



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) Saratoga Grammar School

B1. Historic Name: Saratoga School, Oak Street School

B2. Common Name: 14592 Oak St. - Saratoga Grammar School

B3. Original Use: Grammar School

B4. Present Use: Elementary School (K-6)

\*B5. Architectural Style: Spanish Eclectic

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

Constructed 1923. Terra cotta roofing tiles replaced by asphalt shingles, handicap ramp added. Seismic upgrade 1973.

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

Original Location: n/a

\*B8. Related Features:

None

B9a. Architect: Ralph Wyckoff

b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Religion and Education

Area: Saratoga Village

Period of Significance: 1923

Property Type: Educational

Applicable Criteria: (1), (3)

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

Saratoga Grammer School is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria a, e, and f:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga;
- e) the property embodies unique physical characteristics that represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood; and
- f) the property represented a significant concentration or continuity of site or buildings unified by past development.

Saratoga Grammar School also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (1) and (3), as the school embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Spanish Eclectic style withn Saratoga's *City of Homes* period, represents the work of master architects Ralph Wyckoff, and is a unique remaining building associated with early education in Saratoga. *(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)*

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

\*B12. References:

- San Jose Evening News*, Saratoga School Plans Discussed, 10/15/1922.
- Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

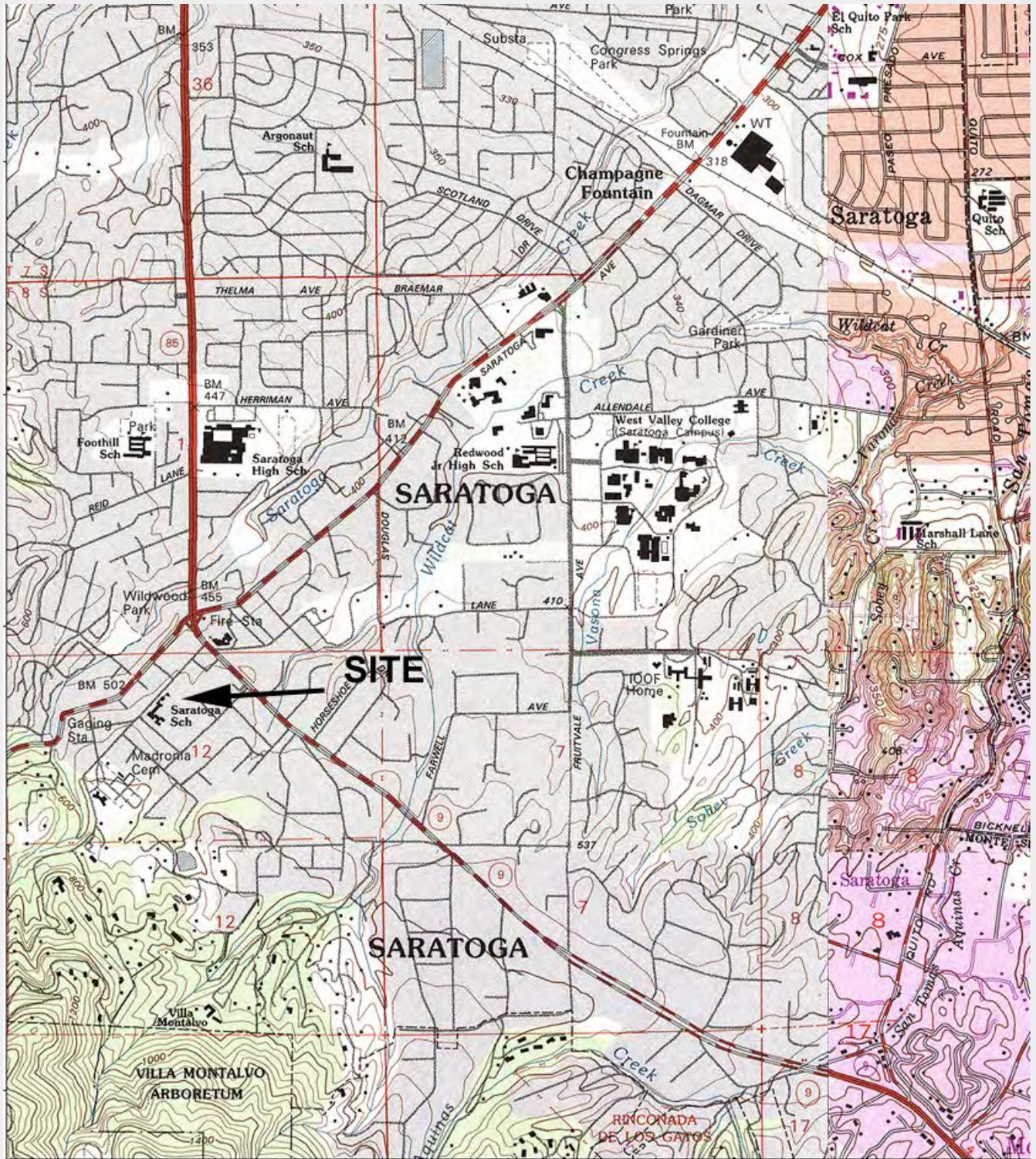
\*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

\*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





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)

Page 4 of 4 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Saratoga Grammar School

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

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

**Historical Background**

This school building has been in operation continuously since it was built, and is the third school building on this site. The school was first established in 1854 when the Sons of Temperance Hall was erected, and the site served as the first public school and community center. In 1923, the first unit of today's Saratoga School was erected. In front of the school stands the now silent bell of the 1897 school. Perhaps the most famous of its students were Olivia DeHavilland and Joan Fontaine. Olivia was the editor of the school's first newspaper, published in Feb., 1931.

The area of the school site is 5.35 acres. It was built in 1923-24, with six additional rooms added in mid-thirties.

**Architectural Context**

Ralph Wyckoff (1884-1956), a native of Watsonville, practiced in San Francisco, Berkeley, Salinas and Watsonville before coming to San José in 1922. He originally had trained under William H. Weeks, and received his certificate in architecture in 1914 after studying at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, where he attended on scholarship. Taking over the practice of H. B. Douglas in Watsonville, he then joined with Hugh White in Salinas in 1919 to 1921, in this period designing the Tudor-style Watsonville Woman's Club of 1917, the Salinas High School in 1920, and a number of buildings at Hartnell Junior College. Moving to San José he continued his association with White until 1925. The most significant design in San José remains the North First Street Post Office building, a 1933 Spanish Eclectic design for WPA, currently listed on the National Register. During this period he designed the San Jose State Science Building (currently Washington Square Hall), Willow Glen Grammar School, and later the Anne Darling School and in San José and the Washington School in Santa Clara. His work during the last two decades of his life has not been studied in detail. He was an early modernist, designing the late Art Deco San Jose National Bank on West Santa Clara Street in the early 1940s. In the 1950s, his designs included modern structures such the Levi Straus plant on Terraine Street and buildings at San José State College such Wahlquist Library and the Speech and Drama Building.

**Integrity**

Although altered over time with roof replacement, construction of additions, and seismic upgrading, the building retains adequate character-defining architectural design, workmanship and materials, as well a compatible setting and original location, and the property continues to represent the historic associations and feelings over time of this school.