

**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 ROSS HOUSE

and/or common ROSS HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 693 ~~SOUTH SECOND STREET~~ <sup>S. 2nd. St.</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town SAN JOSE N/A vicinity of congressional district 10

state CA 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 checked="" 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	N/A 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 FOUNTAIN LANE HERITAGE, LTD.

street & number 247 N. THIRD ST.

city, town SAN JOSE \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state CA

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE

street & number 70 W. HEDDING

city, town SAN JOSE \_\_\_\_\_ state CA

## 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 DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING, CITY OF SAN JOSE

city, town SAN JOSE \_\_\_\_\_ state CALIF.

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## 7. Description

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

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

693 South Second Street is a stately two-story Victorian period Italianate residence with a slightly hipped shingled roof. The structure is rectangular in shape and is sheathed in wide clapboard siding. It features a boxed cornice and wide decorative corner boards. Typical components of the Italianate style include segmental arch windows, an offset main entrance at the facade, and wide overhanging eaves supported by brackets. A row of dentils may be seen between each of the brackets which extends around the entire structure. In addition, space between each bracket below the dentils is punctuated by small recessed rectangular panels which give added design distinction. In general, it may be stated that the building's design elements place an emphasis on the vertical plane.

A major structural feature of this residence is the two-story slanted bay found on three of the four elevations. A metal covered mansard roof tops each bay at the roofline, followed by a projecting section at the cornice-line. Half-size curved brackets, and a row of dentils here mimic the upper level. The facade bay is located to the left of the entrance while the other two bays are located at the center of each elevation. Each bay contains a set of three segmental arch double-hung windows. Additional fenestration at the facade includes a single double-hung segmental arch window above the main entrance with a carved window hood supported by two small curved brackets. Each elevation of the structure features a set of single segmental arch windows, one located under the other at the first and second stories. The north elevation also contains a single two over two window at the second story.

The entrance is located at the north end of the facade and features a full pediment porch supported by two square columns and two pilasters. Curved brackets and dentils are repeated across the frieze and a small mansard roof tops the porch. The glass and wood front door is topped by a rounded transom. Six steps and a lattice-work railing complete the entrance.

The rear (west) elevation entrance is offset to the left (north) and sits on a porch area which wraps around to the south elevation and a third door. A lattice-work railing encompasses a small balcony area at the second level and is repeated around the porch itself. Wooden square columns function as porch supports.

Additional structures on this property include a small gazebo (appears to be of recent construction), and a two-story clapboard sheathed barn. The barn consists of a simple rectangular shape with a gable roof. A gabled cupola sits at the top of the structure. It appears that the two 2/2 windows and paneled door at the south elevation may have been added sometime during the twenties.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1878 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

693 South Second Street is significant primarily for its architecture as one of downtown San Jose's best examples of the Italianate style. The structure is visually unique in its stylistic combination of both the Italianate and Second Empire elements as exemplified in the mansard roof tops which sits over the two-story bays at all four elevations. Other excellent Italianate elements include the round-headed windows (rapidly becoming a rarity in San Jose), decorative curved brackets and wide corner boards. The house sits on a large lot and features both a barn and gazebo. Mature vegetation adds to the Victorian setting.

Historically, the house was originally occupied by Lyman and Oscar D. Ross, a father and son who were local fruit dealers. Although the house appears on the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (the earliest map for San Jose), the 1878 San Jose Street index lists the house at the present location to have been occupied by the Ross family. The house style gives further evidence to this earlier date. The Ross family sold the house around 1889 and new occupants came and went until 1900. At this time the house was purchased by William E. Keith, a local surgeon and his wife who stayed until 1931. After that time the property again changed hands several times. It functioned as the Volunteers of America Hospitality house in 1947 and was converted to apartments by 1949. Today the house is undergoing rehabilitation and will function as offices and a studio.

Because 693 South Second Street is one of San Jose's best examples of an Italianate residence, and because the property represents one of the few intact homes in an area which at one time was abundant in such homes, it deserves to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1884.  
San Jose City Directories, 1878-1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property (less than one) .30 ac

Quadrangle name San Jose West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

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4	1	3	1	4	6	0
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Building occupies its historic lot located at the NW corner of S. Second St. and Margaret St. The east boundary is 125.34', the north 105.75', the western boundary 125.34', and the southern boundary 107.32' forming a trapezoidal parcel..

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonnie L. Bamburg

organization Bonnie L. Bamburg & Assoc. date November 1, 1981

street & number 1017 Meridian Ave. telephone (408) 267-2947

city or town San Jose state CA 95125

## 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. Mellon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept. 29, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

for Allison Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 10/29/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

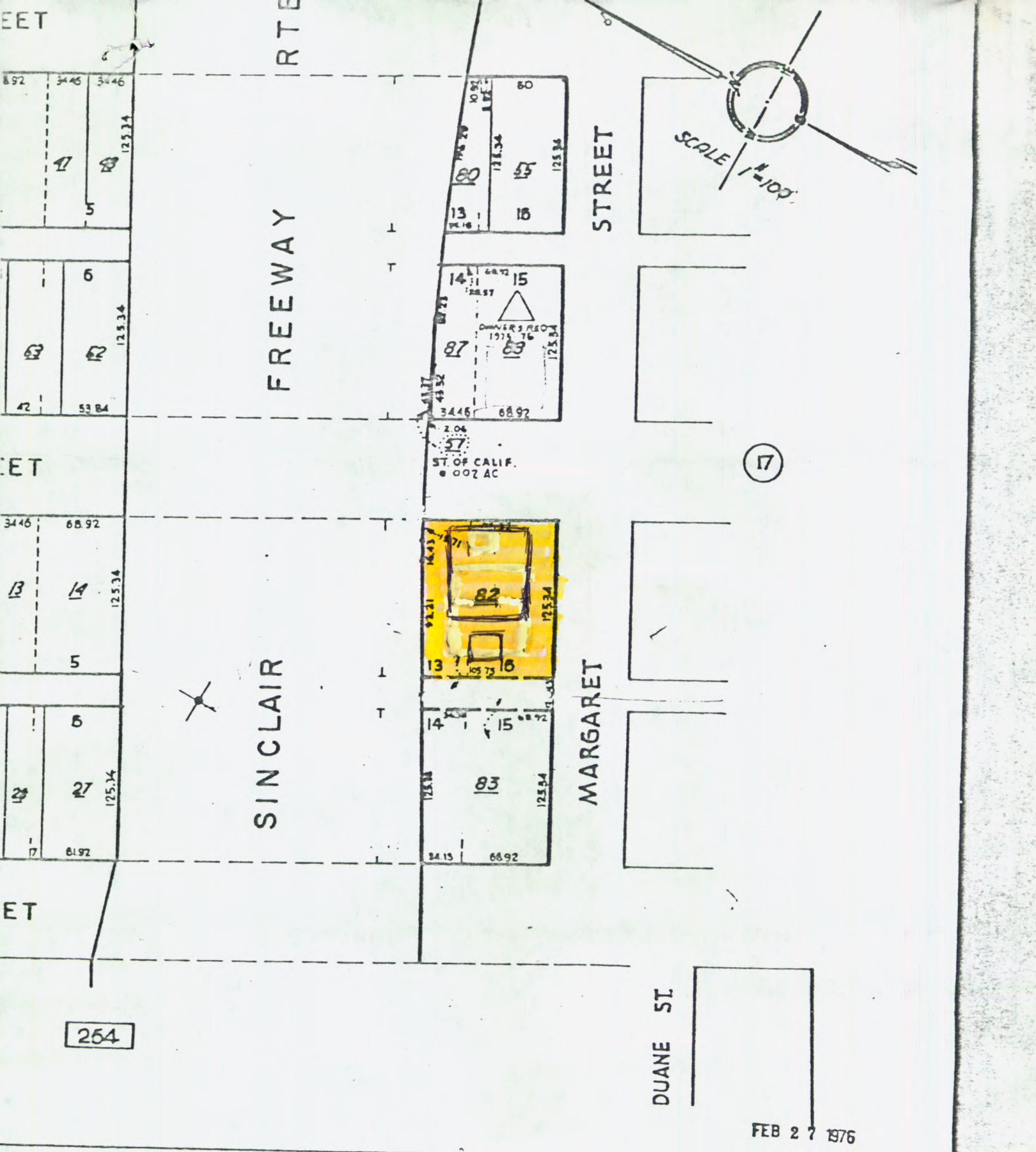
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 2

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

San Jose Historic Resources Inventory  
1978, revised 1982                      Local  
San Jose Historical Museum  
635 Phelan Avenue  
San Jose, CA



ROSS HOUSE  
San Jose, California

FEB 27 1976