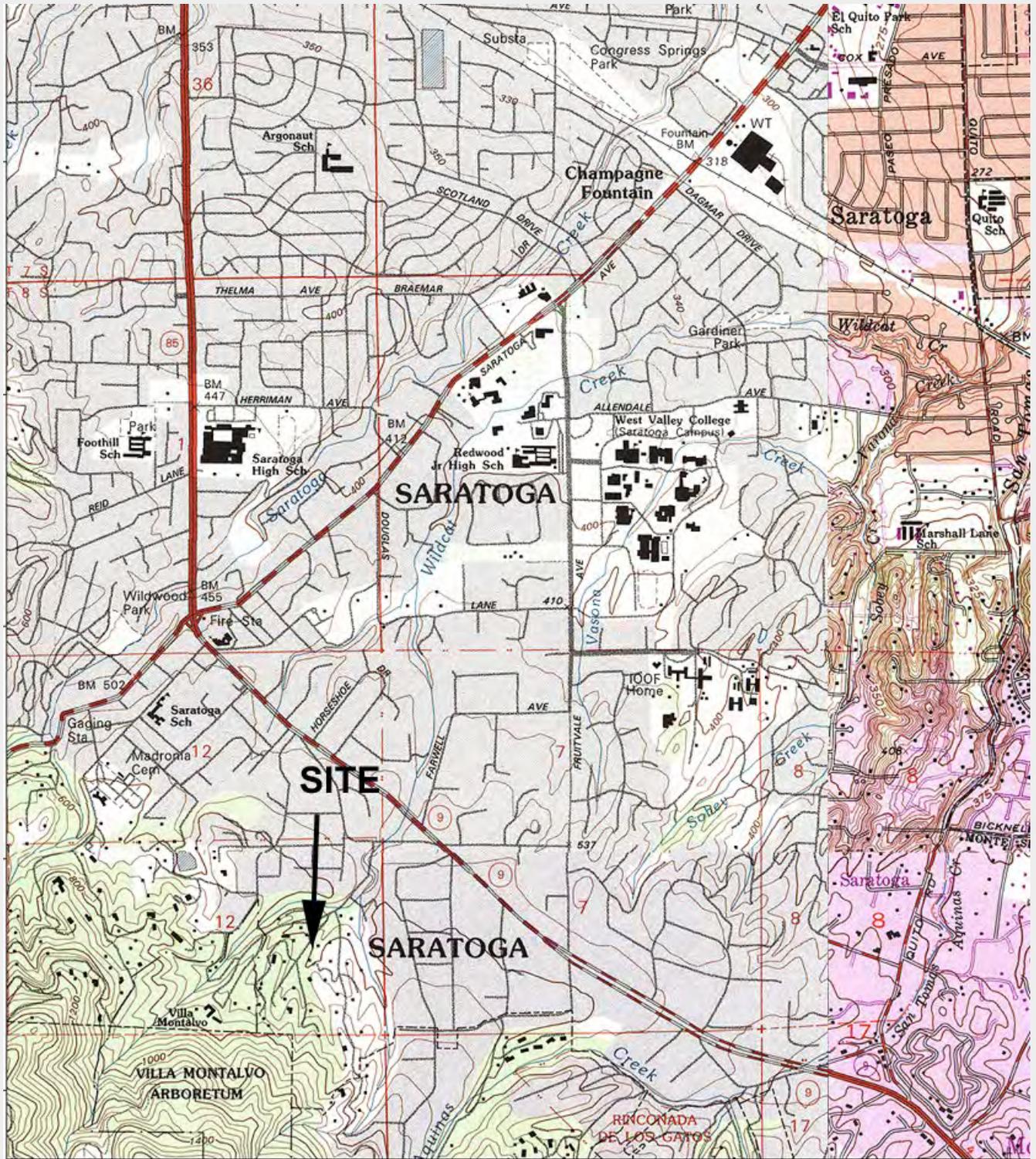
*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





MN
14°

586000m E. 587000m E. 588000m E. 589000m E. WGS84 Zone 10S
0 1000 FEET 0 1/2 500m 3000m MILE
Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Page 4 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Madrone Hill site

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

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

Historical Background

This site is nestled between Madrone Hill and Peach Hill Roads. It was once a portion of a larger 110-acres site acquired by James T. Richards from Hannah McCarty in 1889.

James T. Richards was born about 1855 in New York and came to Saratoga from Connecticut. He had graduated from Yale with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, working for H. W. Johns Asbestos Company (later to become Johns Manville), but relocated to California for health reasons. The property he purchased was jointly owned by his brother-in-law Henry Plant and his wife Mary. Richards quickly became a pioneer orchardist in the growing prune industry, collaborating with Lawrence Russell in a cooperative fruit drying plant located to the north of the village of Saratoga that is considered the first of the type in the area.

By 1903, the original 110 acres had been reduced to 31 acres, jointed owned by F. A. Stone. In 1908 he began to subdivide his holdings in earnest, part being the Bonnie Bray subdivision No. 1 of 1908 located northwest of Piedmont Road. He sold off land to Senator James Phelan (20 acres), that would later become the site of Montalvo, and land between Senator James Phelan and his property along Peach Hill Road would be developed as the Piedmont Subdivision No. 1 (Maps M:99). The Richards residence, which he resided in with his first wife Carrie, was somewhere on this hillside, and is said to have been a two-story Colonial-style house, according to informant, local historian Willys Peck.

Richards would continue to be a prominent Saratoga land developer during the next thirty or so years, his activities continuing into the 1940s. The site with the extant rock walls appears to have been split just after World War I, and an informant in 1988 indicated that a cottage was built on this site by John A. Scannavino. The rock was said to have been imported from Knight's Ferry (fieldtone) and Sonoma County (Napa Stone). The improvements took four local workers skilled in rock work, three years to complete. Scannavino was said to have been one of the early investors in the Bank of Italy, although it appears that he was a dentist who was living in Oakland during the early part of the twentieth century. His wife Violet is identified as living on the property in the 1930s, and is associated with the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation.

Integrity

The integrity of this property cannot be determined for this survey.