

# **City of East Palo Alto Historic Resources Inventory Report**

**February 1994  
San Mateo County Historical Association  
San Mateo County Historic Resources Advisory Board**

**Alan Michelson and Katherine Solomonson  
Survey Coordinators**

# Survey Staff

Alan Michelson, Survey Coordinator

Katherine Solomonson, Survey Coordinator

Jeri Oakley, Community Liaison

Vicki Bona, Photographer

Gail Jones, Photographer

# *Table of Contents*

<b>Acknowledgments</b>	ii
<b>List of Figures</b>	iv
<b>Part 1: The Historic Resources Inventory and Historic Preservation</b>	
Introduction: East Palo Alto's Historic Resources Inventory	2
Chapter 1. The Survey Process	6
Chapter 2. Survey Evaluation	12
Chapter 3. Preservation Options	14
<b>Part 2: A History of East Palo Alto</b>	
Chapter 4. East Palo Alto Before 1916	20
Chapter 5. Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony	35
Chapter 6. East Palo Alto, from the 1920s to the Present	52
<b>Part 3: Architecture in East Palo Alto</b>	
Chapter 7. Building and Tradition	77
Chapter 8. Architectural Styles	85
<b>Appendix: Street Name Changes in the Runnymede Area</b>	95
<b>Glossary</b>	97
<b>Bibliography</b>	101

# *Acknowledgments*

Many people have contributed to this historic resources inventory. This survey would not have been possible without the sponsorship of the San Mateo County Historical Association's (SMCHA) and the San Mateo County Historic Resources Advisory Board. We are grateful to the Peninsula Community Foundation for providing the funding.

We would particularly like to thank SMCHA's Executive Director, Mitchell Postel, for giving us his continuous support and for sharing his insights in many different areas, both historical and logistical. Linda Wickert's historic resources inventories of other cities in San Mateo County (conducted under the auspices of SMCHA) provided a model of the highest quality.

The East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS) has given its continuous support for our efforts, especially its director, Trevor Burrowes, whose many years of dedication to East Palo Alto's history led to this survey. His insights and guidance are continuously present in these pages. EPA HAS board member, Jeri Oakley, served as our community liaison. Her deep knowledge of East Palo Alto was invaluable as we surveyed the city and talked with its residents.

For assistance with technical questions regarding historic preservation and the inventory process, we are grateful to Carolyn Samuels, Linda Wickert, Jan E. Wooley of the State Office of Historic Preservation, and Courtney Damkroger of the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

As we conducted the archival and library research on East Palo Alto's history, SMCHA's archivist, Marion Holmes, facilitated our use of the Association's excellent resources, Mitchell Postel provided guidance throughout, and Shelley Reynolds stepped in when additional help was needed. Steven Staiger provided tireless assistance as we searched the archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association. As we consulted San Mateo County records, staff members in the Recorder's and Assessor's offices helped us navigate data on computers, microfilm, and in old bound volumes of maps and deeds. Franklin Dancey, East Palo Alto City Planner, assisted us with zoning questions.

We were fortunate in having the assistance of some talented volunteers. Vicki Bona and Gail Jones contributed their training in architecture to the task of photographing many of the city's historic structures. Brian Canada, a Stanford undergraduate, and Robert Greggins, a student at the college of San Mateo, both combed through clippings and journal articles to help us reconstruct the city's history.

Research conducted by many people contributed to our account of East Palo Alto's history. Most of them appear in our bibliography, but we would like to extend particular thanks to those who were willing to discuss their unpublished work with us. Stanford law student Colin Hampson's research on the Ohlone and repatriation issues added new depth to an aspect of East Palo Alto's history that is now intangibly present. Brian Terhorst shared with us his research on tankhouses.

During the course of our work, we talked with numerous people, all of whom contributed, in different ways, to the reconstruction of the city's historic landscape. We would like to thank former East Palo Alto residents Miriam Turner Eades, Doris Brown Geddis (Charles Weeks's niece), Marjorie Jones, Thomas Kavanaugh, and Charles Weeks, Jr., for giving us their time and insights. We also had invaluable conversations with those who live or still own land in East Palo Alto, including Ida Chan, Henry Mock, Albert Nakai, Sally Nakai, Ina May Norman and her grandson Eugene, Harry Phillips, O.D. Sims, Mrs. Travis, Ola Wallace, and many others with whom the discussions were brief and without an exchange of names, but nonetheless helpful.

Professor John Rick of Stanford's Anthropology Department, and Bob French, former principal of Escondido School, provided significant pieces of information. Through discussions on a more thematic level, John Archer, Earl Black, Trevor Burrowes, Michael Levin, Jeri Oakley, and Mitchell Postel contributed in important ways, both directly and indirectly, to this study's formulation

Finally, we would like to thank the many people of East Palo Alto who made this study possible through their willingness to share their homes and their memories.

# *List of Figures*

- Figure 1. "Ravenswood Rancho" Residence of L.P. Cooley, Menlo Park, San Mateo Co., California. Courtesy of the San Mateo County Historical Association
- Figure 2. Woodland Place
- Figure 3. Cover of *One Acre and Independence in California*, November, 1922
- Figure 4. Runnymede Club House
- Figure 5. Map of Runnymede, July, 1917, *Palo Alto Times*
- Figure 6. Model Acre (for Owensmouth), *One Acre and Independence*, October, 1922
- Figure 7. Tankhouse
- Figure 8. Advertisement for a Pump, *One Acre and Independence*
- Figure 9. The Martinelli Place, *One Acre and Independence*
- Figure 10. Poultry Houses
- Figure 11. Wood-Frame Greenhouse
- Figure 12. Auten's Restaurant

Part 1

*The Historic Resources  
Inventory and Historic  
Preservation*

## Introduction

# *East Palo Alto's Historic Resources Inventory*

Until recently, few have been aware of the lasting mark East Palo Alto's rich and sometimes unusual history has left on its landscape. In 1991, the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS) approached the San Mateo County Historical Association about the possibility of conducting a survey of East Palo Alto's historic resources.

Since 1988, the San Mateo County Historical Association and the County's Historic Resources Advisory Board have sponsored a program that assists local governments and community groups in the assessment of their city's historic sites and structures. The primary means of achieving this has been through the historic resources inventory. The Historical Association secured funding from the Peninsula Community Foundation to finance the survey of East Palo Alto, which began in 1992. Under the auspices of the Historical Association, a team of architectural historians, East Palo Alto residents, and volunteers has combed the city, street by street, to identify and evaluate the city's historic resources predating World War II.

## East Palo Alto's History

The site that is now East Palo Alto has supported human settlement for over two millennia. Its earliest inhabitants were the Ohlone Indians, followed by Spanish ranchers, Gold Rush-enriched land speculators, and dairy farmers. In 1916, a utopian agricultural community known as Runnymede was established there as an idyllic alternative to urbanized industrial life. As Runnymede declined with the Depression, Italian and Japanese flower growers began to arrive. Following



World War II, new subdivisions suburbanized the area and the population swelled.

By the mid 1950s, African American families began to move into the new developments, and the community became one of the most explosive sites of desegregation in the Bay Area. The city incorporated in 1983, and over the past decade the influx of Latinos and Pacific Islanders has contributed to the multicultural community the city is today.

## **Why Document Historic Resources?**

Signs of the culturally and economically diverse people that have made East Palo Alto their home over the past century are woven into East Palo Alto's contemporary fabric. Remnants of the past enrich its texture and contribute to the city's distinctive sense of place. Yet the inherited historic landscape is part of a continuous process of transformation. As conditions change and new needs arise, East Palo Alto is faced with the problem of how to adapt its historic sites and structures to new conditions. This raises questions about the role of historic resources in contemporary planning. Which should be preserved for their historical and/or architectural value, and which may rightly give way to new development?

An historic resources inventory provides information that will help in addressing this issue. It indicates which structures and sites are connected to historical events or people who were instrumental in shaping the community; which are representative of particular phases of the city's development; and which have special architectural significance. Because a city's history is a vital part of its identity, the historic resources inventory not only documents its past but provides a resource for decisions about its future.

## **The Historic Resources Inventory**

This inventory provides information about East Palo Alto's history and the various types of historic resources that exist in the city today. By "historic resources" we mean landmarks, buildings, and sites that have historical or architectural significance to the community. The survey's documentation is composed of two sections, a report describing the survey and outlining East Palo Alto's history; and detailed information about selected structures and sites.

*Section 1*, which is the report you are now reading, includes a description of the survey and how it was conducted, an outline of the evaluation standards used, a discussion of preservation options, and an account of East Palo Alto's history. There is also a guide to styles found in East Palo Alto, and a glossary of architectural terms. The appendices list some of the city's distinctive buildings by type and indicate street name changes.

*Section 2* provides detailed documentation of the historic resources selected for their particular historical or architectural significance. The documentation includes a photograph and description of each site and an evaluation of its significance, plus basic factual information such as its date of construction, its current owner, and its present use. The State Office of Historic Preservation has provided the form (DPR 523) on which this information is recorded. Copies of the forms may be found at the State Office of Historic Preservation, the San Mateo County Historical Association, the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, and the city of East Palo Alto.

## **East Palo Alto's Historic Resources**

East Palo Alto has over 450 structures and sites that are more than fifty years old. Most of these were constructed during the 'teens, 'twenties, and 'thirties of this century. This historic resources inventory discusses several different types of resources that represent various phases of East Palo Alto's history. These include:

- >> **Ohlone sites**, including remains and artifacts excavated from the University Village subdivision in the 1950s. Though these have been removed from East Palo Alto, they represent an important aspect of the area's past.
- >> **19th-century artifacts**: Jack Farrell Park, the site of a brick factory's clay pit; the sandstone Pulgas East Base Monument; and a single 19th-century building.
- >> **The remnants of Runnymede**, an agricultural colony dating from 1916 through the 1920s: many one acre lots, small "garden homes," poultry houses, and tankhouses.
- >> **Vacation cottages** used by people from the city for week-end and summer vacations.
- >> **Suburban houses of the 1920s and 1930s**, including bungalows and houses in "period revival" styles.

- >> **Greenhouses**, representing the early phases of flower growing in East Palo Alto.
- >> **Early commercial structures** predating the widening of highway 101 in the 1950s.

# Chapter 1

## *The Survey Process*

### **The Survey's Focus**

*Geographic scope.* This historic resources inventory focuses on the area within East Palo Alto's current city limits. The definition of East Palo Alto as a geographic area has shifted over time. Until 1983, East Palo Alto was an unincorporated portion of San Mateo County. At various times it was known as Ravenswood and/or Runnymede, until the 1920s when the area that is now East Palo Alto came to be known by that name. Even while it was unincorporated, East Palo Alto had a distinct identity that distinguished it from the neighboring towns of Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The East Palo Alto area's boundaries once stretched further than they do now. As Palo Alto and Menlo Park annexed portions of East Palo Alto at various times, the city assumed its current dimensions. Although the structures selected for documentation are all within the area that is technically now East Palo Alto, this study places the city within its regional context.

*Focus.* During the course of this inventory, surveyors combed the entire city of East Palo Alto for structures and sites with particular meaning and significance — architectural, historical, or cultural. This resulted in a list of different types of resources representing nearly every phase of East Palo Alto's history. In this sense, this historic resources inventory is comprehensive.

At the same time, this survey is also thematic. The structures and spaces of Runnymede, also known as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony, form the core of the survey. Most of East Palo Alto's oldest structures were once part of this utopian colony, which covered much of the area that comprises the city today. As a result, the remnants of Runnymede dominate the survey through sheer numbers. But there are other reasons for making Runnymede the survey's focus. Though many of Runnymede's structures have vanished, the comprehensive plan for the colony's layout continues to shape East Palo Alto's current landscape.

In addition to having a lasting impact on East Palo Alto itself, Runnymede is also an important chapter in California's history. The formation of Runnymede was part of a larger back to the land movement, known as the "Little Landers," active during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A close look at Runnymede reveals much about the movement as a whole.

Runnymede's remnants also warrant careful documentation because the area in which they are located is now in a state of transition. The one-acre lots that characterized Runnymede provide tempting space for high-density development. Many small cottages and agricultural structures have already been torn down to make way for crowded enclaves of larger houses, and more lots have been subdivided to prepare for more development. It is essential to have an understanding of the rich historic resources in this area in order to make informed decisions about the area's future.

Runnymede developed in four different sections, each with a slightly different character. We have selected representative properties from each phase, including agricultural structures as well as houses. Because Runnymede's overall layout was carefully planned to facilitate the colony's operation, spaces here are as important as structures.

With Runnymede as the survey's heart, we have also included a small selection of sites representing other periods in East Palo Alto's history. These include nineteenth-century resources, commercial structures, late 1920s and 1930s suburban houses, and a greenhouse. The list includes what we believe to be among the best examples of their types. Below we outline the basis for these choices.

*Selection Criteria.* Generally speaking, the National Register's criteria for evaluation provided the basis for the selection of structures included in this survey. Sites were chosen for at least one of the following reasons: their association with significant historical events or people; their potential to provide historical information; or their architectural significance, such as representing a particular type, time period, mode of construction, work of a noted architect, or artistic value. Properties with these characteristics should also have become significant more than fifty years ago, and they must retain their historical integrity. That is, they should maintain their original location and they should not have been significantly altered in materials or workmanship.

Although these criteria provided the guidelines for our selections, there are a few instances where we departed from them. In the case of East Palo Alto's commercial buildings, for example, we selected a few that are slightly less than fifty years old. Some of these are now in an area that is under consideration for redevelopment. Because they represent an important phase of the city's history, these threatened resources need to be documented. The survey also includes a greenhouse constructed in the mid 1940s. One of the earliest remaining greenhouses in the area, this structure was incorporated because none survive from the prewar period; yet because East Palo Alto's greenhouses represent a way of life that is now rapidly vanishing, they ought to be documented. In a few cases, we have also chosen structures or sites that do not maintain their historical integrity in the strictest sense. Though we are concerned with their significance at a given historical moment, we also wish to note their role in history as a process of change — how successive populations have transformed their inherited landscape.

## Contexts

An integral part of the survey process was the construction of an overview of East Palo Alto's history. This resulted in the historical narrative that forms Part 2 of the report you are now reading. One of the purposes of this historical outline is to provide a context for the historic resources documented in this inventory. On each historic resources inventory form, under the heading "Significance and Evaluation," the documented site's context is indicated. For example, the Spanish Colonial Revival building at 1945-7 University Avenue is an excellent representative of commercial architecture in East Palo Alto. It relates to the theme, "Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District" which is discussed at greater length in the historical section of this document. As a retail store, it may also be compared with other similar structures in East Palo Alto. The inventory form outlines this building's significance in this context, but for more information the reader may also turn to the "Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District" section in this report. This makes it possible to discover the interconnections between the phases of East Palo Alto's history and the sites that are part of the city's current fabric.

In this report, the history of East Palo Alto has been organized into the following themes: East Palo Alto before 1916 (the Ohlone, Spanish Ranchos, late nineteenth-century rural East Palo Alto, and early twentieth century developments); Runnymede (also known as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony); and East Palo Alto since 1920 (suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s; the flower growers; post

World War II subdivisions; Highway 101 and the business district; industry; and desegregation and incorporation).

Though this provides a broad overview of East Palo Alto history, not every theme corresponds to a documented site. This is especially true of the postwar period. Because they are too recent to fall within the scope of this survey, resources associated with the city's history after World War II have not been inventoried. Yet it is essential to discuss East Palo Alto's more recent history for two reasons. First of all, because the postwar period transformed the older fabric to such a great extent, it is important to be aware of more recent developments in order to understand the remnants of the past. Secondly, postwar events, which have played a significant role in shaping East Palo Alto as it is today, have generated sites that are of considerable importance to the contemporary community. At some point, these deserve documentation. Our hope is that the postwar events outlined in the historical overview will provide a context which can be more richly developed in the future.

## Methodology

*How the survey was conducted.* This survey was conducted according to guidelines and procedures established by the the California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The inventory process began with a "windshield survey," a drive through East Palo Alto to make a general assessment of its historic resources. The next step was to select the sites to be included in the survey's documentation. A much more thorough exploration of the city, coupled with archival research, resulted in a list of structures and sites with particular historical and/or architectural significance. These were then photographed, described, documented, and evaluated through field work, interviews, and archival research. Finally, the information accumulated about each structure was recorded on an historic resources inventory form designed by the California Office of Historic Preservation. The history of East Palo Alto, included in this report, was researched and written during the survey process to provide the context for understanding the documented structures.

*The role of staff and volunteers.* Professional staff, a community liaison, and volunteers were involved in the survey process. The community liaison provided information and guidance during the survey process, and was instrumental in conducting on-site interviews and providing input on this report. Two volunteers, both with training in architecture, photographed many of the structures included

in the survey. Two student volunteers contributed to the historical section of this report through archival research. The professional staff coordinated the survey, researched and documented the individual structures, wrote the significance statements and physical descriptions of the structures, and wrote the final report.

## Resources

Reconstructing the various phases of a city's historic landscape is like putting together a puzzle. One of the best sources of information, of course, is the city itself. Careful study, street by street, begins to reveal patterns of development and prevalent architectural types. An old tankhouse in the middle of a suburban development may indicate that a farm once existed there. Or a streamlined market near the freeway may provide a clue to an entire commercial district, since obliterated. Archival sources and interviews help to fill out the picture.

The archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association (SMCHA) yielded rich materials on the history of the East Palo Alto area and some of its notable residents. These included photographs, newspaper clippings, maps, published and unpublished local histories, and biographical material. The archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association also provided useful clippings, photographs, maps, city directories, and brochures. These were especially helpful in reconstructing the history of Runnymede and its structures. Maps, photographs, and other documents in the collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society also contributed to the inventory. A computer printout, issued by the County Assessor's office and now housed in the SMCHA archives, lists addresses, dates of construction, and parcel numbers. Other information, such as present and past owners, precise locations, and legal descriptions of parcels was found in the books of maps and deeds, and other records in the Assessor's and Recorder's offices. Oral histories conducted by the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, and interviews done in the course of this survey also contributed significant information about East Palo Alto's history and some of its buildings.

For the design of this survey, information issued by the Department of the Interior and the California Office of Historic Preservation was particularly useful. These include the *California Historic Resources Inventory Survey Workbook*; *Preservation in California*; and *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*. Previous surveys sponsored by the San Mateo Historical Association provided



excellent models. The bibliography at the end of this report lists many of the other resources used in the course of this survey.

## Chapter 2

# *Evaluation Criteria*

### Why evaluate historic structures and sites?

Once the survey staff had evaluated the significance of each property and site, they rated East Palo Alto's documented historic resources according to the criteria established for the National Register of Historic Places. This serves two purposes. One is to indicate which historic resources may be eligible for nomination to the National Register. The other is to provide a shorthand method for indicating the degree and nature of each resource's significance. The rating may then become a convenient reference when preservation decisions are being made.

### National Register Criteria

According to the National Historic Preservation Act, sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts may be eligible for the National Register if they meet the following criteria:

They have significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture; *and*

They maintain "integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association;" *and*

They are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; *or*

They are associated with the lives of persons who were significant in our past; *or*

They embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic

values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; *or*

They have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to pre-history or history.

Integrity is essential for National Register consideration. According to the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), five issues should be considered in determining integrity:

*Location.* The property should be in its original location unless (a) it was moved to avoid demolition and the new location is similar to the old one or (b) it gained its significance after it was moved.

*Design.* The property should have undergone only alterations that are easily reversible. But if changes represent different architectural styles or construction techniques, they may show the evolution of the building and not impair its design integrity. Generally, changes to the facade are more serious than those to other elevations.

*Setting.* The property's environment today should be similar to its environment when the property gained its significance.

*Materials and Workmanship.* Alterations or repairs should have been made in materials compatible with the original and performed with the same level of skill as used originally.

*Feeling and Association.* Districts should maintain their internal coherence, with their parts relating to one another today in the same way they did when the district achieved its significance.

## Survey Rating System

On each form, the structure or site's rating has been indicated at the top of page 1. To indicate how each property has been evaluated, this survey uses the rating system adopted by the Office of Historic Preservation. The six possible rating categories are outlined below:

1. *Individually listed on the National Register.* This indicates that the property has already been included in the National Register. (No structures or sites in East Palo Alto have yet been formally designated.)
2. *Determined individually eligible for the Register by the U.S. Department of the Interior.* (No structures or sites in East Palo Alto have yet been formally evaluated.)
3. *Appears eligible for individual listing in the judgment of the person(s) completing or reviewing the inventory form.*
4. *May become eligible for individual listing when:* (a) more historical or architectural research is performed; (b) the property is restored to an earlier appearance; (c) more significant examples of the property's architectural style are demolished; or (d) the property becomes old enough to meet the Register's 50-year requirement.
5. *Is individually listed or eligible for listing under a local preservation or landmark ordinance.* (Though East Palo Alto does not yet have a local ordinance, the survey used this category to indicate structures and sites that deserve local recognition.)
6. *None of the above.*

## Chapter 3

# *Preservation Options*

How can East Palo Alto recognize, preserve, and adapt its historic resources as new plans are made for the future? Below is an overview of some of the available options.

**1. Financial Incentives.** There are a number of financial incentives for the preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptation of historic sites. Some of these can be undertaken locally, others in partnership with State and Federal agencies. These include:

*Tax incentives*, eg. Federal investment tax credits and local exemptions for, or reduction of, property tax. It is estimated that between 1982 and 1985 this contributed to the rehabilitation of more than 62,000 housing units, including nearly 30,000 rental housing units through the conversion of underutilized and/or abandoned commercial, industrial, and educational buildings to residential uses. The Mills Act, passed by the state of California, enables a city council to reduce property taxes on historic structures at a local level, provided certain conditions are followed.

*Grants* from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Endowments of the Arts and Humanities, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other agencies, both public and private. See, for example, HUD's Urban Development Action Grant Program and Community Development Block Grant program.

*The National Trust's Inner-City Ventures Fund*, a program formed to provide money for the rehabilitation of historic buildings to local nonprofit groups in minority neighborhoods.

The National Trust offers a *Preservation Services Fund*, which is a matching grant program of \$ 1,000 available to city governments or private planning agencies to

conduct planning for preservation of historic architectural and cultural resources.

*Subsidies*, Federal, State and local, to assist businesses and support low-income housing. Contact the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Charitable contributions of partial interest* in a particular land area or certified historic structure, that can be tax deductible.

*Revolving Funds and Low Interest Loans* to support activities including sensitive rehabilitation and facade restoration.

**2. The National Register of Historic Places.** Some of East Palo Alto's early buildings may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

*National Register Status.* The National Register, which is a Federal program, gives recognition to historic structures and sites that have local, state, or national significance. Nominations to the National Register must meet the standards of importance and integrity established by the federal government. We believe that some of Runnymede's remaining sites may meet these criteria. Nominations to the national register may use information from the historic resources inventory, but require a separate application process.

*The Advantages of National Register Status.* National Register status may bring money into the community, for it has an impact on eligibility for federal funding for rehabilitation. It carries with it a degree of prestige, which extends beyond the individual structure to the community as a whole. National Register status also attracts the public's interest as well as potential buyers who are interested in historical value.

*Historic Districts.* Groups of significant structures may be nominated to the National Register as historic districts. It is possible that some portions of Runnymede could form a historic district. Because the configuration of Runnymede's landscape is as important as its individual structures, it might be appropriate to designate the district as a "Designed Historic Landscape."

**3. Landmarks Ordinance.** To protect and recognize its historic sites and structures, East Palo Alto may form a Landmarks Ordinance. This creates a landmarks commission that provides recognition for structures that have historical and/or architectural significance. In addition, the ordinance may protect designated historic resources from demolition or inappropriate alteration. Information about landmark ordinances may be obtained from the State Office of

Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**4. Planning Options.** There are a variety of planning strategies that a community may enlist to protect and recognize its historic resources.

*Historic Preservation Elements*, included in the city's General Plan. A preservation element states the city's historic preservation goals and facilitates preservation planning for the entire city. Much of what is outlined below could follow from the incorporation of an historic preservation element into East Palo Alto's revised plan.

*Specific plans.* A Specific Plan may augment the city's General Plan by establishing planning goals for a specific historic area.

*Historic Overlay Zones.* Overlay zones are formed to protect the historic resources within a particular area. Though the existing zoning remains unchanged, the overlay zone provides for the review of alterations to buildings in the area through a special permit process.

*Down-Zoning.* The purpose of down-zoning is to reevaluate zoning that allows for higher densities than existing uses. It counteracts the trend toward increased densities in older neighborhoods and helps to protect their integrity.

*Historic Building Code.* This may provide alternative ways to achieve safety by allowing a local building official to determine that a historic building's internal system is safe, but without applying the standards outlined in the Uniform Building Code.

*Design Guidelines.* The city may establish a set of standards to identify and maintain the character of a neighborhood or district. The guidelines may address issues that include allowable heights, lot coverage and setbacks, and specific aspects of an individual building's design. Design guidelines can help ensure that new construction maintains an historic neighborhood's character.

**5. Certified Local Government Program.** A local government that supports preservation may apply for State certification. This makes it possible to compete for preservation funds allocated by the Office of Historic Preservation, which can provide more information about this.

For more information, see the "Use of Survey Data in Planning" in *National Register Bulletin* no. 24; *Historic Preservation in California: A Handbook for Local Communities*, available through the California Office of Historic Preservation; and *The Economics of Rehabilitation*, by Donovan Rypkema, published by the National Trust.



Part Two

*A History  
of East Palo Alto*

## Chapter 4

# *East Palo Alto Before 1916*

### **The natural environment.**

Before European settlers transformed the landscape that is now the city of East Palo Alto, arroyo, willows, cottonwoods, and blackberry thickets flourished in its meadows. Forests of elder and live oak were rooted in the rich, loamy soil. Nearby, other distinctive ecosystems thrived — chaparral in the foothills, the salt marsh edging the bay, and beyond the bay's deep waters, the hills in the distance.

East Palo Alto forms a blunt point pushing out into the San Francisco Bay. Just off shore, beds of oysters and shellfish thrived. Marshlands teeming with ducks and geese edged the site. Unlike the rest of the south bay, which is completely ringed with marshes, a portion of the East Palo Alto area opens onto deep water. The San Francisquito Creek, which leads to the headwaters of the San Gregorio River and thence to the Pacific, provides fresh water and connects the bay with the ocean. Boundaries between different ecosystems typically support a more diverse variety of plant and animal life. The area that is now East Palo Alto existed at just such an intersection.

East Palo Alto enjoys some of the mildest weather in the Santa Clara Valley, so mild, in fact, that some have claimed it to be best in the United States. Bay breezes cool the area during the summer, and little frost chills it during the winter.

These natural conditions have invited human settlement for over two thousand years. In some sections of East Palo Alto today, out near the bay or under an oak tree in a grassy expanse, it is still possible to screen out the signs of more recent development and imagine what the area was like before it supported grazing, farms, and finally residential subdivisions, commerce, and industry. The natural

environment would have a definitive impact on the events that would shape East Palo Alto's history.

## The Ohlone

The site's abundant resources drew tribes of Ohlone Indians (also known as Costanoans), the earliest settlers in the area that is now East Palo Alto. Though the Ohlone have long since vanished from East Palo Alto, excavations conducted in the 1950s revealed burials and artifacts, the remnants of a once thriving village.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately fifty Ohlone tribal groups, each numbering from fifty to 500 people, once lived along the shores of the Bay and the Pacific coast, from San Francisco to Big Sur. Those who made their home in the East Palo Alto area were a group known as the Puichon. Their territory stretched between the lower San Francisquito Creek and the foothills, perhaps reaching all the way back to Portola Valley. In 1776, Spanish visitors noted a village called Ssiputca, consisting of twenty to twenty-five huts clustered near the mouth of San Francisquito Creek. Ssiputca may have occupied the Costano School site in East Palo Alto.

A high degree of harmony is believed to have characterized Ohlone life, harmony between tribes and harmony with the natural environment. Though each group was a self-contained political entity, with its own social hierarchy and territory, emissaries from rival tribes defused disputes with diplomacy.

The Ohlone drew upon the area's resources for their food, medicines, and tools. The nine varieties of acorn provided by the area's abundant oaks formed their most important food staple. This was supplemented by grass seeds gathered from the grasslands, as well as cattails, potatoes, waterfowl, fish and shellfish gathered from the marshlands and bay. They also hunted a variety of animals, including the California mule deer, tule elk, and small game.

The coming of the Spanish in the eighteenth century proved devastating for the Ohlone. They were enslaved to work on the new large farms or were "civilized"

---

1. Much of our information about the Ohlone in East Palo Alto we owe to Colin Cloud Hampson, "The Muwekma Costanoan/Ohlone Indians and Other American Indians in East Palo Alto: Past and Present," unpublished paper, Stanford University Law School, 5 April 1993. He has meticulously synthesized material from excavation reports as well as information about the repatriation process. For more information on the Ohlone, see also Barbara Rose Bocek, "Hunter-Gatherer Ecology and Settlement along San Francisquito Creek," Stanford University, PhD. dissertation, December 1986.

through labor and religious study at Bay Area missions. Eventually, the Ohlone population was decimated through exposure to diseases that were new to them. In 1770, there may have been as many as 10,000 Ohlone in the San Francisco Bay Area, but it is estimated that by 1830 the number had plummeted to 2,000. Many eventually became indentured servants known as *vaqueros* on the large Spanish ranchos. With the Gold Rush and California's statehood in 1850, the Ohlone's enslavement and loss of land continued.

Today the University Village subdivision stands on the site of an ancient Ohlone cemetery. In the early summer of 1951, heavy-equipment operators of the Barrett and Hilp Construction Company sliced through several Ohlone burials while grading and digging sewer and water mains for the new subdivision. Under the direction of Stanford University archaeology professor, Dr. Bert Gerow, excavations began that August and continued through 1952.

Most of the finds were within a few hundred feet of what is now the midline of Gonzaga Street, 150 feet north of its intersection with Notre Dame Street. In addition to skeletons, a variety of artifacts were uncovered, including mortars and pestles, charmstones, and shells, but archaeologists found no remnants of the tule grass houses in which the Ohlone lived. Though the excavations concluded in August, 1952, three graves were later discovered and reported by University Village homeowners. In all, sixty graves and about 3,000 artifacts were uncovered. Some of these, through radio-carbon dating, could be dated as far back as 1500-1000 B.C.<sup>2</sup>

The University Village Ohlone site was one of thousands that were discovered during the postwar period of expansive suburban development. East Palo Alto itself has several other sites, including those at Bay Road, Glen Way, and Costano School. Laura Jones, an archaeologist who has participated in excavations in East Palo Alto, believes that nearly the entire city is a potential archaeological site.

Gerow housed the artifacts he excavated from University Village in the Stanford Museum and the Anthropology Department, where they remained for roughly thirty years. In 1988, members of the Muwekma tribe, the Ohlone's descendants, came to Stanford to view the remains. After a protracted battle that attracted national attention, Stanford repatriated 187 boxes of skeletal remains, 147 skeletons, and six boxes of funerary artifacts to the Muwekma people. Stanford retained some artifacts that were not associated with burials, including food

---

2. Bert A. Gerow with Roland W. Force, *An Analysis of the University Village Complex* (Stanford, 1968): 7-8, 15-16. See also Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund, *History of Palo Alto* (San Francisco, Scottwall Assoc., 1989): 1-7.

remains, shell fragments, mortars, animal bones modified for technology. In 1991, the Muwekma/Ohlone gave the remains of their ancestors a proper reburial in Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont, California.

Though stored or reburied elsewhere, the Ohlone artifacts that have been unearthed in excavations are part of the area's material culture. As important, though not documentable, are the remains that rest undisturbed in the earth beneath the city.

## Spanish Ranchos

In 1769, the Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portola, searching for Monterey Bay, sailed by accident into the much larger San Francisco Bay. Portola and his military party traveled to the south end of the bay and came ashore near East Palo Alto. They paddled their canoes up the San Francisquito Creek to a site marked by mature, twin redwood trees. (Today, only one tree stands, which is known as "El Palo Alto" and is located near the Southern Pacific railroad bridge over the creek.) Here the Portola expedition camped for five days and set up the first Spanish territorial markers in the Bay Area. After this, Spanish settlers began to colonize the area.

Large agricultural estates or *ranchos* were granted to favored soldiers and bureaucrats by the Spanish military governors in Mexico City. *Ranchos* were diversified self-sufficient enterprises. Many of them specialized in raising cattle for beef, leather, and tallow. Much of the East Palo Alto area was once part of the vast Rancho de las Pulgas, which, according to some accounts, Spanish Governor Diego Borica granted in 1795 to Don Jose Dario Arguello. (The precise dating of the first rancho land grant for this parcel is not known with certainty.) When Mexico gained its independence, it began to oversee the land grants in *Alta California*. In 1824 and 1835, the government in Mexico City made two more land grants to Don Jose's family.<sup>3</sup>

As the Spanish began to lose their hold on the territory, Rancho life was gradually destabilized and the large ranchos began to break up. Northern European people streamed into the Bay Area during the Gold Rush of 1849 and rapidly outnumbered the Hispanic settlers. After California's annexation to the United States in 1850, those holding Mexican land grants began to be dispossessed. Large

---

3. Albert Shumate, *The Notorious I.C. Woods of the Adams Express*, (Glendale, Ca.: Arthur H. Clark, 1986), p. 18.

numbers of new settlers squatted on unimproved land. Mexican methods of surveying were often imprecise and open to much legal dispute, for accurate survey techniques were unnecessary where land settlement densities were so low. Many large Anglo landowners assembled their property by representing *rancho* owners at county or state title proceedings. In return for the protection of the bulk of their *ranchos*, the Mexican owners deeded significant portions of their holdings to their representatives.

In 1852 the Arguello family sold the section of its holdings that included the area that is now East Palo Alto. The land appears to have changed hands several times that year, finally landing in the hands of Rufus Rowe. Rowe then sold it off in large parcels.<sup>4</sup>

The Spanish left no immediately discernible mark on East Palo Alto, except in the name of Pulgas Avenue, named after the Rancho de las Pulgas. But when they settled among the Ohlone Indians and used the land for cultivation and grazing rather than hunting and gathering, they disrupted a particular way of life that had lasted for over two thousand years, and they altered the landscape permanently. This is not something that is readily documentable in an historic resources inventory, but the changes the Spanish wrought provided a lasting foundation for the area's future development.

## The Town of Ravenswood

Following the break-up of the Rancho de las Pulgas, the East Palo Alto area entered a tumultuous period. Accounts of this time tend to be contradictory, the dates imprecise, but the following is approximately what appears to have happened.

The central figure at this interval was Isaiah Churchill Woods, a San Francisco banker and real estate speculator. Woods was a partner in the banking firm of Adams and Company with John and Dale Hacket and Charles D. Judah. During the early 1850s Adams and Company grew to become one of California's most important financial institutions, and Woods was one of San Francisco's leading citizens. Representing the bank, they, along with William Rowe, assembled a 3,674 acre parcel covering much of present-day East Palo Alto.<sup>5</sup> (According to

---

4. John Cleese, "Tales of Old Menlo, from Rancho to Town," May 1983. Typescript in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

5. Roy W. Cloud, *History of San Mateo County*, vol. 1 (Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1928): 209.

historian Albert Shumate, Woods, himself, was known to have acquired a 2,000 acre parcel on July 23, 1852.<sup>6</sup>) Naming the area Ravenswood (supposedly combining his own name with a reference to the large number of ravens in the area), Woods constructed a house and farm for himself, called Woodside Dairy, in what is now the Coleman Tract in Menlo Park. Woodside Dairy became for a brief time in the early 1850s a showplace, the first of many great summer houses built by wealthy San Francisco businessmen in the vicinity of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.<sup>7</sup>

Ravenswood appeared a likely spot for settlement in the late 1840s and early 1850s. Woods may have gambled on Ravenswood's future in part because there had been rumors in 1851 of the formation of a railroad, the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad, which would build a line near the city, connecting San Francisco and San Jose. These rumors proved premature.<sup>8</sup> The site was also under consideration to become the western terminus of a larger, transcontinental, railroad line. Because Ravenswood gave onto deep water, it also formed a natural port.<sup>9</sup>

Woods had grandiose visions for Ravenswood. By 1851, hoping to stimulate trade in lumber and other commercial supplies, Woods projected a wharf into the Bay.<sup>10</sup> By most accounts it was seventy-five feet long. A road, known then (and now) as Bay Road, linked the Ravenswood wharf to Redwood City. The wharf was used for shipments of hay and lumber which teams of oxen hauled down from the hills, and for the docking of the "Jenny Lind," a sidewheeler that made regular runs between San Francisco and Ravenswood.<sup>11</sup>

By 1851, Woods laid out a gridded townsite on either side of Bay Road, near the port. Ravenswood thus became one of the first platted communities on the San

---

6. For more on Isaiah Churchill Woods, see Shumate, p. 42. Shumate's book is by far the best researched source on Woods.

7. Shumate noted on p. 42 information presented in Charles P. Hamm's and Philip W. Alexander's *History of San Mateo County* (1916): "Woods' location of his estate in this area was said in a 1916 history of the county to have initiated Menlo Park's development as a region of country seats of wealthy gentlemen. This history indicated that the Woodside Dairy residence was superior to any in the vicinity at that time, and Woods made it a scene of many delightful entertainments." Shumate's assertion contradicts that of Alan Hynding in his book *From Frontier to Suburb; The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*, who stated that Faxon Atherton's country house was the first large country house in the area. He wrote: "In 1860, Faxon Atherton, a prosperous hide and tallow trader from Chile who had sojourned in California during the 1830s, returned and bought over 600 acres of the Pulgas property along El Camino north of the early [Menlo Park] settlers. There he built a summer home, Valparaiso, the first of the south county mansions." See Alan Hynding, *From Frontier to Suburb; The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*, (Belmont, Ca.: Star Pub. Co., 1982,) p. 115. Although there is some confusion

Francisco Peninsula, established before San Mateo County split away from San Francisco County in 1856. The town's main street, named Wharf Street, connected the wharf to Bay Road. Other roads were named for prominent early San Franciscans.<sup>12</sup> Ravenswood's streets were lined with lots measuring twenty-five by 100 feet, upon which its settlers constructed board-and-batten buildings.<sup>13</sup> Despite its optimistic beginning, the town failed. The transcontinental railroad terminated in Oakland, the bridge crossing the bay at this point was not built until the twentieth century, and Ravenswood did not prove to be the active port that was originally projected.<sup>14</sup> These factors stunted the town's growth.

According to some historians, financial problems may have contributed to the town's collapse and Isaiah Woods's ruin. The Panic of 1855 was precipitated by the collapse of a leading St. Louis bank, Page, Bacon, and Co., which had a branch in San Francisco. Depositors panicked and made a run on many San Francisco institutions at the same time to withdraw their savings. Woods's bank, Adams and Company failed on 22 February 1855. Woods gained wide notoriety in San Francisco for his handling of his bank's bankruptcy, forcing him to leave the city in August of 1855. A number of historians and journalists have repeated the following story: Woods allegedly departed San Francisco with \$80,000 (\$300,000 in some histories) in gold stolen from his bank. A large portion of this money belonged to a rough-hewn stage coach driver named Maurice Dooley, who supposedly tracked Woods down at his Ravenswood estate and took back his bank deposits at gunpoint. With some stolen gold still in hand, however, Woods is said to have fled with his daughter either to Guatemala or the South Pacific, depending on which account you read. In September of 1856, most of Woods's Ravenswood property apparently was sold at a sheriff's auction for the meager sum of \$82.00.<sup>15</sup>

---

as to which was the first major summer house in the vicinity of East Palo Alto, it appears that Woods's Woodside Dairy predated Atherton's Valparaiso by just over five years.

8. See "Ancient Railroad Map Shows Ravenswood as One of Original Towns," *Palo Alto Times*, 11 June 1923. According to this story, the 1851 map was purported to be the first engineer's blueprint of a proposed railroad line between San Francisco and San Jose. Four stops were included on this very early intercity line: Santa Clara, Ravenswood, 'Mezes,' and San Bruno. The map was given to Stanford University's archives by Professor E.D. Adams as a gift from San Francisco's city engineer, Michael M. O'Shaughnessy. A map entitled, "Route of the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad between San Francisco and San Jose as located by William Lewis, Chief Engineer, in September, October, and November 1851," depicted Ravenswood to consist of a five by three grid of blocks at this time. A wharf was also illustrated. It is unclear whether this map was a facsimile; consult Map #4232, Stanford University Library, Special Collections.
9. Cloud, 209.



Woods's biographer, Albert Shumate, has shown conclusively, however, that Woods visited Australia and England following his departure from San Francisco, and that he returned to the United States in 1857.<sup>16</sup> It is probably false that Woods absconded with any Adams and Co. money at all. In any case, Woods went on to participate in a number of other ambitious commercial ventures, including the supervision of the first transcontinental stage coach line, carrying mail and passengers in the United States.<sup>17</sup> He returned to California in 1868 and soon thereafter started a company that produced specially treated wharf pilings, which failed when it was found that the supports were defective. Woods later raised wine grapes on a farm near San Jose. He died at Mare Island in 1880 at the age of 55.

During the final quarter of the nineteenth-century, Ravenswood grew very slowly, with little expansion of the town site platted along Bay Road near the wharf. The town supported little more than a small hotel, a dock, a few houses and saloons, and a handful of businesses. Though the dream of a thriving town and wharf at Ravenswood never materialized, the name Ravenswood continued to be used to identify the area well into the twentieth century. An important factor in this was the founding of the Ravenswood School District in 1882.<sup>18</sup> The name Ravenswood, as well as the school district itself, would play a role in the politics of the next century.

Despite its many physical advantages, there were a number of reasons why the town of Ravenswood's growth never paralleled that of other towns in the area, most notably Redwood City. Geographically, Ravenswood appeared a good site on which to plat a town. Because it occupied high ground, it was not prone to flooding. It was close to the redwood forests, which were the main source of

---

10. The United States Coastal Survey mapped the contours of the San Francisco Bay in 1853, and may have used Woods's wharf as a landmark. The Pulgas East Base Monument, now in Jack Farrell Park, stood near the wharf's location, aiding surveyors in their process of triangulating the Bay.

11. *San Francisco Examiner*, Peninsula Living, 15 Oct. 1955.

12. Shumate, p. 42. According to Shumate, a map of the town of Ravenswood exists at the Recorder's Office, San Francisco City Hall.

13. *Mail Dispatch*, Oct. 30, 1947, quoting Frank M. Stranger's study in *La Peninsula*.

14. Cloud, p. 209.

15. *Peninsula Times Tribune*, 10 May 1979. *San Francisco Examiner Peninsula Living*, 15 Oct. 1955. *Mail Dispatch*, 30 Oct. 1947, quoting Frank M. Stranger's study in *La Peninsula*.

16. Shumate, p. 73.

17. Shumate, p. 90.

18. Cloud, p. 210. According to the *Palo Alto Times*, 11 April 1946, the school district was

commerce during the 1840s and 1850s. And its wharf extended into deep water, perfect for large ships. Because it was located at a narrow point in the Bay, it was also a good embarkation point for Bay crossings.

Redwood City, however, experienced faster, more consistent growth. An early influx of 200 settlers came to Redwood City in the early 1850s, attracted by rumors of cheap land. Ravenswood, on the other hand, never received such a large core of settlers at one time. Redwood City had fewer non-resident speculators than Ravenswood, and a greater number of stable founding families, who nurtured a diversified economy and built amenities and infrastructure improvements to attract later settlers.

Perhaps most importantly, Redwood City was located on the main transportation arteries. Ravenswood, with its wharf, enjoyed some popularity in the 1850s as a port for passenger ships, but Redwood City, which was closer to the lumber mills, became the main lumber port. Even Ravenswood's desirability as an embarkation point for passengers was compromised when, in 1863, the Central Pacific Railroad extended a line from San Francisco to Mayfield through Redwood City.<sup>19</sup> Travel by steamship to Ravenswood was slow by comparison. Additionally, in dry periods, travel by stage coach could be conducted through Redwood City on the El Camino Real, which by-passed Ravenswood. Redwood City's clear advantages convinced legislators to name it San Mateo County's county seat in 1856. Thus, Redwood City drained away incoming settlers from Ravenswood, leaving the latter a sparsely populated, isolated, and unimproved townsite.

## The Rural Ravenswood Area, 1850s to c. 1900

Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, the town site of Ravenswood was surrounded by farmland. A large percentage of those who were drawn to the district were Irish or of Irish descent, and many of them had made money in California's gold fields. Like much of San Mateo County, the area attracted urban families seeking a leisured country retreat as well as people seeking rich farmland.

---

organized in 1892. It extends from the creek and Middlefield Road to Ringwood Avenue, to Bay Road, to a point about 1000 feet this side of Marsh, then to Bay.

19. Additionally, during the 1860s, Menlo Park also grew in size, competing with Ravenswood for new settlers. Menlo Park, like Redwood City, also secured a station along the San Francisco to Mayfield railroad line in 1867.

Those who established country estates in the East Palo Alto area tended to be successful professionals or investors based in San Francisco. The lawyer and U.S. Senator Eugene Casserly, and his associates John T. Doyle and Joseph Donohoe, for example, assembled large properties in the Ravenswood district. In addition to country houses, estates such as these maintained sprawling farms and workshops to furnish food and raw materials for daily life. In East Palo Alto today, most tangible signs of these properties have vanished. One of the last remnants was the large oval swimming pool on Donohoe's property which eventually became the centerpiece of a park in the Palo Alto Park subdivision.<sup>20</sup>

In addition to country estates, working farms (as opposed to leisured retreats) prospered throughout the Ravenswood area. Among the most successful farmers in the district were the Kavanaughs and the Cooleys. Charles Kavanaugh came from Ireland to the United States in 1848. After making money in gold mining and well drilling, he purchased 131.6 acres fronting on Bay Road.<sup>21</sup> The family acquired more land and continued to farm for two more generations. A portion of the Kavanaughs' holdings eventually became an industrial park that was annexed to Menlo Park in the late 1950s.<sup>22</sup> Some of the property was deeded to the Catholic Church and another section provides the site of the city's municipal building. Today, the Kavanaugh house at 1395 Bay Road (currently Stanford Law Project quarters), constructed in 1905 to replace the original house built in 1865, is the only residence that once belonged to a large land-holding family surviving in East Palo Alto.<sup>23</sup>

Lester Cooley arrived in California in 1859, and prospered in the gold fields of the Mother Lode country. After running a dairy in San Francisco, he resettled in Ravenswood in 1868. By 1878, he had assembled 400 acres which ran along Bay Road out to the San Francisco Bay. There, he raised cattle and grain and

---

20. *Peninsula Times Tribune.*, 10 May 1979. The Donohoe pool was replaced by a new community swimming pool constructed by the Ravenswood Park, Recreation and Parkway District. *SJ Mercury*, 17 Feb. 1954.

21. Some of this information comes from Werner Foss, "A History of East Palo Alto" unpublished student manuscript, San Mateo College, 1942, available at the San Mateo County Historical Society. Much of Foss's research appears to be faulty. For this reason we have tried to avoid using his information. His research on the Kavanaughs may have been more reliable, however, as it was gained first-hand through interviews with Moses Kavanaugh.

22. In May of 1957 Clarence Kavanaugh filed for the annexation of his 100-acre industrial tract to Menlo Park. *Palo Alto Times*, 9 Sept 1958. *Palo Alto Times*, hereafter *PA Times*.

23. Moses Kavanaugh (1864-1950), son of Charles Kavanaugh, was a longtime resident of East Palo Alto, residing at the 1395 Bay Road house for nearly fifty years. For more on Moses Kavanaugh, see "Moses Kavanaugh's Birthday Recalls Area's Early History," *PA Times*, 12 Dec. 1947, and his obituary, *Redwood City Tribune*, 4 Nov. 1950. Other information was gleaned

established one of the best dairies in the area. The property also included the old Ravenswood wharf built by Isaiah Woods. He refurbished the wharf, which was known thereafter as "Cooley's Landing," for commercial use, and constructed a warehouse where the area's farmers could store their grain.

Between 1874 and 1884, Lester Cooley leased five acres to two Virginians, Hunter and Shackelford, who established a large brick factory there. Utilizing local clay deposits, the factory became, for a short time, the largest such enterprise in California. Approximately sixty Chinese and seven white workers turned out nearly 50,000 bricks a day at the height of the factory's productivity.<sup>24</sup> Cooley's wharf (which Hunter and Shackelford also rented) was busy in 1874 as bricks from the Ravenswood kilns were shipped by steamer to San Francisco to build William Ralston's flamboyant first Palace Hotel. As late as 1942, the brick factory still stood, marking the old Ravenswood townsite. Today, nothing of the factory remains, save for the pit from which clay was extracted, which is now visible as the depression forming Jack Farrell Park. Though now long gone, Cooley's warehouse and the Hunter and Shackelford brick factory foreshadowed the warehouses and industry that would eventually concentrate along that portion of Bay Road.

An 1878 lithograph of Cooley's property provides a rare glimpse of what the district looked like in the late nineteenth century. (See fig. 1) Spreading live oaks dot a landscape divided by neat dirt roads which were lined with low fences and small, newly-planted trees. (The trees that bordered Bay Road, removed when the street was widened in the 1960s, may have been these trees in their maturity.<sup>25</sup>) Cooley's gabled farmhouse and his complex of agricultural buildings, surrounded by mature oaks, cluster on the site of what is now the University Village subdivision, not far from where the Nairobi Village shopping center once stood at the corner of University Avenue. Bay Road, flanked on either side by young trees, sweeps out to the wharf and the Bay, and the hills to the east hover in the background.

A closer look at Cooley's property shows how much the shape of the natural landscape has been changed over time through human agency. In his report on

---

from a telephone interview with Thomas Kavanaugh, 31 March 1993.

24. Werner Foss, "The History of Ravenswood," typescript, San Mateo Junior College, 1942, n.p. Copies of this may be found in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association. Foss's work has many errors, and the reader is advised to double check facts gleaned from it.
25. Barbara Clark mentioned Bay Road's "heritage trees" in her videotaped oral history conducted by Miriam Greenberg, Summer, 1992. Clyde Clark recalled that they were cut down in the 1960s with the widening of Bay Road in a telephone interview, 30 Aug. 1993.

the excavation of the Ohlone burial mounds (which were on land once owned by Cooley), Burt Gerow revealed that before the land was graded in the 1950s for the University Village subdivision, a gully 125 feet wide, four to five feet deep and about 800 yards long ran north from the large clay pit behind the Cooley home. Lester Cooley's son recalled that his father filled in a portion of the gully near the house. From there, a large levee system stretched to the southwest to meet the present course of the San Francisquito Creek following an abandoned stream course. A small area of seepage provided water for the cattle.<sup>26</sup> Nearly all of this has now been filled, leveled, and overlaid with asphalt, concrete, and tract houses.

Cooley's Landing was little used after the 1880s, and its pilings and boardwalk deteriorated over time. As late as the 1940s, when the area became a county refuse dump, it was still possible to discern some pilings. Today all signs of the old wharf have disappeared, and all that remains are two narrow, rocky spits that project out into the waters of the bay. Yet the area is still referred to as Cooley's Landing, and its naval heritage continues in the form of the Palo Alto Boat Works. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, efforts developed to build a modern marina on the site of Cooley's Landing. Though funding for this idea failed to materialize, the dream has not died.

## Remnants of 19th-Century Ravenswood

Few nineteenth-century remnants survive in East Palo Alto today. Jack Farrell Park is the only site in the city on which the nineteenth century has left both a clear and documentable mark. In addition to the memory of the Hunter and Shackelford clay pit which remains in the park's depressed contours, the Pulgas East Base Monument may also be found there. The Monument is the sandstone marker which the United States Coastal Survey erected near the wharf in 1853 for use in triangulating the bay. It originally stood at a point that is now the middle of Gonzaga Street, 150 feet north of its intersection with Notre Dame Street.<sup>27</sup> Disturbed by the construction of the University Village subdivision, it was moved a short distance into Jack Farrell Park in 1951.

---

26. Gerow and Force, 24-25. As of 1968, when this study was written, the levee system could still be traced. For information about the gully at the Cooley place, they talked to Lester Cooley's son who spent his childhood there.

27. Bert A. Gerow with Roland W. Force, *An Analysis of the University Village Complex* (Stanford, 1968): 15.

Whether any of the Ravenswood area's nineteenth-century structures remain today is more difficult to determine. Some of the town of Ravenswood's buildings were moved to other parts of the area and were still standing in the 1940s. In 1946 it was reported that Ravenswood's hotel and the ticket office once sited near the wharf were located on M.F. Kavanaugh's land on Bay Road, and that part of a sawmill was still on the Cooley place.<sup>28</sup> The ticket office was illustrated along with two other early Ravenswood buildings in Frank Stanger's 1938 *History of San Mateo County*.<sup>29</sup> Mid twentieth century newspaper reports noted the demolition or incineration of many buildings constructed by Euro-American pioneers. A large nineteenth-century warehouse, for example, used to store the grain grown on Kavanaugh land during the last quarter of the century, burned in 1953.<sup>30</sup>

In the course of our survey we found one structure on Green Street that could possibly date from the nineteenth century, though it is impossible to establish this definitively. Most of the oldest structures in East Palo Alto were constructed after 1916 when Charles Weeks founded the utopian colony of Runnymede (see below). Though Green Street lies in the earliest portion of this colony, the structure in question, 892 Green, is not at all typical of Runnymede, nor even of twentieth-century construction in general. 892 Green is a center-gabled structure, a type that became prevalent in the mid nineteenth century, and it has vertically-proportioned features that are more similar to nineteenth-century structures than to anything in Runnymede. Its board and batten construction recalls descriptions of Ravenswood's buildings. This structure appears to have been moved to its present location. (For further discussion, see the inventory form documenting this building.)

Though the structures erected in the town of Ravenswood and on estates and farms surrounding it have all but disappeared, they have left a lasting mark on the area in the shapes of today's subdivisions, which echo the shapes of some of the large land holdings, and in street names such as Doyle, Donohoe, Kavanaugh, Clarke, and Cooley.

---

28. *PA Times*, 11 April 1946. See also *Mail Dispatch*, 30 Oct. 1947; Foss, n.p.

29. Frank Stanger, *History of San Mateo County*, (San Mateo, CA: Arthur Cawston, 1938), illustration no. 1.

30. See "Old Grain Shed on Historic EPA Ranch Is Victim of Saturday Night Conflagration," *Menlo Park Recorder*, 24 Sept. 1953. J.H. Stubbe tore down the house of J.H. Slattery, a nineteenth-century dairyman, in 1938. Slattery's house had been built in 1868, and was located at 2351 University Ave. See "Historic Residence Being Razed," *PA Times*, 3 June 1938.

## Early 20th-Century Developments

During the late nineteenth century, the East Palo Alto area's farmers and estate owners seemed content to maintain the area's rural atmosphere without actively subdividing their properties for housing. But this did not mean that the real estate speculation that had been rife at the town of Ravenswood's inception had ceased.

Sometime before 1907, the Port Palo Alto Land and Town Company acquired the Crow and Cooley ranches, 537 acres in all. They advertised their venture as "Port Palo Alto on San Francisco Bay: An Earthly Paradise." The company envisioned transforming their holdings into an area of "busy factories and wharves and warehouses, bathhouses, casino, theater, schools, churches, stores, shops...." In 1907, their first step in developing the area was to subdivide the old Crow Ranch, which they renamed Woodland Place. (See fig. 2.) This subdivision, which follows the contours of the area in East Palo Alto that is still known as Woodland Place (but extending all the way to the creek), was planned as an exclusive suburban residential district with University Avenue shooting through its center. According to a Port Palo Alto brochure, the area would be "dotted with tasteful homes — no shacks will be allowed, and no aliens and other undesirable people tenanted."<sup>31</sup> Among the promotional points the developer's featured were the area's live oaks and healthful air, as well as the street car line running up University Avenue, connecting the subdivision to Palo Alto and the train station.

As was typical for the period, the real estate developer of Woodland Place, John F. Parkinson, also owned and operated the electric streetcar line for its first years of operation. To publicize his commercial ventures, Parkinson started a weekly newspaper, *The Citizen*. The May 22, 1910 issue of *The Citizen* heralded the entry of the first streetcars to Woodland Place.<sup>32</sup> This issue also advertised Parkinson's lumber yard and planing mill in Palo Alto. Thus, he profited from new residential construction in multiple ways, from the sale of real estate, building supplies, and transportation.

Woodland Place was planned in tandem with a new industrial district designed to take advantage of the area's transportation assets, especially the new Dumbarton Railroad Bridge. (For more about this and other East Palo Alto industrial development, see below.) It was East Palo Alto's first truly suburban development, an industrially linked concept where the domestic environment and

---

31. This brochure may be found in the collection of the Palo Alto Historical Association.

32. This May 22, 1910 issue of *The Citizen* is found in the Stanford University Library, Special Collections.

the residential neighborhood were planned as a retreat from the workplace.

The Ravenswood Investment Company of Palo Alto eventually took on this project, but with the exception of some industry in the Cooley Landing area, the investors' dreams never fully materialized and the East Palo Alto area retained its rural atmosphere.<sup>33</sup> Yet this early development permanently established the area around Bay Road near the bay as a district devoted to industry and warehouse space. It would remain the task of another visionary, Charles Weeks, to transform East Palo Alto's landscape with a very different dream.

---

33. On the development of Woodland Place and its accompanying industrial district, see two undated brochures in the archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association entitled "Port Palo Alto and Surrounding Territory," and "Ravenswood on San Francisco Bay." See also an undocumented newspaper article and advertisement in the Palo Alto Historical Association's EPA-Industry file, and an advertisement in *PA Times*, June 9, 1910.



## Chapter 5

# *Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony*

Beginning in 1916, people were drawn to the East Palo Alto area from all over the United States. Many of them had seen ads in agricultural newspapers or heard lectures or seen a float go by with a big banner advertising the agricultural colony of Runnymede, where anyone with a little money and a lot of motivation could come and make a living on one acre of land.

Runnymede was founded in the East Palo Alto area in 1916 by Charles Weeks, a former Indiana farmer who combined entrepreneurship with social vision.<sup>34</sup> Also known as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony after its founder, Runnymede once covered much of the area that is now East Palo Alto, from Bay Road to the San Francisquito Creek, and from Cooley's Landing to Menalto. More than any previous phase of East Palo Alto's history, Runnymede has left a tangible imprint on the shape of the city as it is today.<sup>35</sup> Remnants of Runnymede may be found throughout East Palo Alto. Though surrounded and interwoven with later development, Runnymede's one to five-acre farms, its agricultural buildings, trees, and small cottages, give East Palo Alto one of the greatest concentrations of agricultural structures to be found in any urbanized area of the San Francisco Peninsula.

---

34. For more on the early biography of Charles Weeks, see Charles Weeks, *Egg Farming in California*, (San Francisco, Ca: c.1919), Chapter One.

35. Very little work has been done on the history of Runnymede or the configuration of its landscape. For a brief discussion, see Robert Hine, *California's Utopian Colonies* (San Marino, 1966). For a more fully developed view of Runnymede in the context of East Palo Alto's built environment from the nineteenth century into the 1980s, see Trevor Burrowes, "East Palo Alto: The Dark Horse, A Study of the Built Environment of East Palo Alto," unpublished paper, University of California, Berkeley, 1985.

While there were many utopian experiments in the western United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most of these colonies have all but vanished. But in East Palo Alto, the buildings and farms that once gave tangible form to a utopian vision still lie at the city's heart. As a result, Runnymede's residual landscape, embedded in East Palo Alto, provides an important conduit to a much larger movement that gained momentum in the early twentieth century. This gives East Palo Alto a significant position not only in the history of the Bay Area but in the history of the western United States.

## The "Little Landers" Movement

During the early 'teens, Charles Weeks grew increasingly concerned that the congestion of the city, the monotony of assembly-line labor, and most aspects of industrial life in general, were both physically and psychologically unhealthy. As a healthier alternative, he dreamed of forming an agricultural cooperative of independent farms where people could make their living in close touch with nature. On his own ranch, located off Newell Road in Palo Alto, Weeks developed a system of poultry raising that he believed would make it possible for a family to support itself on a single, intensively-cultivated acre of land. In a newspaper article published in 1917, he expressed his concept in a nutshell:

Man has wandered from his natural life to the artificial life of cities and has suffered therefrom. It takes only a little garden soil to make an abundant living with independence, health, and freedom. Why should men work long, weary hours in unhealthy places all the days of their lives for a mere subsistence when this fuller, more abundant way of living is so natural and practical?<sup>36</sup>

As he formulated his ideas, Charles Weeks was inspired by William E. Smythe, an influential writer and social critic who had settled in San Diego in 1901.<sup>37</sup> Like many reformers during the Progressive Era, Smythe feared the destabilizing effects of urbanization and industrialism on personal and family life. As an alternative, he advocated channeling urban populations into planned rural

36. *Palo Alto Times*, 14 November 1917, pp. 4-5.

37. On William Smythe, see *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, vol. 17 (New York: James T. White Co., 1927): 443-444. Smythe outlined his ideas in a number of influential journals and treatises that included a journal he founded called *The Irrigation Age*; "Real Utopias in the Arid West," *Atlantic Monthly* 79 (1897): 605-609; *The Conquest of Arid America*, (1899, reprint Seattle, 1969); *Constructive Democracy* (New York, 1905); *City Homes on Country Lanes* (New York: Macmillan, 1922).

settlements of small family farms, each less than ten acres. These would be irrigated by a network of canals crisscrossing the arid western states to transform the desert into a series of oases of fertile soil and abundant produce. Families, each tilling their own small parcels of land, would work cooperatively with their neighbors to form both social and economic bonds.

Smythe, with Weeks soon following, participated in a growing back-to-the-land movement in the early part of the twentieth century. Smythe, and other advocates of the small farm, favored it for several reasons. The breakup of large landholdings into smaller, more affordable slices was a strike for democracy, they said, for it made land ownership accessible to those of more limited means. On the new small farm, each family could till the land independently, employing no one, and being employed by no one. And the small farm provided the ideal alternative for the city's overflowing population.

William Smythe's ideas soon formed the basis of what came to be known as the "Little Landers'" movement. He established his first settlements at New Plymouth, Idaho in 1895 and San Ysidro, California in 1908.<sup>38</sup> Little Landers colonies soon dotted the West in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly in California.<sup>39</sup> Each venture was planned to combine suburban comforts with rural independence. His vision attracted wide-spread attention, including that of President Wilson's Secretary of the Interior, Franklin Lane.

Smythe was impressed with the intensive poultry-raising technique that Charles Weeks had developed, and he encouraged him to form his own colony of little farms based on his ideas.<sup>40</sup> After visiting the settlement at San Ysidro in the early 'teens, Weeks returned to the Bay Area to search for an appropriate location.

---

38. Other Little Landers' colonies included those in Tehama County and Lassen, both founded in California before 1901; Los Terrenitos, founded in about 1912 and located in the Monta Vista Valley about seventeen miles from Los Angeles; Hayward Heath, established by 1916 near the town of Hayward in the San Francisco Bay Area; and Walden, near San Francisco.

39. On William Smythe and the Little Landers' Movement, see Henry S. Anderson, "The Little Landers' Land Colonies: A Unique Agricultural Experiment in California," *Agricultural History* 5 (October, 1931): 139-50; Lawrence B. Lee, "The Little Landers Colony of San Ysidro," *Journal of San Diego History* 21 (Winter 1975): 26-51; Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*, (New York: Pantheon Books, 1985), pp. 118-125; Bruce Kamerling, "The Arts and Crafts Movement in San Diego," in *The Arts and Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life*, Kenneth R. Trapp, ed. (New York and Oakland: Abbeville Press and the Oakland Museum, 1993): 212-214. Although some work has been done on the Little Landers' movement, no one has previously undertaken a close analysis of how the Little Landers' landscape represented and reinforced social relations.

40. Charles Weeks, "William E. Smythe Passes Away," *One Acre and Independence*, no. 4

## Establishing Runnymede

*The site.* Like Smythe, Weeks dreamed of a community consisting of independently-owned, one-acre farms whose members were drawn together through a shared approach to farming, community facilities, and cooperative marketing.<sup>41</sup> He realized that a successful small holding would require an abundant water supply, excellent soil, and proximity to urban markets. The East Palo Alto area was ideal; it was near the shores of the bay just two miles east of the gates of Stanford University, adjacent to the booming college town of Palo Alto, and only one hour by train to San Francisco. The area's rich loamy soil could support a variety of crops, and its high water table made the drilling of wells for irrigation an easy task. In a region where there is a bewildering variety of microclimates, the site enjoyed mild temperatures and a particular abundance of sunshine. Its proximity to Stanford University, Palo Alto, and San Francisco would ensure that the colony's residents would have the opportunity to enjoy cultural as well as agricultural life.

Once Weeks had pinpointed the appropriate location, he named the new community Runnymede, the site where the Magna Carta was sealed in 1215. To subsequent generations, the Magna Carta became the symbol of the safeguard of rights under law. To Weeks, "The name Runnymede is significant and means a larger liberty for the people. Our little home community, Runnymede, is demonstrating to the world that the highest individual independence can be had from a very little land intensively cultivated. Runnymede offers the wonderful opportunity of 'walking in the sunshine without fear of want.'"

*Development and promotion.* Trumpeting the slogan, "One Acre and Independence," Charles Weeks promoted his vision widely through a variety of books, pamphlets, and articles, and he ran ads in periodicals that reached people throughout the country. He also published a monthly periodical called *One Acre and Independence* (fig. 3), and a local newspaper called the *Runnymede News*. Weeks outlined his ideas most thoroughly in a book entitled *Egg Farming in California* (San Francisco, n.d.) whose cover features his head, inscribed in an egg, hovering

---

(November 1922): 12; and Lee, p. 44..

41. Though Smythe helped them promote Runnymede, Weeks and Faber never went into partnership with him to make their settlement an official addition to the string of Little Landers' colonies with which Smythe had been directly involved. This may have been because Little Landers' colonies were currently under investigation for their viability and Runnymede's founders found it preferable to distance their venture somewhat from the Little Landers' movement. See Lee, p. 44.

over long rows of poultry houses.

His advertising played upon contemporary rural fantasies nourished by the myriad popular publications that glorified life in country and suburb. While many periodicals featured country life as only the wealthy could enjoy it, at Runnymede, according to Weeks, anyone of moderate means could find country happiness — and financial independence, too. There, according to Weeks, a person could be the “creator of his own poetical paradise... surrounded by opulence and luxuries grown from the rich, well-watered soil.” Runnymede’s settlers would be “Contented People who realize that all that is worth while in life can be secured right in the home garden....” and “Happy People who get joy in the freedom out in the fresh air with the blue sky overhead and a ‘little bit of heaven’ around their feet.”<sup>42</sup> In the San Francisco Bay Area, Weeks ran the following advertisement:

WEEKS POULTRY COLONY, PALO ALTO.

First, feed yourself from the products of your ‘little land’, then specialize in poultry for cash income. This I have done successfully for years, am doing now and advise you to do. Visit me at Palo Alto and I WILL CONVINCING YOU that I know how to keep 1,000 hens on an acre, make them earn \$2 per year, and still have room for home, garden, fruit and berries. It is the IDEAL LIFE, and my new colony, RUNNYMEDE, close to my own home, the IDEAL PLACE for soil, water supply, climate and social advantages. Besides, I agree to teach you and also to MARKET YOUR PRODUCTS. Illustrated literature now ready. Write or come.

CHARLES WEEKS,  
Palo Alto, Cal.<sup>43</sup>

*Settlers.* Charles Weeks’s version of the California dream attracted a considerable variety of people. In 1917 he reported: “Lawyers, doctors, ministers, professors, farmers, in fact people from every calling settle here, bent on one purpose — that of making a garden home.... This one purpose creates a bond of sympathy between all the neighbors until they are one large family.”<sup>44</sup> Weeks often told of people who had given up the daily grind at their desks for a healthy life in the country,

---

42. *Egg Farming in California*, p. 113.

43. See “Runnymede Postcard,” a promotional brochure in the collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, donated by Charles Weeks, Jr.

44. *PA Times*, 14 November 1917, p. 4.

but the colony also attracted a variety of craftspeople who had always made a living by their hands. Many settlers were elderly couples. In his promotional efforts, Weeks also targeted World War I veterans, advocating an army to till the soil using technology for peace rather than war.

The names of many single women appear in the early ranks of property owners. Some of the women who came to Runnymede alone were joined by their husbands after World War I was over. Others were widows, and others were single women who embarked upon chicken ranching on their own. Weeks and others considered poultry farming to an appropriate endeavor for the independent woman. A promotional publication issued by the Palo Alto Woman's Club, gave a lengthy affirmative to the question, "Can women make a success of ranching in this valley?" In California, independent women had tilled small irrigated farms of as much as forty acres since the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In 1887, *Overland Monthly* reported: "The work of irrigation is so light that women who bought their twenty or forty acre tracts...enjoy guiding the small streams from furrow to furrow...."<sup>45</sup>

Weeks's advertising made it clear that he wanted to populate Runnymede with prosperous middle class people who had already been successful in their previous lives — successful enough that they could pay for their property in cash. All of the settlers were of European ancestry; one colonist expressed satisfaction at finding "a thoroughly American community as neighbors."<sup>46</sup> Weeks considered "the class of people at Runnymede...far above average, making social conditions enticing to all who visit the colony."<sup>47</sup> His vision of utopia, it turned out, tended to be somewhat exclusive.

***Arrival at Runnymede.*** Within five years, Runnymede had attracted 1200 people drawn from all over the country, and it had become one of the largest poultry producers in the United States. When new colonists first arrived, they stayed in dormitories at Charles Weeks's own ranch to be trained in what Weeks modestly called the "Charles Weeks Poultry System." There, they sat on benches outdoors while they listened to their teacher outline how new scientific methods and efficiency engineering techniques could maximize farm output, and how

---

45. See Palo Alto Woman's Club, *Santa Clara Valley* (Palo Alto, Times Publishing Company, 1911): 32; and *Overland Monthly* 9 (1887): 624, cited by Worster, p. 101. Information about Runnymede's settlers has been gleaned from *One Acre and Independence, The Runnymede News*, maps dating from 1922 and 1925 which inscribe the names of the owners on each plot, and city directories.

46. "Runnymede Postcard," statement by Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Converse.

47. "Runnymede is a Successful Colony," *Palo Alto Times*, 14 November 1917, p. 4.

combining community cooperation and individual enterprise could bring prosperity to everyone. At Weeks's ranch, they also received practical experience in intensive farming and poultry raising. Many of them had never before done farming of any kind. With Weeks's training, they became more equipped to turn the open fields of the East Palo Alto area into a checker board of intensively cultivated poultry farms.

## Runnymede's Cooperative Features

Each farm in Runnymede was individually owned, but members of the colony purchased supplies, maintained shared warehouse and social facilities, and marketed their produce as a group. According to Weeks, who was inspired by the formation of citrus and walnut cooperatives in California, cooperative marketing was one of the advantages of living in a densely settled, organized community.

Weeks appears to have organized the colony as Runnymede Associated Little Farms, or as Runnymede Poultry Farms, Inc.<sup>48</sup> To discuss business, the farmers held monthly meetings at which they voted on matters of concern to the colony as a whole.

Rather than having to do their own selling, Runnymede's farmers benefited from an "auto truck" that made its way from door to door, picking up eggs and berries to take them to market. According to the *Palo Alto Times*, "By having an expert salesman on the road every day all the produce can be sold to the very best advantage."<sup>49</sup> And the Runnymede farmer was free to devote his or her time to farming and leisure pursuits (in whatever time was left over). By 1921, the Weeks colony was exporting 500 cases of eggs per week. Though marketing was cooperative, each farmer reaped his or her profits individually. Weekly egg reports published in the *Runnymede News* kept everyone up to date on how well their neighbors were doing.

For farming supplies, the colonists maintained a community warehouse where they could buy poultry feed and supplies, purchased in bulk to keep prices down, at cost. The warehouse was located on the railroad spur that looped between Bay Road and Weeks Street. There, grain could be unloaded directly from railroad

---

48. Because there is scant mention of how the colony was organized as a cooperative business, this is difficult to document. The first mention we found of Runnymede Poultry Farms, Inc. was when it was undergoing liquidation in July, 1921. See *PA Times*, 17 Aug. 1921.

49. *PA Times*, 14 Nov. 1917.

cars without accruing additional transportation costs. Grain from California's interior valleys could also be brought into the colony via Cooley's Landing. The Weeks Colony thus benefited from two earlier visions for the area: the old town of Ravenswood, which first acknowledged the site's potential for shipping by water; and the Ravenswood Development Company's establishment of a small industrial district which took advantage of the transportation advantages of the railroad spur. In fact, the warehouse had the Reed Reduction Company and the Lubricating Products Company for neighbors. (Today, although much of the railroad spur has been taken up, this area along Bay Road continues to support warehouse space and light industry.)

As of 1917, plans were also in the works for a cooperative store which would have a bakery and meat market, as well as a limited supply of groceries.<sup>50</sup> Weeks was familiar with the formation of consumer cooperatives in England, Russia, and the United States, of which there were an estimated 2,500 by 1919. To Weeks, "It would not be at all astonishing...if one method of relief from economic distress and the evil of excessive profits for middlemen may ultimately be found in just this direction of intelligent, mutual business helpfulness of consumers by consumers and for consumers."<sup>51</sup> It is not clear whether this cooperative venture was ever realized; if it had, it seems likely that Weeks would have publicized it as thoroughly as he did Runnymede's other assets. The colony was eventually supplied by the Runnymede Grocery, located on Cooley Avenue, which advertised itself as selling everything "From Soup to Nuts," including ice cream and root beer.<sup>52</sup> The building that is now the Cooley Avenue Market, at 2235 Cooley, probably housed Runnymede's first grocery store.

Weeks's vision for Runnymede included a strong sense of community, and social life among neighbors. At first, colonists assembled in each other's homes for social occasions and business meetings, but Weeks soon realized that they needed a common place to gather. He believed that "a community where interests are common can meet in a clubhouse like one large family and enjoys the best in music, literature and lecture." At the corner of Weeks Street and Clarke Avenue, he constructed a long, gabled structure with craftsman detailing which the residents of Runnymede called the "Clubhouse." (See fig. 4.) The colonists, who had free use of the structure, held performances and box suppers to raise the money to furnish it. It soon became the center of various social and cultural

---

50. *PA Times*, 14 Nov. 1917.

51. Charles Weeks, "Consumers in Cooperation," *Runnymede News* 1, no. 27, May 23, 1919.

52. See advertisements for the Runnymede Grocery in the *PA Times*, 2 May 1923 and 11 May 1923. The proprietor at that time was J.W. Grimes.



activities, and one year Thanksgiving dinner was even held there.

This structure did not last long as a community center. At first, the colonists formed no more than a small cluster at the front of the large room, but as the colony grew they soon filled it to overflowing. To accommodate both a community center and a school, Weeks deeded three acres in Woodland Place at Euclid and Donohoe to the school district. There, in about 1919, they constructed the Woods School (named for Isaiah Woods), a building with four classrooms and an auditorium for Runnymede meetings.<sup>53</sup> When even this proved inadequate, Norman Coulter, a San Francisco architect, designed a towered Mission Style addition of two classrooms, an auditorium that seated 700 and a motion picture room.<sup>54</sup> The original clubhouse still stands at 906 Weeks. Not long after it fell into disuse, it was converted into a residence.

In addition to the clubhouse and school, Runnymede also had a community park shaded by live oaks, where the colony held annual fairs to demonstrate the advantages of intensive farming. This also provided a campground for visitors. The park was probably located on Cooley Avenue where E. Egli ran an "Auto Camp" store in 1925.

To Weeks, amusement and relaxation were both important components of life. Weeks liked to emphasize that Runnymede residents enjoyed greater leisure time because of the efficiency of their farming methods. "The ability to concentrate requires the ability to relax," he said. "In order to work you must know how to play. Men who carry great burdens and responsibilities are always those who are able at times to lay down the burden and be a child with the children."

## A Description of Runnymede

*Layout.* Having come from a large Midwestern farm, Weeks remembered how lonely farm life could be when families were separated by vast tracts of land. For Runnymede, he envisioned a farming community that put neighbors as close to one another as if they were living in an ordinary suburb. To facilitate this, Runnymede's broad grid of unpaved streets<sup>55</sup> was lined with long, narrow, one-

---

53. When the Woods School was torn down in the 1950s, Charles Weeks, Jr., attempted to reclaim the three acres donated for educational purposes by his father. This legal attempt failed. This information supplied by Charles Weeks, Jr., in a telephone conversation, 7 September 1993.

54. See *One Acre and Independence* (Oct. 1922): 10-11 for a photograph of the clubhouse and a drawing of the new school addition.

acre lots, their short ends fronting the street (fig. 5). Though the lots were (and still are) extraordinarily deep, the width of their street frontages was similar to those in other modest suburban areas. With this layout, if a house had been constructed on every lot, a visitor walking down one of Runnymede's streets might have thought she or he was in an ordinary suburban neighborhood.

As it turned out, since many colonists preferred to settle on two to five acres, the houses were more widely spaced and Runnymede's suburban potential was never fully realized. Nevertheless, Runnymede's layout was meant to give form to Charles Weeks's dream of creating a suburb of efficient small farms organized to facilitate community and independence. Because the farms were so small, colonists were still close enough together to exchange information and to share a strong sense of community.

***Buildings.*** On their one to five acre lots, Runnymede's farmers constructed what Weeks referred to as their "garden homes." The first of these, belonging to the Morse family, went up between June and July of 1916. The earliest houses in the colony typically were modest, one-story rectangular boxes with gabled roofs and occasional small front porches. The more substantial houses were craftsman bungalows with such features as pergolas, stout porch supports, windows grouped into horizontal units, exposed rafters, and triangular knee braces. Many of both types survive throughout East Palo Alto. Runnymede's houses are similar to those erected on small farms throughout the Santa Clara Valley and many also resemble contemporary suburban houses all over the San Francisco Bay Area.

Each small farm also had a series of other buildings. It was reported that most colonists owned automobiles, and many constructed separate garages in which to house them. In a few rare cases, we have found Runnymede-era houses that have garages directly incorporated into them. A good example is 1936 Beech, a cottage resting on a high foundation, with a garage reached by a sloping driveway cut into its base. This was unusual at a time when there was still considerable concern about cars blowing up and taking the adjacent house with them. Next to most houses stood a tankhouse which stored water from each farm's individual well, and along the sides of each property stretched at least one long narrow structure designed for efficient poultry raising. (For a more detailed discussion of tank houses and poultry houses, see below.)

***Lots.*** The layout of Runnymede's lots was designed to combine the atmosphere of suburbia with an efficient, independent agricultural enterprise (fig. 6).

---

55. University Avenue was paved in 1916, Donohoe in 1919.

Runnymede's settlers constructed their small cottages or bungalows toward the fronts of their lots, and many of them had neat, unfenced front yards and walkways leading up to the front door. The open, grassy front yard, untouched by any sign of agriculture, was (and in many cases still is) a long-standing American suburban tradition which was meant to give the whole area a park-like atmosphere.

From the front many of Runnymede's lots appeared suburban, but from the rear they were unmistakably agricultural. Laid out according to Charles Weeks's distinctive approach to farming and husbandry, each intensively-cultivated small farm wasted not an inch of space. Long, intensively-cultivated gardens, fertilized with chicken manure gathered from the poultry house, supplied greens for the chickens and a variety of produce for the table. One woman, who signed her name as Norma, reported in the poultry colony's magazine that her family of thirty-five people was fed from the "Intensive Garden" outside the kitchen window. This measured eight feet by eighty (about one seventh of an acre), its dimensions suited to the long narrow lot structured around the poultry house. In addition to vegetables, she also grew flowers to grace the family's "amusement hall" and dining room. "Mother Nature is kind," Norma explained, "and is lavishly generous, if we but take the trouble to understand her and make her a daily companion." Additional space lent itself to fruit trees, a bee hive, and room for the family goat. Some colonists also raised berries, mushrooms, or rabbits. By combining poultry-raising for cash with the careful cultivation of the small farm, Weeks expected that each family should find its needs fully met.

## The Tankhouse and the Poultry House

*Tankhouses.* Among the most distinctive features of East Palo Alto's historic landscape are the tankhouses erected adjacent to Runnymede's original "garden homes." Charles Weeks believed that one of the most important keys to independence was an abundant, low-cost water supply. As he explained, "Independence as regards water is of the highest importance for the California farmer and the very essential of success."<sup>56</sup> Tankhouses, many of which survive today, provided the center of each small farm's irrigation system. They are sturdy two-story structures that are rectilinear or slightly tapered in outline. (See fig. 7.) During Runnymede's peak, their heavy framing, enclosed and reinforced with a protective siding, supported an elevated water tank resting on a platform that was slightly arched to allow for rainwater run-off. The elevated reservoirs, most of

---

56. *Palo Alto Times*, 14 November 1917, p. 4.

which were left exposed, provided a gravity induced pressure system for the farm family's needs. Similar tankhouses are still sprinkled throughout the Santa Clara Valley stretching down to Gilroy, south of San Jose.<sup>57</sup>

The tankhouse formed the mechanical heart of the Little Lands farm. Arterial networks of electrical wires connected the tankhouse to surrounding buildings. Outside each one, a centrifugal pump run by a five horse-power electric motor pumped 250 to 400 gallons per minute, circulating water to the farmhouse, gardens, and poultry houses (fig. 8). Other labor-saving machines, such as feed cutters and washing machines, could also be operated using the pump's motor. Many of the mechanisms that made intensive farming on one acre feasible were centered around the tankhouse. The tankhouse became a vivid symbol of the Little Landers' farms' factory-like efficiency and modernity.

In Runnymede's flat terrain, tankhouses also became landmarks, distinguishing one property from another. They varied in form and embellishment according to individual taste. Some farmers, such as Henry Bertram, painted their tankhouses to match the color schemes of their houses. One particularly well-to-do colonist, Arnold E. Martinelli, flanked his tankhouse with two garages, incorporating it into a symmetrical, formal complex to complement the large house he erected in front of it (fig. 8). This may still be seen at 2124 University Avenue. Others distinguished their tankhouses by adding pyramidal roofs and railings around the tanks to form sheltered observation decks. From there, they could survey their land and the surrounding small farms stretching toward the Bay. When viewed from inside or out, tankhouses underscored the Runnymede landowner's independent status.

*Poultry houses.* While tankhouses provided vertical markers for the individual farms, long, narrow poultry houses stretched horizontally across the landscape, defining boundaries between properties. (See fig. 10.) Weeks developed these unusual structures to maximize egg production and minimize land use and labor. All poultry farmers in Runnymede adopted Charles Weeks's method of poultry raising. Weeks shunned the traditional free range system which required a large farmyard for a sizable flock. Instead, Weeks's poultry houses confined groups of

---

57. For a typology of tankhouses, see Leon S. Pitman, "Domestic Tankhouses of Rural California," *Pioneer America* 8, no. 2 (1976): 84-97; and Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984): 83-4. Also see Brian F. Terhorst, "The Changing Forms of Sonoma County Tankhouses," unpublished graduate seminar paper, Sonoma State University, Fall 1989. According to Terhorst, enclosed tankhouses — as opposed to water towers which have their structural elements left exposed — began to appear in the San Francisco Bay Area as early as the 1860s.

twenty to twenty-five birds in coops measuring eight by eight feet. Though the enclosed method of chicken raising has come into question in recent years, early in the century it seemed a revolutionary step. Among the first to develop this concept was a man named Philo from Elmira, New York, who published a pamphlet that explained how to keep chickens in small pens. The pamphlet's sale made Philo a wealthy man, as thousands of people put chicken coops on the backs of city lots, in suburban backyards, and even on the roofs of tall buildings. With these rooftop roosts, Philo helped to bring rural pursuits to the city, while Weeks hoped to transfer city amenities to the country.<sup>58</sup>

The small coop's potential for combining intensive poultry raising with suburban life intrigued Charles Weeks, who maximized efficiency by lining up the pens in poultry houses that grew to as much as 240 feet long. Their shape fit well on Runnymede's lots, which may have been structured to accommodate them, and their design made it possible for them to be tended by one family, or even one individual. The open front of each house was designed to maximize illumination by the sun. In the winter, electric lights supplemented sunlight to give the chickens "longer working hours." Water flowed automatically from well to coop, and shallow feeding troughs ran along the outside of each house, enabling the farmer, with no wasted motion, to walk along and fill the trough in one clean sweep. In this way, the poultry house replicated the linear course of the factory assembly line.<sup>59</sup>

The length and number of poultry houses on a given property became a tangible sign of a given farmer's prosperity. These "neat systematic poultry houses," as Weeks called them, could hold up to 1000 chickens that could easily be tended by one family or even one individual. Weeks estimated that the sale of the eggs yielded by 250 chickens would be enough to support one person, while 1000 chickens could meet the basic needs a family of four. Additional chickens yielded money in the bank. Weekly reports in the *Runnymede News* reinforced status distinctions by publicly indicating how many eggs each rancher in Runnymede had produced. Any Runnymede colonist could have calculated the number of chickens owned by their neighbors by surveying the length and number of their coops. More chicken coops signified more eggs and more money — and Charles Weeks had the most of all.

---

58. Weeks, *Egg Farming in California*, p. 43.

59. On Charles Weeks's poultry house design see Weeks's own descriptions in *Egg Farming in California*; "The Model Acre," *One Acre and Independence* (Oct. 1922): 9; "Scientific and Artistic Poultry House for Intensive Egg Farming," *One Acre and Independence* (Nov. 1922): 1; and Thomas Stewart, "The Charles Weeks Poultry House," *One Acre and Independence* (September 1922): 5-6 and (November 1922): 5-6.

## The Colony's Four Sections

As Runnymede grew, Charles Weeks kept adding new tracts of land. The first site he selected was owned by Peter Faber, a prosperous dairy farmer who held a large acreage across San Francisquito Creek from where Weeks had established his own poultry ranch. Having subdivided his property in 1912, Faber was already prepared to sell it off.<sup>60</sup> Weeks and Faber joined forces in marketing the land, which extended roughly between Cooley, Woodland, Pulgas and Runnymede Streets. As he worked with Faber, Weeks functioned as a cross between an entrepreneurial real estate developer and a social visionary. But Weeks himself did not acquire the property for resale to Runnymede colonists.<sup>61</sup> Instead, each settler dealt directly with Peter Faber without a real estate agent as an intermediary, and each settler paid cash for his or her property. It was argued that this helped to keep prices down because interest and commissions could be avoided. One colonist reported that an acre in Runnymede, with superior conditions, cost forty percent less than elsewhere on the Peninsula or in Alameda county.<sup>62</sup> Another reason why they asked for payment in full was that Weeks and Faber wanted to make it clear that their enterprise was not, by any means, a shady or exploitive real estate scheme designed to snag people with possibilities, for little money down, that looked more promising than they could ever turn out to be in reality.<sup>63</sup>

This first portion of the colony is generally characterized by modest, one-story cottages varying according to individual colonists' tastes and means. Many of them (992 Myrtle and 2260 Clarke, for example) are simple gabled boxes devoid of ornamentation. Others (2261 Clarke and 1036 Beech) include Craftsman detailing such as exposed rafters, triangular knee braces, and brackets.

---

60. In May, 1912, Faber had subdivided a portion of his land into parcels that were mostly of five acres. There were three larger parcels of 48, 36, and 77 1/4 acres. (maps 8-31) Faber is recorded as sharing ownership with Edward K. Clarke, Edith A.E. Lyman, and Charlotte H. Wright. This tract had been known as the Clarke Ranch situate at Ravenswood. Today, the area is still known as the Faber Subdivision.

61. To verify whether the property was ever in Weeks's name, we traced back some of the deeds. Charles Bloom, for example, bought a lot of approximately one acre directly from Peter and Laura E. Faber with no mention of Charles Weeks. Book of Deeds, vol. 256, p. 396, 10 Jan. 1917 at 9:37.

62. "Runnymede Postcard," statement by Rev. Charles L. Hyde.

63. To show that he would not exploit the elderly, for example, Peter Faber announced that he would "not permit any dear old lady with \$500 or \$600 to settle upon a stone pile at Runnymede and try to make a living upon it." *Palo Alto Times*, 24 July 1916, cited by Lee, p. 44. There had been some discouragement at the Little Landers Colony at San Ysidro, where some

The second addition to Runnymede, comprised 135 acres that had once been the Cooley Ranch.<sup>64</sup> The new area extended from Runnymede Street to Bay Road between Pulgas and Cooley, with a portion projecting along Bay Road to the south. This extension included the sites of the Reed Reduction Company and the Lubricating Products Company, both reached by the Southern Pacific Railroad Spur.<sup>65</sup>

Weeks characterized this area as a place for more substantial homes than those erected by the first settlers. 971 and 991 Runnymede — two houses that are very similar — are among the few two-story residences erected in the colony. Some have more graceful detailing than the more modest cottages in the first section, but others are scarcely more elaborate than the craftsman bungalows erected in the first part of the colony.

For the third addition to Runnymede, Charles Weeks turned to Woodland Place, which had been subdivided in 1907 and marketed by the Ravenswood Investment Company whose schemes had never fully materialized. The subdivision extended from Runnymede to San Francisquito Creek and was roughly bounded by Euclid and Cooley (today it ends at Highway 101). Weeks himself held an interest in this land, for his name appears as the grantor in the county's books of deeds. The property sold rapidly during 1919. As the lots were sold off to Runnymede colonists, the area retained the name of Woodland Place, which it continues to bear to this day.

This third addition to Runnymede was somewhat different from the other parts of the colony. When it was still in the hands of the Ravenswood Investment Company, it was marketed as a traditional suburban area, and it never lost this flavor, even when it became part of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony. Though Weeks's motto was "one acre and independence," the lots in Woodland Place varied in size from nearly two acres to less than half an acre. Weeks geared the area toward "people of means who wish a pretty setting for a garden home with every essential in soil and water so they may make a paradise all their own." For those who settled here, gardening would be a hobby, and poultry, rabbits, pigeons, or a cow would be animals they kept on the side to contribute to their quality of life rather than to provide their chief source of sustenance.

---

of the settlers found themselves trying to till inferior soil.

64. *PA Times*, 19 May 1922. This portion is designated in county records as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony.

65. See map, *PA Times*, 14 Nov. 1917. This had probably been the land belonging to William Cooley and Charles Cooley.

Arnold Martinelli, for example, built one of the largest houses in Runnymede at 2124 University Avenue, which cut through the heart of Woodland Place. Behind his imposing craftsman home he built a tankhouse flanked by two garages, forming a monumental complex unusual for this area.

In 1920 Weeks acquired land for the **Fourth Addition to Runnymede**,<sup>66</sup> extending from Woodland to Menalto to Donohoe to Euclid. Since much of this area was wiped out when Highway 101 was widened in the late 1950s, the only portion that remains today is on the west side of the highway, and part of it is now in Menlo Park. Unlike Woodland Place, this area was laid out for the farmer seeking to support him or herself on the land. Unlike the other parts of Runnymede, this area had a centralized water supply. Because of this, properties such as 250 Donohoe have an array of agricultural buildings, but no tankhouses. By 1922 the fourth addition to Runnymede was nearly all sold. By this date, the colony had attracted about 400 families and a population of 1200 who had small farms covering more than 640 acres.

## Runnymede's Demise

Leisure through efficiency, harmony with nature through science, community and independence — these ideas were at the heart of Charles Weeks's dream for Runnymede. Weeks envisioned a future in which every city had a suburb of little garden farms within commuting distance "so that the family may live a wholesome life close to nature." This was not to be.

A variety of factors contributed to Runnymede's demise by the 1930s. From the very beginning, the colony's land sold quickly, but there was also considerable turnover in property. Some people remained for no more than a year. Some of this may have been due to people finding life and work in Runnymede less idyllic than they had anticipated, but it is also likely that some people were simply speculating in real estate. In 1919, *The Runnymede News* commented on how easy it was to sell Runnymede's farms, but warned that property values were going up and that he or she who sells now may never be able to buy back into the colony. The sale of Runnymede properties reportedly accelerated in the 1930s. In 1958, Collis Steere, who had held land in East Palo Alto since 1926, recalled that, "The poultry ranches began dying at the same time Bayshore [Highway 101] was built. The highway raised land values so it didn't pay to keep ranches."<sup>67</sup>

---

66. San Mateo County Maps, book 10, page 28. the map indicates that the mortgage was held by the Bank of Palo Alto.



Charles Weeks's departure from the colony may also have contributed to its demise. In the early 1920s, Weeks's attention wandered from Runnymede to a new colony, named Owensmouth, which he established near Los Angeles. Sometime between 1921 and 1923 he left Runnymede, and a man named Edwin S. Williams was listed in the city directory as the proprietor of the Weeks Poultry Ranch in Palo Alto. It is likely that the loss of its dynamic leader disturbed Runnymede's equilibrium. In 1921, the cooperative Runnymede Poultry Farms, Inc. went into liquidation and a longtime Palo Alto resident, W. O. Horabin purchased the community warehouse on the railroad spur.<sup>68</sup> The independent water supply that started out to be such an important component in the Charles Weeks Poultry System, grew less and less dependable. Gradually, salt water reportedly seeped into the wells, poisoning the chickens, and a local well-driller could no longer guarantee sweet water in Runnymede-area wells. People in various parts of the community began to form water districts that gradually displaced the individual wells. (The tall water tower and pumphouse on Myrtle Street, which formed the East Almond Cooperative Water Company's pumping plant, is the last remaining old water tower in East Palo Alto.<sup>69</sup>) Finally, the Depression made it increasingly difficult for colonists to make a living on their small farms, and increasing numbers of them took outside jobs.<sup>70</sup>

In the meantime, East Palo Alto's landscape began to change. As more people began to receive their water from centralized supplies, most tankhouses lost the tanks that once crowned them, and many others were torn down. Others were transformed into storage sheds or apartments. Most of Runnymede's poultry houses are now gone, but a few are being used for storage or have been incorporated into fences. Gradually, colonists sold off portions of their lots, and new houses began to fill in a landscape that had once been wide open. A few dense new developments have been thrust into Runnymede's long narrow lots. Yet enough of the colony's one-acre lots, tankhouses, and chicken coops remain that East Palo Alto may well be the best surviving example of a Little Landers colony in the western United States.

---

67. *Palo Alto Times*, 4 September 1958.

68. Horabin had operated a feed and fuel business in Palo Alto since at least 1907.

69. Robert E. Garcia, who had lived in East Palo Alto since 1921, reported that his father, Robert Paul Garcia, drilled the well and constructed the water tower for the East Almond Water Company on Myrtle St. around 1925. This information was gained in a telephone conversation with Mr. Garcia, 23 September 1993.

70. This became clear when we traced selected colonists' occupations listed in Palo Alto city directories. We found that among those who remained on their land, it was not unusual for the listed occupation to shift from rancher or poultryman to carpenter, gardener, or minister.

## Chapter 6

# *East Palo Alto From the 1920s to the Present*

### Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s

During the 1920s, several of East Palo Alto's landowners created new subdivisions that were strictly suburban in their layouts. In contrast with Charles Weeks's suburban-farm fusion, the lots tended to be smaller, the street grids more dense.

The first of these was **Palo Alto Park**. Bounded roughly by Menalto, Donohoe, Bay and Euclid, it was subdivided in November of 1924 for the California Pacific Realty Company. With its tight street grid, it became one of the most densely-developed sections of East Palo Alto. The neighborhood combined year-round residences with vacation homes owned by people who lived in San Francisco and its vicinity. Some of the area's primary residences, such as the Vitale house at 2183 Ralmar, were quite substantial. But since both vacation homes and primary residences tended to vary in size and style, it is difficult now to pinpoint which was which. It seems likely, however, that some of the tiniest cottages, such as the one at 2361 Glen Way, were week-end or summer places.

One former East Palo Altan has characterized the area as a weekend retreat for the "working man" as opposed to Atherton and Woodside, which attracted wealthier vacationers. At this time, many San Franciscans owned or rented places on the peninsula to enjoy the warmth of the summer sunshine. Palo Alto Park has been described as being like a resort, centered around a park with an oval swimming pool restricted to the subdivision's residents. (This pool was formerly part of the Donohoe estate.<sup>71</sup>) Despite the fact that many of the subdivision's property

---

71. Donohoe's oval swimming pool was demolished years ago; its site is now occupied by the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Co., which still operates its wells and pumping equipment here.

owners had their permanent addresses elsewhere, one former resident remembered the area as having a marvelous sense of community.<sup>72</sup>

Another 1920s subdivision was **Ravenswood Villas**, roughly bounded by Euclid, Runnymede, Cooley, and Bay. This land, subdivided in 1926, was owned by J.H. and Pearle R. Stubbe. J.H. Stubbe came to the East Palo Alto area in 1918. After operating a hatchery in Campbell, he transferred his business to Runnymede where he purchased twenty-five acres right next to the second addition to the Weeks Poultry Colony. There, he sunk his own well and established himself as Runnymede's rival in the poultry business.<sup>73</sup> In 1924 the J.H. Stubbe Poultry Ranch and Hatchery changed its name to the Ravenswood Poultry Ranch and Hatchery to establish a trade name and geographical location.<sup>74</sup> Though Stubbe subdivided his land in 1926, he remained in the poultry business and appears to have sold off his lots slowly. As late as October 2, 1940 he ran an advertisement in the *Palo Alto Times*, offering "LOTS--HOMES built to suit, New Street-Suburban Section..."<sup>75</sup> 505 Runnymede, a Mission Style house with a gracefully curving parapet, is a particularly good example of a period-revival house constructed in this area.

Other small subdivisions, such as Woodland Park and Garden Acres, were laid out during this period, but Palo Alto Park and Woodland Place remained the principal suburban neighborhoods in the East Palo Alto area. At the same time, numerous Runnymede landholders sold their properties and newer houses were constructed among the older agricultural holdings. Even with new developments inserted into the old Weeks colony, much of the area retained its rural atmosphere. While the new suburban sections reportedly acquired higher status than the rural Runnymede areas, people interviewed during the survey

---

72. Information on Palo Alto Park comes from San Mateo County maps division records, and telephone interviews with Adrienne Vitale Principal, 25 July 1993, and Thomas Kavanaugh, 31 March 1993.

73. *PA Times*, 25 June 1918. For a time in the early 1920s, Stubbe became one of the largest poultry producers on the West Coast, and probably one of the biggest suppliers of chicks to the settlers at Runnymede, especially after Charles Weeks left the area for Owensmouth. According to a 1921 article in the *Palo Alto Times*, Stubbe's Poultry Farm sent out a shipment of 2,100 newly hatched birds to a client in Salt Lake City, the largest of its time. (The largest previous was 1,000 chicks.) "The Stubbe ranch is sending out an average of 16,000 chicks per week, including parcel post and express shipments," the article stated. See "Record Shipment of Chicks Is Made by Parcel Post," *PA Times*, 13 April 1921.

74. *PA Times*, 14 May 1924.

75. Ravenswood Villas was subdivided December 15, 1926. Pearle R. and J.H. Stubbe are listed as owners, with Kate C. Leakey and Collis H. and Bertine Steere as parties in interest. See record

repeatedly said that the whole East Palo Alto district retained lower status than Palo Alto.<sup>76</sup>

## The Blossoming of Floriculture

Compared to the nearby communities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park, property values remained low throughout East Palo Alto, whether in Palo Alto Park or Runnymede. Palo Alto and Menlo Park profited from close proximity to Stanford University, building up prosperous business and residential districts in the 1930s and 1940s to serve the expanding institution. East Palo Alto seemed remote from Stanford, cut off from it by a major highway (on Highway 101, see below) and bounded by the Bay. East Palo Alto lacked the cultural amenities, infrastructure improvements, and municipal services offered by its neighbors to attract a critical mass of residents. Moreover, until the past twenty years or so, along the entire length of the San Francisco Peninsula the areas nearer to the bay tended to be less expensive and lower in prestige. (One reason for this was closer proximity to the warehousing and industry that often clustered near the waterfront.) Low property values and less pressure for commercial and residential expansion enabled agricultural use of the land in the East Palo Alto area to continue well into the post-war era.<sup>77</sup>

The period from the late 1930s through the 1950s was the heyday of flower-growing in East Palo Alto. During the first half of the twentieth century, the raising of chrysanthemums, violets, carnations, and lilies was San Mateo County's largest industry. Refrigerated "flower trains" transported the blooms grown in portions of Colma, Belmont, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto back to Eastern

---

in San Mateo County Maps, 15-22. Apparently, Stubbe sold his poultry business to S.V. Raynow around 1950. Raynow operated the Crown Poultry Farm at 2300 University Ave. on at least a portion of the old Stubbe land. Raynow's ranch sold chickens wholesale for its first year-and-a-half of operation and later tried marketing directly to the public. See advertisement in the *PA Times*, 27 August 1952.

76. Robert Garcia noted that Palo Alto tended to look down on East Palo Alto. As an illustration of this hauteur, Garcia recalled that in the early 1930s Palo Altans did not want to house their smelly municipal refuse trucks within the city limits; Palo Alto's leaders sought to garage them in East Palo Alto, although this idea was stopped when Garcia's mother wrote a letter to the editor of the *Palo Alto Times* sharply criticizing this proposal.
77. A variety of agricultural pursuits took place in East Palo Alto during and after the break-up of the Weeks colony. Some took to ranching small, fur-bearing animals, such as ermine or rabbits. Truck-farming was a popular endeavor. The large landholder Peter Faber continued to raise dairy cattle on his land, and a handful of others, including Portuguese immigrants,

markets.<sup>78</sup> The first floriculturists appeared in East Palo Alto by the early 1930s, and the cultivation of asters was reported to be a thriving business in 1937.<sup>79</sup>

At its peak, the business was dominated by Italian, and especially by Japanese-American families who built rows of long greenhouses on their properties.<sup>80</sup> The two largest Italian growers, Frank J. Siri and Frank "Lucky" Podesta, moved to East Palo Alto in 1946.<sup>81</sup> They farmed extensive acreages just east of the Bayshore Highway, at 2012 Clarke Ave. and 1961 Pulgas Avenue, respectively.<sup>82</sup> Larger Japanese growers, such as the Okuno and Nakanishi families, also occupied plots close to Bayshore.<sup>83</sup> Many smaller mom-and-pop operations (mostly Japanese), such as that of Albert Nakai at 1054 Weeks Street, filled in scattered lots in the former Runnymede colony.

Hindered by discriminatory property laws and de facto segregation, numerous Japanese flower-growers nevertheless established lucrative businesses.<sup>84</sup> The first Japanese immigrants entered California in the 1880s. White employers eagerly hired Japanese arrivals as laborers to perform low-paying jobs. As their numbers increased during the 1900s and 1910s, and Japanese workers were seen as threatening jobs reserved for white labor, resentment toward them grew, just as it had for the Chinese before them. By the early 1920s, with xenophobia on the rise, racial quotas were arranged with the Japanese government, limiting immigration to a trickle. Many Japanese immigrants were poor farmers, who came to California from Hawaii, where they had worked on pineapple plantations. In California of the 1920s, the prospects for a young Japanese man or woman were limited. Household service or restaurant or laundry labor were typical pursuits for those settling in cities. The other option was to follow the migratory rural life of a fruit picker, in the apricot, strawberry, prune, and grape fields of the Santa

---

such as A.P. and Maria Sequiera, were also engaged in the dairy business.

78. On flower-growing in San Mateo County, see Michael Svanerik, "When Flowers were a Blooming Business," *San Mateo Times*, 24 March 1989, p.B3.

79. A. Groves was the first nurseryman listed in the East Palo Alto directory between 1925-1940. Groves operated a florist shop at the corner of Clarke and Walnut Streets. On the cultivation of asters see "Profit of \$1600 Cuts Bonded Debt," *P.A. Times*, 20 August 1937.

80. Chinese-American families also grew flowers here, particularly asters, but there were fewer Chinese than the other two groups. Some of these Chinese growers share-cropped on Kavanaugh land in the 1940s. F.H. Chang and C.F. Chin ran nurseries at 1391 Bay Road and 1397 Bay Road in 1948. (The landowner Moses Kavanaugh lived at 1395 Bay Road.)

81. On Podesta's arrival in East Palo Alto see, "Local Flower Industry at Easter Peak," *P.A. Times*, 7 April 1950. See also, Frances Moffat, "You're Lucky If You Have an Easter Lily Blooming," *P.A. Times*, 23 March 1951, p. 1.

82. Podesta owned twenty-four acres.

Clara and Central Valleys. Seasonal labor in canning plants could supplement family income. Once Japanese families had saved enough money for rent and equipment, many chose to become cash tenant farmers, ways of life offering more stability.

Early city directories of Runnymede's population indicate that a handful of Japanese lived in East Palo Alto during the early 1920s. These individuals worked as gardeners or ranchers, probably on one acre (or smaller) plots. It is likely that most were cash farmers or sharecroppers, who did not own their land. California's legislators passed Alien Land laws in 1913 and 1920 specifically to prohibit *Issei*, or Japanese-born immigrants, from owning property.<sup>85</sup> Any property bought had to be held in the name of an adult American-born relative, which was sometimes impossible.

The numbers of Japanese in East Palo Alto grew in the 1930s and 1940s, save for the period of war-time internment from 1942 to 1945. Most, like the Okunos or Nakanishis, were flower-growers. Men and women worked long hours side by side in the greenhouses, planting, weeding, watering, and bunching the flowers. In addition, women did all of the housework and raised the children. Many men supplemented their modest farming incomes by working as gardeners on the estates of well-to-do white families. Then, during World War II, their lives were utterly disrupted. Most, if not all, of East Palo Alto's population of Japanese-Americans were part of a group of 144 sent from Palo Alto to the war-time internment camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, in May 1942.<sup>86</sup> Following their humiliating war-time experience, many returned to the area. Some experienced a new level of prosperity, becoming land and business owners. In 1948, for example, four Japanese families had opened florist shops or nurseries at 1751, 1805, 1905, and 2105 Bayshore Highway.<sup>87</sup> By 1954, eighteen nurseries existed in East Palo Alto, and twenty were located here in 1957, the great majority owned by Japanese-American families. East Palo Alto possessed during the 1950s one of the

---

83. The Okunos farmed land at 2032 Cooley Avenue in 1948, on the future site of Ravenswood High School, and the same year the Nakanishis farmed a parcel on Clarke Ave., near to their Palo Alto Florist shop at 1805 Bayshore Highway.

84. For more information on the successive stages of the Japanese immigrant's economic conditions, see Timothy J. Lukes and Gary Y. Okahiro, *Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in California's Santa Clara Valley* (Cupertino, CA: California History Center, 1985).

85. For more on California's Alien Land Laws, see Lukes and Okahiro, pp. 57-59.

86. See "144 Japanese Say Goodbye to Homes Here," *P.A. Times*, 26 May, 1942.

87. M.H. Fukima's Mayeda Shozo nursery was at 1751 Bayshore, Tsuruko Nakanishi's Palo Alto Florist at 1805 Bayshore, Arthur Nakata's florist shop at 1905 Bayshore, and the Kawakami Tomozo Nursery at 2191 Bayshore.

largest remaining concentrations of agricultural enterprises on the San Francisco Peninsula. The success of these flower-growing businesses continued well into the 1970s when, many of the older growers began to die off, and their children, many of them college educated, did not take up the family businesses. Low-cost importation of flowers from such countries as Columbia has also contributed to the recent disappearance of flower growers from East Palo Alto.

East Palo Alto's floraculturists adapted well to the Runnymede landscape. The long thin lots sub-divided to accommodate the Weeks Poultry System were perfectly suited for similarly proportioned greenhouses. Greenhouses could vary in size, materials, and configuration, depending on the grower's space, wealth, and crop. Some flower growers built separate greenhouses in series. Others merged several greenhouses into one vast interior space. Albert Nakai, for example, composed his greenhouses at 1054 Weeks Street of several gable roofed sections, each twenty feet wide and 230 feet long. From the 1930s to the 50s, most greenhouses, such as Nakai's, possessed structural frameworks of thin wood posts (fig. 11). (Later, some growers began to use standardized metal frames.) Over the walls and roof of the wood frame, Nakai placed translucent materials — fiberglass and polyethylene sheets. (If glass were used to sheath the frame, more elaborate structural framing was needed to support it.) Beds were placed directly into the ground. Delicate flowers required attention to moisture and temperature. In Nakai's house, the peak of the gabled roof was vented. One gable end was also vented, and large electric fans at the other end created strong breezes for cooling. Heating was achieved through a gas-fired, forced air furnace, which was placed in a separate corrugated metal shed. Growers originally did their watering by hand, but later employed hose soakers hung near the ceiling.

The area's Japanese growers developed variants on the conventional greenhouse. To raise delicate chrysanthemums, which could be damaged by over-exposure to heat and insects, large wood-framed houses without gables were clad in rows of white cheesecloth. Groups of Japanese farmers would gather each year to aid one another in attaching the cheesecloth to the wood frames, an event similar to a barn-raising. Chrysanthemums blossom naturally during the autumn and winter. During the summer, Japanese growers used black satin or dark polyethylene over wood frames to cover off-season crops and simulate the shorter days of sunlight the flowers needed to bloom. Though few of these frames appear to remain in the city, the wood-framed remnants of a cheesecloth house do exist within a greenhouse on the Nakai's property. Because prewar greenhouses appear to have been replaced following World War II, one of the earliest greenhouses surviving in East Palo Alto was constructed in 1945 or 1946 and may be found behind the packing shed on the Nakanishi property.

As in the Weeks colony, distinctions of wealth and status could also be read in the greenhouse architecture of the floraculturists. Similar to chicken coops, the size and number of greenhouses immediately communicated the grower's relative prosperity. So, too, did distinctions in materials. Prosperous growers could afford fully-glazed, 200-foot houses, while less affluent farmers built smaller sheds covered in wide strips of polyethylene plastic or fiberglass. Polyethylene did not insulate as well as glass, nor was it as durable. Later greenhouses of the 1950s, composed of prefabricated steel skeletons, replaced wood-framed structures, and were possessed at first by only the wealthiest growers, who could afford to switch systems.

## Post World War II Subdivisions

East Palo Alto was transformed by the postwar building boom that turned rural acres across the country into suburban housing developments. From an area with a predominantly rural atmosphere, it developed the "look of a city," to quote a local newspaper. The transformation began in 1947 when new housing developments and industries attracted a larger population. Between 1950 and 1957, they arrived at the rate of 1000 people or 300 families per year. Several major subdivisions, and a number of smaller ones, were laid out, including Palo Alto Gardens, University Village, and Bayshore Park. New real estate offices opened their doors and the Peninsula Builders' Exchange was formed as a nonprofit group for the "advancement of building contractors on the peninsula."<sup>88</sup>

**Palo Alto Gardens**, one of East Palo Alto's largest postwar subdivisions, was developed in several stages beginning in August of 1947, when phase one was initiated by the Arco Building Company and its president, Jesse Horn. Typical of many contemporary suburban developments, the rectilinear grid was replaced by gently curving streets with names that suggested the beauties of nature, including Azalia, Gardenia, and Verbena. Between 1951 and 1954, the Pennsylvania Title Guaranty Company continued to develop Palo Alto Gardens, following Arco's precedent with sinuous streets bearing flowery names. By 1958 Palo Alto Gardens had 281 lots.<sup>89</sup> The development was finally completed in 1962 under the direction of the Finley family.

---

88. Floyd J. Baker of 1944 University Avenue in East Palo Alto was the organization's director. *PA Times*, 3 Oct. 1945.

89. County maps division and *PA Times*, 8 Sept. 1958.



Adjacent to the first portion of the Weeks Poultry Colony, Palo Alto Gardens differed from the earlier area dramatically. Though densely suburban, the Gardens' meandering streets were meant to evoke the agrarian landscape suggested by its name. In contrast, Runnymede, founded on agrarian ideals, had been developed on a grid. The new subdivision had wide streets, designed for the automobile, finished with sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. Like Runnymede, front yards were open and unfenced, the individual home owner's contribution to the subdivision-as-park. But the backyards were conceived as private spaces of leisure rather than agricultural production.

Beginning in 1951, the University Village subdivision was developed on what had once been Cooley land. It was there that the Barrett and Hilp Construction Company discovered the Ohlone burials while grading and digging sewer and water mains. (See the section on the Ohlone, above.) Six hundred homes were erected on a rectilinear street grid. The area included other amenities such as Jack Farrell Park (on the site of the Hunter and Shackleford brick company's clay pit), and a shopping center, which was erected next to the tract in 1957.<sup>90</sup>

## Highway 101 and the Business District

Today, East Palo Alto's business district is concentrated on University Avenue, running from San Francisquito Creek to an abrupt termination at Highway 101, then resuming for a few blocks on the other side of the overpass that forms a hump between the two sections. From the early 1930s until the late 1950s when the overpass was constructed and the highway became a freeway, East Palo Alto's business district also extended along Highway 101. The development of East Palo Alto's business district is intertwined with the history of the highway that cuts a diagonal swath through the community.

Highway 101, also known as Bayshore, began as a four-lane highway designed to supplement El Camino Real, which was already overloaded with automobile traffic by 1914. Construction commenced at 10:10 on September 11, 1924, on the highway that was expected to "forever crash 'the bottleneck' that has so long curbed peninsula development..."<sup>91</sup> As its construction progressed from San Francisco southward, peninsula communities held festive ceremonies and hailed

---

90. *PA Times*, 8 Sept. 1958. Jack Farrell Park was named for the first superintendent of the Ravenswood Recreation Park District when it was formed in 1951.

91. See two clippings in the files of the Palo Alto Historical Society dated 11 Sept. 1924 and 9 Nov. 1924, sources not indicated.

it for the growth and economic development they expected it would bring.

Despite the optimism with which the project was greeted, the Bayshore Highway was not without its detractors, among them a collection of East Palo Alto citizens. A close look at East Palo Alto's involvement in the planning and problem solving process shows the degree of trial and error involved, on both the local and state levels, in realizing something as new as the high-speed highway.

East Palo Alto's residents saw the benefits of improved motor transportation, but they were also apprehensive about the possible problems caused by a highway plunging through their community. Early on, there was some discussion about routing 101 along Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Both Palo Altans and East Palo Altans objected, urging instead that the highway be constructed to the east rather than through a populated section of Palo Alto. But East Palo Altans also wanted to avoid having their own community bisected. In 1923 and 1926, the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce passed resolutions urging that the highway be routed as close to the bay as possible. Besides avoiding populous areas, the highway could then be accessible to the industrial development expected to burgeon along the shore of the bay.<sup>92</sup> Despite the Chamber of Commerce's efforts, by 1932 Highway 101 cut right through East Palo Alto, dividing it in two.<sup>93</sup>

It was not long before the problems this caused became evident. Nearly 200 feet wide, with traffic speeding by at forty-five to fifty miles per hour, the highway was difficult for people to cross. By 1934, six people had been killed and several others injured.<sup>94</sup> This was dangerous for school children and inconvenient as well as hazardous for their parent. The highway even hampered public transportation; the Palo Alto transit company was unwilling to provide bus service to East Palo Alto because the area lacked a traffic light to facilitate crossing. As late as 1946, E.F. Cassell, State Highway Patrol captain for San Mateo County, characterized it as "one of the most difficult traffic situations on the peninsula."<sup>95</sup> So many accidents occurred on this stretch of 101 that it came to be known as the "Bloody

---

92. *PA Times*, 14 Nov. 1923 and 8 June 1926. In 1923, the resolution was also passed by the Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale Chambers of Commerce. According to resident Robert Garcia, East Palo Altans also expected heightened industrial development to occur as a result of the construction of the Dumbarton auto bridge in 1927. This toll bridge opened January 15, 1927.

93. Construction on Highway 101, which was christened the San Francisco Bay Shore Highway in 1923, began at 10:10 A.M. on 11 September, 1924. It took eight years for it to reach East Palo Alto.

94. *PA Times*, 4 May 1934.

95. *PA Times*, 7 June 1946.

Bayshore." Although people continued to move back and forth, the highway created a chasm between east and west.

In 1933, residents of the area began to take action, addressing their concerns to the newspapers, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the state highway engineer, the director of motor vehicles, and even the governor. As the only densely-settled area through which the highway passed, they asserted that East Palo Alto should receive the appropriate traffic controls. They requested signs indicating that motorists were entering a settled area, a reduction in the speed limit, and a stop at the intersection of University Avenue.<sup>96</sup>

It took years before they got results. One of the problems appears to have been that both highway engineers and bureaucrats needed to figure out what to do about a situation with which they probably had little experience. Another problem was a tension between state and local interests. And another was that East Palo Alto was a populated but unincorporated area that was not regarded as a town.

A look at some of the measures that were finally taken shows how local residents and state officials groped their way toward a solution. Residents complained that East Palo Alto was the only town on the highway that was not marked.<sup>97</sup> As a result, passing motorists had no indication that they were entering a settled area. 1934 brought street signs identifying cross streets and reflecting caution signs at major intersections.<sup>98</sup> To minimize confusion, a sign directing traffic to Palo Alto was eventually installed, but it was so small that it disappeared in the jumble of commercial signage. As a result, motorists often missed it until it was too late, and engaged in dangerous maneuvers to make the turn.<sup>99</sup> East Palo Altans also wanted a traffic light at University Avenue and Bayshore, so much that they were even willing to pay for it themselves. Despite their efforts, they had to wait for their traffic signal until 1944.<sup>100</sup> Underpasses were also put through to allow pedestrians, especially school children, to cross safely.

One of the things the area's residents wanted most was to have the highway's speed limit lowered where it passed through East Palo Alto. Because the purpose

---

96. Letter from A. Groves, Chairman, East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, to the editor, *PA Times*, 21 May 1934.

97. *PA Times*, 5 June 1934.

98. *PA Times*, 19 June 1934.

99. *PA Times*, 11 March 1940.

100. *PA Times*, 10 July 1939; 10 May 1944.

of the highway was to provide a rapid route down the peninsula, the state highway engineer's office was reluctant to take action. One explanation they gave for their inertia was that they were unsure that the claim was justified because they did not know whether the part of East Palo Alto fronting the highway could technically be characterized as a business zone. Finally, in 1937, the speed through the East Palo Alto business district, from Menalto to Cooley, was reduced to 25 miles per hour.<sup>101</sup> Though local residents were overjoyed, some passing motorists were disgruntled over this "sparsely settled" community's "complete lack of consideration" for "the thousands upon thousands of automobiles that must be slowed down or stopped..."<sup>102</sup> In the eyes of the driver who voiced this particular complaint to the newspaper, the new state highway ought to be a separate corridor unaffected and unimpeded by the small towns rendered invisible in its path. Despite the twenty-five mile an hour zone, the number of fatalities continued to mount and people were still negotiating the speed limit in the 1940s.<sup>103</sup>

Although Highway 101 caused a variety of problems for East Palo Alto residents, it also stimulated the growth of businesses catering to travelers. In 1933, for example, the proprietors of the Fat Boy barbecue moved their establishment, including the building, from Menlo Park to the intersection of Euclid and Bayshore. Two service stations opened the same week as the barbecue.<sup>104</sup> In 1939, eleven gas stations were operating in East Palo Alto, most located directly on the highway. Over the next two decades, the area around the intersection of University Avenue and Bayshore attracted numerous other service stations and restaurants, and drive-ins including White's Modern Cafe, Honey Chile ("Real Southern Barbecue"), Gustin's Drive-In, and Mollenauer's Restaurant ("Italian Food, Hawaiian Entertainment"). There was also lodging for the weary traveler at the Speedway Auto Court, which offered "hotel and housekeeping accommodations de luxe" in long rows of stucco units, each, it appears from old photographs, with its own garage.

Some of the businesses on Bayshore were designed for "speed reading," that is, to arrest the attention of travelers whizzing by at high speeds.<sup>105</sup> One particularly well known sight (no longer extant) was Auten's Restaurant, with a rocket-like

---

101. See *PA Times*, 21 May 1934; 15 Nov. 1937; 24 Nov. 1937.

102. *PA Times*, 24 Nov. 1937.

103. See *PA Times*, 6 Dec. 1945; ? Feb. 1946; 7 June 1946.

104. *PA Times*, 23 Feb. 1933.

105. On "design for speed reading," see Chester Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985.

tower that made it a landmark at the intersection of 101 and University Avenue.<sup>106</sup> (See fig. 12.) In 1940, Auten's owners lavished great care and expense to outfit their establishment with a "maple-spring" dance floor, "semi-indirect lighting," and neon. There was also Gustin's drive-in, a more modest structure with a trapezoidal slab-like tower anchoring a diagonal roof launched skyward. An excellent surviving example is 1447 East Bayshore (now the Polynesian Market), a streamline moderne structure with a rounded canopy that reaches out toward the street, and horizontal striations that whiz around the building to convey a sense of speed.

The businesses along Bayshore were geared for the automobile era, both in the design of the individual structures and in the way they related to the street. Many were loosely strung out along the highway, with space between and in front of them to facilitate easy auto access and parking. Others clustered in a compact row, emulating the traditional central business district of the pre-automobile era, but these were set way back from the highway to afford plenty of parking and space to turn around.

In the meantime, University Avenue, between Bayshore and the San Francisquito Creek, developed along the lines of a more traditional main street. Until the mid-1930s, University Avenue, which bisected the Woodland Place subdivision, was largely residential. In the late 1920s, a gas station and a real estate agent were located near the creek, but it took the highway and increased population to stimulate further business development. Restaurants and stores began to establish themselves in period revival or modernistic structures, such as the Spanish Colonial Revival building at 1945-7 University Avenue, or the Art Deco building that once housed Safeway at 1991 University. As University Avenue developed, its commercial structures were generally tightly grouped and pressed close to the street with on-street parking in front, much like downtown Palo Alto or Mayfield. A portion of University Avenue between the creek and the highway maintains this character today.

Other small small commercial clusters dotted the East Palo Alto area. A number of businesses opened along Cooley Avenue in the Weeks colony area, including the Runnymede Grocery which eventually became the Cooley Avenue Market at 2235 Cooley. In the mid 1920s, Cooley Avenue near the creek featured a campsite for automobile travelers, serviced by the Auto Camp store owned by one E. Egli.<sup>107</sup> Today, a number of businesses lodged primarily in post World War II

---

106. *PA Times*, 11 Jan. 1956. This was forced out when 101 was widened and the cloverleaf was put in in the late 1950s. The Times Tribune has a good photo of this on file.

structures continue to operate on Cooley near Runnymede and Weeks Streets. Pulgas Street near Bayshore also developed a small business cluster related closely to the highway.

In the 1930s, East Palo Alto's business district along University Avenue and Bayshore began to attract bars and liquor stores, so many that the area became known as "Whiskey Gulch." Stanford University was indirectly responsible for this. When Leland Stanford subdivided the land in what came to be Palo Alto, he included in the 1889 deed a restriction prohibiting the sale of liquor within a mile and a half of Stanford University. In 1909, the restriction became part of Palo Alto's city charter. Prohibition made this a moot point, but when it was repealed in 1933, Frank Crist, Palo Alto Deputy City Attorney and state legislator, successfully challenged the restriction for the small area near University Avenue in unincorporated San Mateo County just far enough from Stanford.

Before long, bars, nightclubs, and liquor stores opened their doors, drawing people from the dry city of Palo Alto as well as travelers passing by on 101.<sup>108</sup> The Zombie Hut, the Collins Club, Autens, Club el Gaucho, the Reno Club, and many others offered dinner, dancing and entertainment, or just a drink. The Reno Club survives today as A-1 Liquors, a simple gabled building bearing a flashing neon sign with a looping arrow that beckons the passing motorist to the drive-through liquor stop.

Whiskey Gulch thrived during and just after World War II, when local service people flocked to places like the Victory Club on University Avenue. (Its building, at 1966-78 University Avenue, now houses two newer bars, El Bulebar and Tommy's.) Local residents became concerned about the "high night life," including gambling and "attendant disturbances," centered around the increasing number of night spots in the area. At least one bordello operated in rooms behind a Whiskey Gulch bar. It only made it worse that the "liquor resorts" flanked highway 101, which was the scene of so many accidents in the stretch that passed through East Palo Alto.<sup>109</sup> In 1945, the members of the Ravenswood District

---

107. This may have been the campsite, mentioned in Runnymede literature, where visitors to Runnymede could stay. The store was operating in 1925 but appears to have gone out of business by 1930.

108. See Paul Gullixson, "Scenes from Old Times," *PA Times*, 27 Sept. 1988. In 1935, only one establishment selling liquor, at the corner of Bayshore and Manhattan Avenue, existed in East Palo Alto; by 1937 five liquor stores operated on or near the highway; and by 1940, nine attracted patrons from in and out of town. These figures were gleaned from the study of Palo Alto's City Directories between 1935 and 1940, in the commercial pages under "Liquors." Over ten bars and liquor stores operated here just after World War II.

Citizens Service League requested that a police district be formed to respond to the ruckus in Whiskey Gulch.<sup>110</sup>

Following World War II, business flourished in East Palo Alto. The district continued to be concentrated on University Avenue and Bayshore, and a few businesses also spilled over onto Donohoe, Manhattan and Poplar. As new subdivisions sprawled across the fields, new establishments opened their doors to the new families pouring into the area. Among these were appliance stores, supermarkets, yard goods, furniture, the Don Bosco Home and Garden Store (which advertised itself as joining “the community with a future”), the U-Drive-In Laundry, even Ollie’s Studio of Creative Art — virtually everything the new homeowner might need.

One particularly noteworthy shopping area erected was the University Village Shopping Center erected at the corner of Bay Road and University Ave. in 1957 to serve the neighboring subdivision of the same name. University Village operated for a number of years with a large grocery store as its anchor tenant.<sup>111</sup> Gradual dilapidation befell the enterprise during the 1960s and 1970s. Its name was changed to Nairobi Village in the early 1970s to suggest a new attitude of community spirit, but stores continued to vacate the development.<sup>112</sup> By 1982, only two businesses remained, a liquor store and a laundromat. Crime became a problem near Nairobi; at least 150 arrests were made at the center in 1981, according to San Mateo County Sheriffs Department statistics, and one officer called the area “a sphere of influence for crime.”<sup>113</sup> Responding to mounting pressure, San Mateo County officials moved to condemn the area in 1982 in preparation for demolition which occurred in 1989.<sup>114</sup>

---

109. *PA Times*, 13 Aug. 1945.

110. *PA Times*, 20 July 1945. An article in the *PA Times*, 10 August 1945, noted how a local police officer reported to the League on “...ways and means of securing power to police the area, now four times the size of Menlo Park and a population estimated at 5,000. The situation is regarded as serious because of the concentration of highway drinking places in the area.” At this time only two San Mateo County Sheriffs deputies patrolled the area; assaults and car accidents were frequent occurrences in Whiskey Gulch.

111. The Cala-Littleman grocery store went out of business at University Village in 1971. It was replaced a year later by a Co-op food store, an employee-owned enterprise, which itself went out of business in 1973.

112. For more on the University Village-Nairobi Shopping Center, see Myron K. Myers, “Promise of Nairobi Village as Empty as Some Stores,” *PA Times*, 13 June 1974.

113. Steve Taylor, “Board Refuses To Wait Any Longer— County Takes Action on Nairobi,” *Peninsula Times Tribune*, 28 July 1982.

East Palo Alto area business suffered a severe disruption in the late 1950s, when Highway 101, which ran through its core, was widened into a freeway. Once again, East Palo Alto area residents tried to prevent the highway from having a negative impact on their community. Echoing their predecessors in the 1920s, when plans for Bayshore's transformation into a freeway were being discussed in the 1940s, East Palo Alto representatives requested that it be routed near the bay and around their community. They argued that the construction of a freeway along the path of the current highway would curtail commerce and cause property values to fall, resulting in less revenue for education in their community.<sup>115</sup> Ronald L. Campbell, an advisor to the San Mateo County Planning Commission, dismissed their request as "promotional in nature." State officials considered rerouting the freeway too expensive.<sup>116</sup> Another contingent of East Palo Altans favored the planned freeway route; although it would temporarily displace many establishments, they believed that ultimately it would be good for business.<sup>117</sup>

Following the path of the old highway, the new six-lane freeway, with its cloverleaf and overpass, was completed through East Palo Alto in 1958. The cloverleaf decimated much of East Palo Alto's commercial district. Some felt that it was just as well that the freeway had swept away the center of Whiskey Gulch, a name that had attached itself to the business district as a whole. In all, about fifty businesses were compelled to find new locations. These included not only bars and restaurants, but also service stations, grocery stores, drug stores, dry cleaners, a barber shop, and stores selling furniture, appliances, and plumbing.<sup>118</sup> Many eating places, especially on the west side of the highway where land was needed for three additional lanes, were forced to move. Those on the east side were less affected. A number of displaced buildings reportedly were moved to other locations. As a result, few roadside structures built to service travelers survive in East Palo Alto today.

Some of East Palo Alto's civic leaders regarded the freeway expansion as an opportunity to reestablish the business district on a new footing. Working with

---

114. John Parker, "Crowd Cheers Wrecking of EPA Center," *San Mateo Times*, 28 February 1989.

115. Construction on the freeway was projected to commence in July of 1941. The first section was to run between Palo Alto and San Francisco. *PA Times*, 6 Jan. 1941. Representatives of East Palo Alto's civic organizations made their request for the rerouting during the 1940s. See *PA Times*, 7 Aug. 1947; 16 Sept. 1947; 21 May 1949, and 15 Aug. 1972.

116. *PA Times*, 8 Dec. 1947.

117. See *PA Times*, 29 Aug. 1947; 21 Feb. 1948; and 11 Jan. 1956.

118. *PA Times*, 11 Jan. 1956.



the San Mateo County Planning Commission, the Ravenswood Boosters zoning committee planned a new commercial area on the east side of the freeway between Capitol and University Avenues. The Boosters were optimistic about the opportunity to plan "a really well-designed business district" with abundant off-street parking and "modern and attractive" stores. "It will be a fine shopping district," Ernest Stelter, the committee's chair, explained, "easily accessible from the highway and from Palo Alto and other points on the other side of the highway. People won't have to make dangerous left turns any more. The overpass will connect the two sides and people will stop thinking of Bayshore as a barrier to East Palo Alto."<sup>119</sup> As early as 1956, houses were already being cleared to make way for new stores on University and Capitol Avenues. New commercial structures went up in the new shopping area, and some businesses relocated there to be near their clientele. Others sought quarters in other cities. The shopping centers put up to serve the new postwar subdivisions somewhat dispersed East Palo Alto's commercial center. Whiskey Gulch was not completely eradicated as the Ravenswood Boosters had expected. Bars and liquor stores reopened, and the name, "Whisky Gulch," still clings to the area despite the fact that establishments of all types operate there.

Even with the new overpass in place, the traffic problem continued. When University Avenue east of the freeway was widened to provide improved access to the Dumbarton Bridge, the small business district that had begun to develop there lost its cohesiveness. In the 1970s, during planning for the bridge's expansion, Palo Alto managed to quash the proposal of Embarcadero Road as a major artery to the bridge. As a result, Willow Road, bounding East Palo Alto to the north, and University Avenue which cuts right through the city, bore the brunt of the traffic.<sup>120</sup> Once again, East Palo Alto served as a traffic corridor, only to have its own business district disrupted as a result.

Despite postwar optimism, the Bayshore Freeway has remained a barrier between east and west, contributing to East Palo Alto's isolation from the rest of the peninsula. Only a small strip of the city remains on the west side of the freeway, and most of this is bounded by San Francisquito Creek. Only two points of crossing from the west provide access to the eastern part of the city: the overpass at University Avenue and another at Willow Road. The University Avenue overpass facilitates the freeway's crossing, but the expanse is so broad that east and west seem far apart. High sound walls recently erected along the freeway

---

119. *PA Times*, 11 Jan. 1956.

120. On the plans for Dumbarton Bridge expansion and Palo Alto's role in nixing Embarcadero Road access, see *PA Times*, 12 Feb. 1989.

serve an acoustic function, but they also contribute to the sense of East Palo Alto as a community barricaded from its neighbors.

Recent plans to develop the Whiskey Gulch area threaten to wipe it out almost entirely. Yet sections of East Palo Alto's business district maintain many older structures and a high degree of spatial cohesiveness.

## Industry in East Palo Alto

Periodically from its beginnings, East Palo Alto has attracted developers who envisioned the area's potential for industrial expansion. Each time speculation was fueled by the introduction of improved transportation facilities in the vicinity. Isaiah Woods platted a townsite near to his wharf to create housing and amenities to serve port workers. Woods's port did not compete successfully with that of Redwood City, but later businessmen continued to speculate that Ravenswood would one day become a commercial center because of its advantageous deep-water location on the south end of the Bay.

Just after the turn of the century, two events, the construction of the Panama Canal and the erection of the Dumbarton Railroad bridge, rekindled the interest of real estate agents in Ravenswood as an industrial center. The opening of the Panama Canal created wide expectations that port facilities around the bay would have to be upgraded. Deep-water facilities were limited to Oakland, Richmond, Vallejo, and to a lesser extent Alviso, near San Jose, and were thought insufficient to handle the increased traffic of ocean-going steamers. In response to this perceived need for harbor improvements, the ports of Oakland and Richmond expanded aggressively after 1910, lessening the need for a new port at Ravenswood.<sup>121</sup>

The second stimulus to commercial hopes in Ravenswood occurred after 1904 and during preparations for a railroad bridge across the Dumbarton straits. The presence of the railroad aroused much excitement and land speculation between 1904 and the early 1910s. By July of 1912, engineers of the Southern Pacific had finished the 7,150 foot-long bridge, and were constructing a short rail spur to serve existing and planned industries in the Bay Road area near to Cooley's Landing. (Portions of this rails spur still exist, looping from Bay Road toward Runnymede Street. Tracks run along the ends of the backyards on Illinois street,

---

121. On the impact of the Panama Canal on Bay Region port facilities see Mel Scott, *The Bay Area: A Metropolis in Perspective*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), pp. 149-153.

where people are covering them with earth to extend their yards.) The bridge's completion, the *Palo Alto Times* forecast in 1912, "...marked an important transition in the Ravenswood property from an agricultural to a manufacturing property."<sup>122</sup> A handful of businesses established factories along or near the Southern Pacific spur during the 1910s and 1920s, although little evidence of them, either physical or archival, remains. The Rodgers and Rodgers Cutlery Company apparently opened a branch plant there around 1910.<sup>123</sup> An automobile assembly plant for the Maxwell-Briscoe Company was expected to be built after 1907 (although this never came to pass), and a chemical plant existed in Ravenswood well before the 1920s.<sup>124</sup> The Reed Reduction and Lubricating Products Companies had also established themselves in the area by 1922.

Following World War II, a handful of industries also began to find East Palo Alto's location advantageous. In 1946-1947, the Hiller Helicopter Co. set up operations in a manufacturing facility on Willow Road. Hiller, no doubt, found proximity to the Moffett Naval Air Station and Palo Alto's Municipal Airport useful. As a 1958 newspaper article reported, "'Right in the back yard of Palo Alto' officials [of Hiller] found a spot where housing would be near the plant in an area of potential growth. The location of Bayshore, Dumbarton Bridge, and a spur track were selling points which have attracted other industries as well."<sup>125</sup> Searching for a central Peninsula location, the Peninsula Transit Lines expanded its bus garage and maintenance facilities off Bay Road near the County Dump at Cooley's Landing. The Borrmann Steel Co. began operating a warehouse at Weeks St. and Pulgas Ave. in 1955 on land once owned by the Lubricating Products Co. in the 1920s. Romic Chemical Co. has maintained a refinery off Bay Road for over twenty five years; sprawling auto salvage yards nearby to Romic have taken advantage of low land costs. These businesses still remaining inside East Palo Alto's city limits are small and cannot add much to the local tax base.

---

122. *PA Times*, 2 July 1912.

123. See Foss, n.p.

124. On the Maxwell auto plant see *PA Times*, 19 May 1932; a notice on the chemical plant was in the *PA Times*, 21 August 1925. According to Robert Garcia, a chemical plant existed near the site of the present-day Romic Chemical plant on Bay Road. Garcia's family lived on the grounds of an oil refinery, probably the Lubricating Products Co., which existed near the intersection of Pulgas Ave and Weeks St. in 1922.

125. Mary Madison, "East Palo Alto Became 'Citified' in Postwar Boom," *Palo Alto Times*, 8 September 1958.

# Desegregation and Incorporation

## Desegregation

In the early 1950s, East Palo Alto became one of the most explosive sites of desegregation in the San Francisco Bay Area. Outside of Oakland and San Francisco, few cities in the Bay Area possessed sizable populations of African Americans before the Second World War. Many African Americans came to the region during the war to work in military industries, particularly the Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard near San Francisco.<sup>126</sup> Most of these workers lived in San Francisco in small neighborhoods throughout the city. After the war, efforts were made to "redevelop blighted areas of the city," a euphemism for a process that resulted in the expulsion of blacks from their new homes. An effort was reportedly made by San Francisco real estate interests to segregate African Americans in low-cost housing developments in southern San Mateo County. The Belle Haven tract in Menlo Park, begun by the prolific Bohannon Development Company just after World War II, became a key area where black families were encouraged to move. Belle Haven, which was annexed by Menlo Park in 1949, grew quickly as African-American families moved there en masse, largely after 1950. Census figures show that 349 non-white (to use the census's term) residents lived in Menlo Park in 1950; by 1957, 2,949 non-whites, mostly African Americans, had moved into the area and were concentrated in Belle Haven.<sup>127</sup>

As Belle Haven became increasingly crowded, African Americans began to settle in nearby East Palo Alto. After the Ohlone were displaced, the majority of East Palo Alto's residents were Caucasian, interspersed with a few Chinese and Japanese families. But a small number of African Americans did live in East Palo Alto prior to 1950. The Phillips family, for example, had made its home in the vicinity of Willow Road since the early 1940s.<sup>128</sup>

In the fall of 1954, William A. Bailey and his family became the first African Americans to move into East Palo Alto's new Palo Alto Gardens subdivision. They may, in fact, have been the first black family to move into East Palo Alto after World War II. The Baileys' arrival on the 150 block of Wisteria Drive touched off bitter protests from the white property owners nearby. One hundred twenty-

---

126. Some of this information was given in an interview with East Palo Alto resident Ola Wallace, 8 December 1992.

127. Mary Madison, "Interracial Community," *P.A. Times*, August 1958, exact date unknown.

128. Mr. Harry Phillips mentioned this in an interview, 10 Nov. 1992.

five neighborhood residents attended the usually placid meeting of the Palo Alto Gardens Improvement Association on November 29, 1954 to voice their outrage over the fact that a black family had moved into their neighborhood.<sup>129</sup> The association president, William Diebel, tried to dispel the controversy and to urge tolerance for the new African American residents. Angry homeowners, full of racial prejudice and hysteria over the value of their properties, disrupted the meeting and later turned Diebel out of office for his liberal views. According to a later newspaper report, disgruntled whites hoped "...to draw up a 'gentleman's agreement' to require all prospective buyers in Palo Alto Gardens to be approved by the association."<sup>130</sup> Neighbors pooled their money and offered Bailey \$3,750 to move out of Palo Alto Gardens. Bailey chose not to move, and was supported by such local organizations as the Palo Alto Fair Play Council, the N.A.A.C.P., the South Palo Alto Democratic Club, and the First Methodist Church of Palo Alto. Reportedly, when Bailey refused to leave, twenty per cent of his Euro-American neighbors on Wisteria Drive put their houses on the market and departed.<sup>131</sup>

East Palo Alto residents who lived in the area during this period have reported that real estate agents fueled the racial conflict by engaging in unethical "block-busting" campaigns. For example, on the doorsteps of white families they left pamphlets forecasting the collapse of local real estate values. Agents gave African Americans free bus rides through East Palo Alto's neighborhoods to encourage black families to buy, while attempting to scare white homeowners into selling. These agents would then assist the white families to find housing in the new subdivisions in Mountain View or Sunnyvale while offering their assistance to incoming African American families. This way, they received commissions on both ends. Over the next decade or so, African Americans bought or rented houses in all parts of the city.

As increasing numbers of African Americans settled in East Palo Alto, the area became both more isolated and more dependent upon nearby communities. Several events contributed to this. Though the widening of Highway 101 eased the flow of traffic moving along the Peninsula's main high-speed artery, it also deepened the psychological and economic chasm separating East Palo Alto from its affluent western neighbors.<sup>132</sup> During this period, East Palo Alto was the

---

129. For an account of this tumultuous Palo Alto Gardens Improvement Association meeting see Art German, "Home Purchase by Negro family Stirs Action in East Palo Alto Subdivision," *P.A. Times*, 11 Nov. 1954.

130. Madison, "Interracial Community."

131. Madison, "Interracial Community."

132. Access across the Bayshore Highway at times became a contested issue between those in Menlo Park and residents of East Palo Alto and Belle Haven. A Menlo Park City Council

only city on the peninsula that had most of its land sandwiched between Highway 101 and the Bay. It is possible that its relatively isolated position, its preexisting separateness, made it a particularly desirable site for real estate interests to target for block-busting, African American relocation, and — ultimately — segregation.

The highway's expansion wiped out much of the area's commercial district. Because some of the uprooted shop owners were reluctant to relocate in a rapidly integrating community, they took their stores elsewhere. In the process, East Palo Alto's residents became increasingly dependent on businesses outside the community.

Palo Alto and Menlo Park further damaged East Palo Alto's self-sufficiency by annexing several key parcels of land between the 1920s and 1960s.<sup>133</sup> Because it continued to be an unincorporated area, East Palo Alto did not have the civic organization, money, or clout to resist these land transfers in the courts or legislature. Menlo Park had systematically bought bayfront property since the late 1940s and in 1954 annexed Belle Haven, including land occupied by the Hiller Helicopter factory on Willow Road. Future tax revenues were also removed from East Palo Alto when Menlo Park annexed the new Kavanaugh Industrial Park that went in on Willow Road in 1958. In the early 1920s, Palo Alto acquired 1455 acres of East Palo Alto from private owners, and made plans to construct a sewage treatment plant and other municipal facilities here. Palo Alto went to the unusual extent of rerouting the course of the San Francisquito Creek in 1963-1964 in order to make a sizable chunk of Peter Faber's former estate fall inside Santa Clara County's boundaries. (A California state law stated that a city had to remain contiguous within the same county, and the San Francisquito Creek marked the boundary line between San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.) On this land, Palo Alto laid out its municipal golf course and enlarged its small community airport which had operated here since 1938. Palo Alto and Menlo Park's annexations denied the future city of East Palo Alto vital corporate tax revenue. These moves also promoted the creation of a local "cold war,"

---

member stated that he "didn't see any divisiveness" in relations between his city and East Palo Alto. As reporter Sharon Noguchi wrote: "No divisiveness?" East Palo Alto attorney LaDoris Cordell responded. She recalled at a meeting last week of the Concerned Citizens of Menlo Park, one woman suggested sealing off the pedestrian overpass connecting east and west Menlo after dark, as a way to curb residential burglaries in the Flood Triangle. The implication was that all the burglars lived in East Bayshore and trotted across the freeway to rip off west Menlo homes." See Sharon Noguchi, "Land Swipes Feared," *P.A. Times*, 20 April 1978.

133. See Stephen Robitaille, 'Raped' Community Incorporated in Self-Defense," *San Jose Mercury News*, 2 February 1989.

exacerbating mistrust between residents on either side of the highway's concrete curtain.<sup>134</sup>

## Incorporation

After a long history as an unincorporated area of San Mateo County, East Palo Alto achieved incorporation in 1983. Before this, efforts at municipal incorporation had recurred since the 1920s. Beginning in the 1920s, members of the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce advocated incorporation as a defense against piecemeal annexation by surrounding cities, and against involuntary inclusion in other city or county mergers.<sup>135</sup> Palo Alto introduced legislation aimed at annexing East Palo Alto in 1925, but this was vetoed by Governor Richardson.<sup>136</sup> Many people who lived in East Palo Alto were wary of being subsumed into Palo Alto, arguing that taxes would go up.

Incorporation also offered the prospect of East Palo Alto gaining its own fire and police protection, as well as sanitary and zoning laws.<sup>137</sup> East Palo Alto, however, was fractured at this time among competing groups. There was even contention over what the community should be called — Ravenswood, Runnymede, or East Palo Alto.<sup>138</sup> East Palo Alto won out in a special vote taken 12 Dec. 1925. As a result, Ravenswood's boosters, Runnymede's poultry farmers, and residents who worked elsewhere, were too disunited to come to any consensus on the issue of incorporation.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s talk of incorporation began again, and it became more serious in 1957, when the East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce decided to study the issue.<sup>139</sup> Each time, efforts failed when the question of higher costs to homeowners arose. They would have to bear the burden, since the city lacked enough industrial or commercial tax revenue to support a municipal bureaucracy.

East Palo Alto gained a measure of governmental autonomy by the late 1960s. In the wake of civil unrest in Watts and elsewhere across the United States, San

---

134. See Noguchi, "Land Swipes Feared," to gauge the level of mistrust felt by those on either side of the highway.

135. *P.A. Times*, 7 April 1925.

136. *P.A. Times*, 9 June 1925.

137. *P.A. Times*, 5 May 1925.

138. For more on the name dispute in East Palo Alto, see these issues of the *Palo Alto Times*: 18 Sept. 1923, 19 Sept. 1923, 14 Oct. 1924, 25 Oct. 1924, and 8 Nov. 1924.

139. For a survey of the incorporation issue up to 1958, see *P.A. Times*, 9 Sept. 1958.

Mateo County's Board of Supervisors realized that East Palo Alto's largely African American population wanted and needed more self-government. An elected board of five members, called the East Palo Alto Municipal Council, was set up in 1967. San Mateo County continued to exert control over East Palo Alto's internal affairs, but the Municipal Council was widely seen as a step toward the ultimate incorporation of the area. The Municipal Council attempted to address issues of commerce, housing, and crime, but with little success; without tangible powers to tax and spend, its effectiveness was limited.

Efforts by homeowners in the western portion of East Palo Alto to annex themselves to Menlo Park in 1977 sparked the incorporation issue one more time. A group led by mostly Euro-American absentee landlords and homeowners, calling itself WARPO, the Woodland Avenue Residential Property Owners, petitioned San Mateo County's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), for inclusion into the city of Menlo Park.<sup>140</sup> Efforts by WARPO to leave East Palo Alto were on two grounds: economic and cultural. "The identification we have with East Palo Alto and its high crime rate is harmful to us. It hurts our property values,"<sup>141</sup> WARPO leader Howard VanJepmond stated in 1977. Reporter Sharon Noguchi wrote of a WARPO meeting in 1977: "Property owners in the portion of East Palo Alto west of Bayshore Freeway said last night they feel 'a cultural identity with Menlo Park' and they do not want to be identified with a poor black community."<sup>142</sup> Divisions were drawn between the younger, poorer, ethnically-mixed residents living to the east of Bayshore and the older Euro-American landlords on the west. After studying the question, LAFCO dismissed WARPO's petition, and, instead, began to study the larger question of incorporation.

When LAFCO determined in 1981 that cityhood was feasible for East Palo Alto, it triggered East Palo Alto's efforts to place an incorporation vote on the ballot.<sup>143</sup> On April 13, 1982, a vote for incorporation was held. In general, anti-incorporationists, including long-time Municipal Council members Gertrude Wilks and Henry Anthony, established homeowners, and absentee landlords,

---

140. For more on the WARPO, see "Property Owner Opposes EPA Incorporation," *Peninsula Times-Tribune*, 2 Feb. 1981, p. B-3C and Sharon Noguchi, "Westside E. Palo Altans Push for Annexation to Menlo," *P.A. Times*, 27 Sept. 1977, p. 2.

141. See Noguchi, "Westside E. Palo Altans," p. 2

142. *Ibid.*

143. LAFCO first issued a recommendation against incorporation for East Palo Alto in 1981. After great public outcry, however, LAFCO reversed its position, and recommended that a referendum be take on the issue of incorporation. See Steve Taylor, "E, Palo Alto's Bid for Incorporation Gets New Life," *Peninsula Times Tribune*, 22 September 1981 and Steve Taylor "E. Palo Alto's Incorporation Drive Revived," *Peninsula Times Tribune* 16 October 1981.



emphasized again the added property tax burdens of running a city government. Pro-incorporationists tended to be young, African-American, and renters who wanted the opportunity to run their own city. Voters defeated the 1982 proposal narrowly. The following year, the same two factions fought again. On June 7, 1983, an East Palo Alto incorporation initiative finally passed by a fifteen vote margin.<sup>144</sup> Lawsuits waged in the courts between 1983-1987 over the incorporation vote exacerbated rancor between members of the two groups. In April 1983, before the second vote took place, anti-incorporationists contested in San Mateo Superior Court that cityhood petitioners had not collected enough signatures to put the measure on the ballot, and had not waited the required two years after a previous incorporation vote. After the June 7 election, anti-incorporationists alleged that absentee ballots had been improperly counted, which they believed to be a crucial factor in a tight race. California's Supreme Court decided on the validity of East Palo Alto's incorporation vote finally in 1986 and 1987, throwing out the anti-incorporationist lawsuits.<sup>145</sup>

## Today's Multicultural Community

In 1993, East Palo Alto was able to celebrate ten years of cityhood. During the previous two decades, the city's demographics had changed considerably. In 1971, East Palo Alto had 18,330 people, 60.1% were African-American, 31.9% Euro-American, 4.2% Hispanic-American, and 3.8% Asian-American. In 1993, the city contained 23,500 residents, 41.5% African-American, 34% Hispanic-American, 12% Euro-American, 9% Asian-Americans. The arrival of Latinos and Pacific Islanders shifted East Palo Alto's ethnic balance, and the new populations began to leave their own mark on East Palo Alto's landscape. Families from Mexico erected elaborate masonry walls and curving wrought iron fences and grills on their properties, replicating in new materials the transitional courtyard space familiar in traditional Mexican homes. Pacific Islanders began growing taro in their front yards, shifting away from the traditional suburban front lawn. Recently, African Americans, (most notably the members of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society) have spearheaded a community garden movement, with Charles Weeks's vision for Runnymede as its historical anchor — a new vision for revitalized future.

---

144. On the incorporation vote of 1983, see Chris Kenrick, "EPA Incorporation Vote is Blocked," *Peninsula Times-Tribune*, 7 April 1983, p. A-1; Chris Kenrick, "Cityhood Supporters Plan on Clearing Legal Roadblock," *Peninsula Times-Tribune*, 15 April 1983, p. A-1; Chris Kenrick, "Anti-Cityhood Force Grows in EPA," *Peninsula Times-Tribune*, 25 April 1983, p. B-1.

145. See "Decision Upholds Cityhood," *Peninsula Times Tribune*, 21 August 1986; Mary T. Forney, "High Court Upholds Cityhood," *Peninsula Times Tribune*, 27 Jan. 1987.

Part 3

*Architecture in East Palo Alto*

## Chapter 7

# *Building and Tradition*

### Who were East Palo Alto's builders?

Before World War II, construction in East Palo Alto was driven primarily by individual need. During the nineteenth century, large landowners commissioned, oversaw, or engaged in the construction of their own houses and farm buildings. When Charles Weeks appeared on the scene, he determined the area's subdivision into one-acre lots and the layout of the streets, but each settler was responsible for putting up his or her own house, tankhouse and poultry houses. Exactly who supplied the labor for this probably varied. The presence of people listed as carpenters and painters in the Runnymede directory suggests that they had a market for their skills.<sup>146</sup>

When the colony started to disintegrate and the value of their holdings increased, the ranchers sold off their land bit by bit and the buyers began to fill in the Runnymede grid with new homes. Local carpenters and contractors were available to handle the construction. Even in the new 1920s subdivisions, such as Palo Alto Park, once the infrastructure was in place, construction proceeded in a piece-meal fashion. In some cases, families put up their own houses and then acquired land nearby to construct others as an investment.<sup>147</sup> When the flower growers started to move in during the 1930s, they constructed new houses or moved into existing ones, and then built their own wood-framed greenhouses.

---

146. Runnymede directories from 1919 through 1925 provided this information.

147. Ralph Vitale, who constructed 2183 Ralmar on weekends, finished his house in the mid 1930s and proceeded to construct others. His father and two brothers also built in the East Palo Alto area, according to Ralph Vitale's wife, Mary Vitale MacLachlan. (Telephone interview, September 4, 1993).

Pattern books probably provided the designs for a number of East Palo Alto's houses. These were popular throughout the United States, circulating the latest styles in domestic design complete with floor plans and details. This meant that people from coast to coast were often looking at the pages of the same books and adapting the designs to their own needs. California architects and builders sometimes developed their own regional versions of styles common across the country. Sometimes the houses constructed from pattern books are stylistically consistent and remarkably similar to the drawings on which they were based. In other cases, however, stylistic features are mixed in unorthodox ways, as if the builder looked at a page featuring one style when planning the main structure, but took inspiration from another page when it came to the ornamentation. As a result, similar details may appear on both the largest and the most modest houses. Rather than looking at pictures in books, some builders simply observed other houses and used the features they liked.

Ready-to-assemble kits provided another option. Lumber and detailing, already pre-cut and ready to assemble, could be ordered from a variety of sources, including Sears. When it arrived, all the buyer had to do was to put the house together. One example of a house built from this type of kit is the Kavanaugh House on Bay Road, which was reportedly assembled from a package called the Iowa farmhouse.<sup>148</sup>

After World War II, large-scale developers swept into East Palo Alto and put in sizable subdivisions such as Palo Alto Gardens, featuring street after street of nearly identical tract houses. Like developers across the country, they responded to the postwar housing shortage with houses that were sure to sell as rapidly as they were built. Most of these have been renovated or at least adapted over time to changing needs and tastes. Since the postwar building boom, construction has once again proceeded in a piece-meal fashion, developers inserting small clusters of houses into Runnymede's lots.

## Styles, traditions, and meaning

East Palo Alto's pre World War II buildings represent a variety of styles, traditions, and types. Runnymede's tankhouses and poultry houses are

---

148. Thomas Kavanaugh, in a telephone interview, March 31, 1993, recalls that the house was built from a kit, and that he saw plans for the "Iowa farmhouse" in an old trunk that was stored in the house when it still belonged to the family.

vernacular types distinctive to Charles Weeks's colonies or to Northern California, while some of the colony's more modest houses emerge from folk traditions that had become common across the country. Other Runnymede houses can be classified stylistically, Craftsman being most common, while the later houses of the '20s and '30s range from folk to Spanish Colonial Revival and Tudor. The commercial structures built during the '30s and '40s include commercial types that are hard to classify stylistically as well as Spanish Colonial Revival, Deco, and Streamline-Moderne.

An understanding of a building's connection with folk or stylistic traditions may provide a window into the lives and values of the people who built and used the buildings we are surveying today: how they related to the community or to nature, how they looked at the world, and even their fantasies and aspirations. In 1918, Chicago architect Louis Sullivan articulated this particularly well:

If, for the word, 'style' we substitute the word, civilization, we make at once a pronounced stride in advance toward an intelligent understanding of the 'values' of historical monuments. *Kindergarten Chats*

Because Sullivan expands beyond style to 'civilization,' his words may apply equally well to structures that defy stylistic classification.

The analysis of a building's style or tradition is also useful for evaluating it architecturally. Studying the building in relation to others that are similar to it may suggest when a structure was built, how consistent it is with the characteristics of its tradition, and how good an example it may be. Is it a particularly notable or unusual example? Does it display elements that are typical or quirky or especially fine? It may happen that the building reveals a number of inconsistencies. These may disclose that the building represents a transition from one style or family to another, or that the builder assembled elements from more than one tradition, or that it bears later additions or alterations.

Ultimately, these considerations provide a means to a larger end: the structure or site's contextualization within a larger cultural tradition, past and present.

## Folk traditions

Many of East Palo Alto's houses follow folk traditions rather than fashionable architectural styles.<sup>149</sup> Before about 1850, folk housing was constructed to answer the most fundamental needs for shelter. Regionally based, folk housing tended to use local materials, and to follow local traditions that had been handed down through the generations. In the period after about 1850, when railroads spanned the country, traditional patterns began to change. Shipped by train, lumber, milled in forested region, became widely available. The balloon frame, developed in the 1830s, began to replace traditional structural systems and local materials. Rather than employing a few heavy beams with carefully made pegged joinery, the balloon frame uses a great many light wooden members connected with mass-produced nails. The result was a frame which was easier and faster to build, and more flexible in the way it could be arranged.

Though technology and materials were changing, traditional housing shapes often remained much the same. With the growth in transportation and communication, however, folk housing traditions that had once been limited to specific regions were disseminated all over the country, often with variations. Thus began the era of "national folk housing," as Virginia and Lee McAlester call it. National folk traditions appear in East Palo Alto in some of the more modest cottages constructed in Runnymede and Palo Alto Park.

*Massed-plan, side-gabled family.* The most common folk type found in East Palo Alto is what Virginia and Lee McAlester call the "massed-plan, side-gabled" family. Originally found in the Northeastern part of the United States, with the advent of the railroad it spread across the nation. This type of house is a simple, rectangular box of one story. A gabled roof, framed to span a depth of more than one room (ie. a "massed plan"), allows for the flexible arrangement of rooms within. The long side of the house, which becomes its front, generally bears little elaboration except perhaps for a porch, spanning the entire the entire facade or sheltering only the door.

A number of the earliest settlers in Runnymede constructed massed-plan, side-gabled houses. These represent the simplest and most basic homes found in the colony. All are compact structures with simple porches and little or no

---

149. As a readily available, clear, and carefully researched study, Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* provides the basis for my discussion of folk housing and its various families (with the exception of the center-gabled). See especially pp. 65, 75, 89-91, and 96-98.

ornamentation, and many have received various additions and alterations over the years. One of the best examples is 763 Bell, constructed in the first portion of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony by a lawyer who "Left the Law Office For the Open Air," according to the photo caption in a 1918 issue of the *Palo Alto Times*. The photograph shows that the house, which has a porch sheltering its left side, remains in close to its original condition. Other examples of this folk housing family were built in Palo Alto Park as vacation cottages, which are now year-round dwellings.

*Gable-front family.* East Palo Alto also saw the construction of a small number of gable-front houses, a folk type that may have evolved from the Greek Revival style common in the United States between 1830 and 1850. To emulate the pedimented form of the Greek temple, Greek Revival houses present the gable end as the main facade. Large and small, with or without columns, as a folk form it spread widely during the second half of the nineteenth century, and it persisted well into the twentieth. The narrower gabled front adapted itself to narrow urban lots, suburban neighborhoods, and rural settings like the East Palo Alto area. Before it was demolished in 1993, 762 Bell was an excellent example of this type at its most modest. A small, one-story structure, rectangular in shape (save for later additions), it featured a wide door, centered beneath the low gable. Lacking porch, columns, and any form of ornamentation, its front-gabled orientation is the only vestige of a connection to earlier Greek Revival prototypes. A similar structure may still be found on Runnymede Street, in the Ravenswood Villas subdivision.

*I-house family.* Two houses in East Palo Alto, 971 and 991 Runnymede Street, are variations on the traditional I-house form. This family, which was originally found primarily in the Southeast, evolved from traditional British folk houses. During the railroad era, it spread across the east and Midwest. I-houses most commonly are two-story side-gabled structures, two rooms wide and one room deep, with various additions augmenting the rectangular plan. Runnymede's examples depart from type in that they are two rooms deep, but in all other respects their compact design echoes I-houses throughout the country.

*Center-gabled family.* The center-gabled house is distinguished by its steeply pitched, gabled roof with an intersecting cross-gable at the center, over the main entrance. This basic form was one version of the Gothic Revival cottage popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, author of *Cottage Residences* (1842), and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). These volumes provided three-dimensional views, floor plans, and details to builders throughout the United States. At its most elaborate, the center-gabled house might be lit with Gothic windows

and adorned with lacy ornamentation cut with a jigsaw. Even without these embellishments, the basic center-gabled form persisted and provided the basis for many more modest structures, both domestic and agricultural.

Old photographs show that a number of center-gabled structures dotted East Palo Alto's nineteenth-century landscape. Only one survives, 892 Green, which was once the barn on the Dunipace place.

## Agricultural buildings

Most structures in East Palo Alto participate in national currents in one way or another, but Runnymede yielded two agricultural types that are not found outside of California, its tankhouses and its poultry houses. (For information beyond the brief summaries below, see the sections on the tankhouse and poultry house, above, in the history of Runnymede.)

*Tankhouses.* Runnymede's tankhouses are sturdy structures of two stories, designed to support elevated tanks that once stored water pumped from individual underground wells. Constructed of stout timber frames, diagonally braced to bear the weight of the tank, these structures are clad in a variety of ways, including narrow clapboard siding, shingles, or board and batten. In silhouette, some are rectilinear while most are slightly tapered as they rise. The thick, slightly bowed platform that tops each tankhouse, once held the water tanks that have now all disappeared.

Enclosed tankhouses — as opposed to water towers whose structural elements are exposed — began to appear in the San Francisco Bay Area as early as the 1860s. They tend to vary in form from area to area.<sup>150</sup> Those in Mendocino Country, for example, are often taller, more sharply battered, and slimmer in their proportions than those constructed in Runnymede. The tankhouses in East Palo Alto, which has perhaps the concentration of them in the Bay Area, represent a type that appears throughout the Santa Clara Valley.

---

150. For a typology of tankhouses, see Leon S. Pitman, "Domestic Tankhouses of Rural California," *Pioneer America* 8, no. 2 (1976): 84-97; and Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984): 83-4. Also see Brian F. Terhorst, "The Changing Forms of Sonoma County Tankhouses," unpublished graduate seminar paper, Sonoma State University, Fall 1989.



Runnymede's settlers embellished their tankhouses in a variety of ways. The tankhouse at 892 Green, for example, is adorned with large, rough-cut dentils, an unusual allusion to high-style classicism. More common were pyramidal roofs over the tanks and rails surrounding the platforms, features that have largely disappeared. Others painted their tankhouses in color schemes that matched their homes. Arnold E. Martinelli went to far as to flank his tankhouse with a garage on each side, incorporating it into a formal composition.

Some tankhouses provided temporary living quarters while the family constructed its house, while other tankhouses, with one or two-story additions, became more permanent dwellings. 2190 Clarke is typical. The platform which once supported the tank slides into a shed roof which doubles the building's width and transforms an agricultural structure into a two-story dwelling. Less common for East Palo Alto is 820 Weeks, which has a low front porch appended to the front plus a cluster of additions at the rear. (Similar structures may be found in Mountain View.)

Enclosed tankhouses such as these originated in the San Francisco Bay Area in about the 1860s. The enclosure not only protected the structural supports and the pumping equipment, it also provided storage space, and in some cases, additions to the tankhouse provided living quarters for the family. For example, Charles Weeks's sister, Amanda Weeks Collins, lived with her family in rooms built around the tankhouse on their property on Bay Road. Since space was limited on Runnymede's small farms, the enclosure turned the tankhouse into a useful multipurpose outbuilding.<sup>151</sup>

*Poultry houses.* While Runnymede's tankhouses represent a regional type adapted to the colony's specific needs, the poultry houses that once stretched across its landscape were particular to Charles Weeks's method of poultry raising. As an alternative to the free range system, Weeks designed the poultry house to be as efficient as possible, maximizing the use of a limited amount of space, and minimizing labor. The poultry houses consisted of pens measuring eight feet by eight lined up to form a structure that could be as long as 240 feet. Shallow feeding troughs ran along the outside of each house, and fresh water flowed from the well into the coops. Their open fronts allowed the sun to shine in, and in the winter, electric lights supplemented the sun, awakening the hens in the morning before sunrise. Each pen could hold twenty-five chickens, which meant that each poultry house could hold as many as 750 chickens. Some families maintained

---

151. We are grateful to Brian Terhorst for supplying invaluable information about the development of the California tankhouse. He is now writing a master's thesis on this subject at Sonoma State University.

several long rows of cocps. Most of these have since disappeared and those that remain have been significantly altered.<sup>152</sup>

## Commercial architecture

Commercial structures in East Palo Alto vary both stylistically and contextually. Most of those along University Avenue were designed to hug the street in a continuous line. Some fit into clear stylistic categories, while others are little more than simple boxes with ornamentation that defies clear categorization. Commercial buildings constructed closer to Highway 101 more often stood on their own, loosely strung out to provide adjacent parking. These were designed to stand out, to catch the attention of the motorist passing by. Deco zigzags or streamlined "speed lines" kept company with bold geometric shapes and jutting diagonals. Characterizing these structures according to their ornamental trim has its limitations, especially when the style is not clearly definable. Because of this, we have found it useful, for the purposes of our inventory descriptions and evaluations, to use the classifications established by Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street*. In this excellent guide to American commercial architecture, Longstreth classifies buildings according to the composition of their facades rather than by style. We have adopted Longstreth's method and combined it with stylistic identification when appropriate.

---

152. On Charles Weeks's poultry house design see Weeks's own descriptions in *Egg Farming in California*; "The Model Acre," *One Acre and Independence* (Oct. 1922): 9; "Scientific and Artistic Poultry House for Intensive Egg Farming," *One Acre and Independence* (Nov. 1922): 1; and Thomas Stewart, "The Charles Weeks Poultry House," *One Acre and Independence* (September 1922): 5-6 and (November 1922): 5-6.

## Chapter 8

# *Architectural Styles*

While many buildings in East Palo Alto are more closely related to folk families, many others show the influence of particular stylistic fashions that were popular when they were constructed. For this reason, we include here a discussion of the question of stylistic identification followed by an explanation of some of the styles common in East Palo Alto before 1940.

*What is style?* Style is more than the presence of a red tile roof or a row of classical columns. It is the building's proportions, how its volumes are assembled, its structure, its details, its ornamentation. Within a style, there is often a consistent approach to the proportions of the major structural features as well as the details. An Italianate house, for example, tends to be a composition of vertical rectangular units, from the overall shape of the house itself to the proportions of the windows. Even the ornamental details bear this out. A bungalow, on the other hand, consists of broad horizontal elements, from the low sweep of the eaves to clustering of windows into horizontal groups. Specific ornamental details may assist in identifying a style, but the way they are used and how they are combined with other elements distinguishes one style from another. Classical columns appear on Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical buildings, but in each case how they are used and the context in which they appear is completely different, and so are the connotations associated with them.

*Styles and their names.* If you flip through the many good stylistic guides to American architecture available today, you will find that the styles are not always consistently named. One book may identify a house with a red tile roof, stucco walls, and wrought iron ornamentation as Mediterranean, while others may call it Spanish Eclectic or Spanish Colonial Revival. For the sake of clarity, we have selected one name for each style to be used consistently throughout.

*Some of the problems with stylistic terminology.* The terminology used today does not always correspond to how a building might have been identified during the period when it was constructed. For example, today some might identify San Diego's Hotel del Coronado (1886-88) as Queen Anne, but in the late nineteenth century it was considered a Mission or Spanish style structure because of its inner court. Yet it lacks the stucco, the tiles roofs, and the curvilinear gables that came to be associated with the style in the twentieth century.

In East Palo Alto, the Vitale family who built 2183 Ralmar thought of their house as Spanish, yet it also includes features that are typical of Tudor structures. While we indicate the Tudor features along with the Spanish in our description of the house, how the original owners identify the house's style suggests something about what it meant to them, which is somewhat different from what it may mean to us today.

Written and oral sources, when available, provide invaluable insight into how a building's style was defined at the time in which it was built, but such sources are not always available. So our task, then, is to consider a building's style and meaning, insofar as it is possible, within its original context.

In our descriptions of the various styles prevalent in San Mateo until about 1940, we first list the styles' characteristics. This is a sort of shopping list of features commonly found in buildings of a given style, but no one building needs to have all of the features listed to be identified as being in that style. Following the list of characteristics we talk more generally about the style, how it got to California, how it was interpreted here, and what it meant to those who chose it for their buildings.

## **Craftsman (1895-1920)**

\*simple boxy shapes

\*low pitched roofs, sometimes hipped sometimes gabled

\*often asymmetrical in design

\*informal intimate scale

\*constructed in a variety of materials: stucco, clapboard, shingled, board and batten, clinker brick, river boulder, or masonry

\*exposed rafters, projecting beams, brackets

\*pergolas

- \*low foundations, horizontal proportions, harmony with site
- \*wide horizontal windows, or windows in groups
- \*elaborate joinery
- \*open porches

The Arts and Crafts movement, which began in England in the early 1860s, caught on in the United States in the late 1890s. Gustave Stickley became the best-known American proponent of the movement. Beginning in 1901, he published an illustrated monthly called *The Craftsman* which popularized Arts and Crafts ideals. Its goal was the simplification of life and the improvement of design standards.

“My ideal of architecture,” said Stickley, “is beauty through elimination.” Ornament should not be applied gratuitously, but should only be used to enhance a building’s essential structure. The natural qualities of building materials should be respected and they should not be disguised as something other than what they are. This contrasts sharply with the Queen Anne style’s agitated surfaces, spindles, turned columns, and sunbursts. And also with the common nineteenth century practice of disguising one material as another: staining pine to look like mahogany, painting wood to look like marble, or treating wood and iron to look like stone.

The Craftsman philosophy did not give birth to a specific style, but there are a number of characteristics which link houses built in the Craftsman tradition. They tend to be constructed in local materials, structural members such as rafters and beam ends are exposed, and they have little nonstructural ornamentation. The Craftsman building has horizontal proportions, and it attempts to harmonize with nature.

A number of Bay Area architects, including Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan, and Willis Polk, developed a regional form of architecture which drew heavily upon the Craftsman philosophy. These architects were especially concerned with the relationship between architecture and nature. At the time, there was a growing interest in the California landscape. In the 1890s a number of novels were published about frontier life in California, and painters captured the wild and untamed California landscape on canvas. The Sierra Club was founded in 1892. Because of the number of people pouring into the Bay Area, local residents grew increasingly concerned about the destruction of the natural environment.

The Bay Area Regionalists shared a set of ideas and ideals rather than a uniform expression or style. Maybeck and his colleagues designed rustic houses which harmonize with nature. These combine Craftsman elements with features from

Medieval, Swiss, and Japanese architecture. Because of their distance from the architectural mainstream, Bay Area architects had greater freedom to experiment. The result was a synthesis of eclectic forms into rustic homes often covered with natural wooden shingles or boards--often of redwood--blending beautifully with their natural sites.

**The Bungalow (1895-1935).** The Craftsman tradition reached the largest number of Californians in the form of the bungalow. Rarely were these houses expensive except in the hands of architects like the brothers Greene, whose bungalows, with their finely-made joinery and stained glass, are far more elaborate than the run-of-the mill bungalow popular across the country. Bungalows were a form of low-cost housing designed to fit the needs and the budget of the general public. Books and magazines published bungalow plans, and it was even possible to order bungalow kits of precut lumber, nails, and details from Sears. Around the turn of the century, California saw a population boom. As retirees and young people flocked to the Golden State, the bungalow met the increased housing needs admirably.

The bungalow originated in India and its name is derived from "bangias" which is Hindustani for "belonging to Bengal." In Bengal, the British combined a local housing type--a low structure with a veranda-- with the English cottage to create the bungalow. Stickley described the bungalow as "a house reduced to its simplest form" that "never fails to harmonize with its surroundings, because its low broad proportions and absolute lack of ornamentation give it a character so natural and unaffected that it seems to sink into and blend with any landscape." The bungalow is usually one and one half stories high with an off-center front porch. Everything about the bungalow is horizontal and earth-hugging. The roof is long and wide with a shallow slope and overhanging eaves, the foundation is low, the front porch is wide, and the front window is horizontally proportioned. The porch supports are usually sturdy and stout, and rafters and beams are exposed. The bungalow is often constructed in building materials prevalent in the region. Its wide windows allow a clear view outside, and the porch provides an outdoor living space especially useful in a climate like California's.

A popular subtype, known as the California Bungalow, was constructed between 1910 and 1925. The California Bungalow tends to have the familiar low horizontal proportions, front porch, and exposed structural elements, but it is usually faced with stucco, and the porch roof is supported by massive "elephantine" columns (also known as battered columns) which have four faces sloping inward as they rise. In the 1920s, the bungalow's popularity gave way to houses built in a variety of revival styles.

## Spanish Colonial Revival (1915-1945)

- \*low pitched or flat roofs without much eave overhang
- \*red tile roofs and tiled parapets
- \*multi-level roofs
- \*usually faced with stucco, occasionally brick
- \*asymmetrical massing
- \*arches, pointed, round, or with a slight peak (cf. Islamic arches), triple arched, or parabolic
- \*ornamental details derived from Spanish, Byzantine, Gothic, Italian, and Spanish sources
- \*spiral columns
- \*multi-pane windows
- \*window grilles in iron or wood
- \*elaborate chimney tops
- \*round or square towers
- \*decorative tiles
- \*decorative iron work
- \*ornamentation around doorways

The Spanish Colonial Revival style represents another chapter in California's search for a regional architecture appropriate to its climate, topography, and traditions. Many believed that the Mission Revival style, derived as it was from ecclesiastical architecture, was inappropriate to secular buildings. Yet Spanish sources still seemed better than the architecture of the American East Coast. In 1906 Herbert Croly suggested that California architects look directly at Mediterranean houses, which he characterized as the most "valuable and imitable local domestic style." He believed that Mediterranean houses represented California's true heritage because the Franciscan friars would have built such houses if they had had the knowledge, skills, tools, and materials. Since no such houses were ever constructed in California, Croly actually proposed a form of architectural mythmaking – the recreation of a California past that never really was.

The Spanish Colonial Revival, which is also known as the Mediterranean or Spanish Eclectic, was popularized by the Panama-California Exposition (which celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal) held in San Diego in 1915. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, who designed the exposition buildings, drew inspiration from the Spanish Colonial architecture found throughout Latin America. More and more architects began to look directly at Spanish architecture as well as the

architecture of the entire Mediterranean area. The result was a style which is an eclectic mix of Spanish, Spanish Colonial, Northern Italian, and North African Islamic elements.

The style was mainly popular in states with a Spanish heritage, but there are examples sprinkled throughout the United States. By the 1920s, according to Gebhard, Winter, and Sandweiss, it was *the* style in coastal California. It was not only a link with California's Spanish past, but it may also have seemed suitable to a climate and landscape similar to that of the Mediterranean. Hollywood stars constructed Spanish Colonial mansions, and it appeared in movie sets. And the style was used for a considerable range of building types, from railroad stations, public buildings, and theaters, to mansions and cottages.

Grand houses combined plain stucco walls with convoluted Churrigueresque ornamentation around doorways, wrought-iron details, decorative tiles, spiral columns, and arches. But the style was also used extensively for smaller houses.

## Mission Revival (1890-1915)

\*plain, smooth stucco walls

\*arched openings; the arches are usually semicircular and without moldings so that the pier, arch and building surface are a single plane

\*tile roof with low pitch

\*scalloped (curvilinear) parapeted gable ends

\*bell towers, often paired and with tile roofs

\*quatrefoil windows with surrounding cartouches, found especially in gable ends

\*occasional domes

\*terra cotta ornament

Beginning in the 1880s, a number of Californians grew dissatisfied with the importation of architectural styles associated with the Eastern Seaboard. In 1882, Theodore Eisen, a prominent San Jose architect, pronounced to the members of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects that the "models of classic architecture, with Frisco-American variations" were inappropriate to California. By the late 1880s, a movement was underway toward the development of an architecture appropriate to California's own colonial heritage and its regional conditions. The answer, according to some, lay in the Franciscan missions. Willis Polk, who also promoted classicism, began to publish articles on the missions. The beginnings of a Mission Revival style gained national exposure



when Polk's colleague, A. Page Brown designed the California Building for the World's Columbian Exposition using a pastiche of mission elements, including a red tile roof and long arcades.

To some, the California mission, so different from Eastern Colonial architecture, elicited visions of a romantic and exotic past. Among these was Longfellow, who said, "A strange feeling of Romance hovers about those old Spanish missions...They add much to the Pacific Coast." Charles Fletcher Lummis, on the other hand, recognized that they were also good for business. The missions, Lummis wrote, "are worth more money, are a greater asset to Southern California, than our oil, our oranges, or even our climate," and "a man is a poor fool who thinks he can do business without sentiment."

Sentiment, combined with business sense, stimulated the movement toward the restoration of the crumbling missions and the adaptation of mission elements to warehouses, homes, office buildings, public buildings, and railroad stations. The Mission Revival style may be found throughout the United States, but it became most common in states with a Spanish colonial heritage. The style draws a variety of elements from the Franciscan missions. Its most distinctive feature is a curvilinear gable, which is combined with quatrefoil windows, tile roofs, terra cotta ornamentation, bell towers, and arched openings. In its simplest form, a Mission Revival building may be no more than a stucco box with a curvilinear gable. Because the style was originally intended for ecclesiastical structures, some found it awkward and inappropriate for other building types.

Although the Mission style was promoted as California's alternative to the Colonial Revival and classicism, San Mateo has far more Colonial Revival and Classical Revival buildings than Mission. A particularly good example of the Mission Revival survives on North Delaware. This is a two-story stucco house which has the curvilinear parapeted gable which is characteristic of the style. The house also has smooth stucco walls and flat planes, and the porch looks as if it has been cut cleanly out of the building as there is no break between the substantial piers supporting the porch roof and the wall. Yet, according to an informant who remembers the intentions of those who constructed the house, it was meant to recall Italian architecture rather than the California missions. It is possible that the builder thought about Italian buildings while also making use of forms popular in California at the time.

## Tudor Revival (1900-present)

- \*irregular and asymmetrical in massing
- \*steep roofs, often gabled with cross gables, also hipped
- \*stucco, brick, stone, with some wood
- \*tall chimneys
- \*towers
- \*ornamental half-timbering
- \*tall narrow rectangular windows divided into many panes

Californians may have felt that the Spanish Colonial Revival style represented their heritage, but they also were open to a variety of other styles which were popular at the same time. Among these was the Tudor Revival. This is actually a general term under which we loosely group buildings which show the influence of English architecture from the time of Shakespeare, and French architecture from Normandy and Brittany. It is also sometimes called the Provincial Style, since the architectural sources are generally from the provincial countryside rather than the city. During the 'teens and 'twenties in particular, many books and articles appeared showing drawings and photographs of rural English and French houses. These houses are picturesque, informal, and rustic, with steep gables and irregular silhouettes.

The Tudor style was used primarily for homes in the suburbs, which were romantically perceived as pastoral enclaves safely isolated from the bustle of the city. Because the Tudor Revival style was based on rural architecture, it helped to enhance the image of the suburban home as a country retreat. The Tudor style also created a sense of instant heritage. Tudor houses were designed to look as if they had always been there rather than having been recently planted. Attempts were made to make Tudor houses look as if they had weathered the ravages of time. Occasionally a section of stucco will be peeled away to reveal bricks beneath, as if the building had aged over the centuries. An architectural style which recalled the European agrarian past may have provided a sense of comfort and continuity during a period when there were so many technological and social changes.

## Art Deco and Streamline Moderne (c. 1920-1940)

The Art Deco and the Streamline Moderne styles are known by a variety of names, ranging from Deco, Modernistic, and Art Moderne, to Streamline, Zigzag

Modern, Jazz Modern, and Thirties Style. While most of the styles we have been discussing take numerous elements from earlier architectural styles, Art Deco and Streamline Moderne invent new forms for the present and the future. Although the two styles share enough common features to be treated under the same heading, each is distinct enough that it will be discussed in its own section.

## **Art Deco (1920s-early 1930s)**

- \*smoothly surfaced volumes
- \*vertical panels and piers
- \*symmetrical and balanced design
- \*stepped back tower
- \*ornamented parapet, often with vertical projections
- \*stylized floral and geometric Deco ornamentation

The Art Deco style broke with the revivals that had predominated during most of the nation's history. Instead of incorporating elements of older styles into new buildings, designers aimed for a sense of modernity appropriate to a new machine age. They created visions of the future rather than the past. The style's name comes from the Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs and Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925. Promotional materials warned that "reproductions, imitations and counterfeits of ancient styles will be strictly prohibited," for the purpose of the exposition was to show work displaying "new inspiration and real originality."

Art Deco is fundamentally a style of decoration, and it was used for jewelry, clothing, furniture, and industrial design as well as architecture. It is characterized by stylized floral and geometric forms in low relief. Although there are a few curves, much of the ornament is rectilinear; parallel lines, chevrons, zigzags, fluting, and reeding occur in endless variations. Traditional ornament, when used at all, tends to be simplified, and the dominance of European sources is challenged by motifs derived from American Indian and Pre-Columbian art.

Buildings with Art Deco ornamentation often are vertically proportioned. Shallow vertical panels emphasize the building's height, and vertical elements project at the top. Towers are stepped back, surfaces are smooth, and compositions tend to be symmetrical and balanced. Ornamentation is clustered at key points, especially at the base and around the entrance, and at the top of the building. In particularly lavish Deco buildings, architects, sculptors, and designers have collaborated to decorate the building's interior with ornamented elevator doors, light fixtures, panels, ceilings, and floors.

## Streamline Moderne (1930-40)

- \*simple box-like shapes, often with rounded corners
- \*smooth surfaces, often stucco
- \*horizontal proportions, emphasized with bands of horizontal bands and ribbon windows
- \*round windows
- \*steel railings
- \*horizontal balustrades
- \*glass bricks

After 1930, the Streamline Moderne style became a predominant modernistic form in the United States. Many streamlined buildings have Art Deco ornamentation, but the architecture of the 1930s, an era of austerity, tends to have a pared-down aesthetic compared with the architecture of the 1920s. Architectural design was influenced by streamlining in industrial design. Ships, airplanes, and automobiles were given smooth, rounded shapes on the theory that streams of air could flow over them without interference as they traveled at high speed. Streamlining was also adopted for household appliances from irons to pencil sharpeners, even though aerodynamics were not an important factor in the function of these objects. Functionally motivated or not, people responded to this machine aesthetic with its connotations of speed and modernity.

Streamline Moderne architecture tends to derive a number of its elements from industrial design. Surfaces are flat and smooth, and corners are often rounded. The horizontal grooves and lines banding the tops of buildings suggest speed, and ribbons of windows emphasize the horizontal proportions. Round windows and steel railings, borrowed from ships, are common.

# Appendix

## *Street Name Changes*

In 1939, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors changed a number of East Palo Alto's street names as well as the numbering of many residences. The Palo Alto Post Office, which delivered mail to East Palo Alto, particularly favored the name changes to avoid the confusion produced by duplicate street names in East Palo Alto, North Palo Alto, and Palo Alto. The duplication also caused problems for the fire department, according to the *Palo Alto Times*, August 26, 1939 (which provided the source for some of this information).

### Pre 1938 street name

Palo Ave.  
Park St.  
Stanford Ave.  
Oakwood Ave.  
Birch St.  
Doyle St.  
Vale St.  
Orchard St.  
Forest Lane  
Grove St.

### Post 1938 street name

Ramona Ave.  
Walnut St.  
Addison Ave.  
Palo Verde Ave.  
Lincoln Ave.  
Cherry St.  
Garden St.  
Glen Way  
Lilac Lane  
Weeks St

### Pre 1939 street name

Lincoln  
Bizzel  
Doyle  
Cherry  
Cherry, beyond Clark  
Park and Walnut  
Walnut beyond Clark

### Post 1939 street name

Weeks  
continuation of Runnymede  
Bell  
Bell  
Garden  
merged to become Green  
Beech

Pre 1939 street name

Post 1939 street name

Almond  
Almond beyond Clark  
Olive

continuation of Donohoe  
Myrtle  
continuation of O'Connor

(in Palo Alto Park names were changed a year ago but there are a couple of new changes)

Doyle  
Park

Bell  
Green

All of the above per PA Times, Aug. 26, 1939.

# *Glossary of Architectural Terminology*

**arcade:** A series of arches, supported by columns or piers.

**architrave:** The lower part of a classical entablature, resting directly on the capital of a column. Also the molding around a window or door.

**balustrade:** A series of upright posts or pillars supporting a rail.

**bargeboard or vergeboard:** A projecting board attached to the edge of a gable roof, sometimes decorated.

**bay:** A vertical division of a building, usually marked by such elements as fenestration, buttresses, or roof sections.

**bay window:** An angular or curved projection of a building filled with window(s). If the bay has three sides and the two side walls are slanted, it is called a canted bay. If the projection is curved, it may be called a bow window. When projecting from an upper floor only, it is called an oriel, or oriel window.

**belt course:** A continuous band which projects slightly from an exterior wall, dividing it horizontally and continuing around the entire building like a belt. It is often molded and it may mark the division between stories. A string course is similar, but may appear on only one side and project further than a belt course.

**brace:** A diagonal member of a building's frame which lends support; may be either curved or straight.

**bracket:** A projecting element beneath cornices, eaves, balconies, or windows which gives structural support. May also serve purely decorative purposes. Frequently appears in the Italianate style.

**capital:** The top of a column or pilaster, above the shaft, supporting the entablature. May be plain or decorated.

**casement window:** A window hinged at the side, opening like the page of a book. May open either outward or inward.

**clapboard:** A form of cladding consisting of thin boards which are thinner at one edge and placed horizontally, with overlapping edges.

**column:** A vertical member meant to support a load. In classical architecture it consists of a base, shaft, and capital.

**corbel:** A block projecting from the wall plane to support an upper element such as a beam or cornice.

**cornice:** The projecting molding or combination of brackets and moldings running across the top of a building to crown it.

**crenellations:** A parapet with regular sections (usually rectangular) removed to form alternating projections and indentations. (Also known as castellations and battlements.) Associated with the Gothic Revival and the Tudor styles, and used to recall European castles.

**crest, cresting:** An ornamental ridge topping a wall or roof, often decorated.

**dentil:** (from Latin, *dens*, "tooth") A small rectangular block used in a series beneath a cornice or to form a decorative molding.

**dormer:** A vertical window and its housing, covered by its own roof, projecting from a sloping roof.

**double-hung window:** A window with two or more sash (glazed frames), arranged vertically, which can be raised and lowered independently.

**egg and dart (or egg and tongue) molding:** a molding consisting of egg shapes alternating with dart or arrow-head shapes.

**eyebrow dormer:** A low dormer formed by curving up a section of the roof and inserting a narrow window.



**entablature:** The horizontal portion of a building, usually supported by a column. In classical architecture it consists of the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

**fascia:** A plain horizontal band often separated by moldings and found in an architrave.

**festoon:** A garland of fruit, flowers, leaves, or ribbons suspended in a curve between two points.

**finial:** An ornament, usually foliate, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, spire, or tower.

**fish-scale shingle:** A shingle with one curved end, often found in overlapping rows as a decorative cladding on Queen Anne structures.

**fluting:** Shallow, regularly spaced concave grooves which run vertically on a column, pilaster, or other surface.

**frieze:** The flat horizontal part of an entablature between the architrave and cornice. It may be plain or decorated. Also denotes any horizontal decorative band.

**gable:** The triangular portion of a wall at the end of a gable roof and defined by its slopes. It usually has straight sides, but it may also be stepped or curved (as in Mission Revival architecture).

**gable roof:** A roof in which two flat planes meet at a straight ridge.

**gambrel roof:** Similar to a gable roof, but it has two slopes on each side, the upper slope being shallower in pitch, the lower slope steeper. Used in Dutch, English, and Swedish colonial architecture, and in Colonial Revival designs.

**hipped roof:** A roof with four uniformly pitched slopes which meet in a point or a sharp ridge.

**hood molding:** A large projecting molding placed over an arch, doorway, or window, originally designed to deflect water from the opening.

**modillion:** A curved and ornamented bracket arranged in a series to support the upper part of a cornice, especially in the Corinthian order, though also used in other contexts.

**Palladian window:** A tripartite window with a large arched central opening flanked by lower rectangular side openings.

**parapet:** A low protective wall placed at the edge of a bridge or balcony, or at the top of a building. May be also be placed along a gable end.

**pediment:** Originated as the triangular gable above the entablature of classical temples, enframed by cornices. Went on to refer to any cornice-framed element crowning a door or window. May be triangular, curved, or broken.

**pendant:** A sculptural element suspended from a vault or ceiling.

**pilaster:** A shallow pier or rectangular column attached to a wall, often with a base, shaft, and capital.

**portico:** A porch, usually with a roof supported by columns, projecting from a building's main entrance. May also recede into the building.

**quatrefoil:** An ornament with four circular or pointed lobes.

**quoins:** Blocks of stone used to reinforce the corners of brick or stone walls. May also be made of non-load-bearing materials (including wood) and applied for decorative rather than structural purposes. Appears especially in Colonial, Italianate and Colonial Revival architecture.

**rustication:** Massive blocks of masonry separated by deeply-cut joints.

**sash:** A frame in which the panes of a window are set.

**spindle:** A turned wooden element often used in screens, stair railings, and porch trim.

**stickwork:** Ornamental slats of wood applied to the exterior of a building, found in Queen Anne and Italianate architecture.

**transom:** A small hinged window above a door or another window. Also a horizontal bar of stone or wood placed across the opening of a window.

**turret:** A small, slender tower, often at the corner of a building.

**witch's cap:** A conical roof, often topping towers in Queen Anne buildings.

Carol and Emily Da Mant, (transcript), n.d  
Albert Deacon, (transcript), n.d.

## Archival Materials and County Records

San Mateo County Historical Association Archives: newspaper clippings on East Palo Alto, photographs, maps.

East Palo Alto Historical Society, collection of maps, photographs, and Runnymede promotional materials

Doris Brown Geddis, personal collection: photographs relevant to Runnymede and the Weeks family, a typescript family history written by Amanda Weeks Collins (Charles Weeks's sister), list of Ravenswood School Alumni.

Palo Alto Historical Association Archives: newspaper clippings on East Palo Alto, photographs, maps, Runnymede promotional materials

San Mateo County Records: maps; property transaction records; subdivision records in the maps division, the assessor's office and the recorder's office

## Articles and Books

"144 Japanese Say Good-bye to Homes Here." *Palo Alto Times*, 26 May 1942.

Anderson, Henry S. "The Little Landers' Land Colonies: A Unique Agricultural Experiment in California." *Agricultural History* 5 (October, 1931): 139-50.

Bocek, Barbara Rose, "Hunter-Gatherer Ecology and Settlement Mobility along San Francisquito Creek," Stanford University, Ph.D. dissertation.

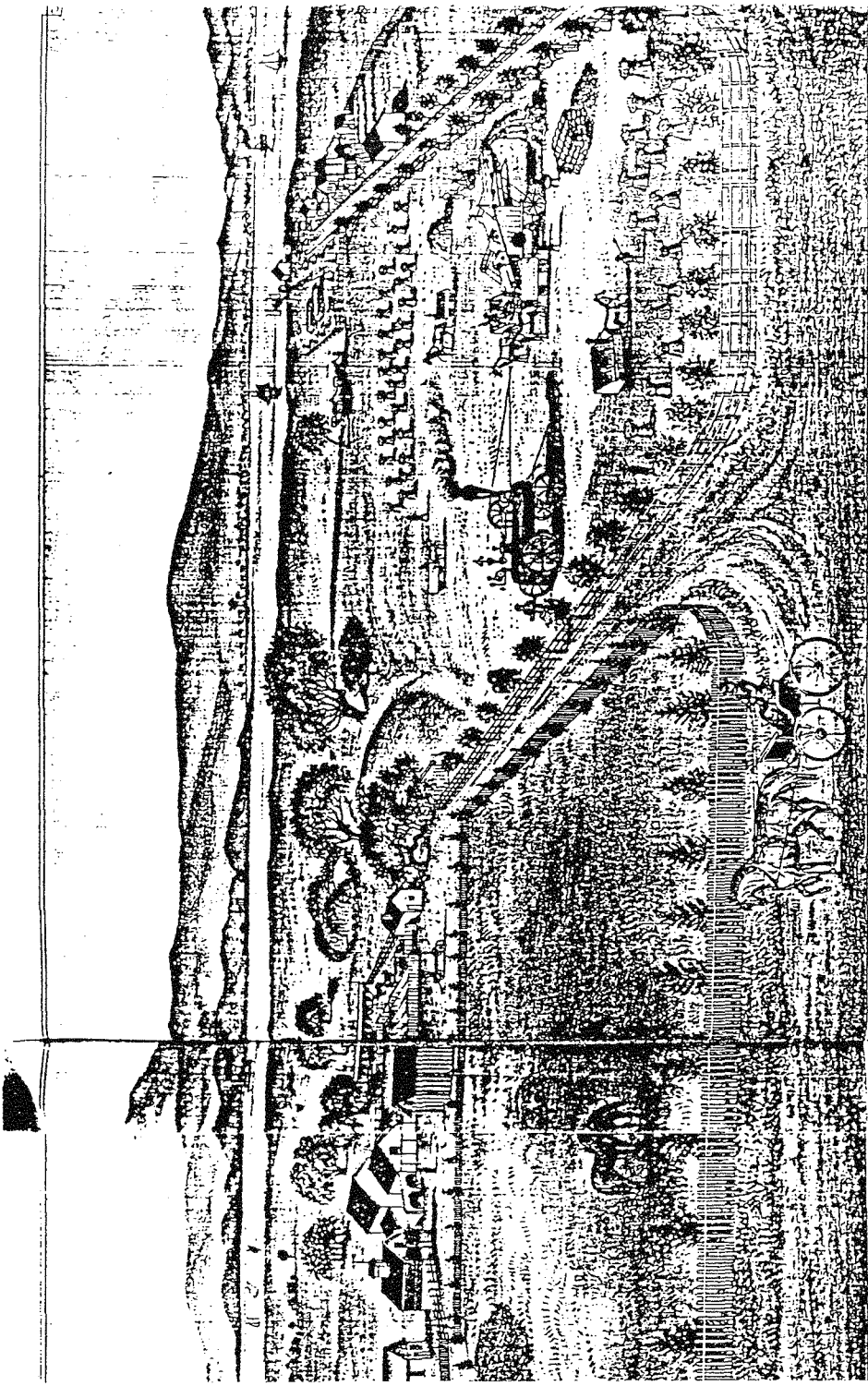
Burrowes, Trevor. "East Palo Alto: The Dark Horse." Unpublished paper sponsored by the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, 1985.

Foss, Werner C., Jr. "The History of Ravenswood." Unpublished paper, San Mateo Junior College, 1942. Archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

- Gebhard, David, Eric Sandweiss, and Robert Winter. *Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., Peregrine Smith Books, 1985.
- Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940: An Illustrated Glossary*. New York: Van Nostrand, Reinhold, Co., 1985.
- Grad, Shelby. "Handsome Homes Arise in East P.A." *San Jose Mercury News*, 28 July 1991, pp. B 1-2.
- Gullard, Pamela and Nancy Lund, *History of Palo Alto*. San Francisco: Scottwall Assoc., 1989.
- Hynding, Alan. *From Frontier to Suburb: The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*. Belmont, California: Star Publishing Co., 1982.
- Hine, Robert. *California's Utopian Colonies*. San Marino, 1966.
- Jackson, Kenneth. *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Kamerling, Bruce. "The Arts and Crafts Movement in San Diego." In *The Arts and Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life*, Kenneth R. Trapp, ed. New York and Oakland: Abbeville Press and the Oakland Museum, 1993.
- Kraus, Sibella. "East Palo Alto Begins to Reclaim Garden Heritage." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 15 July 1992, Food Section, pp. 1 & 8.
- Lee, Lawrence B. "The Little Landers Colony of San Ysidro." *Journal of San Diego History* 21 (Winter 1975): 26-51.
- Liberatore, Karen. "Developer's Dream Inspired by Mandela," *San Francisco Chronicle*, 5 August 1992, Home Section, p. 9.
- "Local Flower Industry at Easter Peak." *Palo Alto Times*, 7 April 1950.
- Lukes, Timothy and Gary Y. Okahiro. *Japanese Legacy: Farming and Community Life in California's Santa Clara Valley*. Cupertino, California: California History Center, 1985.

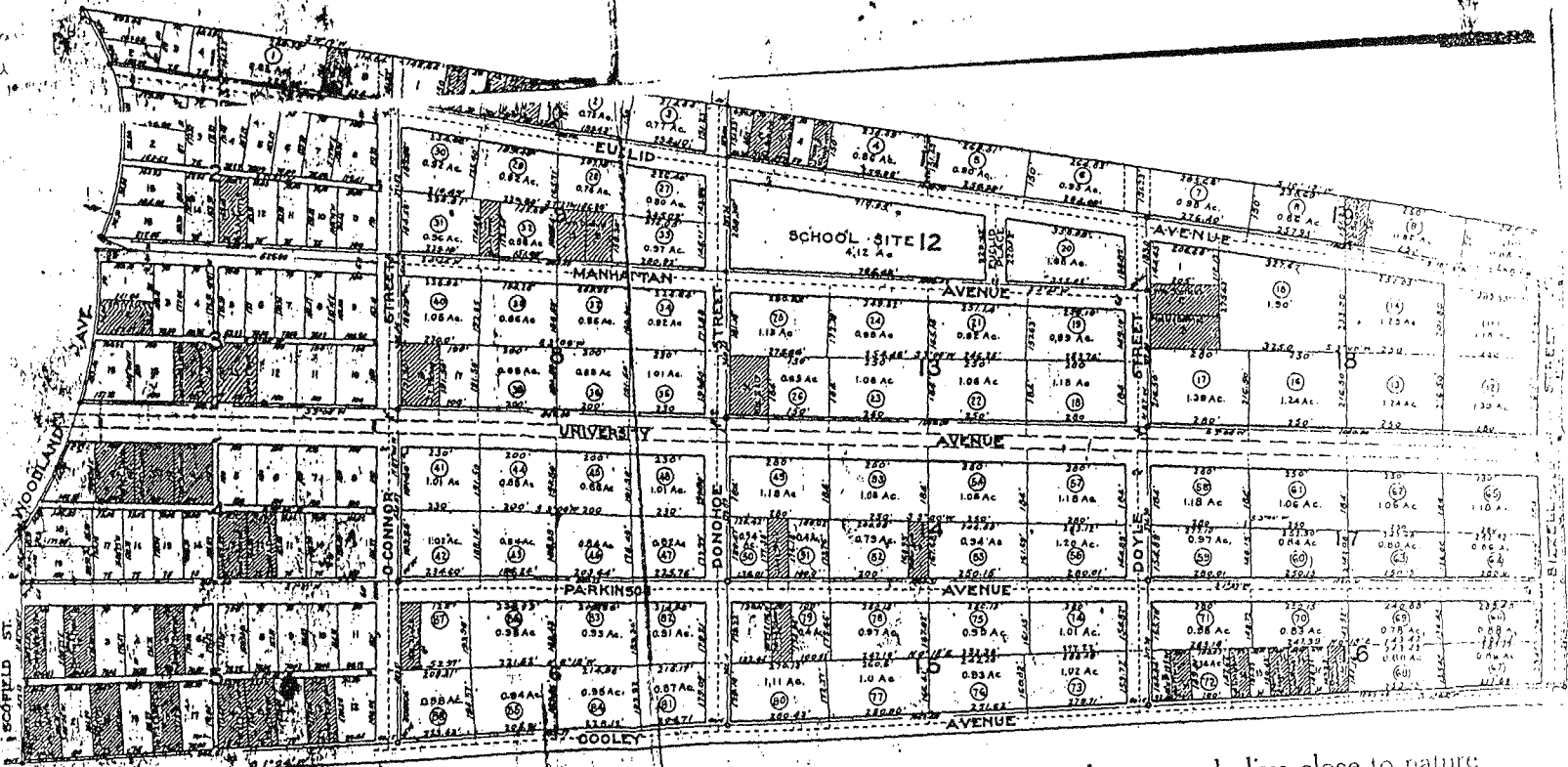
- Maddex, Diane, ed. *All About Old Buildings: The Whole Preservation Catalog*. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1985.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.
- Noble, Allen G. *Wood, Brick, and Stone*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.
- One Acre and Independence, 1921-22*.
- Pitman, Leon S. "Domestic Tankhouses of Rural California." *Pioneer America* 8 (1976): 84-97.
- Palo Alto Woman's Club. *Santa Clara Valley*. Palo Alto: Times Publishing Company, 1911.
- Poppeliers, John D., S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1983.
- "Ravenswood: Port of Gold-Rush Days," *La Peninsula* 3 (May, 1946): 1-4.
- Rojas, James T. "The Enacted Environment of East Los Angeles." *Places* 8 (Spring 1993): 42-53.
- Roy, Rose. *Ships in San Mateo County: Their Cradles — Their Ports of Call*. Typescript, 1941. San Mateo County Historical Association Archives.
- The Runnymede News*.
- Schmitt, Peter J. *Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.
- Smythe, William. *City Homes on Country Lanes*. New York: Macmillan, 1922
- Stanger, Frank M. *History of San Mateo County*. San Mateo, California: San Mateo Times, 1938.
- Starr, Kevin. *Inventing the Dream: California Through the Progressive Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

- Stewart, Thomas. "The Charles Weeks Poultry House." *One Acre and Independence* (September 1922): 7.
- Svanenik, Michael. "When Flowers Were a Blooming Business." *San Mateo Times*, 24 March 1989, p. B3.
- Terhorst, Brian F. "The Changing Forms of Sonoma County Tankhouses." Unpublished graduate seminar paper, Sonoma State University, 1989.
- Weeks, Alice. "The Place of the Woman in the 'Little Farm' Home." *One Acre and Independence* (September 1922): 7.
- Weeks, Charles. *Egg Farming in California*. San Francisco, n.d.
- Weeks, Charles. "The Model Acre." *One Acre and Independence* (October 1922): 9.
- Weeks, Charles, "William E. Smythe Passes Away.," *One Acre and Independence* (November 1922): 12.
- Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969.
- Worster, Donald. *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1985.



"RANCHO" RESIDENCE OF L. P. COOPEY, MENDOCINO PARK, SAN MATEO CO., CALIFORNIA.

This new addition contains 130 acres of rich loam soil, making about 500 acres total in Runnymede colony today



Runnymede is a realization, a material manifestation of practical idealism; where people live close to nature in thrifty garden homes, surrounded by an atmosphere of culture

Figure #2. Map of Woodland Place, the Third Addition to the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony. From Palo Alto Times, MAY 10, 1918.



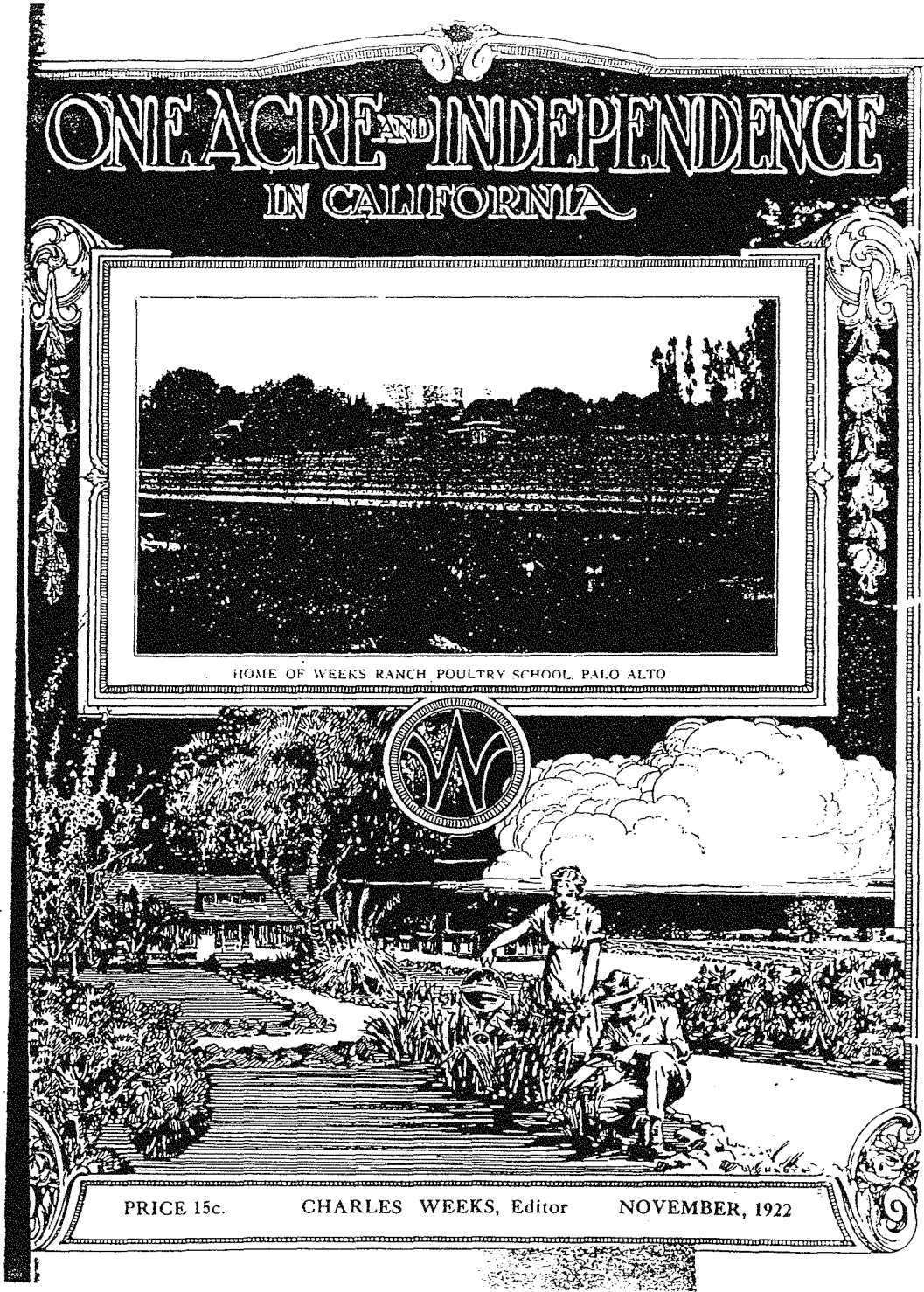


Figure #3. Cover of *One Acre and Independence*, November 1922. Collection of the Palo Alto Public Library.



Figure #4. Photograph of the Runnymede Clubhouse. Photograph by Katherine Solomonson, September 1993.

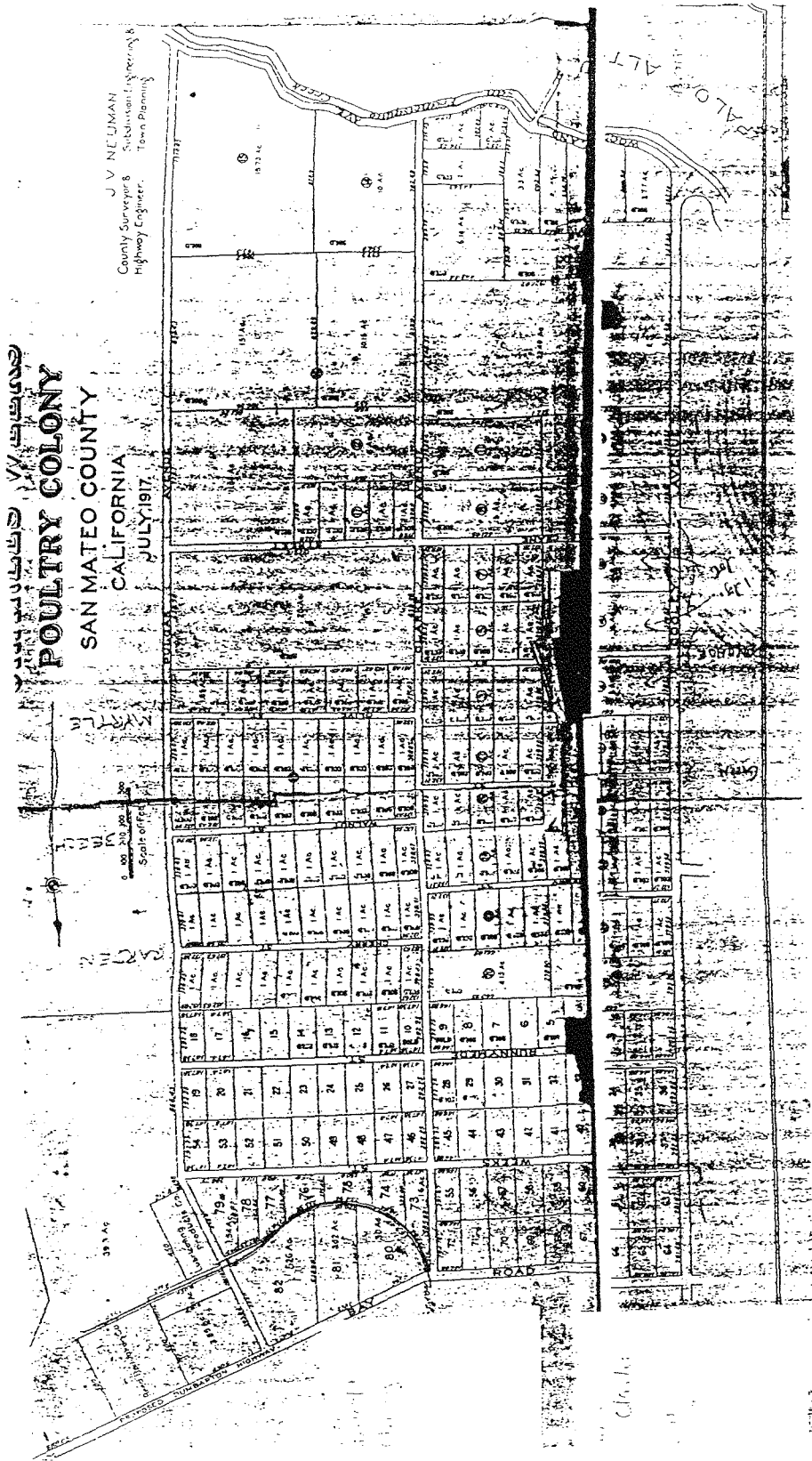


Figure #5. Map of Runnymede, First Addition. From Palo Alto Times, November 14, 1917.

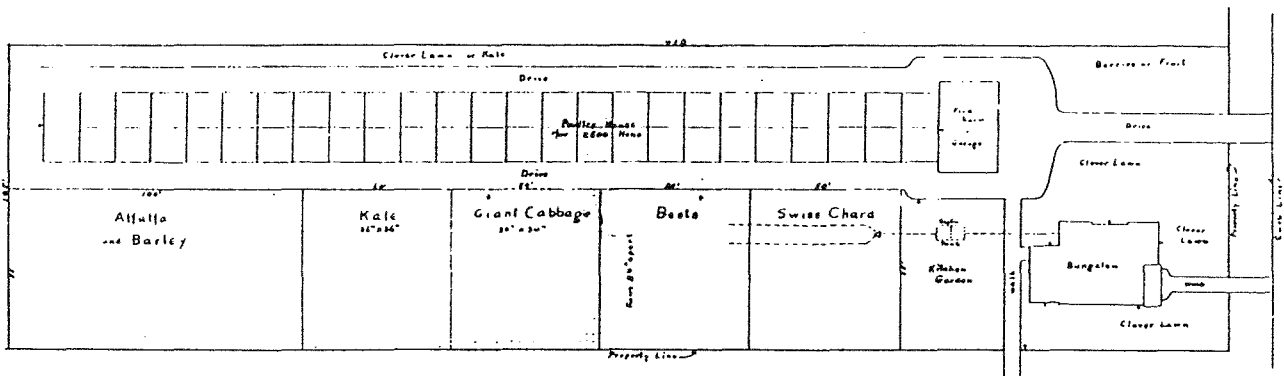
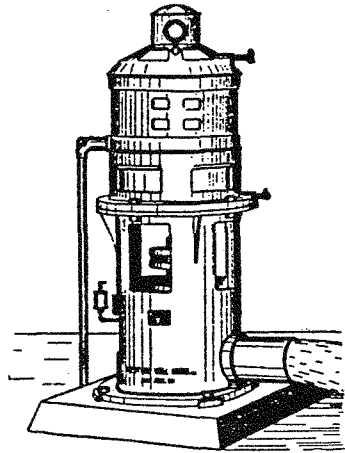


Figure #6. Weeks Colony Model Acre. From *One Acre and Independence*, Oct. 1922, p. 9.



Figure #7. East Palo Alto tankhouse facade, (Demolished). Collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Association.



**ANNOUNCING**

**A line of Low Priced Pumps  
for lifts up to 100 feet, in-  
stalled in wells from 8 to 12  
inches in diameter.**

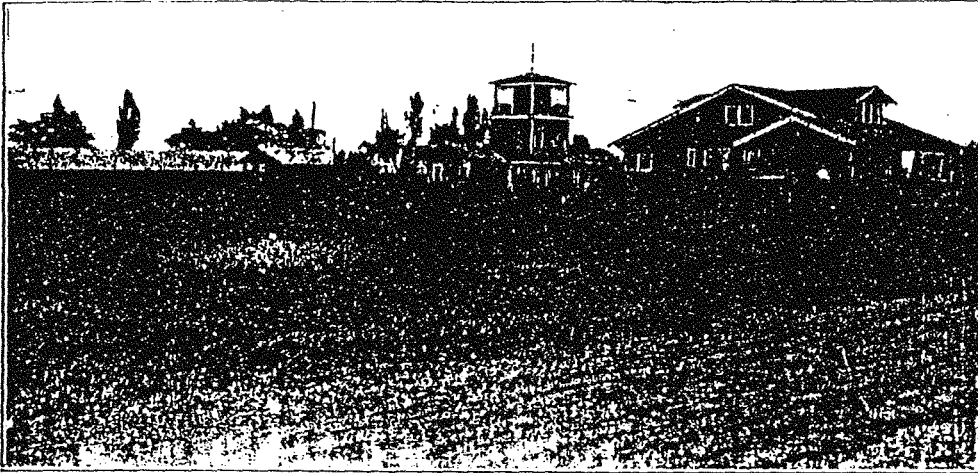
**Cheaper in First Cost  
Cheaper in Upkeep  
Cheaper in Power Used**

**Western Well Works Inc.**

**SAN JOSE, CAL.**

Figure #8. Water Pump Used by Runnymede Farmers. From *One Acre and Independence*, November 1922.

# GARDEN HOMES in the Charles Weeks' Colony



---

(1) A country estate of a retired business man, a lovely home with all modern devices, garage space for three cars, fully equipped with the latest poultry houses and machinery. Just the sort of a home a successful business man hopes to own.

---

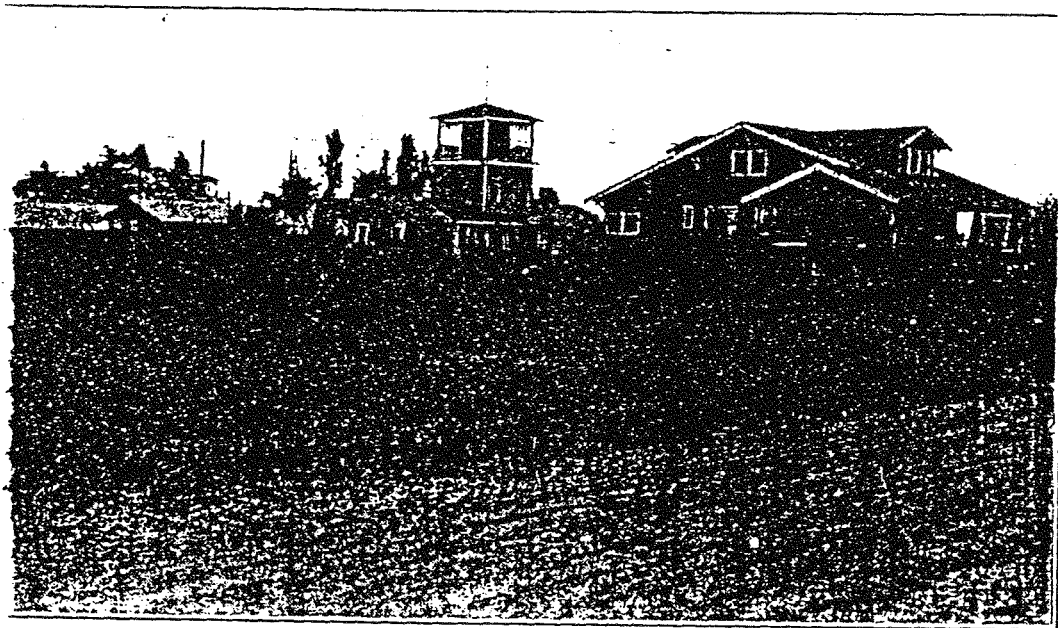


Figure #9. A.E. Martinelli house, 2126 University Ave., East Palo Alto.

Back cover of One Acre and Independence, September 1922.

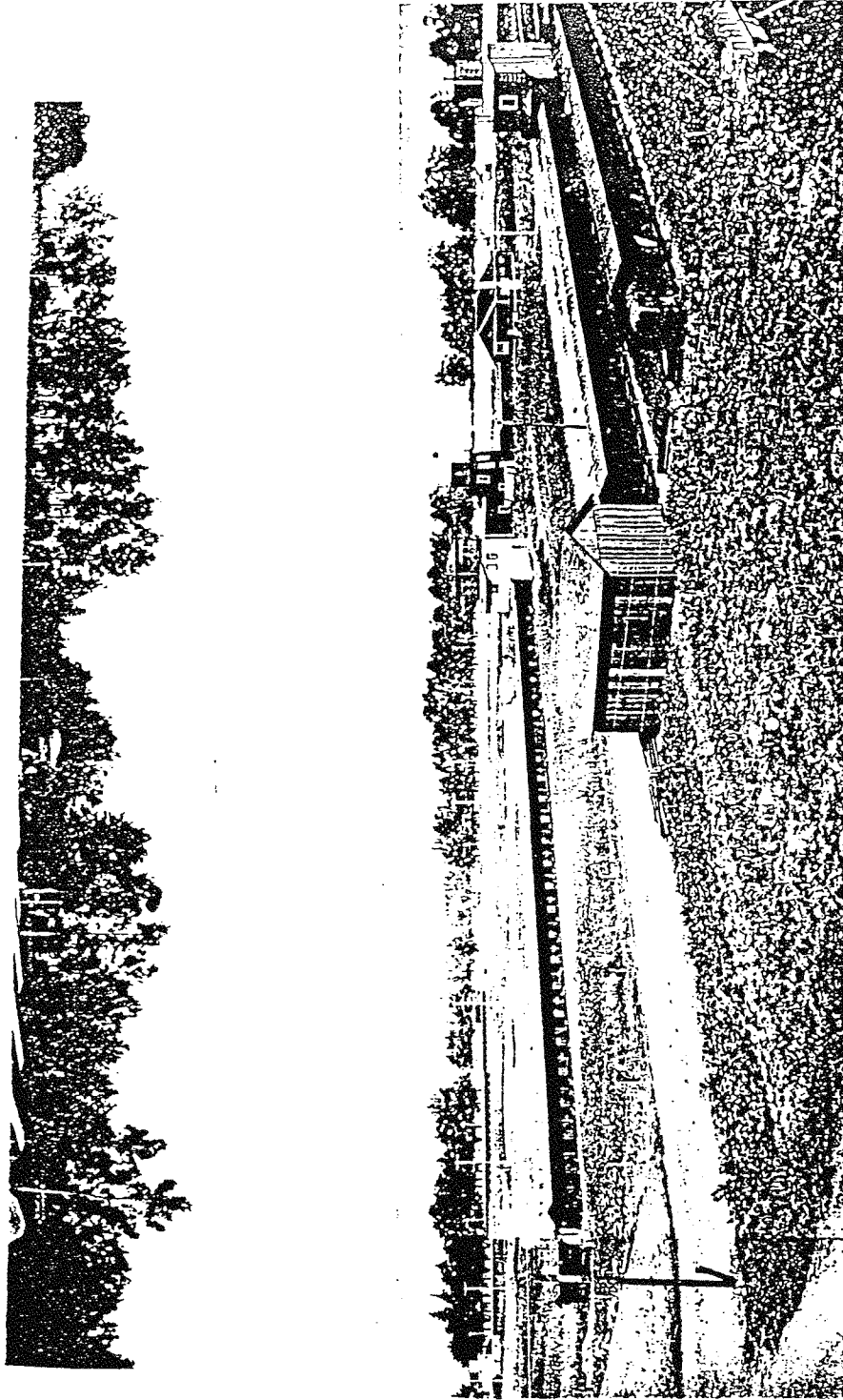


Figure #10. Birds-eye Views of Runnymede Poultry Houses. Brochure in collection of Palo Alto Historical Association, San Mateo County, East Palo Alto File.



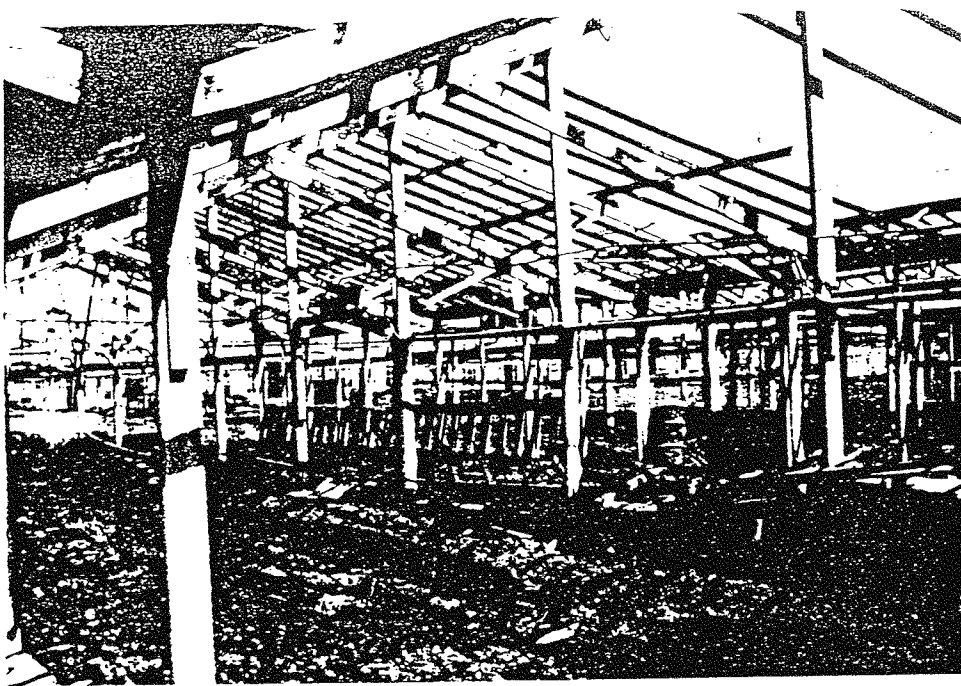


Figure #11. Greenhouse in East Palo Alto. Photograph by Katherine Solomonson, August 1993.

Bayshore Boulevard at  
University Avenue

# Auten's

NOV 19 '41  
Served from 1 P.M.  
to 10 P.M.

## Special Thanksgiving Dinner!

\$7.50

STUFFED CELERY      RIPE OLIVES  
FILETS OF ANCHOVIES      SALAMI

CRABMEAT COCKTAIL SUPREME

CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP

WALDORF SALAD. CHANTILLY DRESSING

ROAST STUFFED TURKEY      QUAKER DRESSING  
OLD FASHIONED CRANBERRY SAUCE  
BANTAM CORN SAUTE      BUTTERED PEAS  
CANDIED YAMS      MASHED POTATOES  
HOT BISCUITS WITH HONEY

CHOICE OF:      HOT MINCEMEAT PIE. BRANDY SAUCE  
ICE CREAM      SHERBET      CAMEMBERT CHEESE

CLUSTERS: RAISINS      CRACKED NUTS  
DEMI TASSE

Meat Courses from Regular Menu May Be Substituted.

PHONE 4842 FOR RESERVATIONS

COCKTAILS - RESTAURANT - DANCING - Auten's

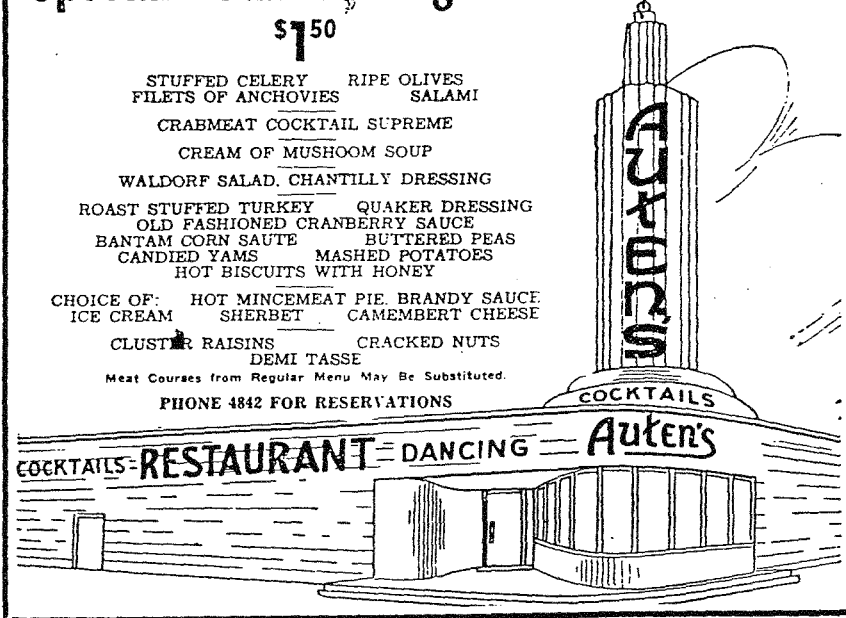


Figure #12. Auten's Restaurant.

Advertisement from Palo Alto Times, November 19, 1941.

## APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS

The list shown below provides for a vast array of possible evaluation codes. Be sure to read the entire list before deciding on the one to use.

Take special care that evaluations for districts and their components fit together properly, i.e., be consistent but not identical.

The first number indicates the status generally:

1. Listed in the National Register.
2. Determined eligible for the Register in a formal process involving federal agencies.
3. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register in the judgment of the person(s) completing or reviewing the form.
4. Might become eligible for listing.
5. Ineligible for the Register but still of local interest.
6. None of the above.
7. Undetermined.

The definitions are refined as follows:

- 1S-1B. Listed in the National Register as follows:
- 1S. Separately listed.
  - 1D. Contributor to a listed district.
  - 1B. Both 1S and 1D.
- 2S1-1B4. Determined eligible for listing in the National Register as follows:
- 2S1. Determined eligible for separate listing by the Keeper of the National Register.
  - 2S2. Determined eligible for separate listing through a consensus determination by a federal agency and the State Historic Preservation Officer.
  - 2D1. Contributor to a district determined eligible for listing by the Keeper.
  - 2D2. Contributor to a district determined eligible for listing through a consensus determination.
  - 2B1. Both 2S1 and 2D1.
  - 2B2. Both 2S1 and 2D2.
  - 2B3. Both 2S2 and 2D1.
  - 2B4. Both 2S2 and 2D2.
- 3S-3B. Appears eligible for listing in the National Register as follows:
- 3S. Appears eligible for separate listing.
  - 3D. Contributor to a district that has been fully documented according to OHP instructions and that appears eligible for listing.
  - 3B. Both 3S and 3D.
- 4R. Meets both of the following two conditions: 1) Is located within the boundaries of a fully documented district that is listed in, determined eligible for, or appears eligible for the National Register and 2) may become a contributor to the district when it is restored to its appearance during the district's period of significance.

4S1-4S8. May become eligible for separate listing in the National Register when one of the following occurs (use the number of the most important reason if more than one applies):

- 4S1. The property becomes old enough to meet the Register's 50-year requirement.
- 4S2. More historical or architectural research is performed on the property.
- 4S3. Contextual information is expanded.
- 4S4. A more appropriate property type is defined.
- 4S5. Registration requirements for the property type are clarified.
- 4S6. The property is evaluated in another historical context.
- 4S7. The architectural integrity of the property is restored.
- 4S8. Other properties, which provide more significant examples of the historical or architectural associations connected to this property, are demolished or otherwise lose their architectural integrity.

4B1-4B8. May become eligible both for separate listing in the National Register and as a contributor or potential contributor to a fully documented district that may become eligible for the National Register. Use the number of the most important reason if more than one applies:

- 4B1. 4S1 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B2. 4S2 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B3. 4S3 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B4. 4S4 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B5. 4S5 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B6. 4S6 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B7. 4S7 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).
- 4B8. 4S8 (as above) and any reason from 4D1-4D8 or 4M1-4M8 (as below).

4D1-4D8. Contributor to a fully documented district that may become eligible for listing when (use the number of the most important reason if more than one applies):

- 4D1. The district becomes old enough to meet the Register's 50-year requirement.
- 4D2. More historical or architectural research is performed on the district.
- 4D3. Contextual information is expanded.
- 4D4. A more appropriate property type is defined.
- 4D5. Registration requirements for the property type are clarified.
- 4D6. The district is evaluated in another historical context.
- 4D7. The integrity of the district is restored.
- 4D8. Other districts, which provide more significant examples of the historical or architectural association connected to this district, are demolished or otherwise lose their architectural integrity.

4M1-4M8. May become a contributor to a fully documented district that may become eligible for listing in the National Register if the property were restored to its appearance during the district's period of significance and (use the number of the most important reason if more than one applies):

- 4M1. The district becomes old enough to meet the Register's 50-year requirement.
- 4M2. More historical or architectural research is performed on the district.
- 4M3. Contextual information is expanded.
- 4M4. A more appropriate property type is defined.
- 4M5. Registration requirements for the property type are clarified.
- 4M6. The district is evaluated in another historical context.

- 4M7. The integrity of the district is restored.
- 4M8. Other districts, which provide more significant examples of the historical or architectural associations connected to this district, are demolished or otherwise lose their architectural integrity.

4X. May become eligible as a contributor to a district that has not been fully documented.

5S1-5B9. Not eligible for the National Register but of local interest because the property:

- 5S1. Is separately listed or designated under an existing local ordinance, or is eligible for such listing or designation.
- 5S2. Is likely to become eligible for separate listing or designation under a local ordinance that has not yet been written.
- 5S3. Is not eligible for separate listing or designation under an existing or likely local ordinance but is eligible for special consideration in local planning.
- 5D1. Is a contributor to a fully documented district that is designated or eligible for designation as a local historic district, overlay zone, or preservation area under an existing ordinance or procedure.
- 5D2. Is a contributor to a fully documented district that is likely to be designated as a local historic district, overlay zone, or preservation area under an ordinance that has not yet been written or a procedure that has not yet been implemented.
- 5D3. Is a contributor to a fully documented district that is unlikely to be designated as a local historic district, overlay zone, or preservation area but is eligible for special consideration in local planning.
- 5B1. Both 5S1 and 5D1.
- 5B2. Both 5S2 and 5D2.
- 5B3. Both 5S3 and 5D3.
- 5B4. Both 5S1 and 5D2.
- 5B5. Both 5S1 and 5D3.
- 5B6. Both 5S2 and 5D1.
- 5B7. Both 5S2 and 5D2.
- 5B8. Both 5S3 and 5D1.
- 5B9. Both 5S3 and 5D2.

5N. Needs special consideration for reasons other than above.

6X1-6Z3. Ineligible for some or all of the categories above:

6X1-6X3. Determined ineligible for listing in the National Register by the Keeper of the National Register and:

- 6X1. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) and of no local interest (under category 5 above).
- 6X2. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) but not evaluated for local interest (under category 5 above).
- 6X3. Not evaluated for potential eligibility (under category 4 above) or local interest (under category 5 above).

6Y1-6Y3. Determined ineligible for listing in the National Register through a consensus determination of a federal agency and the State Historic Preservation Officer and:

- 6Y1. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) and of no local interest (under category 5 above).
  - 6Y2. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) but not evaluated for local interest (under category 5 above).
  - 6Y3. Not evaluated for potential eligibility (under category 4 above) or local interest (under category 5 above).
- 6Z1-6Z3. Found ineligible for listing in the National Register through an evaluation process other than those mentioned in 6X and 6Y above and:
- 6Z1. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) and of no local interest (under category 5 above).
  - 6Z2. Also found potentially ineligible for Register listing (under category 4 above) but not evaluated for local interest (under category 5 above).
  - 6Z3. Not evaluated for potential eligibility (under category 4 above) or local interest (under category 5 above).
7. Not evaluated.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

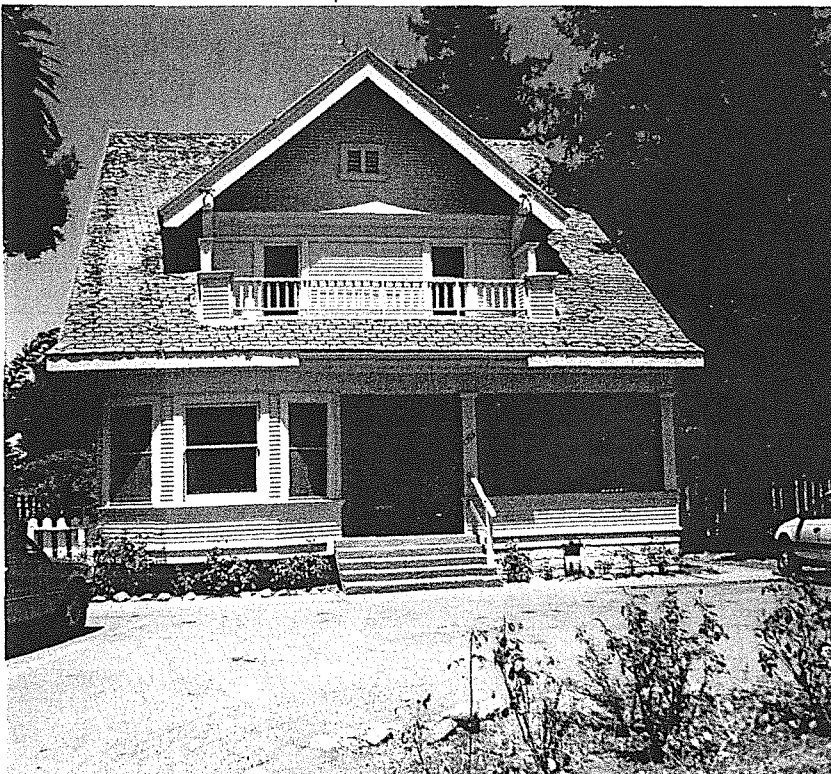
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 3S  
 Local designation

- |                           |                 |                |                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name          | Kavanaugh House |                |                  |
| 2. Common or current name |                 |                |                  |
| 3. Number & street        | 1395 Bay        | Cross-corridor |                  |
| City                      | East Palo Alto  | Vicinity only  |                  |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10            | Zip            | 94303            |
|                           |                 |                | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10            | B              | 575760           |
| 5. Quad map No.           | 1558            | C              | 4147300          |
| Parcel No.                | 063-090-040     | D              |                  |
|                           |                 | Other          |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources  
 7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set far back from a busy street, the Kavanaugh house at 1395 Bay Road has a large drive through and parking area in its front yard. To its west side is a large vacant lot, and to the east stands a Catholic church. The house is set in dense suburban landscape of small single family houses. The dwelling has a tall steeply pitched roof, covered by white asphalt shingles. Clapboard siding covers the walls. The house is two stories in height, set up slightly on low foundations. The foundations look to be made of precast concrete blocks rusticated to look like cut stone. A water table separates the foundation and clapboards. A recessed front porch occupies the left-central portions of the front (south) facade. Two piers with simple Ionic capitals support the roof sheltering the porch. On the porch in the center, is a large front door. To its right is a high fixed window with a wide casing. To the left of the front door is a canted bay window, which projects slightly beyond the house's square contours. The bay has three double-hung windows with wooden sash in each facet. The central window is slightly larger than those enframing it. A very large gable occupies the center of the second story. A small balcony with railing stands outside two small double-hung windows. The plane of the gable projects out slightly above the windows. Large knee brackets support either end of the central gable.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department  
 9. Owner & address  
 William t. Altman et al  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
 10. Type of ownership Private  
 11. Present use Offices  
 12. Zoning R-1-5000  
 13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1905 Original location Yes Date moved
15. Alterations & date Interior has been altered from a a residence to a small office building used by lawyers.
16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Ravenswood History Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1875-1900 Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

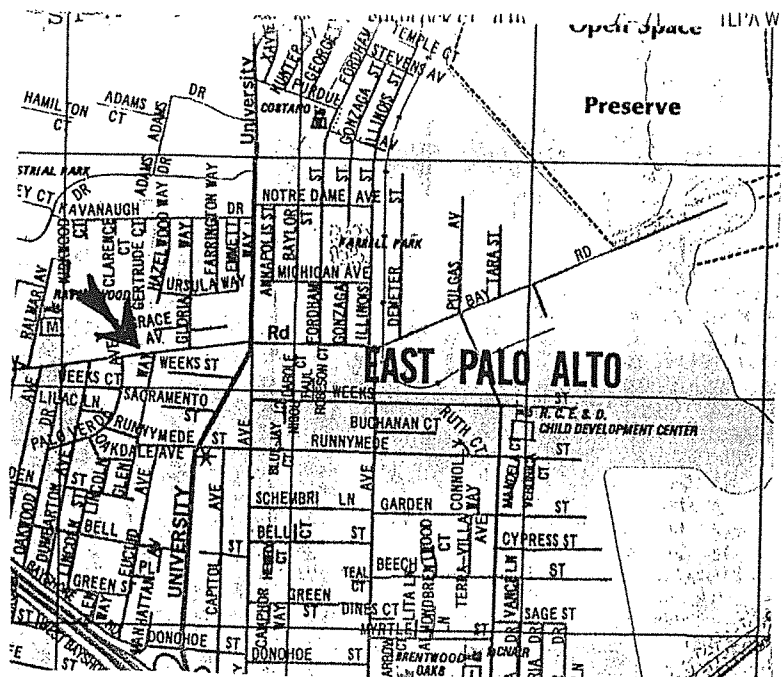
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The Kavanaugh house at 1395 Bay Road remains one of East Palo Alto's oldest residences, dating from 1905, (according to San Mateo County Assessor's records). According to a son, Thomas Kavanaugh, plans for the house may have been purchased from a mail-order firm in Indiana, which sold bungalow floor plans. This Craftsman Style dwelling, though large and imposing, possesses little architectural significance. Rather, its interest lies in the history of the land-owning family that long occupied it. Moses Kavanaugh (1864-1950) built the house, with its indoor plumbing to supersede the original family homestead (now demolished), that stood on the property since 1866. Moses's father, Charles Kavanaugh (d.1894) came to southern San Mateo County in 1865, and bought 131.6 acres to raise grain. Like so many of East Palo Alto's earliest settlers, Charles Kavanaugh was of Irish descent; he built a small fortune mining the Comstock Lode and digging wells for other settlers. An only child, Moses carried on the operation of his father's ranch, and enlarged his holdings. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources: Interview with Thomas Kavanaugh, 31 March 1993, "Moses Kavanaugh's Birthday Recalls Areas Early History," *Palo Alto Times*, 9 Sept. 1958. San Mateo County Assessors Records.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation January 15, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994
- By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441





## 1395 BAY CONTINUATION SHEET

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

He acquired much influence in local affairs, having been a founder of the Redwood City Community Bank and the Sequoia Union School District. On his land adjoining his house, Moses assembled an assortment of relics (now vanished) from the 1850s town of Ravenswood, the predecessor of East Palo Alto. These relics included an old hotel that served visitors to the town and a box office that sold tickets for steamers making port at Cooley's Landing at the end of Bay Road. The 1905 house had to be large to accommodate Moses, his wife, Katherine, and their six children (two of whom died in infancy). Moses's daughter, Gertrude Kavanaugh (b.1906), continued to live in the house until her death in 1973. Thereafter, the house and some of the land passed into the hands of the neighboring Catholic church. Recently, the East Palo Alto Law Project, a non-profit community advocacy group, has occupied the Kavanaugh house.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

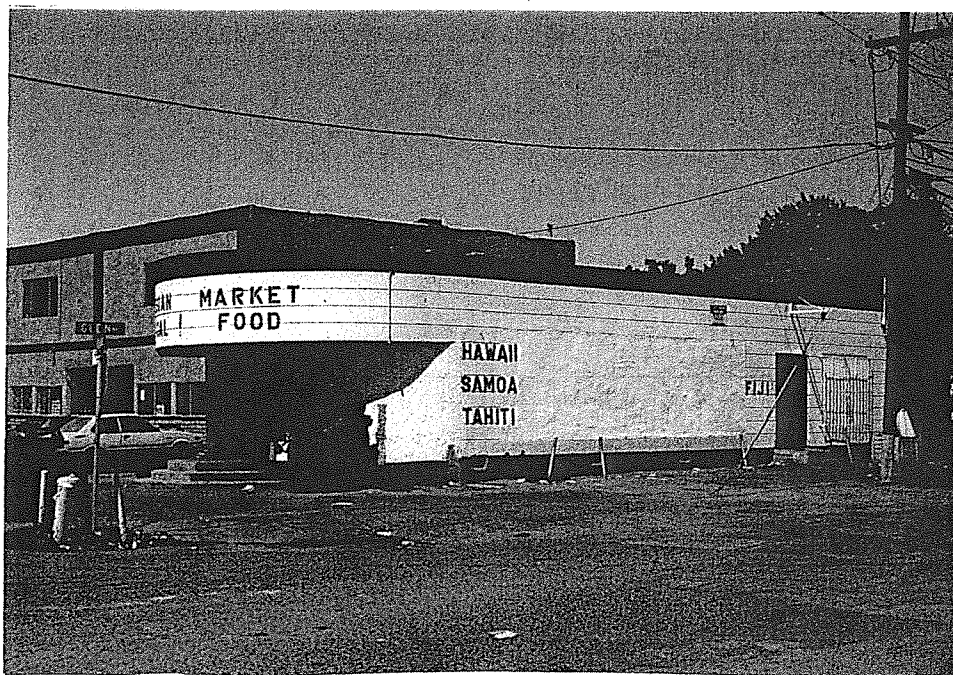
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 5S2  
 Local designation

- |   |               |           |                |                  |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                            |               |           |                |                  |
| 2. Common or current name Polynesian Market |               |           |                |                  |
| 3. Number & street 1447 East Bayshore       |               |           | Cross-corridor |                  |
| City East Palo Alto                         | Vicinity only |           | Zip 94303      | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                            | B 575690      | C 4146450 | D              |                  |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                        | Parcel No.    | Other     |                |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 6. Property category | If district, number of documented resources |
|----------------------|---|
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style

The Polynesian Market is a long rectangular building with a flat roof. It has one story. On the west end, facing Highway 101, a curved projecting wall shelters the main entrance. The white painted walls of the building were covered by flush wood boards originally. Recently, portions of the wall, perhaps where windows once opened the south facade, have been stuccoed over. Windows also once opened the end of the curved wall surrounding the doorway. It is unclear whether this building is whole in itself or is a fragment of a larger business which once catered to auto traffic on the Bayshore Highway. The building, for a long time, housed a bar, but now accommodates a Polynesian market.



- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8. Planning Agency    | East Palo Alto Planning Department |
| 9. Owner & address    |                                    |
| 10. Type of ownership | Private                            |
| 11. Present use       | Commercial                         |
| 12. Zoning            | C-1                                |
| 13. Threats           | Building is vacant                 |

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c.1940                      Original location Unknown                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date
16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06--Commercial Building

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Commercial District Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1930s-1940s                      Property type Retail Store                      Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The Polynesian Market at 1447 E. Bayshore is the sole Streamlined Moderne commercial establishment remaining from the period around W.W. II. Its rounded shape was meant to attract attention when seen by motorists speeding by on the highway, and its bullet-shaped form subtly suggested the modernity and efficiency of the business occupying the premises. In the 1930s and 1940s East Palo Alto became a prime stop for travelers on Highway 101, especially military men on leave from Moffett Field nearby. As a result, roadside buildings such as this one sprung up just before and after W.W. II. Taverns, liquor stores, restaurants, and gas stations proliferated on both sides of the highway accommodating a more mobile clientele.

20. Sources Chester Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile*, (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1985).  
 Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson  
 Date of evaluation March 8, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

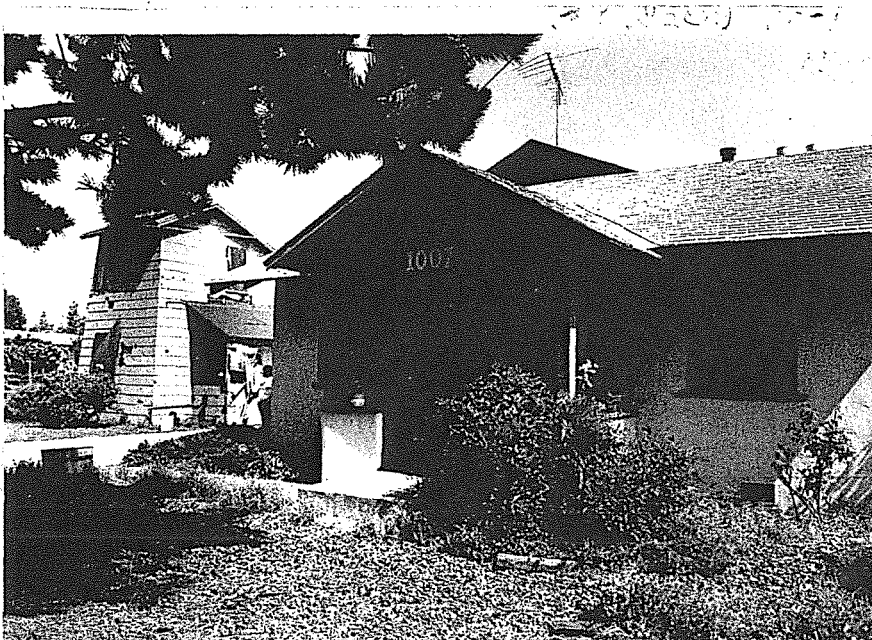
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Historic name 665 Walnut St.   | Ser. no.<br>National Register status 5S3<br>Local designation |
| 2. Common or current name         |   |
| 3. Number & street 1007 Beech St. | Cross-corridor  |
| City East Palo Alto               | Vicinity only Zip 94303 County San Mateo                      |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                  | B 576810 C 4146650 D  |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558              | Parcel No. 063-343-750 Other                                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 1007 Beech St. was originally a small, one-story, side-gabled bungalow. It occupies a quarter-acre parcel once used for farming cattle by Peter Faber. The bungalow has a central front-gabled bay sheltering the front entry. On either side of this main entrance is a single double-hung window. This bungalow, like many others in East Palo Alto built c. 1920, shared these characteristics: simple rectangular configurations, side-gabled rooflines, and symmetrical front fenestration. This dwelling has undergone extensive remodeling, however. It has been stuccoed recently, and a new asphalt shingle roof added. A new garage and two-story addition, both stuccoed exist in back. The main source of architectural interest at 1007 Beech St. is the tankhouse clearly visible to the west of the house. It has battered wall contours, and numerous saddle bag additions, probably used as tool sheds. (No other extent tankhouses in East Palo Alto display this example's pronounced battering.) The tankhouse is not currently in good repair, as plywood covers the windows and doors, and numerous holes in the siding are apparent. Synthetic shingles cover the original wood siding, and a new gable roof covers what was an earlier gable roof with a very slight pitch. The water tank, now missing, would have rested on this slightly pitched roof. As in most tankhouses, a square room stands beneath the water reservoir, its walls diagonally braced with heavy redwood beams.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address David N. Rages  
1007 Beech, East Palo Alto, CA
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1916 Original location Yes Date moved
15. Alterations & date A large addition was made to the rear of the bungalow in the 1980s. An earlier addition may have been made in 1950, as well.
16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

According to Assessor's property maps of East Palo Alto of 1922, an early inhabitant (perhaps the first) was Jennie M. Griffith, who owned a one acre parcel. "J.M. Griffith" was listed in the 1919-1920 Runnymede City Directory as a poultry farmer, and this owner continued to reside here through at least 1933. (No traces of the Weeks era poultry houses remain.) Jennie M. Griffith may have been one of a number of single women attracted to the ideas of independent, intensive farming promoted by Charles Weeks. Although greatly altered, the Griffith house and tankhouse at 1007 Beech St. still suggest the layout of a Weeks-era small farm. The tankhouse is set close to the house, but slightly behind it. The house has the small dimensions, simple outlines, and symmetrical window configurations of many farmhouses in the nearby Weeks subdivisions. Extensive greenhouses on the property owned next door (on the west) by a Japanese-American family, also remain to indicate the land's recent agricultural usage.

20. Sources San Mateo County Assessors Records; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo County, Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, and Stanford*, (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, S.F., 1919-20, 1921-22).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation Feb.23, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1916A Original location believed to be same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date Two skylights have been inserted into the portion of the roof facing the street. The wooden porch rail has been replaced by an iron one and it is likely that the position of the stairs has been shifted from front to side.
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1916-1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

763 Bell was once a ranch in the first settled section of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony. The house bears a striking resemblance to one that was owned by a Mr. and Mrs. Weir, shown in the *Palo Alto Times*, in 1918. (See illustration on continuation sheet.) Both have side-gabled roofs with exposed rafters, the same asymmetrical fenestration, and a porch at the left. They are so similar that they are probably the same house. The caption beneath the photograph explains that "MR. AND MRS. WEIR Enjoy Their Country Home. He Left the Law Office For the Open Air." Weeks had hoped to attract professional people, like the Weirs, from the city to country life in his colony.

- 20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); *Palo Alto Times*, 16 May 1918; videotaped oral history of Miriam Turner (former owner) conducted by Miriam Greenberg and EPA HAS, Summer 1992.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation September 8, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

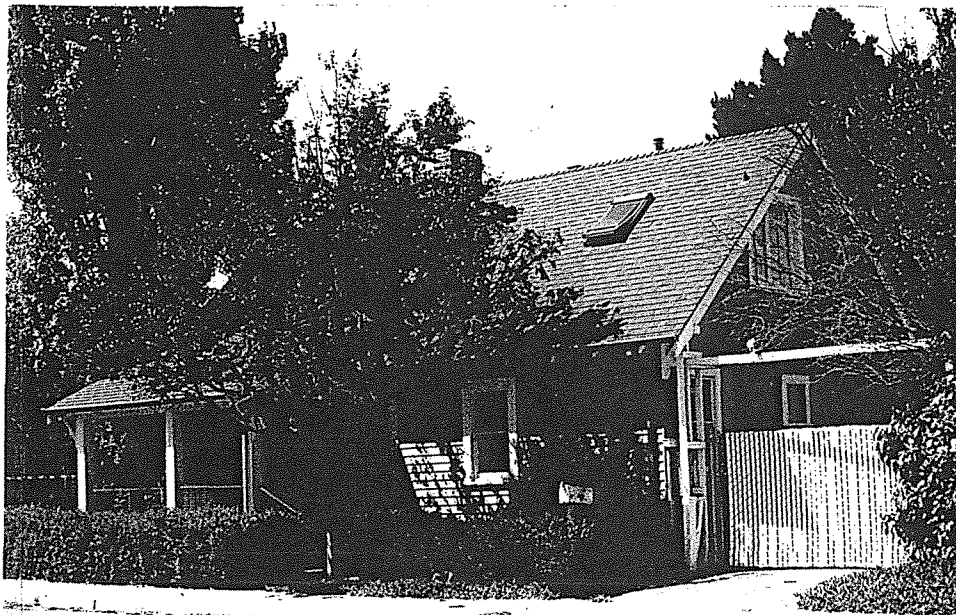
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                           |                     |               |  |                          |        |           |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|--------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1. Historic name          | formerly 519 Cherry |               |  | Ser. no.                 |        |           |
| 2. Common or current name |                     |               |  | National Register status | 582    |           |
| 3. Number & street        | 763 Bell            |               | Cross-corridor                               | Local designation        |        |           |
| City                      | East Palo Alto      | Vicinity only | Zip  | 94303                    | County | San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10                | B 576290      | C 4146740                                    | D                        |        |           |
| 5. Quad map No.           | 1558                | Parcel No.    | Turner: 063-362-180-0; Bethel: 063-362-610-6 | Other                    |        |           |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

763 Bell is a compact, rectangular box sheltered by a gable which runs parallel to the street. The roof, once grey, has been replaced with light brown asphalt shingles, and two skylights have been cut into its street side. The exposed rafters and triangular brackets at the corners are features common in contemporary bungalows. The narrow clapboard siding has been painted a pale brown to coordinate with the roof. An entrance porch, covered with a shed roof, projects from the left third of the facade. Plain square posts, painted white, support the porch roof and an iron rail encloses it. The iron replaced an open rail of simple wooden ballusters. Three double-hung windows with plain surrounds painted white are distributed across the facade, one to the left of the door, beneath the porch roof, the other two at the right, occupying the facade's middle third. While there is room for another window next to them, the wall remains blank, giving the facade an interestingly balanced asymmetry. Today, the house appears pressed close to the street, with only a narrow strip of green separating it from the sidewalk. When San Mateo County added the sidewalk in front of the house, it lost most of its front yard. 763 Bell is freshly painted — its white trim and darker siding true to a paint scheme that was popular in Runnymede — and remains in excellent condition.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning  
Department
9. Owner & address  
Albert H. and Miriam B. Turner  
763 Bell St., East Palo Alto, CA  
94303 and  
Glen L. Bethel (same address)
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1925 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The house The small cross-gabled house at 736 Bell St. dates from c.1919, a period of great expansion of what was then called Runnymede, now a part of East Palo Alto. The house is in the Bungalow Style, probably built by W.C. Ehrich, a carpenter, and his wife, Helen. Typical of Craftsman bungalows, cobblestone pylons support a central, projecting, front porch. Ehrich probably derived the dwelling's simple design from a mass-market plan book. By 1925, 736 Bell St. and the neighboring acre were owned by Marie Neff. Although it is not especially noteworthy from an architectural standpoint, the property-- the house, lot, and outbuildings-- has social significance. It represents a link to Runnymede, a utopian agricultural colony, that during its peak in the early 1920s, was one of the largest poultry producers in the U.S. The lot surrounding 736 Bell St. is nearly an acre, configured in unusually long and narrow proportions. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis Hall Pub., 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation March 22, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441





State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Historic name 594 Cherry         | Ser. no.   |
| 2. Common or current name           | National Register status 5S2                                 |
| 3. Number & street 882 Bell A and B | Local designation  |
| City East Palo Alto                 | Cross-corridor   |
| Vicinity only                       | Zip 94303  |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                    | County San Mateo   |
| B 576510                            | D  |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                | Parcel No. Curry and Leech: 063-363-270; Martin: 063-363-070 |
|                                     | Other  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

882 A Bell Street. This is a rectangular side-gabled bungalow with asphalt roof shingles and a very uncomplicated fenestration. The front door on the right (west) of the facade is covered by a shed-roofed shelter. To its left (east), is a large double-hung window. The walls are covered by thin clapboards. Rafter tails protrude on the front facade. A shed-roofed addition lines the back of this simple farmhouse. The building is angled somewhat to Bell St., not exactly parallel to it, suggesting, perhaps, it was repositioned when the dwelling at 882 B Bell St. behind it was moved here in the 1930s. This house apparently had an open-framed water tower on its property during the 1920s. (This last bit of information was passed on by Foster Curry in an interview 8 December 1992.) The lot also had at least one, long, Weeks- type poultry house in back.

882 B Bell Street. This house was moved from another site in Mountain View, well after the heyday of the Weeks Poultry Colony (probably around 1937, according to Assessors Office dates). It is a very attractive bungalow, composed in a cross-gabled design. Brown shingles cover the exterior, and asphalt shingles cover the roof. Trim is painted white. The long gable facing front is supported by five white knee brackets. A long lattice grille ventilates the attic space. In the center of the front facade is a smaller gable roof sheltering the main entry. The entryway is balanced on either side by large double-hung windows. These windows have seven small top lights and one, road fixed bottom light. Behind this cross-gabled farmhouse are a series of sheds housing a working goat farm. ♡



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Ralph H. and Leah O. Martin  
882 Bell St., East Palo Alto 94303  
and Foster B. Curry and Nancy J. Leech  
882 Bell St., East Palo Alto 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential, Agricultural
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**FORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1921/1937                      Original location Not for 882B, at least.                      Date moved 1930s (882B)
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown for both    Builder Unknown for both
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1930s    Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

In all likelihood, the front house (882 A) has stood here since the early 1920s, at least. As per a 1921 city directory of East Palo Alto, a Henry and Mary Schilder worked as poultry ranchers at this address on what was Cherry St. before it was renamed Bell St. The Schilder family continued to operate a poultry farm at this address until at least 1940. The house at 882 A Bell St. stands as a typical example of a Weeks-era farmhouse-- simple in contours, cladding, and fenestration. Its siting, somewhat slanted to the street, may not have been original. The house behind at 882 B was moved here from a Mountain View location. It is one of the most interesting and well-preserved bungalows left in East Palo Alto, with its chalet-like cross-gabled rooflines. Clad in shingles allowed to weather naturally, it has a rustic aesthetic, characteristic of tastes of the 1910s. The owners of this bungalow are a young couple, who operate a small farm producing goat cheese. Their efforts at intensive agriculture on a small parcel of land recall the practices of the early Weeks colonists.

20. Sources San Mateo Co., Assessors Records; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San MAtteo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis Hall, Pub.,1919-1920 & 1921-1922); interview with Foster Curry 12/8/92.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation Dec.16, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1935 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02-- Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Post-war Residential Development Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1930s-1950s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.  
 The dwelling at 2050 Capitol Ave. is one of the very few English Tudor Revival Style houses left in East Palo Alto. It was probably erected in the early-to-mid 1930s, when such revival styles had their greatest popularity. Its L-shaped plan with a turret located at the intersection of two perpendicular wings, was typical of Tudor Revival houses. The house's stucco exterior, its simple half-timbering, diamond paned windows, and arched entryway also characterized the Tudor Revival Style. This houses's decorative flourishes were unusual in East Palo Alto; constraints imposed by the Depression and low family incomes kept most dwellings constructed in subdivisions of the 1930s and 1940s very modest in size and plain in style.

20. Sources

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation Feb.24. 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



**882 Bell St. (Con't.)**

By (name) A. Michelson

Organization San Mateo County Historical Association

Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.

City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone 415/574-6441

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                 |                        |                              |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                |                        | Ser. no.                     |                  |
| 2. Common or current name       |                        | National Register status 5S2 |                  |
| 3. Number & street 2050 Capitol |                        | Local designation            |                  |
| City East Palo Alto             | Vicinity only          | Cross-corridor               |                  |
|                                 |                        | Zip 94303                    | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                | B 576110               | C 4146250                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558            | Parcel No. 063-312-040 | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

This Tudor Revival Style house is located close to entrance and exit ramps of the Bayshore Highway. Intrusions from passing cars have necessitated the building of a tall privacy fence along the front facade. Any proposed widening of this interchange would likely require the demolition of this residence. 2050 Capitol Ave. is an L-shaped, two-story building with cross-gabled rooflines. The roofs are of uneven height, and rafter ends protrude from under the eaves. Asphalt shingles cover the roof; stucco faces the exterior walls. A round turret, located in the crotch of the L, stands out as the most distinctive feature of the front facade. The turret contains two round-arched openings, on the first floor accommodating an inset main entry and on the second an ornamental shuttered window. Brick steps lead up to the entryway. To the right of the front door, is a pair of casement windows with muntins arranged in a diamond pattern. To the left of the main entry, is a large plate glass window composed of three lights, each the same height, the middle being larger than the other two. The west end of the wing closest to Capitol Ave. has a large fifteen light window with louvered vents below it. This end also features some simple half-timbered details. The north end of this wing features a brick chimney, numerous double-hung windows of various sizes, and a wooden stairway leading to a second floor room. A two floor addition has been made to the gabled wing to the rear.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Paul and Nhi Anh Black  
6583 Blanche Bell Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95824
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Ser. no.  
National Register status 583  
Local designation

1. Historic name
2. Common or current name
3. Number & street 1999 Clarke  
City East Palo Alto  
Vicinity only  
Zip 94303  
County San Mateo
4. UTM zone A 10  
B 576610  
C 4146120  
D
5. Quad map No. 1558  
Parcel No. 063-511-300 & 063-512-160  
Other

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category building  
If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

1999 Clarke stands at the corner of Clarke and O'Connor Streets on a portion of lot 9 of the Faber Subdivision. It is a simple, single-story stucco structure with a shake-covered hipped roof. A cutaway porch with a closed rail spans the front two thirds of the house. Above the closed rail are two two broad, round-headed openings, one on the front, one around the corner. To the left, at the center of the facade, an arched doorway leads onto the porch. To the left of the door, a wide, fixed-paned window with a delicately arched header lights the front of the house. A stuccoed chimney rises up the structure's right side. Though this house is little more than a simple box, it has some delicately conceived details that distinguish it. These include the arched header in the front window, an inset panel on the chimney, and moldings lining the arched openings. Today, the house continues to be in excellent condition. It has been little altered except for the elaborate wrought-iron grills that fan out to fill the arched openings.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning  
Department
9. Owner & address  
Laura Chaverri  
4065 1/2 Irving Pl., Culver City,  
CA 90232  
Herbert and Felicia Downing
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1931F Original location Assumed to be same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date Elaborate ironwork now fills the arched openings in the cutaway porch and a grill has been added to a side window.
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

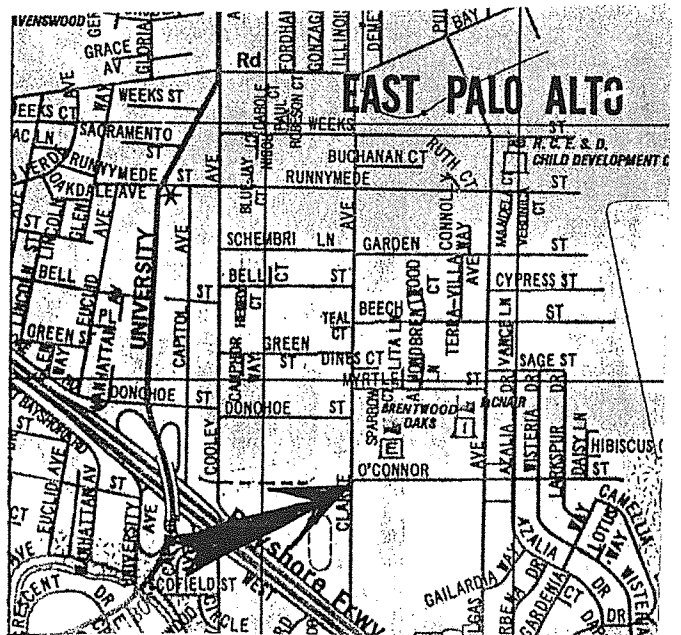
- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1920s and 1930s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

1999-Clarke is an example of the suburban infill that occurred in the Runnymede area from the 1920s on. Throughout the colony's existence, a considerable change of ownership occurred in the holding of Runnymede properties. In some cases, the land continued to be used for agricultural purposes, but in others, such as this, all or part of a property was sold for new development. The reasons for this varied. The land on which this house stands was once a portion of a five-acre holding farmed by Warren and Jessie Huffman. Huffman had been a farmer in the (See continuation sheet.)

- 20. Sources *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-20, 1921-22, 1930, 1935; Map of the Subdivisions of Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (in the collection of the Palo Alto Historical Association).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET, 1999 Clarke

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

first portion of Runnymede since at least 1919 (when the first directory of Runnymede was put out), but by 1930, Huffman was listed in the city directory as a barber rather than as a farmer. Not long after, in 1931, this house was constructed. It is possible that, like many Runnymede colonists, especially during the Depression, Huffman found that he needed to take on outside work in addition to farming. At this point, the Huffmans may have decided to sell the portion of their five-acre holding where this house, now stands. 1999 Clarke, with its subtle yet graceful details, is somewhat more elaborate than many of the modest houses constructed in the first portion of Runnymede, where it is located. Though it is only a little bit larger than the houses constructed by Runnymede's first settlers, it differs from them most markedly in its stucco cladding and arched openings. Besides exemplifying the newer houses constructed during Runnymede's declining years, it is also a good example of the elaborate ironwork which many more recent East Palo Alto residents, especially those from Mexico, have added as a form of aesthetized fortification.



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

Ser. no.  
 National Register status 4S2  
 Local designation

1. Historic name 300 Clarke Ave.

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 2012 Clarke Ave.

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 576650

C 4146180

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No.

Other

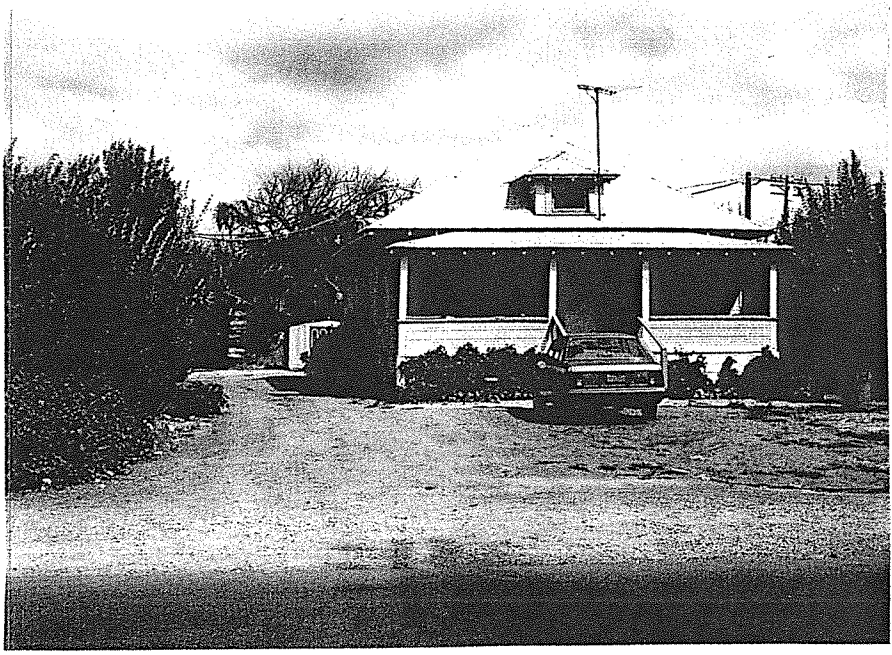
**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The one-story dwelling at 2012 Clarke Ave. occupies a lot once set amidst large agricultural properties. The house stands just off Clarke Ave. , and does not have a front yard. Both sides of the property are enclosed with dense vegetation. The house is set on tall foundations. A hipped roof covers the rectangular contours of the residence, and asphalt shingles weatherproof the roof. Rafter tails are exposed. On the center of the front facade, is a hipped attic dormer with a rectangular fixed or awning window. Thin clapboards cover the walls. A covered porch projects off the length of the house's front facade. Stairs, located centrally, lead up to the main entry; this front door is flanked on either side by double-hung windows with wooden sash. These double-hung openings have one over one lights. The north side fenestration is irregular, composed of wood double-hung windows of different sizes. A small one-car garage stands to the east of the house in the rear.



- 8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
- 9. Owner & address
- 10. Type of ownership Private
- 11. Present use Residential
- 12. Zoning R-1-5000
- 13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1910                      Original location Unknown                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme The town of Ravenswood                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period                      Property type                      Context formally developed? Yes

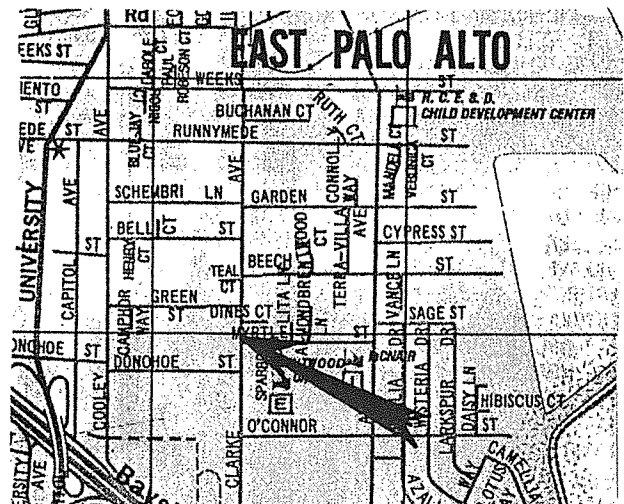
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The house at 2012 Clarke Ave. is located in an area of East Palo Alto once composed of large (more than five acre) farms. Large farms covered most of the town of Ravenswood during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. Originally, this dwelling could have served as an early farmhouse for tenant farmers raising produce or dairy cattle on land owned by Peter Faber. Until his death in the arly 1940s, Faber was one of East Palo Alto's largest landowners, holding extensive acreage in the southern portion of the community. During the early decades of this century, Faber sold small parcels of his land ( ten to twenty acres) to the Sequeira family, who held a twenty acre parcel near the intersection of Clarke Ave. and O'Connor St since at least 1922. Mrs. Mary Sequeira (widow of Anthony P.) was listed in Palo Alto's city directory as the owner of 2012 Clarke St. from the early 1920s to at least 1944. Stylistically, 2012 Clarke probably dates between 1905-1915, a few years earlier than the first houses of the nearby Weeks Poultry Colony. If this building predates 1915, which is possible, it remains one of the oldest in East Palo Alto.

20. Sources Map of the subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo, Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, Palo Alto, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); *R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1944, 1948).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation March 12, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994



**2012 Clarke St.(Con't.)**

By (name) A. Michelson

Organization San Mateo County Historical Association

Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.

City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone 415/574-6441

**State of California - The Resources Agency**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

### IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Ser. no.  
National Register status 5S2  
Local designation

1. Historic name
2. Common or current name
3. Number & street 2190 Clarke  

City East Palo Alto	Vicinity only	Cross-corridor Zip 94303	County San Mateo
---------------------	---------------	-----------------------------	------------------
4. UTM zone          A                                  B                                  C                                  D
5. Quad map No.                      Parcel No. 063-343-940                      Other

### DESCRIPTION

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

2190 Clarke is a tankhouse that has been extended to provide living quarters. The left half of the building is the portion that would once have functioned as a tankhouse. It rises two stories high and is topped with a heavy wooden platform with a slight upward curve to allow water to drain. Sloping down from this is the thinner shed room that covers the right half of the structure. The upper story, when seen from the front, is clad with shingles, which also cover the posts that support the small gable covering the entry porch. Narrow clapboard siding, probably the original cladding, is still in evidence at the side. The ground floor has been covered with stucco. A small shingled garage extends to the left. Though trees hide large portions of the structure, several irregularly placed vertical windows, now boarded up, may be seen. Those that light the front of the building bear narrow wooden shutters embellished with diamond-shaped cutouts. the structure is in a deteriorated condition. Shingles have chipped off of the porch supports; windows are boarded up, and it appears to be unoccupied.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Clarence & Charlotte Hynes  
Paló Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership private
11. Present use unoccupied
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1918                      Original location                      Date moved

15. Alterations & date Three different types of cladding cover this structure: clapboard, shingles, and stucco. It is possible that the narrow clapboards are original. Otherwise, the building has been so substantially refaced that it is difficult to determine its original character. The garage is clearly a later addition.

16. Architect unknown                                      Builder unknown

17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1916-1920s                      Property type residential/agricultural                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

2190 Clarke is a good example of the tankhouses combined with living quarters that once dotted Runnymede's landscape. The tankhouse was one of the first things that Runnymede colonists would construct on their new farms. Because the heavy timber frame supporting the tank was fully enclosed, two rooms, one above the other, could offer shelter until the house was completed. In some cases, such as this, the tankhouse received an addition, creating a tankhouse and dwelling combined. These additions took a variety of forms. Some, such as 965 Weeks, were surrounded by a series of one-story additions, including a wide front porch. 2190 Clarke, with its two-story addition stretching out to one side, represents a type that was more common than 965 Weeks. The tankhouse belonging to L.R. Semenez, shown in the *Palo Alto Times* (May 16, 1918), suggest how 2190 Clarke might have looked when it still bore its water tank. In some cases, it appears that tankhouses with substantial enough additions became the family's residence, while in other cases the addition offered storage space once the new house was built. A number of tankhouses continue to provide living space in East Palo Alto today.

20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); *Palo Alto Times*, May 16, 1918.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria

22. Other recognition -----

State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----

23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson

Date of evaluation April 1994

24. Survey type Comprehensive

25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project

26. Year form prepared 1994

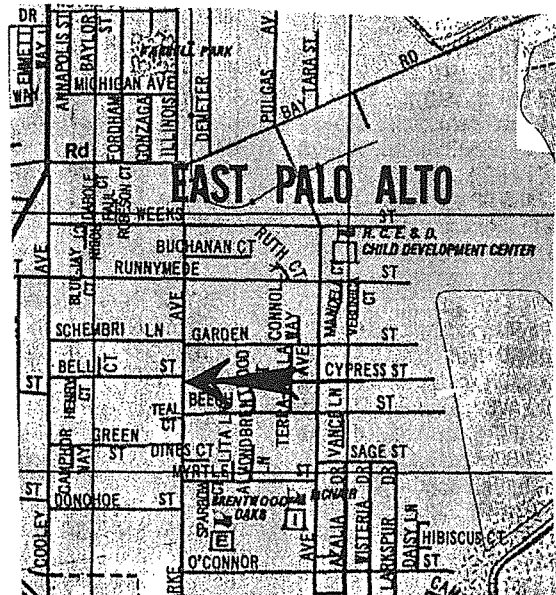
By (name) K. Solomonson

Organization San Mateo County Historical Association

Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.

City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

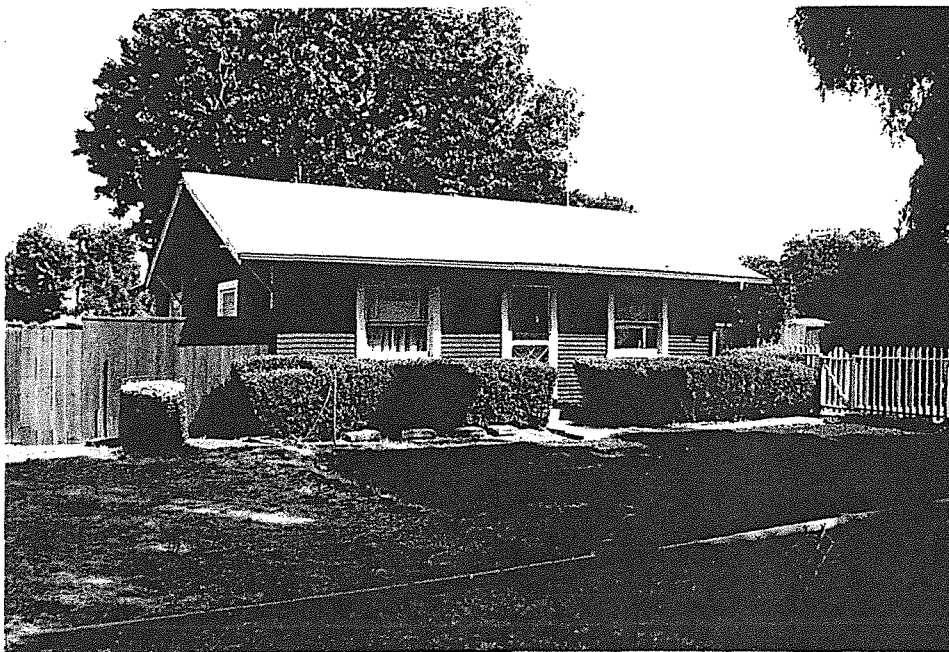
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 5S2  
 Local designation

- |                                |                        |               |                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name               |                        |               |                |                  |
| 2. Common or current name      |                        |               |                |                  |
| 3. Number & street 2260 Clarke |                        |               | Cross-corridor |                  |
| City East Palo Alto            |                        | Vicinity only | Zip 94303      | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10               |                        | B 576640      | C4146470       | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558           | Parcel No. 063-341-300 |               | Other          |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

2260 Clarke is a simple front gabled house with long, horizontal proportions. These are enhanced by the narrow clapboard siding that runs in horizontal bands across the structure, and the low eaves which hover over double-hung windows that are nearly square. Set on a low foundation (hidden by the bushes), the house hugs the ground. The only pronounced vertical element is the front door, which is set in the center of the bilaterally symmetrical facade. This beautifully-maintained house boasts little ornamentation. Door and window surrounds are plain and flat, the sills simple strips of wood. Only the delicate mullions, which make a geometric pattern in the upper sashes of the symmetrically placed windows, provide a bit of embellishment. Spindly triangular brackets have been inserted at the corners beneath the eaves. An additional wing, with exposed rafters and similar narrow siding is barely visible behind a high wooden fence. A chain link fence and a white picket fence enclose the front yard.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address  
 Martin J. & Mary D. Joyce  
 Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership private
11. Present use residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1919F                      Original location believed to be same                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date Because houses of this type constructed during the Runnymede era usually consisted of no more than a simple rectangular box, the small wing at the back may be an addition. If so, it was either constructed not long after the main portion of the house, or it was carefully done later to maintain a character that harmonizes with the earlier part of the house.
16. Architect unknown                                      Builder unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

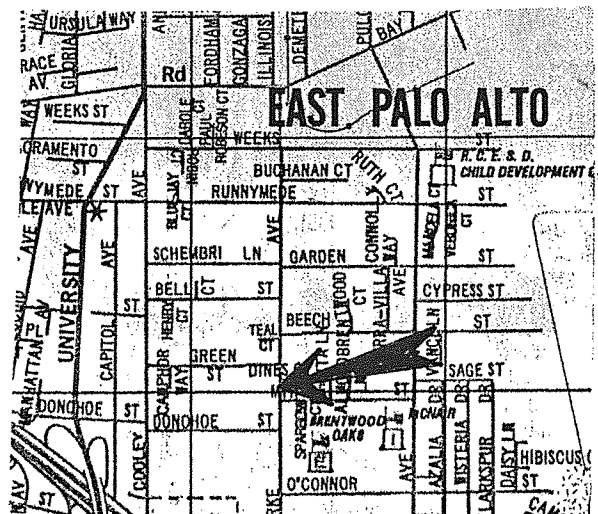
18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1916-1920s                                      Property type residential structure                      Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

2260 Clarke was constructed on the property that once belonged William and Hedwig Gurr, who had settled in the first portion of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony by c. 1919-20. The Gurrs held two acres at the corner of Clarke and Garden (which was called Cherry at the time), where they raised poultry. The house on their property typifies the simplest of dwellings constructed by Runnymede's earliest colonists. It is similar to the Morse house, the first in the colony, which is a simple gabled rectangular box with narrow clapboard siding, plain double-hung windows, and a door opening into the long side of the house. (See illustration on continuation sheet.) The primary difference (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); "First Families of Runnymede," n.d., brochure in the collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)**

between these two structures is the front porch appended to the Morse house. Because the Gurrs' property has now been subdivided into a number of smaller lots, this house no longer stands on a typical Runnymede holding of one acre or more, and the agricultural buildings that once accompanied it are no longer in sight. Even so, the house itself is an important example of an early Runnymede type.



Photo from "First Families of Runnymede," n.d., a promotional brochure.  
Collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Ser. no.  
National Register status 5S2  
Local designation

1. Historic name 545 Clarke Ave.

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 2261 Clarke

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 576590

C 4146460

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No.

Other

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The building at 2261 Clarke Ave is a one-story side-gabled bungalow, covered by asphalt roof shingles and thin clapboard siding. On the front of the house in the center, is a projecting gable sheltering the front door. Two posts resting on battered pylons support the gable. Small ornamental windows adorn the porch gable. Under the eaves of each gable are three ornamental brackets consisting of two parallel horizontal members (the upper projecting out farther than the lower) separated by short impost blocks. The front fenestration is symmetrical. The central front door is flanked by two double-hung windows. These two windows, like those elsewhere on the house's first floor, have wood sash, with a single lower light and diamond pane upper lights. A small shed-roofed bay faces the driveway. The side gable of this facade is opened by two small windows. On the opposite side facade, rises a tall brick chimney.



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1920/1920                      Original location Believed to be same                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1920s    Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

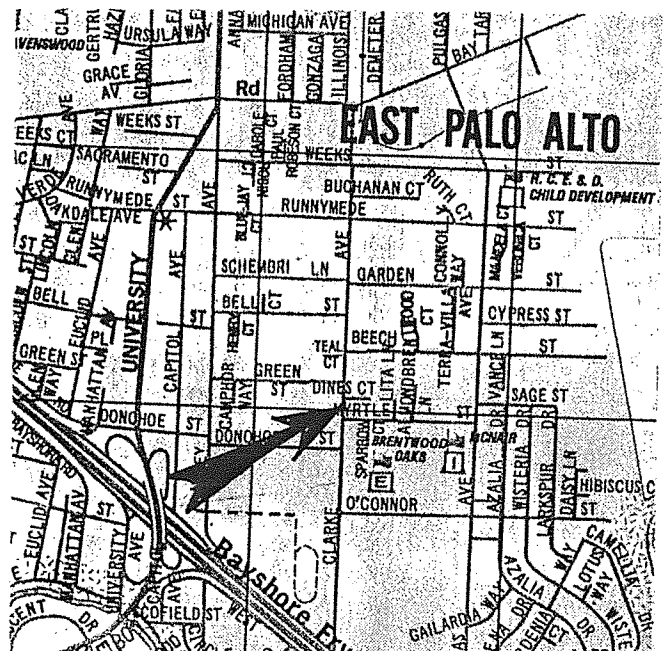
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This house was occupied from 1921 through at least 1944 by Alfred and Emily Gurr, who raised poultry on this parcel. Alfred Gurr lived across the street from his brother, William Gurr, who also raised poultry at 518 Clarke Avenue for many years. William was listed in the Runnymede directory in 1919-1920, and may have convinced his brother to settle in the Weeks Colony. Alfred Gurr's bungalow, with its simple rooflines and projecting front porch, served as a typical farmhouse for the Weeks Poultry Colony. It had a clean modern aesthetic, free of cluttered Queen Anne Style ornament, and uncomplicated dimensions, inexpensive to construct. This bungalow possesses interesting ornamental brackets which recall those used in Japanese architecture.

20. Sources Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede and Stanford, (Palo Alto: Willis Hall, 1919-1920, 1921-1922); R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1938, 1944).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation January 19,1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994
- By (name) A. Michelson
- Organization San Mateo County Historical Association
- Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.
- City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                           |                        |               |                |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Historic name          |                        |               |                | Ser. no.                    |
| 2. Common or current name | Cooley Avenue Market   |               |                | National Register status 3S |
| 3. Number & street        | 2235 Cooley            |               | Cross-corridor | Local designation           |
| City                      | East Palo Alto         | Vicinity only | Zip 94303      | County San Mateo            |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10                   | B 576190      | C 4146760      | D                           |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558      | Parcel No. 063-332-310 |               | Other          |                             |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Inserted in a residential section of East Palo Alto, the Cooley Avenue Market is a one-story commercial building of modest proportions and design. It is a plain stucco box, painted a well-maintained deep grey with white trim. A plain parapet on the front and two sides of the building gives the illusion that the building is taller than it is. The upper wall across the front is utterly unadorned except for COOLEY AVENUE MARKET painted across its surface. Below this, a cloth awning stretches across the entire facade. This shades a three-part transom, which is now boarded up. Below this, a central door, flanked by narrow vertical windows (also boarded), opens into the store. On either side of door, broad display windows expand across the rest of the facade. The window on the left has been boarded up, but the one on the right, divided into four equal panes with thin wooden mullions, may be in its original condition save for the iron grate that covers it. Square tile fills the area beneath the windows. The two sides of the building are simple expanses of stucco pierced by two small square hopper windows (hinged on their lower edges) with plain wooden surrounds. A low addition extends from the back. The market, pressed close to the street, rises directly from the sidewalk, but there is open space on either side, including a parking lot at the right. It stands on lots 33, 34, and 35 of block 16 of the Woodland Place subdivision, a district that was more suburban in character than the other portions of Runnymede. Today, the interior is one large open space filled with aisles of shelves. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Sidney J. & Wilma C. Peters, Palo Alto 94303
10. Type of ownership  
Private
11. Present use commercial
12. Zoning C-1
13. Threats private development

## CONTINUATION SHEET: 2235 Cooley

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

In design, 2235 Cooley is what Richard Longstreth calls a one-part commercial block, a type that probably developed in cities and towns by the mid 19th century. The broad plate-glass windows surmounted by a transom zone that once lit the store, and the expanse of wall at the top used for the market's name, are typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial structures. These features would point to an early date for this building. Even with its boarded-up windows, which could easily be reglazed, the market is in excellent condition.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

In 1923, the Runnymede Grocery, which was run by J.W. Grimes, advertised that it was "for everything that leads to Runnymede betterment!" It sold everything "From Soup to Nuts," including ice cream and root beer. The location was listed in the directory as Cooley and Runnymede, approximately where 2235 Cooley now stands. Because buildings in Runnymede did not have street numbers until 1925, the Runnymede Grocery's exact location is hard to pinpoint. Around this time, the Grimes family departed, and W.L. Greene opened a grocery on Cooley. In 1926, Greene's grocery was listed at 531 Cooley, which marks this location under the pre 1940 street numbering. There is a good chance that this building housed the original Runnymede Grocery as early as c. 1919-1920, and it is clear that it existed as a market by 1926. After this, it changed management numerous times, always remaining a grocery. William and Zada Barnett ran the store from about 1927 until 1935, and lived in the house next door, to the left of the store. When E.H. Heeren took over the store in 1936, the Barnetts opened a gas station at 511 Cooley. Since then, it has experienced several different proprietors.

The Cooley Avenue market was, and still is, a commercial structure inserted into a residential/agricultural environment. Until the mid 1930s, the East Palo Alto area had no real business center. The Johnsons ran another grocery at 201 Cooley (which became 1935 Cooley in 1940) at the other end of the colony near the San Francisquito Creek, and a scattering of other stores are listed in other parts of the area; but University Avenue, which became an important commercial thoroughfare, was still largely residential, as was Cooley Avenue. Yet the Cooley Avenue Market is clearly an urban, commercial type, with no residential overtones. Essentially a large rectangular box, its street facade is narrow compared to its depth, and it is pressed close to the street to make efficient use of space, a form particularly suitable for a commercial district where adjacent structures line the street. (It should be noted, however, that the street has been widened since the 1920s, but even so, this structure sits closer to the streets than most houses in the area.) But a commercial district never grew up around this building. Instead, the business center developed from the mid 1930s in the vicinity of University Avenue and Bayshore Highway. As a result, today 2235 Cooley, now the Cooley Avenue Market, remains in a residential district which has become more densely developed over time. Though it stands out as a commercial structure, its proportions harmonize well with its surroundings. Its success here is more than visual. The most recent in an long succession of grocery stores housed here, the Cooley Avenue Market conducts a thriving business.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) Original location Same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date The lower portion of the building projecting from the back is likely to be a later addition. In the street facade, the transom, the two narrow windos flaking the door, and the left display window have all been boarded up.
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06--Commercial Building, 1-3 stories

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1020s-1950s Property type Retail Store Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

2235 Cooley, which has been a grocery store throughout its history, is probably the earliest commercial structure in East Palo Alto. During Runnymede's first years, its colonists had to rely on deliveries from Palo Alto grocery stores. By 1917, Charles Weeks envisioned a cooperative store for the colony, much like the consumer cooperatives he admired in England, Russia, and the United States. It is not clear whether Weeks's idea ever came to fruition — if it had, he probably would have documented it as well as he did everything else — but the Palo Alto City Directory lists no groceries for Runnymede until 1919-20, when two of them, one called the Runnymede Grocery, had opened on Cooley Avenue. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources *PA Times* 14 Nov. 1917; *PA Times*, 2 May 1923; *PA Times*, 11 May 1923; *PA Times*, 25 Jan. 1924; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directories of Palo Alto* (including various other towns, 1919-1930, 1933-1937, 1939, 1940, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1957); Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1987).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation September 10, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

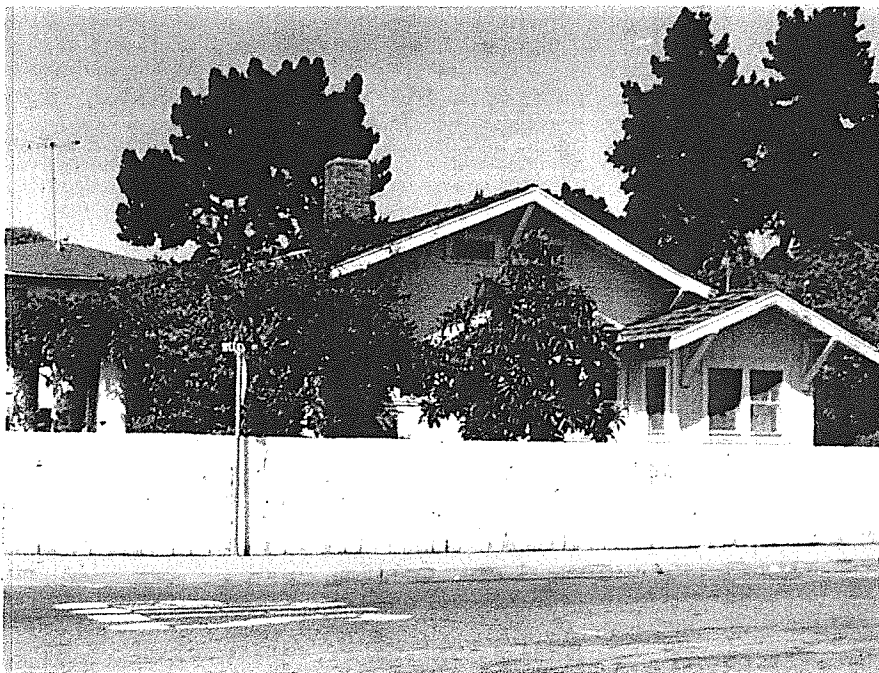
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                  |                        |                              |                            |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Historic name 700 Cooley Ave. |                        | Ser. no.                     |                            |
| 2. Common or current name        |                        | National Register status 5S2 |                            |
| 3. Number & street 2360 Cooley   |                        | Local designation            |                            |
| City East Palo Alto              | Vicinity only          | Cross-corridor Weeks         | Zip 94303 County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                 | B 576200               | C 4147190                    | D                          |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558             | Parcel No. 063-220-480 | Other                        |                            |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set behind a long front pergola covered with vegetation is the bungalow at 2360 Cooley Ave. It occupies a fenced .15 acre lot, located on the corner of Cooley Ave. and Weeks St., in what was the Second Addition to Runnymede. The tall wood board fence encircles the property providing privacy and security at the busy intersection. The dwelling is side-gabled, and one story high, with a basically rectangular configuration. A small bay, projecting towards Weeks St., breaks the plan's absolute rectangularity. This bay also has a side-gabled roof, which is lower than the main roof. An odd dormer-like feature (with projecting rafter tails) lies in the center of the main roof in front. Its purpose is unclear. All roof surfaces are clad in wood shingles. Thin clapboards cover the walls. The fenestration is difficult to see from Cooley Ave., but observed from Weeks is irregular, composed mostly of double-hung windows arranged in pairs. Knee brackets support each gable of the house's roofs. A brick chimney rises on the south end, probably serving a living room fireplace.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Sostenes and Ignacia Lopez  
2360 Cooley Ave.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**.HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1922/1922 Original location Believed to be the same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02-- Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

Records indicate that the earliest owners of this property were probably Frank C. and Lillian Nickerson. According to a 1922 property map of East Palo Alto, the Nickersons held two acres. The Palo Alto city directory for 1919-1920 and 1921-1922 indicated the Nickersons to be ranchers, and a *Palo Alto Times* article of 19 May 1922 noted that they were among the first settlers in Runnymede's Second Addition, developed in 1917-1918. They continued to reside on this property through the mid-1920s, at least; by 1935, however, they had relocated to a residence in North Palo Alto. The Nickerson house possesses the simple form, clapboard siding, and pergola common to nearby farm bungalows built by Weeks Colony settlers. Its rectangular shape and long, low, gabled rooflines bear some resemblance to those of the contemporary dwelling at 2260 Cooley Ave.

- 20. Sources *Directory of Palo Alto City, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; article on Runnymede's early inhabitants in the *Palo Alto Times*, 19 May 1922.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation Oct. 14, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name 110 Donohoe St.

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 134 Donohoe St.

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 575190

C 4146450

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No.

Other

Ser. no.

National Register status 5S2

Local designation

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set slightly back from the road, the one story dwelling at 134 Donahoe St. has a cross-gabled roof covered by asphalt shingles. Clapboard siding covers the walls. Seen from the front, the dwelling has a basically H-shaped plan, with two gabled bays projecting forward connected by a cross-gabled section. This rear cross-gabled section extends out on the east beyond the end of the left (east) bay. The gable of the right bay has a shallower pitch than that of the left. Both gables are supported by knee brackets under the eaves. Between these gables is a front porch with a replacement fiberglass roof sheltering the front door. The right bay features a triplet window; the outer windows of this triplet are double-hung, while the middle has fixed sash. All have colored glass headers. The left bay is illuminated by a wide double-hung window with one over one lights. All double-hung windows of the front facade have new aluminum screens. A brick chimney rises on the west side. Behind the dwelling is the garage. The garage is topped by a front-facing gable roof, and has its original doors. The doors fold in three panels, each panel illuminated by six-light fixed windows. The gable roof has the same knee brackets as the main house.



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department

9. Owner & address

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1920                      Original location Believed to be the same                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02-- Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s                      Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This house may have been built by John and Wilhelmina Stangl, who, according to a 1922 article in the *Palo Alto Times*, were some of the earliest settlers in this neighborhood, the fourth addition to Charles Weeks's Runnymede Poultry Colony. The Fourth Addition was formed in 1920. Stangl was a painter, who owned a two acre plot; they stayed in the dwelling into the 1950s. His house is a nicely maintained bungalow set in a quiet residential section of East Palo Alto. The Stangl house's H-shaped or hyphenate plan was unusual in Runnymede, although its type can be found in abundance elsewhere in California. Its design probably came from one of the period's numerous bungalow plan books. In terms of roof framing and foundation costs, this floor plan would have been more expensive to construct than simpler rectangular plans, which probably limited its use in Runnymede.

- 20. Sources  
 Map of the subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; article on the earliest Runnymede inhabitants, *Palo Alto Times*, 19 May 1922. Robert Winter, *The California Bungalow*, (Hennessey and Ingalls, 1980).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson  
 Date of evaluation December 6, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

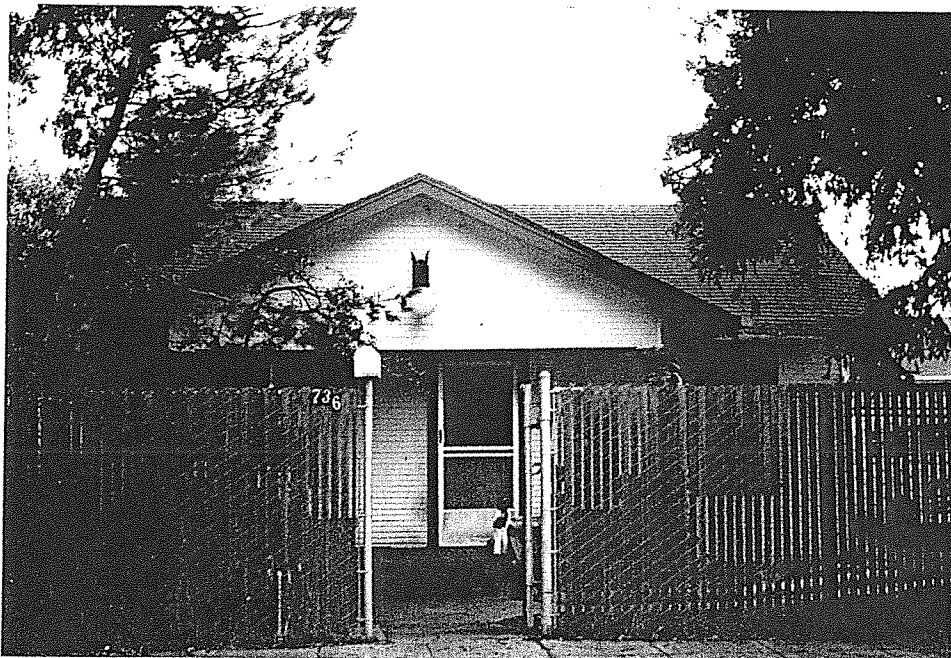
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 4S2  
 Local designation

- |                             |                        |                |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name            |                        |                |                  |
| 2. Common or current name   |                        |                |                  |
| 3. Number & street 736 Bell |                        | Cross-corridor |                  |
| City East Palo Alto         | Vicinity only          | Zip 94303      | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10            | B 576280               | C 4146700      | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558        | Parcel No. 063-363-160 |                | Other            |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 736 Bell St. is set behind a chain-link security fence, which has wooden slats slid through its openings. A large garage stands behind the house to the southwest. The house has a cross-gabled configuration; the main gable faces to the side, while a front-gable porch projects from the center. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Clapboard siding, painted white, covers the walls. Trim is picked out in red. Supports for the front porch are composed of uncoarsed masonry, although they do not appear original. Sheltered by the porch is the front entry, faced by an aluminum screen door and flanked by single double-hung windows with wood sash. Each window has one over one lights. One of the most interesting features of the property is a large poultry house set well behind the main house. The poultry house has a long extended form with numerous doors opening onto individual roosting areas. The house was built to last, as its builder set it on a sturdy concrete foundation. A skeletal wood framework supports the building, with a cladding of horizontal and vertically placed wooden boards. Tar paper covers a roof of dual pitch. A lower shed roofed portion covers each doorway. A higher shed roof creates a long clerestory, admitting light to stimulate the hens' egg production. Each clerestory window is rectangular, and was probably of fixed glass originally. This Bell St. neighborhood has a suburban character-- with its rows of tidy houses, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The presence of the poultry house-- an agricultural remnant-- offers interesting contrast to this suburban context.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address Isaac and Jane Hansen. Menlo Park, CA 94025 and Robert Poulin, 736 Bell, East Palo Alto
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c.1925 Original location Yes Date moved
15. Alterations & date
16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list 02-Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

According to property maps, Eric G. Johnson occupied a two acre parcel at this address in 1922 and 1925. He and his wife, Mary, raised poultry on this lot in the Second Addition to the Weeks Poultry Colony until at least 1938. Before W.W. II, Chester A. Bigelow, an attendant at the nearby Veteran's Hospital, and his wife Clara also resided here. The Johnsons' buildings at 1036 Beech St. comprise one of the most complete ensembles of agricultural buildings remaining in East Palo Alto. The farmhouse, tankhouse, early agricultural storage buildings, and later greenhouses all remain in good repair. The farmhouse's footing, set well off the ground to accommodate a submerged garage, is unusual in East Palo Alto, but not unique. A handful of other houses, such as 799 Green St. and 2238 Lincoln Ave., also exhibit this basement garage feature. On a small, intensively cultivated plot, making room for a detached garage did not make sense if it could be incorporated within the footprint of the farmhouse.

20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo County, Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede and Stanford*, (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); *R. L. Polk Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1938, and 1944.)

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation Oct. 12, 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.



CONTINUATION SHEET: 763 Bell

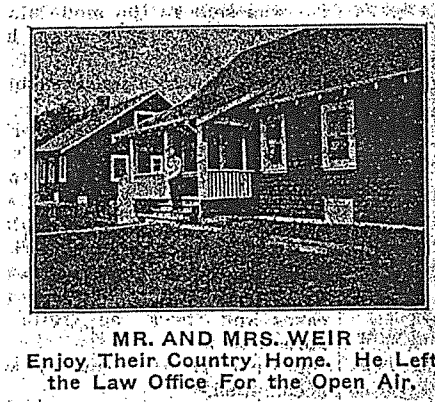
SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

But the Weirs had disappeared from Runnymede by 1919. By that date, it appears that the Bell Street (then called Cherry) property belonged to Martin and Andrea Anderson, who were still farming there in 1930. Martin died in 1935 and by 1937 Andrea had sold the place to Frances M. Wyatt, a clerk at E.D. Keeble in Palo Alto. By this time, the farm had ceased to provide its owner's primary income.

Assuming that the Weir's property was the same as 763 Bell, the pattern of land ownership outlined above was not unusual in the Weeks colony. There were other cases, such as 881 Green, where the owner tried farm life for only a short time before selling the place to someone else. In both of these cases, the next owner cultivated the site for at least decade or more until it was necessary to supplement farming with outside work.

The house itself is a good example of the simple structures erected in the first portion of Runnymede. Though it is larger than 2260 Clarke, for example, they are both similarly restrained, relying only upon the corner brackets and exposed rafters (both of these common bungalow features) for embellishment.

(Note about the date: The Assessor's records indicate the date as 1910. Though this could be accurate, it seems unlikely because the first house erected in Runnymede was put up in June or July of 1916, the year Weeks marketed Peter Faber's land for his colony. While it is certainly possible that an earlier resident erected this house when Faber first decided to subdivide his land, the house itself was typical for this portion of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony and it became a Runnymede ranch.)



Picture from *Palo Alto Times*, 16 May 1918

## 736 BELL CONTINUATION SHEET

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

The area was sub-divided by Charles Weeks, a poultry farmer living in Palo Alto, who promoted Runnymede, beginning in 1916. The long narrow lots accommodated extended poultry houses, which Weeks modeled on assembly lines. In the rear of this lot stands one of the few remaining poultry houses in East Palo Alto. It is in remarkably good condition, set on concrete foundations, and has a clerestory, facing east to catch the morning sun. (Morning light helped to stimulate the egg-production of hens.) This Bell St. neighborhood contained some of the last active poultry farms in East Palo Alto, which survived into the late 1950s. In short, the entire configuration of the original farmhouse, long deep lot, and poultry house stands as one of the best remnants of this 1920s agricultural community.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

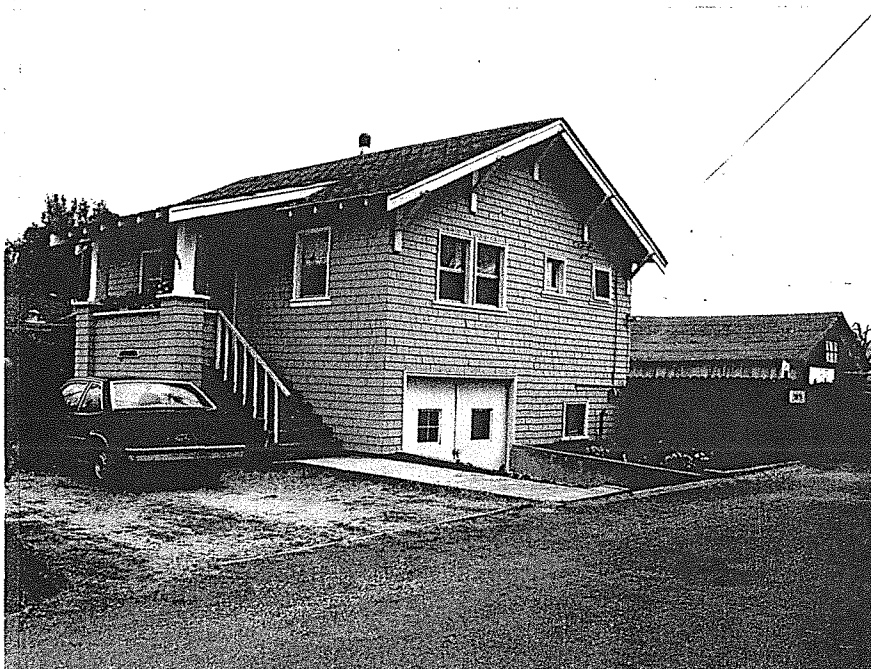
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Historic name 666 Walnut   | Ser. no.<br>National Register status 5S2<br>Local designation |
| 2. Common or current name     |   |
| 3. Number & street 1036 Beech | Cross-corridor  |
| City East Palo Alto           | Vicinity only      Zip 94303      County San Mateo            |
| 4. UTM zone      A 10         | B 576840      C 4146610      D                                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558          | Parcel No. 063-351-260      Other                             |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 1036 Beech St. has unusually high contours for a one-story dwelling. It has a side gabled roof and a projecting front porch. Both main and porch roofs have protruding rafter tails. Five knee brackets support the main gable end. Asphalt shingles cover the roof and painted wood shingles sheath the walls. The porch roof is supported by a pair of squat piers, and covers a central front door, which is flanked by single double-hung windows, with wooden sash and one over one lights. A stairway leads up eight steps to the porch. The most distinctive characteristic of the house is its high foundations. The living rooms of the house have been raised nearly an extra story to accommodate a partially sunken garage below. Doors to the garage can be seen on the west facade with a ramp leading down to them. A fixed rectangular window with four over four lights stands to the right of the garage doors. Above the garage doors is a pair of wooden double-hung windows and two awning windows to the right. The farmhouse at 1036 Beech St. stands in front of a group of agricultural buildings set on a compact plot. To the northwest, across the driveway, is a brown shingled tankhouse, with a shed-roofed addition to its rear facade. It appears to be used as living space and is in much better repair than the tankhouse across the street at 1007 Beech St. Set behind the tankhouse and main house, protected by chain-link and wood plank fences, is a long gable-roofed building with board and batten siding and a tar paper roof. Behind this board and batten storage building are a series of greenhouses, probably built for floriculture during the 1940s and 1950s.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address Carlene R. Tonini, et al., c/o Richard Arguello  
10065 La Paz, San Ramon, CA 94583
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

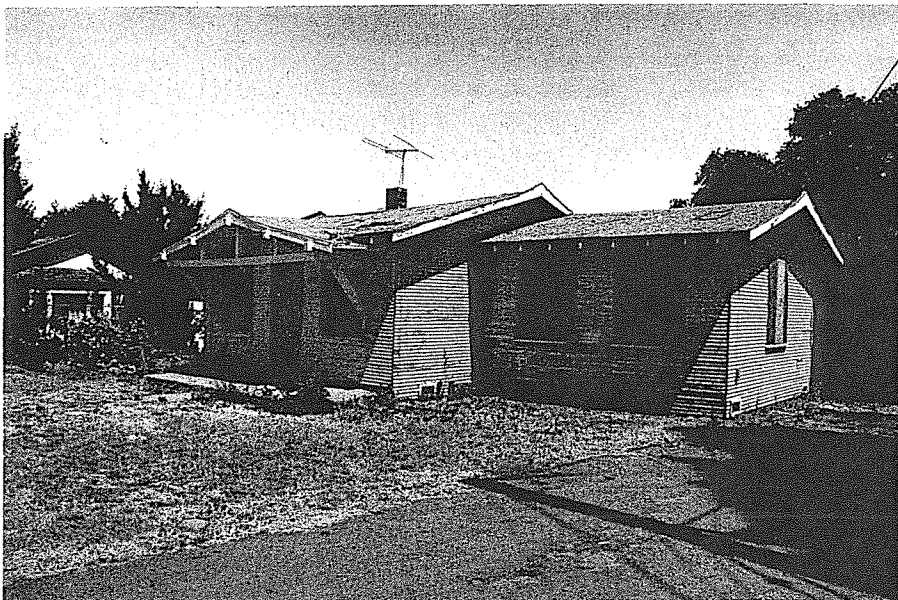
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 5S2  
 Local designation

- |                           |                 |                |                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Historic name          | 125 Donohoe St. |                |                            |
| 2. Common or current name |                 |                |                            |
| 3. Number & street        | 231 Donohoe St. | Cross-corridor |                            |
| City                      | East Palo Alto  | Vicinity only  | Zip 94303 County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10            | B 575340       | C 4146450 D                |
| 5. Quad map No.           | 1558            | Parcel No.     | Other                      |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The dwelling at 231 Donohoe St. is set on a barren lot in a residential section of East Palo Alto west of Highway 101. The area was once part of the Palo Alto Park subdivision. The house has been abandoned, and its thin clapboard siding is in need of paint. Plywood sheets cover the windows. The dwelling is laid out on one story, and is composed of two rectangular sections. The main wing to the west has a gable roof that is slightly taller than that of the east. Both roofs are topped with white gravel. The west wing has a shallowly pitched cross-gabled roof sheltering the front door. This entry shelter is supported by prominent knee brackets, which hold a triangular framework of posts. The front fenestration is simple. Two windows flank either side of the front door, and two large openings (one on the east facade) illuminate the smaller eastern wing. Rafter tails protrude beneath each gable's eaves. The house's most prominent decorative feature is its fascia boards which flare up at their peaks, vaguely reminiscent of Asian architecture.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address Unknown
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1922 Original location Probably Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02—Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

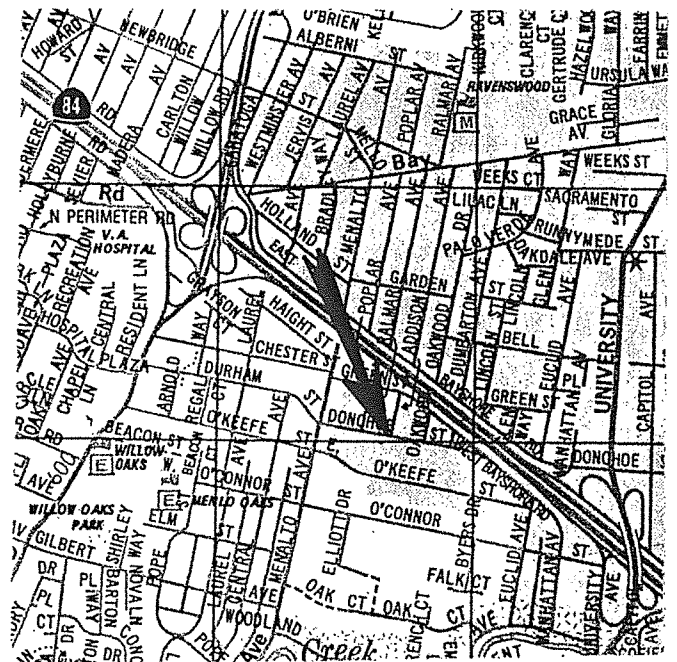
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar property.

Like so many bungalows of East Palo Alto built in the late 1910s and early 1920s, this one at 231 Donohoe St. is quite small, reflecting its owner's modest means. It has a very economical form and simple fenestration. The dwelling's builder hoped to dress the bungalow up with its fascia board detailing. Its flaring fascia boards give the house a somewhat exotic appearance, comparable to well-known bungalows designed by such architects as the Heineman Brothers in Southern California. Although in neglected condition, 231 Donohoe St. has great visual impact. Early occupants recorded in the Palo Alto city directories were John Y. and Florence Burness; in 1928, Burness worked as a draftsman, and perhaps had some input on the unusual architectural character of his house. By 1933, poultry farmers, William H. and Emily G. Parkin resided here, when it was known as 125 Donohoe St. At least two other families, Lambert H. and Desda Thoen and Herbst and Harriet Carpenter, occupied the property before W.W. II. William Thoen worked as an engineer, while his wife ran a beauty shop. Carpenter was a creamery worker. Most of the occupants of this small dwelling held jobs with modest incomes.

20. Sources *Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1944); Robert Winter, *The California Bungalow*, (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1980).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation March 3, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441







**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1921 Original location Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date The agricultural buildings (sheds and barn) appear to have received alterations in doors and windows at unknown dates.
- 16. Architect unknown Builder unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1916-1920s Property type residential/agricultural Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

From the street, 250 Donohoe merges well into a street of small, Craftsman houses. Behind it, however, clusters a group of structures that link the property with its agricultural past. Both come together to present, in microcosm, Charles Weeks's vision of an agricultural suburb.

With its excellent condition and fine details, the house fronting 250 Donohoe is one of the best examples of a Runnymede-era bungalow in East Palo Alto. Its welcoming front porch and neat front yard present to the street an image that would fit well into any suburban area dating from the same period. Weeks sought to reinforce (see continuation sheet.)

- 20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation April, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET, 250 DONOHUE

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

Behind these two buildings is a series of other structures which are interconnected. These include a couple of sheds, one taller than the other, which are likely to have been outhouses. Both have board and batten siding and one has a door into which a sliver-like crescent moon and a star have been cut. Adjacent to this is another board and batten structure with a low gabled roof. A mass of foliage obscures much of it, but a newer window outfitted with mini-blinds suggests that it is occupied. Near the two outhouses and the structure adjacent to them is a long agricultural shed with a new garage door at one end and hinged doors on one of the long sides. The largest structure is a gabled barn clad with narrow vertical boards, unpainted and weathered. Wide sliding doors open into it on three sides. On the gable end farthest from the house (the northwest side), a small hinged door to the right of center give access to the interior. Beside this is a horizontal window, boarded up. Just beneath the apex of the gable is a square window, tilted to form a diamond, has been set slightly off center. 250 Donohoe comprises a portion of lots 12 and 13 of the fourth addition to Runnymede.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Runnymede's suburban character by giving the one-acre lots a narrow street frontage so that the houses could form a well-integrated street line. This was not to be. Like many Runnymede settlers, the Halberts, who farmed this property in 1922, disrupted Weeks's suburban vision by purchasing four acres rather than one. By purchasing the three lots next door, other members of the Halbert family further diluted the street and contributed to the area's open, semi-rural character.

Behind the house, the property's rural identity is fully asserted through the collection of agricultural structures that survive. A tiny clapboard building with a gabled roof nestles behind the main house. Its original function is difficult to determine, but it is possible that this was the house where the family lived when they first arrived in Runnymede. According to the 1921-22 Runnymede directory, W.E. and Estella M. Halbert were poultry farmers, yet neither tankhouse nor poultry house survives. The absence of the tankhouse is easily explained. Because the fourth addition to Runnymede, where this property is located, had a centralized water system, the colonists who settled there did not need to pump and store their own water supply. Unless the sheds are disguising it, the poultry house has disappeared. Very possibly the poultry house(s) was constructed on one of the adjacent lots that is now part of another holding. The barn does survive. Early photographs show that barns of various kinds were scattered throughout Runnymede, but the one at 250 Donohoe is among the few that still stands.

This part of Donohoe Street has now filled in and fully asserted its residential character. Even so, the back of the property at 250 Donohoe, where graceful old trees shade agricultural structures converted to new uses, presents a rare glimpse of the city's agricultural past.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

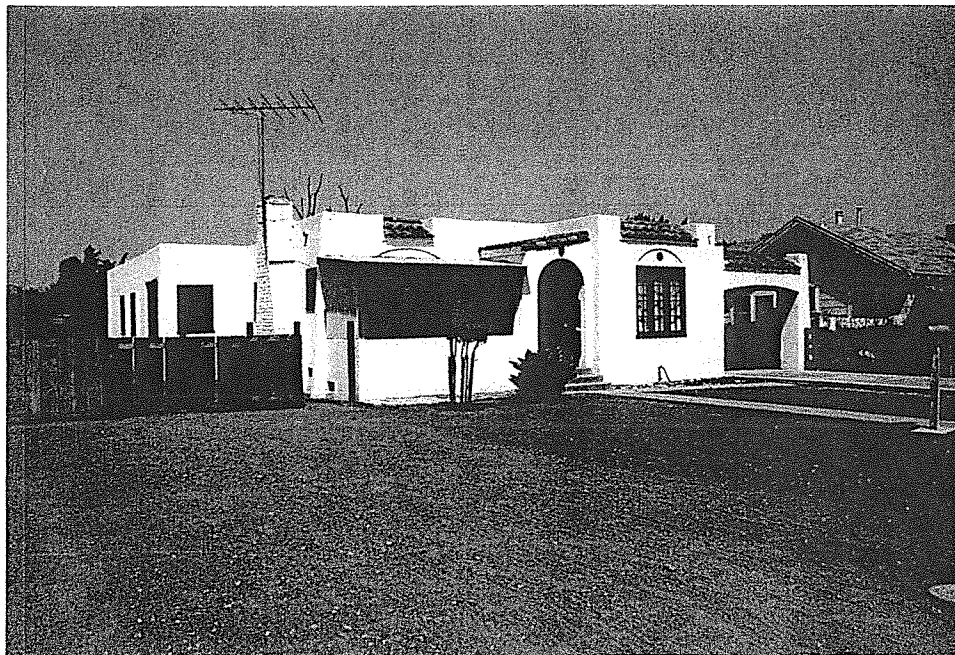
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Historic name               | Ser. no.  |
| 2. Common or current name      | National Register status 5S2                                  |
|                                | Local designation   |
| 3. Number & street 809 Donohoe | Cross-corridor Clarke   |
| City East Palo Alto            | Vicinity only Zip 94303 County San Mateo                      |
| 4. UTM zone A 10               | B 576490 C 4146740 D  |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558           | Parcel No. DJ Mock 063-374-180; Yee Wo Mock 063-372-920 Other |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

One of a row of small period revival and Craftsman cottages lining Donohoe Street, this house is sited on a deep lot with a narrow street frontage measuring about an acre. This site is lot 1 of lot 3 of the Faber subdivision. A straight, well-maintained concrete sidewalk and driveway lead up to this white stucco Spanish Colonial Revival box. From the front, the house has a L-shaped plan, a small block projecting forward at the right. The latter is lit with a triple window surmounted by a blind arch with a medallion at its center. To the left, a small porch with a tiled shed roof and an arched opening shelters the front door. A low wall extends left from the porch to enclose a small patio which is now covered by a more recently-added fiberglass sunroof. This roof now obscures the blind arch that surmounts the multipaned window or door below it that opens onto the patio. The house has a flat roof trimmed in places with red tile. A wing wall, with red tile running across its top, extends out to the right to form a nominal porte-cochere that spans the driveway but does not actually provide shelter. The driveway leads back to a stuccoed garage with a parapet that appears to be missing the tile that trims the front of the house. The back of the house reveals a flat-topped stucco addition extending from the north side of the house. Two sheds of vertical boards, one of them moved from the former Oleson place at Pulgas and O'Connor where the present owner's family once farmed, provide storage. The expansive lot behind the house is no longer under cultivation, but the house itself has been maintained in pristine condition.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address David John Mock,  
 et al, 809 Donohoe,  
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1927/1927                      Original location Believed to be the same                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1920s                      Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

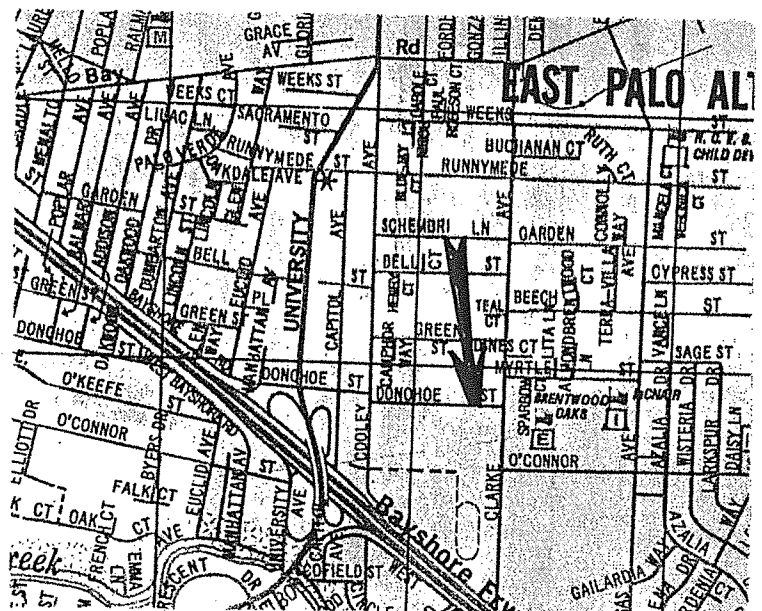
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The large pyramidal hipped roof of 841 Donahoe St. was a typical feature of many modest farmhouses built in California between 1900-1925. This property, originally 571 Almond St., was probably bought and developed by Hugh and Julia Patterson in the early 1920s. (This couple is listed in the 1921-22 City Directory as running a poultry farm on Almond St.) They moved from this property in the late 1920s. The Pattersons probably had long Weeks-type poultry houses in their back yard, which have since disappeared from the property.

20. Sources Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation November 20, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name 528 Euclid Ave.

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 2266 Euclid

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Cross-corridor

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 575870

C 4146570

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No. 063-302-100

Other

Ser. no.

National Register status 552

Local designation

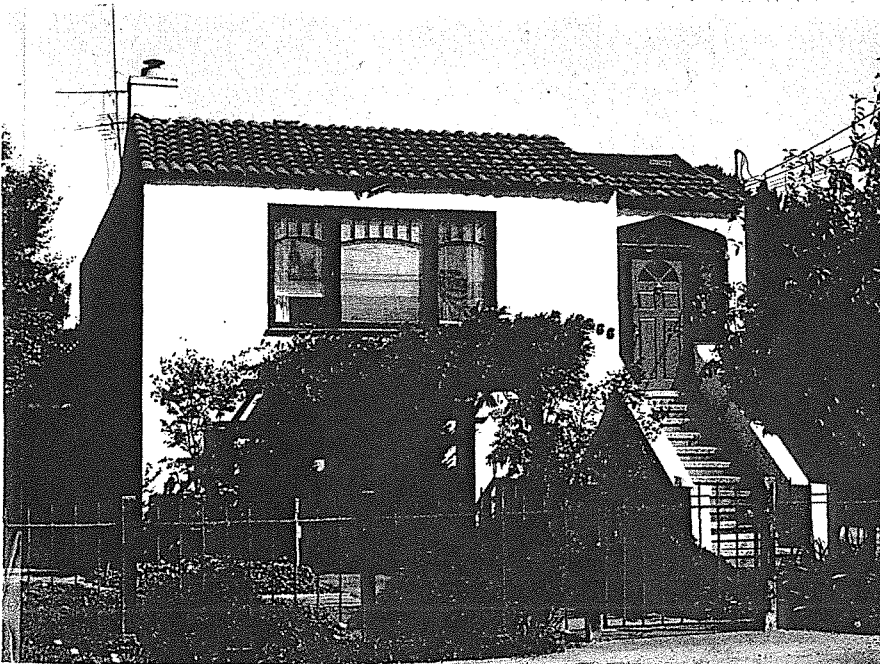
**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Stucco covers the walls of the two story house at 2266 Euclid Ave. The dwelling is large and blocky with at least one addition appended to the rear. The roof, as seen from the street, is a false gable covered with Spanish tile. This false gable hides the flat roof of the rest of the building. The front door is set in a slightly recessed wing of the house's front facade. It is reached up a long flight of stairs. This entryway is surrounded by a Tudor arch, and has a transom and two sidelights. Below, is a garage door is of two parts, each section possessing six lights. Above, the garage door is a triplet window, with two double-hung windows on the outside flanking a fixed window in the center. Horizontal muntin bars of each part of the triplet are slightly arched. An irregular assortment of windows illuminates the west facade. Nearest to the front door is another triplet window. This window, like the front door, has a Tudor arched header.



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address

ronald and Joy thayer

2266 Euclid, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats





State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

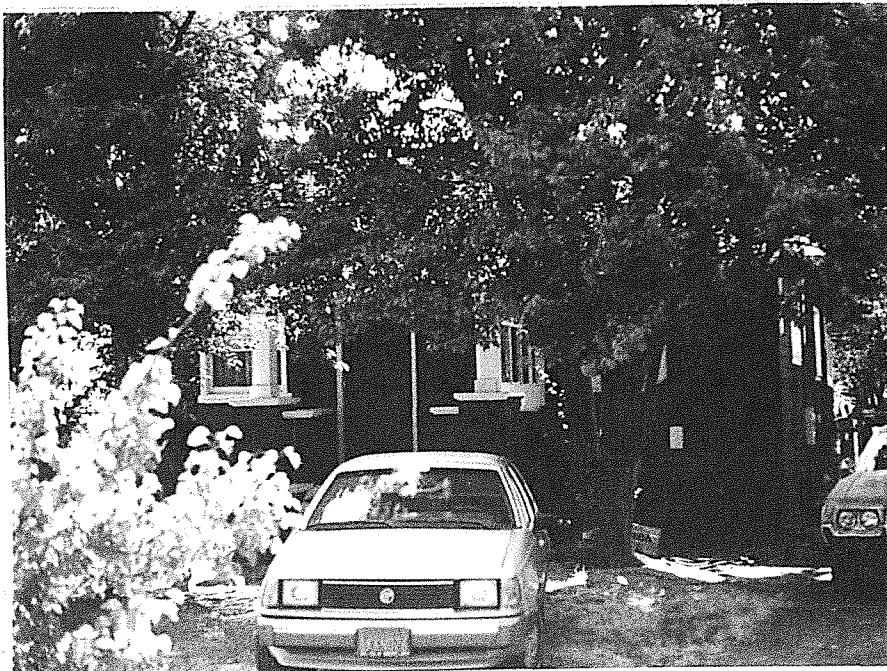
- |                                 |               |                              |                  |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name 624 Cherry St. |               | Ser. no.                     |                  |
|                                 |               | National Register status 487 |                  |
|                                 |               | Local designation            |                  |
| 2. Common or current name       |               |                              |                  |
| 3. Number & street 962 Garden   |               | Cross-corridor               |                  |
| City East Palo Alto             | Vicinity only | Zip 94303                    | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                | B 576690      | C 4146800                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558            | Parcel No.    | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The farmhouse and agricultural structures 962 Garden form one of East Palo Alto's most significant ensembles. The site consists of a double lot (two of Charles Weeks's one-acre farms), one of which is an open field, once cultivated. The house, tankhouse, and two poultry houses occupy the lot to the right. The house, set back from the street behind a chain link fence and a cluster of foliage, stands in front of the tankhouse. Two long poultryhouses, with open space between them, stretch back along the long sides of the lot, marking its boundaries.

The buildings themselves, though deteriorated, are intact enough to present an excellent idea of a Weeks-era ranch. The one-story house is side-gabled, with a gabled porch, supported by short piers, projecting in front. Black asphalt shingles sheath the roof and shingles painted brown clad the walls. Trim has been picked out in white. Much of the front fenestration lies enshrouded behind the dense vegetation in the front yard. A front door, located just to the east of center, lies sheltered beneath the porch.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address
10. Type of ownership PRIVATE
11. Present use RESIDENTIAL
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

## ISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c. 1917 Original location Believed to be the same Date moved
15. Alterations & date An addition of unknown date was made to the tankhouse in back.
16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property, 33--Farm/Ranch

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

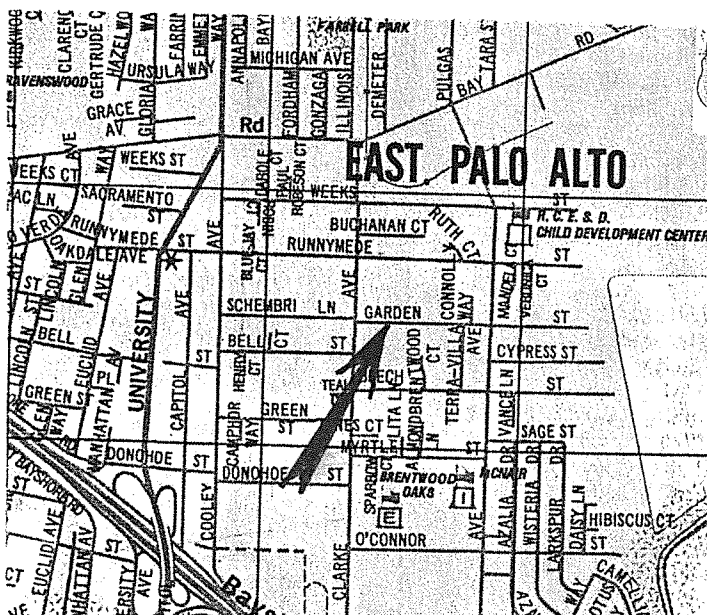
18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Doemstic structure Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

962 Garden presents the most intact picture of the Weeks Poultry Colony ranch remaining in East Palo Alto today. Like many Runnymede ranches, the view presented to the street is suburban — a small bungalow with a front yard and a sidewalk leading up to the porch. It is set back from the street approximately the same distance as the surrounding houses, reinforcing this impression. The property's agricultural nature is suggested by the empty lot to the side and asserted at the rear, where the tankhouse and poultry houses follow the typical layout prescribed by Charles Weeks. East Palo Alto still abounds with Weeks-era "garden homes," a number of them retaining their tankhouses, and a small number of poultry houses remain, but this is the only site in East Palo Alto today that retains all three in an intact layout. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925. *R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1935, 1938, 1944)

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation March 12, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## 962 GARDEN CONTINUATION SHEET

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

On either side of the door are two wide windows with double-hung sash. These windows have one over one lights. On the west facade, the fenestration features two double-hung windows, the front being slightly smaller than the rear. Behind these two, toward the south, is a large fixed group of lights illuminating a rear porch. The gable roof is supported by several knee brackets which also protrude on the opposite side. The east side possesses three double-hung windows, the one in the middle being smaller than the two equivalently sized ones in either end. A large addition has been made to the rear.

Directly behind the the house is a tankhouse, clad in board and batten siding. It lacks its original water reservoir. A sizable two story addition has been made to the east side, nearly doubling its size. It appears to have been used for storage purposes. Behind the farmhouse and tankhouse lie two rows of Weeks era poultry houses, probably the two best examples remaining in East Palo Alto. They are exceptionally long, easily 100 feet in length. They open to the east, to allow morning sun to wake nesting poultry. The eastern slope of each roof is shorter than the western slope. Flush boards or board and batten siding, haphazardly arranged, covers the exterior walls. The interiors of the poultry houses are in deteriorating condition, most stalls being open to the elements. On the east poultry house, a group of unevenly sized windows remain on an enclosed, walled portion to the north. The Travises, post Weeks-era residents, continued to use the poultry houses to raise chickens. Today, they serve as storage.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

An early Weeks colony resident, Mrs. Ida C. Furbush. Mrs. Furbush, may have lived here once. She had taken up residence on Cherry Street (Garden Street's original name) at least as early as 1919 when the first Runnymede Directory was issued, and may have settled there still earlier. While there was a significant degree of turnover during the 1920s, Mrs. Furbush remained on her property until the mid 1930s and apparently continued to farm it. The long stable ownership of 962 Garden might help to explain why its original agricultural structures still exist. The Travises, who eventually moved to the property, continued to use the land and buildings for agricultural purposes.

962 Garden Street's immediate surroundings attest to East Palo Alto's changing agricultural character. On the property next door, to the east, a Weeks-era tankhouse has been remodeled into a residence. Behind it extend the remnants of a poultry house as well as long greenhouses, marking the transition of a Runnymede poultry ranch to floriculture, a process which began in the 1930s.

The combination of house, tankhouse, and poultry house make 962 Garden one of East Palo Alto's most historically significant properties, an intact fragment of Runnymede's agricultural landscape.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name 661 Cherry St.
2. Common or current name
3. Number & street 1039 Garden St.  
Cross-corridor

Ser. no.  
 National Register status 582  
 Local designation

- |                      |               |           |                  |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| City East Palo Alto  | Vicinity only | Zip 94303 | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10     | B 577260      | C 4146850 | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558 | Parcel No.    | Other     |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set amidst dense foliage is the house at 1039 Garden St. The dwelling is a boxy structure with thin clapboard siding covering most of the house. Wider shiplap siding covers the high foundations. The main entry is located centrally on the front facade. The front door has a single glazed panel. On the other side of the entry are two windows, one a pair of double-hung models, the other of the fixed sash variety. Behind the dwelling is an extensive collection of agricultural buildings. The remains of a 1920s tankhouse can be seen just behind a carport and just in front of a range of greenhouses. These greenhouses may have supported a small flower-growing business of a Japanese family during the 1940s and 1950s.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1925 Original location Believed to be the same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

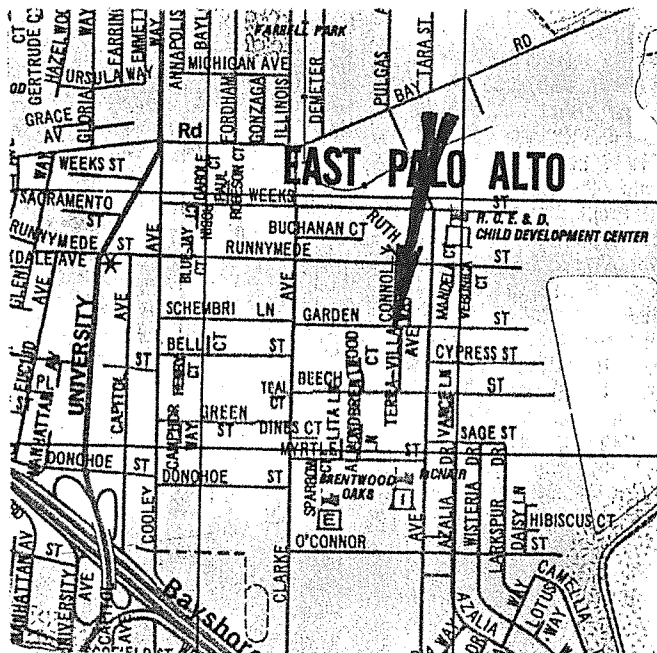
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The house has little architectural significance. Better examples of bungalow architecture remain in East Palo Alto. The ensemble of agricultural buildings-- farmhouse, tankhouse, and greenhouses, however, has social significance, however. The tankhouse probably served the needs of a small poultry or dairy farm during the 1920s and 1930s. The greenhouse may have supported the intensive agricultural efforts of Japanese owners during the following two or three decades. Increasingly few of these groups of agricultural buildings remain; few agricultural landowners can resist the economic pressures militating for residential development. The house may have been built by Frank Woodside, an accountant, and his wife, Germaine, in the mid-1920s. The Woodsides lived here until the mid 1930s, when they sold the property to George Felsch, a machinist, and his wife, Agnes.

20. Sources R. L. Pol'k Palo Alto City Directory, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1938, 1944).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
  - 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
  - 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation October 10, 1993
  - 24. Survey type Comprehensive
  - 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
  - 26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

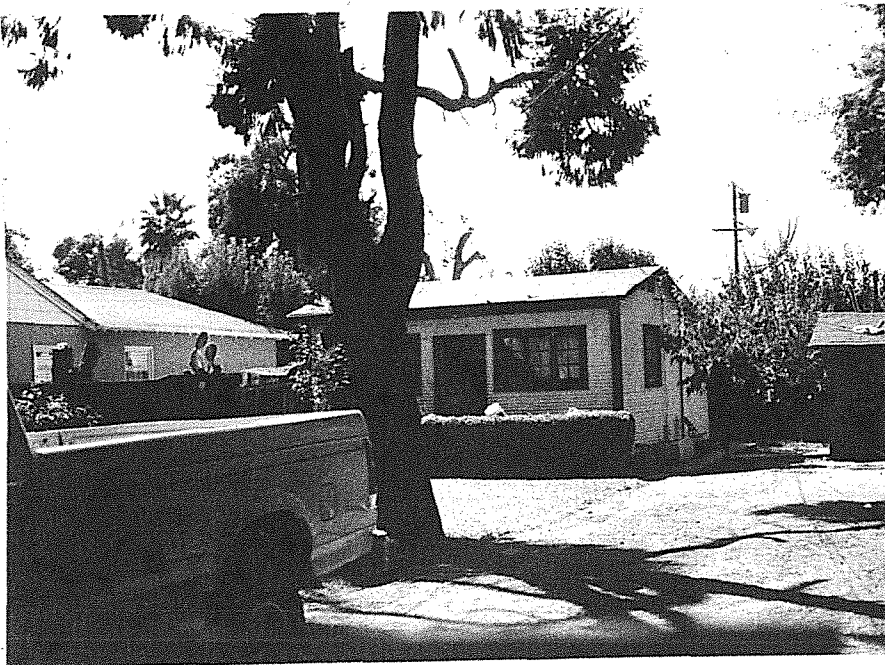
1. Historic name
2. Common or current name
3. Number & street 2361 Glen Way  
City East Palo Alto
4. UTM zone A 10
5. Quad map No. 1558
- Vicinity only B 575810
- Parcel No.
- Cross-corridor Zip 94303
- C 4147080
- County San Mateo D
- Other

Ser. no.  
National Register status 5S2  
Local designation

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

2361 Glen Way is a small side-gabled cottage set well back from the road. It is covered in light clapboard siding. Window and door trim, corner and fascia boards are painted a contrasting color. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof. The original house forms a simple rectangle; a small addition off the rear has given the tiny dwelling a saltbox shape. The entrance to the house is located centrally on the front facade. Two triplet windows frame the front door. The outer windows of each triplet are casements. One pair of casement windows exist on the north side. Above this window pair under the gable's peak, is a louvered attic vent.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address
10. Type of ownership
11. Present use
12. Zoning
13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c.1930                      Original location Believed to be the same                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date
16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization, 1920s-1930s                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s                      Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

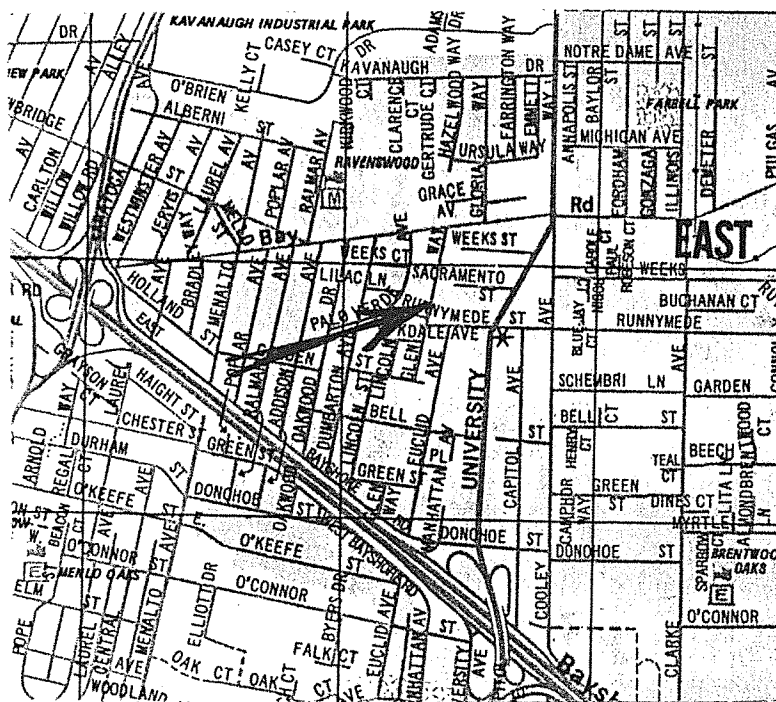
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The original owner of this tiny residence probably constructed it as a vacation dwelling, either for personal or rental use. In the 1930s and 1940s, many middle class families summered in the Palo Alto Park subdivision. Only two permanent street addresses were listed in Palo Alto's 1944 city directory for houses on Glen Way, although more rental properties probably existed at the time. (An early listed owner, Mrs. Martha Hewitt, appeared in the 1948 directory.) This house, along with its neighbor at 2369 Glen Way, probably accommodated vacationers, was much less densely populated, and boasted numerous amenities to entice vacationers, including a large neighborhood swimming pool. This pool was located on the grounds of what is now the Palo Alto Park Water District headquarters.

20. Sources *R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1944, 1948).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation February 12, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

1. Historic name

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 2369 Glen Way

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Cross-corridor

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 575820

C 4147140

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No. 063-197-220

Other

Ser. no.

National Register status 5S2

Local designation

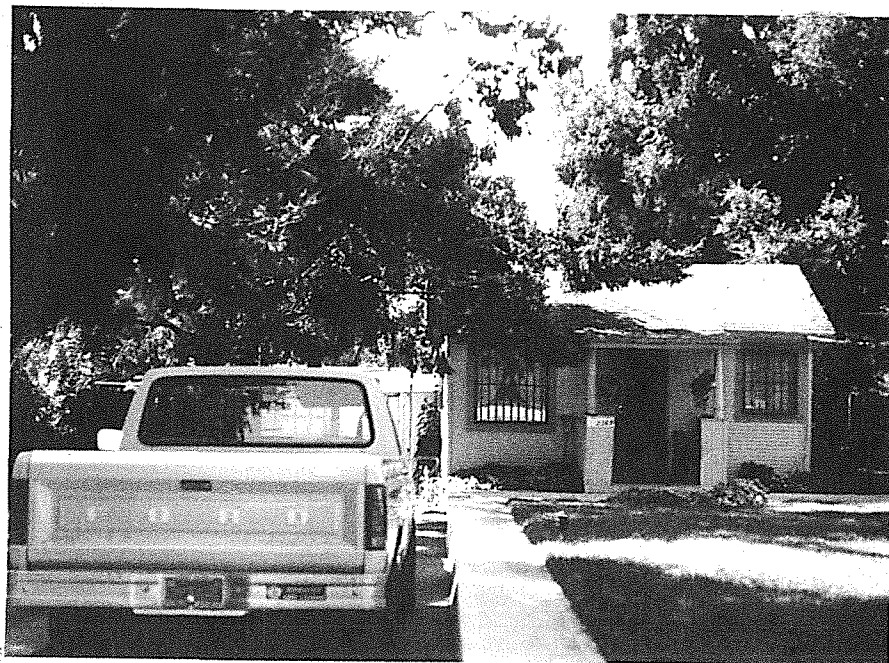
DESCRIPTION

6. Property category

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The cottage at 2369 Glen Way is comparable to its neighbor at 2361 Glen Way, having a small cubic shape, simple gabled roof, and symmetrical fenestration. It is also positioned back from the road, behind a chainlink fence. The roof is side-gabled, clad with asphalt shingles. The front door is sheltered by a projecting front porch, which was probably added later. Elevated colonettes support the porch roof. The front door is located centrally, sandwiched between two windows. Both front windows have protective wrought iron bars over them. A sunken driveway trimmed with concrete curbs leads back to a small garage set behind the cottage.



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address

Alberto Perez

1655 Rogers Ave.

San Jose, CA 95112

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1930                      Original location Believed to be the same                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization, 1920s-1930s                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s                      Property type Domestic structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

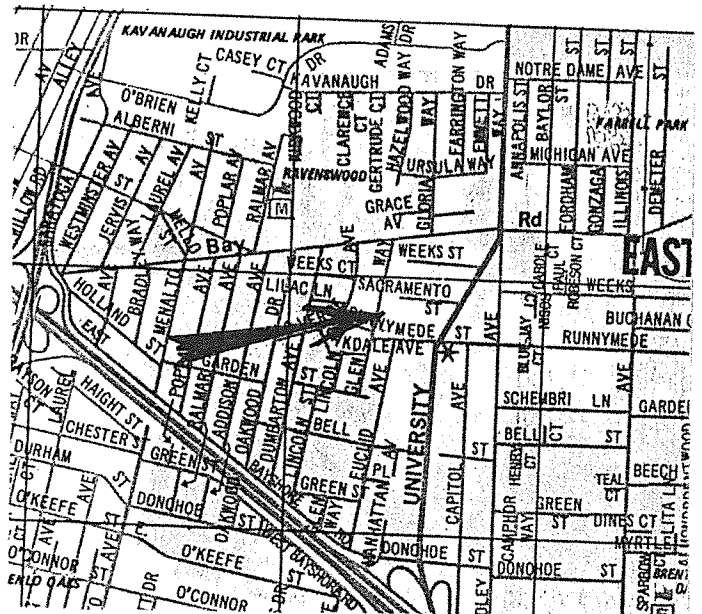
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This tidy little house, like its neighbor at 2361 Glen Way, was probably built in the 1930s to serve as a vacation cottage in the Palo Alto Park subdivision. Its small size and economical character suggests that it was not meant originally for year-around habitation. According to the 1948 city directory, early owners were John H. and Martha E. Bastian.

20. Sources *R. L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1944, 1948).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation February 12, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

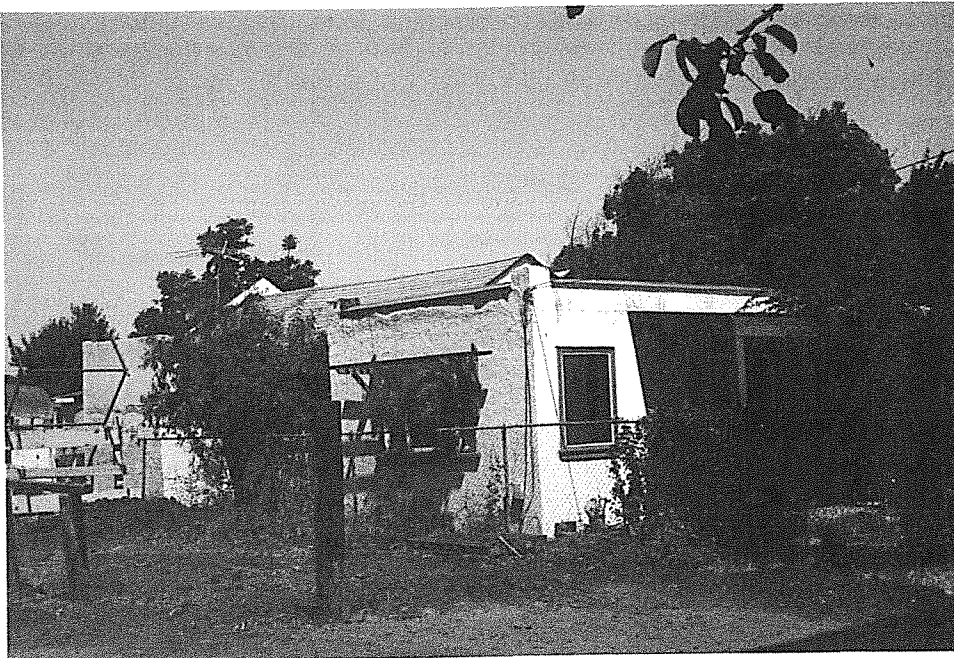
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                  |               |                              |                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                 |               | Ser. no.                     |                  |
| 2. Common or current name        |               | National Register status 5S2 |                  |
| 3. Number & street 781 Green St. |               | Local designation            |                  |
| City East Palo Alto              | Vicinity only | Cross-corridor<br>Zip 94303  | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                 | B 576360      | C 4146540                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558             | Parcel No.    | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The front portion of the house at 781 Green St. is a small stucco-sided cube with a flat roof. Four square blocks project up at the corners above the parapet. A porch projects in front, sheltering the main entry. To either side of the door are two sidelights, and flanking these are double-hung windows. Subsequent owners have made numerous additions to this square front portion of the house; a large, front-gabled addition stands in back as does a smaller shed-roofed section. An important feature remaining in the backyard is the long agricultural shed strung along the property line with 763 Green St. This ramshackle structure appears to be a long chicken house, perhaps one of the few such remnants of the Weeks Poultry Colony. This poultry house's board and batten walls list badly, and its roof is uncovered in spots. Plywood sheets cover holes in the wall fabric.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address Unknown
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats The poultry house is in a serious state of neglect.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c.1920                      Original location Unknown                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date
16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02—Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s & 1930s                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s -1930s                      Property type Domestic structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The remaining Weeks era poultry house at 781 Green St. gives this site its historical significance. It is probably one of three such poultry house remnants left in East Palo Alto. The layout of the farmhouse and the extended chicken house corresponds to the model promoted by Charles Weeks. Weeks era farmers often positioned their poultry houses to act as boundary markers and fences, distinguishing their small one or two acre parcels from the next. The small, square, stucco-sided bungalow in front dates from c. 1920, and is a very simplified essay in the Spanish Colonial Revival Style. Better examples of the style exist in East Palo Alto, as at 2362 Palo Verde Ave.

## 20. Sources

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria

22. Other recognition -----

State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----

23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson

Date of evaluation February 6, 1994

24. Survey type Comprehensive

25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project

26. Year form prepared 1994

By (name) A. Michelson

Organization San Mateo County Historical Association

Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.

City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone 415/574-6441



**State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name             | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name    | National Register status 5S2 |
| 3. Number & street 794 Green | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto          | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10             | County San Mateo             |
| B 576340                     | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558         | Other                        |
| Parcel No. 063-372-470       |                              |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources district, 3 resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

At 794 Green, one acre of land provides the site for a small house, a tankhouse, and a greenhouse. A side-gabled roof covers the small house, which has a compact rectangular plan with a rear addition. Three bays define the facade. A narrow gabled porch projects from the center and is flanked on each side by a pair of double-hung windows. The house is carefully maintained, with its narrow clapboard siding a freshly-painted pale yellow, its plain trim white. A new redwood rail enclosing the small porch is the only notable addition to the facade, and this does not significantly detract from the structure's integrity. The interior of the house retains the original woodwork.

While the house is in excellent condition, the agricultural structures on the site have deteriorated significantly. The tankhouse, which stands to the right at a distance from the house, is partially obscured by a high fence and various things stacked around it. A thick wooden platform, missing its water tank, crowns the structure, which is clad with narrow, unpainted clapboard siding edged with cornerboards. It is square in plan and its walls rise straight up from ground to platform, without noticeable battering. The structure may remain intact, but the cladding is splitting and cracking. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning  
Department
9. Owner & address: Ichitaro & M.J.  
Tanaka, 794 Green St.,  
East Palo Alto, CA., 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) house, 1927; tankhouse, 1920A; greenhouse, unknown  
 Original location same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date A new porch rail of plain balusters has recently been added.
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

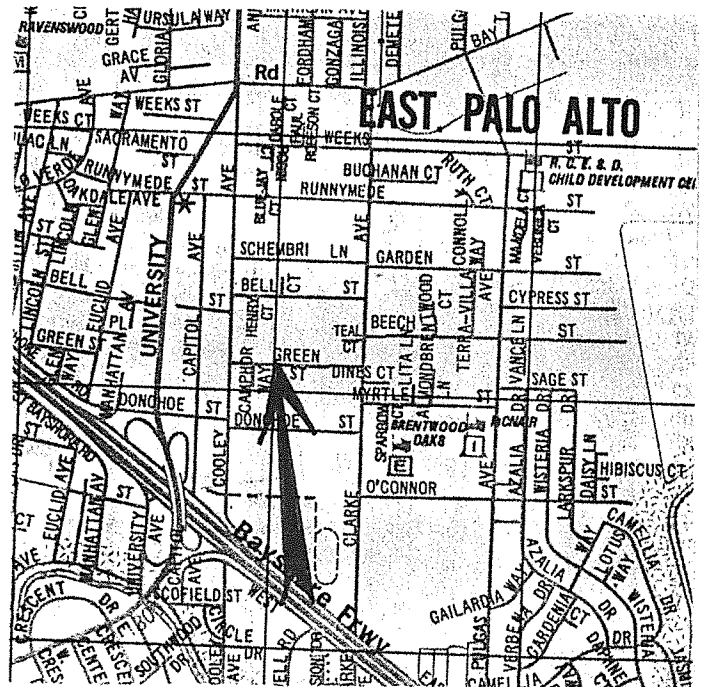
- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony; Floriculture Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1916-1920s; 1930s-1950s Property type residential; agricultural Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The structures at 794 Green represent several aspects of East Palo Alto's history: the Runnymede poultry colony, new "infill" (or replacement) construction during the later 1920s and 1930s, and the influx of flower growers from the 1930s on. This one-acre lot was probably once part of a three-acre farm belonging to J. Herron and Frank Chester, who held this land beginning around 1921 or 1922. (See continuation sheet.)

- 20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); "First Families of Runnymede," n.d., brochure in the collection of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation Sept. 9, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET: 794 Green

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

Behind the house stands a broad greenhouse reduced to a skeletal condition. Its wooden members form gables consisting of widely-spaced rafters rising to long ridgeboards. These rest on an unenclosed frame of girts and posts. The gables, which are immediately contiguous, cover an area that was once one continuous space. Today, the material that once filled this framework has disappeared except for a bits of plastic clinging to the wood.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

(Since they were not listed as living in Runnymede in the 1919-20 directory, it is possible that a predecessor on the land built the tankhouse.) The only structure remaining from their early days as Runnymede ranchers is the tankhouse. With its square footprint, stocky silhouette, and sturdy platform, it resembles others in the Runnymede area of East Palo Alto, such as the clapboard one sandwiched between two garages at 2124 University Avenue.

While many Runnymede tankhouses are located close to the house, often immediately behind it (as at 992 Myrtle), this stands at a distance from the house's right side. It is likely that the house postdates the tankhouse; assessor's records list 1927 as its date of construction. (Since the tankhouses was usually the first structure constructed on a Runnymede farm, it is unlikely that this tankhouse, located on land that had been farmed since the early 1920s, is contemporary with the 1927 house). With its diminutive gabled porch and absence of such Craftsman features as exposed rafters or brackets, it bears a closer kinship with less rustic houses such as 820 Weeks than with 761 Weeks, which is a more classic Craftsman bungalow. We see here, then, a later house added onto an existing Runnymede lot, a phenomenon that would become increasingly common in the late 1920s, when this house was built, and the 1930s.

Beginning in the 1930s, flower growers began to establish nurseries in East Palo Alto, some of them on the larger properties near Bayshore, others on Weeks colony lots such as this one. The greenhouses crowd behind the small house, their proportions adapting quite easily to the dimensions of the Runnymede lot. Contiguous gables covering one large open space were used by many flower growers in East Palo Alto, including Albert Nakai whose greenhouses at 1054 Weeks Street provide an example of how these might once have looked. Wooden frames such as this were especially common before World War II, when the more prosperous growers began to replace them with metal. Few if any greenhouses survive from the prewar period, however, and this may very well postdate the war.

Only the house itself is in good condition (hence it is the primary resource documented here), but taken together, the ensemble of structures present in microcosm the remnants of several phases of East Palo Alto's history.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Ser. no.

National Register status 4S2

Local designation

1. Historic name formerly 585 Walnut

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 881 Green St.

Cross-corridor Clarke

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 576520

C 4146560

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No. 063-371-090 Other

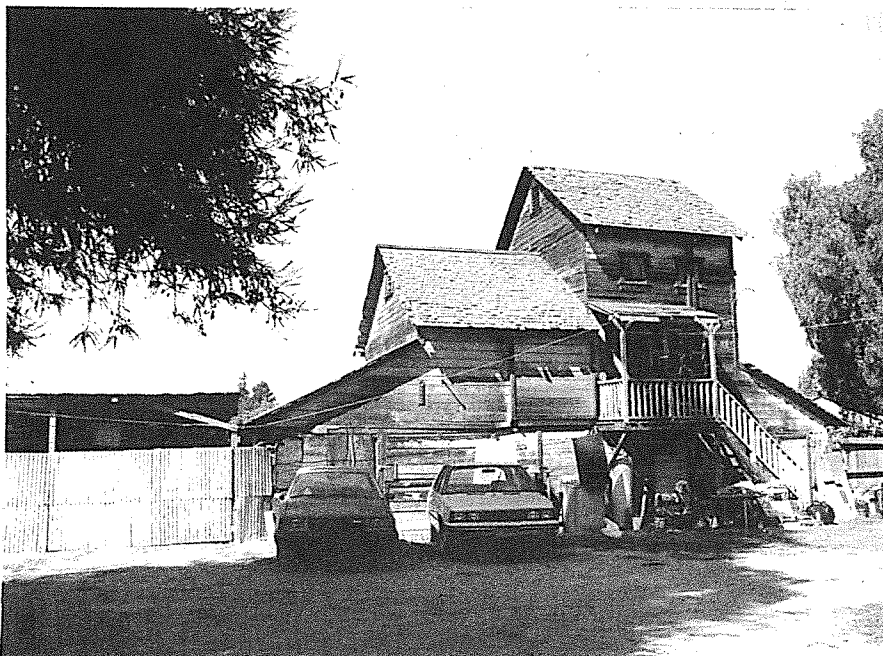
DESCRIPTION

6. Property category Building (house at front of lot not recorded)

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

In a city where most structures have one, or at most two stories, the three-story agricultural structure at 881 Green stands out dramatically. The house in front of it, parts of which were purportedly moved from Camp Fremont, has been so radically altered that only the agricultural building behind it will be discussed in this survey. This structure, which is now quite ramshackle, once functioned as a combined barn and tankhouse. It consists of two gabled sections, side by side, one with two stories, the other with three. A lean-to with a sloping roof extends off to each side. Tattered shingled roofs covers the various portions of building, which is clad with weathered, unpainted clapboard siding. The boards are continuous from the gabled portions across the lean-tos. The third story of the tall, three-story portion of the building once contained a redwood water tank that held 3000 gallons. Two square windows with flat sills and plain surrounds light this area. In the early 1950s, an attempt was made to turn the second story into a living space with the addition of a triple window (now, with broken panes), the stairs that rise from the right, and the porch, with its plain balustrade and its square post supports with simple diagonal braces. (The space was never occupied.) Before these alterations, the second floor was reached by a ladder. In the two-story portion of the building, a large sliding door consisting of horizontal boards set in a plain square frame, opens into the second floor, and another sliding door opens into the first, which was once used as a wood shop. Each lean-to area may also be reached by a door. (Located on lot 4 of lot 26 Faber subdivision.)



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address

Romero A. and Hermosa B. Tan

881 Green St., East Palo Alto, CA 94303

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Unknown

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1917A                      Original location Unknown                      Date moved Unknown
15. Alterations & date Addition of stairs rising from the right to the second-story porch, also an addition of porch, and of three vertical windows lighting the second story, all done in the early 1950s to convert the second story in the right-hand section into a living space which was ultimately never occupied because there was not permit for the alterations.
16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property, 33--Farm/Ranch, 38--Women's Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1916-1920s                                      Property type single family; ranch                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

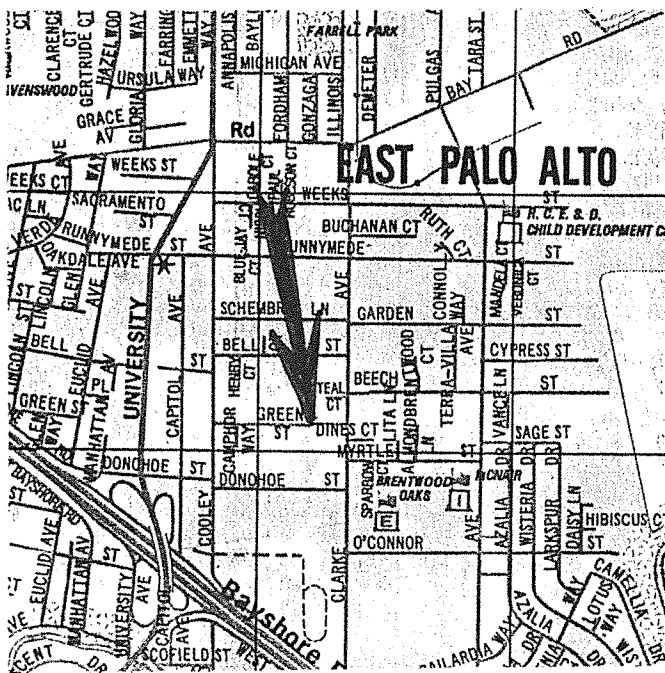
The property at 881 Green once consisted of a house, parts of which may have been moved from another location (purportedly Camp Fremont), a combination barn and tankhouse behind it, and two long poultry houses. The house has been almost entirely rebuilt and the poultry houses are gone, but the three-story agricultural structure behind the house still looms higher than any other farm building in East Palo Alto. As a tankhouse, it is highly unusual. (See continuation sheet.)

### 20. Sources

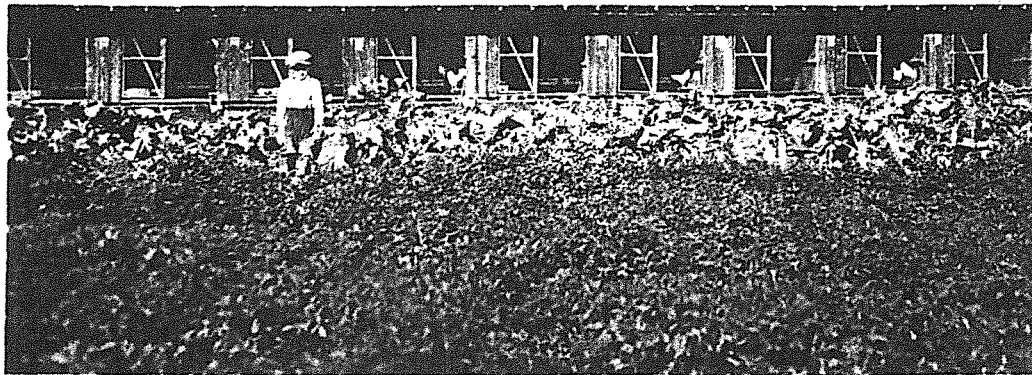
*Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*. Willis L Hall, Publisher, 1919-20 and 1921-22 editions.  
*San Mateo County Book of Deeds*, vol. 268, pp. 100-101, and vol. 282, p. 359.  
 Telephone interviews with Barbara Clark, Nancy Rusch, Rober Albertson, Margaret Albertson Edge, and Milton Lamoreaux, all on 30 Aug. 1993.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation September, 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441







POULTRY HOUSE ON THE ALBERTSON  
PROPERTY

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (CONTINUED)

This site was once part of the first section of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony, also known as Runnymede, an area where the early settlers during the 'teens constructed tankhouses for water storage. Except for its vertical dimensions, nothing about the structure at 881 Green would immediately suggest that it is a tankhouse as well as a barn. In Runnymede, the tanks crowning the many tankhouses that once dotted the landscape rested atop the enclosed structure and were left open save, perhaps, for a protective railing and a pyramidal roof. Here, at 881 Green, the large redwood water tank was kept inside the building on the third floor, beneath the gabled roof. Many of Runnymede's tankhouses have sides that are slightly (or in some cases markedly) battered, but at 881 Green the walls rise straight up. In Runnymede, it is not unusual to find tankhouses with additional rooms built onto them, generally to provide living space, but there are no other known examples where a tankhouse abuts a barn of this size. In fact, this building bears little resemblance to Northern California tankhouses in general.

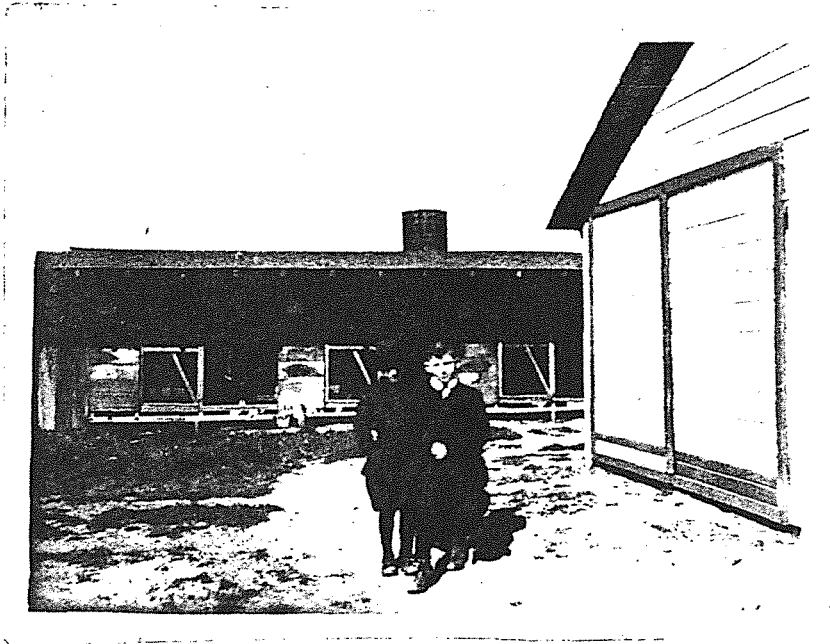
As one of the more unusual sites in East Palo Alto today, this building raises the intriguing question of who built it this way and why. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine this conclusively. Early deeds reveal that the property changed hands several times during Runnymede's founding years. It was first owned by of a man named Joseph Price, who probably acquired it from Peter Faber sometime in 1916 or early 1917 after Faber began selling his land to Runnymede settlers. Before long, on September 13, 1917, Price is recorded as having sold two acres to Nettie Reynolds, a single woman. Ms. Reynolds was one of a number of independent women who settled in Runnymede. Poultry farming had been touted as a good venture for women by the Palo Alto Woman's Club in a 1911 promotional book on Santa Clara Valley, and single women had been tilling irrigated acreage in California since the late nineteenth century. Nettie Reynolds only held the property for two years. On September 10, 1919, she sold her land to Alfred E. and Mayme E. Albertson, a married couple who had worked in wheat and grain in the San Joaquin Valley. The Albertson family held the property until the 1960s. The Albertsons' descendents and neighbors believe that both the agricultural building and a small house already stood on the site when the Albertsons bought the land; a photograph, thought to have been taken right after the purchase, shows both the house and the tankhouse in place, both of them immaculately painted. The Albertsons set themselves up as poultry farmers on two acres that stretched to the corner of Clarke. They continued to raise poultry into the 1930s, but during the Depression, like so many other Runnymede colonists, they sought outside employment.

With the rapid changes in ownership during the late 'teens, it is hard to say who actually built this unusual structure or why he or she constructed it so differently from other Weeks colony buildings. If it were constructed in 1917, as the assessor's records indicate, this points to Nettie Reynolds. Another possibility might be that this structure, like the house, was an existing older building built here or moved from another location and adapted to Weeks colony purposes. It joins 892 Green Street, a center-gabled structure that may date from the nineteenth century, in being a structure that is highly unusual for its context and a landmark in East Palo Alto.

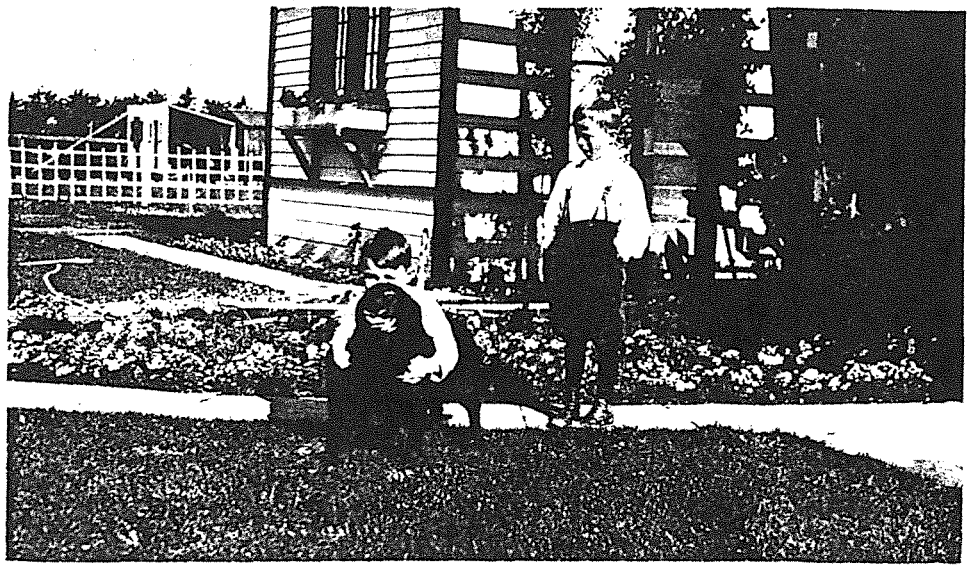
reco: Bob & Mary  
Alfred & Hans  
sun home in EPA.  
Bob Rogers  
Mary Rogers Bob  
sister



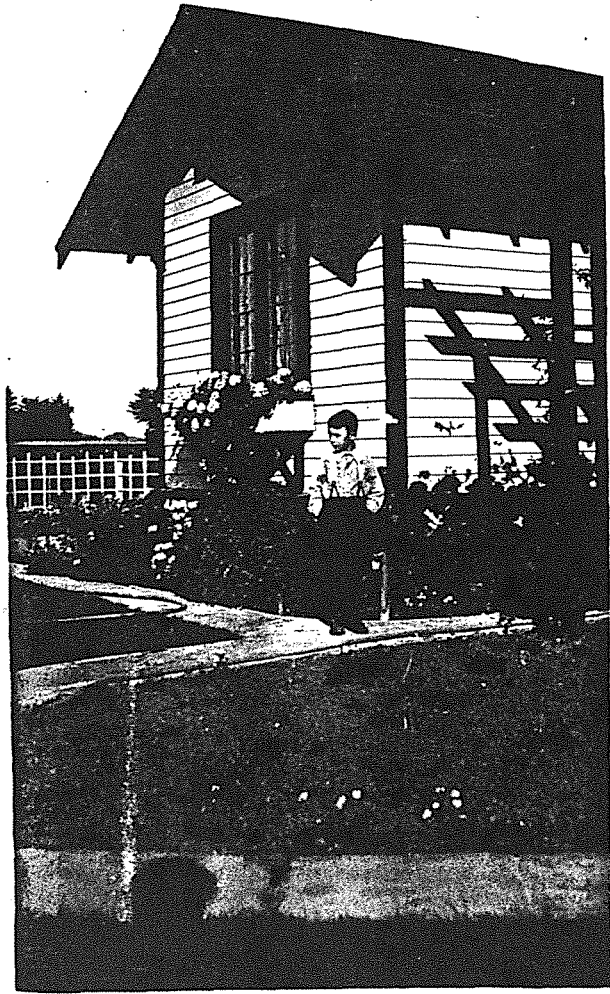
reco: Al & Hans



Albertson family  
Photos collector Nancy Busch



*John and John*



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

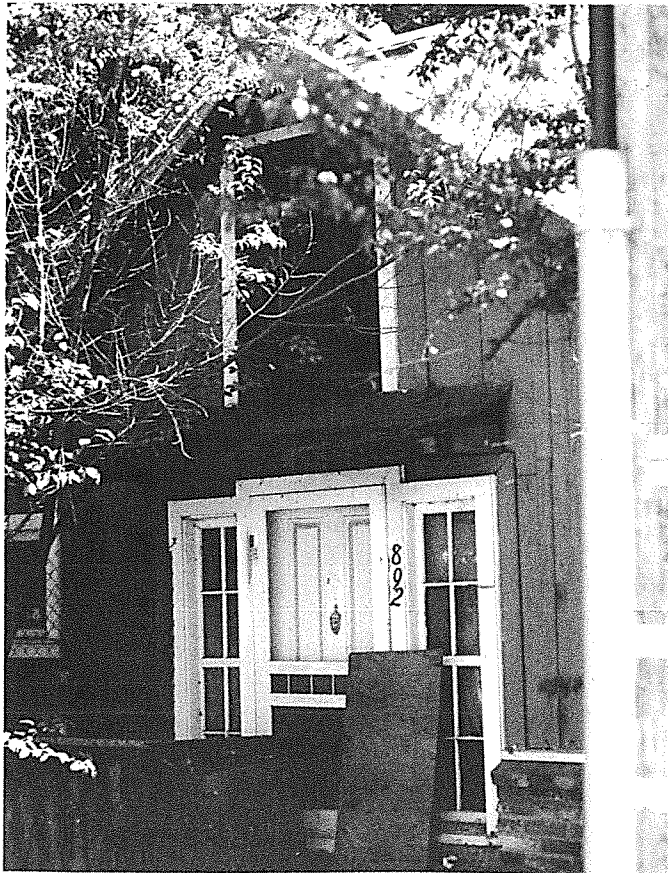
Ser. no.  
National Register status 4S2  
Local designation

1. Historic name 586 Walnut
2. Common or current name
3. Number & street 892 Green Street  
City East Palo Alto Vicinity only Cross-corridor Clarke  
Zip 94303 County San Mateo
4. UTM zone A B C D
5. Quad map No. Parcel No. 063-373-170 Other

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The building at 892 Green St. is one of the most unusual in East Palo Alto, and perhaps is one of its oldest. It is cross-gabled, with a tar paper roof. A shed-roofed addition lines the rear, and a tankhouse is attached on the east end. The building is covered in board and batten siding with a brick veneer covering the foundation line in front. Its fenestration looks to have changed considerably over the years. The front door is located under a small but prominent center gable. The main entryway is covered by a projecting roof, and the door is flanked by two sidelights. Above the porch roof is a large fixed window. To the east of the front door is a long window with fixed sash. The west facade of the first floor features two, large, double-hung windows. The second floor has a large, central double-hung opening set between two, smaller, fixed lights. A louvered attic vent exists above these windows. Behind the house on the south is a long stucco addition creating a salt box form. This addition is lit by a long, ten-light fixed window on the west side. The tankhouse on the east side is also covered in board and batten siding. Its lower floor is lit by a fixed six-light window. Above this window is a row of dentils, painted white to match the window and door trim. Above the dentil band are two small windows on the upper floor. Heavy beams protrude under the eaves; these beams once supported a large water tank, but now hold only a slightly pitched roof. (Lot 5 of lot 27 Faber subdivision, per 1925 Runnymede map)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Charles R. and Star M. Cook  
2063373170, Palo Alto, CA 94301
10. Type of ownership private
11. Present use residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- |  |                           |            |
|--|---------------------------|------------|
| 14. Construction date(s) 1916/1916   | Original location Unknown | Date moved |
| 15. Alterations & date   |                           |            |
| 16. Architect Unknown  | Builder Unknown           |            |
| 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property |                           |            |

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

- |   |                                      |                                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony | Area East Palo Alto                  |                                 |
| Period 1910s-1920s  | Property type single family property | Context formally developed? Yes |
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The history and ownership of this unusual building are difficult to trace. Address numbers changed repeatedly in city directories of the 1925-1940 period, and occupants of the area seem to have moved in and out frequently. It is certain, however, that occupants of the late 1910s through the 1920s farmed here, raising either poultry or rabbits. Photographs of the Weeks Colony taken c.1917 show a center-gabled building and tankhouse on this location. A Robert Dunipace lived next door at 896 Green, and owned the entire lot 5 of block 27 of the Faber subdivision, the plot on which 892 Green St. stands. Dunipace was a poultry farmer, and one of the first settlers in Runnymede's First Addition in 1916. It is possible that 892 Green St. originally functioned as a barn for Dunipace's bungalow at 896 Green St., and was later renovated (perhaps during the Depression) for housing purposes. It is also possible that the center-gabled building at 892 Green St. pre-dated Dunipace's arrival, and was an out-building for an earlier, perhaps nineteenth century farmer in the area. It could have been moved to this site. The building's center-gabled form and board and batten siding recall Gothic Revival Style buildings built in California during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The tankhouse could have been built earlier, at the same time as the barn, or later at the time of the Weeks Colony. The tankhouse's dentil band is a very unusual decorative flourish, rarely seen on other Runnymede tankhouses.

This center-gabled house may be one of the few nineteenth-century structures remaining in East Palo Alto. It shares a one-acre Weeks-era lot with a Week-era bungalow that now has the address of 896 Green (formerly 590 Walnut). During the Runnymede era, the lot was owned by Robert D. and Rebecca Dunipace who were ranchers and raised poultry. In the 1919-20 Palo Alto city directory there is an additional listing in bold, as an advertisement that says "fur and meat rabbits and squabs, Clark and Walnut, Runnymede, Menlo Park RFD 1, box 52. Dunipace remained there and continued to raise poultry into the 1930s (though in 1930 he was a nurseryman). Dunipace was still there, at 896 Green, in 1940.

So, the question is, when was 892 Green (formerly 586 Walnut), constructed, and when did it become a residence? The address of 586 Walnut does not appear in the directories until 1937, when Iva and George Dirks, a teacher moved in. A possible scenario: At some point the Dunipaces built this structure or perhaps moved it to this location. It is clearly on their property. Arguments in favor of it having been moved here: it has no foundation, its proportions and center-gabled form are reminiscent of an earlier Gothic Revival style buildings, and its siting is awkward. They may have used it as an agricultural structure and then rented it out as a house later on, perhaps during the Depression to make extra money.

The property has a small house plus a center-gabled structure that looks earlier and as if it could have been moved there. From the early construction date of 1916 listed in the San Mateo County Assessors records, it appears that this family was among Runnymede's first settlers.

20. Sources Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Raveswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Willis Hall, Publisher, Palo Alto, 1921-22; *Polk's Palo Alto Directory*, (R.L. Polk San Francisco, Ca., editions for 1930, 1935, 1937, and 1940. San Mateo County Assessors Records.

892 Green St. ( Con't.)

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation February 16, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name				Ser. no.
2. Common or current name				National Register status 582
3. Number & street 2231 Lincoln				Local designation
City East Palo Alto	Vicinity only	Cross-corridor	Zip 94303	County San Mateo
4. UTM zone A 10	B 575630	C 41466790	D	
5. Quad map No. 1558	Parcel No. Saxe: 063-182-100; McGee: 063-182-170			Other

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 2231 Lincoln St. is set close to the road behind a chain-link fence. The houses in the Palo Alto Park subdivision of East Palo Alto are densely packed, and 2231 Lincoln St. stands close to its neighbors on a fifty foot lot. The house has a cross-gabled roof covered with gravel. Rafters of the main side-facing gable project on the front. Knee brackets support the main gable on the north facade. Stucco covers the house's walls. A brick veneer stands out just above the foundation line. A matching brick base supports a projecting front porch. The front porch is covered by a small, shallowly pitched gable roof. Knee brackets support this porch roof. Paired brackets rest on the brick base to hold up this gable. The front door is set between two sidelights. Pairs of double-hung windows flank the main entry, creating a symmetrical fenestration. The north side facade is lit by a series of double-hung windows - one large, one small, and a pair towards the rear (west). A detached garage stands in back. The garage door has a pediment above the garage door carried by simple Doric pilasters.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Janet C. Saxe  
st. on available  
Louise TR McGee  
2239 Lincoln St.  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1930 Original location Presumably Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unkown Builder Unkown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization, 1920s-1930s Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s Property type Domestic Structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This house, probably dating from the late 1920s, is one of the best remaining bungalows in Palo Alto Park, a subdivision built to house middle class residents and vacationers, who migrated to the area during the summer. The dwelling at 2231 Lincoln St. has many details-- paired porch columns, symmetrical fenestration, knee brackets, and low one-story rooflines-- which make it an excellent example of small pattern-book bungalows of the period. Most other 1920s bungalows remaining in East Palo Alto have undergone substantial modifications.

20. Sources

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation January 6, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name		Ser. no.	
2. Common or current name		National Register status	4S2 Tower
3. Number & street 992 Myrtle		Local designation	5S3 House
City East Palo Alto	Vicinity only	Cross-corridor	Zip 94303
			County San Mateo
4. UTM zone A 10	B 576710	C 4146410	D
5. Quad map No. 1558	Parcel No.	Other	

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

992 Myrtle is a small side-gabled house with a tankhouse behind it. A simple cottage, rectangular in plan, it has long horizontal proportions. Tar paper weatherproofs the roof and wooden shingles, painted white, clad the exterior walls. Board and batten siding, rather than shingles, covers the gables. Brown trim provides contrast. A shed roof, which slides down from the main roof to the left of center, creates a small porch sheltering the front door. To the west of the door is a single window, muntins dividing the upper lights into a decorative pattern of squares and rectangles. To the east of the front door is a triple set of double-hung windows with a similarly patterned header. The east facade bears windows of different sizes, and a windowless shed-roofed addition projects from the original rectangular plan. The west facade features two pairs of windows. Behind the house, one can glimpse a group of Weeks-era agricultural buildings, including a weathered board and batten tankhouse which no longer bears its water tank. The house, except for its roof, is in good condition. A picket fence running along the street, marks the boundaries of the front garden. In front of the fence, a gnarled tree bears a metal sign indicating the house's address.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats Residential development is encroaching on the water tower.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c. 1917                      Original location Presumably                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Sturcture, 33--Farm/Ranch

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charlles Weeks Poutry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1920s                                      Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

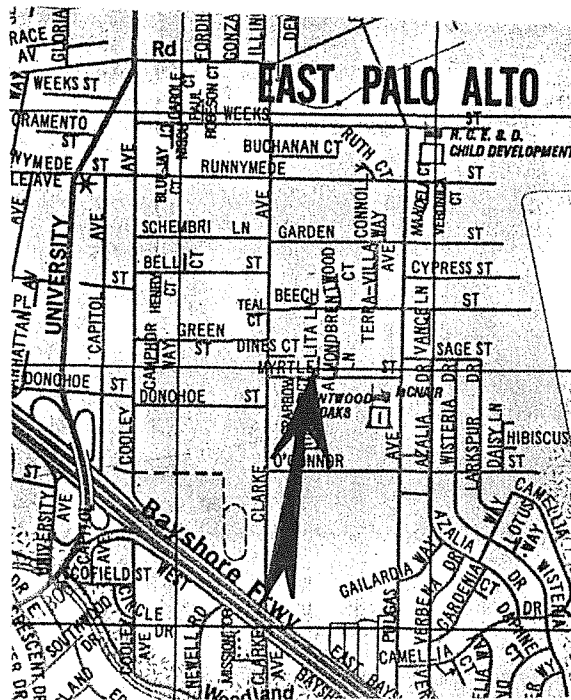
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

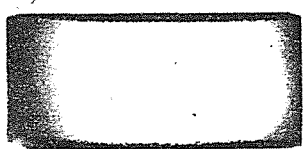
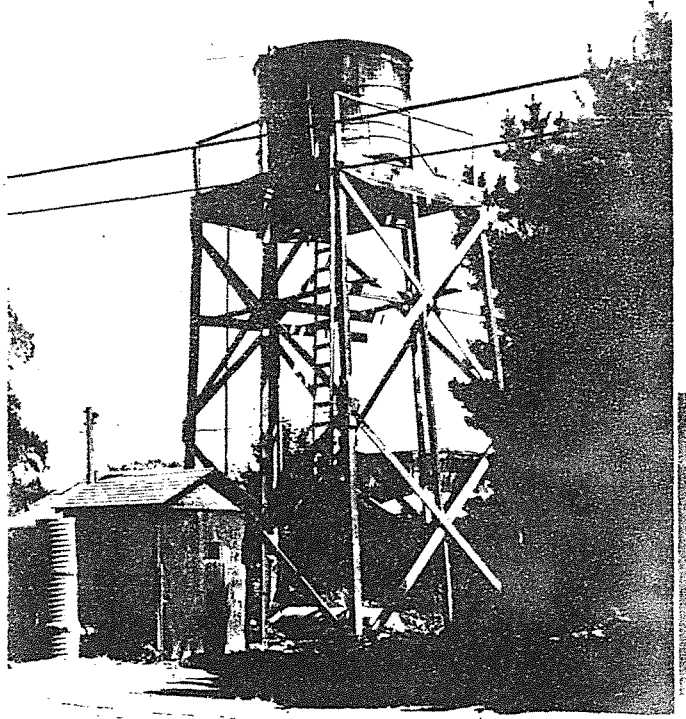
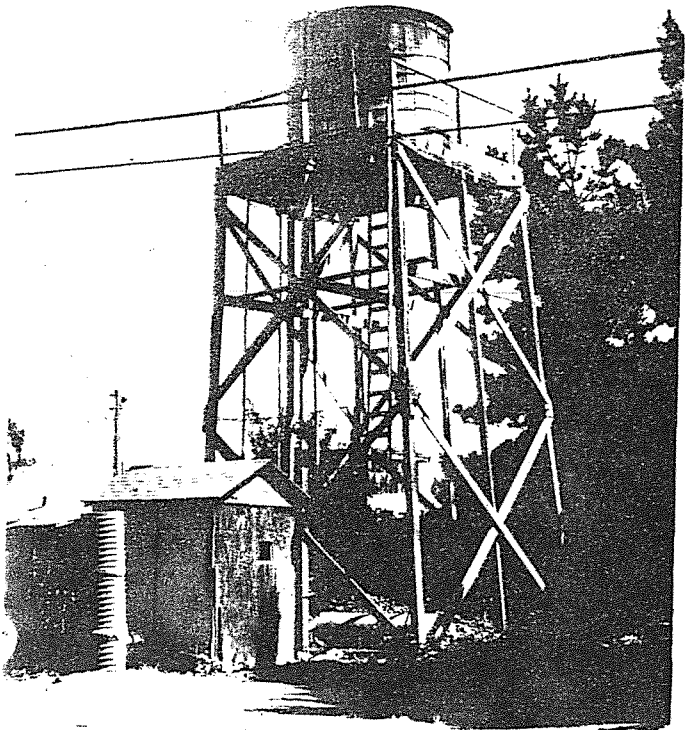
992 Myrtle is an excellent example of the modest cottages constructed by Runnymede's earliest residents. When the colony was at its peak, the property belonged to either Annie W. Anderson or Susie E. Whitney (according to early maps). Though the early Runnymede directories reveal no specific information about either, they represent the small group of independent women who settled in Runnymede. Poultry farming was considered an appropriate occupation for the single woman. With its tankhouse, picket fence, and gnarled tree bearing a weathered sign giving the property's address, 992 Myrtle presents a glimpse of East Palo Alto's agricultural past. Rising next door, to the right, a water tower (discussed separately) marks the transition from an individual water supply to a series of centralized neighborhood water districts. Taken together, the house, tankhouse, and water tower comprise an excellent group of remnants of East Palo Alto's period of intensive agriculture during the 1920s.

20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

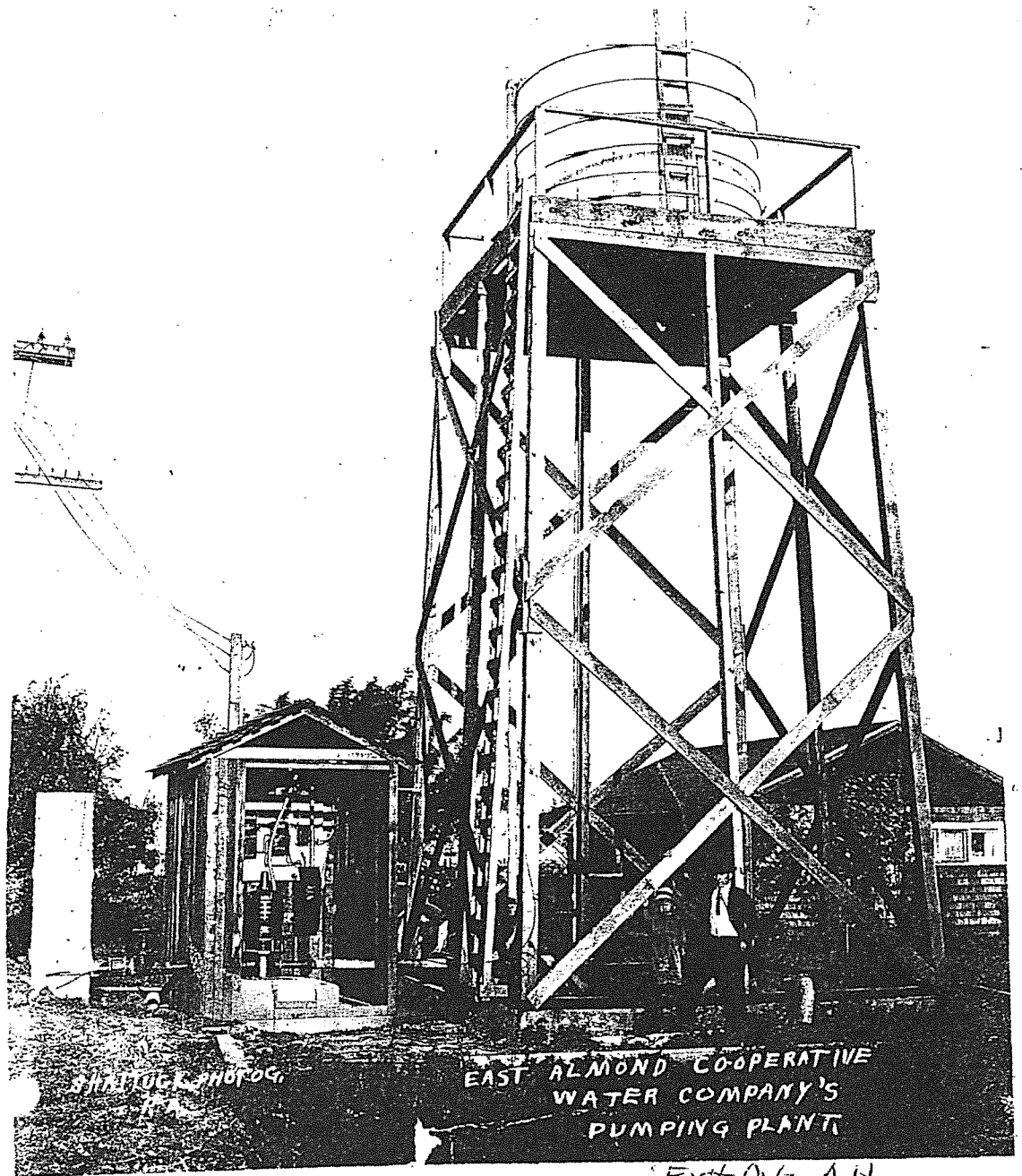
- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation March 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441





## 992 Myrtle St. (Con't.)

It is unclear who owned the property on which the tall water tower next door to 992 Myrtle rests. In the mid-1920s this plot on which the tower stood probably belonged to either Annie W. Anderson or Susie E. Whitney, about whom little is known. According to Robert Garcia, whose father built the water tower and dug the well, the structure dated from 1925 and served the East Almond St. Water Cooperative. A photograph exists of the elder Garcia posing with a son David near the tower just after its completion. In the mid-1920s, neighborhoods in East Palo Alto began to set up cooperative water districts to supercede individual wells, which either went dry (due to a sinking water table) or became contaminated with salt water.



STANTON PHOTOGRAPHY  
P.A.

EAST ALMOND COOPERATIVE  
WATER COMPANY'S  
PUMPING PLANT

East Palo Alto

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

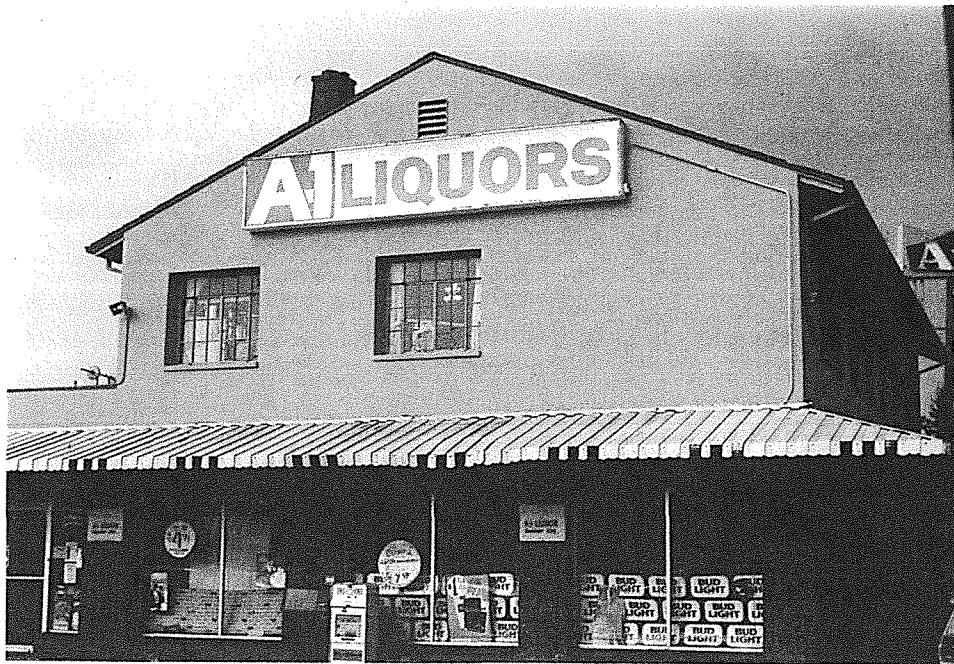
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                           |                |               |                |                          |           |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Historic name          | Reno Club      |               |                | Ser. no.                 |           |
| 2. Common or current name | A-1 Liquors    |               |                | National Register status | 5S2       |
| 3. Number & street        | 587 O'Connor   |               | Cross-corridor | Local designation        |           |
| City                      | East Palo Alto | Vicinity only | Zip 94303      | County                   | San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10           | B 575990      | C 4146100      | D                        |           |
| 5. Quad map No.           | 1558           | Parcel No.    | 063-283-110-3  | Other                    |           |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The building which is now occupied by A-1 Liquors was originally oriented toward University Avenue. Early photographs show a two-story, side-gabled structure that is quite similar to the building as it appears today. On the University Avenue side, two large windows (at least one of which is now filled in) flanked a doorway. The gable end facing O'Connor has been altered the most. Where there were once no openings on the ground floor, there are now three large plate-glass display windows which reorient the building toward University Avenue (probably after there was no longer direct access from Highway 101 after it was transformed into a freeway in the 1950s).



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address Paul & Nada B. Ferrando Trust  
 587 O'Connor, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Commercial
12. Zoning C-1
13. Threats Private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) c. 1938 Original location Same Date moved
15. Alterations & date A one-story addition now projects from the back. Three square windows and a brick facing have been added to the west facade of the building, and the ground floor windows on the south facade have been filled in. It received new signage when the function changed from nightclub to liquor store.
16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06--Commercial Building, 1-3 stories

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Commercial District Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1950s Property type Retail Store Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

587 O'Connor, now A-1 Liquors, was once the location of the well-known Reno Club. Though the club is long gone, the building remains one of the most prominent fragments of "Whiskey Gulch," the name that clings to East Palo Alto's business district to this day. Before Whiskey Gulch was in full swing, the site underwent a series of transitions. At the peak of the Weeks Poultry Colony, it was located in the heart of Woodland Place, a semi-suburban, semi-rural residential residential. During this period, Alice Needham, a widow, lived there from c. 1921-22 until 1935.

20. Sources Palo Alto City Directories of the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s; "Club Afrique," and article in the *Times Tribune* (June 21, 1988) which cites an interview with Jim Zacanti (whom we could not locate); telephone interview with Clide Clard (August 30, 1993); telephone interview with Barbara Clark (August 30, 1993); telephone interview with Margaret Albertson Edge and Milton Lamoreaux (August 30, 1993).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria

22. Other recognition -----

State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----

23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson

Date of evaluation September 1993

24. Survey type Comprehensive

25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project

26. Year form prepared 1993

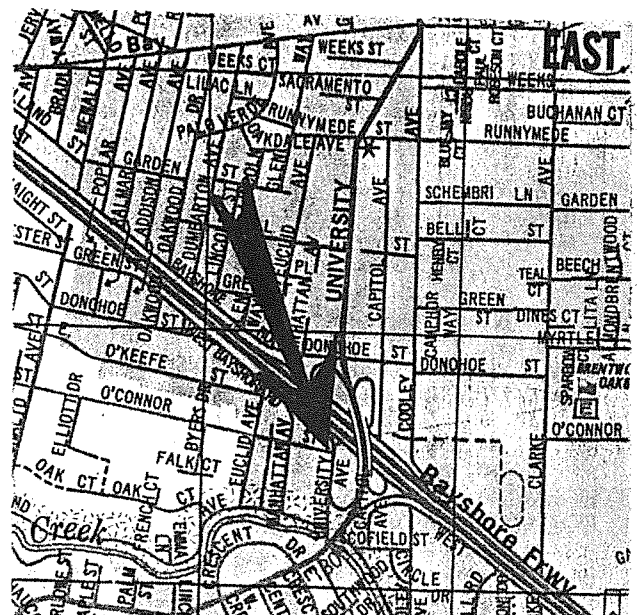
By (name) K. Solomonson

Organization San Mateo County Historical Association

Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.

City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402

Phone 415/574-6441





**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

The Reno Club sign, which once wrapped around the corner between the first and second stories has been removed. So has the bucking bronco, which once filled the empty space next to the two casement windows, its rider swinging a lariat that curved upward to form the words "Reno Club" curling beneath the gable. Plain stucco once clad the entire structure, emphasizing its taut, planar surfaces, but today the ground floor is faced with brick. A row of six multi-paned casement windows with deep reveals light the second story on the University Avenue side. The side facing the freeway is blind. A one-story addition extends from the back. Typical of the businesses constructed along Highway 101 before it was widened in the 1950s, the structure is surrounded by off-street parking.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)**

By the time she left, the residential character of her neighborhood was undergoing a dramatic change. When Highway 101 plunged through East Palo Alto in 1932, its path passed very near the site Mrs. Needham's home, stimulating commercial development along its path and on University Avenue. After Alice Needham moved, the property appears to have stood vacant until Walter A. and Greta Sherlock may have opened a tire repair shop there in 1940. They took advantage of a site near the intersection of University Avenue and Highway 101 to become one of several automobile-oriented businesses clustered in the area.

During the 1930s, this location's character changed along with East Palo Alto's business district. As numerous bars and liquor stores opened their doors to people from the dry city of Palo Alto and travelers on Highway 101, the area was transformed into "Whiskey Gulch." When the Reno Club, the site's longest and best-known resident, moved to the site in 1946, it may already have been devoted to the liquor trade for nearly a decade. As early as 1938, John Ragno Liquors is listed at approximately this location (2005 University Avenue). (Though it currently has an O'Connor address, the building faces University Avenue and the Reno Club once had the address of 2001 University. The changes in the street address at this location make it difficult to determine the presence of John Ragno Liquors with complete certainty, but Mr. Milton Lamoreaux, whose father excavated the site for construction with a team of mules, recalled without prompting that John's was there before the Reno Club.) Jim Zacanti and Ralph Brooks opened the Reno Club in the left two thirds of the building. The well-traveled location could easily be seen and reached from both University Avenue and Bayshore. Like most businesses along the highway, it stood in the middle of a pool of open space that provided plenty of parking. Appropriately for a club named after Reno, the club provided limited gambling; illegal slot machines, which were illegal but reportedly quite common in Whiskey Gulch, operated in the basement. To strengthen the association with Nevada, the silver state, they embedded more than 300 silver dollars in the bar and gave them out as change. Ralph Brooks lived on the second floor of the building until he died in 1963. The Reno Club eventually (c. 1962) moved into a new building next door.

A-1 Liquors eventually occupied the entire ground floor. The widening of Highway 101 (Bayshore) and its transformation into a freeway eliminated the direct access the building once enjoyed. As a result, it has been remodeled and reoriented toward O'Connor and its address has been changed from 2001 University Avenue to 587 O'Connor. Even so, travelers on the Bayshore can still see a fragment of Whiskey Gulch in A-1's neon sign with an arrow urging them to "DRIVE IN."

# BUSINESS BEGINNINGS



This photograph of the Reno Club was taken in the late 1950s. The street out front is University Avenue. Times Tribune file photo

## Club Afrique

6-21-88

Times Tribune?

The Reno Club in East Palo Alto entertained its customers for nearly 40 years with its bar, restaurant and western motifs.

Closed now since 1984, the club's status as an institution is more than a memory. Although the establishment has taken a radical turn and is now the Club Afrique, the branded doors and steer horns that remain remind visitors that this business has a long and interesting history.

Jim Zacanti and Ralph Brooks started the Reno Club in May of 1946. Zacanti, 76, now retired and living in Menlo Park, said he and Brooks started the Reno Club a year earlier in Redwood City, near the Bayshore Freeway. They moved to East Palo Alto when the lease was up.

The origin of the business's name is "very simple," according to Zacanti. "We didn't want to call it Mac's or Jim's or Ralph's like all the others."

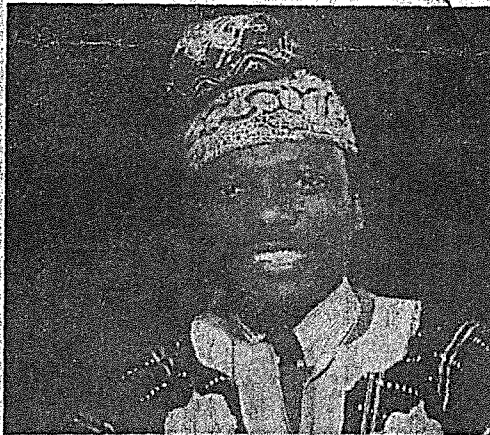
Zacanti liked the Nevada reference and to fulfill Nevada's reputation as the silver state, the Reno Club gave out silver dollars in change and embedded more than 300 of the coins in the bar.

Slot machines in the basement also made the club true to its name. "It was illegal," Zacanti said. "But we had them. Everybody had them."

Customers came from all over, Zacanti said. He sponsored weekend charter buses to baseball games.

Gradually the club became a stopping place for other buses heading for baseball games.

Brooks died in 1963, a year



Times Tribune photo by Vera Fisher

Sola Sobayo has transformed the popular Reno Club into Club Afrique

after the Reno Club moved. The club changed ownership in 1978. It went through two owners for brief periods before Raphael de Trinidad took over in 1984. In 1986 he sold the business to Sola Sobayo, who promptly changed the name to Club Afrique.

Sobayo, 43, closed the club for almost two years while he obtained permits and made structural changes. He opened for business toward the end of last year.

While Sobayo has not ridden himself of all memories of the Reno Club, he has made numerous changes. African flags line the wall behind the bar, African and Caribbean

music is played and performed live and the distinct smell of the evening's hors d'oeuvres wafts from the kitchen. Later this month, Sobayo will begin serving weekend dinners.

Sobayo did his goal at Club Afrique is to offer Americans and foreigners a place to hear music, date, laugh and enjoy a different atmosphere. "It's evolved in a kind of cultural center," Sobayo said.

Sobayo sees an easy transition from the all-American Reno Club to his culturally diverse Club Afrique. He takes a liberal view of life. "I see myself as a citizen of the planet Earth," he said.

— Sophi Buetens

**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

The Reno Club sign, which once wrapped around the corner between the first and second stories has been removed. So has the bucking bronco, which once filled the empty space next to the two casement windows, its rider swinging a lariat that curved upward to form the words "Reno Club" curling beneath the gable. Plain stucco once clad the entire structure, emphasizing its taut, planar surfaces, but today the ground floor is faced with brick. A row of six multi-paned casement windows with deep reveals light the second story on the University Avenue side. The side facing the freeway is blind. A one-story addition extends from the back. Typical of the businesses constructed along Highway 101 before it was widened in the 1950s, the structure is surrounded by off-street parking.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)**

By the time she left, the residential character of her neighborhood was undergoing a dramatic change. When Highway 101 plunged through East Palo Alto in 1932, its path passed very near the site Mrs. Needham's home, stimulating commercial development along its path and on University Avenue. After Alice Needham moved, the property appears to have stood vacant until Walter A. and Greta Sherlock may have opened a tire repair shop there in 1940. They took advantage of a site near the intersection of University Avenue and Highway 101 to become one of several automobile-oriented businesses clustered in the area.

During the 1930s, this location's character changed along with East Palo Alto's business district. As numerous bars and liquor stores opened their doors to people from the dry city of Palo Alto and travelers on Highway 101, the area was transformed into "Whiskey Gulch." When the Reno Club, the site's longest and best-known resident, moved to the site in 1946, it may already have been devoted to the liquor trade for nearly a decade. As early as 1938, John Ragno Liquors is listed at approximately this location (2005 University Avenue). (Though it currently has an O'Connor address, the building faces University Avenue and the Reno Club once had the address of 2001 University. The changes in the street address at this location make it difficult to determine the presence of John Ragno Liquors with complete certainty, but Mr. Milton Lamoreaux, whose father excavated the site for construction with a team of mules, recalled without prompting that John's was there before the Reno Club.) Jim Zacanti and Ralph Brooks opened the Reno Club in the left two thirds of the building. The well-traveled location could easily be seen and reached from both University Avenue and Bayshore. Like most businesses along the highway, it stood in the middle of a pool of open space that provided plenty of parking. Appropriately for a club named after Reno, the club provided limited gambling; illegal slot machines, which were illegal but reportedly quite common in Whiskey Gulch, operated in the basement. To strengthen the association with Nevada, the silver state, they embedded more than 300 silver dollars in the bar and gave them out as change. Ralph Brooks lived on the second floor of the building until he died in 1963. The Reno Club eventually (c. 1962) moved into a new building next door.

A-1 Liquors eventually occupied the entire ground floor. The widening of Highway 101 (Bayshore) and its transformation into a freeway eliminated the direct access the building once enjoyed. As a result, it has been remodeled and reoriented toward O'Connor and its address has been changed from 2001 University Avenue to 587 O'Connor. Even so, travelers on the Bayshore can still see a fragment of Whiskey Gulch in A-1's neon sign with an arrow urging them to "DRIVE IN."

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

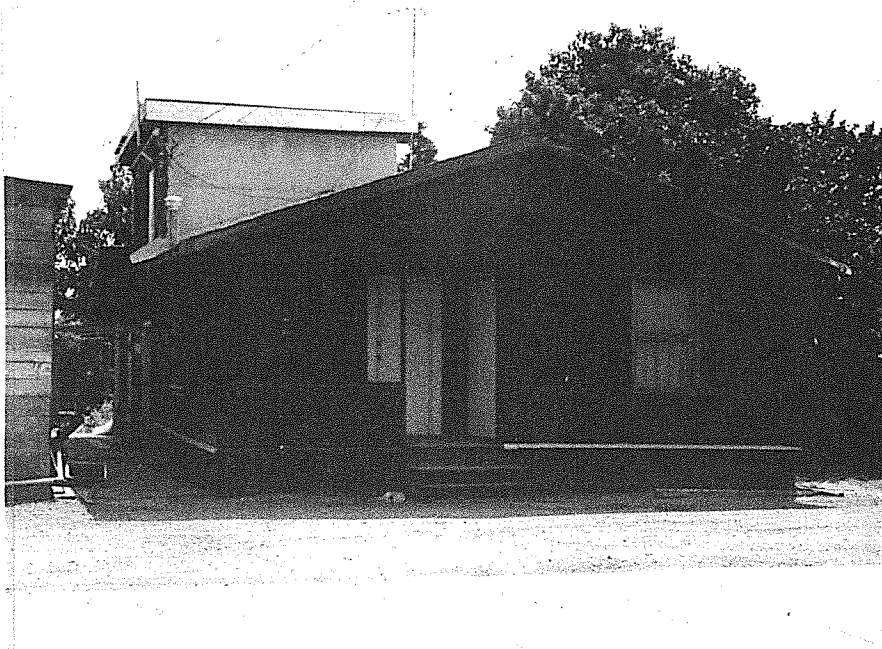
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                    | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name           | National Register status 582 |
| 3. Number & street 940 O'Connor St. | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto                 | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                       | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                    | County San Mateo             |
| B 576730                            | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                | Other                        |
| Parcel No.063-492-250               |                              |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 940 O'Connor St. is set back from the road on a large agricultural property long owned by the Siri family. Originally, the house was built in the late 1910s or early 1920s to serve a single family; later, it appears to have been converted into multi-family housing for nursery workers. (There are two front doors on the front porch.) The house consists of a main rectangular front wing with a shallowly pitched gable roof. Tar paper covers the roof. Three knee brackets support the eaves. Wood shiplap siding covers the walls. The front wing has an inset front porch on the northeast. The porch shelters two doors and a window, now boarded up. To the west of the inset porch stands a single double-hung window. An assortment of differently sized double-hung windows open other facades. Attached to the rear of the main wing is a tankhouse whose reservoir has been removed, but has probably been refinished as living space. The tankhouse's north wall was stuccoed over at some later time. Behind the tankhouse is a shed-roofed addition. (The property is 1 acre of lot 17 arbit lot 3 1 acre of lot 17 arbit lot 4 faber sub rsm 8/31.)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Frank J. Siri tr et al  
2100 Bryant St.  
Palo Alto, CA 94301
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1920                      Original location Unknown                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date The tankhouse has been remodeled as living space, and a shed roofed addition of unknown vintage has been connected to the rear.
- 16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

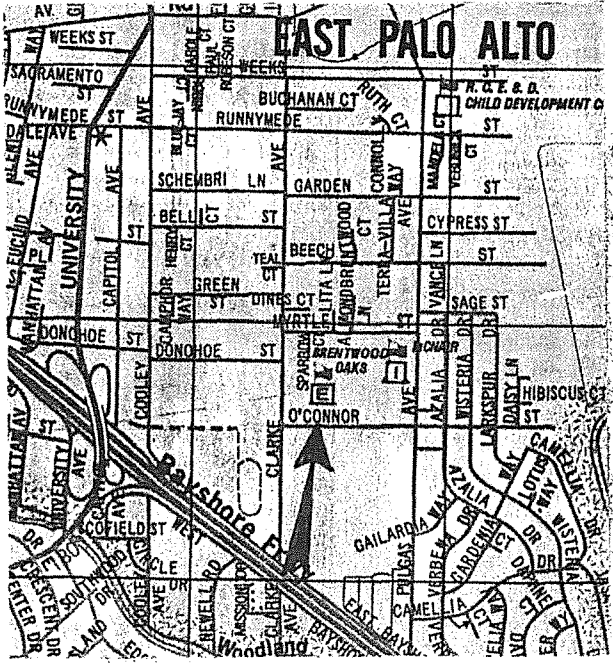
- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s                      Property type Domestic Structure                      Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

Judging from its small size and decorative simplicity, the bungalow at 940 O'Connor St. was probably erected by working class owners, or built by larger landowners to house farm laborers. It may have been built c. 1920, perhaps by a family farming a portion of the Faber Tract. Possible owners for this property were Carl S. and Marjorie Harlan. Mr. Harlan's occupation was listed as a bookkeeper in the aforementioned 1921-1922 directory. Whoever its first owner was, the house's small utilitarian size, simple layout, and lack of decoration mirrors many nearby bungalows built by fledgling poultry farmers in the Weeks Colony. Similar, too, was the location of the tankhouse attached directly behind the houses's living quarters.

- 20. Sources  
 Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1922; Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto, San Mateo Co., Ca., 1925; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis Hall, Pub., Palo Alto, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation January 13, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402                      Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

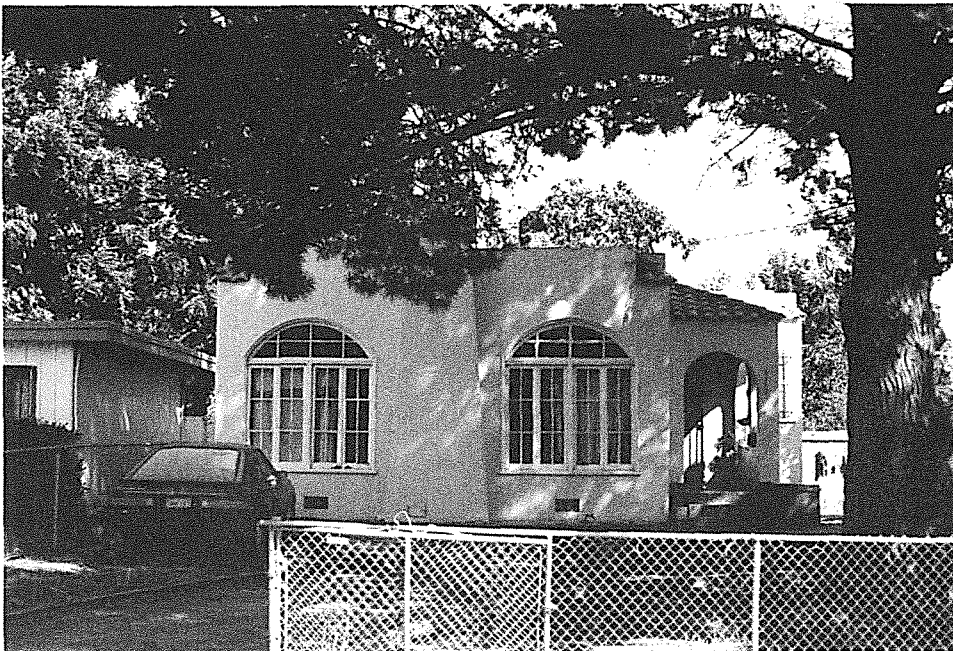
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |   |               |                              |                  |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                        |               | Ser. no.                     |                  |
|   |               | National Register status 5S3 |                  |
|   |               | Local designation            |                  |
| 2. Common or current name               |               |                              |                  |
| 3. Number & street 2362 Palo Verde Ave. |               | Cross-corridor               |                  |
| City East Palo Alto                     | Vicinity only | Zip 94303                    | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                        | B 575760      | C 4147090                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                    | Parcel No.    | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set behind a chain link fence, this well-maintained Spanish Colonial Revival Style bungalow at 2362 Palo Verde Ave. is located on a small lot in the Palo Alto Park subdivision. The building forms a compact L-shape, arranged on one floor. Its walls are covered by smooth cement plaster. The crotch of the L is filled in by a small entry porch with three arched openings, one arch over the door and two arched windows on the side. The porch is covered by a hipped Spanish tile roof. The front and rear legs of the L are flat-roofed with parapets. The front leg's fenestration is composed of two, large, arched windows. Each opening is made up of four casement windows set beneath a half-round header. A long battered chimney separates these arched openings. Behind the entry porch, the rear leg features two double-hung windows, each covered by wrought iron grilles.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address Unknown
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c. 1935                      Original location Probably                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s & 1930s                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s                      Property type Domestic structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

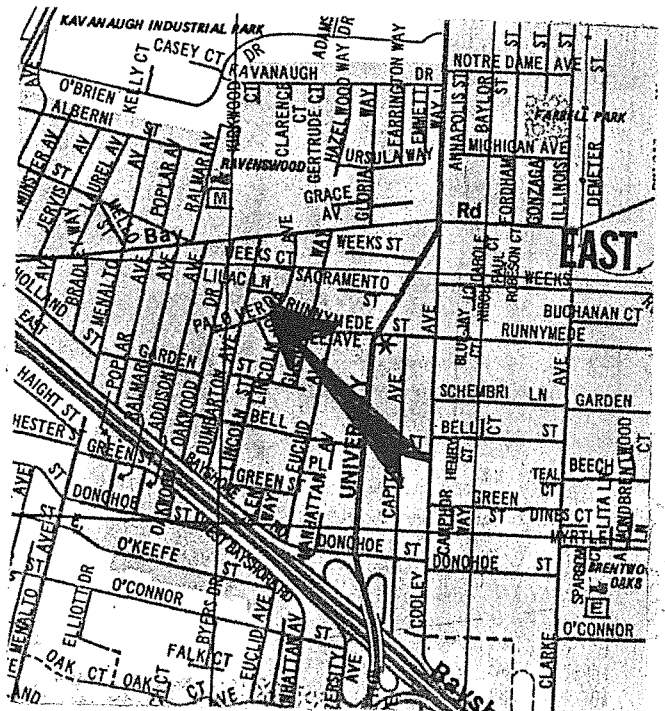
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The house at 2362 Palo Verde Ave. was erected in the Palo Alto Park subdivision, an area composed originally of many vacation dwellings and small permanent residences. The building is larger than other houses nearby, such as the vacation cottages at 2361 and 2369 Glen Way, suggesting perhaps that it was meant for year-around habitation from the beginning. One of the first families recorded at this address was George A. and Ann Olmo in 1944. George Olmo worked as a salesman, and the Polk's 1944 Palo Alto City Directory indicated that he owned this property. Olmo's bungalow dates from the mid to late 1930s, and is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style applied to a small house. Its stucco siding, Spanish tile, arched openings, battered chimney, and flat roof all are characteristic of this style, which attained the height of its popularity in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

20. Sources *R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1944).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson  
Date of evaluation February 13, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



**State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                |                        |                             |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name Vitale house  |                        | Ser. no.                    |                  |
| 2. Common or current name      |                        | National Register status 3S |                  |
|                                |                        | Local designation           |                  |
| 3. Number & street 2183 Ralmar |                        | Cross-corridor              |                  |
| City East Palo Alto            | Vicinity only          | Zip 94303                   | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10               | B 575350               | C 4146830                   | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558           | Parcel No. 063-152-140 | Other                       |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Located in a neighborhood of small cottages, bungalows, and period revival houses, 2183 Ralmar is one of the largest and most elaborate residences in the area. Stylistically, this complex stucco structure combines Mediterranean and Tudor elements. Two steeply-pitched intersecting gables punctuated with gabled dormers create the impression of complex silhouette based on a simple L-shaped plan. An arched front door, flanked by narrow arched side lights, opens into the side-gabled portion of the house paralleling the street. Semicircular stone steps lead up to a porch embraced on two sides by stucco lining walls with scalloped tops. Though the porch is not covered, the door itself is slightly recessed into a slightly-projecting vestibule, and is nestled beneath a wide gable with tightly rolled edges. Centered above this gable is a more steeply pitched gabled dormer with a pair of narrow sash windows. To the left of the entrance a large parabolic window provides an important focal point.

(See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Jose and Josephine Jimenez  
2183 Ralmar, East Palo Alto, CA  
94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats



## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1935F Original location Same Date moved
15. Alterations & date A free-standing gabled carport now stands in front of the garage.
16. Architect Unknown Builder Ralph Vitale
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

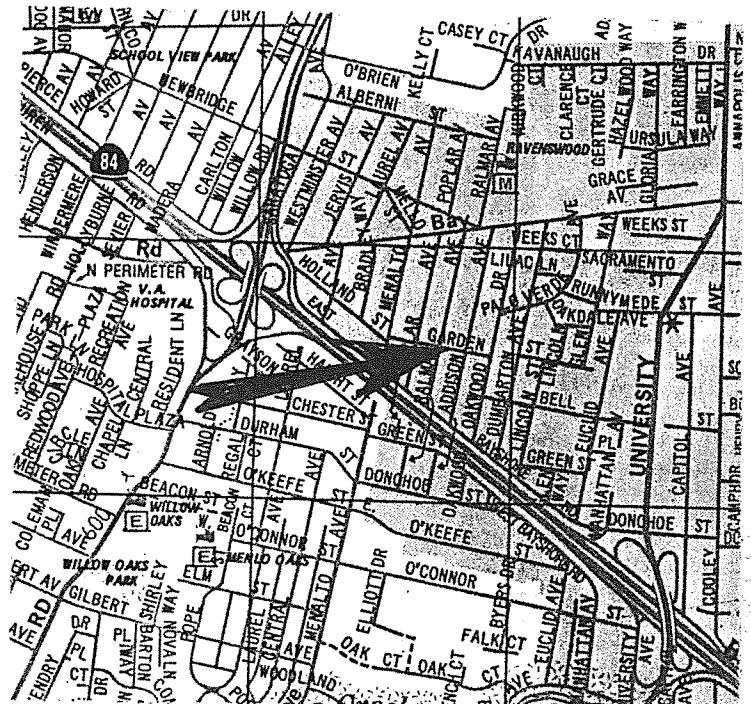
18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s Property type domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

2183 Ralmar is one of the grandest houses constructed in the Palo Alto Park subdivision. This area, which was subdivided in 1924, became a neighborhood of houses ranging from tiny vacation cottages to more substantial period revival homes such as this. Its lots are far smaller than those in the Runnymede area, its street grid more densely suburban, and its prestige in the 1930s reportedly higher. Palo Alto Park was also a resort community, where many people came to escape San Francisco's fog during weekends and summers. Yet some, like the Vitale family who first occupied this house, lived there year round. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources Telephone interview with Adrienne Vitale Principal, 25 July 1993; telephone interview with Mary Vitale MacLachlan, 4 Sept. 1993; San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); San Mateo County Maps Division Records

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation September 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

The intersecting gabled wing which projects toward the street has two stories and houses a single-car garage on the first level. Above the garage door, a deeply cut arch holds a narrow rectangular window set beneath an applied gable with rolled edges, similar to the one over the front door but more steeply pitched, echoing the gable of the main roof above it, which also has rolled eaves. A pair of rectangular, vertically proportioned sash windows, set into the side overlooking the front door, lights the second story. At the far left side of the facade, a wing wall, its slope covered with rolled shingles that echo the rolled eaves elsewhere, holds a gate which leads to the back yard. At the back of the house, an arched doorway leads onto a small terrace at the right, and steps lead to the back door at the center, next to which there is an oriel with three double-hung windows. A small gabled dormer and a small double-hung window light the upper floor.

Taken together, these elements form a Mediterranean-Tudor melange. The stucco walls, deep reveals, parabolic window, and wing wall are all commonly found in Mediterranean or Spanish Colonial Revival architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. It is more unusual to find them mixed with complex roof forms and steep gables with rolled edges meant to imitate thatching — elements that tend to be associated with Tudor structures. These diverse forms are combined in a carefully crafted house which has been meticulously maintained.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)**

During the 1930s, Ralph Vitale, a plumber who was born in Italy, left his San Francisco home each weekend to build a new house for his family with his own hands. In doing so, he combined diverse features that had become popular in Spanish Colonial and Tudor houses (the family thought of it as Spanish in style). Though some portions are a bit awkward — the broad gable capping the front door surmounted with a narrow gabled dormer with clashing proportions — but the whole thing gels into a structure that is among the most distinctive, and certainly among the largest, of this neighborhood's period revival houses. Similar in scale but not as complex in detail nor in as good a condition, is 2195 Ralmar, reportedly built by the Payne family for their own use.

Besides being an excellent example of the period revival structures built in this neighborhood during the 1920s and 1930s, this house is important for another reason. Its first owners, Ralph and Mary Vitale, their first names combined, gave the Ralmar its name. The street was once named Palo Alto Avenue, a name that duplicated another street in the area. This caused problems for the fire department. When a new name needed to be chosen, Mary Vitale, who was president of the improvement club, thought of Pickfair, the house named after Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, and combined her own name with her husband's to form the new street name.

**State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name               | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name      | National Register status 5S2 |
|                                | Local designation            |
| 3. Number & street 2195 Ralmar | Cross-corridor               |
| City East Palo Alto            | Zip 94303                    |
|                                | County San Mateo             |
| 4. UTM zone A 10               | Vicinity only B 575350       |
|                                | C 4146860                    |
|                                | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558           | Parcel No. 063-152-120       |
|                                | Other                        |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set behind a chain link fence on a tight fifty-foot lot, is the large unusual house at 2195 Ralmar Ave. The house has a tall profile, as it is set on high foundations. The dwelling stands two stories tall, and stucco covers the walls. A cross-gabled roof covers the building's complicated plan. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof surface. The roof's gable possesses a slightly flared shape. Seen from the east, the houses displays three front facing gables; two projecting side gables flank a taller central gable. In the center an arched entryway is recessed between the side gables. Above this front door is a pair of double-hung windows set behind a faux wrought iron balcony. The projecting side gable to the north has a triplet of arched windows, the two on the ends with double-hung sash, the middle with fixed sash. The projecting gabled bay to the south, like the middle section, possesses a pair of double-hung windows set behind an ornamental wrought iron balcony. A small arched ornamental doorframe is appended to this south gabled bay.

Another entrance exists on the north facade. Proceeding toward this side door, one passes a single double-hug window (with an air conditioner in it), and above this opening is a dormer with a flared gable. The dormer is opened by a single double-hung window. A triplet window lights the hallway of the north side entry. A lower gable-roofed wing projects to the rear. Two single double-hung punctuate this west facing wall surface. Behind this rear wing is a long garage with two arched doorways, one for automobiles. This long thin garage appears tangentially attached to the house. Set behind this small garage is a long rectangular building (bearing the address number 2197), which accommodates both a residence and a garage. The garage portion on the north is differentiated by its pair of garage doors.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address Benson & Benson, Inc.  
11030 Magdalena Ave.  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- |  |                       |            |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| 14. Construction date(s) c. 1935   | Original location Yes | Date moved |
| 15. Alterations & date   |                       |            |
| 16. Architect Unknown  | Builder Unknown       |            |
| 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property |                       |            |

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s | Area East Palo Alto              |
| Period 1920s-1930s   | Property type Domestic Structure |
|  | Context formally developed? Yes  |

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The house at 2195 Ralmar Ave. has an unusual appearance, vaguely reflecting the influence of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style. Such decorative touches as its wrought iron balconies and arched openings suggest Spanish Colonial Revival Style houses of the 1920s. The house was probably built in the mid-1930s, at about the same time as its neighbor at 2183 Ralmar Ave. These two dwellings possess a similar complicated vertical massing of forms, arched windows, and stucco exteriors. Ralph and Mary Vitale built 2183 Ralmar, and operated a small farm in this area, which became part of the Palo Alto Park subdivision. It was for the Vitales that the street name "Ralmar" was coined. It is possible that the Vitales built the house at 2195 Ralmar as a rental property, to serve seasonal vacationers, or that they erected it for a relative. Anello Silvester, a tailor, is listed as the owner of 2195 Ralmar in the 1944, 1948, and 1954 Palo Alto city directories. Silvester and the Vitales were part of a small Italian-American community, which settled in the Palo Alto Park subdivision during the 1930s and 1940s.

20. Sources Telephone interview with Adrienne Vitale Principale, 25 July 1993; *Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1944, 1948, 1954).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson  
Date of evaluation November 11, 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

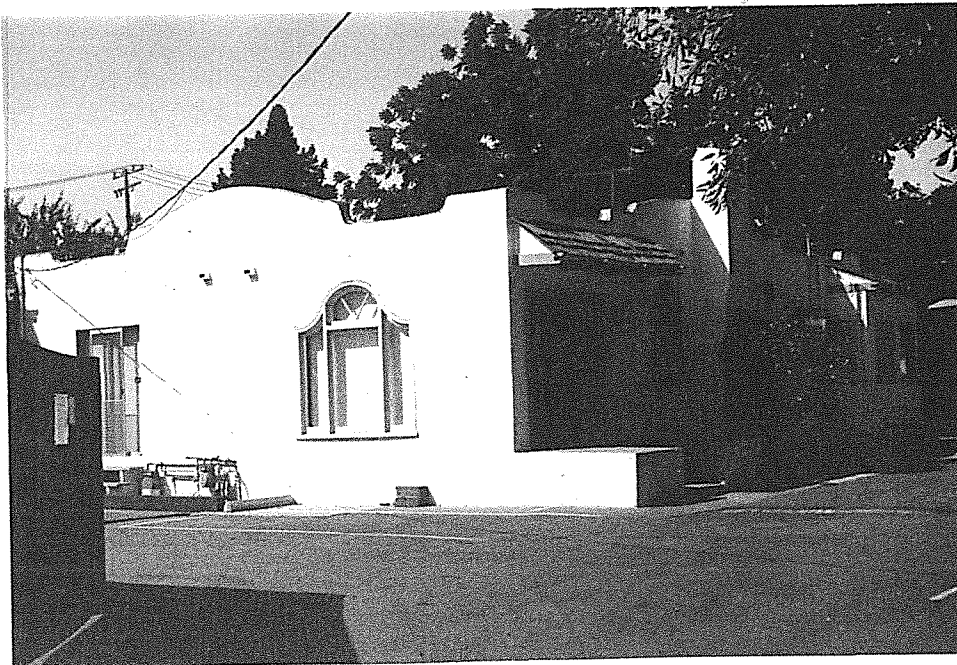
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                  |                        |                              |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                 |                        | Ser. no.                     |                  |
| 2. Common or current name        |                        | National Register status 5S2 |                  |
| 3. Number & street 505 Runnymede |                        | Local designation            |                  |
| City East Palo Alto              | Vicinity only          | Cross-corridor               |                  |
|                                  |                        | Zip 94303                    | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                 | B 575890               | C 4147020                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558             | Parcel No. 063-201-210 | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

This single story Mission-style house is set well back front the street, down a long drive and behind a high fence. The dominant feature of its street facade is a parapet which projects above the roof line in a single broad curve, a highly simplified version of the more complex curvilinear parapets common to Mission-style structures. A similar parapet graces the other visible facade at the right, which runs perpendicular to the street. The main entrance, shaded by a small shingled shed roof, opens into this facade. Beside it is a small arched window next to a chimney, with a gracefully curved silhouette bisects the parapet. A bay window with double-hung windows projects outward toward the back of the house. The street facade of this stucco house forms a flat, expansive plane relieved only by an arched window, its silhouette echoing Mission-style parapets more complex than those surmounting the house, been cut into its right half. It seems likely that a similar window once balanced it on the left, but this appears to have been replaced by a rectangular door. The house, which stands on lot 21 of lot 3 or the Ravenswood Villas subdivision, has been well maintained and is in excellent condition. A one-story apartment building has been constructed behind it.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address  
 Christopher B. Ellis  
 P.O. box 103  
 East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1926F Original location Assumed to be same Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date In the street facade, the rectangular doorway appears to be a later alteration. A one-story apartment building has been constructed to the rear. Neither of these changes significantly alters the integrity of this structure.
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1920s-1930s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

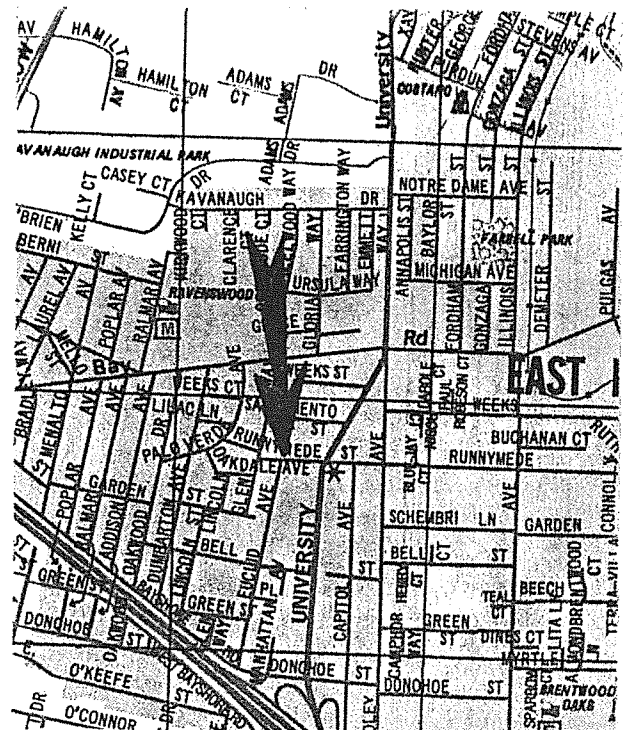
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

505 Runnymede is located in the Ravenswood Villa subdivision which was subdivided in 1926 by the land's owners, J.H. and Pearle R. Stubbe. The Stubbe's ran the Ravenswood Poultry Ranch which rivaled Runnymede in poultry production. (Stubbe's business, Ravenswood Baby Chicks, was located, according to the 1928 Palo Alto City Directory, at the corner of University Ave. and Lincoln Ave.) Together with Palo Alto Park, Ravenswood Villas represents the gradual suburbanization the East Palo Alto area underwent during the late 1920s and the 1930s. This Mission style structure an excellent example of the period revival houses which became more fashionable than the craftsman bungalow (dominant in Runnymede) from the 1920s on. In addition to representing this particular phase in East Palo Alto's history, 505 Runnymede, with its balanced proportions and graceful details, is architecturally significant as one of the few examples of its style in East Palo Alto today.

20. Sources San Mateo County Maps, 15-22; Polk's Palo Alto Directory, (R.L. Polk & Co., San Francisco, Ca., 1928), p. 410.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation January 14, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

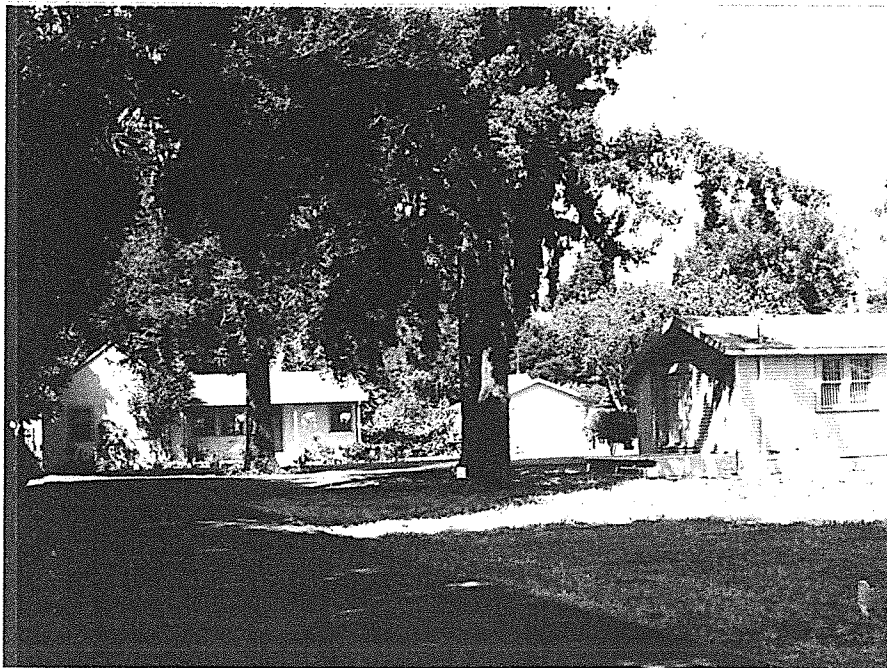
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                    | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name           | National Register status 5S3 |
| 3. Number & street 529-31 Runnymede | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto                 | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                       | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                    | County San Mateo             |
| B 575930                            | C 4147020                    |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                | D                            |
| Parcel No. 063-201-200              | Other                        |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

529 and 531 Runnymede St. are two gable roofed cottages, located on a large parcel set well back from the road. The two dwellings are spaced widely from each other and are set perpendicularly. Each is one story high. The front dwelling is clapboard sided, while the rear house is stuccoed; both have asphalt roof shingles. The front house may have been built before the rear one, judging from its architectural details. The front house possesses a simple rectangular form; it has a door on the west side with a large multi-light window to its left. The south facade features a pair of double-hung windows, and a single double-hung opening. The rear house has a T-shaped, cross-gabled plan. A side-gabled wing has a long front porch sheltering the front door. The main entry is surrounded on the left by a pair of double-hung windows and on the right by a single double-hung opening. The south facade of the gable-front wing possesses two small double-hung windows. A detached garage lies just east of the rear T-shaped house.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
 Delmacio G. and Libradat Lete  
 529 Runnymede  
 East Palo Alto, CA 94043
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1937 (529) c.1947 (531)      Original location Unknown      Date moved Unknown
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown      Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02—Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1930s      Property type Domestic structure      Context formally developed? Yes

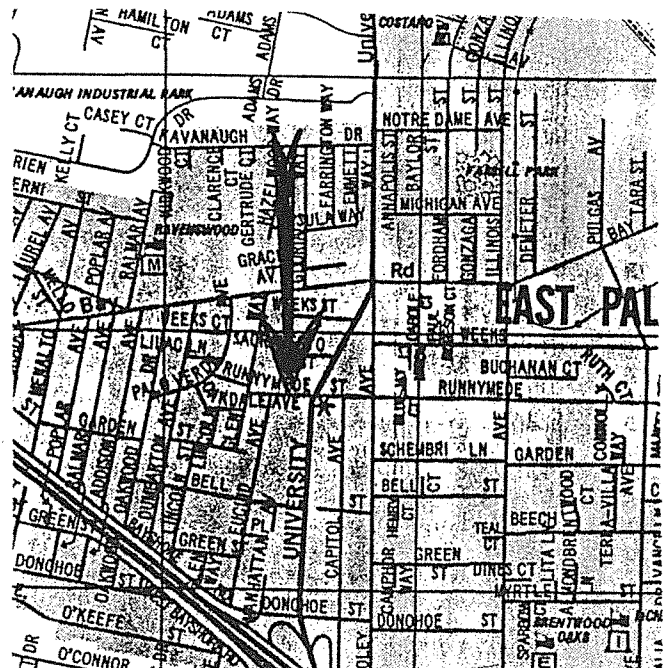
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

These two small houses are located in the Ravenswood Villas subdivision, a development set up by J.H. Stubbe in December 1926. Stubbe operated a large poultry business contemporaneously with the Weeks Poultry Colony, on a parcel bounded by Bay Road, Cooley Ave., Runnymede St., and Glen Way. Stubbe and his associates gradually developed this poultry farmland in the 1930s and 1940s. It is difficult to date these buildings. One or both may have been moved to this location, thus accounting for their somewhat odd placement. They may have been built to serve as vacation cottages, such as those that filled the adjacent Palo Alto Park subdivision. Ray P. Squire, a driver, and his wife, Jean, owned 529 Runnymede St., according to the 1944 Palo Alto city directory. The 531 address is not listed until 1948 or so, suggesting that 531 Runnymede was either built later or moved to this site .

20. Sources San Mateo County Maps Division Records; *Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R. L. Polk, 1944, 1948).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation December 21, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441





State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                     | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name            | National Register status 582 |
| 3. Number & street 868 Runnymede St. | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto                  | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                        | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                     | County San Mateo             |
| B 576530                             | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                 | Other                        |
| Parcel No.063-252-080                |                              |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Occupying land in the Weeks Colony's second subdivision, the dwelling at 868 Runnymede St. is laid out on a large lot with mature trees, and is bounded by a picket fence in front. Part of the house was built as a tankhouse probably serving the residence next door at 872 Runnymede St. The tankhouse portion is appended to a two-story gable-roofed addition. The tankhouse is clad in wood siding. The first floor on the east side has a side entry. A small projecting gable roof shelters the door. A large double-hung window lies above this doorway on the second story, and just above this opening is a smaller window with sliding sash. The gable roofed addition has a pent roof over the main entry. To the east of the front door is a triplet window and to the west a smaller double-hung opening. Above the pent roof is a pair of double-hung openings, each trimmed by one shutter. Behind the tankhouse is another added wing. A large multi-stall garage is detached in the rear.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address Jimmie and  
 Tomiko Sujishi, same address.
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c. 1917                      Original location Yes                      Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto  
Period 1910s-1920s                      Property type Domestic structure                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

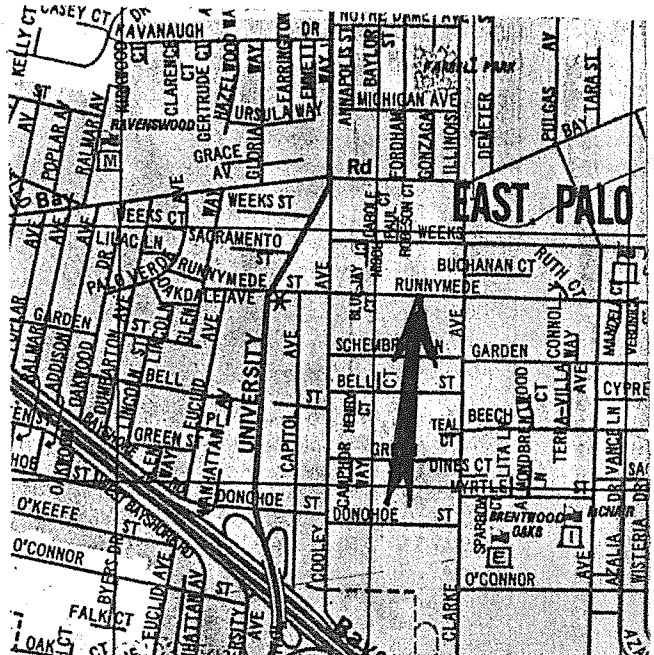
Until at least W.W. II., the building at 868 Runnymede served as a storage facility and tankhouse for the house next door at 872 Runnymede owned for a number of years by Andrew Bean, a poultryman. Bean's tankhouse portion had unusually large dimensions when compared with others in the Weeks Poultry Colony. It may have served a larger agricultural enterprise than the neighboring one acre farms. A small early photograph of this tankhouse may have been illustrated in Charles Weeks's book Egg Farming in California, (San Francisco, CA.: 1919).

20. Sources

Charles Weeks, Egg Farming in California, ( San Francisco: 1919), n.p. *R.L Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation January 5, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name formerly 584 Runnymede

Ser. no.  
 National Register status 582  
 Local designation

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 872 Runnymede

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 576560

C 4146980

D

5. Quad map No. 1558 Parcel No. 063-252-070

Other

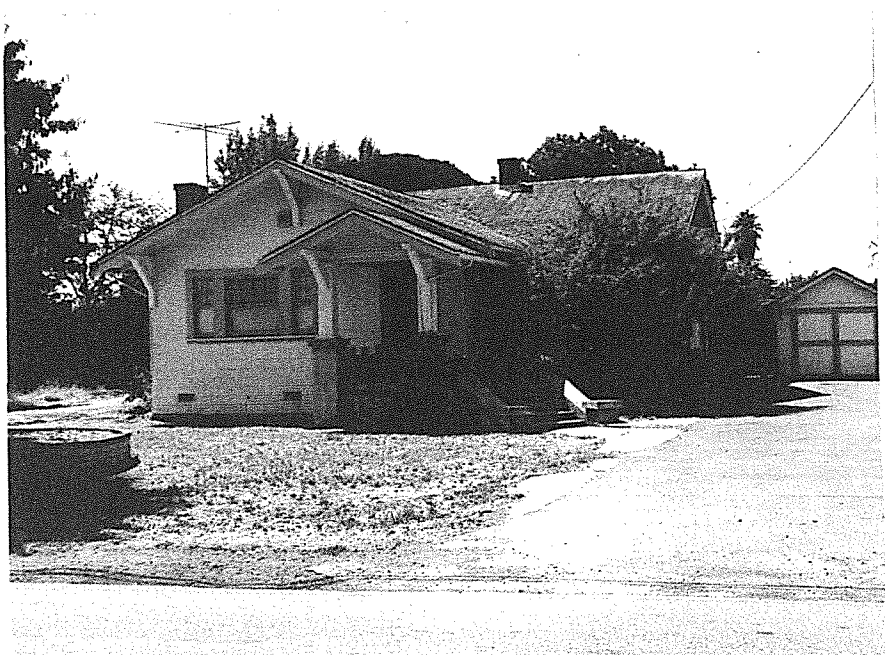
**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 872 Runnymede St. is cross-gabled with asphalt shingles cladding the roof. Two brick chimneys rise up from the roof. The builder configured the one-story dwelling in an L-shaped plan. Thin wood clapboards sheath its wall contours. Entry is gained via a flight of brick steps angled obliquely away from a large front porch. Part of this porch is covered by a projecting gable roof. Piers, resting on brick foundations, carry the small gable, and elbow brackets support the gable's eaves. The front door, with its eight fixed lights, is set beneath the projecting gable. Around the corner from the front door, a fixed window located on a west-facing wall also opens onto the front porch. The north (front) facade also features a triplet window, with fixed central sash, flanked by thinner double-hung openings. As with the lower porch gable, the larger gable facing Runnymede St. is also supported by two elbow brackets, one on the east side, one at the peak. A detached one-car garage, also built c. 1920, stands behind the bungalow.



- 8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
- 9. Owner & address
- 10. Type of ownership Private
- 11. Present use Residential
- 12. Zoning R-1-5000
- 13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1916 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

Located in the second addition to the Weeks Poultry Colony, this dwelling was occupied at Runnymede's peak by Andrew Bean, who in the 1928 Palo Alto City Directory was identified as a poultry farmer. In 1929 Bean sold the property to Walter F. Cross, who for his first years of ownership also worked the land as a poultry farmer. The Depression lowered the prices paid for eggs and poultry, which may have forced Cross in 1931 to find employment as a pressman for the Stanford University Press, a job which he held until at least 1944. The house is a good example of the Bungalow Style favored by the Weeks Colonists. The simplicity of the bungalow was seen as a direct contrast to the decorative and formal variety of the earlier Queen Anne Style house. Its uncomplicated, single story configuration, unadorned elbow brackets, and plain fenestration, all reflected simpler architectural tastes during the late 1910s and early 1920s. Charles Weeks thought enough of this farmhouse, with its oblique porch, that he featured a photograph of it in advertising published in his promotional magazine, One Acre and Independence.

20. Sources

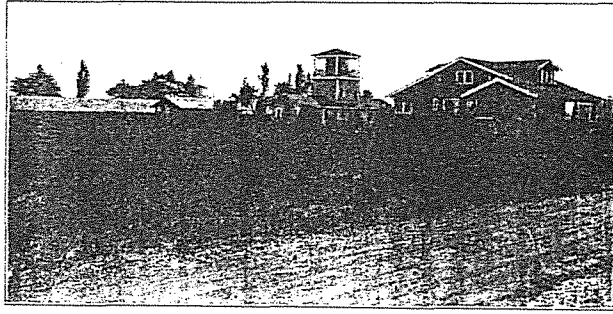
*Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford*, (Palo Alto: Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920, & 1921-1922); *Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1938, 1944, 1948); advertisement in One Acre and Independence (March 1921).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation March 12, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) A. Michelson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441

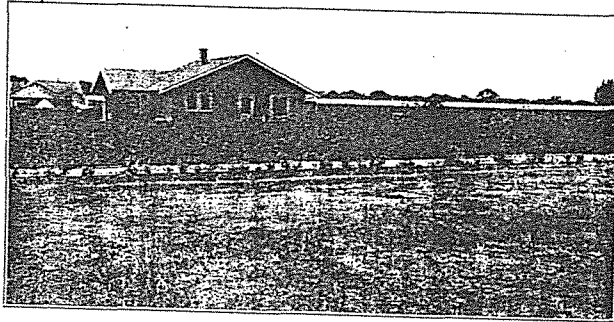
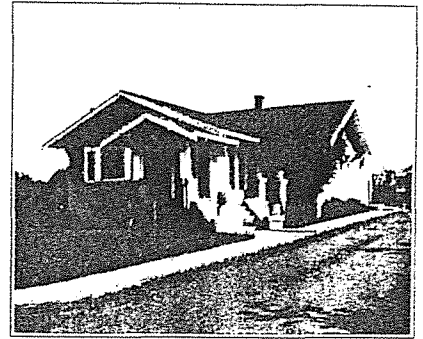


## GARDEN HOMES in the Charles Weeks' Colony

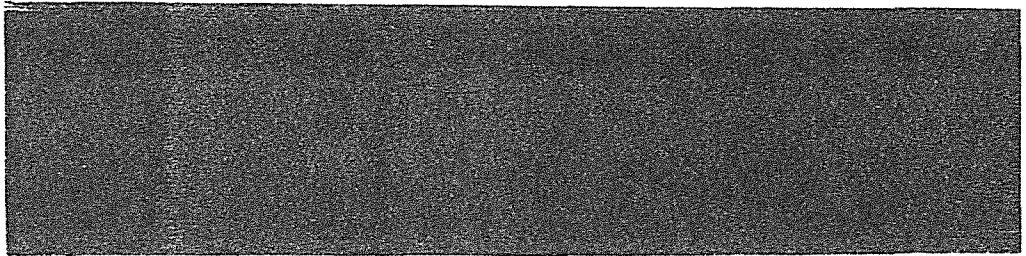


(1) A country estate of a retired business man, a lovely home with all modern services, garage space for three cars, fully equipped with the latest poultry houses and machinery. Just the sort of a home a successful business man hopes to own.

(2) A lovely modern home housing a happy family. Many branches of intensive cultivation are taken up by these enterprising people, berry growing, fruit raising, berry growing, fruit raising, incubating, brooding and poultry raising.



(3) The comfortable home of a widow and her son, where they live a peaceful life, making a good living from poultry and berries, while the son attends the splendid school in the Colony.



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

Ser. no.

1. Historic name formerly 611 Runnymede

National Register status 5S2  
 Local designation

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 971 Runnymede

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A10

B 576770

C 4147030

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No. 063 265 170

Other

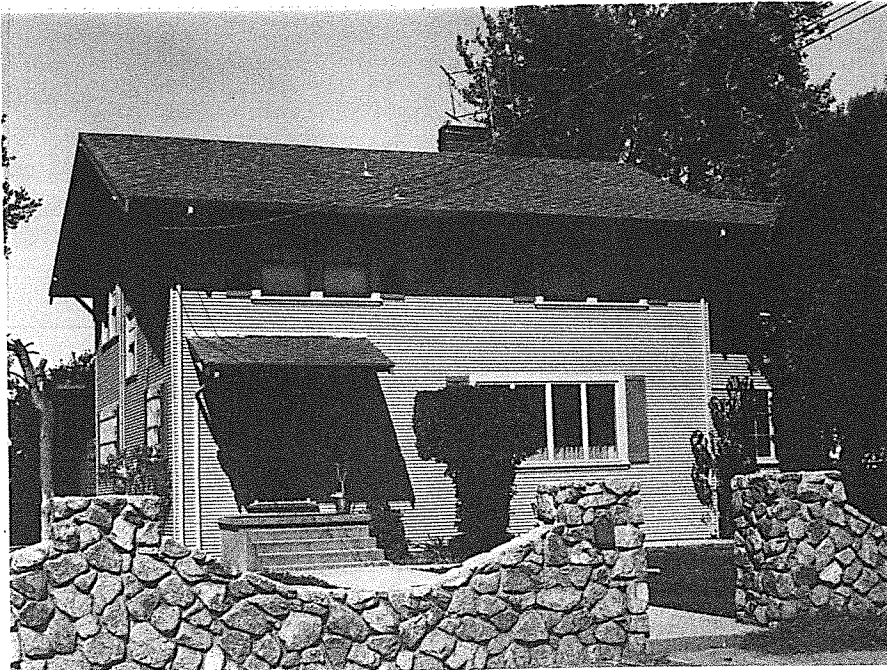
**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

971 Runnymede is a variation on the traditional I-house form. It is a two-story, side-gabled structure with a compact rectangular plan. The front door, sheltered by a shed roof resting on enormous brackets, opens into the far left side of the house and may be reached by flight of four concrete steps. A long horizontal window with four vertical lights stretches across the right two thirds of the ground floor and represents an alteration. Narrow louvered shutters flank this window as well as the paired double-hung windows above. These windows, with their multipaned upper sashes, are original and suggest what the ground-floor window might have been like. A small window is nestled next to the paired window on the left. Similar windows light the side elevations. Narrow clapboard siding clads the entire house, which is in excellent condition. A stone wall of rustic boulders, which dips and curves between rectangular piers, separates the front yard from the street. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address Floyd Wright

971 Runnymede, East Palo Alto  
 94303

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1918 Original location Date moved
15. Alterations & date A horizontal window with four vertical lights has replaced what was once probably a paired, double-hung window with a multipaned upper sash. The tankhouse has been considerably altered. Its tank, with the roof and rail that sheltered it, has been removed. Stucco has replaced the wooden siding (which appears from an earlier photo to be clapboard). Aluminum windows have replaced the formerly wood-framed ones.
16. Architect Unknown Builde Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1916-1920s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.
- Albert M. and Lida Buchanan, who constructed this two-story house on their one-acre holding, were among the first settlers in the second addition to Runnymede. According to the *Palo Alto Times* (May 19, 1922), this area boasted "beautiful and permanent homes." Even for a section of the colony where the homes were said to be more substantial (and generally were), this, and 991 Weeks — the nearly identical house next door — were among the few two-storied structures in the entire colony. The Buchanans began their lives in Runnymede as ranchers, and they kept this up until well into the 1920s. (See continuation sheet.)
20. Sources San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Palo Alto: Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); Palo Alto city directories from the 1930s; *Palo Alto Times* (May 19, 1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993  
By (name) K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-644



## 971 RUNNYMEDE, CONTINUATION SHEET

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

A tankhouse, considerably altered, stands behind the house to the left, at the end of the driveway. Like the house, it once was clad with narrow clapboard siding, but today it has been stuccoed over. The water tank and the roof and railing which once sheltered it, are now gone. The windows have all been replaced with aluminum ones, but the door remains in approximately its original location, providing an entrance into the apartment which the tankhouse has now become.

The only remnant of their agricultural lives is the much-altered tankhouse which stands behind the house. The tankhouse's renovation, which appears to be fairly recent, represents a great loss. A photograph taken before it was altered shows that it was perhaps the best example of a Runnymede tankhouse to survive into the postwar period.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Although the Buchanans continued to live in East Palo Alto throughout the 1930s, like so many other colonists, it appears that they had ceased to make their living exclusively from farming with the onset of the Depression. (In 1930 Albert Buchanan is listed in the city directory as a minister.) Although this house contrasts with most of its Runnymede-era neighbors, in many respects its history is typical of Runnymede. The houses the colonists constructed varied with individual tastes and means, though distinctiveness usually veered more in the direction of variations on the Craftsman-style bungalow. The tankhouse recalls the colony's agricultural past, and its transformation into a dwelling bears witness to the colony's disintegration and the pervasive transformation of its agricultural structures to other purposes.



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

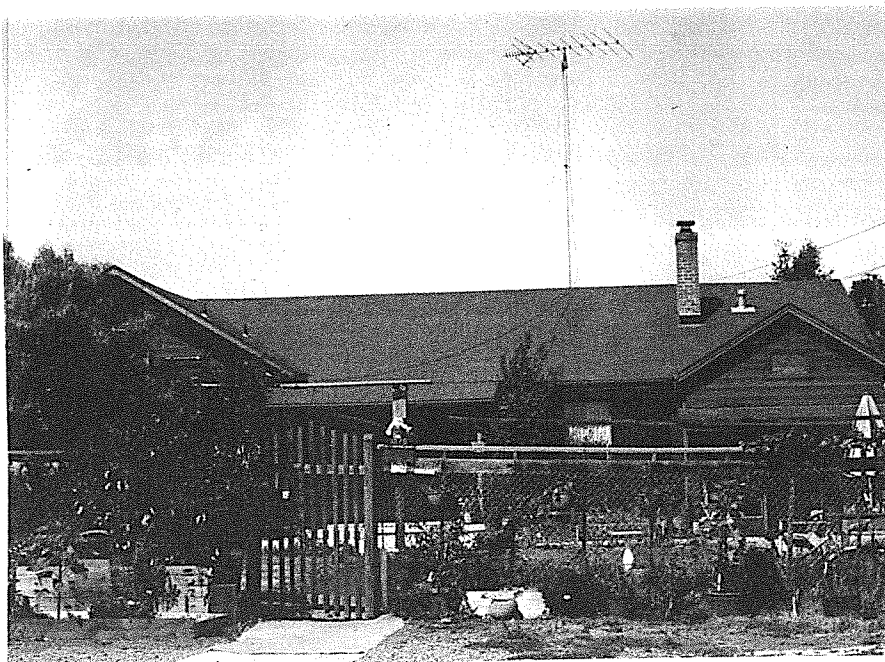
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                  | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name         | National Register status 5S2 |
| 3. Number & street 1275 Runnymede | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto               | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                     | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                  | County San Mateo             |
| B 577270                          | C 4147050                    |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558              | D                            |
| Parcel No. 063-271-070            | Other                        |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Set at the end of Runnymede St., adjoining the Baylands Nature Preserve, the house at 1275 Runnymede St. is a long one-story building covered with brown clapboard siding. The dwelling has a large 1.37 acre lot, with an ample front yard set behind a chain-link fence. A cross-gabled roof covers the house; asphalt singles clad the roof. Two front facing gables are located on either end of the south facade, joined by a long side-gabled central section. The west front-facing gable is larger and taller than that of the east. The east and west gables are opened by small windows with fixed wooden sashes. An assortment of windows on the south facade creates an irregular fenestration. A small extension of the side-gabled roof extends over the front door, in the middle of the south facade, creating a covered entry porch. The front door is protected by wrought iron bars.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Thomasyne Lightfoote Wilson  
1275 runnymede  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1937 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Suburbanization in the 1920s and 1930s Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1930s-1940s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes
- 19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

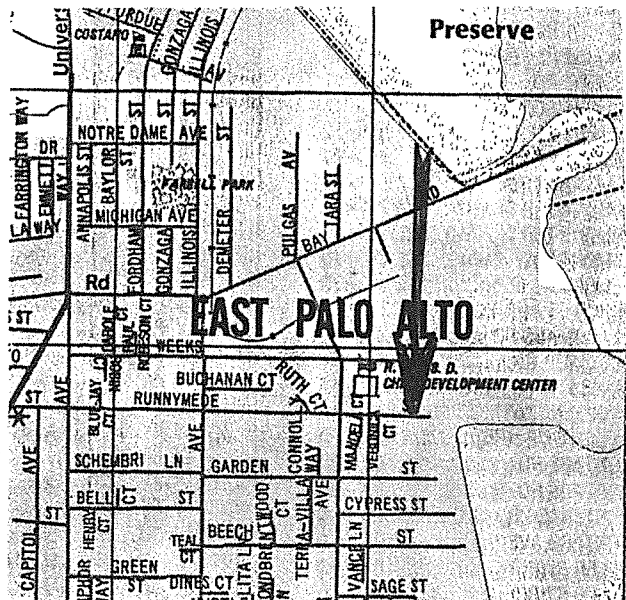
This lot may have accommodated Charles Weeks's "Demonstration Acre," a plot of land on which Weeks's methods of intensive farming were demonstrated for potential settlers. See *One Acre and Independence*, Nov. 1922 for a picture of Weeks standing in the Chard Patch on this site.

Built in 1937, the current house at 1275 Runnymede St. is one of East Palo Alto's earliest California Ranch Style houses. During the 1930s, architects in the state began to study and re-use architectural elements of the Hispanic adobe houses built in California during the early nineteenth century. (See continuation sheet.)

- 20. Sources *R.L. Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1944, 1948, 1954).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson  
 Date of evaluation February 16, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## 1275 RUNNYMEDE CONTINUATION SHEET

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

These figures, such as William Wurster and Cliff May, liked the long simple rooflines and undecorated appearances of these early California houses. They also wanted to use architectural sources that they felt were indigenous and well-adapted to the traditions and climate of California. The builder of 1275 Runnymede St. was probably aware of these contemporary trends. The dwelling has the attenuated, ground-hugging plan and simple farmhouse-like aesthetic common to California Ranch Style houses of the 1930s. Popular interest in the ranch house's long, low and open design grew during the '30s. In the 1940s and 50s developers built new subdivisions of Ranch Style houses, as seen on many streets in East Palo Alto.

Early owners of this house were Juan and Bernice Villariza, whose names are listed in the 1944, 1948, and 1954 Palo Alto city directories. Like a number of others in East Palo Alto at this time, Villariza worked at the nearby Veteran's Administration Hospital in Menlo Park.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name

2. Common or current name

3. Number & street 1939-43 University Avenue  
Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A 10

B 575980

C 4145950

D

5. Quad map No. 1558

Parcel No. 063-474-150

Other

Ser. no.

National Register status 3S

Local designation

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building

If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

1939-43 University Avenue is a long, two-story structure of white stucco which displays many of the features commonly associated with the Monterey style. Its side-gabled roof, covered with red tile, shelters a second-story recessed balcony which runs the full length of the building. Five pairs of French doors, with ten lights each, open onto the balcony. A balustrade of plain, narrow wooden balusters encloses the balcony, and thin, square wooden posts topped with wide, gracefully curving brackets rise to support the roof. Below, the building houses three shops, each with a separate door recessed from the sidewalk and flanked by large plate-glass display windows. A panel of vertical wooden boards runs beneath the windows, which appear to have been replaced and set in aluminum frames. The building, which is in excellent condition in all respects, is integrated into the row of shops that lines University Avenue. It makes an effective unit with the one-story Spanish Colonial Revival commercial structure that stands to its right. A sidewalk and diagonal, on-street parking run immediately in front of the building.



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning  
Department

9. Owner & address: Shuman Muti

635 Donahoe St.,  
East Palo Alto, CA., 94303

10. Type of ownership Private

11. Present use Commercial

12. Zoning C-1

13. Threats Private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) Unknown Original location Same Date moved
15. Alterations & date The door opening into 1943 has been replaced with one of aluminum and glass, and the windows appear to have been replaced and set in aluminum frames.
16. Architect Unknown (Birge Clark?) Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06--Commercial Building, 1-3 stories

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1950s Property type retail store Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

1939-43 University Avenue is a fine example of the Monterey style. Influenced by the nineteenth-century architecture of the Monterey area, the Monterey style was considered particularly appropriate to Northern California where it was first developed. With its pitched tile roof, stucco cladding, and curving brackets, it fuses Spanish elements with the Anglo architecture of New England. The Monterey style gained currency in the mid 1920s, a time when period revival styles in general increased in popularity for both domestic and commercial architecture. Probably one of the earliest extant commercial structures remaining in East Palo Alto's business district, it represents a period when East Palo Alto business enjoyed increased prosperity stimulated by the completion of Highway 101 and the growth in the area's population. Well integrated into the row of shops which hug the street, it forms a unit with the Spanish Colonial Revival structure next door at 1945-47 University. Together, they contribute significantly to the texture of University Avenue.

### 20. Sources

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

### 21. Applicable National Register criteria

### 22. Other recognition -----

State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----

### 23. Evaluator K. Solomonson

Date of evaluation January 15, 1994

### 24. Survey type Comprehensive

### 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project

### 26. Year form prepared 1994

By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                             | Ser. no.                    |
| 2. Common or current name                    | National Register status 3S |
| 3. Number & street 1945-47 University Avenue | Local designation           |
| City East Palo Alto                          | Cross-corridor              |
| Vicinity only                                | Zip 94303                   |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                             | County San Mateo            |
| B 575980                                     | C 4145970                   |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                         | D                           |
| Parcel No. 063-474-140                       | Other                       |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings and (if appropriate) architectural style.

1945-47 University Avenue is a single-story commercial structure which stretches horizontally along University Avenue. Its shallowly-sloping, side-gabled roof of red tile and its creamy stucco facade allude to the Spanish Colonial Revival Style. Except for two brackets with triangular ends, the building is devoid of applied ornamentation. Instead, this handsome structure's impact relies on its simple, boldly-conceived facade defined by two piers which divide it into three bays. Because the shop fronts are recessed behind these piers, three cleanly cut rectangles define a shallow covered area over the doors and windows. The central window provides a projecting display case resting on two slender supports, added later. This is flanked by two doors and two windows, flush with the recessed portion of the facade. A thin mullion, possibly of aluminum, bisects each window vertically and a transome surmounts each of the doors. A zone of painted brick runs beneath the windows and also forms the lower quarter of each of the piers. The building has been altered very little, and its excellent condition is comparable to 1939-43 University next door.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address John L. &  
 Mary M. Giovanzana, 225 Oa  
 Ct., Menlo Park, CA 94025
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Commercial
12. Zoning C-1
13. Threats Private developmen

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1935A                      Original location Same                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date The door on the right has been changed to a metal-framed door and a low brick planter has been constructed below the window on the right. The central projecting window is a later alteration.
16. Architect Unknown                                      Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06—Commercial Building, 1-3 stories

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1950s                      Property type Retail store                      Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

Like 1939-43 University beside it, this building is an excellent example of a period revival commercial structure. The Spanish Colonial Revival style was considered especially appropriate for California because of the state's own Spanish heritage. Period revival styles like this became increasingly popular for commercial architecture during the 1920s and 1930s. The building was probably constructed in the mid 1930s; the Palo Alto City Directory lists Berges and Huss Real Estate at 1700 University Avenue. As a fine example of its style as well as one of the oldest structures in the business district, this building harks back to the commercial growth along University Avenue during the 1930s in response to the newly constructed Highway 101. Well integrated into the row of shops lining the street, this building joins 1939-43 University Avenue in contributing to the character of University Avenue.

20. Sources *Polk's Palo Alto City Directories* (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1925-1940); *Palo Alto Times* (various articles and advertisements)

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation September, 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Historic name Safeway Grocery Store       | Ser. no.                    |
| 2. Common or current name University Liquors | National Register status 3S |
| 3. Number & street 1991 University           | Local designation           |
| City East Palo Alto                          | Cross-corridor              |
| Vicinity only                                | Zip 94303                   |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                             | County San Mateo            |
| B 575980                                     | D                           |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558                         | Other                       |
| Parcel No. 063-474-280-3                     |                             |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

Located in East Palo Alto's business district near Highway 101, 1991 University Avenue was once a Safeway store. The building is integrated into the row of shops that line University Avenue, but it also provides off-street parking in an adjacent lot to the east. The University Avenue facade of this one-story stucco structure features two main piers, one at each end, between which runs a long expanse of flat wall, bisected horizontally with a flat molding. Beneath this are two large square windows with black ceramic tile under them. These are separated by a door which rises to their same height; another door opens to the left of them. It is quite possible that these windows and doors represent alterations. The facade facing O'Connor is framed and divided by tall piers similar to those on the University facade. Two large windows which reach to the ground light the store's interior. These windows, which are divided into six lights, the lower ones smaller than those above, are clearly alterations. Dark ceramic tile, rising to a level higher than on the facade, wraps around each of the corner piers. The building was designed with a bold (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address: Joseph F.X.  
 and Gloria Murphy, 2700 Pierce  
 St., San Francisco, CA., 94123
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Commercial
12. Zoning C-1
13. Threats Private development



## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) opened 1937 F      Original location Same      Date moved
15. Alterations & date: The two windows on the east side of the building have been enlarged to meet the ground and reglazed (with six large windows). The two front windows may also have been altered.
16. Architect Unknown      Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 06--Commercial Building, 1-3 stories

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Highway 101 and East Palo Alto's Business District      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1920s-1950s      Property type Retail store      Context formally developed? Yes
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

On August 13, 1937, the new Palo Alto Safeway, located at E. University and O'Connor, threw its doors open to the public. The advertisement announcing the opening promised each visitor a gift and "free Coca Cola, ice cold!" East Palo Alto had a number of markets at this time, but this Safeway appears to have been the first supermarket in town. (The Buy and Save Market at Bayshore and Manhattan would follow four years later.) By the 1930s, with the growth of the Palo Alto Park and Woodland Place subdivisions, East Palo Alto had the population to support a supermarket. Its location just off Bayshore also made it easily accessible to other peninsula communities. (See continuation sheet.)

## 20. Sources

*Palo Alto Times*, Aug. 12, 1937; *Redwood City Tribune*, Sept. 28, 1974; Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1987).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation September 1993
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



## Continuation of description

simplicity and it features little ornamentation. The piers, which project slightly from the facade, are characteristic of Depression-era structures, both public and private. Each of these has a slight ridge rising up its center, terminating in a shallow triangular projection above the roof line. Running beneath the molding that stretches between the piers is a small scalloped band. Taken together, these features represent a highly simplified form of Deco ornamentation. Inside, the building was designed to provide the expansive floor area necessary for the display of this chain store's goods. Currently the structure is painted a dark brown (which tends to minimize its ornamentation) and a sign with "University Liquors" on it wraps around the corner.

It is interesting to compare the structure as it is now with a drawing inserted into the advertisement announcing the store's grand opening. (See illustration on continuation sheet.) In the drawing, the University Avenue facade bears a long SAFEWAY sign that stretches between the piers, and a single striped awning shades the door and windows. It is difficult to get more than a generalized impression of the structure itself from this drawing. The awnings and a crowd of eager people obscure the doors and windows, but the general shape of the building is the same (except perhaps a bit wider), and the facade consists of little more than a pier at each end framing the horizontal expanse in between. The principal difference between the drawing and the structure as it is today is that the piers in the drawing lack the pointed tops. Because these do not look at all as though they are the result of later alterations, it is likely that the artist simplified the structure or that the drawing was a generalized rendering of the architectural type Safeway preferred for its stores at that time. Except for the obvious alterations and some chipped tile, the building today is generally in good condition.

## Continuation of significance and evaluation

The Safeway was sited with the automobile in mind. One of its greatest assets was a paved parking lot in addition to the usual on-street parking. The store billed itself as "Palo Alto's new drive-in complete food market." Its ad explained: "No need to drive 'round and 'round looking for a place to park when you want to buy meats, groceries and vegetables. Just drive out University almost to the Bayshore and park on our smooth surfaced parking lot." (*Palo Alto Times*, Aug. 12, 1937) A parking lot on its east side still remains. Today the building is integrated into the row of shops on University Avenue. Since the building next door appears to be newer, the supermarket may have been free standing when it was first constructed. Even so, it maintains the established street line. As a result, it combines the traditional siting of the pre-automobile main street with the newer concept of space for off-street parking. Eventually, the Safeway chain and other supermarkets would break away from the street grid altogether to become free standing structures surrounded by vast, open parking lots.

Small by today's supermarket standards, in 1937 the new store offered the large open floor area that supermarkets and other chain stores needed for the display of their wide selection of goods. Here the shopper could find meat and fruit as well as a broad choice of staples and prepared foods. These were lit by "bright new fixtures," and accessible from "wide clean aisles." Safeway felt confident that the shopper would "delighted with this new store...." (*Palo Alto Times*, Aug. 12, 1937) Its boldly-designed facade, with its simplified Art Deco ornamentation, connoted the newness and modernity the new chain store offered.

In 1959 Safeway moved to a new building one block north of University Avenue at Bayshore. When this store closed in 1974, East Palo Alto was left with only smaller markets and convenience stores in their immediate vicinity. The Safeway building at 1991 University represents a time when business in the area was gathering momentum and the commercial district included many of the basic stores and services its local population needed. Though the Safeway building has received some alterations and has now been converted into a liquor store, it represents the introduction of a new building type and chain store retail concept into East Palo Alto. At a time when people were experimenting with various ways to accommodate the automobile into the retail environment, East Palo Alto's Safeway presents a solution that combines the traditional with the new.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

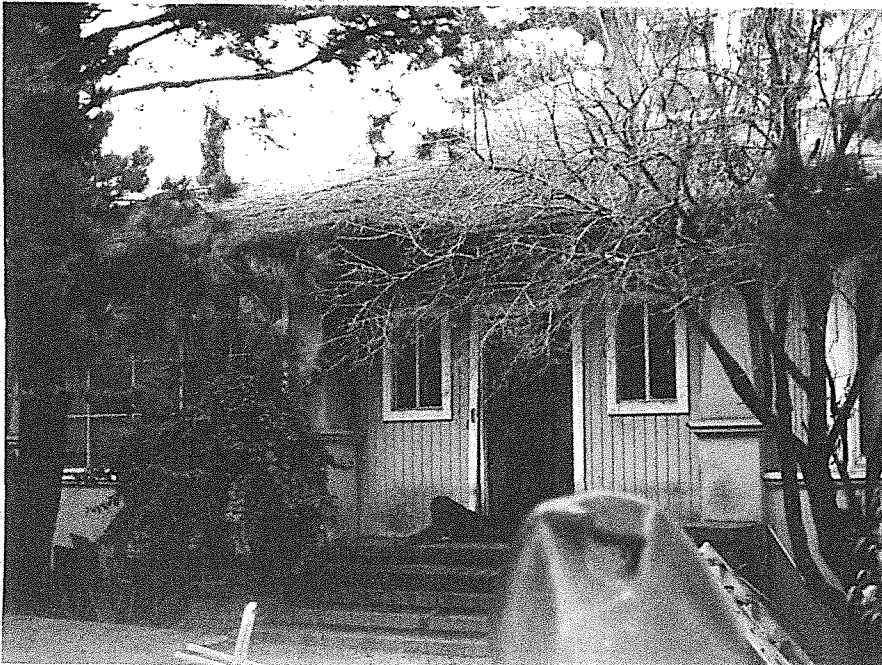
**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                                    |                        |                              |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name                   |                        | Ser. no.                     |                  |
| 2. Common or current name          |                        | National Register status 582 |                  |
| 3. Number & street 2126 University |                        | Local designation            |                  |
| City East Palo Alto                | Vicinity only          | Cross-corridor               |                  |
|                                    |                        | Zip 94303                    | County San Mateo |
| 4. UTM zone A 10                   | B 576020               | C 4146400                    | D                |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558               | Parcel No. 063-321-050 | Other                        |                  |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The Martinelli house at 2126 University Ave. is a large two-story bungalow with a long side-gabled roof. The house is set in a dense residential subdivision. Smooth stucco covers the walls and asphalt shingles protect the roof. The house has a basically square footprint, although a sizable gabled bay projects on the east. The front facade displays the extended horizontal lines typical of the Bungalow Style popular c.1915. Seen from University Ave., battered pylons support what was originally an open front porch on the first floor. It has since been enclosed to create more interior space. A group of replacement doors and windows line the wood walls of these new front rooms. To the left of the front facade, facing north, is a large glazed bay, also supported by pylons, which probably functioned as a sun room originally. Large knee brackets support the long roof of this bay. Returning to the main (north) facade, a large gabled dormer with a triplet of double-hung windows with wooden sash, occupies the center of the roof. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Ina Mae Norman and Pauline Wells  
2124 University, East Palo Alto  
415/329-1290
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**.ISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) 1919 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

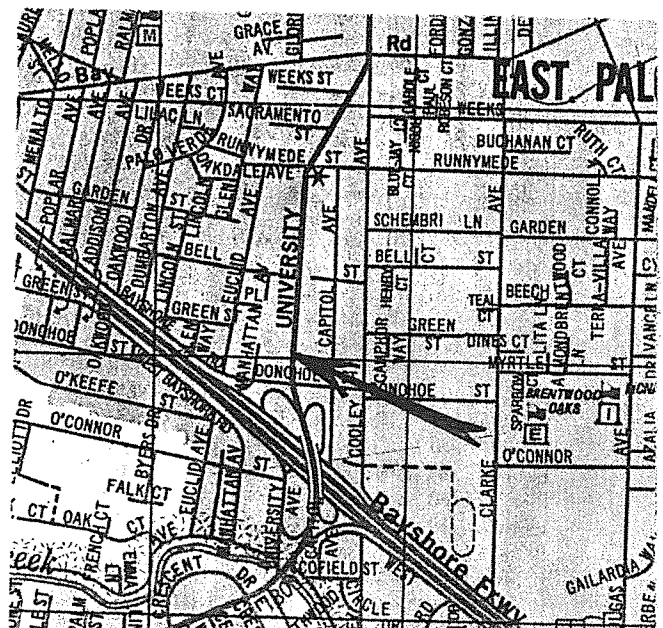
This house at 2126 University Ave. possesses many of the architectural features associated with a Craftsman bungalow. The dwelling's long lines, its extensive outdoor living spaces (such as its sun room and front porch), pylons, ample fenestration, and projecting rafter tails make it a good example of this style. The early owners were Arnold E. and Louise Martinelli, according to a 1922 property map of East Palo Alto. According to the *Runnymede News* (April 1919), Martinelli was a retired businessman, one of many retirees who chose to make his home in Runnymede. With Louise he raised poultry on this ranch until the early 1930s. When Arnold Martinelli died in the mid-1930s, Louise moved to Woodland Avenue and the house became a convalescent home run by Mrs. Linnie Wilson, a widow. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources

Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Ca., 1922; *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922); "New Buyers in the Ravenswood Tract," *Runnymede News*, April 1919, vol. 1, no. 20.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation February 17, 1994
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1994  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## 2126 UNIVERSITY CONTINUATION SHEET

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

Each dormer window has one over one lights; rafter tails project from the dormer's roof, another feature typical of bungalows. The roof's notably low pitch can be seen especially well on the south facade. Seven heavy knee brackets support the roof's eaves. A tall chimney faced in stucco extends up on this facade. (Its wide fire box tapers to a narrow flue.) Windows of this facade (many of them recent replacements) make up an irregular fenestration. A bay window with two large main lights occupies the center. To the left are two, recent, aluminum, sliding windows (on either side of the chimney), and to the right is a thin, horizontal, sliding window and a pair of double-hung windows toward the rear.

In the rear stands one of East Palo Alto's most notable tankhouses. Thin clapboards clad the building and asphalt tiles sheath the roof. In the center rises a two story portion, which once supported the tankhouse's reservoir. On the west facade it has two wooden double-hung windows with mismatched casings illuminating a second floor space. A gable roof with slight pitch covers this towered form. On either side of the central tower are two spaces used for storage and garage purposes. The central tower flanked by two first floor rooms creates an imposing formal composition, suggesting at a glance the owner's wealth and status.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

She made numerous changes in the interior of the house. The Martinellis originally held about 4 acres of Faber Tract land, and their farm apparently prospered. Their house was one of the largest and most up-to-date bungalows in East Palo Alto at the time of its construction, and their tankhouse, with its grand tower and symmetrical garages, reified the owner's prosperity.

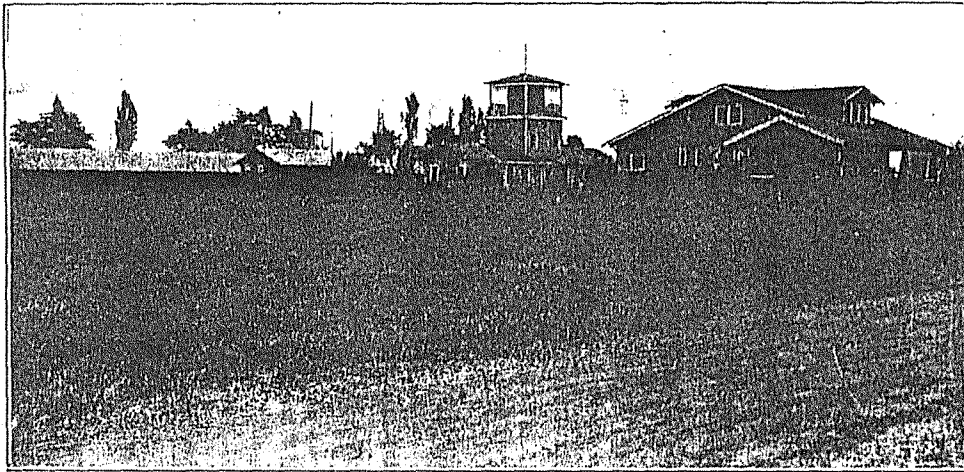
1.32222222

One Acre (Sept. 1922)

ONE ACRE AND INDEPENDENCE 9/22

MAKINELLI HOUSE AND TANKHOUSE  
(TOP PHOTOGRAPH)

## GARDEN HOMES in the Charles Weeks' Colony



---

---

(1) A country estate of a retired business man, a lovely home with all modern devices, garage space for three cars, fully equipped with the latest poultry houses and machinery. Just the sort of a home a successful business man hopes to own.

---

---

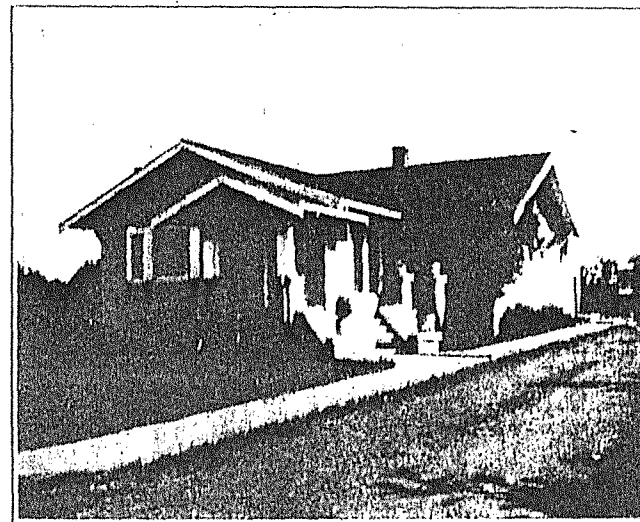
---

---

(2) A lovely modern home housing a happy family. Many branches of intensive cultivation are taken up by these enterprising people, berry growing, fruit raising, incubating, brooding and poultry raising.

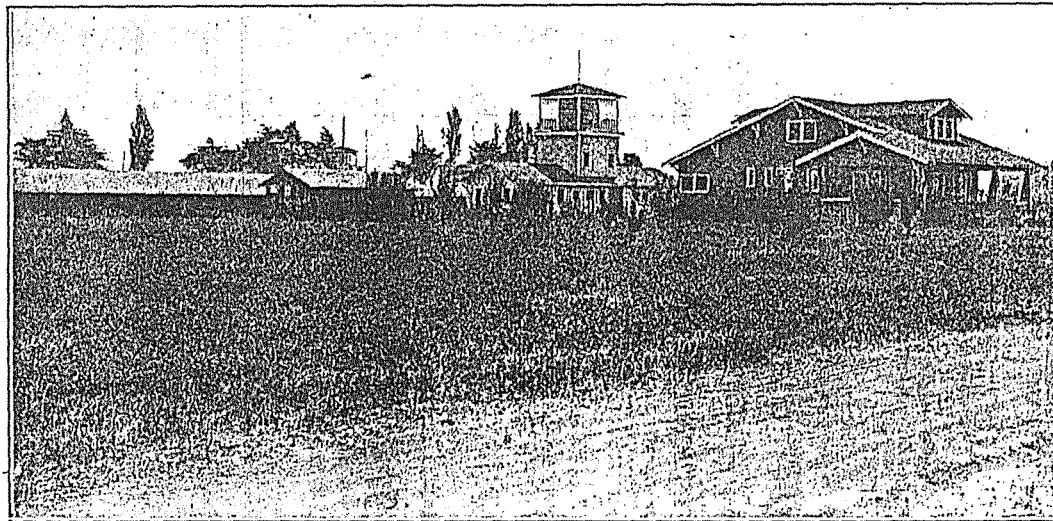
---

---



Back cover  
One Acre (Sept. 1922)  
**ONE ACRE AND INDEPENDENCE**

## GARDEN HOMES in the Charles Weeks' Colony



---

---

(1) A country estate of a retired business man, a lovely home with all modern devices, garage space for three cars, fully equipped with the latest poultry houses and machinery. Just the sort of a home a successful business man hopes to own.

---

---

---

---

(2) A 1 1/2 acre lot

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name                        | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name               | National Register status 4S2 |
| 3. Number & street <sup>^</sup> unknown | Local designation            |
| City East Palo Alto                     | Cross-corridor               |
| Vicinity only                           | Zip 94303                    |
| County San Mateo                        | County San Mateo             |
| 4. UTM zone A                           | B                            |
|   | C                            |
|   | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No.                         | Parcel No. unknown           |
|   | Other                        |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category building If district, number of documented resources district; 3 resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

This cluster of buildings — a house, a tankhouse, and a barn — are situated in a setting that retains its rural character. They are reached by an unused gravel road, and they are surrounded by open land and overgrown foliage. The house is a simple bungalow clad with thin clapboard siding. A small front porch covered with a gabled roof projects from the right side of the facade. Its supports are plain square posts. The house itself is front-gabled, with widely overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and large triangular brackets. The roof, covered with asphalt shingles, appears to be in good condition. A triple window, the narrow portion wider than those flanking it, is located to the left of the door. The upper sash has been divided into four narrow, vertical lights, a motif that is echoed in the windows that light the side of the house. Several window panes are broken but other wise the structure appears sound.



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address
10. Type of ownership private
11. Present use vacant
12. Zoning
13. Threats



## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) unknown                      Original location                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date unknown
16. Architect unknown                                      Builder unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony; Floriculture Area East Palo Alto

Period 1916-1920s                      Property type residential/agricultural                      Context formally developed? Yes

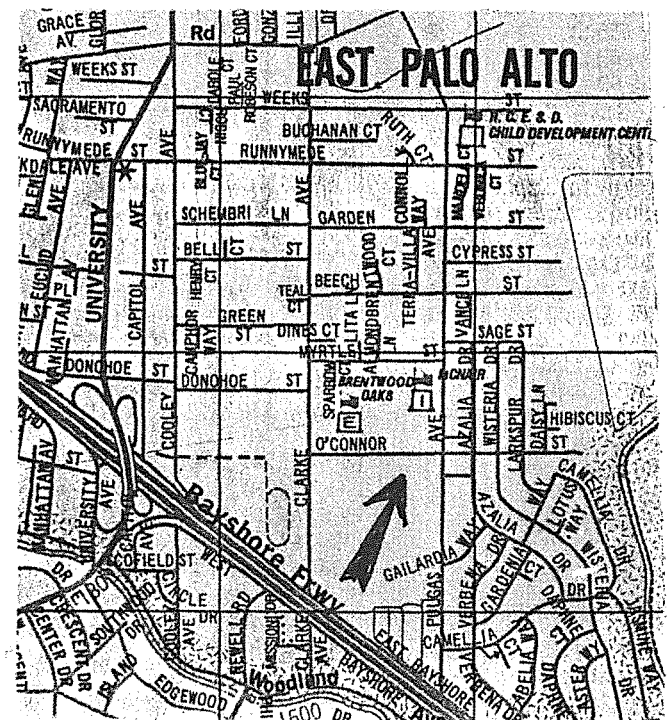
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

Behind a fence and down an unused gravel road in the midst of East Palo Alto's greenhouse operations lie the remnants of a Runnymede farm. The house, the tankhouse, and the barn represent the only remaining Runnymede structures that still may be seen in such a rural setting. It is possible that the tankhouse and its addition, like others in Runnymede, were constructed first to provide an immediate water supply and shelter for the new settlers. In its general outlines it is similar to the extended tankhouse at 2190 Clarke and may suggest what that structure looked like before it was reclad. Early photographs of Runnymede reveal a number of other similar tankhouses in the area. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation April, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

To the right of the house stands the tankhouse, augmented by a two-story extension. The right half of the structure, topped with a sturdy platform that rises slightly at the center, once supported the water tank. The two-story addition, which extends to the left, is covered with a shed roof that slopes gently down from the tankhouse platform. The entire structure is clad with narrow clapboard siding similar to the bungalow. Double-hung windows, irregularly placed, light both portions of the structure along with an assortment of other, smaller openings. The main door opens into the tankhouse on the long side facing the gravel road leading into the site. A low lean-to, one story high, projects from the left side of the tankhouse. In the bushes near the lean-to is an old pump, cylindrical in shape.

Behind bungalow and tankhouse is a gabled barn, portions of which are obscured by foliage. The shingled roof is chipping away, and the weathered vertical siding is beginning to burst loose at the bottom. Various openings have been cut into the building to make windows, which are now sagging and without their glazing.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Because the bungalow next to it is somewhat more substantial than many of the other cottages constructed in the first portion of Runnymede (where this is located), it is possible that the house was constructed after the family was well settled. It is now relatively rare to find both house and extended tankhouse on the same property. Rarer still is the presence of a barn. Though Charles Weeks did not prescribe a barn as one of the structures necessary to his approach to farming, photographs reveal that a number of colonists constructed them anyway. The barn on this property joins the one at 250 Donohoe as one of the few that remains in East Palo Alto today. The most unusual remnant of Runnymede found on this site is an old pump, nestled in the bushes near the tankhouse. Its cylindrical form closely resembles pumps that were advertised in Runnymede publications during the late 'teens and early 'twenties. Though there is no poultry house in evidence, this cluster of structures, together with its undeveloped setting, is an important fragment of Runnymede's landscape. The long greenhouses that surround them represent the next phase of East Palo Alto's agricultural history.





State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Historic name 550 Weeks   | Ser. no.                     |
| 2. Common or current name    | National Register status 552 |
|                              | Local designation            |
| 3. Number & street 820 Weeks | Cross-corridor               |
| City East Palo Alto          | Vicinity only                |
|                              | Zip 94303                    |
| 4. UTM zone A 10             | County San Mateo             |
|                              | B 576470                     |
|                              | C 4147160                    |
|                              | D                            |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558         | Parcel No.                   |
|                              | Other                        |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The house at 820 Weeks St. is a one story side-gabled residence. An addition with a hipped roof can be seen in back, connecting the main house with the garage behind. The house has thin clapboard siding on its walls, and asphalt shingles on the roof. Seen from Weeks St. on the north, one sees a projecting front-gabled porch in the center. The porch has a segmental arch over the doorway, and is supported by two Tuscan piers. On either side of the central front door, are two sets of triplet windows. Each set features two thin windows with double-hung sash sandwiching a middle fixed window. This square middle window is separated into one large light below with a thin row of four lights above. The east facade features two small double-hung windows on each side of a tall brick chimney, and two pairs of double-hung windows behind. A pair of French doors is visible on the addition's north wall. The dwelling's west wall is punctuated by two square plate glass windows with fixed sash. Louvered attic vents open the gable peaks on both the east and west facades. Especially prominent on the lot are two large black walnut trees which edge Weeks St. The current owner was instrumental in preserving these trees when the county sought to widen Weeks St. Many such mature trees were eliminated in East Palo Alto during widening projects in recent years.



8. Planning Agency  
East Palo Alto Planning Department
9. Owner & address  
Larry and Emma Atwater  
820 Weeks, East Palo Alto, CA
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

- 14. Construction date(s) c.1928 Original location Yes Date moved
- 15. Alterations & date
- 16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown
- 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

- 18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area East Palo Alto  
 Period 1910s-1920s Property type Domestic structure Context formally developed? Yes

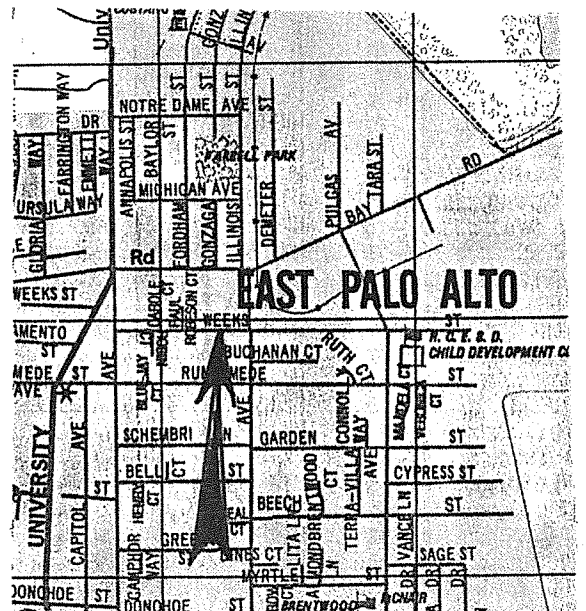
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The residence at 820 Weeks St. is located in the Weeks Colony's First Addition (begun 1916), although this house was not built until c. 1925. A 1922 property map of East Palo Alto shows lot 42 to be part of a five acre parcel owned by P.C. Poulson. P.C. Poulson came from Utah and grew corn on his holding, as noted in a *Palo Alto Times* article of May 1918. This article shows a photo of Poulson in his cornfield - but none of his buildings. Poulson sold this land to Lloyd O. and Mary Mayer, who raised poultry on this land in 1921-1922. The first listing for residents at 550 Weeks St. (its previous number) was of Harold C. and Mathilda A. Frewert in 1928. The Frewerts were poultry farmers, who may have built this house at about this time. They continued to farm on this land until the mid-1930s, at least. The dwelling has a cleaner, more polished look to it than many of the bungalows constructed in the 1910s and early 1920s, such as the dwelling at 761 Weeks St. Fascia boards give rooflines a trim, neat look; rafter tails do not protrude as at 761 Weeks St. Knee brackets, typical of earlier bungalows in East Palo Alto, are missing here. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources Article in the Palo Alto Times, May 1918; interview with Larry Atwater, July 1993. *Polk's Palo Alto City Directory*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1928-1940).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation December 13, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) A. Michelson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402 Phone 415/574-6441



## 820 WEEKS CONTINUATION SHEET

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Decorative Tuscan piers support the projecting porch, whose arch is neatly molded over the entryway. This arch is a decorative feature not found in simpler earlier designs. The front fenestration is symmetrical, and window muntins are thin and elegant. The house resembles many bungalows illustrated in mass-market plan books published in the late 1920s. The house's polish and size may reflect a prosperous owner and the greater levels of affluence enjoyed during the late 1920s, a period of active building. The house has been owned for over twenty years by Lawrence and Emma Atwater. Lawrence Atwater, a Stanford University employee, has maintained both the house and grounds (especially the two black walnut trees in front) in excellent condition.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

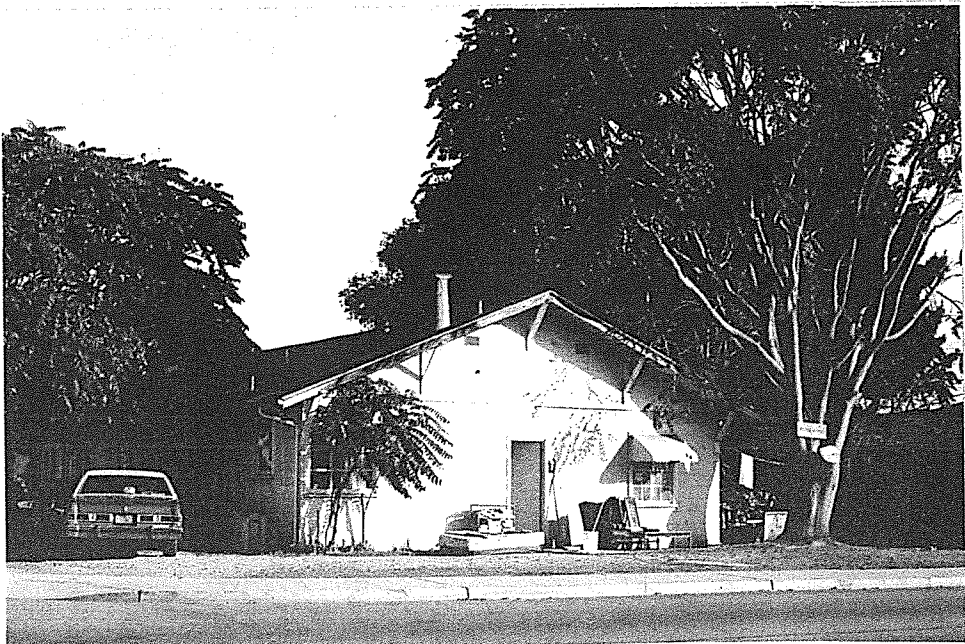
Ser. no.  
 National Register status 4S7  
 Local designation

- |                           |                        |                |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Historic name          | Runnymede Clubhouse    |                |                  |
| 2. Common or current name |                        |                |                  |
| 3. Number & street        | 906 Weeks              | Cross-corridor |                  |
| City                      | East Palo Alto         | Vicinity only  |                  |
| 4. UTM zone               | A 10                   | B 576610       | C 4147160        |
| 5. Quad map No. 1558      | Parcel No. 063-263-010 | Other          | D                |
|                           |                        |                | County San Mateo |

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources
7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

906 Weeks was once Runnymede's community center, known as the Runnymede Club House. (See illustrations on continuation sheet.) After it fell into disuse as a clubhouse by the early 1920s, it was converted into a house. In the process it has undergone a number of changes over the years. The one-story building is a long rectangular structure, the length of its gabled roof running along Weeks Street. Five large brackets have been inserted beneath each gable, and the gable end is closed by a long, horizontal line. Early photographs show that vertical boards of a lighter color than the walls below once filled the gable, but today these have been covered by what appear to be asbestos shingles. The same material clads the rest of the structure, but it is difficult to discern from the existing photographs the original siding they now cover. While it was still a clubhouse, the main door was centered beneath the gable. Today, a similarly positioned door opens onto Clarke Avenue, but it is narrower than it was in 1922. The fenestration at this end of the building has also been changed. When it was still a clubhouse, two vertical, rectangular windows, with eight lights each, flanked the door, one on each side. These, like the rest of the windows lighting the building, appear to be casements. Today, the window on the left is wider, and the one on the right has been converted into a double hung window placed lower in the wall. From early photographs, it appears that the fenestration on the sides of the building consisted of a row of paired windows similar to those in the gable end. This has been disrupted. The Weeks Street facade currently has two double windows at the left end, between which has been inserted a glass door with thin mullions delineating narrow panes around its edges. This end of the building is obscured in early photographs, so it is difficult to discern whether these were there when the building was a clubhouse. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning  
 Department
9. Owner & address  
 Gladys A. Jedlicka &  
 Darlene J. Excell  
 Palo Alto, CA 94302
10. Type of ownership Private
11. Present use Residential
12. Zoning R-1-5000
13. Threats



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

14. Construction date(s) 1917A Original location Believed to be same Date moved

15. Alterations & date The building has been reclad with asbestos and the fenestration has been altered throughout. While paired casement windows once lined the building's Weeks Street facade, two double hung windows have been added, an undetermined number of original windows have been eliminated, and two pair appear to have been lowered to align with a glass door, which is in character with the structure and may have been added when it was converted into a residence. The door beneath the gable on the Clarke Avenue end has been narrowed.

16. Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 13--Community Center/Social Hall

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Area  
 Period 1916-1920s Property type Community building Context formally developed? Yes

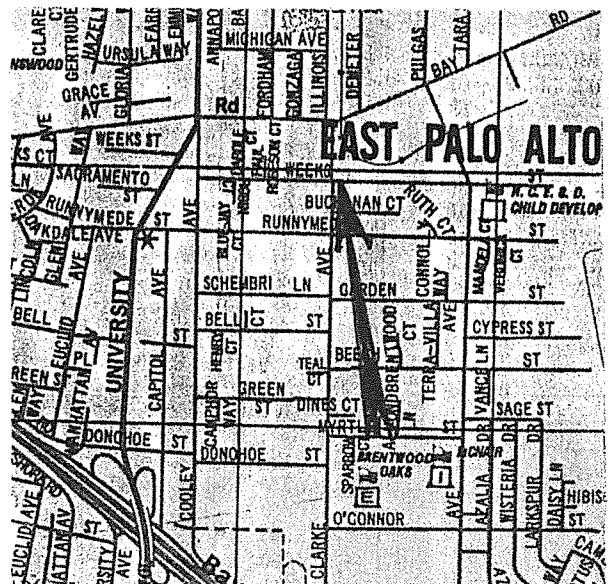
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

906 Weeks Street was once the community center, the place where Runnymede's colonists gathered for social events and to discuss business. When the poultry colony was first founded, its settlers met in each others homes, but Weeks realized that a common space was necessary. In the second addition to Runnymede, he designated one of the lots laid out for a one-acre farm for the community center. Although the site was not particularly central, nor was it set off in any way from the surrounding farms, it was located near the railway spur and the community warehouse, Runnymede's other common structure. There, the community center was constructed.

20. Sources Edna Wolverton, "The Process of Social Life In Runnymede," *One Acre and Independence* (Oct. 1922): 10-11; Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Palo Alto: Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920, 1921-1922); *R. L. Polk Directory of Palo Alto*, (San Francisco: R.L. Polk, 1923, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1937, 1940).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

- 21. Applicable National Register criteria
- 22. Other recognition -----  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
- 23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
 Date of evaluation Sept. 8, 1993
- 24. Survey type Comprehensive
- 25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
- 26. Year form prepared 1993  
 By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
 Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
 Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
 City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
 Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET, 906 Weeks

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

Door and windows form a well integrated unit, their tops all at the same level, but the windows are set lower than they appear to be in the old photographs. This door may have been inserted and the windows lowered when the building was converted into a house. Another pair of windows, set higher in the wall, appear at the right, and then a larger double hung window, a single casement window, and a smaller double hung window. Though the fenestration has been altered and the building reclad, enough of the building remains intact to get some sense of how it appeared as a clubhouse. It stands on lot 46 of the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony (the second addition to Runnymede). Early photographs show it in the midst of open fields. Today, with the widening of Weeks Street and Clarke Avenue, only a thin strip of yard space separates it from the sidewalk and street.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Though it was (and still is) a simple rectangular box, it displays such Craftsman details as the triangular brackets at the gable ends and a broad, low-pitched roof. This building came to be known as the Club House, a place where the colonists met for business meetings, box suppers, musical performances, and other cultural events. It is not clear how many rooms the building contained, but an article in *One Acre and Independence* described a large room where the colonists gathered.

906 Weeks served as a clubhouse for only a short period of time. As Runnymede continued to grow, the building could no longer accommodate all of the colonists. In 1919, a building with four classrooms and an auditorium for Runnymede gatherings was constructed in Woodland Place and named Woods School after Isaiah Woods. (This received a Mission Style addition in the early 1920s and was renamed Ravenswood School, but has since been torn down.) As early as 1919 or 1920, a gardener named James W. Taylor had made the Old Club House (as it came to be known) his home. It appears from city directories that the house was thenceforth occupied by people who made their living from something other than farming. For example, Guy R. Payne, who lived there with his wife Jennie probably from 1923 into at least the 1940s, was involved with insurance. This makes sense, since the building occupied a larger portion of its lot than the typical Runnymede house, thus limiting possible agricultural activity. Though the building has been somewhat clumsily altered in its cladding and fenestration, as Runnymede's clubhouse, it is a particularly important historic resource in East Palo Alto.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION**

1. Historic name			Ser. no.	
2. Common or current name			National Register status	5S2
			Local designation	
3. Number & street	965 Weeks		Cross-corridor	
City	East Palo Alto	Vicinity only	Zip 94303	County San Mateo
4. UTM zone	A 10	B 576730	C 4147210	D
5. Quad map No.	1558	Parcel No.	Other.	

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

965 Weeks is a tankhouse has been converted into a residence through a variety of additional features. The tankhouse itself is similar to those found throughout the Weeks Poultry Colony area. It reaches two stories up to a sturdy wooden platform covered with an extremely shallow gable. This supported a water tank, now missing. Two rectangular double-hung windows, placed close to the corners, light each side of the second story, while paired windows light one side of the first.

At the front of the tankhouse, a gabled porch with a shake roof suggests its domestic character. The gable end is filled with the same narrow clapboard siding that clads the tankhouse itself. Below this, a wider siding, added later, encloses the porch, and aluminum sliders provide light. A door cut into the left side of the porch now provides access to the building. At the back of the building, a one-story extension expands the limited living space within the tankhouse. This appears to be connected to the garage, at the left, which is also attached to the house by a low passageway. Gabled shake roofs shelter garage and extension, both of which are clad with narrow clapboard siding similar to the tankhouse. Additional rectangular windows light the garage, three on the north side and one on the east, and wide, hinged, double wooden door provides access. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency  
 East Palo Alto Planning Department

9. Owner & address Unknown

10. Type of ownership Unknown

11. Present use Residential

12. Zoning R-1-5000

13. Threats Private development

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) 1917A                      Original location Believed to be same                      Date moved
15. Alterations & date The gabled porch has been enclosed with wider clapboard siding than the main structure and aluminum sliders have been inserted to light it. A rear addition with clapboard siding and a gabled roof has been appended to the rear at an unknown date. It could have been added not long after the tankhouse's construction.
16. Architect Unknown    Builder Unknown
17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02--Single Family Property; 33--Farm/Ranch

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Runnymede: The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony                      Area East Palo Alto
- Period 1916-1920s                                      Property type residential/agricultural                      Context formally developed? Yes

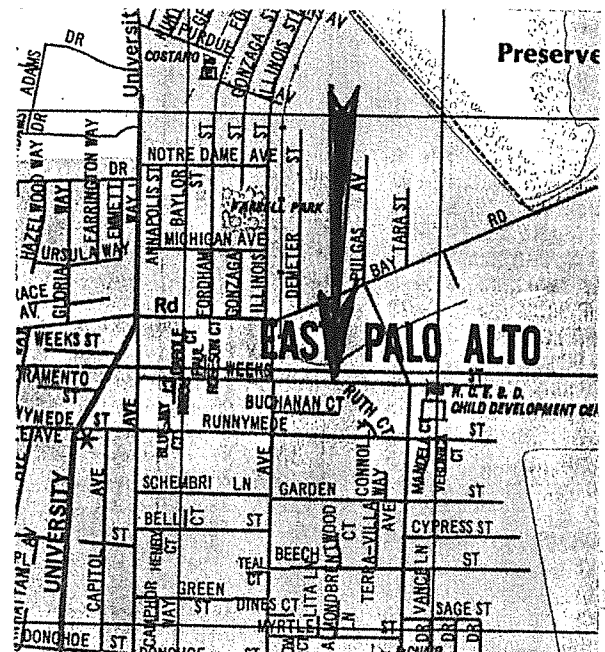
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The tankhouse-residence located at 965 Weeks stands on the berry farm run by Edward and Ida Tobin at Runnymede's peak. The Tobins held four lots in the second addition to Runnymede (they were among this section's first settlers) just beside the spur track that looped down between Bay Road and Weeks Street. Professor L. Barnier of the University of California wrote that the Tobins raspberries were two and a half times the size of ordinary Logans, and they had be advantage of growing on thorn-free bushes. Their location next to the track was convenient, for they shipped their loganberries to San Francisco. Today, the area the Tobins once cultivated remains wide open and undeveloped. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources Professor L. Barnier, 'A Dream Come True,' *One Acre and Independence* (Aug. 1922): 12; *PA Times*, 19 May 1922; San Mateo County, Assessors Records (printout in the archives of the San Mateo County Historical Association); Map of the Subdivisions at Runnymede, San Mateo County, Calif., 1922 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); Map of Ravenswood and East Palo Alto San Mateo County Calif., 1925 (collection of Palo Alto Historical Association); *Directory of Palo Alto, Mayfield, Runnymede, and Stanford* (Willis L. Hall, Publisher, 1919-1920 & 1921-1922).

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation September 7, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1993
- By (name) A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Association  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441



## CONTINUATION SHEET 965 Weeks

### DESCRIPTION (continued)

Today, tankhouse and garage are painted a bright turquoise with pink trim, which have grown somewhat faded, and grills protect some of the lower windows. The garage doors are beginning to splinter, and some of the siding has slipped out of alignment, but otherwise the structures are in fairly good condition. They now stand in a broad open space devoid of other development.

### SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION (continued)

Because the Tobins were not poultry farmers, it is unlikely that there was ever a poultry house on this property. In fact, it is possible that there were few other structures on the site than those that remain today.

The extensions added to the tankhouse may represent the Tobin's own efforts to turn their tankhouse into a residence. This was not uncommon in Runnymede. Since the tankhouse was often the first structure built on a Runnymede farm, some families lived in their tankhouses while their homes were under construction. Others made the tankhouse their permanent home with the addition of several rooms. 2190 Clarke, for example, combines a tankhouse with a two-story addition and a small porch. Old photographs reveal a number structures like this in the early days of Runnymede. Less usual is the broad, low porch appended to the Tobin's tankhouse. The residence possibly grew by accretion, the back extension added as needed. Since many Runnymede colonists owned automobiles, the garage could be original to the Tobin farm.

965 Weeks suggests one way in which the agricultural tankhouse was domesticated in Runnymede, and it also represents more recent changes in East Palo Alto's cultural landscape. The intensity of its bright turquoise and pink color scheme, covering paint that was once a weathered brown, is showing up in other parts of the city as the area's Mexican population has increased. On its wide sweep of land, 965 Weeks suggests what the Tobin property may once have been like, minus the berries. Though the immediate area has changed, it presents an abbreviated glimpse of Runnymede's open expanse, punctuated by vertical tankhouses such as this.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

1. Historic name Donohoe Swimming Pool

Ser. no.

National Register status 552

Local designation

2. Common or current name Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company

3. Number & street 2190 Addison

Cross-corridor

City East Palo Alto

Vicinity only

Zip 94303-1434

County San Mateo

4. UTM zone A

B

C

D

5. Quad map No.

Parcel No.

Other

DESCRIPTION

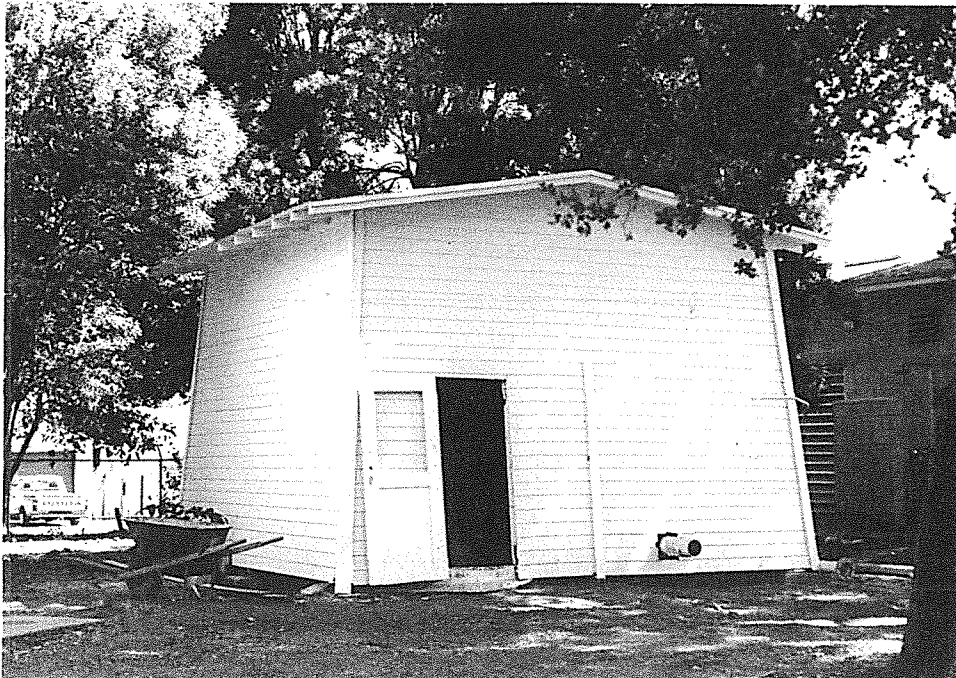
6. Property category buildings

If district, number of documented resources district — 3 resources

7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

When the visitor approaches the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company from the street, at first only a long, low mid-20th century building is apparent. This is sited at the edge of a large rectangular oak-shaded park that stretches on either side and behind. A vast, shallowly sloping concavity yawns at the center of this park, all that remains of a 75 x 175-foot swimming pool/reservoir. Chunks of the concrete slabs that once lined the pool may still be found on the property.

Three structures that once serviced the pool still stand. Two tiny gabled buildings house toilets, one for men, the other for women. Each is clapboard, with vertical slats filling the gable ends, the spaces between them allowing air to flow into the interior. A vine-clad lathe enclosure (two rectangular lathe panels set at right angles to one another,) provides a private, open-air vestibule in front of each door. These two small structures, both painted a crisp white, stand at the edge of the site, close to the chain-link fence that encloses the property. (See continuation sheet.)



8. Planning Agency

East Palo Alto Planning  
Department

9. Owner & address

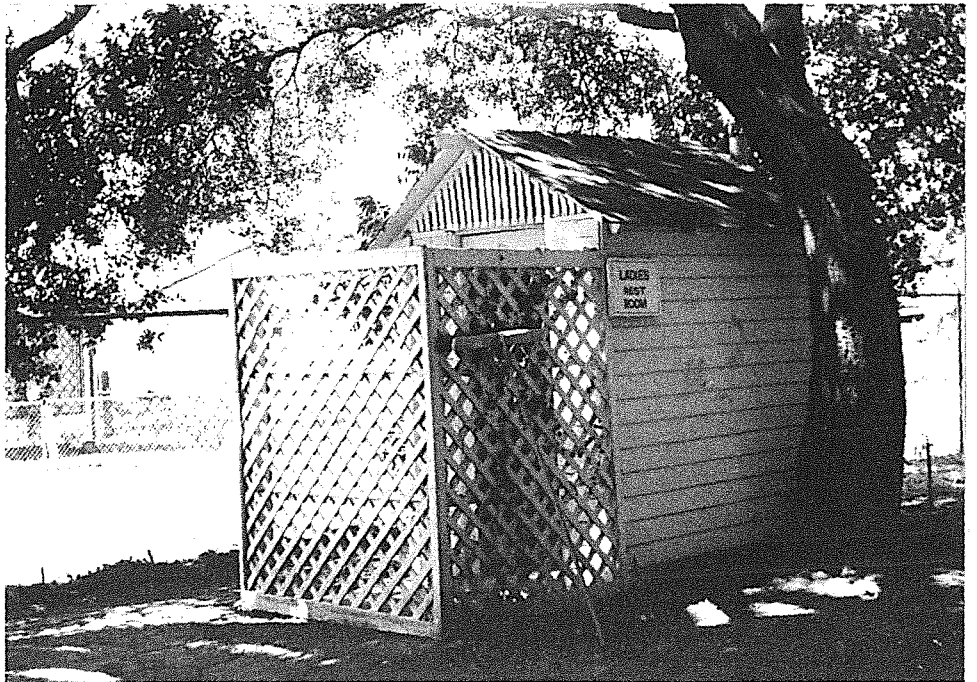
Palo Alto Park Water District

10. Type of ownership

11. Present use

12. Zoning

13. Threats



## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

14. Construction date(s) Original location Date moved
15. Alterations & date The swimming pool was destroyed in 1955. The tankhouse no longer has a tank (date of removal unknown), and, according to the Palo Alto Park Water District, the tankhouse windows were recently replaced with windows from another old building.
16. Architect unknown Builder
17. Historic attributes (with number from list)

## SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme 19th-century land owners/suburbanization Area East Palo Alto
- Period 19th century/1920s Property type Context formally developed? Yes

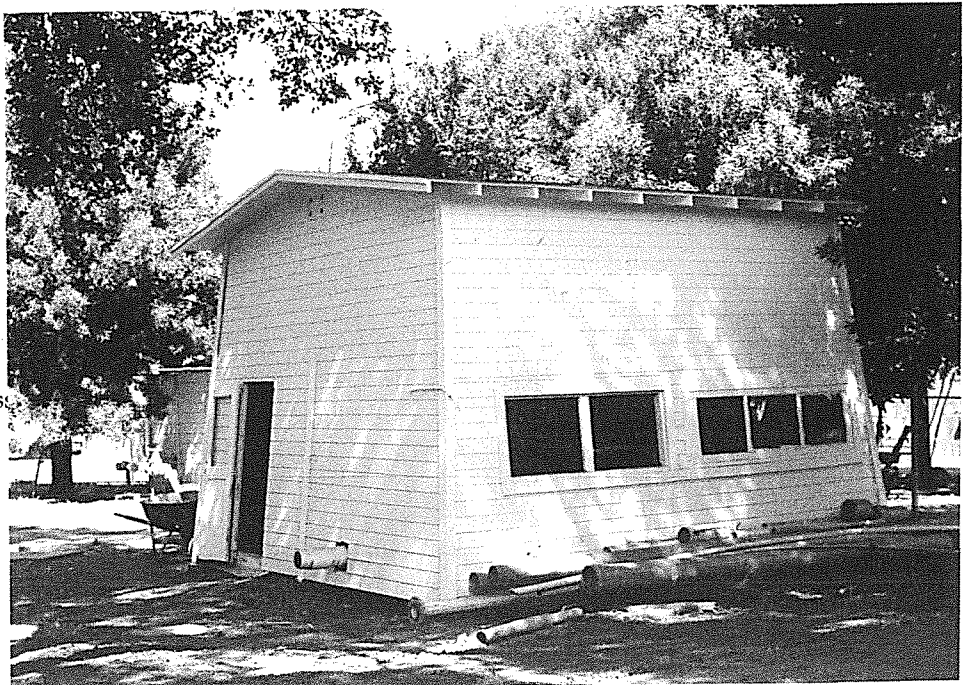
19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Water Company site shows evidence of each of East Palo Alto's major phases of growth. The area was once part of the 1,500-acre holding belonging to Joseph Donohoe, one of the East Palo Alto area's large-scale late nineteenth-century land owners. It is believed that his son Edward had a swimming pool constructed here sometime between the 1860s and 1900. The pool, lined by slabs of concrete, had sides that sloped gently to form a long, shallow oval. Redwood pipes, bound together with wire, supplied the pool with water. When it was destroyed in the mid 1950s, it was found that fourteen-inch cement irrigation pipes led from the pool to the surrounding district. (See continuation sheet.)

20. Sources *Palo Alto Times*, April 22, 1955; *Palo Alto Times*, Sept. 11, 1958; "History of East Palo Alto and Palo Alto Park" (undated typescript in the files of the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water District); telephone interview with former Palo Alto Park resident Adrienne Vitale Principal, July 25, 1993. Special thanks to Catherine Loud, head of the Palo Alto Park Mutual Water District.

Sketch map. Show location and boundaries of property in relation to nearby streets, railways, natural landmarks, etc. Name each feature.

21. Applicable National Register criteria
22. Other recognition -----  
State Landmark No. (if applicable) -----
23. Evaluator A. Michelson & K. Solomonson  
Date of evaluation June, 1994
24. Survey type Comprehensive
25. Survey name East Palo Alto History Project
26. Year form prepared 1994  
By (name) K. Solomonson  
Organization San Mateo County Historical Ass.  
Address 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd.  
City & Zip San Mateo, CA 94402  
Phone 415/574-6441





## CONTINUATION SHEET. PALO ALTO PARK MUTUAL WATER DISTRICT

### Description (continued)

On the other side of the property stands a broad tank or pump house. This building is approximately square in plan. Its battered walls, which slope up to support a shallow gabled roof, are clad with clapboard siding painted white. The roof has exposed rafters. Lighting the interior are two horizontally proportioned windows (side by side), one double, the other triple. Because these windows were taken from other older buildings to replace the originals, the appearance of the original windows is uncertain. A rectangular doorway, set off-center to the left on one side, gives access to an interior which continues to house pumping equipment. These structures are all meticulously maintained.

### Significance and evaluation (continued)

The sloping concavity that remains on this site, as well as chunks of concrete that lined it, are among the few tangible remnants of the large nineteenth-century land holdings that once covered the East Palo Alto area.

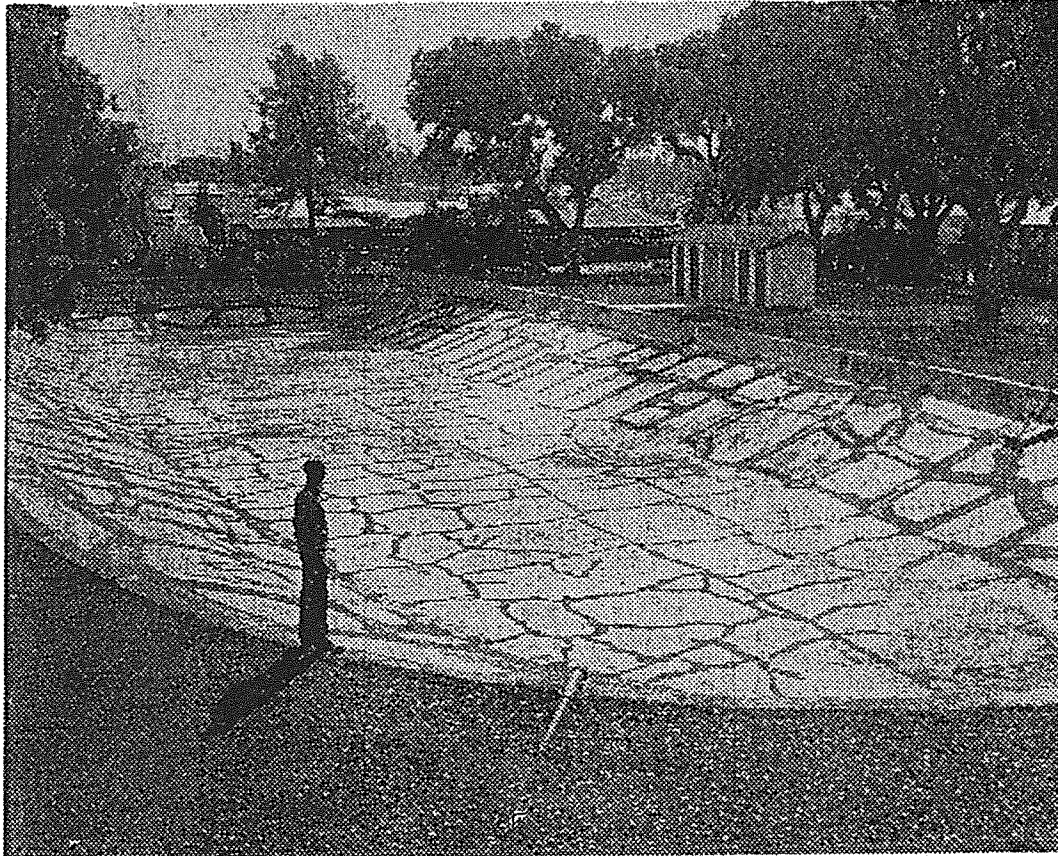
In addition to recreation, the Donohoe swimming pool was also used as a reservoir. It is possible that Edward Donohoe irrigated a prune orchard with water from the pool. By 1915, A.B. Partee rented it to irrigate his own prunes and strawberries. During World War I, the U.S. Army transformed the site into Camp Remount, a horse and mule depot associated with Camp Fremont in Menlo Park. In 1955 (just before the pool was decimated), a local resident recalled that soldiers from Camp Fremont used to swim in the pool, which served primarily to water the animals.

The 1920s saw a transition from military and agricultural use back to recreation. East Palo Alto's good climate and country atmosphere made it an attractive country retreat for urban families. People who later bought property in the area camped out around the pool during the first half of the decade. Then, in 1925, the Koff Realty Company acquired the pool and the area around it and transformed it into the subdivision of Palo Alto Park. It was conceived as a resort area where people might spend weekends and summers, but some residents chose to live there year round. The pool and the park around it provided the development's centerpiece and contributed to its resort-like atmosphere. The Palo Alto Park Mutual Water Company, which continues to operate on this site, was founded to provide a centralized water supply. Its operation was turned over to the residents of Palo Alto Park in 1929.

Except for a brief period during World War II, when it once again served as a reservoir (to maintain an emergency water supply), the pool continued to be used for recreation, averaging more than 300 swimmers per day by the early 1950s. In 1955, Palo Alto Park residents came to the reluctant conclusion that their swimming pool could no longer be maintained. Because it lacked automatic chlorinating and filter systems, it could not meet the county's public health requirements. Because it would cost a prohibitive sixteen to thirty thousand dollars to bring the pool up to code, residents resigned themselves to giving it up. It was replaced by a new, modern pool constructed by the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District at University and Bell. The abandoned Donohoe pool was completely filled in by 1958.

It is likely that the tankhouse and the two restrooms on the site were constructed during the early development of Palo Alto Park during the 1920s. The stout tankhouse, which survives in excellent condition, shelters the pumping equipment that filled the pool and provided water to the subdivision's houses. With its gabled roof and broad proportions (due to the amount of equipment it houses), it contrasts with the smaller individual tankhouses that once irrigated Runnymede's ranches. As such, it represents the 1920s transition in East Palo Alto from independent to centralized water management. Standing among the oaks, these structures, along with some of the tiny cottages sprinkled throughout the subdivision, represent a period when a large land holding that had once belonged to a single family was transformed into a sunny resort-like subdivision.

DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1955



**POOL TO BE CLOSED**—The swimming pool in Palo Alto Park, an East Palo Alto residential area, will not open when swimming time comes around next month. Residents have decided that the cost of improvements to bring the

pool up to standards required by the county health department is too high. They're now considering what to do with the new property. Here Harry Wilcoxon, water company superintendent, looks at the empty pool.

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

(State use)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Lat \_\_\_\_\_ Lon \_\_\_\_\_ Era \_\_\_\_\_ Sig \_\_\_\_\_

Adm \_\_\_\_\_ T2 \_\_\_\_\_ T3 \_\_\_\_\_ Cat \_\_\_\_\_ HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Fed \_\_\_\_\_

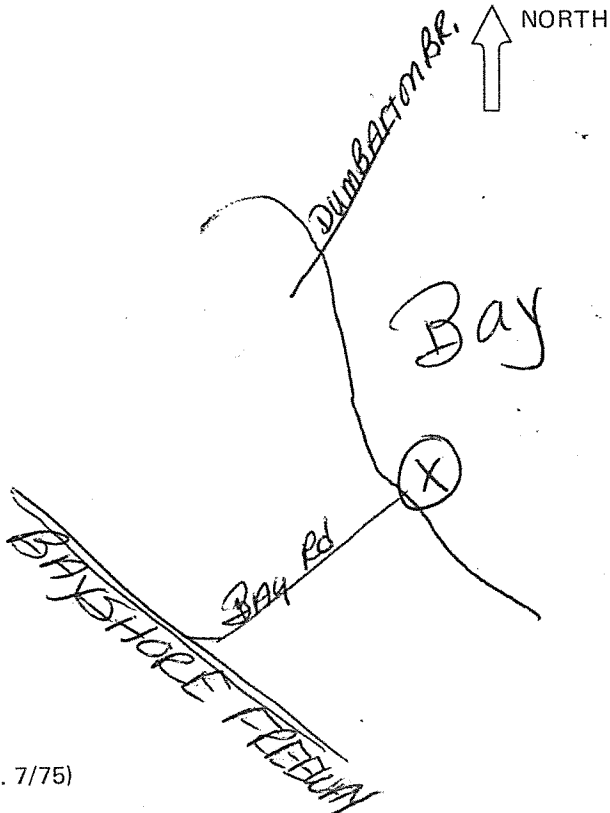
## IDENTIFICATION

- Common name: Cooley Landing
- Historic name, if known: \_\_\_\_\_
- Street or rural address S.F. Bay Front  
 City: East Palo Alto ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ County: San Mateo
- Present owner, if known: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Ownership is: Public  Private
- Present Use: \_\_\_\_\_ Original Use: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other past uses: \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

- Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:  
No longer in existence

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



- Approximate property size:  
 Lot size (in feet) Frontage \_\_\_\_\_'  
 Depth \_\_\_\_\_';  
 or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_.
- Condition: (check one)  
 a. Excellent  b. Good  c. Fair   
 d. Deteriorated  e. No longer in existence
- Is the feature a. Altered?  b. Unaltered?
- Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)  
 a. Open land  b. Scattered buildings   
 c. Densely built-up  d. Residential   
 e. Commercial  f. Industrial   
 g. Other  \_\_\_\_\_
- Threats to site:  
 a. None known  b. Private development   
 c. Zoning  d. Public Works project   
 e. Vandalism  f. Other  \_\_\_\_\_
- Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone  b. Brick  c. Stucco  d. Adobe  e. Wood   
f. Other  \_\_\_\_\_
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site?  b. Moved?  c. Unknown?
16. Year of initial construction 1853 This date is: a. Factual  b. Estimated
17. Architect (if known): \_\_\_\_\_
18. Builder (if known): \_\_\_\_\_
19. Related features: a. Barn  b. Carriage house  c. Outhouse  d. Shed(s)  e. Formal garden(s)   
f. Windmill  g. Watertower/tankhouse  h. Other  \_\_\_\_\_ i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

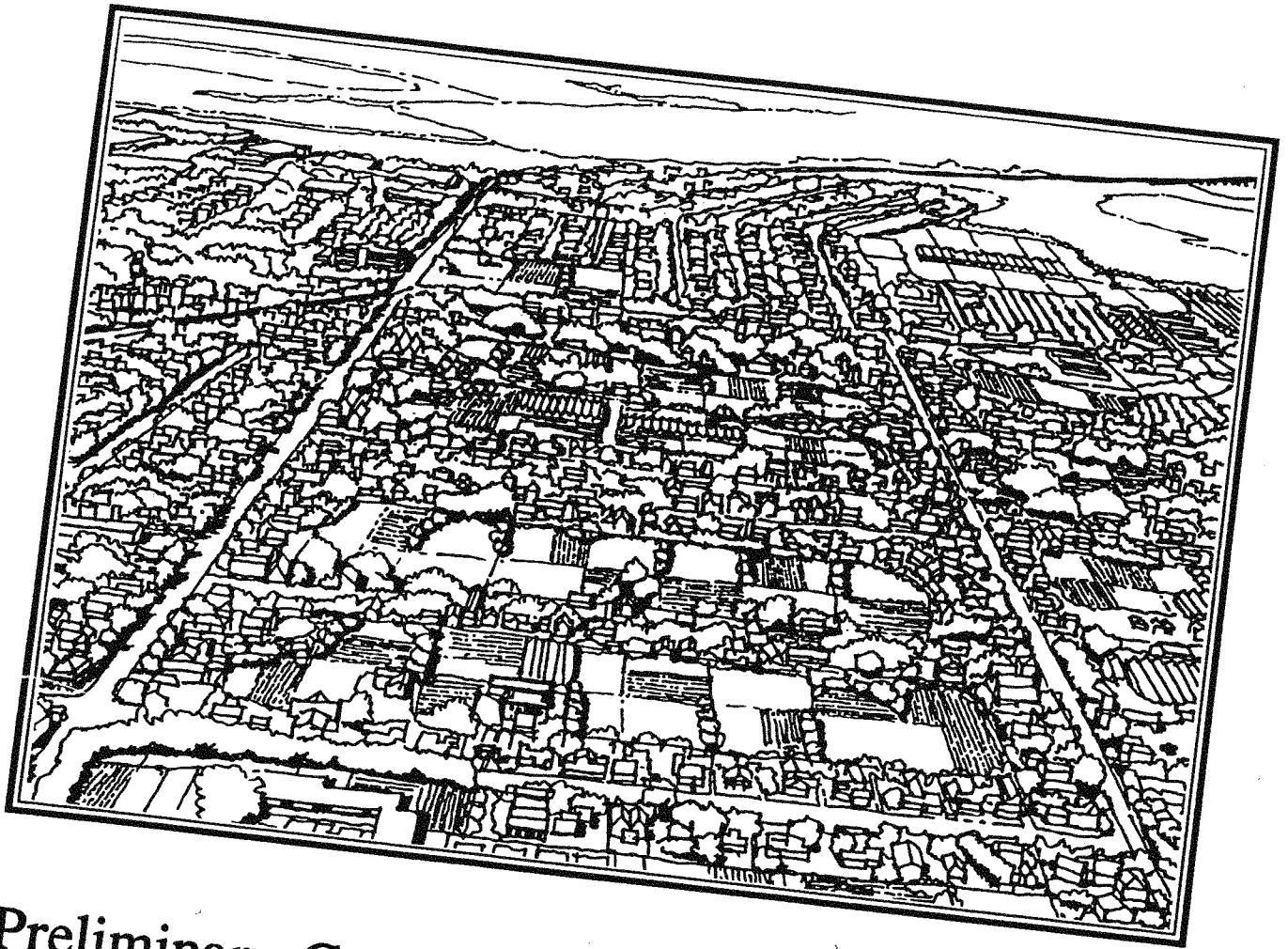
Adams and Co. of S.F. (President Isaiah C. Woods) purchased 3,673.76 acres from owners of Rancho de las Pulgas. Caused subdivision of new town "Ravenswood" to be laid out near eastern end of where Bay road now runs. Wharf was constructed ( all because they thought the railroad was coming through). The RR abandoned its plans. Wharf known as Cooley's Landing was named for Lester Phillip Cooley, purchaser of ranch adjacent to townsh~~de~~ development. Only one steamer landed, Jenny Lind, in 1853. The steamer exploded. Site now the county dump.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture  b. Arts & Leisure   
c. Economic/Industrial  d. Exploration/Settlement  e. Government  f. Military   
g. Religion  h. Social/Education

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

23. Date form prepared: Feb. 1977 By (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

(State Use Only)



## Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment East Palo Alto, California

Shelley S. Mastran  
Rural Heritage Program  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

In cooperation with:

- National Park Service, Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society

## *Introduction*

*Today more and more communities are recognizing the importance of their special heritage. This heritage, reflected in the cultural landscape, shapes and gives meaning to community. East Palo Alto is one of many places discovering the stories told by its settlement patterns and other features of the land.*

*The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service are both involved in issues of rural landscape heritage. The National Trust has a Rural Heritage program which works to promote, and mitigate the loss of, rural heritage. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) works with communities to help them protect their landscapes as well as their river and trail resources.*

*Through a cooperative agreement, NPS-RTCA has been able to provide technical assistance from the National Trust to some of the groups NPS-RTCA has been working with around the country. East Palo Alto is one such area; NPS-RTCA has been working in East Palo Alto for the last several years, primarily through the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS). The National Trust and the National Park Service agreed to collaborate on a preliminary cultural landscape assessment focusing on the Weeks Poultry Colony area of East Palo Alto.*

*This assessment is very preliminary. It is based on a one-day tour of East Palo Alto conducted by EPA HAS, the National Trust, and the National Park Service, as well as two community meetings. This assessment is intended to provide a general evaluation and identification of significant elements of the landscape of the Weeks Poultry Colony area and to raise the visibility of the landscape and its history. We hope that this project will lead to more opportunities to examine the relationship between people and the land in East Palo Alto.*

## **What is a Cultural Landscape?**

A cultural landscape is the tangible evidence on the land of the interaction between human societies and the natural environment--the patterns made on the land as a result of human mobility and settlement. A cultural landscape is a geographical area that has been modified by human activity and possesses a significant concentration of land use patterns, buildings, structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. These reflect the cultural traditions of a population and show their response to the natural environment.

Some of the important components of the cultural landscape include:

- circulation networks, such as road and canal systems
- boundary demarcations, including property and political boundaries
- vegetation related to land use, such as agricultural crops, hedges, and windbreaks
- buildings, structures and objects
- small-scale elements, such as signs, gates and fences.

## **A Brief History of East Palo Alto's Landscape**

East Palo Alto today is a community of approximately 23,500 people living on 2.5 square miles of land, most of which lies between the Bayshore Freeway and San Francisco Bay. Historically, East Palo Alto was much larger, including parts of what are now Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

The history of East Palo Alto can be traced to Native American settlement of some 3,000 years ago. In the late 1700's, Spanish soldiers and missionaries arrived, and for decades the area was known as Rancho de las Pulgas ("Flea Ranch"--after which a street in East Palo Alto is named). In the mid- to late-1800's, two subsequent settlements were initiated, but both were abandoned. However, in 1916 the Weeks Poultry Colony was established and is now the dominant history evident on the landscape of East Palo Alto.

The Weeks Poultry Colony was a 600+-acre Utopian community--called "Runnymede"--founded by Charles Weeks. Weeks was a visionary who believed in the virtues of a democratic, communal society of agricultural production far from the unhealthiness of urban-industrial America. Runnymede was one of several Utopian settlements established at about the same time in California--part of the "Little Landers" movement.

Among the chief settlement characteristics of the Weeks Poultry Colony were the long, narrow lots, typically one acre in size ("One acre and independence" was the Colony's motto) but sometimes two to five acres when residents were able to settle more land. The houses (or "garden homes") were located at the front of each lot facing the street, each one close to its neighbor. Agricultural production took place behind each house.

The major component of agriculture was egg production. Long chicken houses ran perpendicular to the dwellings, often marking the boundaries between lots. In these, some 20-25 hens were raised in an 8x8 square foot space. Long, narrow gardens stretched parallel to the poultry buildings. Each lot had its own well, and water was stored in tanks elevated within tank houses, from which it served the house, chicken house, and garden in back.

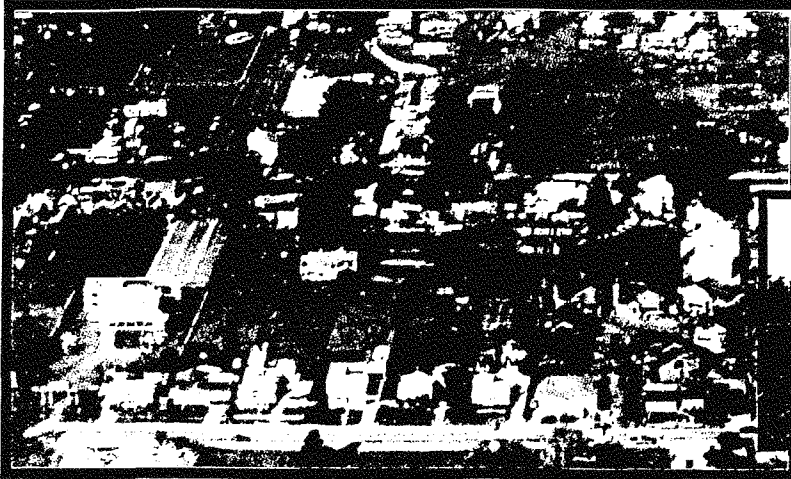
In Runnymede, the community shared sources of supply and marketed produce in common. Some communal aspects of the settlement were reflected directly on the land--such as the community clubhouse, park, and school. Community festivals were important to the social integration of the residents.

## **East Palo Alto's Cultural Landscape**

The features of the Weeks Poultry Colony that are most evident on the current landscape of East Palo Alto include:

- the grid pattern of streets: straight and orthogonal (at right angles)
- the rural character of the streets: no curb, gutter or sidewalks; rather, dirt or grass shoulders; narrow streets
- the long, narrow lots
- an abundance of trees and shrubbery
- the bungalows in front of the lots, many built in the 1920's with distinctive architectural features of the era, such as small front porches and gabled roofs
- the detached garages, separated from the houses because of the danger of explosions from early automobiles
- the water tank houses
- long, narrow chicken houses perpendicular to the dwellings
- long, narrow gardens or open space and abundant vegetation behind the dwellings.





## East Palo Alto's Cultural Landscape



*East Palo Alto's landscape includes cultural elements such as streets in a grid pattern, dirt or grass shoulders without curbs and gutters, long narrow lots, an abundance of trees and shrubbery, houses at the front of the lots with gardens or open space behind, detached garages, water tank houses, and narrow chicken houses perpendicular to the streets.*



*The typical 1920's bungalow was built at the front of the lot, with distinctive architectural features such as small front porches and gabled roofs.*

*Each lot had its own well, and water was stored in tanks elevated within tank houses, from which the water served the house, chicken house, and garden in back.*



*The community has a special rusticity seldom found so close to a major population center.*



*"The rural heritage in the city makes you not only relax but reminds you of the way you grew up."*



Although the Weeks Poultry Colony declined in the early 1930's, the tradition of agriculture was carried on by subsequent settlers, most notably the Japanese. Today, the abundance of greenhouses and other crop production can be considered a legacy of the early agricultural settlement and an important component of the cultural landscape.

East Palo Alto is a special place with a special cultural heritage that has evolved and grown more complex with time. It is an enclave of openness and agricultural potential in dense suburban surroundings. As a local resident speaking for the cultural landscape said: "The rural heritage in the city makes you not only relax but reminds you of the way you grew up."

East Palo Alto today has one of the greatest concentrations of agricultural structures in an urbanized area as part of a planned community. Approximately 300 acres remain of the original Weeks Colony and are officially recognized as such by the community. Remnants also exist on the west side of the Freeway.

Some intrusions have occurred which detract from the original landscape features. Among these intrusions are the cul-de-sac developments that have occurred on some of the lots, covering much of the land's surface with housing and concrete or asphalt. Nevertheless, the community has a special rusticity seldom found so close to a major population center. The Rural Program of the National Trust has not encountered a comparable community.

This specialness was expressed by members of the East Palo Alto community at the two meetings held during part of the assessment. East Palo Alto was described as a place where you "don't feel squeezed," a place designed for the outdoors. It feels like country living and is better than the city where houses are clustered. At night, there are few lights and you can see the moon; here you are closer to nature and can lead a simpler life. It is a neighborly place, where you can drop in through the back door--a sign of trust and comfort.

## Next Steps

Now that East Palo Alto's general plan update is underway, it is time for the community to consider which aspects of its cultural landscape deserve attention in the plan. What contributes toward the special quality of life in East Palo Alto that the community wants to preserve and protect? The general plan update is the time to set a vision for the community through meetings and community involvement. It is a time to take special resources into account and to build open space and historical and cultural resource elements into a structured process that recognizes these resources throughout the community.

Sources of assistance are available to help the community through this process-- particularly the National Park Service's RTCA staff and the staff of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

*Thanks to:*

*- the people of East Palo Alto who allowed us to visit their homes and land;*

*- the people who attended the cultural landscape presentations on March 31 and April 1, sharing with us their thoughts and feelings about what makes East Palo Alto special;*

*- the members of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society.*

*Cover graphic: Paul Okamoto, Urban Ecology, Inc.*

*Report design and production: Martha Crusius, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program*

*National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Rural Heritage Program  
1785 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
Shelley Mastran*

*National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Western Regional Office  
1 Sutter St, #707  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Courtney Damkroger*

*National Park Service  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
600 Harrison St, #600  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
Martha Crusius*

*East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society  
Box 51504  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Trevor Burrowes*

*Summer, 1994*

# CALIFORNIAN

THE

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College  
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



Feature: East Palo Alto's 1910

THE ALMOND COOPERATIVE

## A Heartfelt Thanks

A very special afternoon tea is planned for Wednesday, April 19th when the history center celebrates National Volunteer Week by recognizing the many hours donated to the CHC by our volunteers. While the tea is being held to recognize everyone who gives time to the center, including a wonderfully dedicated Board of Trustees that volunteers untold hours, I want to take this opportunity to tell you about a typical week at the center and highlight those volunteers that you will find here, week in and week out, giving their time and energy. Without this group, it definitely would not be business as usual!

Monday is, in general, a fairly quiet day, and finds the staff on its own — in addition to the regular demands of our jobs you will find us greeting students and visitors, answering phones and questions, getting and distributing mail, etc. But when Tuesday rolls around . . .

Janet Hoffman is the first to arrive, usually around 8:30, and after putting her things away and getting a cup of hot water she staffs the front desk, greeting visitors and answering phones as well as doing various other clerical tasks.

Dee Liotta and Helen Riisberg are the other Tuesday volunteers. Dee, in addition to being volunteer coordinator for the center, processes all book orders that come in, and has recently been working on organizing the contemporary photo file. She also staffs the front desk and is noted for “grabbing” any and all visitors and telling them everything they ever wanted to know about the Trianon and CHC. Helen Riisberg works with the pamphlet files in the Stockmeir library; clipping and coding newspapers and other items. She also produces the *Volunteer Voice*, our three-times-per-year volunteer newsletter.

We have two day-long volunteers on Wednesday as well. Trudy Frank is our front person, staffing the desk and handling general clerical duties. In addition, using her accounting background, Trudy processes our deposits for the district accountant and is great with any detailed assignment. More recently, when time allows, she has been inventorying a new acquisition, microfilm from the files of the defunct *Peninsula Times Tribune* newspaper.

### Cover:

*East Almond Cooperative Water Company's water tower and pumphouse on Myrtle Street, the last remaining old water tower in East Palo Alto, circa 1925. Photography by Shattuck Photography, Palo Alto. Courtesy East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society.*

Nancy Bratman works on Wednesdays also and has volunteered her time over the years exclusively in the Stockmeir Library. Her current project is organizing and identifying the slide collection. A fun, but detailed, time-consuming task!

Three volunteers join us once again on Thursdays. Mary Strong is in a full day and has been doing all membership processing, from billing notices to computer updating to thank you letters in addition to staffing the front desk. Mary was also the creator and coordinator for “Little Shoppe of CHC” the volunteer-sponsored arts and crafts fundraiser held in October that raised \$1500 for the center. Trudy and Mary will be co-chairing the event next year.

Thursday afternoons see two more library volunteers, Elizabeth Archambeault and Maureen Kelly. Elizabeth does book processing and works with the clippings, and Maureen, a professional librarian in her other life, works with the library's Jacobson collection, describing and inventorying these irreplaceable archival materials.

It is fitting that we take the time to recognize the contributions of California History Center volunteers in general, and these volunteers in particular. There are no words that say thank you adequately enough for all of the wonderful work done for us by our faithful volunteers — they are indeed part of the CHC family.

Next time you are at the center, take the opportunity to say hello and thanks to these wonderful people.

### Kathleen Peregrin

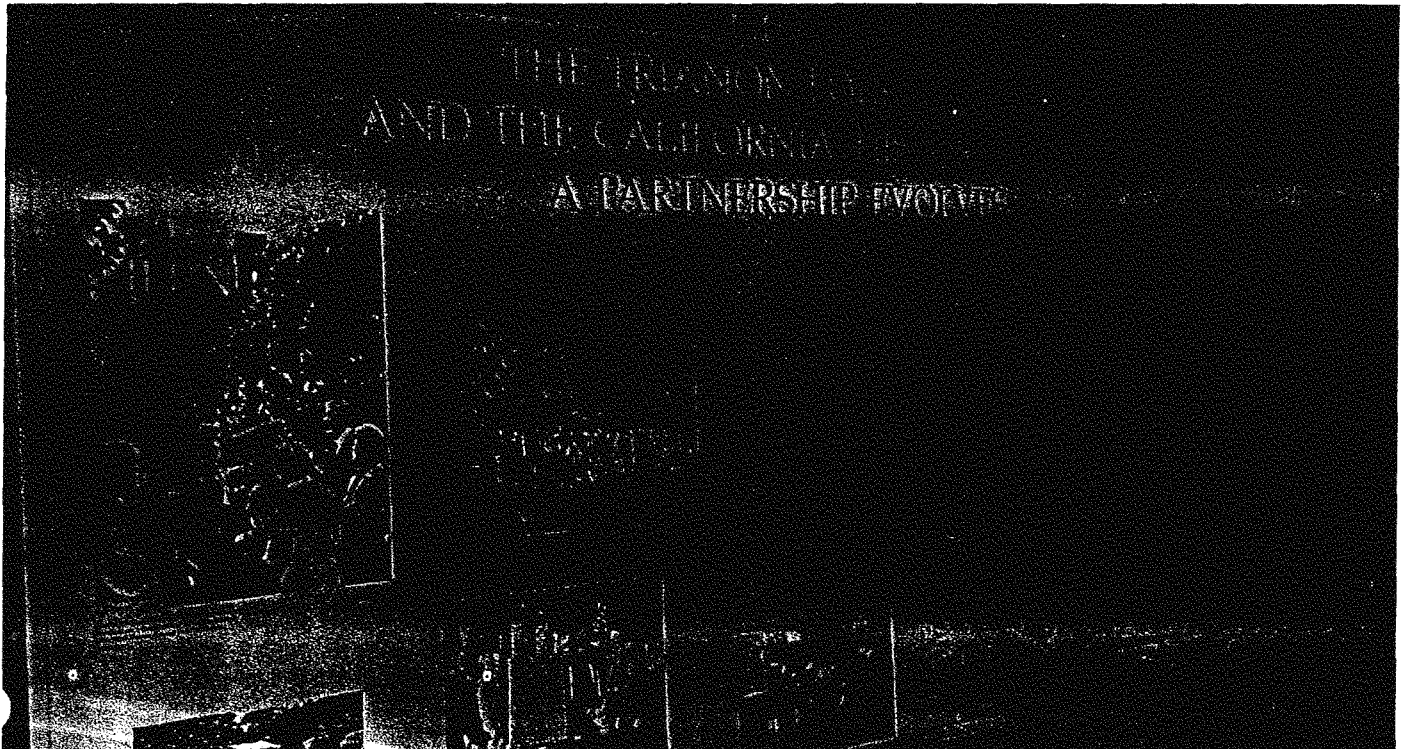
Director



*Volunteers Mary Strong and Trudy Frank at 1994's Little Shoppe boutique.*

# CALENDAR

- 3/10** Volunteers' and members' brown bag lunch for Women's History Month, speaker Mary Jo Ignoffo.
- 3/16** CHC students, faculty and members meeting to discuss future classes and programming. 7 p.m. (See detailed explanation on page 4)
- 4/3** De Anza College classes begin.
- 4/17-21** National Volunteer Week
- 4/19** Volunteer Day Tea. As a special thank you to our many volunteers we would like to invite them to enjoy a pleasant afternoon of good company and refreshments starting at 1:00 p.m. RSVP to 408/864-8712.
- 5/20** Game Day. Culminating CHC's membership drive for the year is a special day of fun from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come join a team and compete to win in the center's version of trivial pursuits featuring California name places and history. Match wits, wisdom, and creative thinking! Lunch available for a nominal fee.
- 5/29** Memorial Day Holiday. Classes do not meet and CHC will be closed.
- 6/1** Ken Bruce Farewell Party & CHC Benefit. CHC hosts a farewell/retirement party for Ken Bruce, long-time history instructor at De Anza College and special friend of CHC. The event will be at the center from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. with dessert and coffee served. A \$25 donation is requested. RSVP to 408/864-8712.
- 6/11** De Anza Day. CHC will hold its annual benefit used-book sale at the center between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during this college-sponsored event. Proceeds from the book sale benefit the center's library.
- 6/23** Spring Quarter ends
- 6/30** CHC closes for summer break
- Need more information about any of our upcoming events?  
Please call us at: 408/864-8712.



Panel from current exhibit, Silver Anniversary Golden Opportunity.



---

# EDUCATION

---

## State and Regional History

---

The following courses will be offered spring quarter through the California History Center. Please see the California History Center class listings section of De Anza's Schedule of Classes for detailed information (i.e., course ID #, call #, days, dates, time and units). For additional course information, call the center at (408) 864-8712.

### Update

As mentioned in the December issue of *The Californian*, beginning in fall 1995, the CHC will suspend the regular offering of our small courses while we evaluate the program and begin the transition to California Studies. We plan to offer our small courses in the future, but will also be looking at offering some fee-based programs as another alternative for students. For many of you, in particular if you have a bachelor's degree, or are not interested in units and grades, fee-based may be an attractive option.

We want you to be part of this process with us. A meeting is planned at the center for 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 16 for CHC students and members to get together with CHC staff and faculty and share ideas about what types of fee-based programming you would like to see offered. Get involved—be part of the future! See you there!

**Neighborhoods of San Francisco Part II:** *Betty Hirsch*  
San Francisco is defined by its specific districts and neighborhoods. This class explores the evolution of such areas as Barbary Coast, Market Street, the Pacific Ocean areas including the San Francisco Zoo and Stern Grove. Students will learn about significant people who shaped each area's identity, the contributions made by various ethnic groups, important dates and events, and analyze how the geography and climate has impacted the growth and development in each area. One lecture, one field trip.

**History of Bay Area Public Gardens:** *Betty Hirsch*

The Bay Area is enhanced by a vast array of public gardens which are creations and outgrowths of the personalities of such historical figures as James Duval Phelan, William Bourne, and John McLaren. Students in this class will visit a variety of gardens and discuss how gardens serve as an art form; are a symbol of the Bay Area and what is grown here; and reflect the culture of different ethnic groups. In addition students will address some contemporary concerns brought about by limited rainfall and water rationing in the state, and the corresponding impact on environmental, political and social issues. Two lectures, two field trips.

**Drake in California:** *Hugh Thomas*

Drake in California traces the general background of European exploration and expansion in the 16th century; the development and growth of England during the Tudor period; antagonism between England and Spain; the English privateers and personal career of Drake, who circumnavigated the world, landing in California. Three lectures, one field trip.

**Santa Barbara and the Channel Missions:** *Chatham Forbes*

Santa Barbara was the last of four pueblos founded around a presidio, and the tenth of the chain of 21 Franciscan Missions founded by Spain in Alta California. Some 40,000 Native Americans lived on the Channel Coast served by the Santa Barbara and San Buenaventura Missions, hence both the religious and civil institutions were of great importance for Spain's purposes in California. Today, Santa Barbara is the major archival center for Mission historical studies. Two lectures, weekend field study to the Santa Barbara Area.

**History of Sonoma County:** *Chatham Forbes*

Students in this course will study and discuss the pivotal roles of Mariano Vallejo, Agoston Haraszthy, Jack London, and Luther Burbank in the development of Sonoma County. By tracing their lives and visiting their home and work sites students will have a fuller comprehension of the history and special character of Sonoma County. Two lectures, two field trips.

---

## Creating New Partnerships

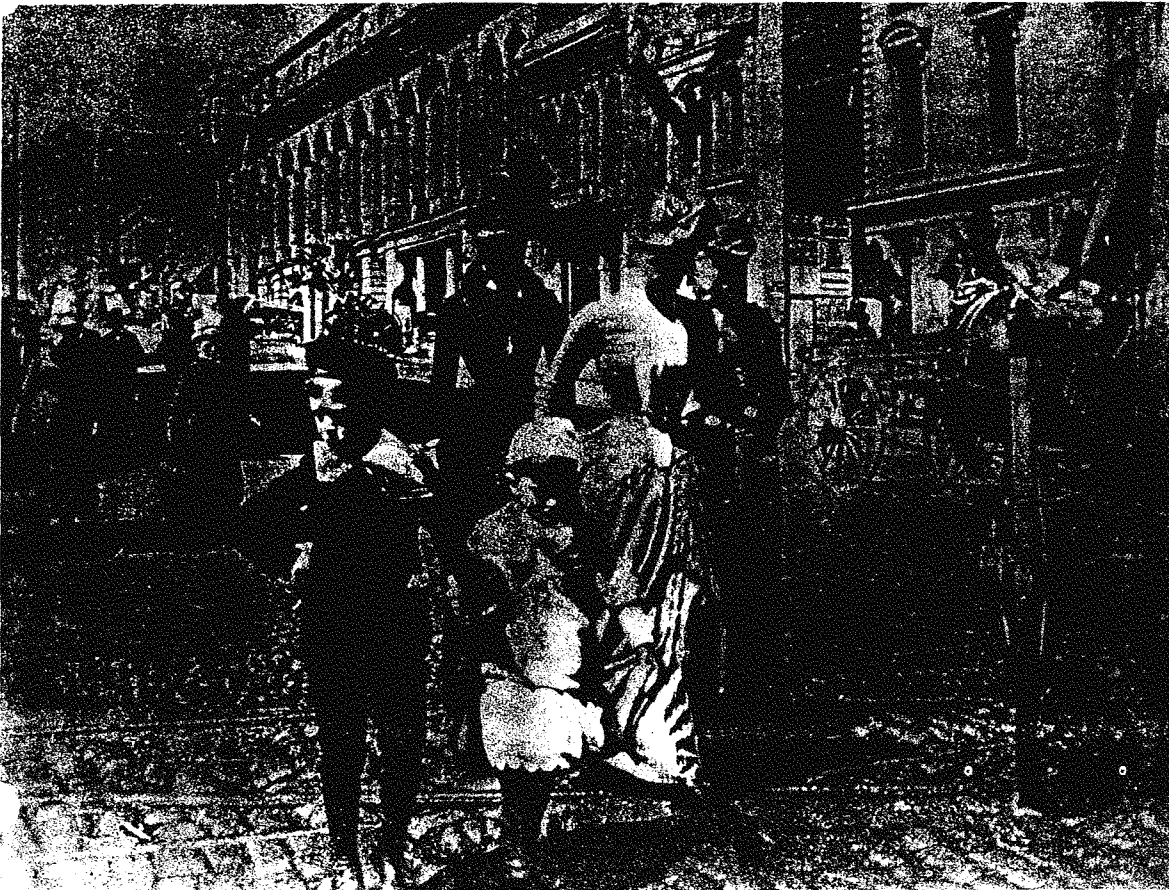
---

### **Threatened California: Julie Phillips**

Join De Anza Environmental Studies faculty member Julie Phillips as she explores the wonders of the beautiful state of California. Students will visit and study a variety of California's ecosystems including the coastal redwood forest, marshlands, Pacific tidepools and the rugged and spectacular mountain regions of the Diablo range. Students will discuss the many environmental factors that threaten California flora and fauna including global warming, overpopulation, pollution, ozone depletion, deforestation and the biodiversity crisis. A major focus of the class will be sustainable use of California's varied resources. Three evening lectures and one day-long field trip.

January 6th found the CHC staff and two members from the Board of Trustees on a journey to the Center for California Studies, located on the campus of California State University, Sacramento. We wanted to visit the center not only because it too is located on a college campus, but it is also an organization committed to bringing together a variety of communities — academic, business, government and local citizens — for discussion, debate, and intellectual interchange about the past, present, and future of this state we call home.

We had an excellent meeting with the staff of the center and came away with a better understanding of each other's programs, strengths and differences. We also agreed that we very much want to do some collaborative projects in the future. As the California History Center begins its transition to a California Studies learning community, we hope to form more of these partnerships in order to enhance the educational opportunities we provide our members and students. We will keep you informed.



*Street scene  
from 19th-  
century San  
Francisco.  
Courtesy  
California  
History Center  
Foundation,  
Stockmeir  
Library  
Archive.*

# A History of East Palo Alto

by the San Mateo County Historical Association with contributions by Alan Michelson and Katherine Solomonson

*The following article is abridged from two chapters in East Palo Alto's historic resources survey. It tells the story of a rancho and one-time wharf, to its genesis as an agricultural utopian colony, through the building of the Bayshore Freeway that left it a segregated community. Today, through preservation of its historical landscape, it is creating a new community identity which includes its agricultural roots.*

Before European settlers transformed the landscape that is now the city of East Palo Alto, arroyo, willows, cottonwoods, and blackberry thickets flourished in its meadows. Forests of elder and live oak were rooted in the rich, loamy soil.

The Ohlone tribal groups who made their home in the East Palo Alto area were a group known as the Puichon. Their territory stretched between the lower San Francisquito Creek and the foothills, perhaps reaching all the way back to Portola Valley. In 1776, Spanish visitors noted a village called Ssiputca, consisting of twenty to twenty-five huts clustered near the mouth of San Francisquito Creek.

In 1769, the Spanish explorer Don Gaspar de Portola, searching for Monterey Bay, sailed by accident into the much larger San Francisco Bay. Portola and his military party traveled to the south end of the bay and came ashore near East Palo Alto. They paddled their canoes up the San Francisquito Creek to a site marked by mature, twin redwood trees ("El Palo Alto"). Here the Portola expedition camped for five days and set up the first

Spanish territorial markers in the Bay Area. After this, Spanish settlers began to colonize the area.

Much of East Palo Alto was once part of the vast *Rancho de las Pulgas*, which according to some accounts, Spanish Governor Diego Borica granted in 1795 to Don Jose Dario Arguello. In 1824 and 1835, the government in Mexico City made two more land grants to the Arguello family. In 1852 they sold the section of its holdings that included the area that is now East Palo Alto. The land appears to have changed hands several times that year, finally landing in the hands of Rufus Rowe. Rowe then sold it off in large parcels.

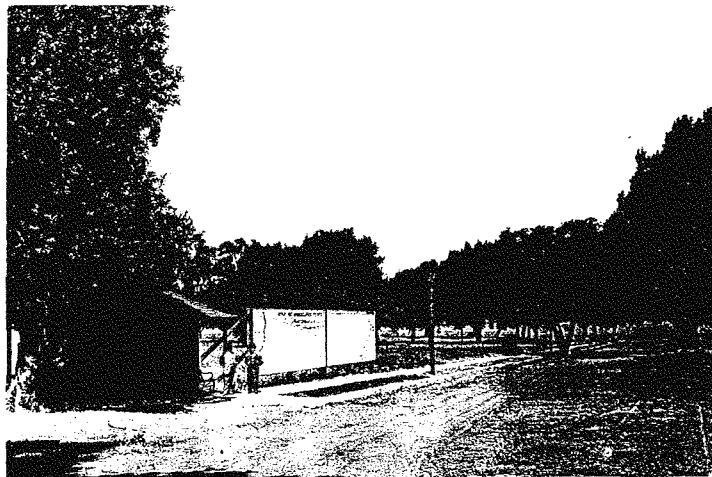
## Ravenswood

During the early 1850s, Isaiah Churchill Woods, one of San Francisco's leading citizens, along with William Rowe, assembled a 3,674 acre parcel covering much of present-day East Palo Alto. Naming the area Ravenswood (supposedly combining his own name with a reference to the large number of ravens in the area), Woods constructed a house and farm for himself, called Woodside Dairy. It became a showplace, the first of many great summer houses built by wealthy San Francisco businessmen in the vicinity of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

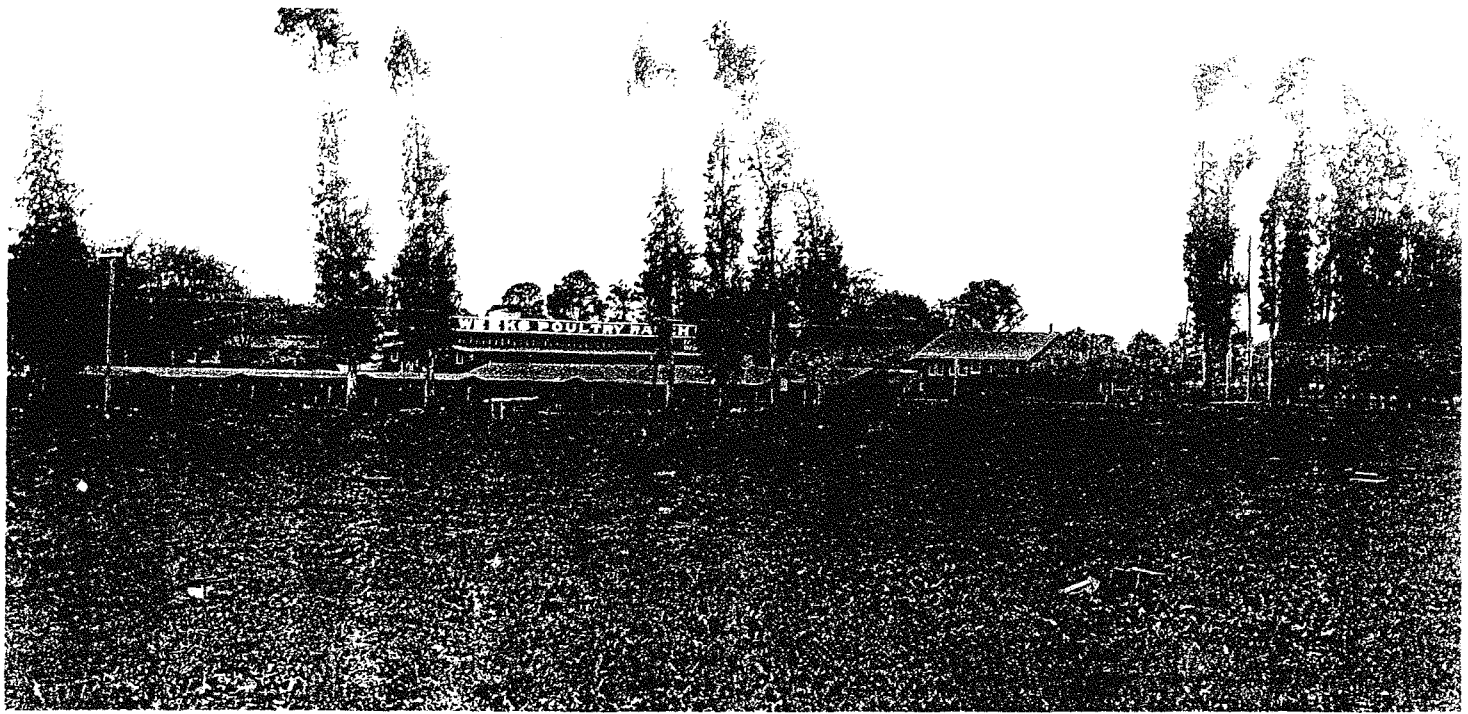
During the final quarter of the nineteenth-century, Ravenswood grew very slowly, with little expansion of the town site platted along Bay Road near the wharf. The town supported little more than a small hotel, a dock, a few houses and saloons, and a handful of businesses. Though the dream of a thriving town and



Cooley's Landing, 1977. Photograph by Ken Yimm, Palo Alto Times. Courtesy Palo Alto Historical Association.



Woodland Place, East Palo Alto's first truly suburban development planned simultaneously as the new Dumbarton Railroad Bridge, circa 1910. Courtesy Palo Alto Historical Association.



*Weeks Poultry Ranch. Courtesy Berton Crandall to Palo Alto Historical Association.*

wharf at Ravenswood never materialized, the name Ravenswood continued to be used to identify the area well into the twentieth century.

### **Cooley's Landing**

Lester Cooley arrived in California in 1859, and prospered in the gold fields of the Mother Lode country. After running a dairy in San Francisco, he resettled in Ravenswood in 1868. By 1878, he had assembled 400 acres which ran along Bay Road out to the San Francisco Bay. There he raised cattle and grain and established one of the best dairies in the area. The property also included the old Ravenswood wharf built by Isaiah Woods. He refurbished the wharf, which was known thereafter as "Cooley's Landing," for commercial use, and constructed a warehouse where the area's farmers could store their grain.

### **Woodland Place**

Sometime before 1907, the Port Palo Alto Land and Town Company acquired the Crow and Cooley ranches. The company envisioned transforming their holdings into an area of "busy factories and wharves and warehouses, bathhouses, casino, theatre, schools, churches, stores, shops . . ." In 1907, their first step in developing the area was to subdivide the old Crow Ranch, which they renamed Woodland Place. It was to be built simultaneously as the Dumbarton Railroad Bridge. This subdivision, which follows the contours of the area in East Palo Alto that is still known as Woodland Place (but extending all the way to the creek), was planned as an exclusive suburban residential district with University Avenue shooting through its center. Woodland Place was never developed to the extent its originators intended.

### **Runnymede**

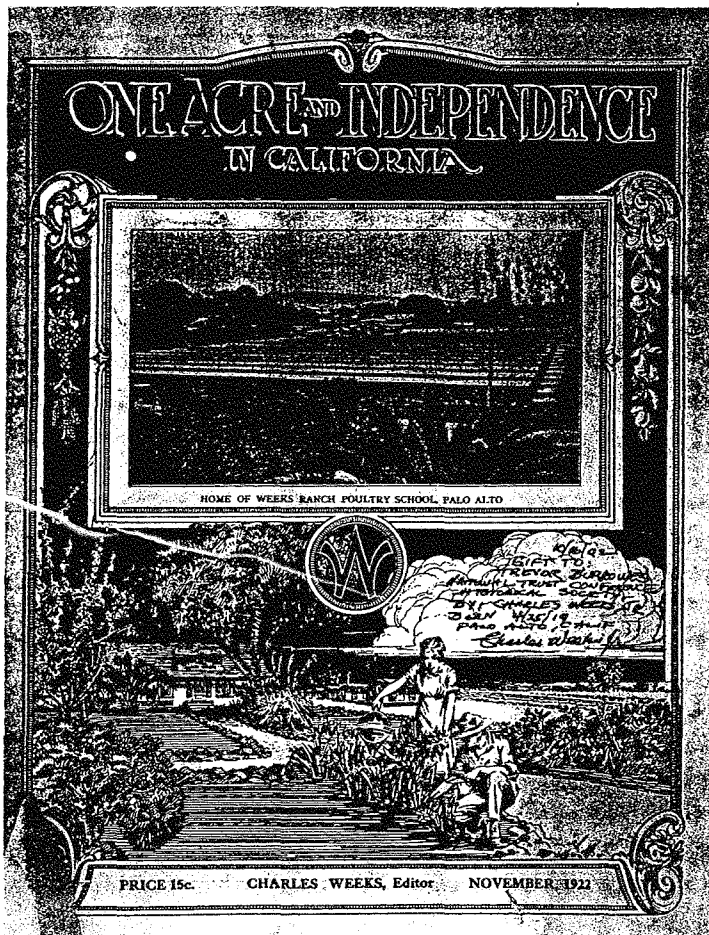
Beginning in 1916, people were drawn to the East Palo Alto area from all over the United States. Many of them had seen ads

in agricultural newspapers or heard lectures or seen a float go by with a big banner advertising the agricultural colony of Runnymede, where anyone with a little money and a lot of motivation could come and make a living on one acre of land.

Runnymede was founded in the East Palo Alto area in 1916 by Charles Weeks, a former Indiana farmer who combined entrepreneurship with social vision. Also known as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony after its founder, Runnymede once covered from Bay Road to the San Francisquito Creek, and from Cooley's Landing to Menalto. More than any previous phase of East Palo Alto's history, Runnymede has left a tangible imprint on the shape of the city as it is today.

While there were many utopian experiments in the western United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most of these colonies have all but vanished. But in East Palo Alto, the buildings and farms that once gave tangible form to a utopian vision still lie at the city's heart. As a result, Runnymede's residual landscape, embedded in East Palo Alto, provides an important conduit to a much larger movement that gained momentum in the early twentieth century. This gives East Palo Alto a significant position not only in the history of the Bay Area but in the history of the western United States.

Charles Weeks dreamed of a community consisting of independently-owned, one-acre farms whose members were drawn together through a shared approach to farming, community facilities, and cooperative marketing. He realized that a successful small holding would require an abundant water supply, excellent soil, and proximity to urban markets. The East Palo Alto area was ideal.



*One Acre and Independence in California, a magazine published by Charles Weeks to advertise his poultry colony, November 1922. Courtesy East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society. Inscription reads: "10/16/92 Gift to: Trevor Burrowes National Trust Conference Historical Society By: Charles Weeks, Jr. Born 4/25/19 Palo Alto, Calif. Charles Weeks Jr."*

Trumpeting the slogan, "One Acre and Independence," Charles Weeks promoted his vision widely through a variety of books, pamphlets, and articles, and he ran ads in periodicals that reached people throughout the country. He also published a monthly periodical called *One Acre and Independence*, and a local newspaper called *Runnymede News*.

Within five years, Runnymede had attracted 1200 people drawn from all over the country, and it had become one of the largest poultry producers in the United States. When new colonists first arrived, they stayed in dormitories at Charles Weeks's own ranch to be trained in what Weeks modestly called

the "Charles Weeks Poultry System." There, they sat on benches outdoors while they listened to their teacher outline how new scientific methods and efficiency engineering techniques could maximize farm output, and how combining community cooperation and individual enterprise could bring prosperity to everyone. At Weeks's ranch, they also received practical experience in intensive farming and poultry raising. Many of them had never before done farming of any kind. With Weeks's training, they became more equipped to turn open fields of the East Palo Alto area into a checker board of intensively cultivated poultry farms.

Having come from a large Midwestern farm, Weeks remembered how lonely farm life could be when families were separated by vast tracts of land. For Runnymede, he envisioned a farming community that put neighbors as close to one another as if they were living in an ordinary suburb. To facilitate this, Runnymede's broad grid of unpaved streets was lined with long, narrow, one-acre lots, their short ends fronting the street. Though the lots were (and still are) extraordinarily deep, the width of their street frontages was similar to those in other modest suburban areas. With this layout, if a house had been constructed on every lot, a visitor walking down one of Runnymede's streets might have thought she or he was in an ordinary suburban neighborhood.

Among the most distinctive features of East Palo Alto's historic landscape are the tankhouses erected adjacent to Runnymede's original "garden homes." Charles Weeks believed that one of the most important keys to independence was an abundant, low-cost water supply. As he explained, "Independence as regards water is of the highest importance for the California farmer and the very essential of success." Tankhouses, many of which survive today, provided the center of each small farm's irrigation system. They are sturdy two-story structures that are rectilinear or slightly tapered in outline. During Runnymede's peak, their heavy framing, enclosed and reinforced with a protective siding, supported an elevated water tank resting on a platform that was slightly arched to allow for rainwater runoff. The elevated reservoirs, most of which were left exposed, provided a gravity induced pressure system for the farm family's needs. Similar tankhouses are still sprinkled throughout the Santa Clara Valley stretching down to Gilroy, south of San Jose.

A variety of factors contributed to Runnymede's demise by the 1930s. From the very beginning, the colony's land sold quickly, but there was also considerable turnover in property. Some people remained for no more than a year. Some of this may have

---

been due to people finding life and work in Runnymede less idyllic than they had anticipated, but it is also likely that some people were simply speculating in real estate. In 1919, *The Runnymede News* commented on how easy it was to sell Runnymede's farms, but warned that property values were going up and that he or she who sells now may never be able to buy back into the colony. The sale of Runnymede properties reportedly accelerated in the 1930s. In 1958, Collis Steere, who had held land in East Palo Alto since 1926, recalled that, "The poultry ranches began dying at the same time Bayshore [Highway 101] was built. The highway raised land values so it didn't pay to keep ranches." Charles Weeks' departure from the colony may also have contributed to its demise. In the early 1920s, Weeks' attention wandered from Runnymede to a new colony, named Owensmouth, which he established near Los Angeles. Sometime between 1921 and 1923 he left Runnymede, and a man named Edwin S. Williams was listed in the city directory as proprietor of the Weeks Poultry Ranch in Palo Alto. It is likely that the loss of its dynamic leader disturbed Runnymede's equilibrium. In 1921, the cooperative Runnymede Poultry Farms, Inc. went into liquidation and a longtime Palo Alto resident, W. O. Horabin purchased the community warehouse on the railroad spur. The independent water supply that started out to be such an important component in the Charles Weeks Poultry System, grew less and less dependable. Gradually, salt water reportedly seeped into the wells, poisoning the chickens, and a local well-driller could no longer guarantee sweet water in Runnymede-area wells.

#### Highway 101

Highway 101, also known as Bayshore, began as a four-lane highway designed to supplement El Camino Real, which was already overloaded with automobile traffic by 1914. Construction commenced at 10:10 on September 11, 1924, on the highway that was expected to "forever crash 'the bottleneck' that has so long curbed peninsula development . . ." As its construction progressed from San Francisco southward, peninsula communities held festive ceremonies and hailed it for the growth and economic development they expected it would bring.

East Palo Alto's residents saw the benefits of improved motor transportation, but they were also apprehensive about the possible problems caused by a highway plunging through their community. Early on, there was some discussion about routing along Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Both Palo Altans and East Palo Altans objected, urging instead that the highway be constructed to the east rather than through a populated section of

Palo Alto. But East Palo Alto also wanted to avoid having their own community bisected. In 1923 and 1926, the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce passed resolutions urging that the highway be routed as close to the bay as possible. Despite the Chamber of Commerce's efforts, by 1932 Highway 101 cut right through East Palo Alto, dividing it in two.

#### Floriculture

The period from the late 1930s through the 1950s was the heyday of flower-growing in East Palo Alto. During the first half of the twentieth century, the raising of chrysanthemums, violets, carnations, and lilies was San Mateo County's largest industry. Refrigerated "flower trains" transported the blooms grown in portions of Colma, Belmont, Redwood City and East Palo Alto back to Eastern markets.

At its peak, the business was dominated by Italian, and especially by Japanese-American families who built rows of long greenhouses on their properties. Many smaller mom-and-pop operations (mostly Japanese), filled in scattered lots in the former Runnymede colony.

The numbers of Japanese in East Palo Alto grew in the 1930s and 1940s, save for the period of war-time internment from 1942 to 1945. Most, if not all, of East Palo Alto's population of Japanese-Americans were part of a group of 144 sent from Palo Alto to the war-time internment camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, in May 1942. Following their humiliating war-time experience, many returned to the area. Some experienced a new level of prosperity, becoming land and business owners. In 1948, for example, four Japanese families had opened florist shops or nurseries on Bayshore Highway. By 1954, eighteen nurseries existed in East Palo Alto, and twenty were located there in 1957, the great majority owned by Japanese-American families. East Palo Alto possessed during the 1950s, one of the largest remaining concentrations of agricultural enterprises on the San Francisco Peninsula. The success of these flower-growing businesses continued well into the 1970s when, many of the older growers began to die off, and their children, many of them college educated, did not take up the family businesses.

#### Desegregation and Incorporation

In the Fall of 1954, William A. Bailey and his family became the first African-Americans to move into East Palo Alto's new Palo Alto Gardens subdivision. They may, in fact, have been the first black family to move into East Palo Alto after World War II. The Baileys' arrival on the 150 block of Wisteria Drive touched



*University Village Shopping Center's name was changed to Nairobi Village in the late 1960s, when locals wanted to revitalize the area. The center was demolished in 1989. Photograph by Ken Yimm, Palo Alto Times. Courtesy Palo Alto Historical Association.*

off bitter protests from the white property owners nearby. One hundred twenty-five neighborhood residents attended the usually placid meeting of the Palo Alto Gardens Improvement Association on November 29, 1954 to voice their outrage over the fact that a black family had moved into their neighborhood. Neighbors pooled their money and offered Bailey \$3750 to move out of Palo Alto Gardens. Bailey chose not to move, and was supported by such local organizations as the Palo Alto Fair Play Council, the N.A.A.C.P., the South Palo Alto Democratic Club, and the First Methodist Church of Palo Alto. Reportedly, when Bailey refused to leave, twenty percent of his Euro-American neighbors on Wisteria Drive put their houses on the market and departed.

As increasing numbers of African-Americans settled in East Palo Alto, the area became more isolated and more dependent upon nearby communities. Several events contributed to this. Though the widening of Highway 101 eased the flow of traffic moving along the peninsula's main high-speed artery, it also deepened the psychological and economic chasm separating East Palo Alto from its affluent western neighbors. During this period, East Palo Alto was the only city on the peninsula that had most of its land sandwiched between Highway 101 and the Bay. It is possible that its relatively isolated position, its preexisting separateness, made it a particularly desirable site for real estate

interests to target for block-busting, African-American relocation, and ultimately — segregation.

University Village Shopping Center, erected at the corner of Bay Road and University Avenue, operated for a number of years with a large grocery store as its anchor tenant. Gradual dilapidation befell the enterprise during the 1960s and 1970s. Its name was changed to Nairobi Village to suggest a new attitude of community spirit, but stores continued to vacate the development. By 1982, only two businesses remained at Nairobi. It was demolished in 1989.

East Palo Alto gained a measure of governmental autonomy by the late 1960s. In the wake of civil unrest in Watts and elsewhere across the United States, San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors realized that East Palo Alto's largely African-American population wanted and needed more self-government. An elected board of five members, called the East Palo Alto Municipal Council, was set up in 1967. San Mateo County continued to exert control over East Palo Alto's internal affairs, but the Municipal Council was widely seen as a step toward the ultimate incorporation of the area.

On June 7, 1983, an East Palo Alto incorporation initiative finally passed by a fifteen vote margin. Lawsuits waged in the courts between 1983-1987 over the incorporation vote exacerbated rancor in the community. California's Supreme Court decided on the validity of East Palo Alto's incorporation vote finally in 1986 and 1987, throwing out the anti-incorporationist lawsuits.

#### **A Multicultural Community**

In 1993 East Palo Alto was able to celebrate ten years of cityhood. During the previous two decades, the city's demographics had changed considerably. The arrival of Latinos and Pacific Islanders shifted East Palo Alto's ethnic balance, and the new populations began to leave their own mark on East Palo Alto's landscape. Recently, African-Americans, (most notably the members of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society) have spearheaded a community garden movement, with Charles Weeks's vision for Runnymede as its historical anchor — a new vision for revitalized future.

*Abridged from The City of East Palo Alto Historic Resources Inventory: Significant Historic Structures and Places, chapters 4-6 (reprinted with permission).*

---

# CULTURAL PRESERVATION

## East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society

---

East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS) is a multi-faceted organization which fosters sustainable development through land and historic preservation, urban agriculture, and ecologically sound urban planning.

EPA HAS, founded in 1990, aims to celebrate the strengths of the local community, the beauty and fertility of its land, and diversity and talent of its people and its rich history. The people of EPA HAS believe that land-based businesses are a good starting place for immediate economic regeneration. They also work with the city to ensure that the mainstream development it seeks is responsive to the needs of the community to preserve its essential character as well as adequate open space.

Despite its reputation for crime, East Palo Alto has a wealth of agricultural, human and historical resources that make it a rich bed of potential. The Charles Weeks Poultry Colony is a neighborhood which abounds with all these resources. Also known as Runnymede, the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony was created in 1916 as a utopian agricultural community and an idyllic alternative to urbanized industrial life. As Runnymede declined with the Depression, new immigrants succeeded the utopians and maintained agriculture in the 300 acre neighborhood up to the present time.



*Trevor Burrowes, Executive Director of East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS) giving a tour of an organic community garden, 1993. Photograph by Yvonne Jacobson. Courtesy California History Center Foundation, Stockmeir Library Archive.*

The Weeks neighborhood was passed over in the Silicon Valley development boom and this has helped to preserve its large home lots, historic buildings, open space and farming enterprises. Many rural African Americans moved up from the south during the 1950's and 60's and in recent years an influx of Latinos and Pacific Islanders have added to the cultural diversity and pool of agricultural skills to be found in the neighborhood.

In its attempts to bring about a renaissance of the East Palo Alto heritage, EPA HAS focuses on the Weeks Poultry Colony neighborhood which has enormous potential to become a model sustainable community. It is conceivable for East Palo Alto to become the "ORGANIC PRODUCE CAPITAL of the BAY AREA," as well as a major center of the region's history.

The main program areas for EPA HAS are to create, sponsor, promote and direct backyard gardens, mini-farms, community gardens, and East Palo Alto's new Certified Farmer's Market. The farmers' market, funded by the Peninsula Community Foundation, is an attempt to create pride in the city and demonstrate that urban agriculture is a viable economic resource. All sellers are from East Palo Alto or are growing produce here.

The community garden has also been a great success. Over twenty 100-square-foot beds are shared by mostly low-income members of the community. Twelve are used as demonstration market beds by EPA HAS. Neighboring children who played in this formerly garbage-strewn lot now participate in the garden, within a supportive atmosphere.

CAL TRANS has funded a tree planting project. This project involves planting approximately 1,250 trees in East Palo Alto and East-of-Bayshore Menlo Park. EPA HAS also advocates for the preservation and care of trees.

EPA HAS continues to provide advocacy and free consultation, particularly within the 300-acre Charles Weeks Poultry Colony neighborhood, a remnant of an early twentieth-century utopian agricultural community.

For more information about EPA HAS call (415) 329-0294.

*Reprinted from membership brochure with permission.*



# PIONEER PROFILE

## Faces of the Foundation (part three)

Some "pioneering people" have put a great deal of time and effort into the California History Center and Foundation over the course of the last twenty-five years. The CHCF is grateful to each individual mentioned in this three-part series and the many more not mentioned.

The current President of the Board of Trustees and three former presidents who are currently serving on the board share their views here.

**Yvonne Jacobson**, a board member since 1984, has served as president of the CHCF Board of Trustees from 1987 until 1989. She has published fiction, poetry, articles, photographs, book reviews, and her 1985 book *Passing Farms: Enduring Values, California's Santa Clara Valley*.

Jacobson explains that the board has tried to accommodate the extraordinary change in the history center's relationship with the college, primarily by creative new ways to raise funds and different approaches to teaching courses. She also identifies a need for increasingly active board members to "roll up their sleeves and work" to pick up where the college leaves off.

While acknowledging that the last few years have been a "dark period" for the center, she is happy she has been involved with history center people and has found the work rewarding. As for the future, Jacobson sees the prospect of interdisciplinary study, undertaken by the CHCF as the California Studies program, promises a very vibrant future.

**Ward Winslow**, former managing editor of the *Peninsula Times Tribune* and currently running his Palo Alto-based writing service has served on the CHCF board since 1984 and was president from 1989 until 1992. Among others, Winslow's publications include co-authoring *Palo Alto: A Centennial History* (1993) and his own *Pages From a Palo Alto Editor's Scrapbook*.

Winslow is concerned about some of the changes he has noticed in the last ten years, namely the need to bolster finances and the loss of membership. Nevertheless, he continues to be impressed by the quality of the publications and exhibits, as well as the staff



Yvonne Jacobson



Ward Winslow



Roy Roberts



Bill Lester

members who generate fresh ideas despite their shrinking numbers. He sees the California Studies program as an exciting way to bring in more diverse groups of the population and create a forum for discussion that does not often happen. Winslow notes with appreciation the recognition given the center by De Anza College President Martha Kanter.

**Roy Roberts** also joined the CHCF Board of Trustees in 1984 and his term as president was from 1992 to 1994. An Arkansas native and electrical engineer by profession, Roberts has a number of publications to his name and three patents in the field of microwave electronics. He has an interest in preserving early technical history of Silicon Valley.

Roberts finds the most significant change at the CHCF to be the decrease in funding from the college and the resulting decrease in the number of courses offered by the history center. He notes with optimism, however, the new role the center will play through the California Studies program. He contends that De Anza College administrators see the center as an academic arm as well as a link with the larger community. Roberts feels the CHCF is well on its way to achieving its new goals.

Although a relative newcomer to the CHCF board serving since 1991, **Bill Lester** is the current president. An investment property manager, he has degrees in biology and botany, and he has been an instructor of wilderness field study classes for UCSC.

The most dramatic change that Lester has observed is the downsizing of the college budget and shift in student fee structure which has impacted the number of staff people at the history center as well as the number of courses offered. The CHCF board members have had to focus their efforts, raise more money, and determine which programs are most important to the members.

The result of the last couple of years is a rejuvenated board that seeks to expand the library as well as make its data more accessible. The CHCF, like many non-profits, needs to seek more funding, perhaps in partnership with businesses. Lester hopes the emerging California Studies program has the capacity

to entice a younger, larger audience because it entails a wider range of historic and contemporary California topics.

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## Upcoming Events

### Volunteers

Keep the following dates open for events for volunteers:

**March 10:** Brown bag lunch and program celebrating Women's History Month.

**April 19:** Volunteers' Tea

**April 17-21** National Volunteer Week

For more information on these events contact Dee Liotta at (408) 864-8712. Pick up a copy of *The Volunteer Voice*, the newsletter for the volunteers of the CHCF. It recaps recent happenings at the center and gives information on upcoming events.

### Women's History Month

Brown-bag lunch on March 10. Speaker Mary Jo Ignoffo will discuss her research on Laura Thane Whipple's role in the establishment of Moffett Field.

### Reminder:

March 16, 7 p.m. meeting to discuss classes and programming. See full description on pg. 4.

### Game Day

Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Test your knowledge of California's history and compete with team members in the CHCF's version of "trivial pursuits!" Even if you don't have time to "brush up" on people, places and dates, join the good fun as the CHCF wraps up its membership drive for the year. Lunch is available for a nominal fee. David Howard-Pitney is chairperson for this event. Invitations to follow. See you there!

### Ken Bruce Retirement

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. What a combination! A retirement party for longtime De Anza College History Instructor Ken Bruce AND a benefit for the CHCF. A dessert and coffee reception will be held at the center to say thank you and good luck to our very good friend. A \$25 donation is requested. RSVP to (408) 864-8712.

### De Anza Day

Sunday, June 11. During De Anza College's 1995 open house and day of entertainment, good food and fun the CHCF will hold its annual used-book sale from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Used books are donated by the community and proceeds benefit the center's Stockmeir Library and Archive.

## Event Re-cap

### Holiday Party

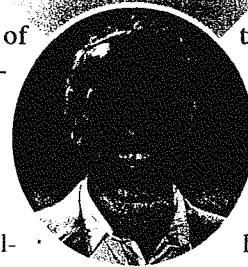
The 1994 holiday party at the history center was an open house on December 2. Delicious hors-d'oeuvres were accompanied by very talented De Anza student musicians under the direction of Instructor Bob Farrington. The event was well attended and an enjoyable entrée into the holiday season.

*CHC's 1994 Christmas tree — the last real tree. De Anza College has stipulated that real Christmas trees may not be in any college buildings due to fire hazard.*



### Three Strikes and You're In New Member Reception Was a Big Hit!

The CHCF Board of trustees held a reception on February 24 welcoming new members. The baseball theme gathering preceded the Ken Burns lecture at Flint Center. There was a special tribute to Ed Bressoud, former major league baseball player and longtime De Anza Col-



*Ed Bressoud*

lege baseball coach.

---

## Library News

---

### **New this fall on the shelves of the Stockmeir Library are the following books:**

*Californian Catholicism* by Kay Alexander (Vol. I of *The Religious Contours of California*)

*California's Architectural Frontier: Style and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century* by Harold Kirker

*The Castros of Soquel* by Ronald Powell

*Citizen 13660* by Mine Okubo

*Competing Visions of Paradise: The California Experience of 19th Century American Sectarianism* by John K. Simmons and Brian Wilson (Vol. III of *The Religious Contours of California*)

*Early Naturalists in the Far West* by Roland H. Alden and John D. Ifft

*Flutes of Fire: Essays on California Indian Languages* by Leanne Hinton

*Fruit of the Valley* by California artists and writers of the San Joaquin Valley

*The Health Seekers of Southern California, 1870-1900* by John E. Baur

*History Outreach: Programs for Museums, Historical Organizations, and Academic History Departments* edited by J. D. Britton and Diane F. Britton

*Joe Jowell of Namaqualand: The Story of a Modern-day Pioneer* by Phyllis Jowell (Ask about our connection with this book!)

*Kinenhi: Reflections on Tule Lake*

*Life on the Edge: A Guide to California's Endangered Natural Resources: Wildlife*

*A List of California Nurseries and Their Catalogues 1850-1900* by Thomas A. Brown

*New Deal Adobe: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Reconstruction of Mission La Purisima 1934-1942*

*Newcomers and Nomads in California* by William T. Cross and Dorothy Embry Cross

*Open to the Public: A Guide to the Museums of Northern California* by Charlene Akers

*Pages from a Palo Alto Editor's Scrapbook* by Ward Winslow

*Parks of Palo Alto* by the Palo Alto Historical Association (from *The Tall Tree*, Vol. V, No. 1, October 1983)

*Pat Jacobsen's Collector's Guide to Fruit Crate Labels* by Thomas Patrick Jacobsen

*Pilgrim Progression: The Protestant Experience in California* by Eldon G. Ernst with Douglas Firth Anderson (Vol. II of *The Religious Contours of California*)

*Sentinels of Love: Rural Churches of California* by Bette R. Millis and Jeanne Mord

*Struggle and Success: An Anthology of the Italian Immigrant Experience in California* edited by Paola A. Sensi-Isolani and Phylis Cancilla Martinelli

*Tahoe: An Environmental History* by Douglas H. Strong

*A Walk Through History: Women of Palo Alto* by Margaret R. Feuer and Courtney Clements

*The Water Seekers* by Remi A. Nadeau

*Wide Places in the California Roads* by David W. Kean, Vol. 1: *Southern California Counties*

*Wide Places in the California Roads* by David W. Kean, Vol. 2: *The Mountain Counties*

*A Wild Flower by Any Other Name: Sketches of Pioneer Naturalists Who Named Our Western Plants* by Karen B. Nilsson



Volunteer Nancy Bratman and Librarian Lisa Christiansen in the library, 1994.

---

## Donors of Special Gifts

Joseph & Doris Adamo  
Rena Frabony-DeHart  
Marion & Bob Grimm  
Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust  
Doni Hubbard  
Yvonne Jacobson  
Barbara Jobe

Brenda & Henry Klehn  
Hazel Lester  
William Lester III  
Barbara Rogers  
Robert Smithwick  
Ward Winslow

## Matching Grants

Cirrus Logic  
Varian Associates Inc.

The California History Center Foundation (CHCF), established to support preservation and education efforts in state and regional history, is celebrating its silver anniversary year in 1994-95. Your tax-deductible contribution supports services not funded by De Anza College, i.e. the Louis Stockmeir Regional History Library and Archive, Local History Studies book series, and a rotating exhibit program. The current exhibit, on display through June, is *Silver Anniversary — Golden Opportunity*, an exhibit showcasing the 25-year history of the California History Center Foundation and its partnership with the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

A good way to increase your gift to the CHCF is through employer matching gift programs. Many times your donation or membership is doubled through a contribution by your employer. Check with your company because the CHCF qualifies as an educational institution.

## New Members

### Supporter

Barbara A. Jobe

### Family

Robin Amundson & Family

### Individuals

Elizabeth Archambeault, Ed Bressoud, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cilker, Mr. & Mrs. George Cilker, Larry Cohen, Daniel Cornford, Linda Craig, Bernadine Chuck Fong, Conrad Heintzelman, Dick Henning, Bea Hubbard, Sven Jensen, Leonard Koppett, Mike Malone, Bill Mead, Betty Normandin, Julia O'Keefe, Don Perata, Sam Reeves, Pat Smith, John Waters

## Renewing Members

### Colleague

Gladys Stockmeir

### Sponsor

Joseph & Doris Adamo, Ernest & Marion Card, Burrel Leonard, Hazel Lester, Deanna & Joe Liotta, Michael Mahoney, John L. & Clysta Seney McLemore, Lester Tikvica, Margaret E. Wozniak

### Supporter

Bruce & Lynn Bowen, Alfred P. Chasuk, Stephen & Judy Ehrat, Gertrude Frank, Phillip Grasser, Elliott & Tille Hinely, Carl E. Jones, Martha Kanter, Ruth & Luther Kolarik, Elizabeth Petersen, John T. Smithson, Kurt & Barbara Voester

### Family

Robert & Patricia Brown, Marianne & Bjarne Dahl, Don & Rosalyn Frolich, Paul & Maria Griffiths, James & Colleen Hunts, Donald & June Ladd, Edward & Joanne Preston, Nicholas Rokitiensky, Bill & Roz Schwartz

### Individual

Brian Barclay, C.J. Bocchieri, Jim Cochrane, Alice M. Corboline, Howard Desart, Kathryn Donahue, Jean Farran, Joel Franks, Virginia Frazier, Helen Guida, Merlyn S. Howell, Bill Helfman, Mary Jo Ignoffo, Maureen Kelley, Leslie Masunaga, Mrs. Robert Moore, Letizia Picchetti, David Schutt, Frankie Sexton, Marie Smith, Miriam Stelling, Zee Tieger, Paul Trimble, Evelyn Turkus, Lillian Wurzel

### Errata:

*The credit line on the photograph of the Garden Theatre entrance on page 4 of the last issue of the Californian was mistakenly omitted. The photograph was taken by Jenny Brookshire.*

California  
History Center  
Foundation



De Anza College  
Cupertino

\$2 per Issue

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit Number 97  
Sunnyvale, CA

TIME VALUE



California History Center & Foundation  
A Center for the Study of State and Regional History  
De Anza College

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, Calif. 95014 (408) 864-8712

#### Trianon Building and Exhibit Hours

Please call (408) 864-8712 for information about hours.

#### Foundation Board

*President* — William Lester III, *Founding President* — Louis Stocklmeir

*Trustees* — Larry Burke, James S. Feng, Marion Grimm, David Howard-Pitney, Doni Hubbard, Jay M. Jackman, Yvonne Jacobson, Willys I. Peck, Kathleen Peregrin, Roy Roberts, Barbara A. Rogers, Robert C. Smithwick, Austen Warburton, Ward Winslow

*Trustee Emeritus* — Marion Card, Walter Warren

#### CHC Staff

*Director* — Kathleen Peregrin

*Administrative Associate* — Tom Izu

*Docent/Volunteer Coordinator* — Deanna (Dee) Liotta

*Librarian* — Lisa Christiansen

*Director Emeritus* — James C. Williams

#### The Californian Staff

*Editor*

Mary Jo Ignoffo

*Printing/Production*

Composite Artts

David Lippenberger

*Contributors:*

San Mateo County Historical  
Association

East Palo Alto Historical and  
Agricultural Society

## CALIFORNIAN

is published tri-annually by the California History Center & Foundation. The Magazine is mailed to members as a benefit of annual membership in the CHC Foundation. Membership categories: \$25 Individual; \$35 Family; \$45 Supporter; \$100 Sponsor; \$500 Patron; \$1,000 Colleague.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive tri-annual issues of "The Californian" magazine and members who contribute at the \$45 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

© 1995, California History Center Foundation

ISSN: 0742-5465



EAST PALO ALTO  
HISTORICAL AND AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

# ONE ACRE & INDEPENDENCE

The Newsletter of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society

Vol. 2, Issue 1 Spring 1994

*"I believe that the best platform for the highest development of man, physically, mentally and morally is in his own garden."*

*- Charles Weeks, founder of the Weeks Poultry Colony*

## EPA-HAS Moves to 1923 University Avenue

This is our first newsletter since we moved our office to East Palo Alto! We are now at 1923 University Avenue, in the one-block commercial strip west of Highway 101. It feels good to be here. We share space with *Plugged In* which is a computer learning center for youth. University Avenue has a variety of places to eat, several nonprofit organizations, and lots of human scaled small businesses. It is a place where you run into people who are making a difference in the city, where you feel the flavor of our multi-cultural community. Through the

generosity of friends, we have a good basic work situation and the confidence that we will soon be equipped with all the other good things we need. We were seriously hampered, however, by having to move our office twice during a period of just over two months. This has set us back greatly and we are badly behind in our grant writing and fund-raising efforts.

*Your membership contributions would be very helpful to us at this time.* We are also including a Wish List in this newsletter. Please be as generous as you can. The new year promises to be one of solid progress. Now that we have experience, we will open the Farmers' Market on a bigger scale. We will greatly improve our market gardening operations, complete a major video script, and work with the city to promote the planning of an innovative, sustainable East Palo Alto.

### Welcome to City Staff!

We welcome two new staff members to the City: Our new City Manager, Gerry Groomes, has already distinguished himself as a consummate professional, as well as a caring, considerate human being. William Howard has taken off two years from his position as head of the Planning Department at Cal Poly to overhaul East Palo Alto's General Plan, and has brought significant skills and resources with him. EPA-HAS looks forward to a productive working relationship with both of these outstanding gentlemen.

**EPA-HAS New Board Members:** The East Palo Alto Historical & Agricultural Society is proud to announce five new board members: Foster Curry, Jeanne English, Rebekah Finer, Aretha Lawrence, and Zalika Sykes. This is an exceptional group of people and we look forward to their help to guide EPA-HAS toward greater service to our city!

## EPA's "Community Cop"

— by Susan Perkins

After receiving a grant from the Guggenheim Foundation, the East Palo Alto Police Department developed a "Community Cop" position. Russ Thurman, who has been assigned this position, is responsible for "building relationships with the community, meeting the people who reside in it, and demonstrating that cops are people just like everyone else."

Russ walks the streets on a daily basis, stopping to chat and converse with the citizens of East Palo Alto. He knows many of them by name and makes a point to greet them whenever he converses with them. Because he is so well respected, the residents often have to wait their turn in order to chat with him. In the long run this can only improve relations between the people and the police.

Originally, a policeman walked his neighborhood beat interacting with the same citizens on a daily basis. When officers began driving patrol cars with radios, they interacted with their beat less and less. The 911 system resulted in even less interaction with the local citizens. Russ Thurman does not accept this transformation.

After doing extensive research into the effectiveness of "Community Cops" Thurman compiled crime statistics from four areas of East Palo Alto. From the results, Russ decided to focus on an area that was "one block by six blocks in dimension and that included 172 residences and a nice park." By walking the streets and biking through his neighbor-



Sprucing up: L. François and T. Burrowes standing by new sidewalk and tree grate installed by your next door neighbor, SLR Archeetics.

continued page 3

hoods, Russ has made progress in uniting the community. This unification has already led to an overall decrease in crime in the neighborhood and the number of calls to 911 has lessened by over fifty percent.

Thurman believes that yet another way to unite the community is through a cleaner physical environment. Russ has made a huge effort to improve the neighborhood's appearance. Through the various clean-up efforts which he has organized, East Palo Alto area looks like a brand new town. Says Russ: “the momentum is there and now we just have to keep the ball rolling.”

*“Back in Louisiana we made our own corn meal. It tasted so good then. I'm living the same way here now, minute by minute, growing my own vegetables. I'm enjoying life. I feel great! And I just want to pass on the light.”*

*-Dorothy Sanders, Grower for EPA HAS Farmers' Market*

**Become an EPA-HAS Member!**

EPA HAS needs the support of the East Palo Alto community in order to continue its work. Our membership base is one of the ways we demonstrate the importance of our work when we talk to potential funders. Please consider making a donation NOW. Thanks!

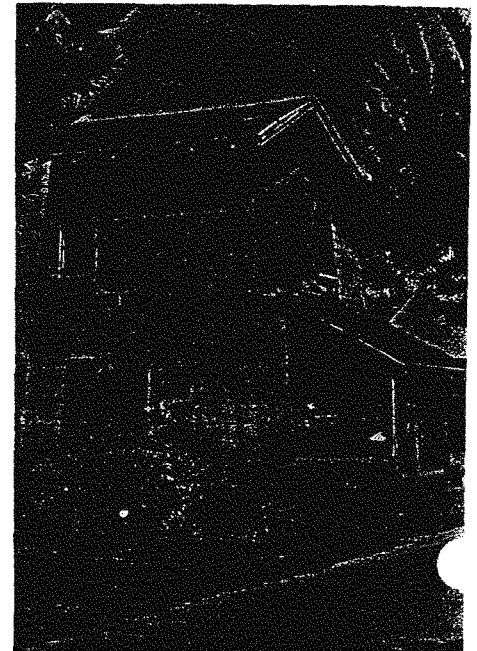
Thomasyne Lightfoot Wilson visited George E. Kinyanjui in Kenya, and told him about East Palo Alto and EPA-HAS's work. Mr. Kinyanjui responded with a letter to EPA-HAS describing agricultural activities near Nairobi:

*“We overlook the Great Rift Valley and escarpment. We are 8000 ft. above the sea level. Our climate is moderate... Coffee is grown within 16 miles from Nairobi as the climate is hotter. A fabulous tea plantation is within the reach of 20-25 miles from City Centre. We produce coffee, pineapple, bananas, sweet potatoes, grains, yams, cassava, etc. on the eastern side. Large scale farms for wheat and grains are within the reach of 100 miles. “My sincere encouragement to your members for them to fully make use of any portion of land or space they possess by inserting any compost, manure or organic material. Where there is power with God, everything is possible... I very much want to meet you and your members in person, and if you all can, please come to Nairobi.” —*

P.O. Box 176, Matathia, Kenya

**Special Mention**

- Peter Evans, Director, EPA Sanitary District, for extensive work preparing site for the Farmer's Market.
- BFI for donating dumpsters used in the clean-up of the community garden lots.
- Menlo Park Fire Department for voluntary help of the clean-up of community garden lots.
- A big WELCOME to Heru Hall, just back from the U.C. Santa Cruz Agro-Ecology Program.
- Banana Office Systems (415) 325-7700 for donating help to repair copier.



This Charles Weeks Poultry Colony tank house has been donated to EPA HAS by its owner, David Rages. We need a volunteer or affordable house mover to move it to land which is leased by EPA HAS. We also need volunteer builders to restore it.

**EPA-HAS Wish List**

We need: seeds, garden tools, organic compost, work clothing, microwave oven, coffee maker, money, a 3-hole paper punch, FAX machine, small refrigerator, MAC Plus, etc. and time!

*One Acre and Independence* is a production of EPA HAS, P.O. Box 51504, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, 415/329-0294, with support from the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

Editor: Olivia de Haulville  
Photos: Martha Crusius, Lorraine Davir  
Printed by: Prodigy Press - (415) 494-02.  
The name: “One Acre & Independence” is borrowed from the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony Publication of the same name.

**EPA HAS Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: H: ( ) W: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues:  \$5  \$10  \$20  \$50  Other \$

I want to support the work of EPA HAS in building a sustainable community by preserving agricultural lands, open space, and the historical and cultural traditions of East Palo Alto.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA-HAS)  
P.O. Box 51504, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 (415) 329-0294

# OUR RURAL HERITAGE

Leroy Musgraves, Farmer, Artist, Teacher—by Gregory Garvin

"The future is going to be the farmer, the teacher, and the artist." These words exemplify both the life and the beliefs of Leroy Musgraves. Throughout his life, Leroy has practiced, written about, and taught the art of farming. Because of this experience, he concludes: "in the future, there will be no other way for people to survive." The current emphasis on technology, which produces toxic waste that pollutes our land, water, air, and our food, can only be remedied by a return to organic farming.

**Farmer:** "Every living thing is a farmer directly or indirectly." Leroy believes that we all have an influence on the land. "We used to become compost or nutrient when we died; now, we become formaldehyde!" These convictions, as well as much of Mr. Musgraves' proficiency in farming, are rooted in his childhood in Arkansas. The son of a sharecropper and the grandson of a landowner, Leroy learned to farm at the sprouting age of four. His lessons include the planting of root crops such as potatoes, turnips, and carrots when the moon is waning, and above-ground crops—including all greens and grains—when the moon is waxing. However, over the years he has come to believe in the rule, "if you plant it in healthy soil and nurture it, it will grow."

**Artist:** In order to pass on his farming experience, Leroy has written four novels, one of which is planned for publishing this year. Leroy's artistic ability reaches over to his creative writing, which stems from his inheritance of a rich oral tradition. He has received fellowships from the Dorland Mountain Colony of Poets, Painters, and Writers in Southern

California and a Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University. Leroy believes that artists make a valuable contribution to society: "Farmer, soil — Teacher, plant — Artist, people. The artist is a historian." By writing down both reality and non-reality in a creative form, artists preserve the thoughts and the beliefs of a time period for later generations.



Leroy Musgraves tends the cabbage plants in his East Palo Alto Mini-farm.

**Teacher:** Leroy combined his love of farming and his quest to educate by teaching mini-farming at

Willow Oaks Elementary School, Ravenswood, and Cesar Chavez, in San Francisco. He sees his work as a way of "getting to children and teaching them how to get along with each other." This is accomplished by teaching children how to care for their plants. This lesson in respect then carries over to their fellow classmates. Leroy plans to teach for a while longer and then turn his classes over to someone who will spend all his or her time teaching: "All they will do and all they will want to do is teach."

Now, Mr. Musgraves spends his time trying to raise money to buy the acre of land which he has been farming these last two years in East Palo Alto. Currently he lives in Palo Alto, but he wants to move "because of the positive energy level and the diversity of East Palo Alto. The people are diverse both racially, culturally and economically... Diversity is what the future is." And, of course, East Palo Alto is also where the land is. No other town in the Mid-Peninsula has managed to sustain, to such an extent, the farming roots that Leroy Musgraves loves.

## Farmers Market, Garden: Plans for a New Season

With experience under our belt, EPA HAS hopes to open the East Palo Alto Farmers Market for a second season. The market will again focus on East Palo Alto growers. This year, however, growers will not need to go through a state certification process to sell their produce. This system will provide more flexible options for local gardeners.

EPA HAS also has a program to help you start a garden and grow produce for the market. Our Community Growers gardening program will again be double-digging garden beds on Saturday mornings, with priority given to people who want to grow for the market. A 100 square foot bed can provide nutritious food for your family, with extra that you can sell at the Farmers Market.

We expect these changes to lead to more produce at the market, and greater variety for the customers (who, we hope, will include you!). Call the EPA HAS office for more information about the Farmers Market. Call Doug Burck (325-6634) for information about double-dug garden beds.

### Gardener's Tips

#### Organic Garden Insect Repellent

Grind 1 clove garlic, 3 cayenne peppers and 1 onion; add 1/4 oz soap plus enough water to blend. Let this mixture sit for 3 to 4 days. Add 2 parts water for every one part of this mix.

#### Yeast Solution For Slugs

Mix 3 packets of yeast with 3 tablespoons sugar. Add 1/2 quart water, mix and pour into empty tin cans. Dig these into the earth near your beloved plant leaving just the rim to emerge above earth-level.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Soil and Soul, EPA-HAS Video:** EPA-HAS has received a grant from the California Council for the Humanities to produce a video on the rich history of East Palo Alto entitled *Soil and Soul* - using history to create the future. If you have access to any of the following, please contact the Project Coordinator, Stephenie Smith, at (415) 324-1303. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

- Photographs (will be reproduced with care and returned to you).

- Your personal story to tell. Your family's life in East Palo Alto. Any tidbit of history. If you ever lived in EPA, you have a story to tell.

- Artifacts — farming equipment, pottery, quilts, etc. to donate or allow to be photographed.

- Artwork or music . . .

- Tapes of speeches, home movies.

- **Underground Railroad Emancipation Day:** EPA HAS is participating with Shule Mandela Academy in its 10th annual Underground Railroad Emancipation Day acknowledging African American history. An all-day affair February 27. Call Shule at 327-5848 for information.

- **Tree Planting:** EPA HAS is planting trees again. Over 350 trees have been planted by community people and dedicated friends. Please call Jeri at 329-8771.

- **Free at Last:** "Free at Last," a community recovery and rehabilitation cen-

terhas opened at 1946 University Ave. A big EPA HAS congratulations to you.

- **Community Organizer:** EPA HAS and Urban Ecology have submitted a grant proposal to fund community organizing and planning within the Weeks Poultry Colony area. If funded, we will be looking to hire a locally-based community organizer/planner. If you are interested, please contact Paul Okamoto, Urban Ecology, 415/788-2118.

- **Special Friend Program:** Ravenswood City School District has a Special Friend program that is in its second year of operation at Belle Haven and Willow Oaks schools. The program uses District-trained community para-professionals working

with students in non-directive activity sessions (play and assisted conversation). The program provides a Special Friend to assist students through minor adjustments and difficulties so that they can grow and flourish. For more information please contact: Ralph Howe at 329-2859.

- **Plugged In:** Our mission is to bring technology to children from low-income communities. We run programs at our site in East Palo Alto, For more info: 322-1134.
- **Clean Up:** The EPA Police Department is conducting a neighborhood clean up program February 26-27, March 26-27, April 30 and May 1. For more info, call Officer Peter Nwokolo at 853-3144 or 519-0615.

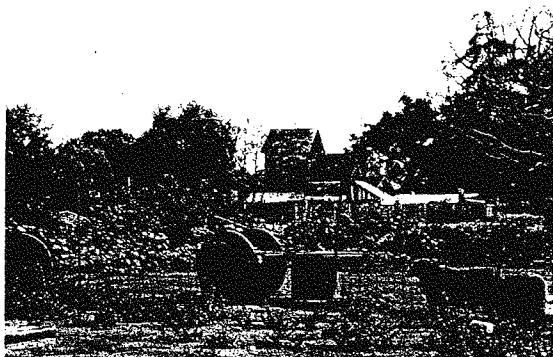


The 1993 Summit on Regional Economic Issues. From left to right - Robert Beyer, Executive Director, EPA Redevelopment Agency; Ruben Abrica, Director, Ravenswood City School Dist. Board; Trevor Burrowes, President EPA-HAS; Assemblywoman, Jackie Speir, 19th AD; Assemblyman Byron Sher, 21st AD; EPA Mayor, Sharifa Wilson

**East Palo Alto Historical & Agricultural Society**  
An Affiliate of the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation  
3921 E. Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

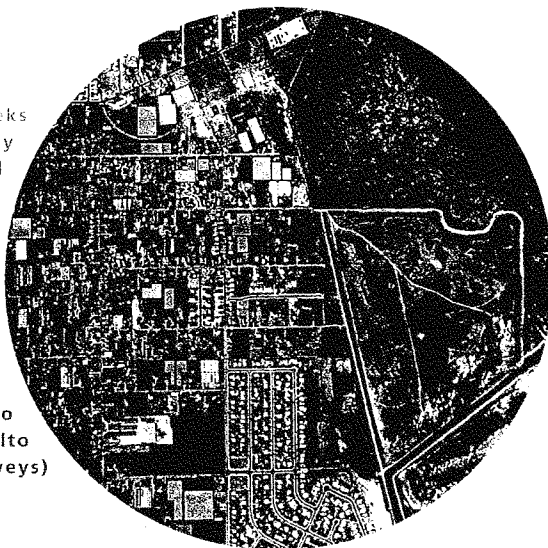
Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #307  
Palo Alto, CA

# Weeks Neighborhood

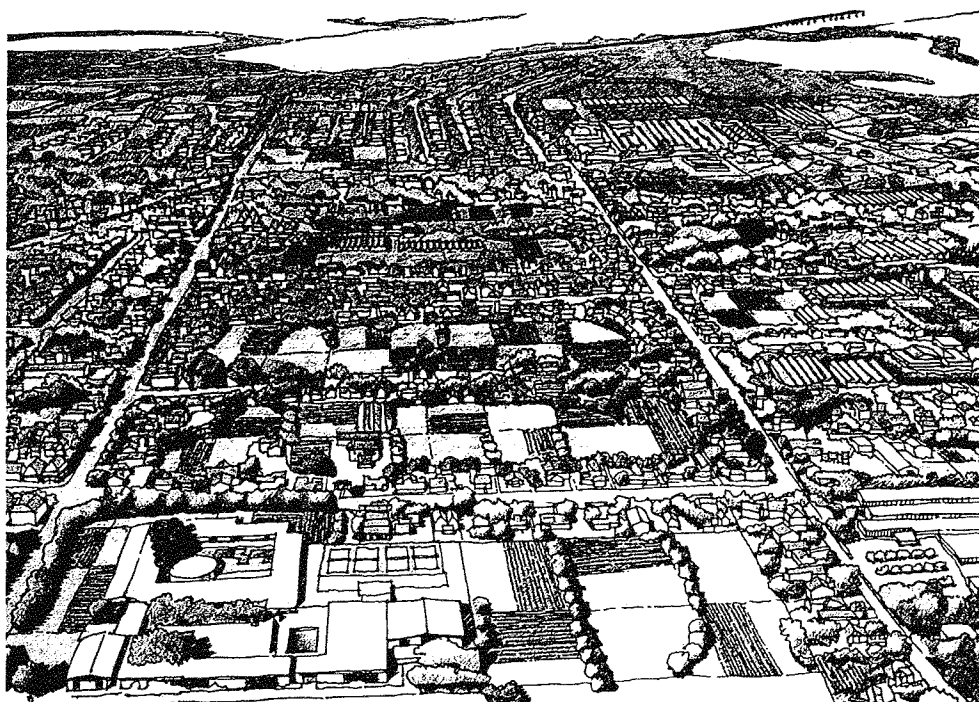


(Far left) Weeks Street community garden. (Paul Okamoto)

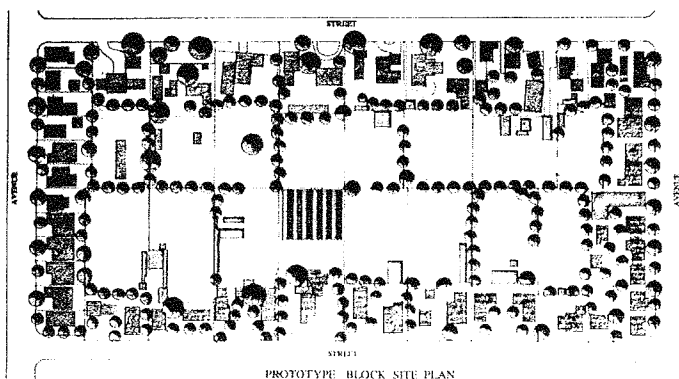
(Left) Rural scene in East Palo Alto. (East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society)



(Right) Aerial photo of East Palo Alto (Pacific Aerial Surveys)



(Above) Proposed vision of Weeks Neighborhood. (Paul Okamoto)



(Right) Conceptual block plan, showing residential lots with small agricultural plots. (Paul Okamoto)

urbanized people. Still, the more opportunities there are to satisfy one's daily needs locally, the closer the community comes to the ideal. When many walking-based communities are effectively linked together by public transit (and pedestrian and bike paths), and when each community supports a wide range of activities, the potential for structuring varied, complex and satisfying lives without being dependent on cars is high.

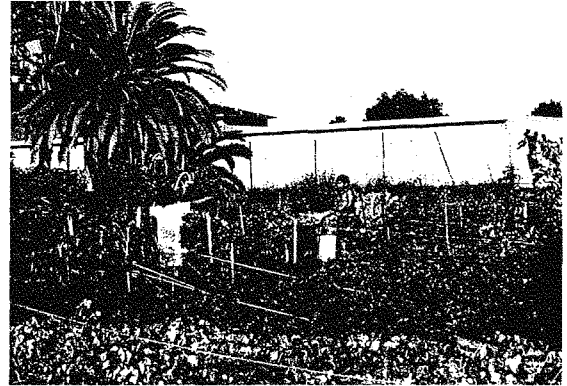
*Preservation of and access to significant natural areas.* Part of the motivation for preserving and regenerating natural areas within or near sustainable communities is that such environments are among the places to which people want access in their everyday lives. But underlying the whole concept of sustainable communities is the understanding that we humans are part of the larger web of natural systems, and that our continued healthy survival depends also on the healthy survival of the "living earth." In general, the larger the geographic area encompassed in a sustainable development, the more complex and the more prominent are the provisions for protecting and enhancing natural systems.

### Phalen Village

Phalen Village covers a smaller area than does the St. Vincent's proposal, but it uses the same set of strategies, in much the same ways, toward achieving sustainability. The primary difference between these two projects is that while the physical context for St. Vincent's is primarily land, plants, animals and water, with a secondary (though important) overlay of existing buildings, the Phalen Village context is primarily artifacts — buildings, roads, parking lots, utility systems — with a secondary (though, again, very important) set of existing "natural" systems. In both cases, the objective is the same: to bring the complex of human and non-human systems into an ecologically balanced relationship.

### Haymount

Again we see the same basic set of strategies, but this time in a project that is on its way toward full implementation. Besides that fact, distinguishing in itself, two things are especially notable about this project. First, an immense effort has been made here to understand the precise characteristics of the existing site, and to devise management systems for future use of the site that will not only preserve but strengthen the site as a support system for healthy life of all kinds — including, for example, a combination of "sequence batch technology, advanced tertiary treatment, and constructed wetlands, to produce discharge water cleaner than that which is withdrawn from the river"; storm water management with "constructed



Weeks neighborhood, a 300-acre site in the heart of East Palo Alto, is a grid of very large blocks subdivided into predominantly one-acre lots. The soils are deep, water is abundant and the microclimate is very favorable for agriculture. Historically, these lots were the basis of an early twentieth-century utopian agricultural community; later, they were owned by families who successfully operated truck farms and flower growing businesses.

Contemporary East Palo Alto, including Weeks neighborhood, "embodies the urban crisis conditions facing the nation today: poverty, racial tension, crime, drugs, disrupted families, unemployment, a decaying urban infrastructure and a lack of affordable housing." This project, a joint effort by public agencies, foundations and community groups, hopes to ameliorate those crisis conditions by rejuvenating the agricultural economy that once thrived here — and is still very evident — by providing both a sense of identity and a livelihood for the existing multi-ethnic, low-income residents. The objective is to establish Weeks neighborhood as "a green village within the city," with its own local services, new housing of many kinds and a variety of local transportation options.

### Project team:

Paul Okamoto (Urban Ecology), Trevor Burrowes (East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society), Martha Crusius (National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program)

## East P.A. to tally architectural treasures

BY SUE HUTCHISON  
Mercury News Staff Writer

Architectural history buff Trevor Burrowes was delivering newspapers in Atherton 10 years ago when he was struck by the unlikely similarity between the Lindenwood area there and his hometown, East Palo Alto.

"Some of the large lots in East Palo Alto have the same rural quality ... as the Lindenwood property," Burrowes said. "There's that sense of natural landscaping and things (growing) wild."

To find out more about his city's architectural treasures, Burrowes two years ago founded the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPAHAS). And this month, the group was awarded

**‘What we are doing will show the city leadership what the resources are.’**

an \$8,425 grant from the Peninsula Community Foundation to commission a historic architectural survey of East Palo Alto. The grant will be administered through the San Mateo County Historical Association.

"East Palo Alto has an incredible agricultural history," Burrowes said. "What we are doing will

show the city leadership what the resources are, and they will know (which property and buildings) to protect."

The San Mateo County Historical Association has hired two Stanford University architectural historians to make a list of the most significant buildings in the city.

Mitch Postel, director of the historical association, said the group anticipates that 50 buildings, along with photographs, maps and a description of their history, will make the list by the time the survey is completed next fall.

According to Burrowes, East Palo Alto is an important landmark because it was the site of one of the Little Land utopian agricultural developments,

founded in the early 20th century. Poultry farmer Charles Weeks joined the colony in 1916 as part of an agricultural movement dedicated to self-sufficiency.

"The area on three blocks of Runnymede Street (near) Cooley is interesting," Burrowes said. "Other parts of Garden and Myrtle (streets) are also interesting."

Postel said it was Burrowes' drive that won the survey grant — "most towns that wanted to do something like this would have to pay for it themselves" — and the effort may play an important

See HISTORY, Page 1

### Jewish cer



\$50,000 expenditure by the city of Sunnyvale to remove a chunk of concrete from a parking garage, when I was rudely interrupted by the pressing need to file income taxes.

As this fairy tale goes, the Sunnyvale Town Center mall will become the new home for the Mountain View J.C. Penney store sometime in early October. With company coming, the center is doing a little sprucing up, and the city appears to be joining in to at least the tune of \$40K to \$50K.

In case you are not familiar with the mall, it's located about one city block from the nearest main street, Mathilda Avenue, and quite a few blocks from either the Central Expressway or El Camino Real. Easy freeway access is more than a mile away. The location is a retailer's worst nightmare.

A report to the city council stated that passing motorists "are frequently not aware that there is a major regional mall. Potential



OWEN WHETZEL

couple of hundred yards away. What will spending up to \$50,000 to remove this overhang accomplish?

Little if anything. Not everybody looking for the center will be standing on the corner as we are. Most people will be zipping down Mathilda at 35 mph. This means that drivers will need to take a photo-flash look between the bank buildings, then up the ramp, gaze past the parking garage to the distant second-story entrance to the mall and the center's sign — again, all while traveling at 35 mph. (Attention, math whizzes: At 35 mph, how many seconds elapse in about 120 feet, the approximate width of the total view?)



## Tools called works of art East P.A. will survey architecture

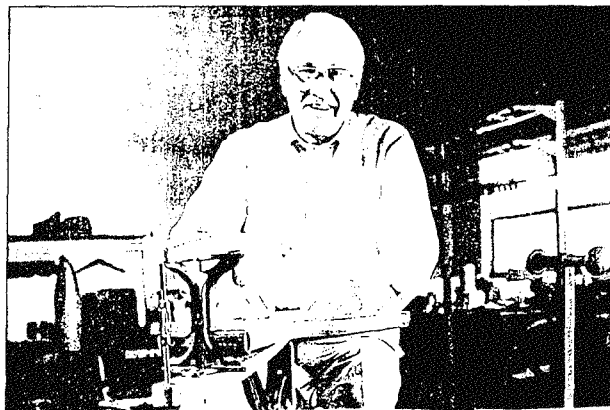
*Craftsmanship to be discussed*

### ■ TOOLS

*from Page 1*

carpentry, blacksmithing, cabinetry and other disciplines. The tools on display include wood-working planes, drills, saws, vises and awls dating back to the 1850s.

"The tools themselves are works of art," said Adams, who studied to be a carpenter and machinist before attending the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. "There's a finish and



### ■ HISTORY

*from Page 1*

role in East Palo Alto's future. "East Palo Alto is going through some major changes," Postel said. "We're going to have to step up to the plate . . . and let civic leaders know what their resources are."

Burrowes said the city's most historically significant property may be threatened more by scattered residential development than by the large-scale building projects that are on the drawing board. "The way developers subdivide those lots . . . and build the biggest houses possible is totally out of keeping with the way they were designed," he said.

But Burrowes is confident that a series of forums EPAHAS plans to offer after the historical list will motivate residents to protect the city's architectural history.

"The acronym EPAHAS is not an accident," Burrowes said. "We are trying to (communicate) that this city really has something special worth saving. It's not just an empty void."



Charles Weeks

# ROOTED IN THE PAST

*On their one-acre farm in East Palo Alto, the Curry family lives out a utopian dream envisioned in the early 1900s.*



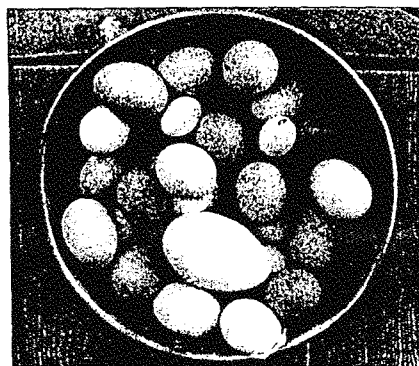
by Monica Hayde • photographs by Karen C. Hanner

**I**t was 1916, and Charles Weeks, a poultry farmer with a vision, came to the sunny little town of Ravenswood on the shore of San Francisco Bay to establish his dream: a colony of heavily cultivated one-acre farms through which a farmer could support his family, and foster a quality of life superior to that of the industrialized cities.

Weeks named his 600-acre enclave Runnymede, after the English meadow that witnessed the signing of the Magna Carta. Elaborating on his motto, "One Acre and Independence," Weeks declared: "I believe that the highest independence of which Man is capable can be had in a little garden, intensively cultivated, where neither wage earning nor the hiring of help enslave."

On a pleasant, tree-lined block of East Palo Alto's Bell Street, in the heart of Weeks' old poultry colony, one finds the Curry family's Patchwork Farm, a ramshackle sort of place set back a few yards from the street.

On an L-shaped acre of fertile land, with their animals and mini-orchard, the Currys have carved out for themselves a bucolic life which, interestingly, is as progressive as it is retrospective. Their '90s-style emphasis on



Center, Lollie and her dad, Foster Curry, milk one of the family's goats on their one-acre farm in East Palo Alto. Above, fresh hens' and ducks' eggs in the Curry family's kitchen.

sustainability, efficiency and community would have made Weeks proud.

On the other side of the freeway from the Silicon Valley communities that lost their agrarian histories to the development boom of the last few decades, East Palo Alto has quietly kept much of its unique agricultural heritage, especially in the area of Weeks' old poultry colony, roughly a quarter of modern-day East Palo Alto. Here, many residents still grow a few crops on their long narrow lots. Some have goats and chickens. O.D. Sims still has three horses on his acre just down the road from the Currys.

But as developers now cast their eyes to the relatively inexpensive, still-undeveloped land in East Palo Alto, families like the Currys are an ever-diminishing breed.

On all sides of their little farm, "for sale" signs have sprouted like the corn and beans that once grew there. Leroy Musgraves, the much-loved local gardening teacher who cultivated a one-acre plot directly behind the Currys, was recently displaced from his rented land when the owner decided to sell. Meanwhile, cul-de-sacs of pre-fab, salmon-pink houses have quickly replaced many of the Weeks-era farmhouses, with their quaint, attached water towers.



*At its peak, Weeks' "Little Land" colony supported about 100 families raising chickens, goats,*

While many welcome the idea of development in East Palo Alto—and the much-needed tax base it will bring—others worry about what will be lost.

Recently, Foster Curry joined the board of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society (EPA HAS), a passionate, little non-profit founded and run by the Jamaican-born Trevor Burrowes, which is committed to no less than creating a new community model for East Palo Alto's future, an urban agrarian ideal based on small homes, large tracts of land and a commitment to family and community. It is an idea that borrows from the past, but is focused on the future.

*At its peak, Weeks' "Little Land" colony supported about 100 families raising chickens, goats,*

rabbits and craps on their mini-farms. In a newsletter "One Acre and Independence: An Exponent of Practical Idealism," Weeks wrote, "I own a plot of land, to build a home with, and all your own, to plant trees, to grow, to grow fresh vegetables, and to raise chickens, and other eggs, the produce of the land of men, whether rich or poor."

"Man, years ago, I had a couple of neat little garden home, and I thought, 'limited means could live with me, and I could country home in all the future, and I could choice products produced on a small land."

Foster Curry, his wife Nancy Green and their two children, Lottie, 5, and Devon, 7, own goats' milk on their central in the neighborhood.

## ed in the past

...spits, goats, sheep, ducks  
...after work or school instead of  
...in front of the TV. They eat  
...berries from the trees in their back  
...gather fresh eggs for Sunday break-

...ighbors drop by for a visit, they  
...to the back door.  
...locally, in rural areas, friends and  
...would come to the back door." Fos-  
...as. "The front door was formal, for  
...pany.  
...ate for a modern day farm family in  
...Alto.

...out two years, before the children  
...th, Foster and Nancy lived in an  
...n trailer on their one-acre lot, trying  
...whether to settle in East Palo Alto—  
...w houses down from Nancy's moth-  
...ve abroad for a few years.

...they saw a classified ad for a "house  
...," which was to be demolished to  
...re for the Shoreline business park in  
...View, they decided they couldn't  
...deal on a 1920s farmhouse with a  
...they had their new home moved to  
...Alto. That was 10 years ago.  
...that they're established on Bell Street,  
...committed to staying. No onward-and-  
...mentality here.

...e on the 50-year plan," Foster says  
...nie. "We have a tree that won't even  
...for climbing until then."

...speed through life affects little the inner  
...Peace, contentment, comes first from  
...nd makes us own environment. . . . The  
...ther who has spent all her four-score  
...ner ancestral home, surrounded with a  
...of vegetables, berries, vines, trees and  
...living the simple natural life, rearing  
...pen, . . . giving care, rich in the love of  
...A. . . a, relatives and friends, far

...from the reviews through . . . may have a wisdom  
...that is divine and sacred as compared to the  
...world wears traveler." — Charles Weeks, 1922

The Currys are not able to "earn a comfort-  
able living from so little as One Acre of  
Land," as Weeks put it almost a century ago.  
Foster works as a software project manager at  
Unisys in San Jose. The farm, at least at this  
point, is more of a hobby than anything—al-  
though the family did toy with the idea of  
starting a professional dairy after Foster was  
laid off a few years ago.

By selling fruit and eggs at local farmers'  
markets and eating much of what they pro-  
duce, the family just about breaks even on the  
farm.

But the Currys aren't playing urban farmer  
for the financial rewards.

"What we think is most important," says Fos-  
ter as he drinks a steaming cup of goats' milk  
hot chocolate at the kitchen table, "is that  
the kids learn about building something from  
nothing. On a farm, the kids see firsthand the  
process of life and death, (they) learn how to  
take care of things, they learn responsibility for  
life."

"I believe that every child should have the  
divine privilege of growing up in the pure air,  
under the blue sky, in the sunshine of a Beau-  
tiful Garden Home." — Charles Weeks, 1917

"Look! We have baby rabbits," says Devon,  
holding a squirming gray bunny.

A flock of baby chickens and a couple of  
meddlesome juvenile goats round out the re-  
cent additions to the ever-growing animal  
population at the Patchwork Farm, so named, says  
Foster, "because things are patched together,  
and it's a lot of work."

In addition to drinking goats' milk and eat-  
ing fresh eggs, the Currys shear the sheep for  
their wool (which the family has been storing  
in the garage for years—waiting until they can  
find time to try out their new spinning wheel).  
Occasionally, they have some of the goats and  
chickens slaughtered for food.

Not ones to waste resources, they have  
amassed a sizable stack of goat hides, which  
now decorate the back of a living room couch.

More than a source of food, wool or eggs,  
though, the Curry's well-cared-for menagerie  
is a source of interest and fun for neighbor-  
hood friends and school chums. Children on  
field trips from East Palo Alto's Afro-centric  
school Shule Mandela Academy have come to  
the farm on several occasions, and Foster has  
been known to give goat milking lessons to  
neighborhood kids.

It is this kind of connection to their com-  
munity that the Curry family values above al-  
most all else.

"Living on a farm out in the middle of  
nowhere wouldn't be the same," Nancy says.  
"And, I don't know, some of these isolated  
places are not exactly tolerant of diversity."

Diversity. That's exactly what Foster and  
Nancy love about East Palo Alto, specifically  
their neighborhood, which Foster says is a fa-  
scinating mix of blacks, whites, Asians, His-  
panics and Pacific Islanders.

"I think East Palo Alto, in respect to diversity,  
is 30 years ahead of other cities in California  
and the country," Foster says. "If you think  
about it, East Palo Alto is the future of Califor-  
nia at large, and if the city continues to handle  
things, doesn't lose its cultural diversity and  
its agricultural history and gets through some  
of its growing pains, it could be a model for  
the future for the rest of the state, and some  
parts of the country."

This view on diversity is one opinion that  
Weeks—insulated in his all-white poultry  
colony—probably would not have shared with  
the Currys. According to Trevor Burrowes,  
the founder of EPA-HAS who gives regular  
tours of the city's agricultural landmarks in  
his old Peugeot, some members of the East  
Palo Alto community resent the attempt to  
keep alive the agrarian ideals of a man whose  
"utopian" dream was not necessarily open to  
those who weren't white.

"But that was another time," Burrowes  
says. "Exclusion was practiced by many peo-  
ple, everywhere. Just because a man had  
views that we do not agree with nowadays,



Two kids at play: Lollie and a frisky young  
goat frolic in the goat pen.

does not mean all of his ideas were bad."

By the late 1920s, as the Depression took its  
toll on many of the farmers, Weeks' colony,  
once the largest in the country, began to de-  
cline. Weeks had left Runnymede around 1925  
to start a new colony of small farms near Los  
Angeles, and although he came back to East  
Palo Alto periodically, his colony couldn't  
seem to function as smoothly as when he was  
a permanent resident. Squabbles between the  
Runnymede inhabitants and those who lived  
in the surrounding Ravenswood escalated into  
several all-out feuds, and the two commu-  
nities were never able to work together to solve  
local problems. By the mid-'30s, Weeks'  
colony had disbanded. ■







JOE MELENA / PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

**A survey of East Palo Alto's historic structures** is likely to include about 50 sites, including this water tower on Myrtle Street.

back to 1985. Since then, he has explored its past through the East Palo Alto Arts and Culture Commission and the East Palo Alto Agricultural and Historical Society, which he helped found two years ago.

The San Mateo County Historical Association expects some 50 buildings to make the final listing, which will include each edifice's history, their architectural descriptions, photographs of them and maps with their locations.

Most noteworthy among them may be one of the six former Little Lands utopian developments, which was founded on a concept of agricultural self-sufficiency. Poultry Farmer Charles Weeks developed 600 acres of his land in-

## A breath of life for landmarks

**Tim Pryor**

PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

Thanks to one historian's persistence, East Palo Alto will conduct a historic architectural survey that could provide information needed to protect the city's historic structures from demolition.

The San Mateo County Historical Association received a \$8,425 grant from The Peninsula Community Foundation for the project. The historical association's director Mitch Postel says it's because of East Palo Alto's Trevor Burrowes' well-organized effort to bring the survey to his city.

"Burrowes has expressed interest for several years," Postel said.

Burrowes' interest in the history of East Palo Alto goes

## Prospects brighten

to the colony in 1916, motivated by the idea of self-sufficiency, according to Palo Alto Librarian Steve Staigner.

Staigner said that, given the growth and development of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto may not be far behind. "In Palo Alto, it would be difficult to build on more than two plots of land," he said. "But in East Palo Alto, that's still a threat."

Burrowes believes that up to a half of the city's structures that were more than 50 years old already have been destroyed or altered.

If the survey's participants, comprised of Stanford architectural historians as well as student and community volunteers, recognize certain structures as historically significant, it doesn't mean they will be protected necessarily.





JIM GENSHEIMER — MERCURY NEWS

U.D. Sims keeps Betsy and his other horses on his son's one-acre lot on Green Street in East Palo Alto.

## East Palo Alto's rural history

### ■ HUTCHISON

from Page 1B

and other vegetables in their yards. The historical and agricultural society also has planted several community gardens in an effort to encourage residents "to get back to the land," Burrowes said.

"The Weeks (farms) are a wonderful way to look at alternative development," Burrowes said. "You're using land as a resource, and not just to mark something. The houses here are small, and it's in the back yards where this land really comes alive.

"People in town don't even know that what they've got is valuable," Burrowes said. "For so long, it's been hammered into their heads that nothing in East Palo Alto is worth anything."

Robert Garcia, 73, whose family moved to the city in 1921, is one of a few residents whom the agricultural society videotaped giving an oral history of the city. The well-digging company Garcia's father started is still in busi-



SUE HUTCHISON

Today On The Peninsula

before the 1950s, when post-war development began.

"There were a lot of dairy farms, and many people did a little farming on the side. It was very peaceful, and there was no crime," Garcia said. "But even then it wasn't like Palo Alto. Palo Alto was kind of snobbish. Once, they wanted to park their garbage trucks in East Palo Alto."

Burrowes laments that the inferiority complex that has long been festering in East Palo Alto has led to cul-de-sac developments of large houses "that destroy the integrity of the land."

ditions on the backs of houses that are out of sight from the street and still leave plenty of land."

"These houses threaten the area more than the large developments that are planned," Burrowes said as he drove past the newly constructed Mandela Estates on Runnymede Street. "There is no room to work on your land. The house is just a big status symbol.

"There's no scale and humility to them, like the (Weeks era) houses," he said. "I don't know what kind of vulgar person would live in that kind of house."



JIM GENSHEIMER — MERCURY NEWS

Trevor Burrowes, founder of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, sits in front of a Weeks era house on Garden Street

# Remnants of E. Palo Alto's rural past

**W**HEN Trevor Burrowes drives down University Avenue, across the border that starkly divides East Palo Alto from Palo Alto, he usually feels a twinge of sadness.

But it's not the astonishing contrast between poverty and fluence that brings him down. "Palo Alto is so dull andaid," Burrowes sighed Monday as he drove past shady, manicured lawns. "It's too controlled. It just doesn't have theprance of East Palo Alto."

For Burrowes, vibrance transes to open spaces and rustic uts of things past. He doesn't : East Palo Alto's tiny houses large ramshackle lots as ns of a suburban ghetto. He s them as a rare example of agricultural utopia that



**SUE HUTCHISON**  
*Today On The Peninsula*

flourished at the turn of the century, when garages housed tractors and most residents had their own corn crop.

Two years ago, Burrowes founded the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, which, to the uninitiated, seemed like a contradiction in

terms. But Burrowes has worked to dust off the city's often-overlooked rural history and preserve its acres of wild and overgrown farmland for contemporary uses.

The group celebrated its first major victory in April when it was awarded an \$8,425 grant to conduct an architectural survey of the city.

Burrowes, who studied art and architecture at Yale University, became fascinated with East Palo Alto's history when he learned that poultry farmer Charles Weeks founded a Little Land agricultural colony there in 1916. The Little Land farms were part of an agricultural movement dedicated to self-sufficiency.

"Now here's a lovely piece of rural land," Burrowes said as he drove past a tree-shrouded field

on Green Street. "There's a Hells Angels church in there. There have been times when the place is crawling with bikers."

"People use the space in different ways," Burrowes said, pointing to a flat-roofed two-story farmhouse. "The bottom of that building is a Tongan church, and people live on the floor above."

Burrowes lived in East Palo Alto for 20 years, and seems to know just about everyone there. He also knows every corn crib, water tower and fallow field in town. "It's funny, but the only reason these things are still here is due to neglect."

Some of the Little Land chicken houses, which used to define property boundaries, are still standing in East Palo Alto, and many residents still grow corn

See **HUTCHISON**, Page 6B

# The Times

San Mateo County's Daily Newspaper

Vol. 94, No. 173 ★★★

San Mateo, California, Thursday, July 21, 1994



MIKE RUSSELL/The Times

Trevor Burrowes stands before one of East Palo Alto's many historical buildings that he and others are trying to preserve.

## East Palo Alto prizes its rich past

by DALE MARTIN  
Times Staff Writer

### Finished survey a tool to save it

EAST PALO ALTO — East Palo Alto is a city with a past and local preservationists want to drive that point home now that a historical survey is complete. From an Ohlone burial site to a utopian poultry colony, East Palo Alto has its own rich history that advocates would like to see preserved. They are hoping the East Palo Alto Historic Resources

survey will be a tool for future preservation. "It's a very important building block in terms of identifying the resources of the community and creating a plan that will use (them) wisely," said Trevor Burrowes, executive director of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, which assisted in the survey. "If we don't know the value of what we have, we

can't begin to think about preserving it." Burrowes, who has a background in fine arts and architecture, was instrumental in preserving many of Jamaica's 19th-century buildings before he started documenting East Palo Alto's architectural history in the mid-1980s. He also helped persuade the county's Historic Resources Advisory Board to

was financed through a grant from the Peninsula Community Fund. The survey has become all the more crucial since many of the city's remaining historical structures are smack in the pathway of redevelopment — specifically the city's Gateway 101 project, a regional shopping center city officials hope will provide the springboard for East Palo Alto's economic recovery.

# East Palo Alto

Continued from Page One

Burrowes can cite home after home as examples of the city's historic past. At the heart of the survey is Runnymede, also known as the Charles Weeks Poultry Colony. Begun in 1916, Runnymede was a utopian agricultural community that consisted of long, narrow lots with single-story "garden homes," poultry coops and two-story tankhouses that provided an abundant and low-cost water supply. Many of the old structures survive today in East Palo Alto.

There were six similar utopian communities in California during that period, but Runnymede is the only one in which there is an architectural legacy, according to Mitch Postel, executive director of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

"The back-to-the-land movement was very significant in California. That alone is very important," Postel said.

Although it would be up to city officials to enact a historic-preservation ordinance, nothing can be done without the documentation the survey provides.

"If it's on a historical survey, there are things that

have to be taken into consideration," said Gay Kocmich, chairman of the historic resources advisory board. "It's a guide for future development — of which we have so much."

Burrowes is concerned that the historic structures can be easily torn down — as many already have been.

"They are in danger. The redevelopment agency stated it is willing to remove some of the structures. In the hurly burly of everything, I'm afraid they will get destroyed anyway," he said.

In addition to the quirky tankhouses, there are several other suburban houses of the 1920s and '30s in period revival styles and bungalows within East Palo Alto. Several commercial buildings have historical architectural significance as well. A number of greenhouses from the 1950s also stand to be destroyed.

Much of East Palo Alto's past has already been whittled away — through fires, demolition and the creation of small subdivisions.

"But this survey is most valuable," Postel said, "because East Palo Alto hasn't gotten into its major development yet. . . . There are structures that are still existing and the city's leaders may want to preserve the best of them."

# East Palo Alto gets inventory

*450 pre-World War II buildings are included*

by Don Kazak

**T**he next time someone in East Palo Alto suggests that a certain house or building has historic value, city officials can turn to a book for the answer.

The "book"—actually two loose-leaf binders—is an inventory of the city's historic resources, including about 450 structures that predate World War II.

The inventory, compiled by the San Mateo County Historical Association, also has a 100-page summary of the city's history.

The history tells how Ohlone Indians lived on the site of what is now the city 2,000 years ago, and were later followed by Spanish ranchers, Gold Rush-era speculators, dairy farmers and utopian agrarians.

(continued on next page)

Palo Alto Weekly • Wednesday, July 20, 1994 • Page 7

## History

(continued from previous page)

"It's a tool for planning," Trevor Burrowes said of the inventory. Burrowes, of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Association, had asked that the inventory be compiled.

Mitchell Postel, executive director of the San Mateo County Historical Association, said the association had compiled similar inventories for several other cities in the last 10 years.

The county group was able to obtain a \$9,000 grant from the Peninsula Community Foundation for the work and hired two Stanford graduate students who literally walked the streets of the city, cataloging all the buildings.

The city retained much of its agricultural character until suburban subdivisions were built following World War II. Burrowes and his group have championed the idea of retaining as much of that original agricultural heritage as possible.

Historical structures include remnants of Runnymede, the agricultural colony that existed from 1916 through the 1920s, vacation cottages that had been used as summer homes, early greenhouses and bungalows and other homes that also predate the war.

Now that the inventory has been compiled, Burrowes said, it will enable the city "to better decide what to keep and what it can afford to lose."

The inventory supplements a 28-page booklet on the history of the community written last year by Rhonda Rigenhagen of Romic Environmental Technologies.

The inventory will be formally presented to city officials at 4 p.m. July 20 at City Hall. ■





# Innovative farming from bygone days

Stanford duo explores E. Palo Alto history

BY S.L. WYKES  
Mercury News Staff Writer

Katie Solomonson and Alan Michelson walked carefully beside the razor-wired fence enclosing the East Palo Alto property on Green Street, noting with alarm the five Rottweilers on guard inside and worrying they'd never see what was on the other side of the forbidding barrier.

"Then a voice came through the fence — 'May I help you with anything?'" recalls Solomonson. They explained what they were about — a survey of East Palo Alto's historic architecture — and the gate swung open.

Inside, they found what they were looking for — a chicken coop and garden house dating back to the teens and '20s of this century — practically ancient history for Silicon Valley. They had been immaculately, meticulously kept, said Solomonson, and they were beautiful.

The structures the pair found in East Palo Alto "are very modest, very small, but they're the remains of an incredibly rich history that can be made use of in the present," Solomonson said.

In fact, said Michelson, East Palo Alto may turn out to have one of the highest concentrations of water tank houses in the state, "an excellent symbol of California's agricultural past," he said.

Solomonson's and Michelson's success at putting East Palo Alto's architectural heritage into print and on the map is the culmination of the steady push of Tre-

vor Burrowes, East Palo Alto resident and founder of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society and the larger organizational umbrella of the San Mateo County Historical Association.

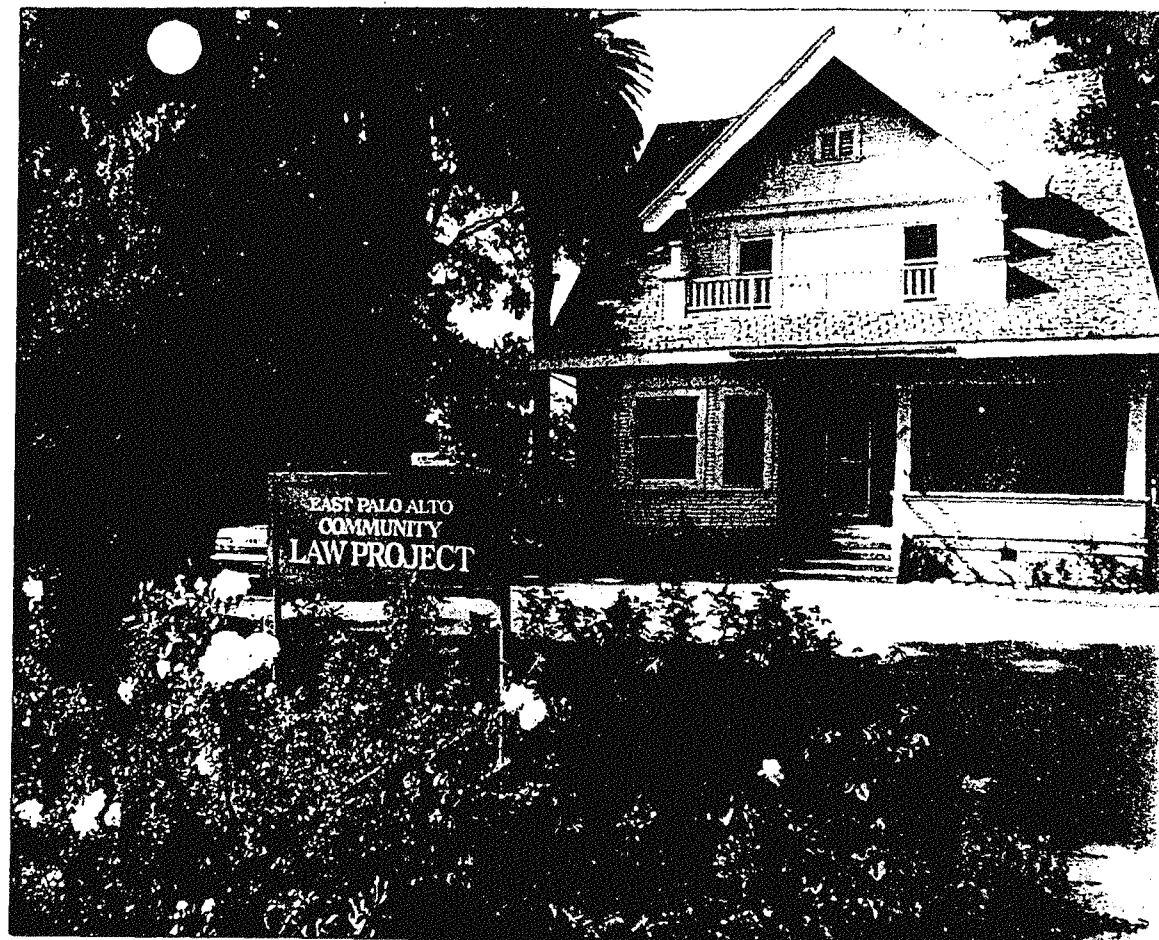
The association has found funding for surveys of other cities in San Mateo County — Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Mateo, for example. And it found the money for this one, too — about \$8,500 from the Peninsula Community Foundation.

Solomonson, who has a doctorate in architectural history from Stanford University, and Michelson, working on his doctoral dissertation at Stanford in the same area, had worked on some of the other city surveys and were called in on this one.

They focused on finding what's left of Runnymede, the utopian community established in 1916 by Indiana chicken farmer Charles Weeks. Weeks' idea was to use high-efficiency farming techniques — compact, portable coops on small plots of land — in an approach that was part of a national "back to the land" movement prominent in an era of mass industrialization.

By 1922, Runnymede had attracted more than 220 families and was producing more than 500 cases of eggs a week, in addition to meat, poultry, berries, mushrooms and rabbits bred for fur.

The Depression, devastation from poultry diseases and fluctu-



LLOYD FRANCIS JR. — MERCURY

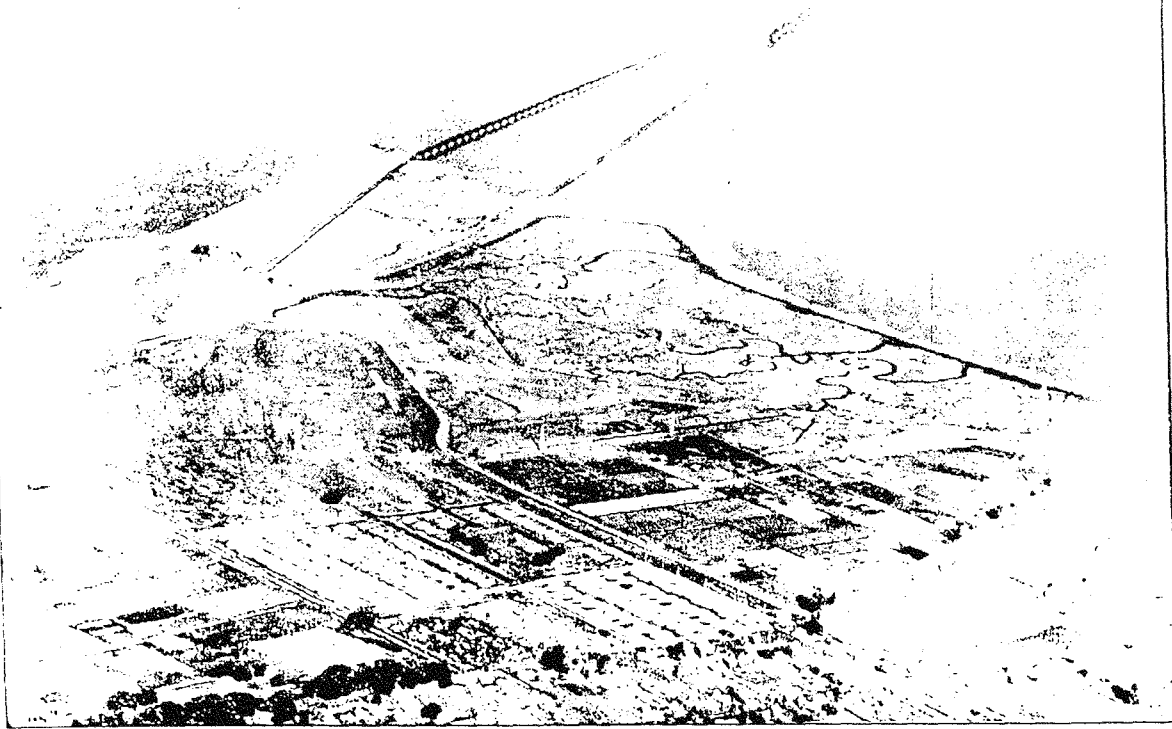
The building that houses the East Palo Alto Law Project may have been the home of Charles Kavanaugh

ating prices combined to kill Weeks' cooperative venture.

## What's left

But many of the one-acre plots remain, as do some coop foundations, houses, water tank houses and other farm buildings, the surveyors found. They also tracked down Weeks' 73-year-old son living in Palm Beach. Charles Weeks Jr., who was born in Runnymede, is sending along an original copy of the co-op's magazine, "One

See *HISTORY*, Page 7



SAN MATEO COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MUSEUM

An aerial view of East Palo Alto in 1952 shows the old Dumbarton Bride, top, and the Hetch Hetchy pipeline.

# Innovative farming from a past generation

## HISTORY

from Page 6

ere and Independence" and his encouragement for the project.

"He thought his father would have been very pleased to know we were doing this," Burrowes said.

Although the survey concentrated on the Runnymede area, it also documents earlier pieces of East Palo Alto's history. Solomonson and Michelson believe they have found one house that may date back to 1870, when "Ranswood" was the name given to a community Isiah Woods hoped would prosper as a railroad town.

And there's another house, on Bay Road, that may be the home of the son of one of the area's major landholders, rancher and

### Turn-of-century bungalows

Joseph Parkinson, a prominent Palo Alto real estate developer, sold lots and bungalows in the Woodland Place subdivision of East Palo Alto at the turn of the century. The surveyors believe they have found some of those still standing.

In addition to the survey, complete with photographs and detailed histories of buildings, Michelson and Solomonson have put their work into a paper to be presented at this year's conference of the Vernacular Architectural Forum in Natchez, Mississippi.

Solomonson, who's headed off to teach at the architectural school of the University of Minnesota, is particularly interested in seeing parts of the survey transformed in a way that will reach people, she said, especially to teach East Palo Alto schoolchildren about the city where they live.

### Uses for the survey

Burrowes is just as interested in using the survey as a planning tool, to preserve what exists, to guide restoration and to inspire more sensitive redevelopment.

But just the survey process may have accomplished a great deal. Both Michelson and Solomonson said every homeowner they talked to was eager to share their family history. "People had a powerful desire to have a sense of history, a sense of place," Solomonson said. "People take a great deal of pride in having a connection with history."

### IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

For more information on the East Palo Alto survey, call the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society, (415) 329-0294, or the San Mateo County Historical Association at (415) 574-6441.

## DOWN ON THE FARM

# East Palo Alto Begins to Reclaim Garden Heritage

BY SIBELLA KRAUS

*Chronicle Staff Writer*

East Palo Alto is a place that time has forgotten. Some of the narrow streets have no sidewalks, tiny bungalows cluster on the edges of deep lots with ramshackle out-buildings, backyards have chicken pens, not swimming pools.

Incorporated only in 1983, East Palo Alto is clearly on the other side of the tracks from the affluent communities that characterize the Peninsula.

But the downturn in East Palo Alto's fortunes, which began in the

1950s when the freeway cut off the town from Palo Alto, may prove to be its salvation.

"We see East Palo Alto becoming the organic mini-farm and garden capital of the Peninsula," says Trevor Burrowes, the Jamaican-born founder of the East Palo Alto Historical and Agricultural Society. "Economic development does not have to mean ugly malls and tract homes that wipe out all traces of rural character."

The group was formed two years ago in an effort to preserve

*See Page 8*



BY STEVE CASTILLO/THE CHRONICLE

**Gardening instructor Leroy Musgraves teaches kids to garden**

# Growing Future Rooted in the Past

Page 1

own's historical and agricultural heritage and, more importantly, to use that heritage to create a new kind of multicultural community based on the area's considerable natural resources.

Already, group members have planted dozens of gardens in back yards — a few in a share-cropping arrangement — and have established a demonstration garden. They've gotten a garden-science program going at the local alternative elementary school, and are working on a community garden, where melon vines, corn and beans grow up the sun and an 80-foot-tall, 50-foot-wide walnut tree provides cool shade.

## History

The fertile flatland of East Palo Alto has a long agricultural history. Originally a major Ohlone Indian settlement, for much of the 19th century it was the Ravenswood Ranch, a huge diversified farm of crops, animals, and fruit and vegetable crops. Where the farm met San Francisco Bay, the port of Ravenswood became a major transportation center for the Peninsula.

In 1916, utopian landowner Charles Weeks carved a large part of his 640-acre holding into an agricultural community called Runnymede. The motto: "one acre and independence." The lots — 200 of them originally — were long and narrow to accommodate the chickens that were the business stay of the community.

Today, about 100 of these lots remain, accounting for about a quarter of East Palo Alto. It is in these blocks, with street names Garden and Myrtle and Beech, that the historical-agricultural society has concentrated its preservation efforts.

It's an ethnically diverse area; a 10-acre plot of corn and beans sits next to a Japanese garden featuring bonsai and carefully tended shrubs. And at O. D. Sims' seven horses share the one-acre backyard.

"Make that six horses; one got n," says Sims, who recently returned from an airport catering company. "Where I come from in Iowa, we always had horses



BY STEVE CASTILLO/THE CHRONICLE

Trevor Burrowes' project has an early 20th century forerunner, a community called Runnymede

## Digging up community garden advice

Throughout the Bay Area, the community gardening movement is blossoming.

The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG), the largest and best organized Bay Area community gardening association, now oversees 81 gardens in San Francisco. Other SLUG programs include advising community groups on setting up gardens; offering classes, composting information and horticultural advice; and managing a demonstration garden.

In the East Bay, the Ecology Center in Berkeley coordinates information about local community gardens.

In the South Bay, the San Jose Recreation, Parks and Community Services Department manages 15 community gardens with 857 individual plots. Both centers also offer gardening classes.

Recently the community gardening concept has been expanded to include some remarkable and innovative programs.

Examples range from three

Santa Cruz and Petaluma, to exquisite cultural heritage gardens (Chinese and Japanese so far, with Mexican to come) in San Jose's Prusch Park.

The Garden Project in San Francisco has set up a working garden to give horticultural training and jobs to people just released from jail.

Urban agriculture is also prospering. The most notable example is Berkeley's Kona Kai Gardens, which produce lettuce, but other small-scale entrepreneurial urban gardens are popping up here and there — often as self-help programs, such as East Palo Alto's Lettuce Works.

Resources, information and classes about gardening are available from a number of sources, including County Cooperative Extension offices, college horticultural programs and botanical gardens. Regional water districts are also getting into the act by establishing drought-tolerant demonstration gardens. A number of schools have built gardens that are used along with

There are also a host of helpful associations and organizations that work on urban greening and gardening projects. To name just a few: the California Native Plant Society, the Trust for Public Land, and the People of Color Gardening Coalition, which is under the auspices of Urban Habitat/Earth Island Institute.

A resource directory just published by the East Bay Community Gardening and Greening Coalition offers listings of community gardening networks, resource centers, classes, school garden projects, homeless gardens, local "green" organizations, tree-planting projects and more.

It is available for \$3 at the Ecology Center Bookstore (2500 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley) and at the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) (2088 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco 94124).

It is also available by mail from the Ecology Center.

crops. Where the farm met  
bay, the port of Ravenswood  
ame a major transportation  
inter for the Peninsula.

In 1916, utopian landowner  
arl Weeks carved a large part  
his acre holding into an agri-  
cultural community called Runny-  
ede. The motto: "one acre and in-  
pendence." The lots — 200 of  
em originally — were long and  
arrow to accommodate the chick-  
houses that were the business  
ainstay of the community.

Today, about 100 of these lots  
emain, accounting for about a  
arter of East Palo Alto. It is in  
ese blocks, with street names  
ke Garden and Myrtle and Beech,  
hat the historical-agricultural so-  
ety has concentrated its preser-  
ation efforts.

It's an ethnically diverse area; a  
atino planting of corn and beans  
ts next to an Japanese garden  
aturing bonsai and carefully  
ended shrubs. And at O. D. Sims'  
ot, seven horses share the one-  
ere backyard.

"Make that six horses; one got  
olen," says Sims, who recently re-  
red from an airport catering  
ompany. "Where I come from in  
ississippi, we always had horses  
nd had smokehouses where  
e'd cure pork and fish. When I  
etired, I got this place because it  
as perfect for horses."

But people with agricultural  
nsibilities like Sims are rare in  
ast Palo Alto. So the historical-ag-  
cultural group has begun several  
projects to awaken young people  
o the pleasures and rewards of  
orking with the earth.

"We want the kids to see that  
ardening can be fun and that  
arning can be fun at the same  
me," says gardening instructor  
eroy Musgraves. "We'll have  
em counting how many seeds  
re in a package and how many  
lants per row."

Last spring, 13-year-old Eduar-  
a Johnson, one of Musgraves' stu-  
ents at Shule Mandela, an alterna-  
ive school, won a national science  
rize for a project about bio-inten-  
ive gardening. "It gets nutrients  
eeper into the soil," she says.

Musgraves is part of the soci-  
ty's efforts to develop a garden  
rogram for kids that combines in-  
ens summer work with after-  
chool entrepreneurial activities.  
When kids start growing food  
nd selling it," adds Stephanie  
Smith, a group member who's ac-  
ive in drug-prevention programs,  
they'll learn the business of mak-  
ing little cottage industries — just  
the kind of community need for

# Digging up community garden advice

**T**hroughout the Bay Area, the  
community gardening move-  
ment is blossoming.

The San Francisco League of  
Urban Gardeners (SLUG), the  
largest and best organized Bay  
Area community gardening asso-  
ciation, now oversees 81 gardens  
in San Francisco. Other SLUG  
programs include advising com-  
munity groups on setting up gar-  
dens; offering classes, compost-  
ing information and horticultur-  
al advice; and managing a  
demonstration garden.

In the East Bay, the Ecology  
Center in Berkeley coordinates  
information about local commu-  
nity gardens.

In the South Bay, the San  
Jose Recreation, Parks and Com-  
munity Services Department  
manages 15 community gardens  
with 857 individual plots. Both  
centers also offer gardening  
classes.

Recently the community gar-  
dening concept has been expan-  
ded to include some remarkable  
and innovative programs.

Examples range from thriv-  
ing "homeless" gardens (where  
the homeless are employed) in

Santa Cruz and Petaluma, to ex-  
quisite cultural heritage gardens  
(Chinese and Japanese so far,  
with Mexican to come) in San  
Jose's Prusch Park.

The Garden Project in San  
Francisco has set up a working  
garden to give horticultural  
training and jobs to people just  
released from jail.

Urban agriculture is also  
prospering. The most notable ex-  
ample is Berkeley's Kona Kai  
Gardens, which produce lettuce,  
but other small-scale entrepre-  
neurial urban gardens are pop-  
ping up here and there — often  
as self-help programs, such as  
East Palo Alto's Lettuce Works.

Resources, information and  
classes about gardening are  
available from a number of  
sources, including County Coop-  
erative Extension offices, col-  
lege horticultural programs and  
botanical gardens. Regional wa-  
ter districts are also getting into  
the act by establishing drought-  
tolerant demonstration gardens.  
A number of schools have built  
gardens that are used along with  
science and social studies curri-  
cula; many other schools are ea-  
ger to follow suit.

There are also a host of help-  
ful associations and organiza-  
tions that work on urban green-  
ing and gardening projects. To  
name just a few: the California  
Native Plant Society, the Trust  
for Public Land, and the People  
of Color Gardening Coalition,  
which is under the auspices of  
Urban Habitat/Earth Island In-  
stitute.

A resource directory just  
published by the East Bay Com-  
munity Gardening and Greening  
Coalition offers listings of com-  
munity gardening networks, re-  
source centers, classes, school  
garden projects, homeless gar-  
dens, local "green" organiza-  
tions, tree-planting projects and  
more.

It is available for \$3 at the  
Ecology Center Bookstore (253  
San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley  
and at the San Francisco Leagu-  
of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) (208  
Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco  
94124).

(It is also available by mail  
from SLUG, but the cost goes u-  
to \$4.)

— SIBELLA KRAUS

For people who want a little  
help establishing gardens in their  
own yards, the group provides —  
for just \$16 — the service of dou-  
ble-digging a 100-foot-square bed,  
plus initial compost and seeds. So  
far, 31 beds have been dug, mainly  
in residential backyards but also in  
schoolyards. "My husband and I  
couldn't physically do the digging  
because of illness," says Aretha  
Lawrence. "Now the soil is loose  
and we have absolutely beautiful  
mustards, and the tomatoes, on-  
ions, peppers, cabbage are all  
growing."

And for people who have re-  
sources they can't use — bearing  
orchards or open land — the group  
has organized a share-cropping  
network. One of the three lots in  
this program so far is owned by the  
Rev. Lyrte Gully, pastor at St.  
Marks African Methodist Episco-  
pal Zion Church. It's being farmed  
by Leroy Musgraves.

"I own the land, but I can't take  
credit," says Gully, a soft-spoken  
but dynamic woman. "The land is  
so rich and Leroy works hard."

The two plan to eat some of the  
organic beans, corn, tomatoes,  
okra, black-eyed peas and melons  
they decided to raise this summer

den costs.

One of the group's goals is a  
demonstration mini-farm and ur-  
ban agriculture education center.  
Such a project would build on the  
small-scale intensive agriculture  
that has long been important to  
the local economy: poultry and  
greenhouse floriculture, practiced  
mainly by farmers of Italian and  
Japanese descent.

Those flower businesses have  
fallen on hard times, however, due  
to overseas competition, but  
they've left a legacy of old green-  
houses scattered throughout the  
city.

## New Ventures

Several new farming enterpris-  
es are springing up. These include  
Lettuce Works, a women's agricul-  
tural cooperative, and Happy  
Quail Farm, which produces spe-  
cialty peppers in one of the old  
greenhouses.

"Our task is to put agriculture  
in the context of the community as  
a whole," stresses Burrowes. "We  
need to preserve the rural legacy  
and at the same time promote a  
different kind of multicultural  
economic development."

As we drive down the road, he

Here is 'unimproved' Runnym  
Street."

The deep lots and disc-  
houses are shaded by an extrac-  
nary variety of fruit trees, wall  
and evergreens. The relat-  
narrow, dirt-sidewalk roadway  
the friendly feel of a country l

"And here is progress," he  
a two blocks away, pointing  
recently completed "gentrif-  
housing development. It's a l-  
ed-gate compound with big ho-  
of assertive design, all within a  
feet of each other and of the  
but lifeless sidewalks.

It's this kind of imposition  
the rural patterns of the neigh-  
hood that has reinforced  
rowes' sense of urgency.

There are allies in the strug-  
however. Recently, the group  
\$8,000 grant from the San M-  
County Historical Association  
an architectural survey. The in-  
mation gathered could help to  
serve some of the area's hist-  
structures. And concerned pro-  
sionals in the area — architect-  
borists, ecologists — have also  
ferred assistance.

For information, write to East Palo  
Historical and Agricultural So-  
P.O. Box 51504, East Palo Alto

...s. Where the farm met  
the port of Ravenswood  
a major transportation  
for the Peninsula.

1916, utopian landowner  
Weeks carved a large part  
40-acre holding into an agri-  
community called Runny-  
The motto: "one acre and in-  
ence." The lots — 200 of  
originally — were long and  
to accommodate the chick-  
ses that were the business  
ay of the community.

lay, about 100 of these lots  
n, accounting for about a  
r of East Palo Alto. It is in  
blocks, with street names  
arden and Myrtle and Beech,  
ne historical-agricultural so-  
has concentrated its preser-  
efforts.

an ethnically diverse area; a  
planting of corn and beans  
ext to an Japanese garden  
ing bonsai and carefully  
t shrubs. And at O. D. Sims'  
ven horses share the one-  
backyard.

ake that six horses; one got  
" says Sims, who recently re-  
from an airport catering  
any. "Where I come from in  
ssippi, we always had horses  
ve had smokehouses where  
cure pork and fish. When I  
d, I got this place because it  
perfect for horses."

t people with agricultural  
ilities like Sims' are rare in  
Palo Alto. So the historical-ag-  
rural group has begun several  
ts to awaken young people'  
e pleasures and rewards of  
ng with the earth.

e want the kids to see that  
ning can be fun and that  
ng can be fun at the same  
says gardening instructor  
Musgraves. "We'll have  
counting how many seeds  
a package and how many  
per row."

st spring, 13-year-old Eduar-  
nson, one of Musgraves' stu-  
at Shule Mandela, an alterna-  
school, won a national science  
for a project about bio-inten-  
gardening. "It gets nutrients  
r into the soil," she says.

usgraves is part of the soci-  
efforts to develop a garden  
am for kids that combines in-  
e summer work with after-  
entrepreneurial activities.  
n kids start growing food  
selling it," adds Stephanie  
a, a group member who's ac-  
n drug-prevention programs,  
ll learn the business of mak-

# Digging up community garden advice

**T**hroughout the Bay Area, the  
community gardening move-  
ment is blossoming.

The San Francisco League of  
Urban Gardeners (SLUG), the  
largest and best organized Bay  
Area community gardening asso-  
ciation, now oversees 81 gardens  
in San Francisco. Other SLUG  
programs include advising com-  
munity groups on setting up gar-  
dens; offering classes, compost-  
ing information and horticultur-  
al advice; and managing a  
demonstration garden.

In the East Bay, the Ecology  
Center in Berkeley coordinates  
information about local commu-  
nity gardens.

In the South Bay, the San  
Jose Recreation, Parks and Com-  
munity Services Department  
manages 15 community gardens  
with 857 individual plots. Both  
centers also offer gardening  
classes.

Recently the community gar-  
dening concept has been expan-  
ded to include some remarkable  
and innovative programs.

Examples range from thriv-  
ing "homeless" gardens (where  
the homeless are employed) in

Santa Cruz and Petaluma, to ex-  
quisite cultural heritage gardens  
(Chinese and Japanese so far,  
with Mexican to come) in San  
Jose's Prusch Park.

The Garden Project in San  
Francisco has set up a working  
garden to give horticultural  
training and jobs to people just  
released from jail.

Urban agriculture is also  
prospering. The most notable ex-  
ample is Berkeley's Kona Kai  
Gardens, which produce lettuce,  
but other small-scale entrepre-  
neurial urban gardens are pop-  
ping up here and there — often  
as self-help programs, such as  
East Palo Alto's Lettuce Works.

Resources, information and  
classes about gardening are  
available from a number of  
sources, including County Coop-  
erative Extension offices, col-  
lege horticultural programs and  
botanical gardens. Regional wa-  
ter districts are also getting into  
the act by establishing drought-  
tolerant demonstration gardens.  
A number of schools have built  
gardens that are used along with  
science and social studies curri-  
cula; many other schools are ea-  
ger to follow suit.

There are also a host of help-  
ful associations and organiza-  
tions that work on urban gree-  
ing and gardening projects. A  
name just a few: the California  
Native Plant Society, the Trust  
for Public Land, and the People  
of Color Gardening Coalition,  
which is under the auspices of  
Urban Habitat/Earth Island In-  
stitute.

A resource directory just  
published by the East Bay Com-  
munity Gardening and Greening  
Coalition offers listings of com-  
munity gardening networks, re-  
source centers, classes, school  
garden projects, homeless gar-  
dens, local "green" organiza-  
tions, tree-planting projects and  
more.

It is available for \$3 at the  
Ecology Center Bookstore (2530  
San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley)  
and at the San Francisco League  
of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) (2088  
Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco  
94124).

(It is also available by mail  
from SLUG, but the cost goes up  
to \$4.)

— SIBELLA KRAV

For people who want a little  
help establishing gardens in their  
own yards, the group provides —  
for just \$16 — the service of dou-  
ble-digging a 100-foot-square bed,  
plus initial compost and seeds. So  
far, 31 beds have been dug, mainly  
in residential backyards but also in  
schoolyards. "My husband and I  
couldn't physically do the digging  
because of illness," says Aretha  
Lawrence. "Now the soil is loose  
and we have absolutely beautiful  
mustards, and the tomatoes, on-  
ions, peppers, cabbage are all  
growing."

And for people who have re-  
sources they can't use — bearing  
orchards or open land — the group  
has organized a share-cropping  
network. One of the three lots in  
this program so far is owned by the  
Rev. Lyrte Gully, pastor at St.  
Marks African Methodist Episco-  
pal Zion Church. It's being farmed  
by Leroy Musgraves.

"I own the land, but I can't take  
credit," says Gully, a soft-spoken  
but dynamic woman. "The land is  
so rich and Leroy works hard."

The two plan to eat some of the  
organic beans, corn, tomatoes,  
okra, black-eyed peas and melons

den costs.

One of the group's goals is a  
demonstration mini-farm and ur-  
ban agriculture education center.  
Such a project would build on the  
small-scale intensive agriculture  
that has long been important to  
the local economy: poultry and  
greenhouse floriculture, practiced  
mainly by farmers of Italian and  
Japanese descent.

Those flower businesses have  
fallen on hard times, however, due  
to overseas competition, but  
they've left a legacy of old green-  
houses scattered throughout the  
city.

## New Ventures

Several new farming enterpris-  
es are springing up. These include  
Lettuce Works, a women's agricul-  
tural cooperative, and Happy  
Quail Farm, which produces spe-  
cialty peppers in one of the old  
greenhouses.

"Our task is to put agriculture  
in the context of the community as  
a whole," stresses Burrowes. "We  
need to preserve the rural legacy  
and at the same time promote a  
different kind of multicultural  
economic development."

Here is 'unimproved' Runnymede  
Street."

The deep lots and discreet  
houses are shaded by an extraordi-  
nary variety of fruit trees, walnuts  
and evergreens. The relatively  
narrow, dirt-sidewalk roadway has  
the friendly feel of a country lane.

"And here is progress," he says  
a two blocks away, pointing to a  
recently completed "gentrified"  
housing development. It's a lock-  
ed-gate compound with big houses  
of assertive design, all within a few  
feet of each other and of the near-  
but lifeless sidewalks.

It's this kind of imposition on  
the rural patterns of the neighbor-  
hood that has reinforced Bur-  
rowes' sense of urgency.

There are allies in the struggle  
however. Recently, the group got a  
\$8,000 grant from the San Mateo  
County Historical Association for  
an architectural survey. The in-  
formation gathered could help pre-  
serve some of the area's historic  
structures. And concerned profes-  
sionals in the area — architects, ar-  
chivists, ecologists — have also of-  
fered assistance.

For information, write to East Palo Alto  
Urban Habitat and Agricultural Ser-

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1992

TimesTribune

PENINSULA NEWS

# Farming in the city is touted

Even a weedy lot can yield a bountiful harvest quickly

Imran Ghori  
PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

Five months ago, weeds covered an empty lot on Green Street in East Palo Alto, and fruit and nuts from a plum tree and two large walnut trees lay unwanted on the ground.

But on Sunday afternoon, about 50 people flocked to the same lot for the first Harvest Celebration at the Green Street Farm. In contrast to its unkempt state of just a few months ago, the one-acre lot at 857 Green St. now sports 12-foot stalks of corn, plump tomatoes, large watermelons and 17 other kinds of fruits and vegetables.

Leroy Musgraves, a member of the East Palo Alto Historical Agricultural Society, said he took on the project in April to "put forth a vision of what could be done."

Musgraves learned about farming while growing up in Arkansas as the son of sharecroppers. "This is what we did to survive," he said.

The resident of Palo Alto has worked in East Palo Alto more than a year, including several stints as a substitute teacher in the Ravenswood City School District.

It was through the Agricultural Society that he got in touch with the Rev. Lytte Gully, who was looking for somebody to do something with the lot she owned on Green Street. Since then, Musgraves and other members of the Agricultural Society have worked the land, many times putting in 80-hour weeks.

And they did it all by hand, relying on only four tools: a shovel, a pick, a rake and a forklhoe.

Musgraves said it's better to dig by hand because it doesn't destroy any of the microbes in the soil. It also makes him more aware of soil types. "You have a knowledge of the texture of the soil, the color of the soil, how it smells," he said.

He's still testing the richness of the soil and has planted crops in little patches all over the lot.

"I'm going to wait a year and rotate the crops over and over again," he said. "I will never plant something in the same place except the beans. The most important thing is to keep the soil alive, keep it producing."

Crops grown on the mini-farm, as they call it, include tomatoes, potatoes, black eyed peas, six dif-



VERN FISHER / PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

**Like Jack and his beanstalk**, Leroy Musgraves is especially fond of the beans grown on a one-acre lot in East Palo Alto, site of a harvest celebration Sunday.

ferent varieties of corn, four kinds of squash, okra, southern butterbeans, green beans, bush-beans, cucumbers, jalapeño peppers, pumpkins, watermelons, cantaloupes and honeydew melons.

At the celebration Sunday, visitors enjoyed fresh vegetables from the farm, roast turkey and home-made ice cream. There was also music, poetry and horse rides for children.

Musgraves said he wants to provide the community a model for growing crops organically. No pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals were used on the farm.

Agricultural Society members pointed to the mini-farm as an example of the small-scale, self-sufficient farming promoted by East Palo Alto pioneer Charles Weeks in the 1920s. Weeks was an advocate of farming and started the "one acre and independence" movement.

"You could be completely self-sufficient on an acre of land based on his method of poultry farming,

as well as growing a variety of crops," said Trevor Burrowes of the Agricultural Society.

The Green Street Farm isn't the only one in the city. Just over the fence is a goat farm, and next door the neighbors are raising poultry.

"This square block — Green Street, Park Avenue, Bell Street and Cooley Avenue — has more examples of Charles Weeks' one-acre lot than any other place in the city," Burrowes said.

Calling East Palo Alto an "urban rural" community, Musgraves said it has the right climate and soil for farming. "Good soil, great plants, and great people."

"This is really just getting started," Burrowes promised. "We know we can do much better."

Musgraves said the mini-farm will be completely self-sufficient in just one year, and the society will be able to hire workers to maintain it. Members also hope to organize other farmers and gardeners and start a farmer's market in the city next year.



VERN FISHER / PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE

**Homemade ice cream** was prepared Sunday by Stephen Carpenter (left) and Hameed Nuru.







Cal/EPA

California  
Environmental  
Protection  
Agency

Integrated  
Waste  
Management  
Board

8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 233-2200

RECEIVED  
AUG 04 1997



Pete Wilson  
Governor

July 28, 1997

PLANNING DIVISION  
CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

Dear HHW Program Managers:

Enclosed is the California Integrated Waste Management Board's (CIWMB) Form 303. Please read this letter and the attached instructions carefully before filling it out.

Form 303 must be completed by all public agencies that sponsored a HHW program during the past fiscal year commencing July 1, 1996 and ending June 30, 1997. However, even if your agency did not sponsor a collection program or if you participated in collection activities sponsored by another agency, we ask that you complete and submit Parts A and B of the form to help us maintain an updated mailing list.

In completing Form 303, please note the following:

- Commencing with this reporting period you may choose to report by HHW program type rather than by facility location. A separate form does not need to be filled out for each site with an EPA identification number. Reporting by program type may be easier for you, and will yield more useful data for all of us.

To report by program types, summarize the totals for each HHW facility type on a separate Form 303. For instance, submit one form with the waste volume totals for permanent HHW facilities, another for all temporary HHW facilities, and another for all recycle-only facilities, etc. If more than one site has been used for a specific program type, list the EPA identification numbers, locations, and addresses on a blank sheet of paper and attach it to the corresponding summary.

- Report all HHW waste volumes collected including used oil if you consider it part of your HHW program. Only the lead agency of an HHW collection program should report the total waste volumes collected.
- If you choose to not use the official CIWMB Form 303, you must ensure that the order and contents are identical to the CIWMB Form 303.
- All waste volumes must be reported in pounds (round off to the nearest pound). Conversion rates are included in the Instructions. Also, report the percentages of waste management methods used to the nearest percentage point.



---

## Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information For Fiscal Year 1996/97

---

### A. INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose of this form

This form is to be completed by each jurisdiction in California that is required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to report information annually on the collection of household hazardous waste (HHW). The form is specifically intended to fulfill reporting requirements of the Household Hazardous Waste Element of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plans. It also contributes to the database the CIWMB and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are mandated to develop and maintain for all HHW collection events, facilities, and programs within the state. The completed Form 303 must be submitted to the CIWMB each year.

The completed form for the program sponsored in the previous fiscal year, starting July 1 and ending June 30 is due on the **first Monday of October**.

#### Instructions

Detailed instructions have been written to help you complete this form. Please refer to the instructions titled "Instructions for Completing Form 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information" on pages 4 through 8.

One Form 303 must be completed for each facility site that is used with a specific EPA identification number.

Only one form is to be filled out for each site used, regardless of how many times the site has been used throughout the fiscal year. For example, one facility site with one EPA identification number is used for a temporary collection facility five times in one year. Thus, one form will be filled out for this site. If, in addition, another site with another EPA identification number is used for a temporary collection facility in the same year, another form must be filled out.

#### Send to

Household Hazardous Waste Section  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

---

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if your agency did not have a collection program. Please complete Part B. Jurisdiction and return one copy only to CIWMB at the address shown above.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check this box if your agency participated in another agency's program. Please complete Part B. Jurisdiction and D. Sponsors and return one copy only to CIWMB at the address shown above.

EPA ID #

**H. WASTE VOLUMES COLLECTED**

		Weight (in pounds)	Management Method(s) Include percentage if more than one method was used					
			DI	FI	L	N	RC	RU
1. Flammable & Poison	Flammable solid/liquid							
	Bulked flammable liquids							
	Oil-base paint							
	Poison (excl. aerosols)							
	Reactive and explosive							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
2. Acid	Inorganic acid							
	Organic acid							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
3. Base	Inorganic base							
	Organic base							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
4. Oxidizer	Neutral oxidizers							
	Organic peroxides							
	Oxidizing acid							
	Oxidizing base							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
5. PCB-contai	PCB-containing paint							
	Other PCB waste							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
6. Aerosol	Corrosive aerosols							
	Flammable aerosols							
	Poison aerosols							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
7. Reclaimable	Antifreeze							
	Car batteries							
	Fluorescent bulbs							
	Latex paint							
	Motor oil/oil products							
	Oil filters							
	Mercury (metallic)							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
8. Other	Medical waste							
	Household batteries							
	Other							
	<b>Subtotal</b>							
9. Asbestos								
10. Grand Total								



---

## Instructions for Completing Form 303 (Volumes)

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information

---

#### Part F      **Location**

Check all boxes that describe where household hazardous waste was collected for the jurisdiction.

#### Part G      **Participation**

**Number of participants.** Enter the number of participants served by the collection program.

**Number of days open.** Enter the number of days the collection facility was operated during the reporting period.

**Population of service area.** Enter the population of people living in the service area of this collection site using the most recent Department of Finance population data.

#### Part H      **Waste Volume Collected**

**Use manifest to classify waste.** Use Table 1 and your manifest records and/or inventories to classify each waste stream into the categories listed on Page 3 of the form. For each waste stream listed, enter the weight, and management method for each type of waste shipped from the collection program. Do not include waste volumes for certified oil collection centers.

#### **First Column**

**Weight** is defined as the number of pounds of hazardous waste (liquid or solid including container) shipped from the collection program(s) during the fiscal year. Weight includes the volume of absorbent in a drum.

**If data was collected in gallons, convert waste amounts from gallons to pounds by multiplying the number of gallons times the conversion factor of 8.5 pounds/gallon. [Example: For a half-full 5 gallon container of a waste, lab packed in a 55 gallon drum, the volume is 2.5 gallons. 2.5 gallons x 8.5 pounds/gallon = 21.25 pounds.]**

**If your program does not inventory the volume/weight of waste for lab packs, estimate the volume based on an average according to the requirements of your Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility(ies). [Example: 127.5 pounds(15 gallons) waste per 55 gallon drum.]**

**Convert each oil filter and lead acid battery to pounds. Each oil filter = 1.5 pounds. And each lead acid battery = 40 pounds. It is not necessary to utilize the conversion formulas if you know the weight.**

#### **Second Column**

**Management Method.** Use the following abbreviations to indicate how each waste type is managed. If more than one method was used for a waste stream, indicate, in percentages, the relative amounts managed by each method.





## Table 1. Waste Types, DOT Descriptions and Examples

This table is meant only to depict examples of DOT hazardous materials descriptions and proper shipping names described in Section 172.101 of 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), as they may relate to waste types on the form. For shipping purposes, the numerical designation of the hazard class or division, an identification number and the packing group number must be identified with the hazardous material description. Refer to the latest version of 49 CFR for additional information.

Waste Type on Form	DOT Description	Examples	
1 Flammable solid/liquid	Waste Flammable Solid, N.O.S.	<i>Flammable solids (bulk and labpacked):</i> Asbestos-containing organic resins, non-asbestos-containing organic resins, roofing tar, putty, adhesives, paint sludge	
	Waste Flammable Liquid, N.O.S.	<i>Flammable liquids (labpacked only):</i> Organic solvents, chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents, gasoline, alcohol, paint thinner, acetone	
Bulked flammable liquids	Waste Flammable Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S.	<i>Flammable liquids (bulk only):</i> Organic solvents, chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents, gasoline, alcohol, paint thinner, acetone	
Oil base paint	Waste Paint, Flammable Liquid	Oil base paint	
Poison (excl. aerosols)	Waste Flammable Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S.	Organic poisons, dioxin precursors, pesticides, herbicides	
	Waste Flammable Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S.	Inorganic poisons, mercury-containing poisons, inorganic cyanides, arsenic compounds, solutions, containing regulated heavy metals	
	Waste Flammable Solid, N.O.S.	Snail bait, poisonous solids, may include asbestos	
Reactive and explosive	Waste Water-Reactive Solid, Flammable, N.O.S.	Water reactive compounds, such as sodium metal, calcium carbide, amides, hydrides	
2 Inorganic acid	Waste Corrosive Liquids, Acidic, N.O.S.	Inorganic acids, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid	
Organic acid	Waste Corrosive, Liquids, Acidic, Organic, N.O.S.	Organic acids, acetic acid, citric acid, butyric acid	
3 Inorganic base	Waste Corrosive Liquids, Basic, Inorganic, N.O.S.	Inorganic bases, sodium hydroxide, lye, ammonia based cleaners	
	Organic base	Waste Corrosive Liquid, Basic, Organic, N.O.S.	Organic bases, organo-amines
4 Neutral oxidizers	Waste Oxidizing Solid, N.O.S.	Manganese peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, sodium bromate, sodium perchlorate, sodium chromate, ammonium dichromate, sodium iodate, sodium nitrate, potassium permanganate	
	Organic peroxides	Waste Organic Peroxide Solution, (Types A-F,) N.O.S.	Ketone peroxides, benzoyl peroxide
	Oxidizing acid	Waste Corrosive Liquids, Oxidizing, N.O.S.	Nitric acid, chromic acid, molybdic acid, perchloric acid, pholphomolybdic acid
	Oxidizing base	Waste Corrosive Liquids, Oxidizing, N.O.S.	Sodium hypochlorite, sodium chlorate, sodium perborate
5 PCB-containing paint	Waste Polychlorinated Biphenyls	PCB-containing paint	
Other PCB waste	Waste Polychlorinated Biphenyls	Transformer oil, PCB ballasts	
6 Corrosive aerosols	Waste Aerosols, Non-Flammable, N.O.S.	Oven cleaners	
	Flammable aerosols	Waste Aerosols, Flammable, N.O.S.–	Spray paint

CIWMB HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM SURVEY  
Fiscal Year 1996/97

JURISDICTION \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

HHW Program Costs

Personnel	\$ _____
Transportation and Disposal	\$ _____
On Site Service Costs	\$ _____
Other Contract Costs (explain)	\$ _____
Equipment Costs	\$ _____
Materials and Supplies	\$ _____
Education	\$ _____
Publicity	\$ _____
Permits and Other Fees	\$ _____
Insurance	\$ _____
Other Program Costs (identify)	\$ _____
<b>Total Program Cost</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Program Funding Source(s) \_\_\_\_\_

COLLECTION PROGRAM SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Are Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) allowed to participate in your HHW program? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is collected latex paint reused? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is collected latex paint sent to be reprocessed? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. If yes, what is the company name and telephone number? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What is the per gallon cost for reprocessing? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. If returned after reprocessing, what is done with it? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are empty paint containers collected for recycling? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are empty aerosol containers collected for recycling? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Recognizing the high cost of conducting HHW collection facility (temporary and mobile) events, are other opportunities for collecting used oil promoted (hotline, lists of centers, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
7. If yes, what methods to promote using permanent used oil collection sites are employed (eg. advertising \$.04 incentive, free containers, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the cost range of the premiums given away in HHW/Oil Programs? cheapest \_\_\_\_\_ most expensive \_\_\_\_\_ Of all premiums, which seem to be the most effective? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input. Please return the survey with Form 303 to:  
Anna Ward, HHW Program  
CA Integrated Waste Management Board  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826



JUN 05 1997

PLANNING DIVISION  
CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

# Romic Environmental Technologies

Fact Sheet

June 1997

## Community Assessment Fact Sheet

## Hoja de Información para la Avaluación de parte de la Comunidad

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is seeking public input on Romic Environmental Technologies Corporation's renewal and modification of their hazardous waste treatment and storage permit at 2081 Bay Road, East Palo Alto (see Figure 1). In addition to the permit renewal, DTSC is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project. This fact sheet describes Romic's permit renewal request and DTSC's public involvement process for the EIR and permit process.

El Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas (DTSC) solicita comentarios públicos sobre la renovación y modificación del permiso para el tratamiento y almacenaje de desperdicios peligrosos de Romic Environmental Technologies, ubicada en 2081 Bay Road, East Palo Alto (véase ilustración 1). En adición a la renovación del permiso, DTSC está preparando un Informe sobre el Impacto al Medio Ambiente (EIR). Esta hoja de información describe la solicitud de Romic para una renovación de su permiso y el proceso de DTSC para la participación del público en el proceso para el EIR y el permiso.

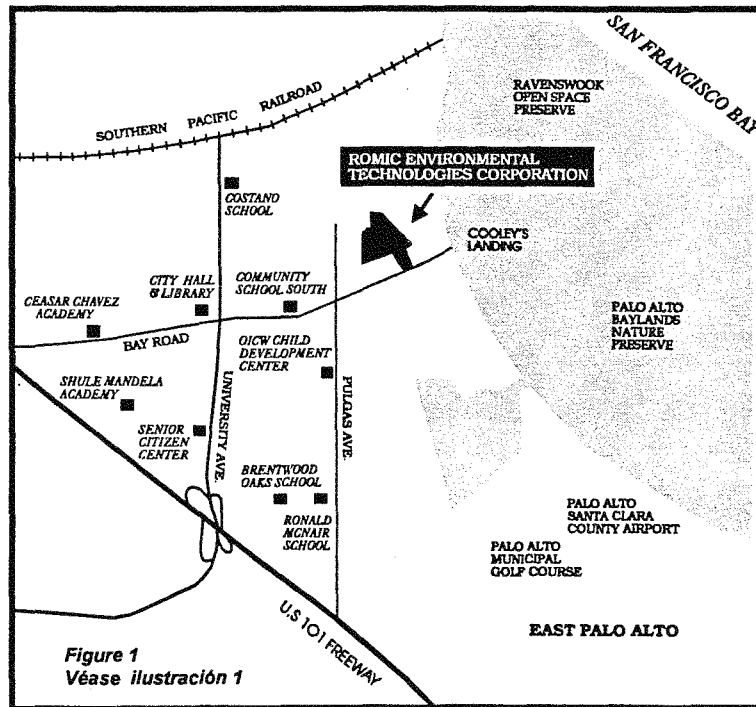
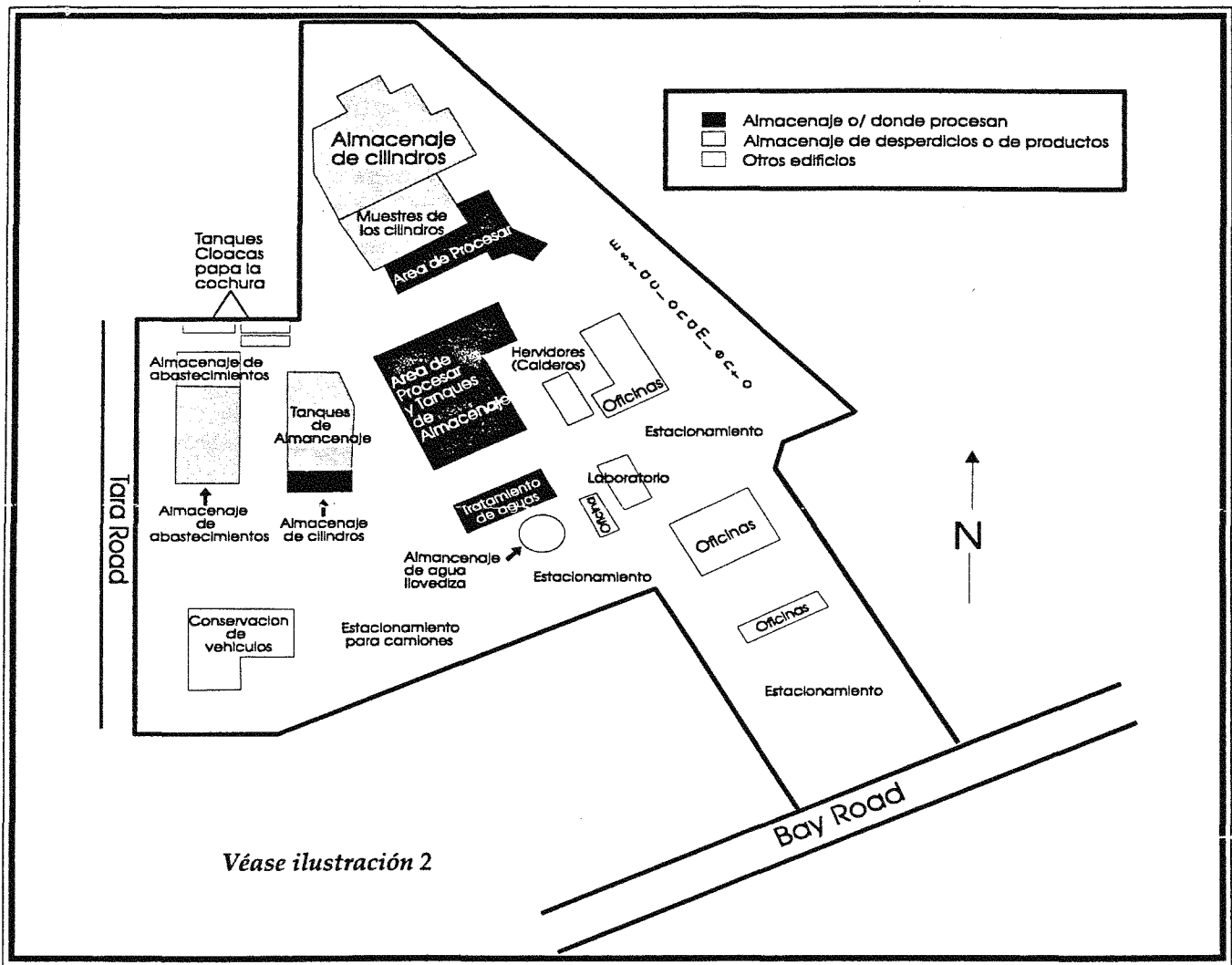


Figure 1  
Véase ilustración 1

After reading the information presented, we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to DTSC by June 30, 1997. Your response will allow DTSC to assess if the mandated public involvement activities meet your needs or if they need to be expanded to include additional fact sheets, public workshops and/or meetings.

Después de leer la información presentada, esperamos que usted dedique unos cuantos minutos para completar el cuestionario adjunto y que se lo devuelva a DTSC antes del 30 de junio, 1997. Sus respuestas dejarán que DTSC evalúe si las actividades mandadas para la participación del público cumplen con sus necesidades o si necesitan ser extendidas para incluir hojas adicionales de información, talleres públicos y/o reuniones.





## La Historia de la Planta

La planta de Romco (véase Ilustración 2) consiste de cuatro áreas principales: la oficina y los edificios del laboratorio; las áreas donde reciben y almacenan los desperdicios; la área donde se procesan los desperdicios. La planta recibe disolventes desechados, anticongelantes, agua desechado contaminado con disolventes y metales como plomo y níquel, y otras materias como pinturas desechadas y filtros usados para aceite. Los desperdicios llegaron en envases de cinco a 30 galones, en cilindros de 55 galones, en envases portátiles o en camiones tanques. Las operaciones principales consisten en procesar disolventes desechados por su destilación y mezcla para producir disolventes y materias de calidad combustible para uso repetido. Las materias de calidad combustible son trasladadas a fabricantes de cementos y quemadas en vez de aceite, gas natural o carbón para sus procesos.

## La Historia de los Permisos

DTSC dio a Romco Un Documento Interino (ISD) en abril de 1981 y dio un permiso para una planta para el tratamiento de desperdicios peligrosos en mayo de 1986. Romco presentó una modificación del permiso del Estado y una aplicación inicial para un permiso federal en mayo de 1989. La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Los EE.UU. (EPA) y DTSC dieron el permiso federal y el permiso modificado del Estado en julio de 1990. De todos modos, el permiso Federal fue apelado y renovado en julio de 1992 después de una revista de la apelación. El permiso del Estado que fue dado en 1986 y renovado más tarde, terminó en mayo de 1991. De todos modos, DTSC dejó que Romco continuara a operar bajo las condiciones del permiso terminado.



Romic ha solicitado que DTSC les dé una renovación y modificación del permiso para continuar a operar una planta para el tratamiento y almacenaje de desperdicios peligrosos. Las modificaciones incluyen: la adición de unidades no reguladas anteriormente; y el aumento del volumen y tipos de desperdicios almacenados y tratados. Actualmente, Romic puede almacenar 2,531 cilindros de 55 galones. Una área existente para probar muestras de 1,026 cilindros de 55 galones ha sido clasificado de nuevo como una unidad regulada incluida en la renovación del

permiso. Además, Romic pidió un aumento de 969 cilindros de 55 galones de otras áreas existentes para el almacenaje de cilindros, aumentando la capacidad máxima de almacenaje a 4,526 cilindros de 55 galones. El almacenaje en tanques y la capacidad para el tratamiento se aumentará de 241,000 galones en 50 tanques superficiales a 310,500 galones en 55 tanques superficiales. El aumento en la capacidad de los tanques fue debido a la nueva clasificación de los tanques existentes como unidades reguladas por DTSC. La capacidad de las unidades de la planta será la misma a 154,512 galones por día en 55 unidades de tratamiento.

Unidad	Capacidad Actual Permitida	Unidades no Reguladas (actuales)	Capacidad Propuesta
Envases	2,531 Cilindros de 55 galones	1,026 Cilindros de 55 galones	4,526 Cilindros de 55 galones
Tanques	50 Tanques Superficiales de 241,000 galones	5 Tanques Superficiales de 69,500 galones	55 Tanques de 310,500 galones
Unidades de Tratamiento	55 Unidades de 154,512 galones por día	Ninguna	55 Unidades de 154,512 galones por día

## La Historia de Ejecución

DTSC inspeccionó a Romic en agosto de 1995 y observó una violación de menor importancia: el almacenaje de cilindros por más de 144 horas. Los cilindros fueron trasladados y la violación fue corregida. La última vez que DTSC inspeccionó a Romic fue el 21 de mayo, 1996. No se notó ninguna violación durante la inspección. La planta está obrando de acuerdo con las regulaciones de DTSC.

## El Proceso de EIR

DTSC está solicitando la participación del público y de agencias con relación a los posibles impactos de la planta sobre la comunidad y sobre el medio

ambiente. Después de identificar los puntos que serán discutidos, DTSC mandará que un contratista independiente (pagado por Romic y dirigido por DTSC) prepare el EIR. Cuando esté listo el borrador del EIR, se les pide al público y a las agencias responsables que lo repasen y que presenten sus comentarios. DTSC examinará los comentarios, y preparará y adoptará el EIR final. Luego DTSC decidirá si debe negar, aprobar, o modificar y aprobar, la solicitud de Romic para un permiso. Esa decisión será basada sobre la información en el EIR y sobre otros factores, como sean apropiados o requeridos por regulación.

En junio de 1997, Romic les enviará un pedido para propuestas a posibles consultores para que





trabajen en el EIR. También, DTSC y Romic anticipan la conclusión de su informe de trabajo para el EIR y entrevistarán a consultores en junio. Una vez que se contrate a un consultor, el EIR será completado en aproximadamente un año. (Véase la gráfica donde se describen los procesos.)

## **El Proceso de Dar los Permisos**

El DTSC realiza comprensivas revisiones técnicas de solicitudes para permisos para plantas para procesar desperdicios peligrosos. En coordinación con otras agencias estatales y federales, el personal del DTSC que da los permisos investiga la sumisión del solicitante con las apropiadas regulaciones estatales y federales sobre el medio ambiente incluyendo La Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California (CEQA). Actualmente, Romic está haciendo un Informe sobre el Impacto al Medio Ambiente (EIR) para conformarse con la CEQA. Una vez que se completan todas las revisiones, DTSC prepara un permiso en borrador para una planta que trata desperdicios peligrosos o propone una negación del permiso. La determinación del permiso propuesta junto con el EIR DTSC considerará los comentarios hechos por el solicitante, por el público, o por otras agencias del gobierno antes de hacer la determinación final para el permiso.

## **El Proceso para la Participación del Público**

DTSC está en el proceso de preparar un Plan para la Participación del Público (PPP) para este proyecto. El PPP documentará las preocupaciones de la comunidad y describirá las actividades de participación pública que serán realizadas durante el proceso de autorizar el permiso y el EIR. DTSC hizo entrevistas en la comunidad en abril de 1997 para recoger información para el PPP y el EIR. Una vez completada, una copia del PPP será depositada en el repositorio de información indicado en la página siete.

DTSC tendrá períodos para comentarios públicos durante puntos técnicos en el proceso. El público puede expresar sus preocupaciones o comentarios durante el período para comentar en el EIR, y otra vez durante la audiencia pública cuando un borrador del EIR y la decisión sobre el permiso son revelados. Se les enviará una respuesta for-

mal sobre los comentarios a todos los que hicieron comentarios y la respuesta será depositada en el repositorio de información para el público en general. Se les informará a los interesados en estos períodos para comentarios por varios medios, incluyendo correo directo y anuncios en el periódico. DTSC considerará otras actividades adicionales para la participación pública como la publicación de hojas de información y reuniones de la comunidad, si hay suficiente interés. Favor de compartir esta información con los que usted piensa pueden estar interesados. El cuestionario completado debe ser devuelto a DTSC antes del **30 de junio de 1997**. Para más información sobre el pedido de Romic para un permiso para operar una planta para tratar desperdicios peligrosos o sobre el EIR, llame al:

**Henry Chui,**  
director del proyecto  
(510) 540-3960

**Claire Best**  
la coordinadora para la participación pública  
(916) 324-2809

**Oscar Portocarrero**  
La oficina de Berkeley del DTSC  
El contacto para la comunidad de  
hispanoparlantes  
(510) 540-3951

### **El Repositorio de Información**

Usted puede repasar los documentos pertenecientes al proyecto en dos sitios:

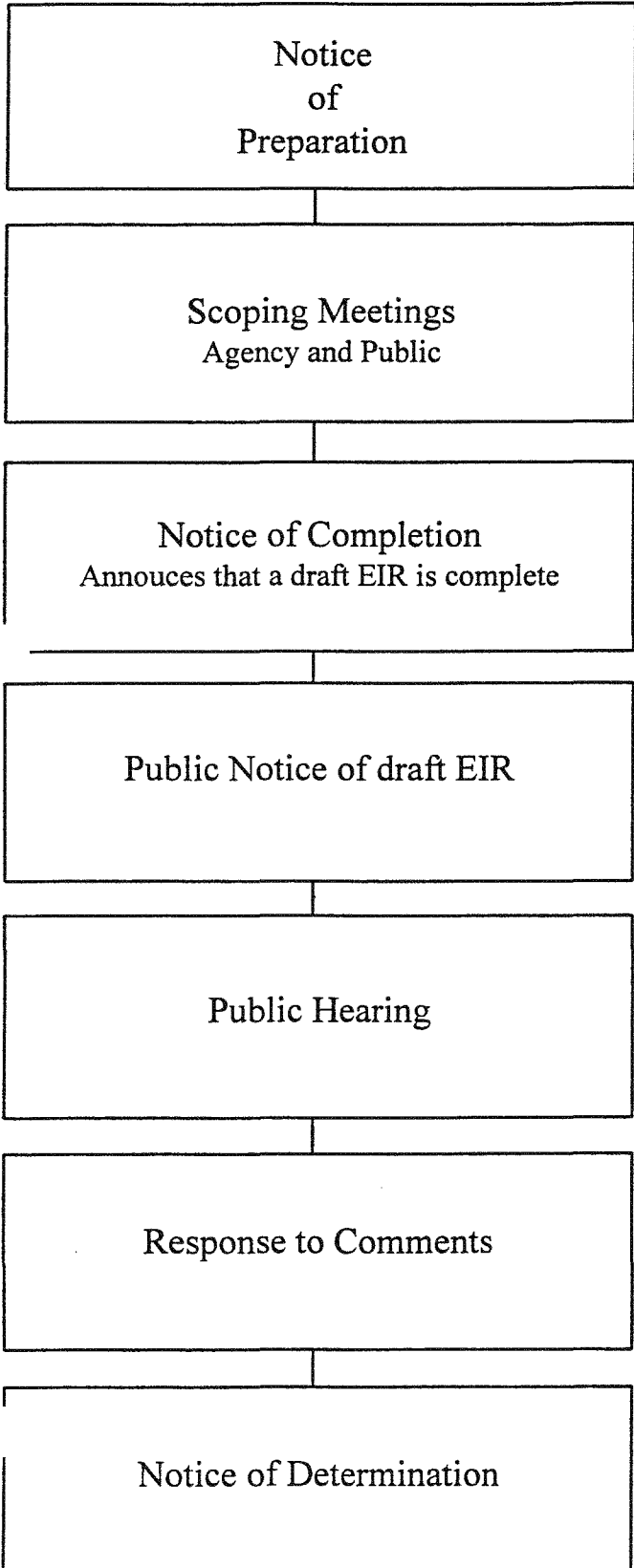
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Contact: Henry Chui  
700 Heinz Ave., Suite 200  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 540-3960

San Mateo County Public Library  
East Palo Alto Branch  
2415 University Avenue  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(415) 321-7712

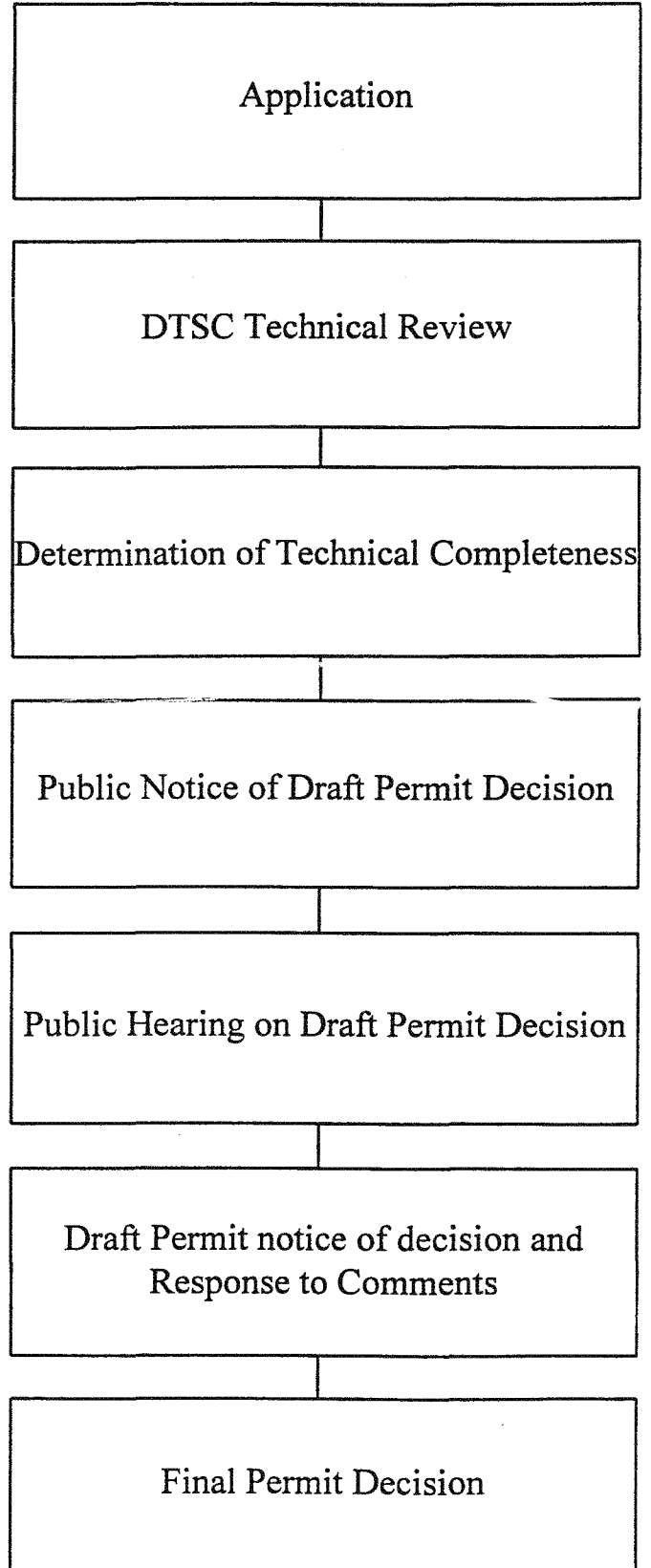


Generally, the EIR and permit process are conducted concurrently as indicated below. Please note there will be a combined public notice announcing the public comment period for the Draft EIR and permit decision and a public hearing to receive public comments on both documents.

## The EIR Process



## The Permitting Process



(See over for Spanish translation)



# Community Survey Questionnaire

Please complete this form and return it to: Ms. Claire Best, Public Participation Specialist, P.O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA.95812-0806 by June 30, 1997. (Please use reverse side of this Questionnaire for additional comments.)

1. How long have you lived in this area?  
 0-5 years       6-12 years       13-20 years  
 21 or more years
  
2. Did you previously know that Romic handles and stores hazardous waste?  
 Yes       No  
  
If yes, where did you acquire your previous knowledge about Romic?  
 Newspapers       Neighbors       Relatives  
 Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What is your current level of interest in this site, if any?  
 No present concerns       Low to moderate       Moderate to high  
  
Do you have any specific concerns about this facility? If so, please specify.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Have you had any contact with local, state or other officials regarding this site?  
 Yes       No  
  
If yes, what was the nature of this contact? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What is the best way to provide you with information?  
 Fact Sheet       Community Meetings  
 Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Please advise us how often, or at what points in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the permitting process, you want us to contact you?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Can you suggest anyone else we may want to talk to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Please make any additional comments that are of concern to you.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Mailing Coupon

Please place me on the mailing list to receive all future DTSC materials related to this facility.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cuestionario y Encuesta de la Comunidad

Favor de completar este formulario y devuélvalo a: la srta. Claire Best, Especialista para la Participación Pública, P. O. Box 806, Sacramento, CA 95812-0806 antes del 30 de junio, 1997. (Favor de usar el otro lado de este cuestionario para comentarios adicionales.)

1. ¿Hace cuánto tiempo que ha vivido usted en esta área?

\_\_\_\_\_ 0-5 años      \_\_\_\_\_ 6-12 años      \_\_\_\_\_ 13-20 años

2. ¿Sabía usted antes que Romic trata y almacena desperdicios peligrosos?

\_\_\_\_\_ sí      \_\_\_\_\_ no

Si usted contestó "sí", ¿dónde recibió usted anteriormente información sobre Romic?

\_\_\_\_ Periódicos      \_\_\_\_ Vecinos      \_\_\_\_ Parientes      \_\_\_\_ Otros (favor de especificar)

3. ¿A qué punto tiene usted interés en este sitio?

\_\_\_\_ No tengo cuidados al presente.      \_\_\_\_ Poco a moderado interés.      \_\_\_\_ Moderado a alto interés.

4. ¿Ha tenido usted contacto con oficiales locales, del estado u otros sobre este sitio?

\_\_\_\_ Sí      \_\_\_\_ No

Si ha tenido contacto, ¿qué fue la esencia de este contacto?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. ¿Cómo podemos darle más información?

\_\_\_\_ Hoja de información      \_\_\_\_ Reuniones en la Comunidad

\_\_\_\_ Otros medios (favor de especificar): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Favor de indicarnos con qué frecuencia, o en qué puntos en el Informe del Impacto sobre el Medio Ambiente (EIR) y en el proceso de autorizar un permiso, que usted quiere que hagamos contacto con usted?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. ¿Puede usted pensar de otros con quienes tal vez queremos hablar?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Favor de hacer algunos comentarios adicionales sobre este asunto, si usted quiere.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Cupón

Favor de poner mi nombre en la lista para recibir en el futuro toda la información de DTSC perteneciente a esta planta.

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Afiliación: \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

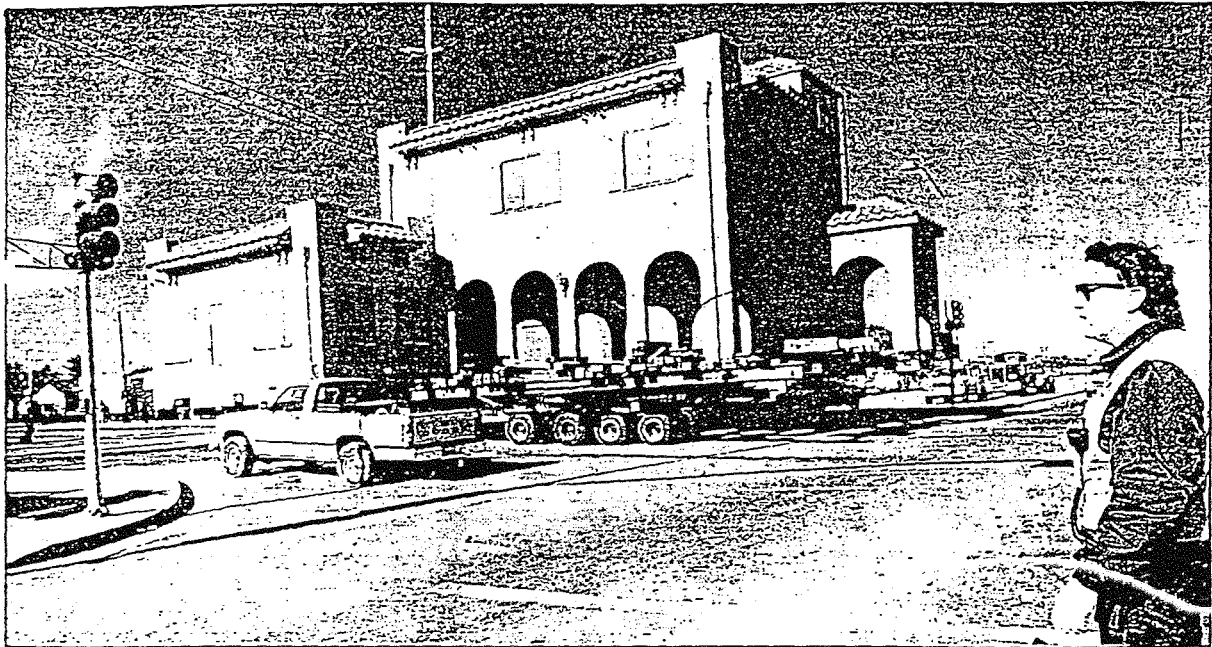


# MACIEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**WEDNESDAY**

NOVEMBER 24, 1993

*San Jose Mercury News*



CAP CARPENTER — MERCURY NEWS

## 1918 mission-style mobile home

George Maciel watches the historic Jamison House being moved along Lafayette Street in Santa Clara on Tuesday from Hope Rehabilita-

tion Services property to its new location, where Maciel will restore the 2,600-square-foot farmhouse, complete with bell tower, as a residence.

A Lecture Prepared By:

**Michael D. Bethke**

### Housing, Zoning and Civil Codes

This course gives you an overview of the various zoning and civil codes which affect construction, and covers the Uniform Housing. Special emphasis is placed on housing inspection and the inspector's role in the municipal court system. "Ride along" trips with inspectors will be arranged.

Tuesdays, January 11 - April 12, 1994

6:30 - 9:30 pm      14 sessions  
CTGE #82B            4.2 CEUs            \$350  
Code 00667, Section 01

Professional Development Center  
51 E. Campbell Avenue, Suite 130, Campbell





File: Z.1559/U.1967/V.2193  
Location: 4350 Bassett Street, a 9,375 square foot lot located on the west side of Bassett Street, between Second Street and Agnew Road (APN 104-11-004)  
Applicant: City of Santa Clara (rezoning)  
Owner: Craig Mineweaser (use permit/variance)  
Request: George Maciel  
Planning Commission initiated Rezoning from B (Public) to R1-6L (Single Family Residential); Use Permit (house move permit) to relocate an existing residential structure to a single family zoned lot, and;  
Variance to allow a building height of 29 feet where 25 feet is the maximum allowed (for the main unit); detached garage height of 14 feet where 12 feet is the maximum permitted and increased rear yard coverage for a detached accessory building (garage) where 40 percent is the maximum allowed

**CURRENT USE/ZONING**

Current Use: Vacant (former PG&E Sub-station Site)  
Current Zoning: R1-6L (Single Family Residential)

**NEARBY PROPERTY**

North: Single Family Residence, Zoned R1-6L  
East: Southern Pacific Railroad Tracts and Lafayette Street  
South: Duplex, Zoned R2-7L (Duplex)  
West: Single Family Residence, Zoned R1-6L

**PROPOSAL**

The applicant is requesting to move a designated Historically Significant residential structure onto a vacant lot within an existing Agnew Village residential neighborhood. The existing B zone is to be changed to a single family residential designation. A variance has been requested to allow for the increased building height of this building, as well as to permit increased rear yard building coverage and building height for the detached garage to be constructed in the rear yard.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Categorically exempt project, Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines.

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Provides an additional housing unit within the City and is compatible with single family use existing in this area. This approval also helps to assure the preservation of the structure.

**PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**  
SEPTEMBER 15, 1993

Mineweaser/Maciel



**GENERAL PLAN**

This area is designated for Single Family residential uses in the General Plan.

**STAFF REPORT - SEPTEMBER 15, 1993**

The request to initiate rezoning of the property was considered by the Planning Commission on November 18, 1992. At that time the Planning Commission agreed to initiate the rezoning, but the file was held until the request for the future house move onto this property was processed concurrently.

This structure has been adopted as a Historically Significant Property by the Historical and Landmarks Commission (former Jamison House - historic resource inventory attached). The existing residence is currently stored on the east side of Lafayette Street, near the Hope Rehabilitation Services office. It is approximately 1,945 square feet in size, with a first floor of 1,205 square feet and the second floor 740 square feet. The proposed garage for four vehicles and workshop space, at 1,295 square feet in size, will be new construction. Total building site coverage is 29 percent as the lot is 9,375 square feet in area.

The architect and property owner have taken care to preserve the existing residence. The proposed garage is well designed to complement the existing eclectic style of the residence. Given the existing height of the main structure, the proposed 14 foot height of the garage, as well as its overall size, is not out of scale. However, given the large size of the lot, the excess rear yard building coverage can be avoided by appropriate siting of the garage, where up to 40 percent coverage is permitted. In addition, the proposed paved area in the rear yard could be reduced with relocation of the structure.

Staff is recommending approval of the house move and the variance for building heights. However, staff is recommending moving the garage a minimum of 5 feet (preferably 8 feet) toward the southerly property line to minimize the abundant paving in the rear yard area. In addition, staff is recommending the reduction in garage depth from 24 feet to 20 feet in order to meet the minimum 40 percent rear yard coverage.

The City of San Jose has requested an avigation easement consistent with ALUC policies. This has been included as a recommended condition of approval.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION - SEPTEMBER 15, 1993**

Recommend that the Planning Commission find that the proposed Planning Commission rezoning from B (Public) to Single Family Residential (R1-6L) is in keeping with the purpose intent of the

**PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT****SEPTEMBER 15, 1993**

Mineweaser/Maciell

Zoning Ordinance and General Plan as the proposed zone change will conserve property values; protect and improve the existing residential character and stability of the area and likewise promote the orderly and beneficial development of Agnew Village and therefore approve this rezoning request.

Recommend that the Planning Commission find that the proposed variance to permit excess rear yard building coverage for the proposed detached garage is not justified given the large size of the lot and the options available and therefore deny this variance.

Recommend that the Planning Commission find that the proposed use permit to relocate an existing residential structure to a single family zoned lot and the variance to allow a building height of 29 feet where 25 feet is the maximum allowed (for the main unit) and detached garage height of 14 feet where 12 feet is the maximum permitted is appropriate and desirable for the public convenience and welfare as a measure to protect a significant historic structure, meets the intent of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance and will not have an adverse effect on property values or on persons working or residing in the area given the large lot area and therefore approve these requests.

In addition to complying with all applicable codes, regulations, resolutions and ordinances, the following conditions of approval are recommended:

#### GENERAL

1. If relocation of an existing public facility becomes necessary due to a conflict with the developer's new improvements, then the cost of the relocation shall be paid for by the developer/owner.

#### ENGINEERING

2. Obtain site clearance through Engineering Department prior to issuance of any building permit.

#### WATER

3. All sanitary sewer lateral(s), either proposed or existing, shall be equipped with a clean-out at the property line.

#### FIRE

4. Provide smoke detectors for dwelling unit per California Building Code.

#### ELECTRIC

5. Developer to obtain necessary over height/weight permit and coordinate move with Southern Pacific Transportation Company, CALTRAIN, Pacific Bell, Pacific Gas & Electric, South Bay



Cable and City of Santa Clara Electric Department.

PLANNING AND INSPECTION

6. Submit detailed plans to the Planning Division for final architectural review and approval prior to plan check and issuance of building permits.
7. Obtain required permits and inspections from the Building Official and comply with the conditions thereof.
8. Relocate and or reduce garage area to meet maximum building coverage allowances and to reduce paving coverage the satisfaction of the City through the architectural review process.
9. File an Avigation Easement with the City of San Jose prior to issuance of building permits.

Staff present: Arthur Henriques (Staff Liaison)  
Michael Bethke (Assistant Staff Liaison)

Guests : George Maciel, Victor Markovich, Marie  
Markovich, Lorie Garcia.

### III. Disposition of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner High, seconded by Commissioner Quinlan and carried by those Commissioners present to approve the Historical and Landmarks Commission minutes of October 7, 1992.

### IV. Report on City Council and Planning Commission Actions Pertaining to the Historical and Landmarks Commission

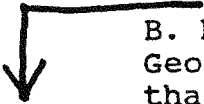
A. Note City Council approved up to \$1,000 to fund Commissioner McLemore's attendance at the Preservation Leadership Conference in Pacific Grove should he be selected to attend.

Mr. Henriques informed the Commission that he and Commissioner McLemore will serve as a Staff/Commissioner preservationist team representing the City of Santa Clara should their application be approved by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Commission will be notified as soon as the selection process has been completed.

### V. Correspondence

A. Note that Commissioner McLemore has been appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara County Heritage Council.

It was also noted that Assistant Staff Liaison Michael Bethke has been appointed to serve as a new member of the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara County Heritage Council.

 B. Note Use Permit application that is being prepared by George Maciel to relocate a historic home (Jamison House) that used to be located at 1880 Agnew Road. Mr. Maciel is interested in possibly having this structure historically inventoried and added to the list of historically significant properties.

Mr. Bethke gave a brief introduction of the issues facing Mr. Maciel regarding his attempt to move the old Jamison House to a new site located at 4350 Bassett Street. The





Jamison house was previously located at 1880 Agnew Road and was moved approximately twelve years ago to make way for new apartment buildings. The structure was purchased by Hope Rehabilitation Services and relocated to its present site behind their administrative building next to Agnews Redevelopment Center on Lafayette Street. The house is still temporarily resting on the structural support beams used by the house moving company. Mr. Maciel has just recently secured an option to buy the Jamison House and will be submitting plans to the Planning Division for a Conditional Use Permit to relocate the structure to his vacant property at 4350 Bassett Street, which will also have to be rezoned from its current zoning of "B" (Public/Quasi-Public) to R1-6L (Single Family Residential).

In order to help mitigate some of the strict Uniform Building Code (UBC) and/or noise attenuation requirements that may be conditioned by the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) it was proposed that Mr. Maciel should request that his property be surveyed and nominated for the historical resources inventory. Once approved, this property would fall under the jurisdiction of the more flexible State Historical Building Code.

Mr. Maciel briefly spoke about his ten year effort to purchase the Jamison House and relocate it to the property he purchased from P.G. & E. on Bassett Street. He noted for the Commission that he was firmly dedicated to relocating and structurally preserving the original architectural integrity of this historic house. He also noted that any new construction of a garage or accessory structure will be consistent with the existing Mediterranean Style of the Jamison House.

The Commission thanked Mr. Maciel for his interest and dedication in attempting to preserve this historic home. It was moved by Commissioner McLemore, seconded by Commissioner Harper and approved by all Commissioners present that the Jamison House, which will be relocated to 4350 Bassett Street, be added to the list of the City's Architecturally or Historically Significant Properties. This action was noted with the full support of the property owner - George Maciel.

It was noted by Commissioner High that this relocation and remodel project should be used as a model example of how historic preservation can really benefit both the City and property owner.

C. Note recent conversation with the Santa Clara University Architect and status of renewing historic inventories of specific campus structures.

Mr. Bethke informed the Commission that he recently spoke

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

 Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 National Register status \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local designation \_\_\_\_\_

1. Historic name Floyd Jamison House
- \* 2. Common or current name George Maciel
- \* 3. Number & street 4350 Bassett Street (to be moved to) Cross-corridor \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Santa Clara Vicinity only \_\_\_\_\_ Zip 95054 County Santa Clara
4. UTM zone A 10/592340/4138790 B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_
5. Quad map No. \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

6. Property category Building If district, number of documented resources \_\_\_\_\_
- \* 7. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

The Jamison house is of Transitional Spanish Eclectic styled architecture. The dwelling has a low pitched red tile roof, heavy stucco walls and an equally strong chimney with graphic reliefs. The front entrance has a prominent arched porch roof and a shed roof overhangs two thirds of the front elevation.

Both hipped, gable and flat roofs with bracketed supported tiled parapets are used in combination in an irregular, informal pattern. The front elevation contains a large palladium window, square bell tower containing arched windows with iron railings along with tile drainage vents protruding the stucco wall. The second story windows are a pair of six along six casement, wood sash type with wooden shutters.



8. Planning agency City of Santa Clara
9. Owner & address  
George Maciel  
PO Box 321  
Alviso CA 95002
10. Type of ownership private
11. Present use vacant
12. Zoning \_\_\_\_\_  
Demolition/Vandalism/
13. Threats Deterioration

\* Complete these items for historic preservation compliance projects under Section 106 (36 CFR 800). All items must be completed for historical resources survey information.



**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

14. Construction date(s) C. 1918 Original location 1880 Agnew Road Date moved 1981  
 15. Alterations & date none known  
 Architect unknown Builder unknown  
 17. Historic attributes (with number from list) 02 (Single Family Property)

**SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION**

18. Context for evaluation: Theme Residential Architecture Area Agnews  
 Period 1918 Property type \_\_\_\_\_ Context formally developed? YES

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

The Jamison House is significant due to its architecture and due to its historical association with a well known Santa Clara (Agnew) family of farmers. The architecture is important as this residence was considered quite prominent in an area adjacent to predominantly vernacular wooden cottages and Queen Anne cottages in the adjacent Agnews Village. Landmark houses of this style are rare in this area and this is northern Santa Clara's only example of this style of architecture.

A 1876 map of the Agnew area shows the Jamison family owning a tract of land just west of the Agnew Village area from where this house was moved. The Jamison family (Samuel Jamison) constructed a house on Coffin Road (now Great America Parkway) in the 1860s. This house now resides on the Triton Museum grounds (Warburton Avenue). Earlier photographs reveal the two water towers associated with this structure were demolished when the Agnew Road property was developed. The orchards that originally surrounding the Jamison house were pear orchards and several of the old time residents remaining remember the many chickens and exotic birds (peacocks, etc.) that the Jamisons raised on their estate, as well as the many redwood trees (some still remain).

20. Sources  
 oral interviews - Adeline Veiga/Sis Quieto/WALTER BROWN  
 S.C. County Heritage Resource Inventory, P. Pace et al 1975, page 32  
 "A Field Guide to American Houses, McAlester"

21. Applicable National Register criteria \_\_\_\_\_

22. Other recognition \_\_\_\_\_  
 State Landmark No. (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

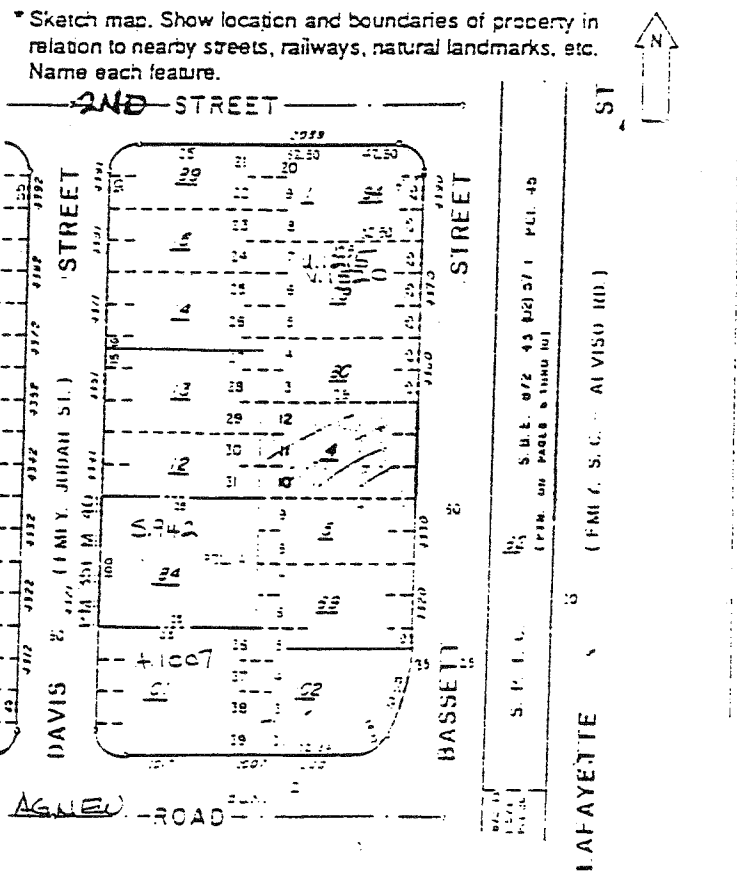
23. Evaluator J. Silva  
 Date of evaluation 10-30-92

24. Survey type Comprehensive/Project Related

25. Survey name Agnew Village

26. Year form prepared 1992  
 By (name) J. Silva  
 Organization City of Santa Clara  
 Address 1500 Warburton Avenue  
 City & Zip Santa Clara CA 95050  
 Phone 498/984-3111

\*Polk City Directories: 1889, 1911, 1912-13, 1923, 1927, 1930  
 1876 Map - Santa Clara

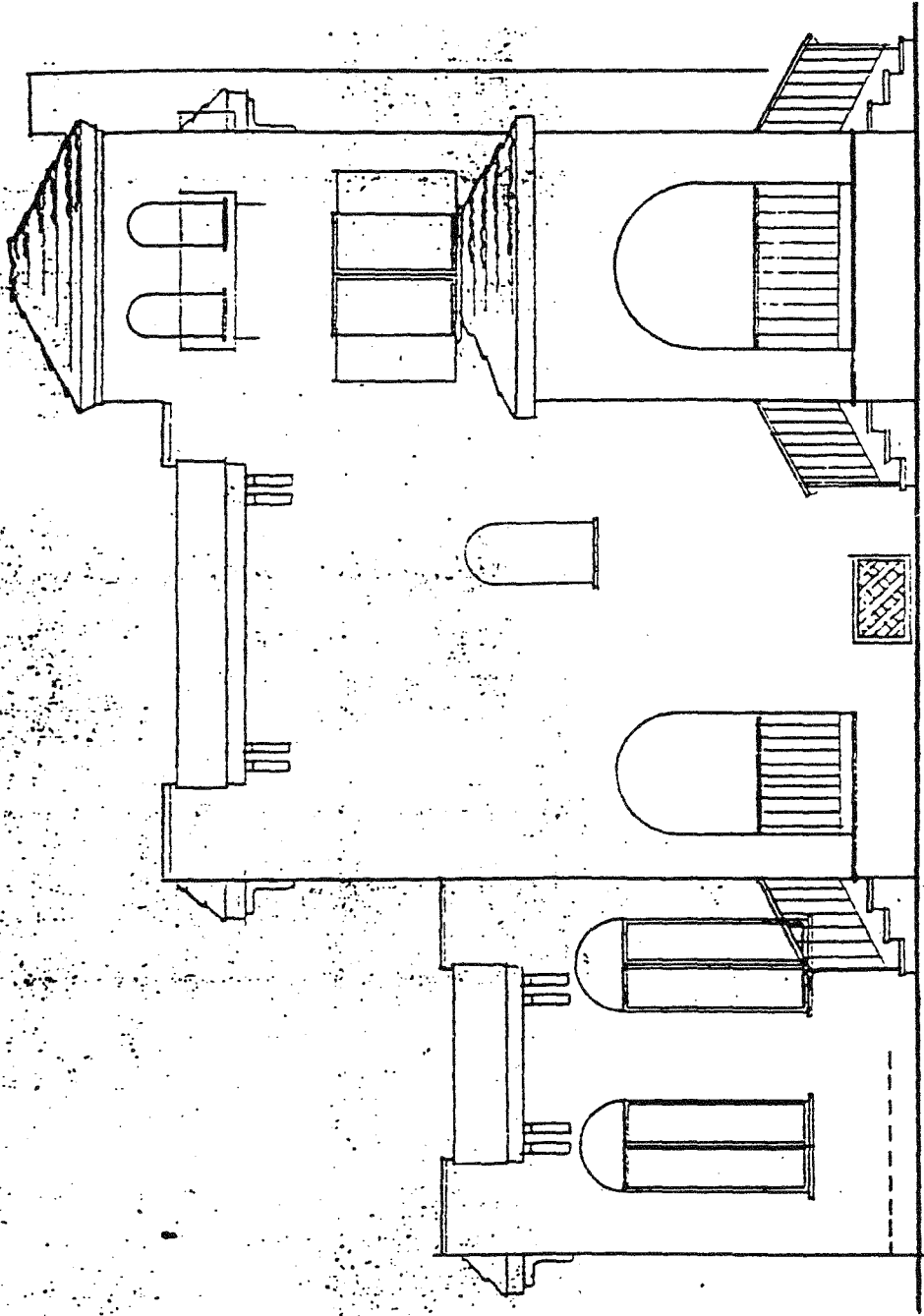


RECEIVED

AUG 04 1993

PLANNING DEPT.

U-1967  
V-2193



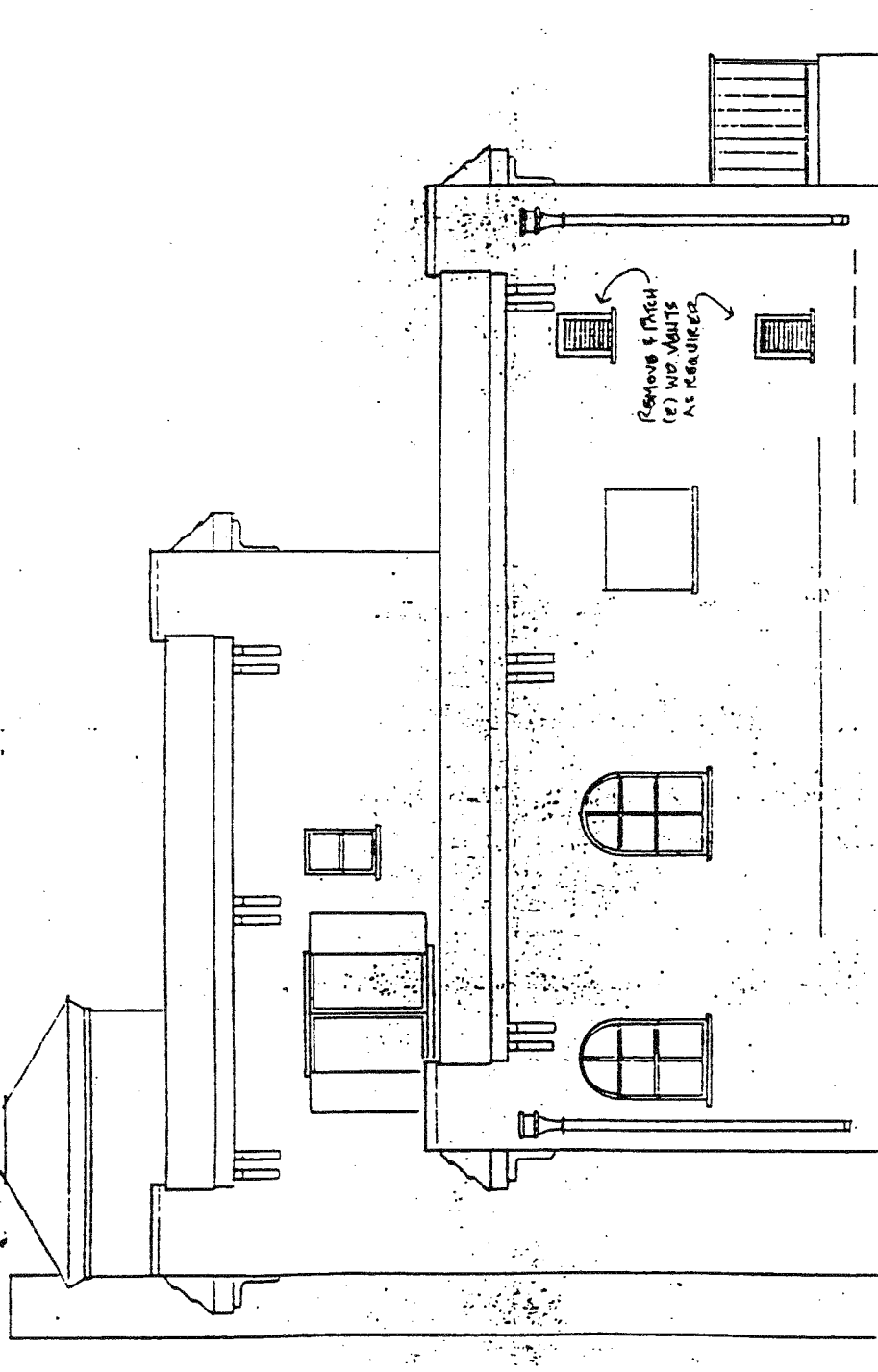
LEFT ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

**RECEIVED**

AUG. 04 1993

PLANNING DEPT.



**RIGHT ELEVATION**

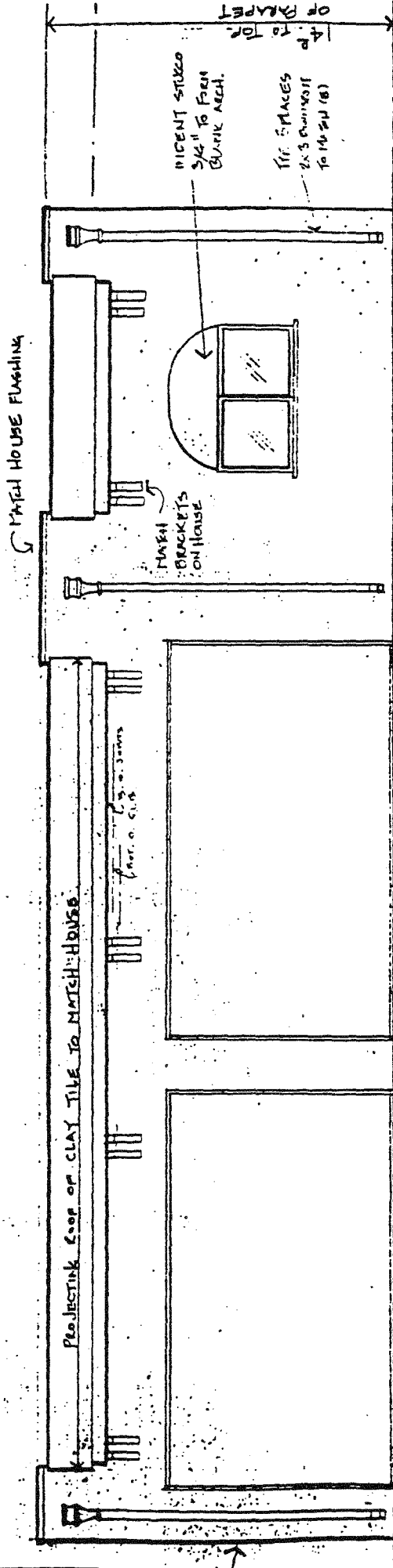
U. 1967  
V. 2193

RECEIVED

AUG. 04 1993

PLANNING DEPT.

USE TO MATCH (S)  
USE IN FINISH PATTERN,  
IN DETAILS & COLOR



FRONT GARAGE ELEVATION

U.1967  
V.2193

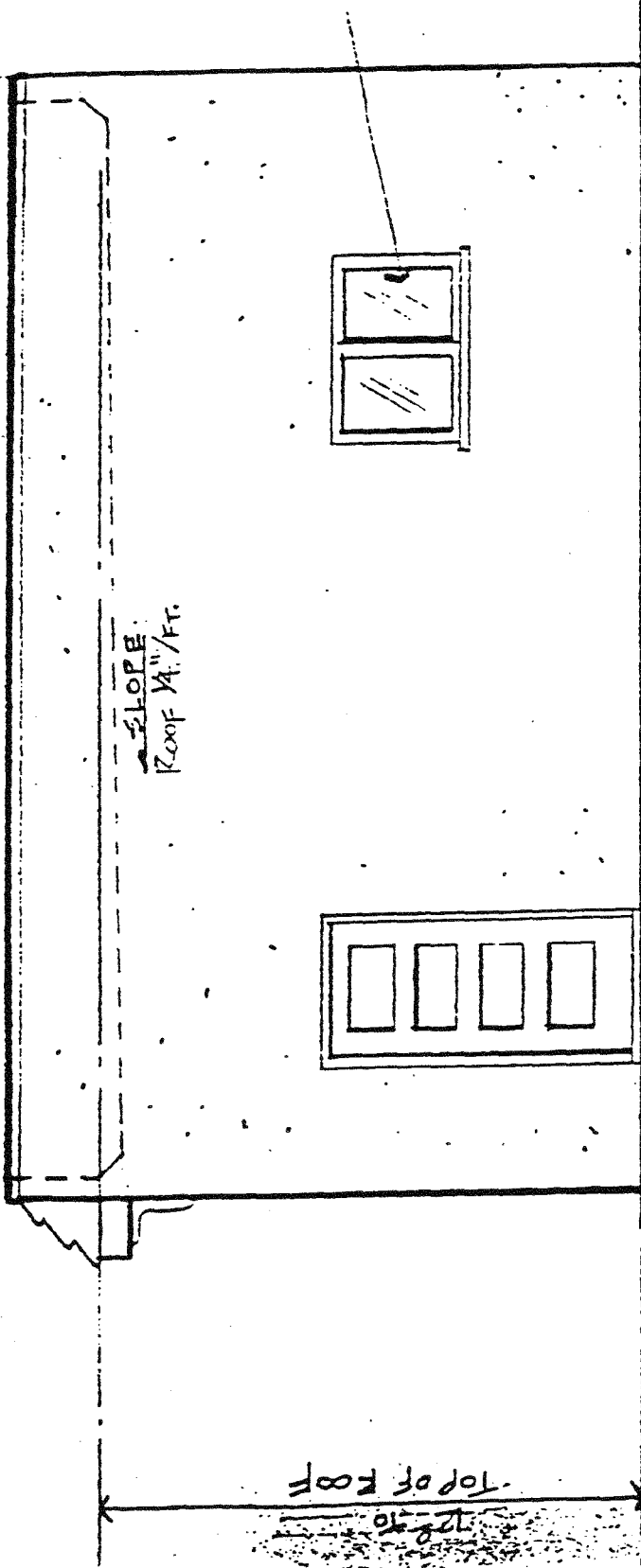


RECEIVED

AUG 04 1993

PLANNING DEPT.

AP. 2 PLACES  
WOOD SLIDER WINDOWS  
BY Kolbe & Kolbe  
OR EQUAL - SIMILAR  
TO (E) HOUSE.



U. 1967  
V. 2193

RIGHT SIDE GARAGE ELEVATION

DIR PLANNING

9. ITEMS SET FOR HEARING:

- (A) George Maciel: Overruled Planning Commission and approved a variance to allow a detached accessory building (garage) to exceed the 40 percent rear yard building coverage at 4350 Bassett Street [Item 10 - 9/15/93 - V.2193 (Z.1559/U.1967 - previously reviewed related files)].

10. WRITTEN PETITIONS:

11. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS FOR ACTION:

12. REPORTS BY PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS:

13. CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION:

14. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

15. REPORT - CITY CLERK:

16. REPORT - CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY ATTORNEY

- A. Approved the settlement agreement in connection with Caputo vs. JM Squared, et al., San Francisco Superior Court Case No. 923973.

17. REPORT - DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS:

DIR PUB WORKS

- A. Continued to October 12, 1993 the report and recommendations regarding the Santa Clara University Students request that the no parking restrictions on Market Street between Lafayette Street and The Alameda stay in place from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays with weekends and holidays excluded.

18. REPORT - CITY MANAGER:

DIR PLANNING

- (A) Set Tuesday, October 26, 1993 at 5:30 p.m. for a Study Session on the City Lands and for authorization to invite the Planning Commission to participate.

CITY ATTORNEY  
POLICE CHIEF

- B. Denied Police Chief's request for lower fines for parking in disabled stalls and for blocking disabled access ramps; adopted Resolution No. 5850 establishing parking penalties and adopting State established penalties for parking in or blocking disabled parking stalls and ramps.

DIR FINANCE

- C. Continued to October 12, 1993 the request for a budget transfer in the amount of \$130,300 to fund the Storm Drain Utility Enterprise Fund through December 31, 1993.

DIR FINANCE

- D. Approved budget transfers totalling \$758 for the purchase of an attendant monitoring device and a refurbished 24 button telephone for the Finance Department.

DIR PARKS

- E. Authorized the attendance of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners at the NRPA Congress for Recreation and Parks on October 21-25, 1993 in San Jose and approved a budget transfer of \$805 to cover the costs.