

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 30 1976
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1976

**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

AND/OR COMMON

**Ashworth-Remillard Home**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**755 Story Road**

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**San Jose**

\_\_ VICINITY OF **Tenth Congressional District**

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

**California**

**06**

**Santa Clara County**

**085**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

**Cabot, Cabot & Forbes**

STREET & NUMBER

**#1 Maritime Plaza**

**California**

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**San Francisco,**

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Santa Clara Co. Recorders Office, basement of County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER

**191 N. 1st Street**

CITY, TOWN

**San Jose,**

STATE

**California**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**San Jose Visual Inventory of Historic and Archeological Sites**

DATE

**Sept. to Dec. 1973**

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS (original)

**City of San Jose Main Library, Calif. Rm., 180 W. San Carlos St**

CITY, TOWN

**San Jose,**

STATE

**California**

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This 1860s home is basically a Victorian farmhouse. It has two stories and a small basement under the kitchen area. The roof line is a steep gable with Victorian cornice pieces at most eave overhangs. The siding is redwood drop siding down to the original brick foundation.

The home is structurally sound with no sign of termites or dry rot as all the framing lumber is redwood. The brick foundation is in excellent shape and there are no signs of uneven settling or cracking. All floors are level. The building does need normal upkeep, such as painting and roof repair.

The original house had a more vertical appearance, but the addition of two rooms on the west and east sides in the early 1930s have given it a more horizontal feeling. The room on the west side is a large sun room with glass windows around the entire perimeter. The east room is a bedroom with an adjoining bath. This room has an interesting bay window facing the street. In these additions care was taken to have cornice pieces added so as to tie in with existing structure, and the wood siding matches the original. At some time in its history the second story was extended slightly, above the first story porch.

The plan of the home, with additions, is T shape. The structural framing is redwood which is common for a house of this vintage. The windows are wood frame and a large amount of the glass is original with the imperfections and bubbles which were common at that time. The front double doors with oval beveled glass lights are carved with a wreath motif.

The interior of the original section of the house contains black carved wood trim imported by Count Dandini from Mexico. Most rooms have twelve foot ceilings with heavy plaster ceiling moldings. Many of the interior doors are four panel and eight feet high. The three fireplaces were used in early days to heat the home. Ornate fibre or paper wainscoting decorates the walls and stairways. The kitchen is in near original condition with an adjoining pantry complete with fold down flour binds. The kitchen has twelve foot high ceilings, plaster walls with thirty inch high tongue and groove wood wainscoting. There is a large wood burning cook stove still in use for heat in the winter months.

The outbuildings on the site include one small brick building with a red clay tile roof, situated directly behind the home, which was used as a wash house. The other buildings on the property are of a temporary nature and have no particular significance. At present they are being used for storage and could be removed.

The physical description would be incomplete without mention of the impressive grounds surrounding the home. The eucalyptus grove on the West next to the San Jose city park land (Kelly Park, with its Historical House Museum, is part of the Coyote Creek Park Chain) was planted by the Remillard family. The large black walnut tree (198 inches circumference) just east of the home is at least one hundred years old and may predate the home.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This home is one of the oldest well preserved structures in San Jose. It was built as the farmhouse of James Ashworth, a goldrush pioneer who acquired 250 acres of farm land in 1854 on the east side of Coyote Creek "two and one half miles southeast of San Jose" (an 1890 city directory description).

James Ashworth came from Kentucky with two brothers, one who settled in Oregon and the other in Mariposa County, California. James later brought his wife and seven children to live on the farm and built the appropriate home for his farm in the 1860s. Originally the home faced on Archer Road, but the name was changed to Story Road in the 1870s. Judge Archer's estate and farm land were just across Coyote Creek and South of Story Road in what is now San Jose's Kelly Park.

James' oldest son, John A. Ashworth, married Rose Ann Tully in 1861 (Tully Road is the next road to the South of Story Road) and moved away from the farm to town, but as late as 1878 five of James Ashworth's children are listed individually in the San Jose City Directory as "Farmer, res first house n s street at Ashworth's cossing (sic), e Coyote creek", along with their father. The Ashworth's must have lived well or been uninspired farmers for the 250 original acres shrank to 192 acres (1876 Thompson & West New Historical Atlas of Santa Clara County, Third Ward map, page 41) and then 183 and 163 acres (The 1884-85 and 1887 San Jose City Directories, respectively) so that in 1890, after the death of his wife, James Ashworth could sell only 163 acres. He moved to a house in San Jose and died in 1895.

In 1891 Peter Remillard took possession of the 160 remaining acres and the Ashworth Home. This new owner had come from Canada in 1854 and spent his first years in California in the gold fields at the Malakoff-Diggins near Grass Valley (his daughter, Lilliam Remillard-Dandini donated a plaque in 1973 commemorating his stay at the Malakoff Diggins). Peter Remillard then moved to Oakland, California, and took over a brick company which became his own Remillard Brick Co. in 1861.

In 1892 Peter Remillard established a new brickyard behind the former Ashworth home next to Coyote Creek. He was a pioneer in bringing industry to the Santa Clara Valley.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"The Countess and the Brickyard", in The Independent-Journal of San Rafael, Sat., July 14, 1973, p. M-1. (Remillard Family history, by Dorothy Gardiner).  
 "Remillard Heiress Succumbs at 93", in San Jose Mercury, Friday, July 20, 1973, p. 38. (Obituary of Lillian Remillard Dandini).  
 "Big Wine Works Planned", San Jose Mercury, July 26, 1974. (Includes a history of the home)  
 "Family Visits were the Thing", in the San Jose News, Friday, August 16, 1974, p. 41+ (Story on the Ashworth Family and the Remillard Family).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	6 0 1 0 6 0	4 1 3 1 7 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California		Santa Clara	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Richard Gilbert

ORGANIZATION

Leasee

STREET & NUMBER

755 Story Road

CITY OR TOWN

San Jose,

DATE

December 1974

TELEPHONE

408-294-8607

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Robert A. Phillips*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE JUL 23 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles Adams*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/12/74

DATE 12-3-76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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A total of nine buildings on the grounds are included in the nomination. Most of the outbuildings have no historical significance in themselves. Only the brick building, once used as a wash house, holds substantial importance. This building was probably constructed near the time of the construction of the main house, though its date is uncertain. Surely the materials and style of construction utilized show the wash house to have been built prior to 1900. The remaining outbuildings were established between 1900 and 1940, usually for temporary purposes. As a result, these buildings are in fairly poor condition. A wood garage, for example, built by one of the caretakers in 1940 is not structurally sound at the present time. The outbuildings are currently used for storage, by the occupants of the property, and provide no other significant function. The main house and grounds are the essential parts of the nomination.

The Ashworth-Remillard Home faces South and Story Road, the main road from San Jose just after it crosses Coyote Creek at Ashworth crossing. The trees and other vegetation protect the home from the noise and fumes of the busy road. A wide drive enters the property just East of the Coyote Creek bridge passing North through the eucalyptus grove and then turning East toward the side and rear of the home. Several small outbuildings line this drive on its North side, behind the home.

The home and grounds have had only two owners. After the Remillard family acquired the Ashworth farm and residence in 1891, the home was used only during the summer months. Its interior is in excellent condition and has original wood work, plaster, and doors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Basically the original structure was a 2 story farmhouse with a pitched gable roof with many Victorian cornice eave pieces and had a vertical feeling to the house. The house is what is commonly referred to as a "Victorian" in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In the early 1930's Lillian Remillard Dandini added one room on the west side and one room on the east side and the house took on a more horizontal feeling. The room on the west side was a large sun room with glass windows around the entire perimeter. The east room is a bedroom with an adjoining bath. This room has an interesting bay window facing the street. In all her additions Lillian Remillard took the effort to have cornice pieces added so as to tie in with the existing structure and used the same wood siding to match the existing. Mr. Ray Girvigian the Architect member of the State Historic Resources Commission when asked at the hearing stated that he was satisfied that the additions were done in such a manner as to tie in well with the existing structure.

Interesting Architectural features which are typical of this early farm home are as follows:

1. Most rooms have 12 foot ceilings with heavy plaster ceiling moldings.
2. Four panel 8 foot high doors (interior)
3. 3 fireplaces in various rooms to heat the house in early days.
4. Carved front double doors with oval beveled glass lights.
5. All redwood lumber structural framing which is common for a house of this vintage but will not be seen in later structures.
6. All wood frame windows with a large amount of the original glass with the imperfections and bubbles which were common at that time.

7. The kitchen is in near original condition with an adjoining pantry complete with fold down flour bins, etc. The kitchen has 12 ft. high ceilings, plaster walls with tongue and groove wood wainscot up to about 30 inches. There is a large wood burning cook stove still in use for heat in the winter months.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

No. 8: SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance, Continued

This brickyard produced most of the bricks used in building San Jose and southern San Francisco Bay Area buildings of brick after 1892. The clay found here was of very high quality with high yield when fired and the brickyard was one of the finest sand mold brick producers on the West Coast and the only source of this type of brick in its later years. It was operated until 1968 when the hand labor and horse drawn sleds became uneconomical.

The former Ashworth Home became the summer home of the Remillard family. Countess Lillian Remillard-Dandini, perhaps the best known person today who was historically linked to this home, often told of the buggy rides with her older sister from Oakland to San Jose at the beginning of the summer. She also told of walking from the gate of the home's grounds down Story Road and across Coyote Creek to catch the urban streetcar for the ride into San Jose.

She was born in 1880 and grew up from age 12 spending her summers at this home. The family did move to New York for a brief period and she was able to study opera, but they returned in 1906 to help rebuild the San Francisco area with Remillard bricks after the earthquake.

Lillian gave small concerts in San Jose and became known as a great patron of the arts. She was one of the founders of the San Francisco Opera Co. and in later years attended each season of the opera until her 92nd year. She died in the summer of 1973 at the age of 93.

In 1950 she purchased the Carolands, a French style chateau in Hillsborough, California, near San Francisco, built by Henriette Pullman, the heiress to the Pullman Car fortune. Through all the excitement and parties in her 96 room mansion in Hillsborough, Countess Remillard-Dandini remained partial to her summer home in San Jose as it had strong family ties and memories of a casual and leisurely life that no longer exists. The home is almost as it was fifty years ago--as if time had passed it by--surrounded by many large trees, brick pathways and terraces, and a park-like setting.

The San Jose Visual Inventory of Historic Sites recorded this home in December of 1973. (Form Number 1 AM, 113 East Side). It was given the highest possible historical evaluation of "A" on a scale of "A,B,C", and an architectural evaluation of "B".





32

2

FREEWAY

RTE. 280

1" = 200'

7.333 AC. TOTAL  
1.385 AC.

AVE.

6170 AC NET

5.34 AC NET

6.36 AC NET

4.837 AC NET

LAT. 37° 17' 43"

LONG. 121° 51' 35"

2-ACRE SITE

OUTBUILDINGS

GARAGE

HOUSE

WALNUT TREE

LUCRETIA

309 B8