

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) Hanchett House

B1. Historic Name: Hanchette House

B2. Common Name: 14524 Oak St.

B3. Original Use: Single family residential

B4. Present Use: Single family residential

*B5. Architectural Style: Shingle

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

Main House built circa 1906; rear addition 1950s/1960s; modified for apartments after 1941. Rehabilitated after mid-2003.

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

*B8. Related Features:

Two-car garage to rear. A related property to the rear.

B9a. Architect: Wolfe & McKenzie

b. Builder: John Rodoni (probable)

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture

Area: Saratoga Village

Period of Significance: 1906

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 Hanchett House is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under criteria c and e:

- c) the property embodies distinctive characteristics of the Shingle style, type and period; and
- e) the property embodies unique physical characteristics that represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

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

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

*B12. References:

Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

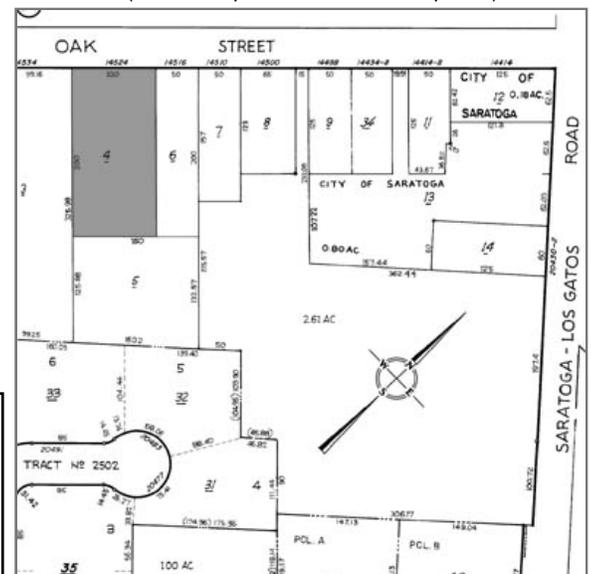
B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

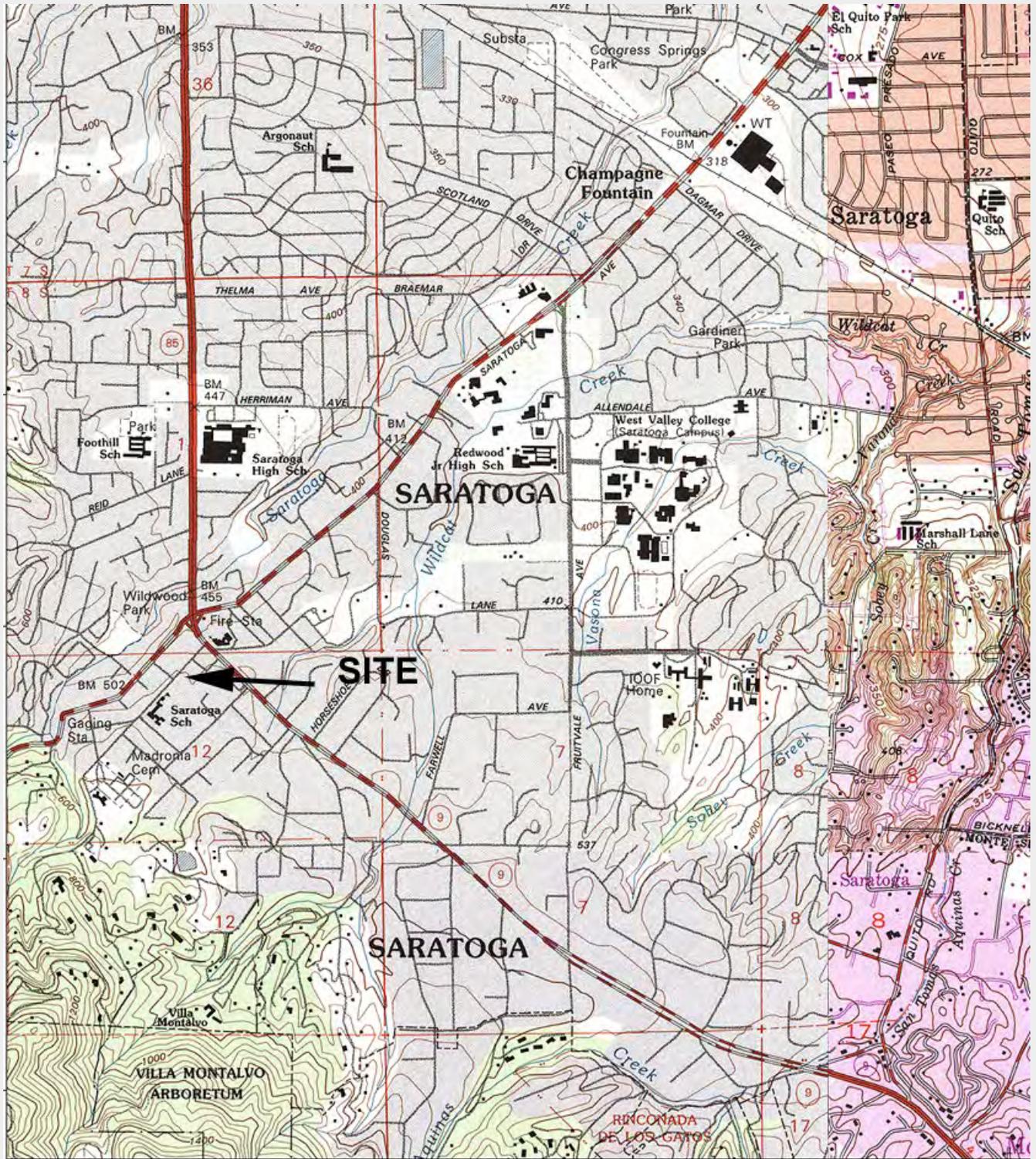
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



* Map Name: Multiple

* Scale: n.t.s.

* Date of Map: Varies



MN
14°

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

State of California – The Resources Agency
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PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 9 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 14524 Oak Street, Saratoga

P1. Other Identifier: 14524 Oak Street, Saratoga, CA

*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, Calif. Date Revised 1980 T 8S ; R 2W ; B.M. Mount Diablo
c. Address 14524 Oak Street City Saratoga Zip 95070
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone ; 10S 585800 mE/ 4123800 mN
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 517-10-004 and 517-10-005

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

Setting

There are three residences on these two adjoining parcels in Saratoga on Oak Street near Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and Fourth Street in the downtown area. The main house faces Oak Street; two cottages are located to the rear. Two detached garages are also found on the site. The site is heavily wooded with mature oaks and other large trees.

Main House

The main house is generally rectangular in plan, but a series of cantilevers and recesses add complexity to its footprint and form. The distinctive house with Shingle-Style influences is two-and-one-half stories in height with a partial basement. It is built of wood frame construction supported on a concrete perimeter footing that is battered and sloped, and it has internal girders and columns on mudsills. The exterior is clad with painted shingles; however, the house is covered in vines, so much of the design detailing is concealed.
(Continued on page 3, DPR523L)

*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 #)

Street Façade from west,
04/22/03

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:
 Historic Prehistoric Both

1906 / Deed, Census Records,
and Directories

*P7. Owner and Address:

[Estate of]
Haroldine Hirschfeld
14524 Oak Street
Saratoga, CA 95070

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)
Leslie Dill/April Halberstadt
Dill Design Group

110 North Santa Cruz
Los Gatos, CA 95030

*P9. Date Recorded: June 3, 2003

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Historical and Architectural Evaluation of two parcels at 14524 Oak Street, Saratoga, by Dill Design Group, June 3, 2003

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling State Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List)

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*NRHP Status Code

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 14524 Oak Street, Saratoga

B1. Historic Name: Parsons House

B2. Common Name: None

B3. Original use: Single Family Residential **B4. Present Use:** Multi-family Residential

***B5. Architectural Style:** Shingle Style influences

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

Main House built circa 1906; rear addition 1950s or 1960s from appearance; modified for apartments after 1941, according to prior resident; roofing changed from wood shingles to corrugated metal, date unknown.

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**

***B8. Related Features:**

Two residential cottages, two detached garages

B9a Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: John Rodoni (likely)

***B10. Significance:** **Theme** Architecture and Shelter **Area** City of Saratoga

Period of Significance Circa 1905 **Property Type** Residential **Applicable Criteria** n/a

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

History of Main Residence

The house on Oak Street, now listed at 14524 Oak Street, appears to have had only three owners in its nearly 100-year history. It was constructed just after the 1906 earthquake for Edward Parsons and his family.

Parsons Family (1905 to 1920 or 1921)

Edward W. Parsons acquired his building lot of 150' x 250' from a widow named Starr Bruce in April of 1905. (Book of Deeds 291: Page 438). The Parsons family apparently moved to California from New York and first appeared in local directories in 1893. Mr. Parsons's occupation was listed as nurseryman. The family was living in San Jose on The Alameda. Two years later, the family moved to a house at 313 South 10th Street, San Jose, near San Jose Normal School. Soon after 1896, Edward Parsons changed his occupation from nurseryman to bookkeeper, and worked for Charles D. Blaney and Company in San Jose at 33 West Santa Clara Street.

A few years later Edward Parsons began work for another title company, San Jose Abstract Company. His occupation is listed as bookkeeper. He purchased the Saratoga lot in 1905, and moved his family in when the house was completed in 1906. According the 1910 census, (Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

***B12. References:**

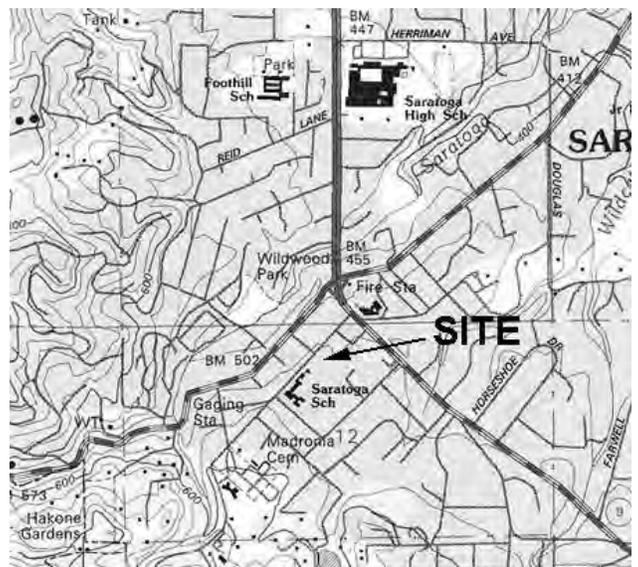
(Continued on page 6, DPR523L)

B13. Remarks:

***B14. Evaluator:** Leslie A.G. Dill

***Date of Evaluation:** June 3, 2003

(This space reserved for official comments.)



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(Continued from Page 1, DPR523A, P3a)

The current front of the house (facing northwest toward Oak Street) has a full-width, moderate-pitch gable end with deeply curved bell-cast eaves. The southwest side (original front) features a wide, two-story gambrel dormer at the center of the roof. The rear (east) of the house has a full-width gable with a lower, projecting gabled wing and two one-story additions. The original gables at the rear have bell-cast eaves. A one-story addition at the south corner of the house has a modern shed roof sloping to the rear; it has exposed 4x rafter tails. A one-story enclosed porch addition with a shed roof is attached to the original rear of the house. The northeast side of the main house has a series of recent dormers with shed roofs, which surround and partially conceal an original shed-roofed dormer. The roofing is corrugated galvanized steel. The eaves have curved exposed rafter tails supporting beaded board sheathing.

The windows include one-over-one double-hung wood windows with traditional sash proportion, but also include a number of windows with a much smaller upper sash and a much larger, square lower sash. The windows are trimmed with shaped casings and aprons unless otherwise noted.

On the street façade (west), the ground floor features a centered pair of entry doors that are not original. Surrounding the doors is a wrought-iron entry trellis. The transom above the doors may be original. The southwest half of the first floor has a pair of original double-hung windows; the northeast half has a series of three, recent fixed windows. Above the entry doors is a centered pair of double-hung windows at the second floor and a pair of side-by-side casement windows at the third level with plain trim. The second floor is cantilevered slightly out from the main floor; it is supported on a series of curved block brackets and trimmed with beaded board moldings.

The southwest side has a large added wooden staircase and second-story deck for access to the second-story apartments. Toward the front of the house is a projecting room with two original windows. The rear half of the original ground floor is recessed to create a covered patio. There are three original windows and a wide door set into this area. At the rear of the house is a modern addition with fixed windows facing southwest. Above the roofline on this side, at the gambrel second story dormer, are a collection of recent doors and windows in no particular pattern; a single, fixed window is centered in the gable end at the third floor, sheltered by a cantilevered shed roof with fiberglass corrugated roofing.

The rear (east) façade is obscured by an amassed collection of added decks and rooms. Original windows light the original main block of the house. The original upper floors are slightly cantilevered with brackets and trim that match the front elevation. The fenestration at the original projecting wing included a bay window with side windows and a center doorway (these are preserved on the interior of the addition). Fixed windows have been added at the rear one-story enclosed porch addition, and a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows flanks a fixed picture window at the rear of the south room addition.

The northeast side is also obscured by modern redwood stairs and decks. The main dormer addition projects to the edge of the roof, but the original dormer was set back behind the curved eaves. A new dormer pops up to the southeast side of the original dormer. It is built of corrugated fiberglass roofing. The front half of this side of the house includes a subtle cantilever of the second-floor wall near the eaves. Original windows are still extant on this elevation.

Interior of Main House

The interior of the main house has some original features although some modifications have changed the detailing and spatial relationships of the residence. Such original details as fireplace mantels, wood wainscoting, door and window trim, and ceiling beams are still extant on the main floor.

Wooden Detached Garage

The detached garage directly to the east of the house is built of posts and beams with vertical board siding and a flat roof covered with built-up roofing.

North Cottage

At the northeastern corner of the site, behind the adjacent parcel, is a one-story house with an "L" shaped plan. The main portion of the cottage has a gabled roof from front to back (southwest to northeast) with exposed rafter tails at the moderate eaves. To the rear on the southeast side is a very low-sloped shed addition. The structure is clad with

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*Recorded by L. Dill and A. Halberstadt *Date 06/03/03 Continuation Update

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horizontal v-groove siding and rests on a concrete footing. The front door faces southwest; it is sheltered under a cantilevered shed porch roof supported by angled posts. To the southeast is a pair of French doors. The original windows were wood sliders with six-lite sash. Additional fenestration includes aluminum sliders.

Metal Detached Garage

The detached garage directly to the west of the north cottage is clad with corrugated galvanized steel siding and a painted metal sliding door.

South Cottage

To the south of the main house, separated by woodland-type landscaping and a meandering path, is a small "L" shaped residence with a low-slope gabled roof. The house has plywood siding, a shake roof, and a slab foundation. The front door wall is set at an angle in the corner where the two wings meet. Windows are bronze-anodized aluminum sliders and fixed units.

(Continued from Page 2, DPR523B, B10)

the family members living at the Oak Street house then included Edward W. Parsons, a 59 year-old widower and his 31-year old daughter Edith. Mr. Parsons listed his occupation as bookkeeper in the census records. A search of real estate records shows that Parsons held a substantial number of properties in trust for various individuals - perhaps as part of his professional responsibilities.

The Parsons household later included Anna F. Taber, Edward's 83-year old mother-in-law and her daughter Cornelia, a single woman of age 53. There were also two women listed on the census as servants. A search of the death records and the wills filed in Superior Court reveals that the Taber family moved from New York. Anna Taber wrote a will in 1905, probably upon her relocation to California, and died in 1911 (Book P of Wills: Page 318-321). Provisions of the will leave half of her properties to her surviving daughter Cornelia and the remaining half to her two grandchildren, Edith and Gus Parsons, children of her deceased daughter Mary. Edith Parsons is mentioned by historian Florence Cunningham as the person who landscaped the grounds in Blaney Plaza surrounding the Memorial Arch. Blaney Plaza is one of Saratoga's most prominent landmarks, located in the heart of Saratoga Village at the Saratoga Crossroads, corner of Saratoga Road and the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road (Highway 9).

The Parsons family was still listed at the Oak Street house in the 1920 census, although the family composition had changed. Mr. Parsons was by then 70 and listed his occupation as "retired". He had remarried, his new wife was named Florence and she was 49 years old, born in England. Two little girls, ages 6 and 7, were also in the household.

The Hanchett Family (1919 to 1941)

The house on Oak Street was purchased by Lorraine J. and Sibyl Hanchett in 1919. Real estate documents show the seller as T. S. Montgomery acting as a trustee. The purchase contract was completed in 1921. According to informant Hilda Hanchett Fourman, the youngest daughter, the Hanchett family had lived in a smaller house nearby before buying the subject properties. Hilda was born in 1920 and lived in the house before her marriage.

Census records for 1920 show that the Hanchett family was also an extended family with three generations in the area. They were not listed at the Oak Street house in the 1920 census. In addition to Lorraine and Sibyl there were three children listed in the census, Barbara (8), Edward (7) and William (5). Mary Hanchett (age 61) is listed as renting a home next door with her daughter Grace (age 40).

L. J. Hanchett was a cousin to the noted local railroad builder and real estate developer, Lewis "Lew" Hanchett. Lew Hanchett was a significant Santa Clara figure and is noted for his involvement in building the Peninsular Railway, the first suburban rail system in Santa Clara County. He built the Hanchett Park subdivision on The Alameda near downtown San Jose, primarily to showcase his railway development.

(Continued on page 5, DPR523L)

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Lorraine Hanchett worked in a number of positions for his more prominent cousin, acting as a sales representative for the Hanchett Park development and later became the Saratoga stationmaster for the Peninsular Interurban Railroad Company. Lorraine J. Hanchett also worked as a manager for the Pratt-Low Canning Company until changes in the apricot industry forced the closure of the canneries in the County. His wife, Sibyl Hanchett, was a noted music teacher who taught music and piano at San Jose Normal School, now San Jose State. She also had many private students. In later years the Hanchetts separated, and eventually divorced. Sibyl remarried, and became Mrs. Marcus Schneller.

The Wurtsbaugh-Hirschfeld Family (1943 to 2003)

After the Hanchett family's tenure, members of the same family owned the subject properties for about sixty years. The house and front parcel was purchased from Mrs. Sibyl Schneller (Hanchett) in the early 1940's by Harold and Marguerite Wurtsbaugh. The transaction completed in 1947. (Book 1440 Official Records: P 96). In March of 1950, the parcel at the rear was sold by Sibyl Schneller to the Wurtsbaughs (1966 Deeds: P587). After the deaths of Harold and Marguerite Wurtsbaugh, the properties passed to their daughter Haroldina (Dina) Wurtsbaugh Hirschfeld. Mrs. Hirschfeld owned the properties until her death in 2002.

George Harold Wurtsbaugh was born in Illinois in 1896. His occupation is listed as a farmer and orchardist. He lived to be 90 and died in 1986. His wife Marguerite survived him by one year. She was born in 1899, taught at the University of California and passed away in 1987 at the age of 88. Many Saratoga area residents remember the Wurtsbaughs with great fondness because of their interest in the arts. They reportedly had a passion for gardening and for respecting the natural environment. Mrs. Hirschfeld had a local reputation as an artist and sculptor.

John Rodoni

According to a former resident of the subject house, the residence was built by John Rodoni. Building permits and contract information about early Saratoga homes are not currently available, so anecdotal information is the best current source. Since it is known that Rodoni built many of Saratoga's extant businesses and residences, there is a strong likelihood that Rodoni was indeed the builder.

John Rodoni was born in Mountain View in 1869. He attended school in Mayfield and in the Booker School District and then found a job as a teamster, hauling lumber from the Carmichael mill just over the summit from Saratoga. (Sawyer: P 1563)

John went from being a lumber teamster to being a lumber contractor, providing all the material for various construction projects. He worked as a teamster and contractor for about 18 years. In 1906, just after the earthquake, he began work as a general contractor, building and rebuilding many of the buildings in Saratoga Village. He built the Hogg Building and the brick Saratoga State Bank on Big Basin Way; both these landmarks are still standing. He also built the telephone office, the local garage (filling station) and the powerhouse for the Interurban, all of which have been demolished.

Rodoni was also the builder for an early residential development on La Paloma. He is reported to have built "many of the finest homes in Saratoga, designing and building his own plans, and also does general contracting, road building and cement and concrete work." (Sawyer: P 1563) John Rodoni was about 35 years old when he began his career as a builder.

Significance

The main house that fronts on Oak Street is architecturally significant on a local level. It is a distinctive example of Shingle Style design, including its form and detailing. The proportions of the bell-cast eaves, the gambrel dormer, the window sash, and the cantilevered upper floors are particularly well executed. The style is not common in the area; however, the house is compatible with its surroundings. Although the interiors have been altered to a large degree and the exterior has had modifications to accommodate the upper level apartments, the exterior modifications are generally reversible, and the majority of the

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(Continued from Page 5, DPR523L, B10)

house retains its integrity. The house appears eligible for the California Register according to Criterion 3, architecture significance, and would remain eligible for the Saratoga Heritage Resource Inventory under criterion c. The modifications to the structure would make the property ineligible for National Register listing under Criterion C.

The three families associated with the Oak Street house were active in the arts and the local community; however, the members of the families did not make a contribution to the history of their community in such a way that would make the house significant historically based on their association. Only Edith Parsons is mentioned in the Florence Cunningham book for her efforts in landscaping Saratoga's Memorial Arch, and the Arch is still extant as a representation of her contribution. The Oak Street property is not associated with any significant events or patterns of historical development. Therefore, the property would not be additionally eligible for the National or California Registers based on its association with personages or events or patterns, Criteria A, B and 1, 2, respectively, and local significance is limited to its architectural value.

Outbuildings and Setting

The outbuildings are not significant architecturally, nor are they associated with significant personages, events or patterns of history. The two cottages and the two detached garages are therefore not eligible for the National, California, or local registers.

The setting of the two parcels includes many mature trees that may be determined locally important.

(Continued from Page 2, DPR523B, B12)

Arbuckle, Clyde

1968 Santa Clara County Ranchos. San Jose: Rosicrucian Press

1986 Clyde Arbuckle's History of San Jose. San Jose: Memorabilia of San Jose

Baker, John

1994 American House Styles. New York: W.W. Norton and Co.

Brainard, H. A. (Civil Engineer)

1888 Map of Saratoga

Census Records

United States Federal Census, 1910 and 1920

City Directories

1870 - 1968 City of San Jose (Saratoga is included)

Clarke, Henry

2002 Henry Clarke's Saratoga Village. Unpublished manuscript in archives of the Saratoga Museum.

County of Santa Clara

Deeds and Official Records

Official Maps

Probate Records - Superior Court

Book of Wills

School Tax Assessment Records c. 1930

Great Register of Voters

Cunningham, Florence R.

1967 Saratoga's First Hundred Years. Fresno California. Panorama West Book

Garrod, R. V.

1962 Saratoga Story. Published by the author, Saratoga, California.

Quito Rancho

Plat filed in the County Recorder's Office, Book A of Patents: Page 112.

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Above: Southwest Elevation--Gambrel Dormer from South, Photo by L. Dill, 04/22/03
Below: Southeast Elevation--Porch Addition from East, Photo by L. Dill, 04/22/03





Above: South Cottage from North, Photo by L.Dill, 04/22/03

Below: North Cottage from South, Photo by L.Dill, 04/22/03



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Above: Wooden Garage from North, Photo by L.Dill, 04/22/03

Below: Detail of Metal Garage from South, Photo by L.Dill, 04/22/03

