

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666025

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 29 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 31 1978
DATA SHEET

**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

Forbes Mill Annex
AND/OR COMMON

"Forbes Mill"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1 Block Northwest of Church and East Main Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Los Gatos

VICINITY OF State Hwy. 17 #13

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Santa Clara

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/vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Set-Ro Co.

STREET & NUMBER

5660 Freeport Blvd. P.O. Box 22607

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sacramento

VICINITY OF

California 95822

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Santa Clara County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

70 West Hedding Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Jose

California 95110

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. State Resources Inventory - - - - - 1976
2. Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory - - Oct. 1975
3. Town of Los Gatos Landmark Designation Inventory - Fall 1973

DATE

___FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

1. State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento, Ca.
2. Santa Clara County Planning Department, San Jose, Ca.
3. Los Gatos Town Hall, Ca.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The present structure commonly known as Forbes Mill is actually the two story stone storage annex which was added to the original four story stone mill building in the fall of 1880. The original "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill building torn down between 1915 and 1929 was constructed in 1852-'54. W.H. Rogers, Dr. W.S. McMurtry and Dr. McMurtry's son, George, constructed the extant annex building. George S. McMurty, fifteen years old in 1880, used a horse and sled to haul stone for the annex from a quarry in Los Gatos Canyon. This quarry was possibly the same site from which the "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill's green quartzitic sandstone blocks were quarried.

Most extant pictures of the Mill feature the Annex rather prominently. The east, west and north walls date from November 1880. The Annex's south wall is composed of approximately the first two stories of the original north wall of the "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill. There are two buttresses, one at each end of the original remaining walls. These remnants of the original east and west walls were left to support the old section which became the south wall of the new annex.

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The "Annex" and the mill proper were mostly vacant from 1887, when flour-milling suspended, to 1912, the year of purchase by the P.G. & E. The original 50'X 60', locally quarried stone mill building was first de-roofed, then taken down to the first story in 1915. The remainder of the first story and south wall were razed in 1929, excepting, of course, the two-story section of the original north wall included in the extant structure.

The P.G. & E. installed a thick, two-foot concrete partition about 8 to 10 feet from the east end of the annex. They cut a 4 x 7 foot opening at ground level, over which was installed a heavy sliding door. Three ceramic tile ducts were installed above this door, near the roof, for transmission lines. The room so-formed was to house electric power transformers.

P.G. & E. sold the property in 1955 and moved their facility to the other side of the new Highway 17 freeway being built. The next use for the annex was ca. 1961-62, as a Naval Museum by Admiral Lockwood, a WW II submarine commander. The building leaked and money and public interest were lacking, so the project failed. Next, youth groups were allowed to use the building with a minimum of change until the problem of earthquake vulnerability was raised to end that use (1971-72).

At the present time, much of the interior wood construction has been destroyed due to lack of surveillance and private ownership on somewhat secluded vacant land.

All land encompassed within the boundaries of this application are lands originally owned by the Los Gatos Manufacturing Company in 1892 upon which the mill and annex were sited. The original property has been reduced to the present configuration because of encroachments by development and freeway construction.

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 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 checked="" 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	(Original Mill, 1854) Annex Nov. 1880	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	(1854, J.A. Forbes) 1880, W.H. Rogers, W.S. McMurty
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Forbes Mill Annex was constructed in November 1880 as an addition to the "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill built by James Alexander Forbes in 1852-'54. Forbes, a well-educated Scotchman who had come to California in 1831 by way of South America, was active as a tutor at the Mission Santa Clara; as British vice-consul to Alta California, 1842-'47, at Monterey and San Francisco; Hudson Bay Company sub factor and later as a factor at San Francisco. He was also resident manager of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines in the early period of their exploitation by the Barron-Forbes Company of Tepic, Mexico, 1847-'48. By 1852 Santa Clara County had become a predominately wheat-producing area, and Forbes took advantage of the perennially abundant waters of the Los Gatos Creek to supply the power to run his mill which by 1881 was distributing flour nationwide.

W.H. Rogers purchased the 'Forbes Mill' in 1866, and the Annex which he added in 1880 is today the only tangible remains of the original 'Forbes Mill.' Forbes' "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill and its Annex became the nucleus for the beginnings of the present town of Los Gatos. The town was first referred to as "Forbes Mill" and later as "Forbestown". In early townsite subdivision mapping and planning, the "Old Stone Mill" area was considered to be the geographical center of town.

Architecturally, the Annex is significant as the last remaining rough-hewn local quartzitic sandstone block structure in Los Gatos, and 19th century stone flour mill building in Santa Clara County. The original mill was torn down between 1915 and 1929. Historically, it provides the only tangible link to Los Gatos' beginnings, having served originally as a storage facility for the 'Forbes Mill'; and subsequently as an ice storage facility, P.G. & E. sub station, and in recent years as a youth center.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Forbes, J.A., Letters, 1850-1879.
2. Munro-Fraser, J.P., History of Santa Clara County, 1881.
3. Foote, H.A., Pen Pictures of the Garden of the World, 1888.
4. Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of California, 1883-1890.
5. Bruntz, Dr. George G., History of Los Gatos, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

MAP STATES 3.11 1965

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____ acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0
5	9
0	5
3	0

4	1	1	9	7	8	0
EASTING						

4	1	1	9	7	8	0
NORTHING						

B

EASTING						

NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The McMurtry Homestead Map (Nov. 1892) shows the Los Gatos Manufacturing Company boundaries. This is superimposed over Santa Clara County Assessor's Parcel Map (March 1974) showing current parcel divisions.

Numeric keys:

(1) North-west Boundary arbitrarily used to coincide with the present Route 17 Freeway

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Robert Elton Lee, Curator of History

ORGANIZATION

Los Gatos Museum Association

DATE

August 8, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box #1904 - Main and Tait Streets

TELEPHONE

(408) 354-7760

CITY OR TOWN

Los Gatos

STATE

California 95030

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL X

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

Knox M. Ellison

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/14/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Smith

DATE

7/3/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Marcella DeLuca

DATE

7-25-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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1

-
6. Wulf, William A., Unpublished collected material, 1976.
 7. Holdredge, Helen E., "MammyPleasant's Partner", 1954.
- Many other references in newspapers, magazines and books.

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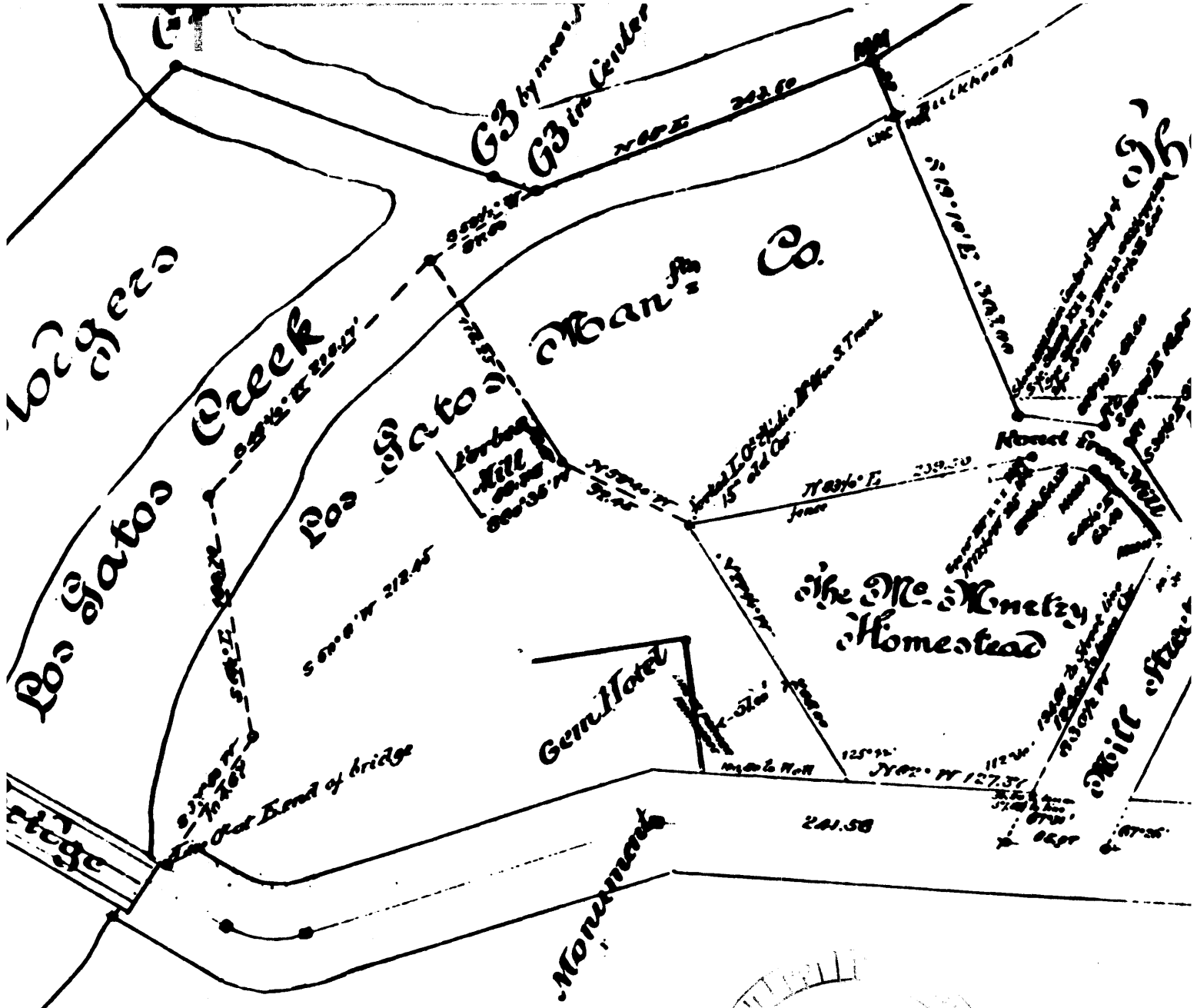
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boundary (former Los Gatos Creek boundary.)

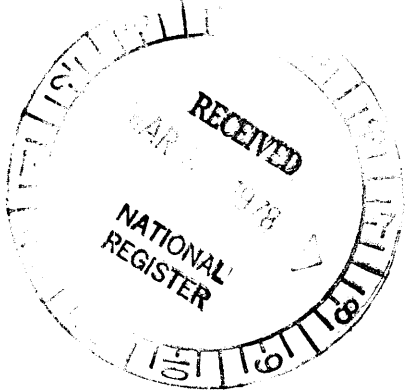
(2) North-east Boundary, identical;

(3) Southern Boundary, arbitrarily used to coincide with base-of-cliff line. This is reflected on the Assessor's Parcel Map as the northern boundary of commercial parcels facing East Main Street;

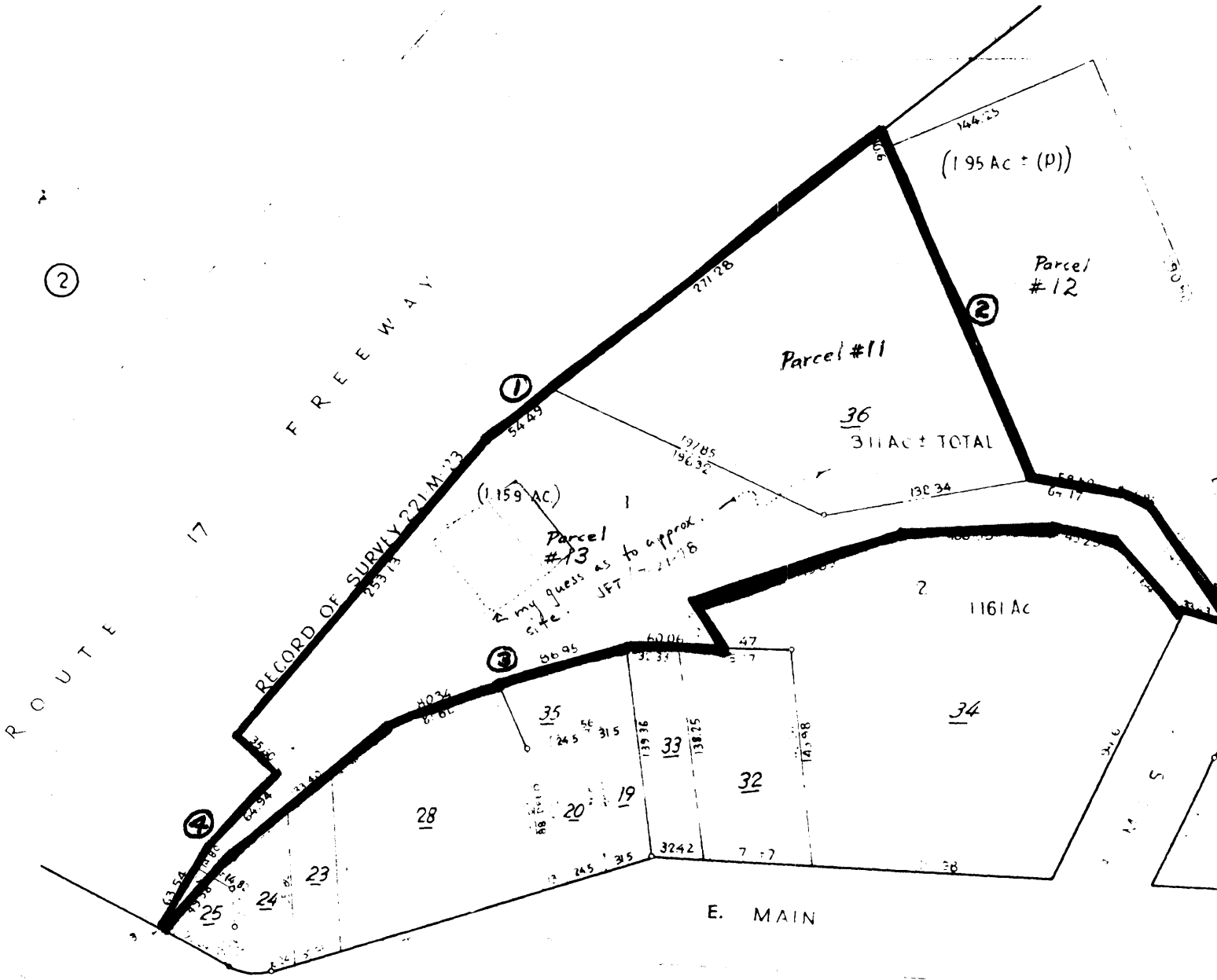
(4) South-west point boundaries drawn eliminating triangular piece to the west which is now owned by the State of California.



McMurtry Homestead Map
by A.T. Herrmann, Nov. 1892



JUL 31 1978



**County of Santa Clara, Assessor's Map
Book 529, Page 28**

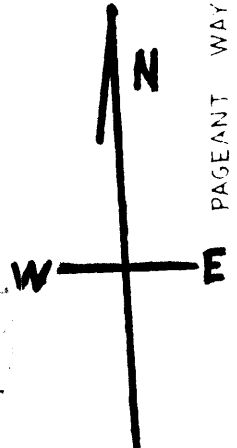
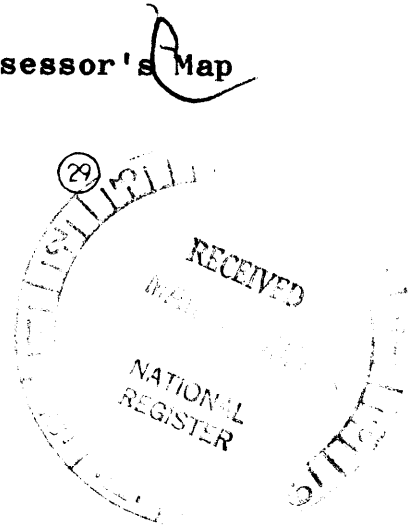
March, 1974

This map has been prepared by the Assessor's Office of Santa Clara County from data of record as of March, 1974. This map has been prepared in accordance with Section 327 of the Revenue and Taxation Code for land identification of the parcels as of the above date.

DWIGHT L. MATHESON
County Assessor

COLLEGE AVE

PAGEANT WAY



JUL 31 1978

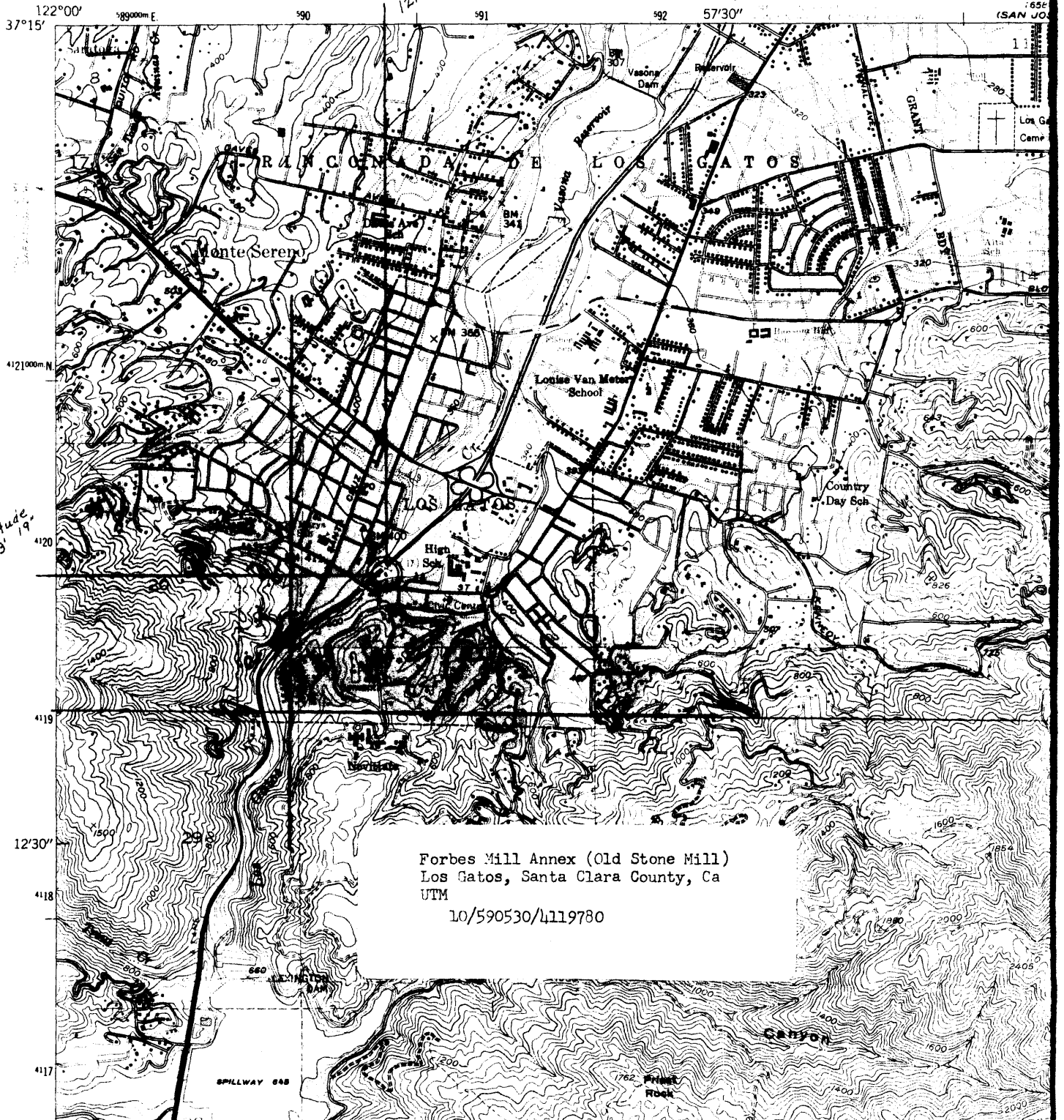
Forbes "Santa Rosa" Flour Mill Site + Annex
for National Registry

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REPRESENTATIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
(SAN JOSE)

1558 / 58
(CUPERTINO)

W. Long's date
12/10 58' 46"



Forbes Mill Annex (Old Stone Mill)
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, Ca
UTM
10/590530/4119780

Latitude
37° 13' 19"

122°00'
37°15'
4121000m N
4120
4119
12°30'
4118
4117

899000m E 90 91 92 57'30'