erm No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 2 6 1979

DATE ENTERED

NUV 27 1979

SEE I	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES			
1 NAME	1112712227777120			
	v	Z.		
HISTORIC St. James	Square Mestro	a photos	k,	
AND/OR COMMON St. James	Park Rough Con	hour ded		
2 LOCATION		44h. E. St.	James and	er sy.
STREET & NUMBER	John St.		,	
	3rd Sts., between E.	. St. James and	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	E.	St. John Sts.	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
San Jose		VICINITY OF	10	
STATE California		CODE 06	COUNTY Santa Clara	O85
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATÚS	PRES	ENT USE
X.DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	XUNOCCUPIED	X_COMMERCIAL	X PARK
STRUCTURE	Х_вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	X_RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	X_OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME Multipl	e ownership (see list	-)		
STREET & NUMBER	e owner strip (see 11st	·)		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
		VICINITY OF		
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,I	_{ETC.} Santa Clara Cou	unty Recorder's Of	fice	
STREET & NUMBER	70 West Hedding	J		
CITY, TOWN	San Jose		STATE California	
g DEDDECEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SLIPVEVS		
	IAHON IN EXIST	MODORVEID		
TITLE Com Jones	Bigara to me a company			
DATE San Jose	Historic District Sur	rvey		
June 1978	3	FEDERAL 3	X.STATECOUNTY X_LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	San Jose Historical	Museum		
CITY, TOWN	San Jose		STATE	
	Juli 003E		CA	



__EXCELLENT

X_GOOD

__FAIR

CONDITION

_____DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

LORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present site of the proposed St. James Square Historic District was platted in the first official American survey of San Jose by Yale-educated surveyor Charles S. Lyman in 1848. Lyman reserved a large area for public open space by combining twin square blocks within the standard grid plan for the city.

Comprised of a public park surrounded by a mixture of governmental, religious, and commercial buildings, the district is the best remaining example in the city of late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures gathered around an identifiable core. The district consists of three government buildings (two courthouses, one post office), three churches (two still in active use), three private clubs, one commercial building, and a public park of two square blocks.

Buildings and Site contributing to the character of the district:

- 1. St. James Park c. 1870. Municipal park, two 3.46 parcels bounded by East St. James Street, North Third Street, East St. John Street, and North First Street. The two blocks are divided by North Second Street (1952). The park maintains the diagonal and peripheral design of its walkways of its original design as well as numerous monuments and statues.
- 2. Four-Wheel Brake Building (200 North First Street) c. 1906. Single story, masonry commercial structure (stucco on three sides), segmental arched wall windows, metal shutters.
- 3. First Church Christ Scientist (61 East St. James Street) c. 1904. Ground plan in form of Greek cross, plastered masonry structure, facade portico dominated by four Ionic columns. Designed by Willis Polk. Greek Revival Style. Contains auditorium of 500 persons. Forty-five foot dome.
- 4. St. Claire Club (65 East St. James Street) c. 1893. Three story, masonry structure, tile roof. Designed by A. Page Brown. Twin corner towers on front (south) elevation, ornamental brick detailing on both tower facades, arched entry way and lower floor windows. Mediterranean style.
- 5. Scottish Rite Temple (North Third and East St. James Streets) c. 1924. Three story Neo-Classical concrete structure with granite sheathing. Designed by Carl Werner. Egyptian and Masonic detailing of portico with six Ionic columns at top of 14 step entrance stair, ornamental frieze at roof line and entablature.
- 6. First Unitarian Church (160 N. Third Street) c. 1891. Wood and plaster construction, four dome roof construction with two towers, flanking main entrance. Designed by G.W. Page. Romanesque Revival Style. Listed on National Register of Historic Places, 1977.
 - 7. Eagles Club (152 N. Third Street) c. 1900. Two-story Greek Revival design, wooden structure, addition made to rear. Six column front with pediment. Fluted columns with dentil detailing around pediment.

(see attached sheet)

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X_COMMUNITY PLANNING	XLANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	ART - STORY	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. James Park and its environs comprise the most vital urban remnants of 19th century San Jose.

By the late 1880's, however, the city was beginning to perceive of the park as San Jose's one great urban open space since in the meantime the old Spanish plaza had been greatly reduced in size (the present Plaza Park); while in 1871, the city's other original park site, Washington Square, had been converted into the site of the State Normal School (the present central campus of San Jose State University).

The present condition of St. James Park consists of two equal square blocks bisected by a one-way, three lane arterial running north to south. Most of the dense vegetation has been trimmed so that at present the informal arrangement of large trees and the open grassy lawns define the general design character. The one interesting aspect remaining from the more formal gardens of the late 19th century is the unusual diagonal path system with its ornamental curlicue shapes and yet overall symmetrical pattern. To this day, St. James Park conspicuously represents the one significant piece of greenery, and the dominant urban open space in the central core district of the city of San Jose.

The next era of significant construction occurred during the 1890's when, after the depression of the 1870's had finally waned, the city began to undergo a new building boom. By this time, San Jose's urban pattern had been established with the corner of First and Santa Clara Streets designated as the commercial core; the neighborhoods around the State Normal School, along North Third Street, and along the Alameda as the prime residential districts; and the St. James Park area as the place for major public buildings and social clubs.

St. James Square is the only remaining public square in the City of San Jose with good to excellent examples of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture. These remaining examples of architecture from San Jose's past create a tangible sense of time and place for the inhabitants of the City.

The district consists of governmental, religious, and social establishments that developed between 1860-1920 when the square was the most vital center of the city's activities. On the west side of the square, the first regular County Courthouse was constructed in 1866 in an attempt to lure the State capital back to San Jose. From that time forward the west side of the square was utilized for governmental purposes, containing the sites of the County Hall of Records and later the Superior Court Building and the United States Post Office.

The architectural "significance" of the U.S. Post Office justifies the inclusion of this building within the district, with its high quality rusticated terra cotta sheathing and Churrigueresque detailing. The building exemplifies the high quality of federal construction in the 1930's. Because of the mass and visual impact of this structure, it forms a crucial element of the district.

(see attached sheet)

E MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPH				•	•
Alley, Bowen & Co., Histor	y of Santa C	lara County	<u>, CA</u> San	Francisco,	1881.
Assessment Records of Sant Gebhard, David et. al. A	a Clara Coun Guide to Arc	ty. San Jos hitecture	se. In San Fran	cisco & No	rthern Calif.
Santa Barbara, Peregr			inaa San	Enancicco	U I Rancroft
Hall, Fredrick, History of	San Jose an	a Surrouna	ings. san	rrancisco,	n. L. Dancroit
San Jose Mercury, 1871. Sunshine	. Fruit and	Flowers; Sa	inta Clara i		
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	1	Smith & Eat	con, 1895.	UIM NU	I VEK!FIED
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY UTM REFERENCES San Jose Wes		 1:24000			
OTM REPERCES DATE SODE WES	., a.	2.2.000			
A10 598250 411 ZONE EASTING NORT C10 598400 41	[3,2 7,0,0] THING [3,2 9,8,0]	$ \begin{array}{c} B \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ ZONE \\ D \end{bmatrix} \end{array} $	5 9 8 1 5 EASTING 5 9 8 4 4		3,2 9,0,0 JING 3,2 8,2,0
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION					
The western boundary of twest corner of the intersection 72' to the northwest corner of Street, then proceeds 275' allowesterly direction, then proceeds a northerly direction, then proceeds a northerly direction, then proceeds 275' allowesterly direction allowesterly direc	on of N. Firs the interse ong the north eeds 349' in proceeds 45	t Street ar ction of N. side of cu a norther .5' along t in a wester	nd W. St. Jo First Strourbline of National Marketion of Strational Marketion of Strational of National	ohn Street eet and W. W. St. Joh n, then pr e of N. Fi on, (see	, then proceeds St. John n Street in a oceeds 275' rst Street in attached sheet)
STATE California	0005		Santa Clara	1	
STATE CATTOMILA	CODE	COUNTY	Sunca Crare	•	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY			CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY					
NAME/TITLE Donald O. Del	Mers. Directo	or of the M	useum		
William N. Zavlaris & Patr	•		reservation	n Consultai	nts
ORGANIZATION				DATE	
San Jose Historical Museum				t 20, 1978	3
635 Phelan Avenue				287-2290	
CITY OR TOWN				STATE	
San Jose			Calif	fornia	
12 STATE HISTORIC PRES	SERVATIO!	N OFFICE	R CERTII	FICATIO	N
THE EVALUATED S					
NATIONAL	STAT	TE	LC	CAL X	*
As the designated State Historic Preservati hereby nominate this property for inclusion					
criteria and procedures set forth by the Nat		t	thy that it has i	·	docording to the
		W			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIG		$A \setminus A$	Mi Elle	<u> </u>	
	NATURE	o ora			
TITLE	NATURE		I	DATE 9	13/79
TITLE FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPE	RTY IS INCLUDED		NAL REGISTER	DATE //-	27.79
FOR NPS USE ONLY	RTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATION	NAL REGISTER	DATE //-	7.79

000 000 ...

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 20 1979

DATE ENTERED. NOV 27 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

1

Property Owners and Addresses:

Book 467 - p. 1 - Parcel(s)

7: First Church Christ Scientist Sainte Claire Corporation 111 W. St. John San Jose, CA 95113

1

8: Four Wheel Brake
Elmer & Leona Skinner
220 Fell Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

27: Sainte Claire Club Sainte Claire Club of San Jose 65 E. St. James San Jose, CA 95112

Book 467 - p. 20 - Parcel(s)
46: Eagles Club
San Jose Aerie Number Eight
152 N. 3rd Street
San Jose, CA 95112

48: First Unitarian Church American Unitarian Association 160 N. 3rd Street San Jose, CA 95112

73: Scottish Rite Temple
Scottish Rite Hall Association
P. O. Box 1326
San Jose, CA 95109

Book 467 - p. 21 - Parcel
31: Trinity Episcopal Church
The Reverend Ward and Vestry of Trinity Parish
81 N. 2nd Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Book 259 - p. 34 - Parcel(s)
6: U. S. Post Office
United State Postal Service
105 N. 1st Street
San Jose, CA 95113

56: Superior Court Building Santa Clara County N. 1st Street San Jose, CA 95113

56: Santa Clara County CourthouseSanta Clara CountyN. 1st StreetSan Jose, CA 95113

FOR HCRS USE ONLY RECEIVED SEP 2 6 1979 DATE ENTERED: 27

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

2

- 8. Trinity Episcopal Church (North Second and East St. John Streets) c. 1863. Redwood construction. Carpenter Gothic Style. Constructed
 by John W. Hammond. Alterations include the addition of a corner bell
 tower with spire. Nonconforming conference building and church offices
 were added to each side of the structure in 1960's and the 1930's
 respectively.
- 9. U. S. Post Office (105 North First Street) c. 1933. Terra cotta sheathed two-story structure uses stringcourses, modillions, and bead and reel ornamentation under the eaves offset by a red tile roof. Designed by Ralph Wyckoff. Spanish Colonial Revival Style with Rococo detailing.
- 10. Santa Clara County Courthouse (161 North First Street) c. 1866. Brick and plaster construction with sandstone columns. Arch and triangular pediment window treatment with extensive detailing of the entablature. Designed by Levi Goodrich. Renaissance Revival. Interior restoration took place in 1973.

Nonconforming properties within the boundary of the district:

- 7 11. Superior Court Building (191 North First Street) c. 1965. Steel and concrete, 5 stories in the International Style. The verticality of the structure is emphasized by the oversized window and door design. The setback of this structure includes a large fountain area fronting St. James Park.
 - 12. St. James Community Center (Third and East St. James Streets) c. 1967. One story, steel and wood construction, seven separate "pods". Designed by Higgins and Root. On removable concrete pads.

The boundaries for the district are selected to include the most noteworthy architectural examples from the City's past and to include the historical dimensions of the square.

Other buildings around the square include a five-story City-owned parking garage, two savings and loan buildings, and seven vacant lots currently used for parking. Because of the neutral character of these properties because of setbacks and lack of historical associations, they were not included within the district boundaries.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

3

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 2 6 1979

DATE ENTERED 2 7 19

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The 1866 County Courthouse is also important for its architectural value. Designed by Levi Goodrich, the Renaissance Revival building has a Neo-Classical facade with sandstone Corinthian columns. The building still serves as a courthouse for the County of Santa Clara. Originally the structure had a central dome, but this feature was removed in the 1930's as a result of a major fire, drastically changing the roof line. Notable features designed into the building by Goodrich, who designed a number of other important local structures, include the pedimented and segmental arched window heads and the portico set off by the main entrance stairs.

Immediately to the north of the older courthouse is the 1965 Superior Court Building. This several story concrete and steel structure is notable for its oversize vertical door and window design. An example of an International style skyscraper, it comes complete with a plaza. Because of its continuance of the court-related function on this site and because of its visual impact in defining an edge of the district, this building makes an important contribution to the district.

Changing to the northern side of the square, the Clarence Letcher garage A_{N} intension, occupied this one-story masonry building beginning in 1906. The eastern side of this structure exhibits a brick, mortar, and tie rod construction typical to early twentieth century San Jose. When viewed from the park, the aged appearance of this section gives the viewer an important sense of time that contributes to the distinctiveness of the district.

Also on the north side of the square is the First Church Christ Scientist designed by Willis Polk and built in 1904. Important as an example of Polk's work, who was one of California's foremost architects, the church was based on the Ionian Temple of Ilyssus. The style has much in common with the mother church in Boston. The facade portico, dominated by four fluted Ionic columns, opens onto the narthex leading to a central auditorium. The building has had a variety of uses; currently it is used as a rehearsal hall for a children's theater workshop.

Across Second Street, still on the north side of the square, the Sainte Claire Club exists as one of the last remaining bastions of San Jose's elite men's clubs. Built in 1893 under the aegis of Senator James Phelan, the building was designed by the noted San Francisco architect, A. Page Brown, who also designed the San Francisco Ferry Building. With its low hipped red tile roof, twin corner frontal towers, and ornamental brick detailing, Harold Kirker describes this building as being more in the Mediterranean style than the Mission Revival which Brown was known for. Its positioning and materials make it an important element in defining the northern edge of the district.

Moving to the east side of the square, the Neo-Classical Scottish Rite Temple forms an integral part of the district. Erected in 1924 of concrete and stone, the building exhibits a continuity in its columns and ornate detailing (some in Egyptian motifs) that is important to the district. Designed by Carl Werner, who specialized in Masonic architecture throughout the Bay Area, the building is being adapted for use as a private athletic club. Included with the County Courthouse, these two buildings provide the most monumental massing and scale found adjacent to San Jose's one great public square.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY SEP 26 1979 RECEIVED DATE ENTERED. 911 2**7 19**79

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

3

Immediately to the south of the Scottish Rite Temple is the First Unitarian Church, constructed by G.W. Page in 1891 in a Romanesque Revival style. The church has already been nominated and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 for its architectural significance.

Also on the east side of the square is the Eagles Club, that was originally constructed as a Masonic Hall. Its Greek Revival design follows the more severe Grecian mode and is one of the finest examples of this architectural style in the County. It is currently used as a hall for the Eagles Club members. By utilizing the Greek Revival style on this side of the square, the continuity of the district is carried through.

On the south side of the square, the 1863 Trinity Episcopal Church makes the most significant architectural contribution to this side of the district. Designed and constructed by John W. Hammond in the Carpenter Gothic style, the church was radically altered in 1876 with its front being shifted to face North Second Street. The board and batten redwood siding was milled and brought to San Jose from the nearby Santa Cruz Mountains. The first permanent Protestant Church in San Jose, it is also the oldest church in continuous use. As one of the few Gothic Revival churches of its age remaining in the region, the building still serves as an important center of worship for some of the area's leading citizens.

St. James Park, formed in the center of the square, was originally not bisected by North Second Street. This park served as a central gathering place for the citizens for political speeches, rallies, and other commemorative events. Originally containing a central fountain and pathway system, the park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead in 1868. Plantings from its first era were later distributed to other parklands.' Also contained in the park is a monument to President Mc Kinley, who spoke there in 1901. His statue was erected shortly after his assassination. General Naglee, a Civil War General and civic benefactor, is also honored with a monument erected in 1915. In the 1930's, the park was the site of California's last lynching in which two suspects in the kidnapping and murder of a member of the locally prominent Hart family were pulled from the nearby jail and hanged.

Despite the major intrusion of the St. James Senior Center in the northeast corner of the park, a major contribution is made to the character and layout of the district by this greenspace. The park continues to be the main gathering space in the city for political and social events.

St. James Square is an excellent microcosm of architectural styles. ing the Square are examples of Gothic Revival, Greek Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean (Mission Revival), and International Modern structures. This unique combination of architecture and urban open space make St. James Square an exceptional historic district worthy of recognition.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

5

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 2 6 1979
DATE ENTERED: 27 19

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10 PAGE

2

thenproceeds 107.5' in a northerly direction, then proceeds 124' in a westerly direction, then proceeds 150' in a northerly direction to the southern curbline of W. St. James St., then proceeds 275' to the southwest corner of the intersection of W. St. James and N. First St., then proceeds in a northerly direction 75' to the northwest corner of the intersection of W. St. James and N. First St.

The northern boundary of the district starts at the northwest corner of the intersection of N. First St. and W. St. James, then proceeds easterly 75' to the northeast corner of N. First St. and E. James St., then proceeds 68.9' in a northerly direction along the curbline of N. First St., then proceeds 132.8' in an easterly direction, then proceeds 75' in a northerly direction, then proceeds 73.9' in an easterly direction, then proceeds 137.8' in a southerly direction, then proceeds 144' in an easterly direction to the northeast corner of the intersection of E. St. James St. and N. Second St., then proceeds 137.8' in a northerly direction along the eastern curbline of N. Second St., then proceeds easterly 91.6', then proceeds southerly 137.8' to the northern curbline of E. St. James St., then proceeds easterly 280' to the northeast corner of the intersection of E. St. James St. and N. Third St.

The eastern boundary of the district starts at the northeast corner of N. Third St. and E. St. James St., then proceeds southerly 75' to the southeast corner of the intersection, then proceeds easterly along the southern curbline of E. St. James St. 137.8', then proceeds 210.3' in a southerly direction, then proceeds westerly 137.8', then proceeds southerly 35.3', then proceeds easterly 137.8', then proceeds westerly 137.8', then proceeds 303.6' southerly to the southeast corner of the intersection of N. Third and E. St. John St.

The southern boundary of the district starts at the southeast corner of the intersection of N. Third St. and E. St. John St., and proceeds westerly 425' to the southwest corner of the intersection of E. St. John and N. Second Sts., then proceeds 175' southerly, then proceeds 137.8' westerly, then proceeds 78' northerly, then proceeds 41.3' westerly, then proceeds 76' northerly to the southern curbline of E. St. John St., then proceeds westerly 175' to the southwest corner of the intersection of N. First St. and W. St. John St.

