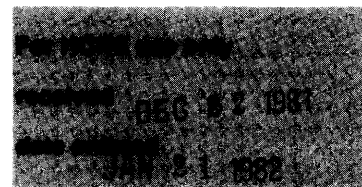


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Roma Bakery

RECEIVED  
NOV 3 1980

and/or common Roma Bakery

OHP

2. Location

street & number 655 Almaden Ave. not for publication

city, town San Jose vicinity of congressional district 10th

state California code 06 county Santa Clara code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mario and Elsie Pera

street & number 655 Almaden Ave.

city, town San Jose vicinity of state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Santa Clara County Recorder's Office

street & number 70 West Hedding

city, town San Jose state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title San Jose Survey Update 1980 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records San Jose Historical Museum 625 Phelan Ave.

city, town San Jose state Calif.

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## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Roma Bakery is a two story, hipped roof, wood commercial structure with two one-story extensions located south of the facade and west of the original rear elevation. Architecturally, the building derives its style from the Colonial Revival design. Characteristic elements of the style may be seen in the centrally placed facade dormer with hipped roof, and in the wood modillions located under the second level eaves. A horizontal band of dentils may be seen between the first and second levels as well as under the dormer eave.

The most unusual design element of the structure is the second level turret which dominates the northeast corner of the building. Typically a trait of the Queen Anne style, popular in the 1890's, this turret has a shingled, rounded roof, and was topped by a flag pole in earlier years. At one time the focal point for the building's entrance, the turret was immediately above a diagonal opening and was supported by three decorative wood columns. This entrance today has been closed off with horizontal wood siding, as well as the partial closing off of two large plate glass windows which once flanked the opening. The uppermost portions of these side windows are still visible. The original three columns may still be seen in this closed off entrance; restoration to the original appears very feasible.

Fenestration consists of double-hung windows, each flanked by decorative **pilasters**. One set of paired windows is located on the second level facade as well as on the north elevation, while three single double-hung windows may be found around the turret (each containing rounded glass). One window may be found immediately below the facade dormer at the second level.

The existing main entrance to the structure is a recessed glass plated door topped with a transom located behind a decorative arched entrance. This opening is flanked by two flat columns and topped with wood detail simulating a keystone. The entrance is located immediately adjacent to the one story facade extension. This extension is also of horizontal siding and was part of the original 1911 building design. Two double-hung simple sash windows flank a centrally placed double door. Alterations to the extension include the addition of a new entrance and plate glass window to the right of the older entrance. Dates of these modifications are unknown.

To the south of the one story facade extension is a two story addition of more recent vintage. Likewise, the one story extension at the rear elevation of the building was built in 1976. These two additions to the original building are now a part of the structural formation of the complex and should be considered a part of the entire design. Both additions maintain the same horizontal wood siding and paint color; they do not detract from the overall architectural integrity of the original building.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect Vittorio Pera

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Roma Bakery is **important** for its architectural style exhibiting an unusual combination of Colonial Revival and Queen Anne elements, and because it is one of the last family run bakery operations still in existence in the San Jose area.

The bakery was built in 1911 by Vittorio Pera, an accomplished builder who learned his trade in Italy. Pera, who did not come to the United States until sometime after 1900, is also noted as the builder of several elaborate two and three story homes in San Francisco. Vittorio built the bakery for his cousin Rizieri Pera, who actually began the bakery-grocery business in 1907. The business originally began as a combination bakery-grocery and maintained this usage until the late 1940's. The bakery portion of the business was leased outside the family for two years during the late 1920's, and, oddly enough, it was at this time that the name "Roma Bakery" was acquired. Rizieri shut down the business during the second World War but reopened with the help of two sons soon after the war ended. Today the bakery is managed by the grandson of Rizieri.

The building, while still in operation as a bakery, is undergoing rehabilitation. Because the architectural integrity of the building has not been severely altered over the years and is currently being rehabilitated, and because the bakery is one of the last family run operations in the City, Roma Bakery deserves to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Roma Bakery represents one of a very few remaining wood commercial structures in the downtown. The design of the building exemplifies a type once typical of turn-of-the-century downtowns, **but now** a rarity in San Jose.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Assessment Book 51, City of San Jose, 1911, housed at San Jose Historical Museum, 625 Phelan Ave. San Jose

Interview, Vittorio Pera by Robert Pera, August 20, 1980. **NOT RECORDED**

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .34  
 Quadrangle name San Jose West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lots 23 and 24 as shown on that certain map in Book 264, page 34, filed in the Santa Clara County Office of the Recorder, 70 West Hedding St. San Jose, CA.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Urban/Rural Conservation for  
 organization Robert Pera, Roma Bakery date Sept. 1980  
 street & number 12 South First St. #812 telephone 408 279-2144  
 city or town San Jose state California

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register

Shelous Byers  
 Keeper of the National Register

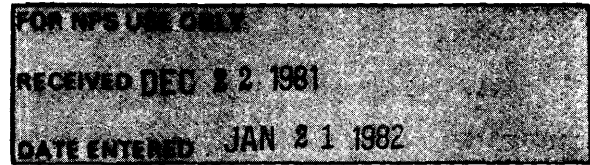
date 1/21/82

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

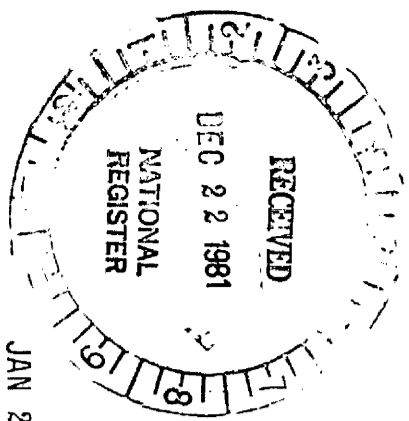
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Interview, Robert Pera, August 21, 1980

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1884, 1901, 1928, 1929. Housed at San Jose Historical Museum, 625 Phelan Ave. San Jose

San Jose Mercury News, Sept. 8, 1955

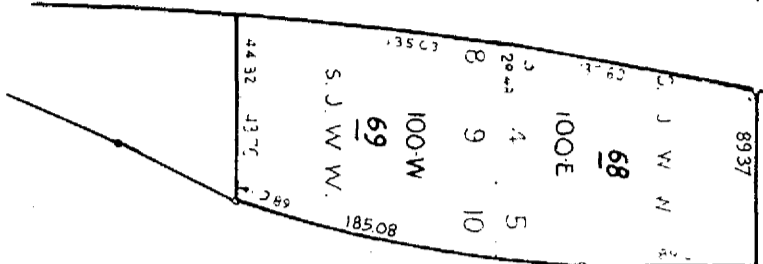
San Jose City Directories, 1907-1962. Housed at San Jose Historical Museum, 625 Phelan Ave, San Jose.



JAN 21 1982

ROUTE 280  
SINCLAIR

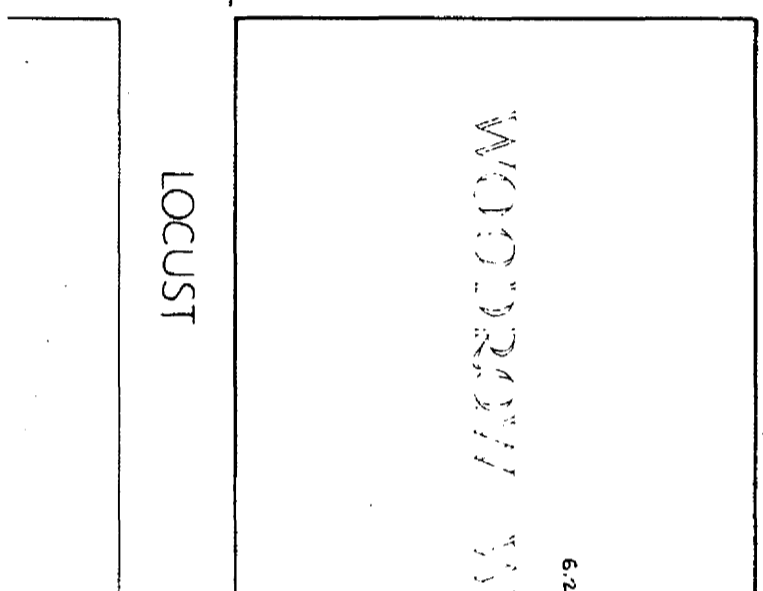
FREEWAY



S.W.W. MAP # 29A B 6 R 4 W

GRANT

B 6 R 3 W  
STREET



LOCUST

VINE

MARY A. SCHELLER TRACT  
(SCHELLER ISLAND PARK)

STREET

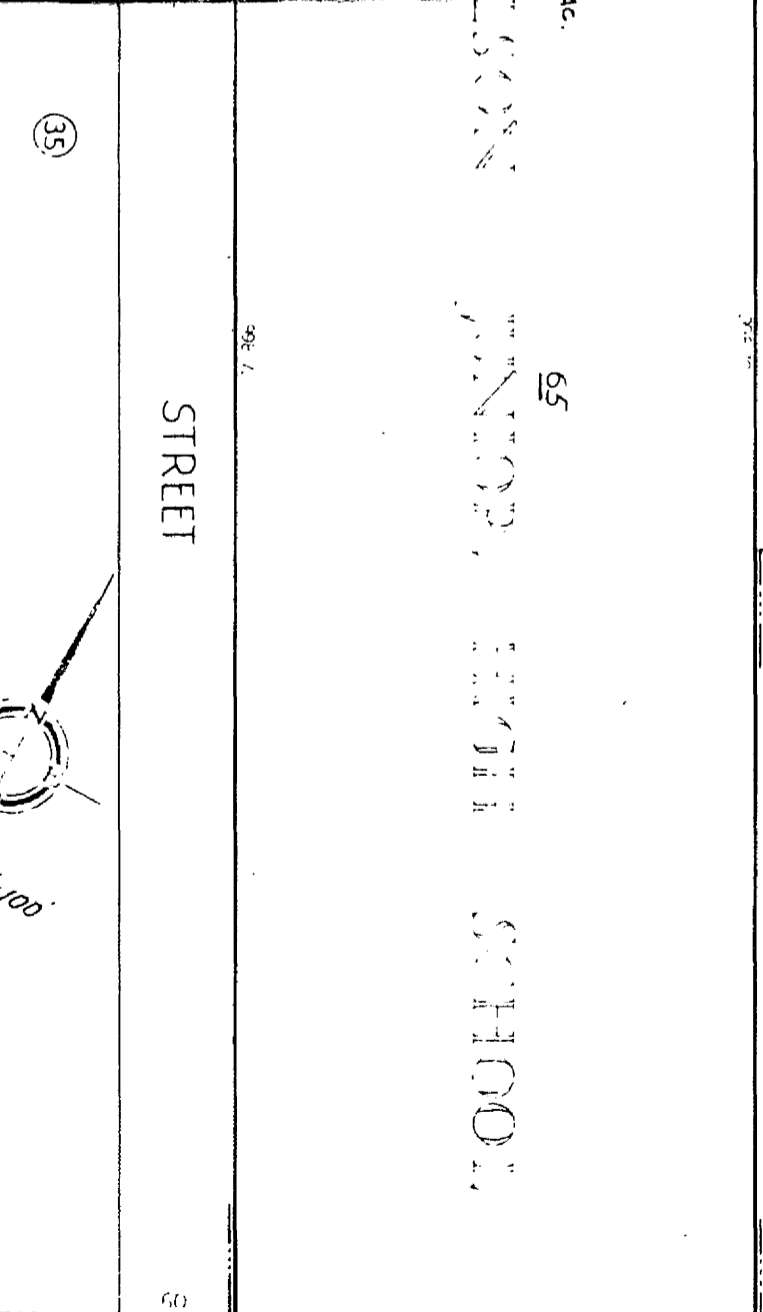
ALMADEN

DUANE ST.

AVENUE

B 7 R 3 W.

UNION ST.

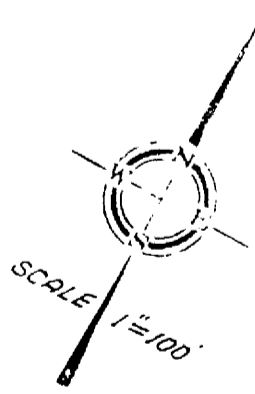


STREET

MACES SOUTHWESTERN ADD

WEST VIRGINIA  
STREET

WEST VIRGINIA



(35)

(31)

(32)

(33)

(36)

(38)

