

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) Springer House

B1. Historic Name: James P. Springer House

B2. Common Name: 20770 Wildwood Way

B3. Original Use: Single family residential

B4. Present Use: Single family residential

*B5. Architectural Style: National (Pioneer)

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

Constructed circa 1851.

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

Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

None known.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture and Shelter

Area: Congress Springs / Pierce Road

Period of Significance: 1851 - 1861

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.)

The Springer House is listed on the Saratoga Heritage Resources Inventory, included as a part of HP-88-01. It qualified under Criteria a and b:

- a) the property exemplifies and reflects special elements of the cultural, social, economic, aesthetic, and architectural history of Saratoga; and
- b) the property is identified with persons significant in local history.

The Springer House also appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (1), (2), and (3), as the house is a unique and considered the earliest extant historic resource in Saratoga, is associated with one of its earliest founders, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of National-style architecture from the beginning of Saratoga's *Early American* period.

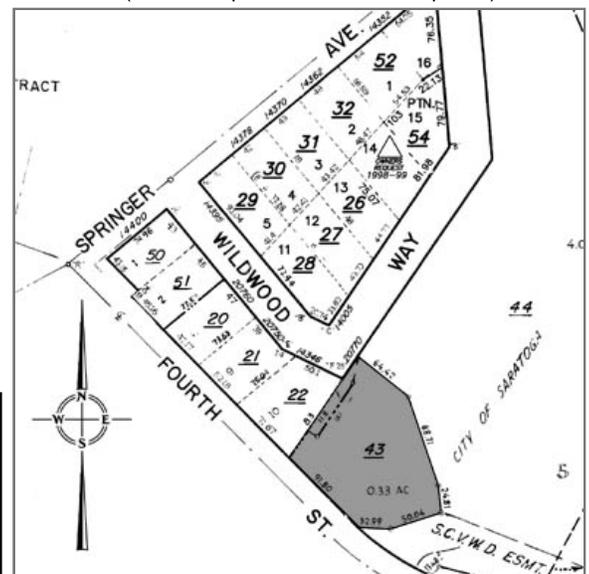
(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

*B12. References:

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

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

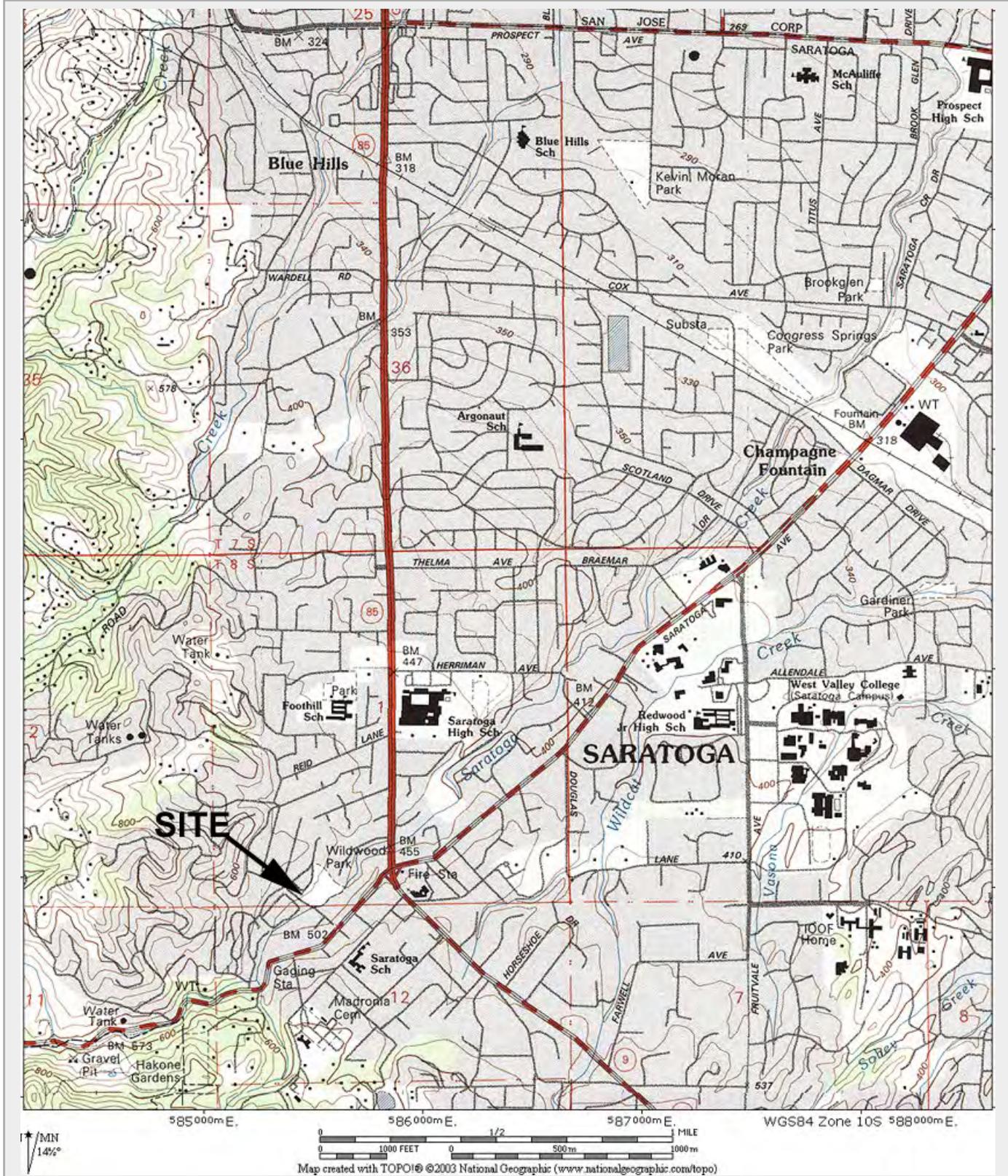


B13. Remarks: Listed Heritage Resource

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: October 26, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)



Page 4 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Springer House

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

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

Historical Background

James P. Springer came to California overland in 1841 with the Bidwell Bartleson Party. Mr. Springer settled in the new McCartysville , and built his residence across Campbell Creek in 1852. He planted what is believed to be the first sizeable orchard on the west side of Santa Clara Valley and continued to promote commercial fruit production until his death.

James Springer was the first superintendent of the Sunday School, which was held in the Sons of Temperance Hall on Oak Street in 1854. In 1858 Springer was elected to the State Assembly, serving until his death in 1861 at the age of 49.

The property is presently within a portion of Lot 5 of the Mary Springer Tract No. 1 (Maps K:69). Lot 5 was not developed other than with the original Springer House until the late 1930s. In May of 1937 F. A. Herrmann surveyed Lot 5 for the Wildwood Park Company and established the boundaries of a private road to be called Wildwood Way that looped around Springer Avenue adjacent to Wildwood Park (Maps 2:20). The property was owned at that time by California Pacific Title & Trust Company, and in July lots began selling lots along Springer Avenue. The 16 lots in this small tract were apparently surveyed but not recorded with the County of Santa Clara as a subdivision.

Integrity

Difficult to see from the public right-of-way, the house appears to retain only some of its architectural design, workmanship and materials. In its original location and in a reasonably compatible setting, and the property appears to continue to embody only some of the historical associations and feelings of this residence.