OMB No. 1024-0018
1738
tment of the Interior ce
r of Historic Places
inating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in <i>How to Complete the</i> <i>ic Places Registration Form</i> (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.
/
atoga Village Library
Imber <u>Book-Go-Round</u>
14410 Oak Street n/a [] not for publication
oga n/a 🗌 vicinity
code <u>CA</u> county <u>Santa Clara</u> code <u>085</u> zip code <u>95070</u>
ency Certification
uthority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this in nomination mination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property of meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in nationally ally. (Interception Section Se
nting or other official Date
ency and bureau
rvice Certification Add opperty is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action ional Register I.I7.07 utation sheet. I.I7.07 e for the er I.I7.07 utation sheet. I.I7.07 gible for the er I.I7.07 National I.I7.07
opga n/a vicinity

5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private X_ public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box) building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing 1 buildings sites sites			
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a m	nultiple property listing.)	the National Register			
<u>n/a</u>		_n/a			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
Education - Library		Education - Library			
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
7. Description Architectural Classification		Materials			
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)			
Late 19th/20th Century Reviv	val – Spanish Revival	foundation Concrete			
		roof <u>Terra Cotta Tile</u>			
		walls Interior walls: wood			
		Exterior walls: concrete block over wood frame			
		other			

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

Property is associated with events that have ХА made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- \Box C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1927 - 1955

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Spencer, Eldridge T. "Ted"

Primary Location of Additional Data

- _ State Historic Preservation Office
- _ Other State agency
- Federal agency
- X Local government
- University
- X Other

Name of repository:

Saratoga Historical Museum; Santa Clara County Library

Santa Clara County, California County and State

n/a

<u>Santa</u>	Clara	County,	<u>California</u>	
County	and Sta	ate		

10. G	10. Geographical Data								
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre									
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)									
1	Zone <u>10</u>	Easting <u>586000</u>	Northing <u>4123680</u>	3	Zone	Easting	Northing	_	
2				4	See c	ontinuation she	 pet.	_	
	Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)								
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)									
11. Form Prepared By									
name/title Beth Wyman, Historian									
organization Saratoga Historic Preservation Commission date June 15, 2006									
street & number 14515A Oak Street, telephone (408) 867-1195									
city or town Saratoga					state CA_	zip code <u>95070-6025</u>			
Additional Documentation									
Submit	the follow	ving items with	n the completed	form:					

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Copies of HABS drawings CA-2014, 1978. Various elevations of the building.

Property Owner					
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)					
name <u>City of Saratoga</u>	Contact: John Livingstone, Director of Planning				
street & number <u>13777 Fruitvale Avenue</u>	telephone (408) 868-1231				
city or town Saratoga	state <u>CA</u> zip code <u>95070</u>				

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

The Saratoga Village Library is located at 14410 Oak Street in Saratoga Village, Saratoga, California. The one-story, Spanish Revival-style building was constructed as the City's first library through a public subscription of 12,000 in 1927. The 3,082 square foot building occupies most of the 121.8 ft x 62.5 ft lot. The lot and building's exterior have not been appreciably altered since construction. The setting for the Library includes many mature trees that surround the building. The species include deodar cedars, redwoods, cypress, magnolias and oaks. The library grounds were formally laid out by a local landscape professional, Harriet Parsons. The library retains its integrity.

The Spanish Revival-style library is clad in concrete block with a red terra cotta tile roof. The specific concrete block material was referred to at the time as Thermotite and effusively described as ". . . an ingenious construction. Although giving the appearance and fire-resisting qualities of concrete, it provides a dead-air space in the walls which will keep the room warm in the winter and cool in the summer." The Village Library was the first such building in Saratoga. The inner walls were constructed with typical wood frame.

The main public entrance is off of Oak Street. An entry projection measures 78" x 166" with two side niches 27" x 5". Two six-pane windows flank the entry door which has its own six-pane window in the upper half. A fixed horizontal seven-pane transom crosses above the windows and the door. There is also a rear access door used by library staff. An interior door opens to storage space.

The interior is basically one large room subdivided by bookshelves into three sections with a capacity for 10,000 books. The sections were originally separated to serve adults, library staff and children. The exposed ceiling for the adult section is six feet higher than the ceiling for the other two sections. It has three broad, multi-paned windows situated above the book shelves, allowing natural light into the interior. The children's section has a recessed, floor-to-ceiling, 36-pane window that looks out over Saratoga-Los Gatos Road with a large multi-paned window on the front side and a cozy recessed fireplace at the back. The rear of the building has three projections. The one behind the reception desk area measures 82" x 208" with one twelve-pane window and one six-pane niche window. The back egress area measures 108" x 168" with two 24" x 36" windows at the back and one six-pane niche window on the side. A projection behind the fireplace encloses the chimney.

Windows were an important consideration for the architect. At the dedication he said "... towards the Los Gatos Road, (there is) a great window reaching the floor which commands the view. The other windows are located above the bookshelves which allow for ... the best light for reading – that is, a diffused, rather than direct light." A memorial plaque located at the front

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

door honors Mr. Sheldon P. Patterson who led a citizens' committee in acquiring the land and building the library. A second entrance plaque designates the Village of the Saratoga as Saratoga Landmark Number 7.

Over the years both plumbing and lighting systems have been modernized. Banks of fluorescent lights replaced hanging electric fixtures on the interior and pumps are intermittently installed to contend with persistent water seepage underneath. There has been no replacement of original materials except for at least one new terra cotta tile roof and a recent minor roof repair in April 2006. This was required as the result of a large 50' live oak tree limb crashing onto the Library roof. The building retains a high degree of integrity in all areas. These include materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It remains on its original location within the same "natural" setting in the Village area. The well-loved, regularly-used structure retains its initial feeling as a comfortable escape for Saratoga residents. Its association with the ambience and architecture of the community has been preserved because it is surrounded by historical buildings, including two in the adjacent Historical Park, the 1923 Federated Church across the street and many early 20th century homes along historic Oak Street.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

We propose that the Saratoga Village Library (Village Library) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** in the area of **Social History** at the local level of significance, with a period of significance dating from its construction in 1927 through an arbitrary cut-off date of 1955.

Significance

The Village Library is historically significant for its long association with the development of civic life in Saratoga in the 20th century. It served as the community's only library for 51 years. Funded solely by local contributions, the library remains today one of the most recognizable and frequently used structures in the community. After the construction of a new library facility in 1978, the Village Library branch remained a secondary community library for five years and has since been utilized as a popular recycled book venue, the Book-Go-Round. This successful nonprofit enterprise is operated entirely by Friends of Saratoga Libraries volunteers with all profits supporting community libraries. During its long life, the building has remained a center for education and social interaction. Throughout the years that it served as the main library (1927-1978), the typical library activities such as children's hours and summer reading competitions were conducted, as well as hosting and housing innumerable community occasions, events and displays. Its close proximity to the 1923 Saratoga Elementary School meant that the facility was a frequent meeting place for parents and children and the official stop for the Saratoga - Los Gatos trolley was in front on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road. The Village Library was a center of education and social interaction for the community, and it is a good example of the prototypical small-town library.

The simple, functional structure is well preserved and carefully maintained, and has continuously served as a library facility for the greater Saratoga community for 79 years. The Village Library conveys a valuable architectural and historical character to the City of Saratoga. The construction of a community-owned public library building at such an early date assured its continuing significance as the town grew and developed. It affirmed Saratoga's stability and affluence and encouraged positive growth.

<u>Criterion A – Social Significance</u> Historical Background

In 1847, William Campbell built a lumber mill on the banks of Saratoga Creek which became the nucleus of a community called *Campbell's Gap*. After statehood was achieved in 1850, the village was officially surveyed and became *McCartysville*, named for another early settler. A post office was established followed by the construction of churches, a school, the Madronia Cemetery and the important development of a vacation resort at Pacific Congress Springs which

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

was later renamed Saratoga Springs. In 1864, the residents voted to call the expanding town *Saratoga*. During the 1880s, the lumber industry was replaced with fruit ranching and, for more than 70 years, the entire Santa Clara Valley was celebrated as *The Valley of Heart's Delight*. In 1900, Saratoga hosted the first springtime *Blossom Festival*, an annual event that attracted thousands of visitors until 1940. The extraordinary natural beauty of Saratoga drew both vacationers and visitors.

Although the fruit industry continued to dominate the local economy until the early 1950s, the post-WWII years brought an influx of population, a demand for housing, and the eventual demise of the orchards. Nevertheless, throughout the ensuing decades, the Saratoga community retained a strong sense of its historic importance and character. When state legislation was passed in 1949 to allow the recognition of significant California landmarks, Saratoga's residents nominated their entire town. As a result, Saratoga Village became State Historic Landmark 435 in 1950. This designation is the only major civic entity that remains intact from that early process. In order to protect its unique identity from urban encroachment, the Village was incorporated as a city in 1956.

History of the Saratoga Village Library

The Saratoga Foothill Study Club began meeting in 1907. The goal of this club of women, as with many others in California, was "to foster and encourage intellectual and civic activities within the club and the community." Organizing libraries was a natural outgrowth of the educational focus of all-female study clubs and in 1909, the women of the Saratoga Foothill Study Club began efforts to establish a public library facility in the Village. This was the same year that California passed legislation allowing for the formation of library districts which were intended to service rural and unincorporated communities such as Saratoga.

The women were successful in their efforts and the first box of books available for circulation was placed at the Village drugstore. The women were interested in seeing a more permanent home established for the library. Town libraries had become popular club-sponsored activities in the west, unlike the pattern in the east where libraries were often a gift of wealthy men. According to Abigail A. Van Slyck, libraries in the west were more commonly the result of efforts by middle-class women who saw library organizing as a natural educational outgrowth of their membership in all-female study clubs. She cites the American Library Association's 1933 statistic, which credited women's clubs with initiating 75 percent of the public libraries then in existence.

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

This judgment is corroborated by Lucy Kortum who completed an extensive survey of California's Carnegie Libraries in 1990. Kortum reported that "women in California played a more prominent role in the development of libraries than was the case nationally." Furthermore, she claims that "women's efforts to establish libraries were usually expressed in terms of social and moral issues ... with self-improvement as a frequent goal." This was certainly the case with the Saratoga Foothill Study Club, which became the Saratoga Foothill Club. Their determined lobbying was finally successful in bringing an official branch of the County Library to the Village in 1914. These efforts were assisted by the work of a so-called "state library organizer," Harriet Eddy, who had assembled a group of enthusiastic supporters throughout the County whom she identified as "library people," "women's groups" and "farm organizations." The first group included the local township and public school librarians and the Normal School officials who viewed libraries as part of their educational mission. The second group included members of Women's Clubs throughout the county and Parent-Teacher organizations as well. Their endorsements, Eddy claimed, "were coterminous with the total county membership." The third group, mostly men, was members of Farmer's Unions and Grange. It was through the latter's strong endorsements that a woman named Mrs. Shambeau was appointed to represent the combined group at Supervisor's meetings. Eddy recalled previously unsuccessful discussions with a recalcitrant Board of Supervisors whose only apparent interest in "culture" was in agriculture. A vote to become part of the county library system passed in 1912, but the project was not funded. Finally, on March 9, 1914, Santa Clara County became the nineteenth county to establish a county library service with a one cent tax levied to support its operation. Business began in July, 1914. The first library facility in Saratoga as an official branch of the County library was again located at the town drug store until 1921 when it was moved to Sunday school room of the Christian Church. After it quickly outgrew that space, the Foothill Club women stepped in once more and organized a committee to develop a plan for a separate library building.

Although this occurred during the era of Carnegie Foundation-subsidized community libraries, Saratoga was not yet a municipality, so all fundraising was achieved through private donations. By June, 1927, the committee, led by Sheldon Patterson, had solicited and collected an amazing sum of \$12,000 and an architect was chosen to design the structure. The architect, Eldridge T. Spencer, was, not coincidentally, the son-in-law of the Saratoga Foothill Study Club president and leading library fundraiser, Mrs. H. P. Dyer. That the community leaned toward the academic was mentioned by county historian, Eugene Sawyer, who credited the Saratoga Foothill Study Club members with ". . . feeding the intellectual hunger of the town with lectures, concerts and other forms of entertainment" and, of course, a few years later, spearheading the effort to build a community library!

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

The Saratoga Village Library opened on September 22, 1927, with a formal dedication ceremony held on November 7, 1927. Ruth Comfort Mitchell, a well-known California poet and novelist, whose home was in nearby Los Gatos, read a poem which she had written for the occasion which included these words: *This is a magic house that you have built, Wisdom of the ages in its garnered store*....

From that time on, the County of Santa Clara has operated the Saratoga branch library, paying the library staff and managing the book circulation. Ownership of the Village Library property was eventually transferred from the school district to the city after Saratoga was legally incorporated in 1956.

Throughout its 51 years the Village Library was the main community library, and the primary location and sponsor of social and educational activities for Saratoga's citizens. A typical year's schedule encompassed a plethora of reading programs:

- Three separate story times for pre-school children, morning, afternoon, evening. For the evening sessions, children were invited to attend in their pajamas.
- A popular after-school Book Club for school age children with competitions and certificates for completion.
- Summer reading programs with themes such as *Treasure Island* and *Aloha* with a closing party and certificates for completion of an assigned number of books.

The Village Library introduced special programs that were interactive and geared towards children. Children could write and illustrate their own stories on a long sheet of paper to replicate an Egyptian Scroll. They learned to make costumes out of newspapers, attended cooking lessons and learned to produce peanut butter from scratch and grind corn for Johnny cakes. For children and parents the library sponsored Family Film Nights and showed such films as *The Red Balloon*. Regular puppet shows dubbed "With Strings Attached," acted out themes such as *Little Red Riding Hood* with refreshments served by the SQUARES (Saratoga-Quito Unusual Alive Readers Enterprises) Book Club. Guest storytellers from Yugoslavia, India, Mexico, Africa, Japan, South America and China would delight listeners of all ages.

Annual events such as the Spring Mini-Book Sale and a three-day Fall Book Fair held at Fruitvale School, sponsored by the Village Library were also important fundraisers for the library. A regular celebration in April for *National Library Week* with special exhibits and speakers such as local or visiting authors was held at the Village Library, and on occasion larger events sponsored by the library were sometimes held at the neighboring Montalvo estate. Independence Day was celebrated by school-age children at Wildwood Park, with stories from American folklore. October brought recognition of *United Nations Month* with complementary

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

books from the Village Library and interpretative displays and movies. This was capped with a community-wide *International Buffet* served at West Valley College by students in the Food Services department. The Saratoga Village Library regularly exhibited the displays of interest groups such as local artists and photographers, art from the nearby schools, quilters, stitchery art, antique bottle collections, and rock collections.

In addition to its reading programs, events, and displays the Village Library was also the host to many community organizations such as *Friends of the Library*, *Native Plant Society*, *League of Women Voters* and *Sierra Club* that held regular monthly meetings at the library. During the arduous years of fundraising for a new library, the meetings held by proponents of a library bond measure were usually held at the library.

Eldridge T. "Ted" Spencer, Architect July 31, 1892 – September 22, 1978

Additional significance for the Saratoga Village Library is attributed to its connection with the architect, Eldridge T. "Ted" Spencer. Spencer was the last of twelve children born in the Sierra foothill town of Volcano. He earned a Bachelor's degree at the University of California in Berkeley in 1917, flew with the Army Signal Corps during World War I and earned a degree in architecture at the prestigious Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1925. In 1920, Ted married Jeannette Dyer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Dyer, Saratoga residents who were active in community affairs. Mrs. Dyer was president of the Saratoga Foothill Club from 1925 to 1927 and a leader of the fundraising committee for the Village Library project.

Spencer's architecture firm, Spencer Associates Architects, was formed in 1927 when Ted was appointed Yosemite National Park architect by the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Ted designed a number of National Park buildings including the Yosemite Lodge, the Badger Pass Ski Lodge and the Indian Museum in Grand Teton National Park. As Stanford University's first planning director, Spencer designed buildings at Stanford University including the Tresidder Memorial and the first increment of the Stanford Linear Accelerator. He was the supervising architect for all campus building from 1946 - 1960. He created the concentric campus traffic circulation system that remains in effect today.

Spencer Associates Architects (SAA) remains in business today with offices in Palo Alto. In 1978 the firm was awarded the commission to design the City of Saratoga's second library which was located within an orchard setting. Employing its reputed sensitivity, SAA architects produced a rustic-looking structure surrounded by a still-working orchard. This same design was

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

perpetuated in the more recent and much-expanded main library building which opened in June, 2003.

Ted Spencer officially retired in 1971 but remained active as a consultant for his practice until his death in 1978. His firm Spencer Associates Architects was honored as *Firm of the Year* in 1993 by the Central California American Institute of Architects.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

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Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

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Interview with Steve Bowers, architect, Spencer Associates, Palo Alto, CA, 2004.

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Consultants:

Barnes, Dolly, Saratoga Librarian, 1987 - present.

Espinosa, Gary. Longtime Saratoga resident, professional appraiser, co-manager, Saratoga Foothill Clubhouse.

Fenn, Mary Jean, Director, Saratoga Book-Go-Round, Friends of Saratoga Libraries.

Halberstadt, April, Professional Historian; Curator, Saratoga Historical Foundation and Museum.

Heid, Warren, AIA, Architect; longtime Saratoga resident; member of the Saratoga Historical

Preservation Commission.

Jaech, Carol, County of Santa Clara Library Administrator, Retired. Livingstone, John, City of Saratoga Planning Director and former HPC Staff Liaison. Maggi, Franklin, Architectural Historian, San Jose, CA Peck, Willys, Native Saratogan; Historian; Official "Town Character.".

Online Resources:

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

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Maps of Santa Clara County, CA.

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- Santa Clara County, Deeds, Official Records, Official Maps, Superior Court Probate Records, Great Register of Voters.

Saratoga Historical Museum Files, Saratoga, CA.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>1</u>

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, California

Verbal Boundary Description

Southwest corner of Oak Street and Highway 9 aka Saratoga-Los Gatos Road, in Saratoga, CA APN: 517-10-012

Boundary Justification

The building remains on its original site.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographic Log Page 1

Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, CA

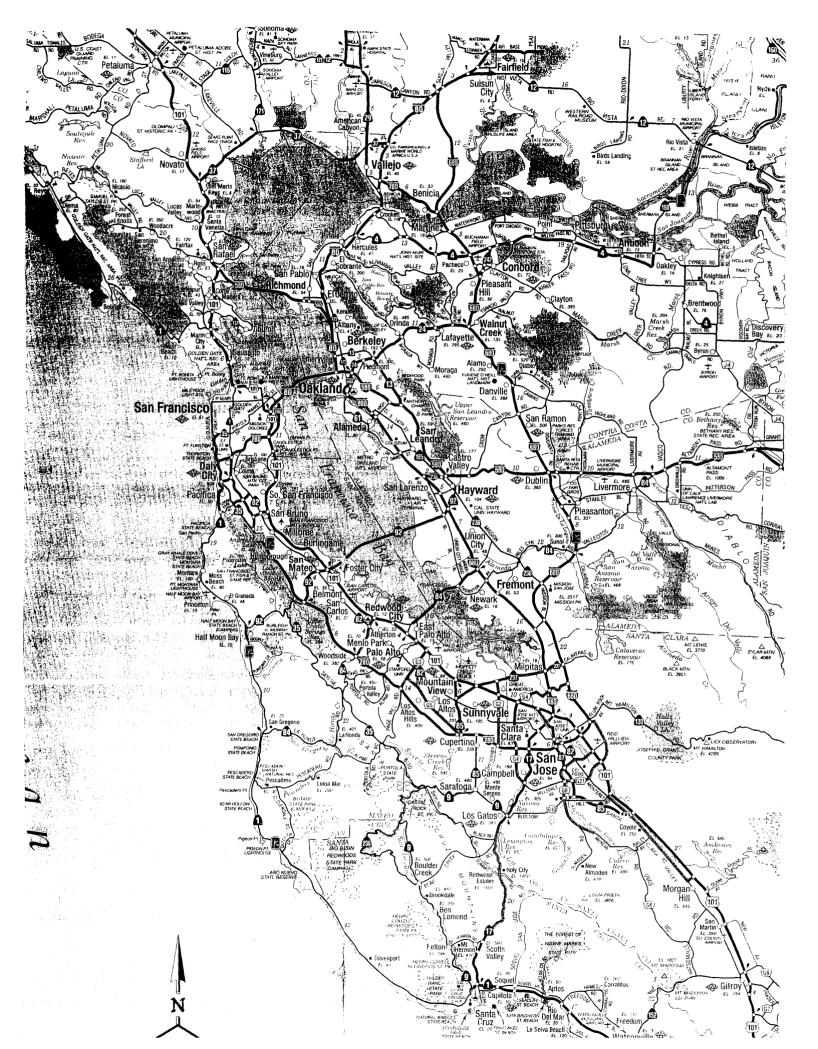
- Saratoga Village Library 14410 Oak Street Saratoga, CA
- 2. Santa Clara County, CA
- 3. Patricia Bailey, Saratoga HPC Vice-Chair
- 4. November 16, 2005
- City of Saratoga Planning Department (408) 868-1231 13777 Fruitvale Avenue Saratoga, CA 95070
- 6. Library entrance from Oak Street. Northwest elevation Looking toward the southeast
- 7. Photograph #1
- Saratoga Village Library 14410 Oak Street Saratoga, CA
- 2. Santa Clara County, CA
- 3. Patricia Bailey, Saratoga HPC Vice-Chair
- 4. November 16, 2005
- City of Saratoga Planning Department (408) 868-1231 13777 Fruitvale Avenue Saratoga, CA 95070
- 6. West side elevation
- 7. Photograph #2
- Saratoga Village Library 14410 Oak Street Saratoga, CA
- 2. Santa Clara County, CA
- 3. Patricia Bailey, Saratoga HPC Vice-Chair
- 4. November 16, 2005
- City of Saratoga Planning Department (408) 868-1231 13777 Fruitvale Avenue Saratoga, CA 95070
- 6. Library entrance and front side wall with multi-paned window
- 7. Photograph #3

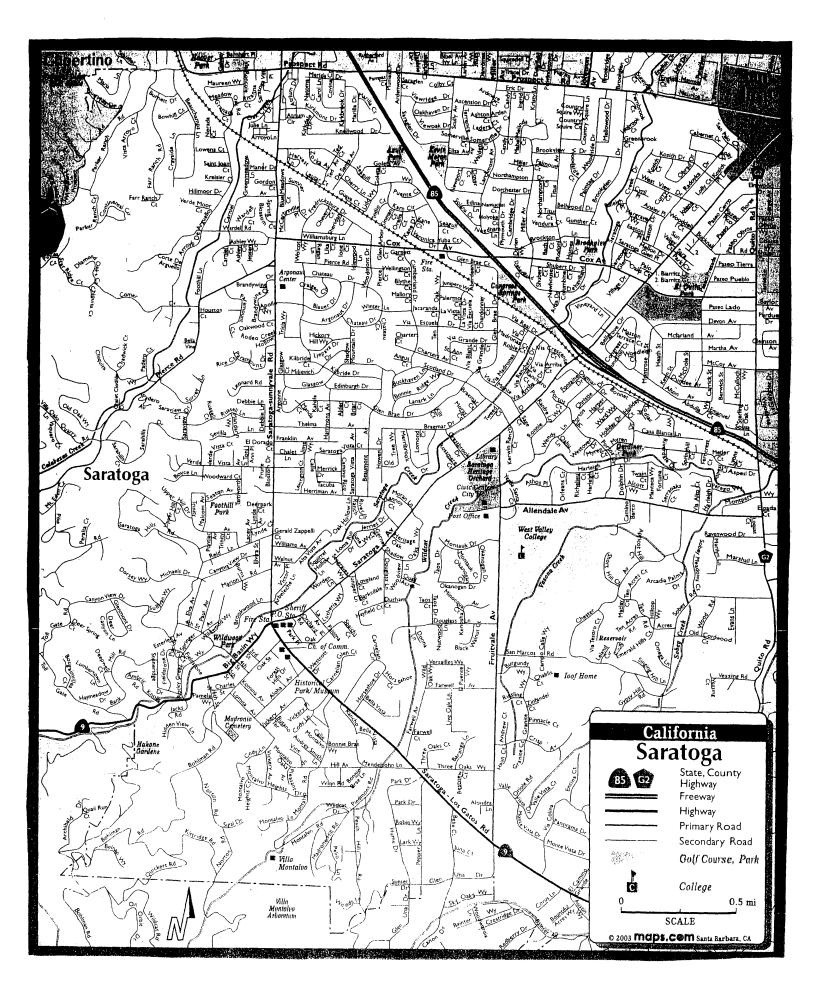
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

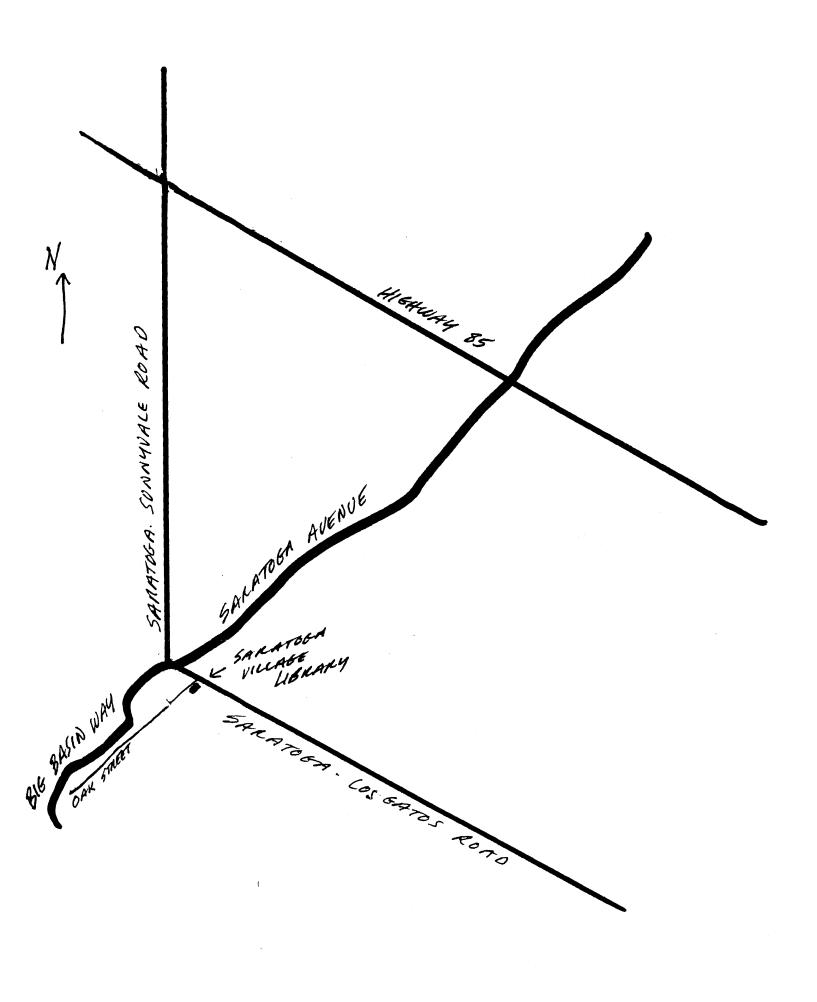
Photographic Log Page 2

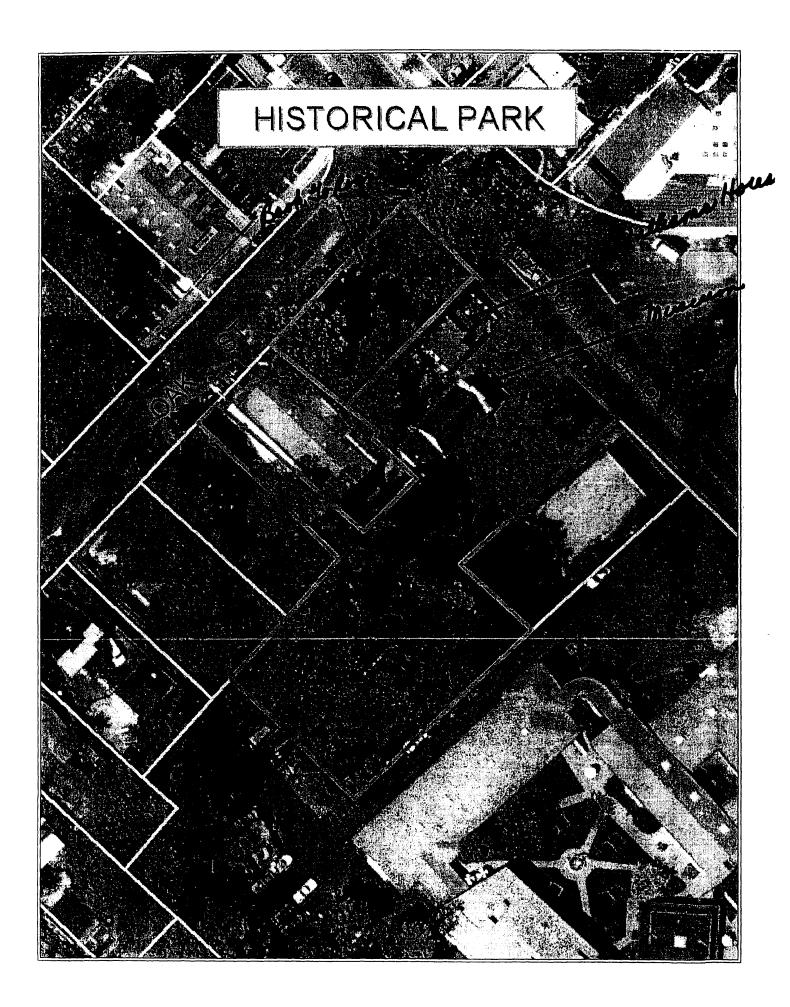
Saratoga Village Library Santa Clara County, CA

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- 6. Side of building, rear elevation
- 7. Photograph #4









Santa Clara County, CA

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