

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 3 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Saratoga Historical Museum

P1. Other identifier: HP-88-01 HP-7

*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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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: 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos 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)

 southwest side of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road southeast of Oak Street. APN# 517-10-013

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

This is an early-twentieth-century Falsefront building, relocated to this property from nearby and currently used as a historical museum. Integrity: Although altered in the past and relocated from its original site, the building retains its distinctive architectural design, workmanship and materials, and its setting is reasonably compatible with its original nearby location, and the building continues to embody the historical associations and feelings of this former commercial building.

The property was the subject of a 2005 National Register nomination and evaluation by Beth Wyman. Those National Register application forms are attached to this recording, and provide a detailed survey and evaluation of the property.

*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 southwest, July 2009.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:
 Historic Prehistoric Both
c1904-1905, about 104 years old.

*P7. Owner and Address:
City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Ave.
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) Saratoga Historical Museum

B1. Historic Name: Swanee's Dress Shop

B2. Common Name: 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd. - Saratoga Historical Museum

B3. Original Use: Retail commercial

B4. Present Use: Museum

*B5. Architectural Style: False-front (Pioneer)

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

Constructed circa 1904-1905. Relocated to Saratoga-Los Gatos Road from Big Basin Way in 1976. Handicap ramp added on north elevation in 1987.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: 1976

Original Location: big Basin Way

*B8. Related Features:

None

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme

Area: Saratoga Village

Period of Significance: 1905

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.)

Relocated to site as part of the American Bicentennial Celebration. Originally located at Big Basin Way at the intersection of Highway 9. The building has functioned as a hardware store, grocery store, and, at the time it was moved, as a clothing store known as Swanee's Dress Shop.

Saratoga Historical Museum 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 False-front Pioneer style, type and period;
- e) the property embodies unique physical characteristics that represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

Saratoga Historical Museum is eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, as it is a designated landmark Structure.

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

*B12. References:

National Register application, 2005.
 Saratoga Heritage Preservation Commission, Historic Resources Inventory form, 1988.

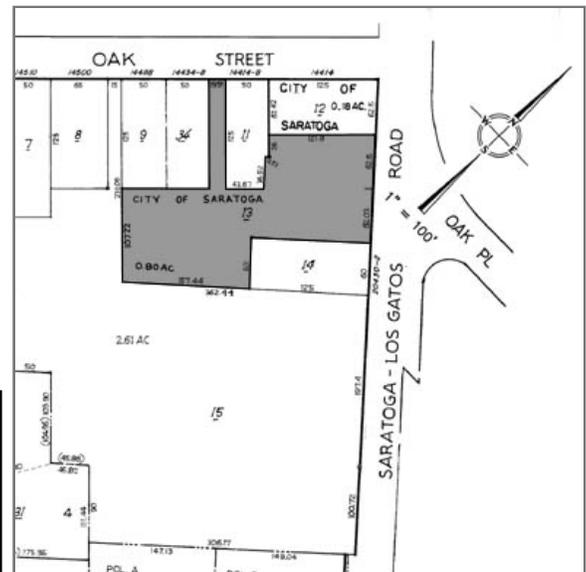
B13. Remarks: Designated Landmark Structure

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

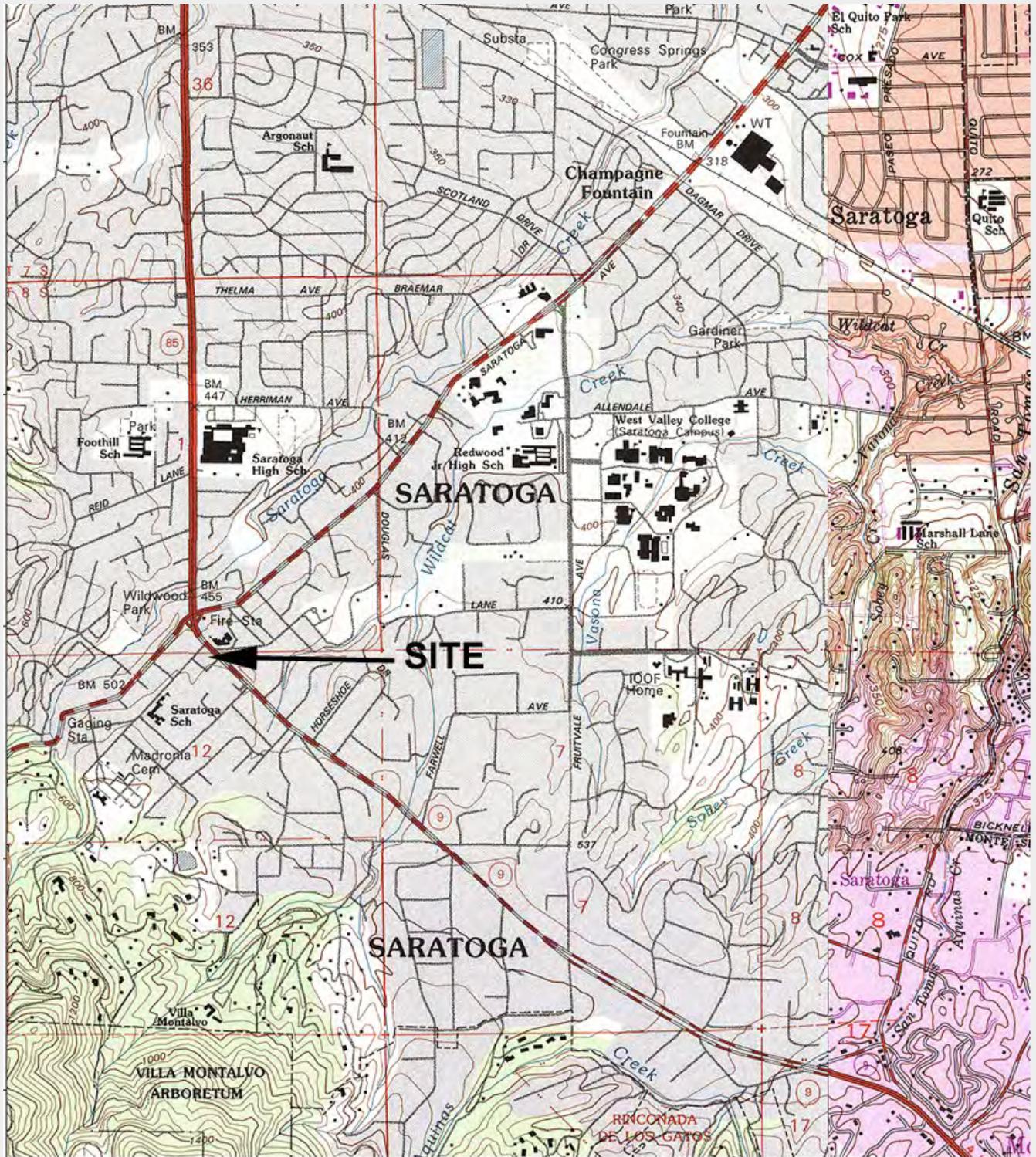
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



* 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 1/2 500m 3000m MILE
Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: **Swanee's Dress Shop** ; 43-0071; 153147
other names/site number: present name: **Saratoga Historical Museum, parcel number #517-10-013**

2. Location

street & number: **20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road** not for publication
city or town: **Saratoga** vicinity:
state: **California** code: **CA** county: **Santa Clara** code: **085** zip code: **95070**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: _____ Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____
entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register
removed from the National
Register
other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing Noncontributing

_____ 1 _____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ 1 _____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade - Specialty Store

Recreation & Culture - Museum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture - Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style,

Wooden Clapboard False Front

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

roof: Asphalt Shingles

walls: Wooden Siding

other Double-hung wood sash windows

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached continuation sheets.

Section 7 - Narrative Description

The Saratoga Historical Museum was dedicated on July 4, 1976. Built in 1904 on Lumber Street (now known as Big Basin Way), near the junction of the Sunnyvale Road, the building served at various times as a drug store, a grocery, a restaurant, and as a notions store. The Swanee Dress Shop occupied the building from 1950 until it was moved to its present location in 1975 to the Saratoga Historical Park at the corner of Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and Oak Street.

Its renovation and conversion to a museum was a community effort. Seed money came from the endowment fund of the late Florence Cunningham (1880-1965), a long-time collector and recorder of Saratoga history.

The museum is a wooden clapboard false-front commercial building (see photo) of approximately 1180 square feet, located on a lot with frontage of approximately 124 feet, lot depth approximately 280 feet, lot area approximately eight tenths of an acre. The building is rectangular in shape with a small shed addition to the side and rear, which was completed in 2004.

Two large single pane front doors are centered on the front side, forming a recessed porch. Flat glass panels accentuate each side of the doors. The front porch is reached by brick steps with wooden handrails. There is a fixed glass transom over the front door. The building is adjacent to a small Pioneer-style building known as the McWilliams House. A brick walkway joins the two buildings with the parking area.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A(X) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B(X) removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1904 - 1975

Significant Dates

Original Construction as a store - 1904

Became Swanee's Dress Shop - 1950

Building moved to Saratoga Historic Park - 1975

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

The nominated structure (the Saratoga Historical Museum, formerly the Swanee Dress Shop) is significant within the theme of California community development (or California agriculture) for two reasons. First, it is one of the original structures contributing to the nomination of the entire early California community of Saratoga as California Historic Landmark No. 435 in 1950. Second, the Swanee Dress Shop is one of four heritage structures that are currently owned by the City of Saratoga and represent the extraordinary efforts of Saratoga residents to preserve their heritage despite limited financial resources. Saratoga residents preserved several threatened structures in an appropriate and sensitive manner years before the Secretary of the Interior guidelines were available to provide direction. These structures continue to provide local residents with insight into community life in early California. The nominated structures were all relocated as close as possible to their original sites and were placed on a site within their original context.

The Swanee Dress Shop was a commercial structure in the business district from its construction about 1904 until 1975 when a development project forced its relocation. It was always an important business, contributing to the commercial vitality of Saratoga's main street. The Swanee Dress Shop (now the Saratoga Historical Museum) is significant within the context of an early California town. Although the structure has been relocated, the City of Saratoga exercised great diligence to move this historic to an appropriate site. In addition, great care was taken to place the structure within its original context. The Swanee Dress Shop was located within the traditional boundaries of Saratoga Village. The building was moved to its present location in the Saratoga Historical Park and formally dedicated in its new role as the Saratoga Historical Museum on July 4, 1976.

History of Saratoga

The City of Saratoga is one of the oldest American settlements in California, dating to 1848. First settled as an enclave serving a water-powered grist mill, the village provided the entrance to a toll road over the Santa Cruz Mountains to the ocean. The Village was first formally surveyed in 1852 and named McCarthysville.

Over the decades and through several name changes, Saratoga has retained a strong sense of her historic importance and identity. Saratoga residents made significant and formal efforts to protect their early heritage, beginning with the formation of a history group through Chautauqua in the 1890's. When the Foothill Club, a woman's study group was founded in 1907, a history section attracted many interested participants.

When legislation was first passed to nominate significant California landmarks, Saratoga residents nominated their entire town and Saratoga was designated as landmark #435, the only remaining major entity remaining from this early process. Many of California's bronze landmark markers note "the former site of..."; Saratoga however, remains vibrant and vital.

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

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The Swanee Dress shop is significant because it is typical of the early single-story false-front commercial buildings that once lined both sides of Big Basin Way. Although several other false-front structures from the era remain in situ on Big Basin, the City of Saratoga and the Saratoga Historical Foundation, a nonprofit group, worked together to protect this building when it had to be moved. The citizens of Saratoga understood the importance of this modest structure. Dated to 1904, this commercial structure is typical of similar buildings that have been dated to 1870. This early structure was assembled with square nails.

The nominated structure is a typical example of its structural type and style, and embodies the characteristics that identify it as an early California building. The structure retains its integrity and is immediately recognizable as an interesting and historic building.

The Anza exploring party passed through the Saratoga area on March 25, 1776. Lumbering in the mountains which began in 1847 and continued for many years brought the area's first settlers in 1850. Among other industries established were a lime quarry (1850s), grist mill (1854), tannery (1863), paper mill (1868) and pasteboard mill (1870). Pacific Congress Springs was a popular resort from 1866 to 1942. Farmers here pioneered the fruit industry and held Blossom Festivals beginning in 1900 after the end of a drought.

Saratoga is situated at the entrance of a historic pass to the redwood-forested Santa Cruz Mountains.

In 1776, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza commissioned by Spain to establish an overland route from Mexico to Alta, California, passed through the area. In 1846 a Mexican land grant deeded the Saratoga-Campbell-Cupertino area to early settlers.

The combination of a pleasant climate and beautiful terrain has always made Saratoga an especially desirable place to live. The heart of Saratoga Village is the site of one of the earliest known Muwekma Ohlone encampments. The Muwekma Ohlone are a branch of the native American Costanoan people who lived in Santa Clara Valley at the time of the first contacts with Europeans. (Allen: 2002) The Saratoga site is known as archeological site SC 1-65, and the site is estimated to be 6450 years old. (Fitzgerald: 1991) Although much of the Saratoga community was considered to be part of the Quito Rancho under Mexican rule, permanent settlement did not occur until the appearance of the Americans in 1847.

Saratoga was the site of the first successful local saw mill in the West Valley, one of the earliest in the state, built by William Campbell in 1847. He soon added grist stones to also grind flour. First known as Campbell's Gap, then Tollgate, McCarthysville and later Bank Mills, the tiny town was first formally surveyed and platted by Daniel McCarthy in 1852. The present name of Saratoga was chosen by its residents in 1865. (Cunningham: 1967)

Section 8 - Statement of Significance

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The early 1900s found Saratoga developing into a pleasant village as it became the trading center for the surrounding fruit growing farms. The mountain setting and mild climate also made Saratoga a popular resort area. Lodges and Inns thrived; including the mineral springs vacation resort above the village (first called Pacific Congress Springs, now named Saratoga Springs).

During the 1900s, Saratoga developed an enviable reputation as a highly desirable place to live and became a haven for wealthy San Franciscans who came to build elegant hillside homes overlooking the lush valley. Some of the more significant examples of these structures include the palatial Mediterranean-style home of U.S. Senator James Phelan. His **Villa Montalvo** (1912) is now a center for the cultural arts. In 1916, San Francisco art patrons Oliver and Isabel Stine purchased 16 acres above the village as summer retreat for family and friends. Mrs. Stine's admiration for the gardens she visited while on a trip to Japan inspired the development of this property into what subsequently became **Hakone Gardens** (1918). Hakone is considered to be one of the most beautiful and authentic Japanese gardens in the United States.

After WWII, the character of Saratoga changed forever from agricultural to suburban. As space technology and the defense and electronics industries were established in nearby communities, Saratoga's open land soon became more valuable for homes for the rapidly growing population than it was for fruit orchards.

When legislation was passed in 1949 to nominate significant California landmarks, Saratoga residents nominated their entire town for the California Register as State Historic Landmark 435.

In 1956, to protect the community from industrial development, the citizens voted to become the City of Saratoga.

From our very beginnings as a community, Saratoga's citizens have taken an active role in preserving essential elements of our heritage, both natural and man-made. National Register Landmark status assists us in this endeavor.

The Saratoga Historical Museum was organized and is administered by the Saratoga Historical Foundation. It houses an extensive collection of early photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia relating to Saratoga's history. The collection was begun by Florence Cunningham and has been held in safe keeping and added to by the Saratoga Historical Foundation.

In addition to the permanent exhibit of Saratoga History, special exhibits are set up regularly from the museum's archives and from private collection.

Walking tours through the village begin at the museum and are scheduled on the first Sunday afternoon of each month from April through November.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Previously listed in the National Register

Previously determined eligible by the National Register

Designated a National Historic Landmark

Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Saratoga Historical Museum,
City of Saratoga, County of Santa Clara,
California

Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph
Division, Washington, D.C.
20540 USA

Section 9 – Bibliographical References

Page 1 of 1

Saratoga News articles (1986-1990)

City of Saratoga, Planning Department Files

Arbuckle, Clyde

1968 *Santa Clara County Ranchos*. Rosicrucian Press

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

Baker, John

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

Brainard, Henry A., Civil Engineer

1888 Various Maps – Maps of Saratoga with narratives. City Directories 1870 to 1968

City of San Jose (Saratoga and nearby post offices included)

City of Saratoga

1993 *Saratoga Heritage: A Survey of Historic Resources*. Published by Saratoga's Heritage Preservation Commission, 1993.

Clarke, Henry

Saratoga Village, WWI to WWII. Unpublished manuscript in the holdings of the Saratoga Museum.

Cunningham, Florence R.

1967 *Saratoga's First Hundred Years* Edited by Frances Fox. Fresno, California Panorama West Books

Garrod, R.V.

1962 *Saratoga Stories*. Published by the Author. Saratoga, California

Munro Fraser

1881 *History of Santa Clara County, California*. San Francisco: Alley, Bowen & Company

Quito Rancho

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

Sawyer, Eugene F.

1922 *History of Santa Clara County California with Biographical Sketches*. Los Angeles: Historical Record Company.

Saratoga Historical Museum.

Related archival material from the research files at the Saratoga Museum, including the unpublished notes and writings of Florence Cunningham.

Thompson & West

1876 *Historic Atlas of Santa Clara County*. Reprinted by Smith & McKay Printing Company 1973.