

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

For NCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered JUN 20 1980

1. Name Sargent, Aaron A. Home

historic A. A. Sargent's Residence

and/or common Sargent - Freeman Home

2. Location

street & number 449 Broad Street not for publication

city, town Nevada City vicinity of congressional district First

state California code 06 county Nevada code 057

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

4. Owner of Property

name John George Freeman and Christine Holaway Freeman

street & number 449 Broad Street

city, town Nevada City vicinity of state California 95959

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nevada County Courthouse - County Clerk - Registry of Deeds

street & number Courthouse Square - Church Street

city, town Nevada City state California 95959

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Ordinance No. 338 - An ordinance of City of Nevada City establishing a Historical
title District; Zoning Ordinance No. 361 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Historical - August 12, 1968

date Revised - June 6, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records City Hall of Nevada City - 317 Broad Street

city, town Nevada City state California 95959

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A. A. Sargent's residence is located in the Historical Zone of Nevada City, two blocks from the center of town and three blocks from the County Courthouse, in one of the earliest residential areas, known historically as the "top of Broad Street" on Nabob Hill. The property is 0.7 of an acre, consists of 2 lots, located on a hillside which dips approximately 39 feet from the highest to the lowest point, bounded by south side of Broad Street on the northeast, Bennett Street on the northwest, Spring Street southwest, and easterly by another residential lot. The garden area was the original home of Sargent which was destroyed by the great fire of July 19, 1856 (Photo 1). The site now contains flowering plants, shrubs, trees, including some outstanding botanical specimens. A Sequoia Sempervirens towers 140 feet above the property. At the base of a 50 foot flagpole is a memorial plaque.

The earliest known photo of Sargent's second home and homestead built in 1856, is dated 1895. This shows a two story wood balloon frame dwelling with horizontal redwood shiplap siding and appears to be L-shaped with a raised basement (Photo 2). The building stands alone, has plain modillions under the cornice of a center gabled low hipped roof of wood shingles. There are three brick chimneys. The windows in the front first floor are paired double-hung 1/1; side windows are straight head double-hung 2/2; northeast side first floor has a polygonal bay window and the front second floor windows are paired arched double-hung 1/1 with one arched double-hung 1/1 in the center; all have plain moldings. The main entrance is located in the center, plain molding around a single panel wood door. There is a front stoop with an open covered entrance of wood supported by round columns and a balustrade on the front and sides at the top. The property is bounded by a wood picket fence in front, wire at sides and rear.

Major alterations occurred between 1900 and 1918. Roof and bay window remained the same. Rooms were added. The residence now exists as an Italianate type of architecture, almost square shaped. A long low open veranda 7'x 51' in front and 10'x 15' on the west, gives unusual horizontality to this basically vertical style. The ornately decorated portico has supporting columns with a capital of Roman Corinthian style, the same type support the second floor porch, which contains a balustrade along the front and side. A plain wood single panel door is entrance to the second floor. The main entrance is a plain doorway with double doors which have lower wood panels and rectangular beveled glass above. A closed rectangular transom is over the entry. Front windows on the first and second floors have been altered to straight-head double-hung 1/1 and widened. The rest of the windows are double-hung 1/1; one double-hung 2/2 remains over the bay window. A back porch was added to the first and second floors and enclosed with horizontal sliding four-pane windows. A stairway leads to the full raised basement which has a brick corbeled footing in front; concrete and wood floors throughout. One fireplace and two chimneys were removed.

The picket fence was replaced with ornamental iron in 1896. The wood shingle roof still exists beneath a copper roof installed in the 1920s.

There is 4,778 sq. ft. of actual living space, plus 2,324 sq. ft. in the raised basement. The interior contains many early features such as wainscotting, plate rails, hardwood grille in an archway; brass pulls, door plates and knobs; rim locks with porcelain knobs and brass chandeliers. A passenger elevator was added in the early 1940s, connecting all levels.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1852 to 1868 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Aaron Augustus Sargent residence is significant chiefly for its association with Sargent, a central figure in nineteenth century California political development and an important national political figure as well. The property is significant as well for its association with Sargent's wife, an important early suffragist, and for its continuing association with prominent local citizens following the Sargent residency. Finally, the property is significant for its landscape architecture, the grounds including a large, carefully-maintained garden and many outstanding botanical specimens.

Sargent, from Massachusetts, a 49er, settled in Nevada City in 1850. A journeyman printer, he was compositor, then editor and owner of the NEVADA JOURNAL, the pioneer journal of the county. At the same time he engaged in mining, studied law and was very active in politics. He was elected District Attorney from 1855 to 1857. He soon became a leader in State politics, first as a Whig and afterwards as a Republican. He organized the Republican party in Nevada County. He was active in community and state activities: delegate to Pacific Railroad Convention in San Francisco in 1853; charter member and elected first Nobel Grant of the Oustomah Lodge (IOOF), November 1853; President of Sons of New England; secretary of Temperance Convention, July 1854; secretary, Whig Convention, June 1854; elected Town Trustee, April 1854; declined nomination for Know-Nothing candidate for State Senate, 1856; wrote the first history of Nevada County, 1856; organized and elected Director of County Library Association, 1857; 1868 elected Eminent Commander, Nevada Commandery No. 6 K.T.

In 1860 he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention which nominated Lincoln and in 1861 elected Representative to the 37th Congress. He distinguished himself as author and champion of the bill which created the Transcontinental Railroad, succeeding where others had failed for over a decade. He was author of the bill making the Pacific States and Territories a United States Judicial Circuit and introduced the bill to establish a Branch Mint in the State of Nevada. In 1862 he lacked 3 votes of the nomination for U.S. Senator to succeed Senator Broderick. He returned to his law practice in Nevada City and was nominated for Governor of California, losing to Frederick F. Low.

In 1865 Sargent was nominated for U.S. Senator but the Democrats took the election by a landslide. Also in 1865 he was honored by the College of California with the degree of M.A. That same year Central Pacific Railroad honored him for his work in Washington in obtaining passage of Pacific Railroad measures, by naming Central Pacific's No. 7 locomotive, the "A. A. Sargent".

Sargent was elected to the 41st and 42nd Congresses serving from 1869 to 1873. While serving as Representative, he was elected to the United States Senate, the first citizen of Nevada County to achieve this distinction. He served in the Senate from 1873 to 1879, working untiringly for the interests of California and the Nation, and was known as the "yeoman of the Republican Party". He was champion of the women's suffrage movement and author of the bill in 1878 which became known as the Anthony Amendment advocating "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 0.7 of an acre
Quadrangle name Nevada City, California

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 10 and 11, Block 36 of Assessor's Map - Book 5, Page 9 - Located in the City of Nevada City, California. Property's Boundary is: NE by Broad St.; NW by Bennetts St.; S by Spring St.; SE by Lot 12 (447 Broad Street).

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 Christine H. Freeman

organization Owner date January 31, 1980

street & number 449 Broad Street telephone (916) 265 - 5777

city or town Nevada City state California 95959

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: Kenny Mellon

title _____ date 5/15/80

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

for W. Ray Luce
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/20/80

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 6-16-80

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Title - Nevada County Point of Historical Interest NEV - 019

Date - July 13, 1973

 x County

Depository for Survey Records - Department of Parks and Recreation
Division of Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 2390

City, Town - Sacramento

State - California 95811

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A carriage house and barn is located at the southeastern portion of the property, 50' from the residence. It is a two story split level rectangular building with vertical board-and-batten over a wood frame, 25'x 45', with a high gable tin roof over wood shingles. The upper level has a wide double door entry from a driveway leading from Broad Street. A turntable was located inside but is now removed. The lower level has two entrances on Spring Street; one a horizontal sliding large door and the other a large double door. On this level is a tack room, stalls with mangers and a buggy wash-rack. Near the ceiling is a four-pane window which opens inward at the ground level on the west side; this leads to a passageway lined with nests for chickens. The passageway leads to a glass enclosed roosting area on the east interior of that level. There are two fixed four-pane windows facing south; one double-hung 2/2 window on the west side and two double-hung 4/4 windows on the east side. The south end of the building was repaired in 1969 with horizontal smooth, flush boards. The building is in good condition except for board-and-batten which will be replaced in 1980.

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the United States, or any state on account of sex". This bill was reintroduced without any change in wording until finally passed by Congress more than forty years later. He was author of the Immigration Law in 1879, the provisions of which were the first United States policy on immigration; author of the bill which revolutionized the mining industry, permitting mineral lands to be held in fee simple.

In 1880 Sargent returned to California and established a law practice in San Francisco. He was appointed by President Chester Arthur in 1882 as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Court of Berlin, Germany, a post he filled most creditably. One of his confidential and private dispatches to the Secretary of the State in Washington was printed in the press, making his position in the German Court untenable. Sargent resigned and then refused an appointment to Russia.

Sargent returned to his San Francisco law practice and died in that city, August 14, 1887. His sarcophagus rests in the Pioneer City Cemetery, two blocks from his Nevada City home.

Ellen Clark Sargent, wife of A. A. Sargent, was one of a half dozen of the most influential pioneer suffragists. Her legacy to the history of Nevada County was a description of her arrival in Nevada City in 1852 as a bride, describing the interior of her home, household duties and the social activities of the town. She founded the first women's suffrage group in Nevada County in 1869. Laura De Force Gordon and Susan B. Anthony were guests in her home. Mr. Sargent and Ellen became lifelong personal friends of Susan B. Anthony. Many of the personal letters exchanged between them still exist. Mrs. Sargent helped Susan B. Anthony found the Century Club in San Francisco. In the 1890s she was active in a number of suffrage organizations, being either president or honorary president of many. At the time of her death in 1911, a mass meeting was held at Union Square in San Francisco in her honor, with Governor Hiram Johnson as the principal speaker. The City of San Francisco lowered flags to half-mast; the first time a woman was so honored.

There have been many owners of this property since 1868: Abraham Goldsmith (1868-1870), a local merchant, who served as the County Treasurer and was first President of the Nevada County Jewish Benevolent Society; Richard W. Tully (1870-1879), President of the Bank of Nevada County, whose son Richard Walton Tully Jr. was born in the residence, became a protege of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst and was known as one of the deans of American playwrights noted for "The Bird of Paradise" and "The Rose of Rancho"; Mrs. Phoebe Kidd (1879), widow of Captain George Washington Kidd, a Nevada City pioneer entrepreneur with water, mining, and banking interests; J. S. Holbrook (1879-1889), a local postmaster, who held the office of Justice of the Peace for two terms.

The property was vacant for almost two years, then purchased by Dr. Carl Lewis Muller, the first native son of Nevada County to become a physician. His preliminary reading of medicine was supplemented by a course of study in the Cooper Medical College at San Francisco, in 1887 he matriculated in

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Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was graduated April 1888 with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was a very civic-minded man, a school director of Nevada City and member of the board of trustees of the public library. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, the BPOE, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Native Sons of the Golden West. Local legend was that Mrs. Muller was a very vain, superficial woman who had the need to "keep up with (and surpass) the Joneses". Her Victorian husband indulged her every whim. The present owner of this property met and became a friend of his son, Vinton Muller, M.D. who was born in the residence. He confirmed the local legend, and gave detailed information about the alterations his father made to the residence. Oddly enough, the interior features of the residence were left more or less intact, it was the exterior appearance and size that was more important. His father's favorite pleasure was to add on another room or increase the attractiveness of the exterior as a surprise for his wife upon her return from a visit to San Francisco or a visit with relatives. The embellishment of the front of the residence resulted from competing with a friend who was building a home across the street, each trying to outdo the other. Dr. Muller was the last of the horse and buggy doctors in the county. His wife had to have the first automobile in Nevada City! The turntable in the carriage house was installed as a result of his frustration with the advent of the automobile (difficult for him to turn around in a confined space, not as versatile as a horse). He built a small inner garage made out of packing cases from an Edison phonograph in the carriage house (still intact), where he kept a light bulb burning over the engine to facilitate easy starting on cold nights when he was summoned to a sick patient. When Dr. Muller died the residence was sold with contents, and subsequently with each change of ownership.

In 1923 a local optometrist, R. J. Bennetts became owner; he was also the Mayor of Nevada City. Local townspeople were astonished when he installed a copper roof, thinking the sum of \$500.00 was extravagant. The formal garden was developed at this interval of time. The property suffered twenty-two years of neglect following the Mayor's residency, due to financial and health problems of the owners. The present owners have had the challenge of continual preservation and restoration for the past eight years.

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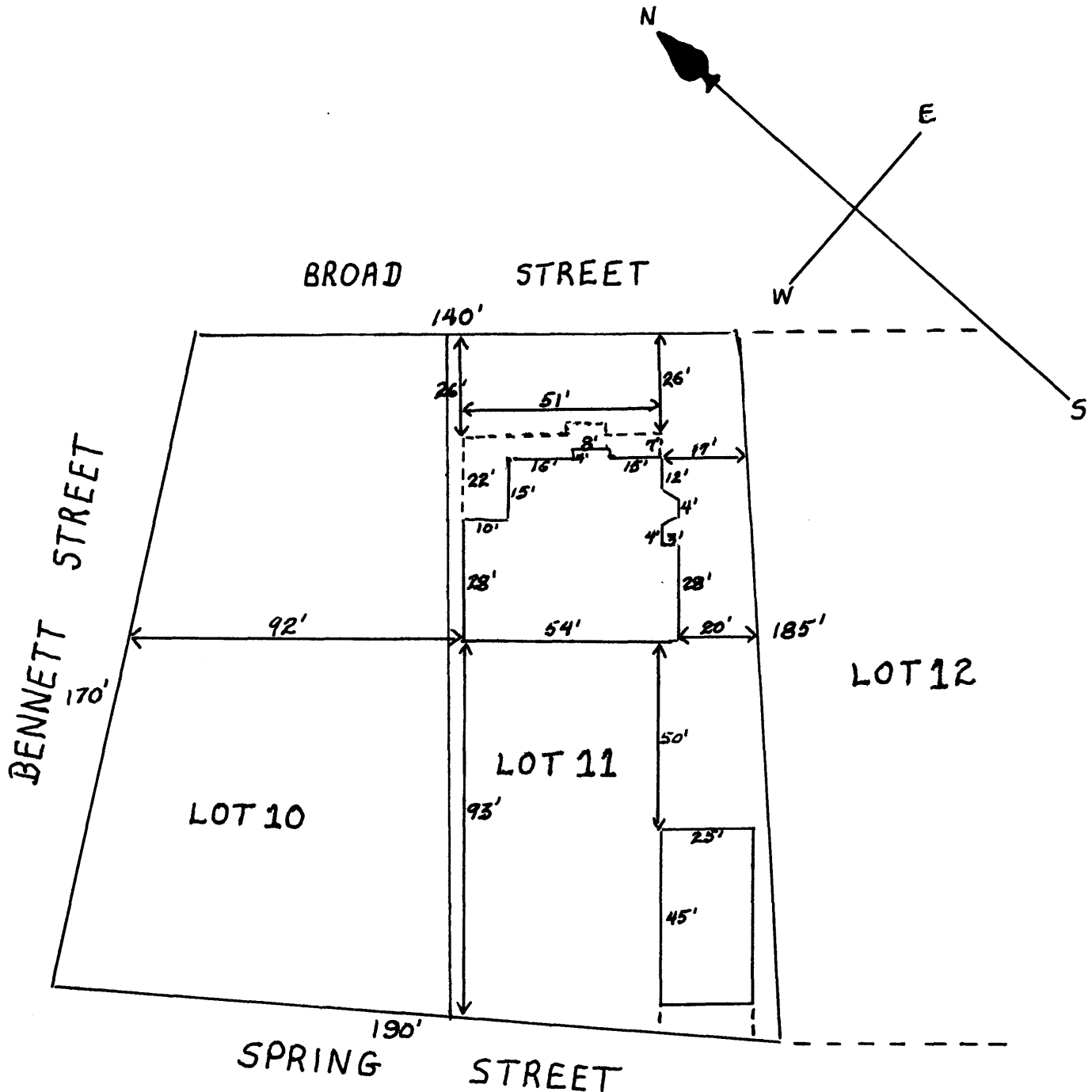
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SCALE

1" = 40'