



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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November 28, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Lenny Siegel
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street, PO Box 7540
Mountain View, California 94039-7540

RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Weilheimer House

Dear Mayor Siegel:

The State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) at its next meeting intends to consider and take action on the nomination of the above-named property to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Details on that meeting are on the enclosed notice. The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving California's cultural heritage. If the item is removed from the scheduled agenda, you will be notified by mail. Local government comments regarding the National Register eligibility of this property are welcomed. Letters should be sent to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95816. So that the SHRC will have adequate time to consider them, it is requested, but not required, that written comments be received by the Office of Historic Preservation fifteen (15) days before the SHRC meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the SHRC meeting and present oral testimony.

As of January 1, 1993, all National Register properties are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

A copy of the nomination has been included for your review. Supplemental information on the National Register and the California Register programs is available on our website at the following address: <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov>. The federal requirements covering the National Register program are to be found in the National Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and in Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 60. State law regarding the California Register is in the Public Resources Code, Section 5024. Should you have questions regarding this nomination, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7004. **Please note that staff revises nominations throughout the nomination process.**

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: Nomination, Meeting Notice

NR_Local Gov City Notice_Final.doc

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Weilheimer, Julius House

Other names/site number: Chez TJ Restaurant

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

DRAFT

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 938 Villa Street

City or town: Mountain View State: CA County: Santa Clara

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce: Restaurant

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Wood frame, horizontal clapboard wood siding and wood shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Weilheimer house is a one-story plus attic, wood-frame, Queen Anne style house, that has some Colonial Revival influences. The building is situated in downtown Mountain View, California in an area that was historically residential, but that has transitioned over time to more commercial uses, and is adjacent to Castro Street, which was historically the primary commercial street or "Main Street" in Mountain View. It is located within one of the earliest residential subdivisions in Mountain View. The house sits on a rectangular, 75 x 100-foot sized, parcel with the front elevation facing south along the northerly line of Villa Street. The front, east and west sides of the house are very intact and retain a high of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The integrity of setting is somewhat impaired by modern, much larger buildings. There have been some alterations at the secondary, rear elevation, to accommodate its adaptive reuse as a restaurant.

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Narrative Description

Exterior

This one-story plus attic, wood-frame Queen Anne style house also has some Colonial Revival influences, such as Classically-inspired porch columns and a Palladian window. The house sits on a slightly raised foundation and has horizontal clapboard wood siding at the first story with wood shingles at the attic level. There is a continuous, decorative, wood water table above the foundation. The house is irregular in plan with a bay window at the west end of the front (south) elevation. This bay is composed of a large, centered, fixed, wood-frame window with a transom above flanked by two, double-hung, one-over-one, wood frame windows. To the east of the front bay window there are two, double-hung, one-over-twelve wood frame windows set into a wood frame with simple wood panels above. The east end of the front façade has a one-story, wrap around porch, accessed by six slate covered stairs. Simple wood columns that are Classically inspired support the porch. The front door, which is glazed at the upper half, is on the west side of the porch. To the east of the door, there is a projecting set of two windows which step, back at an angle, under the porch. One of these windows is wood, fixed with a transom above, and the other is a one-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The main roof is hipped, but it is intersected at the front and sides by projecting attic gables. There is an interior brick chimney projecting above the hipped roof on the east side. At the front gable there is a centered, wood-frame Palladian window lighting the attic. This ensemble is set in the gable and has side windows consisting of six small lights and a centered arched window with twelve small lights under a somewhat Gothic inspired fan light within the arch. This decorative front gable is sheathed in wood shingles with two ribbons of saw tooth shingles painted a contrasting color. There are decorative, scrolled, wood brackets under the projecting gable.

At the east side, where the wrap around porch terminates, there is a bay window that is capped by an attic gable with a centered, decorative, slender arched vent with a mock keystone above. This gable has some decorative shingles, including a row of saw tooth singles just above the arched vent that are painted a contrasting color. There is a decorative bracket under the gable at the north end. The bay window consists of the same configuration as the front bay, with the exception that the southern-most window has been converted to a door. The fenestration at the first floor of the north end of the east elevation consists of a double-hung, one-over-one wood window, a smaller, two-over-two double-hung wood window and a third more modern window.

The west elevation, which does not have the porch, has similar decorative detailing; however, there is full intersecting slightly steeper gable with the same arched vent and decorative shingles used on the east side. This elevation has a v-shaped overhanging projection with two, double-hung, one-over-one, wood frame windows. Two additional windows toward the rear (north) appear to be later alterations.

The rear of the house has been modified somewhat to accommodate the restaurant use. There are several later projecting additions and an original porch appears to have been enclosed. The rear elevation also includes a set of sliding aluminum windows, a door with a set of wood stairs, and what appears to be an original wood window.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

Interior

The interior of the house has been adaptively reused as a restaurant. This has not resulted in significant alterations. The front rooms, which were originally the main public rooms of the residence, are primarily intact. The fireplace and mantle are still extant and much of the interior wood paneling and wainscoting, though it has been painted. There are original wood pocket doors between the main front parlor and the room to the west. The rear of the house has been reconfigured to accommodate a modern restaurant kitchen.

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Politics / Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1894-1908

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Weilheimer, Julius

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The house at 938 Villa Street, the Weilheimer House, in Mountain View, California is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion B at the local level of significance in the areas of Commerce, as well as Politics / Government, for its direct association with an important person in Mountain View history, Julius Weilheimer. During his tenure in the house, Weilheimer was one of the town's most successful merchants. He also served as a town trustee, then mayor, leading the town through its rebuilding in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake. The house at 938 Villa Street is the most representative property, that retains integrity, that convey's his importance within Mountain View's history. The period of significance for the property under Criterion B is from 1894, its date of construction, to 1908 when the Weilheimer family moved to San Francisco.

The Weilheimer House is also significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance as an excellent example of a Queen Anne style house with some Colonial Revival influences in Mountain View. The period of significance for the property under Criterion C is from 1894, its date of construction, to 1908 when the Weilheimer family moved to San Francisco.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

CRITERION B: Important Persons, Weilheimer, Julius – Area of Significance: Commerce

In the 1850s, the primary mode of travel along the San Francisco Peninsula was the stagecoach route along El Camino Real, known as the San Francisco-San Jose Road. A natural stopping point was the ford across Stevens Creek, and a stagecoach stop was established. Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, a diverse group of enterprising pioneers opened businesses near this waystation, which became known as "Mountain View."¹

Among early Mountain View settlers were brothers Seligman and Samuel Weilheimer. Seligman arrived in the area around 1852 from Dossenheim in the Grand Duchy of Baden (later Germany). His brother followed three years later and they established a general merchandise store in Mountain View, along the San Francisco-San Jose Road. This building is no longer extant.

In 1856, Seligman married Sophie Baer, also a native of Baden, Germany. Following a San Francisco wedding, the couple took the stagecoach to their new home in Mountain View, where Sophie aided in the general store.² Both Seligman and Samuel are listed in the 1860 United States Census for the Fremont Township, Mountain View Post Office. That same census

¹ General background on the history of Mountain View is summarized from the following sources: Mary Jo Ignoffo, *Milestones: A History of Mountain View, California*. Cupertino, CA: California History Center & Foundation, 2002; Nicholas Perry, *Mountain View: Then and Now*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2012; Nicholas Perry, *Images of America: Mountain View*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2006; Mildred Winters, *Old Mountain View: 1850-1880*. Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association, 1977.

² Nick Perry, "History of the Weilheimer House." *Mountain Review: Newsletter of the Mountain View Historical Association*. Vol VII, Issue III: Summer 2017, 4-5.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

document indicates Seligman's personal estate was worth \$5,000. The 1860 Census also indicates Seligman was 34 years old, and his wife, Sophie, was 26. At that time, Samuel was 32 years old and his wife, Elizabeth was 23. Both men were identified as merchants residing in Mountain View.³

When the railroad line bypassed Mountain View in 1864, a "New Mountain View" emerged near a newly established train depot, a little over a mile from the original town site. This is evidenced on a map published in Thompson and West's *Atlas of Santa Clara County* of 1876.⁴ The 1876 Map also shows a six block area just west of Castro Street laid out as "Villa Lands," and that this area was recorded in March 1865.⁵

Castro Street became the commercial hub, or "Main Street" of the new Mountain View. The Weilheimer brothers were among the first merchants on Castro Street, opening a branch of their established general store at 124 Castro Street in 1870. This one-story Italianate commercial building remains on Castro Street, and while it is among one of oldest buildings in Mountain View, it has been modified.⁶ The Castro Street store was remodeled and expanded between 1891 and 1897, likely around 1896 when it was photographed with the Weilheimer brothers standing in front of the building.⁷ This is reflected in a comparison of the 1891 and 1897 Mountain View Sanborn Maps. However, the building was further modified after it ceased to be the Weilheimer's store; it is missing its scalloped sign above the Italianate-bracketed parapet and the storefront has been completely remodeled, including removal of original windows and the centered front door to accommodate two commercial businesses within the building.

The Weilheimer brothers also expanded their business in New Mountain View with a hotel, labeled Mountain View Hotel and later Hillsdale Hotel on Sanborn Maps, and an adjacent livery and horse corral facing Front Street (now Evelyn Avenue), all adjacent to the store building. These buildings are shown on the 1888 Sanborn Map of Mountain View and in historic photographs.⁸ However, these additional buildings were no longer extant on the site by the time the 1921 Sanborn Map was completed, only the general store remained at 124 Castro Street.

In 1882, Samuel and his family moved to San Francisco. Seligman remained in Mountain View and continued to run the family businesses, which soon included his sons, Julian, Henry and Samuel, and the name was changed to S. Weilheimer & Sons.⁹ This is evidenced in the *California State Gazetteer and Business Directory of 1888* which lists Julius Weilheimer as the Post Master and Samuel Weilheimer as the Wells Fargo agent in Mountain View.¹⁰ A circa 1896

³ United States Federal Census for 1860, Santa Clara County, California, Fremont Township, Post Office Mountain View, Page 201.

⁴ Thompson and West, *Atlas of Santa Clara County*, 1876, 21.

⁵ Thompson and West, *Atlas of Santa Clara County*, 1876, 21.

⁶ Nick Perry, "History of the Weilheimer House." *Mountain Review: Newsletter of the Mountain View Historical Association*. Vol VII, Issue III: Summer 2017, 4-5. Nicholas Perry, *Mountain View Then and Now*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2012: 24.

⁷ Nicholas Perry, *Images of America: Mountain View*, 39.

⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps of Mountain View, California, 1888, Sheet 3 and historic photographs housed at the Mountain View Public Library.

⁹ City Directories; a photograph of store in the collection of the Mountain View Public Library illustrates this name change.

¹⁰ *California State Gazetteer and Business Directory of 1888*.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

photograph of the Castro Street store has a sign reading S. Weilheimer and Sons. Over the years the Weilheimer family also became active members of the Jewish community in both Santa Clara County and San Francisco, with second generation Weilheimer's marrying into well-known Jewish families.

Seligman and Sophie Weilheimer's children were among the very first generation to be born and raised in Mountain View. The 1860 Census indicates that there were three children: Sarah (4); Aaron (2), and Julius, who was the youngest at that point, being three months old.¹¹ Ten years later, the 1870 Census shows a growing family and household with 5 children, as well as a laborer, Robert Hall, and an Irish nanny, Kate Daly.¹² The oldest son Aaron branched out and became a successful businessman in Fresno, California, while Julian, Henry and Samuel remained in Mountain View to assist their father.

Julius Weilheimer, Seligman and Sophie's third child, grew up in Mountain View and began assisting with the family's commercial business when he came of age. Beginning in 1885, he served as the town's postmaster, as announced in the *Daily Alta California* on November 21 of that year.¹³ An 1892 notice in the *San Francisco Chronicle* noted: "J. Weilheimer, the well-known Mountain View wine-grower, is registered at the Grand (hotel)."¹⁴ This indicates that the family, and particularly Julius, was engaging in the emerging Santa Clara County wine industry, furthering their commercial interests in the local community. Historian Charles Sullivan has noted that by 1883, Santa Clara Valley had nearly 15,000 acres of vineyards and more than 100 wineries.¹⁵ It is unclear how much of a role the Weilheimer family played in the local wine industry, but by the 1892 notice described above the effects of a phylloxera outbreak were taking hold on Northern California vineyards. In Santa Clara County, this resulted in many farmers replacing vineyards with orchards, such as prune and apricot trees, for canning or drying and shipment east. Canning facilities were located across Santa Clara County, including some in Mountain View. Neither the 1876, nor the 1889, Santa Clara county maps illustrate extensive areas of land around Mountain View owned by the Weilheimers.¹⁶

An earlier account in an April 1870 *Mayfield Enterprise* indicates that the Weilheimers were also searching for gold near the head of the Steven's Creek in Santa Clara County.¹⁷ This enterprise does not seem to have been particularly successful and no other accounts of this type of activity were located in newspaper accounts.

In an 1892 article in the *San Jose Daily Mercury*, reported on Julius Weilheimer's commercial interests and Seligman Weilheimer was acknowledged as:

the oldest living resident of Mountain View. He settled there in 1852 and since has been engaged in various mercantile enterprises. He is the owner of the

¹¹ United States Federal Census for 1860, Santa Clara County, California, Fremont Township, Post Office Mountain View, Page 201.

¹² United States Federal Census for 1870, Santa Clara County, California, Fremont Township, Post Office Alviso, Page 7.

¹³ *Daily Alta California*. November 21, 1885: Page 5, Col. 4.

¹⁴ *San Francisco Chronicle* June 6, 1892: Page 12, Col 4.

¹⁵ Charles L. Sullivan, *Like Modern Edens: Winegrowing in the Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains 1798-1981*. Cupertino: California History Center, Local History Studies Vol 28., 1982.

¹⁶ Official Maps of Santa Clara County, 1876 and 1889.

¹⁷ *Mayfield Enterprise*. April 16, 1870.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

largest and most complete merchandise store in town, conducted by his eldest son, Julius Weilheimer; also a hotel, livery stable and other properties. In his store, a full line of groceries, dry goods, clothing, crockery, etc. are carried. He deals in hay, grain, wood and all classes of farm produce. By long years of residence in Mountain View and a uniform course of dealing with patrons, Mr. Weilheimer has won the respect and confidence of the people in that part of the county.¹⁸

The *San Francisco Call* announced the wedding of Julius Weilheimer of Mountain View to Fannie Ickleheimer of San Francisco by Rev. Levy in July 1894.¹⁹ Fannie Ickleheimer, who hailed from another of California's pioneering German Jewish families, was the daughter of Herman Ickelheimer, who arrived in San Francisco in 1849. The wedding was also covered in the local *Mountain View Register* which detailed the event:

Our popular young merchant Julius Weilheimer and Miss Fannie Ickleheimer married in San Francisco last Sunday. Julius Weilheimer, 'our Julius', who has for so many years succeeded in running the gauntlet of bright-eyed maidens and disguising [sic] mamas, capitulated and joined the army of more or less happy benedicts, by leading to the altar Miss Fannie Ickelheimer of San Francisco. The marriage took place in the residence of the bride's mother, at 1804 Sutter Street on Sunday, July 8, 6 o'clock, in the presence of about forty invited guests including near relatives of the contracting parties.

The beautiful home of Mrs. Ickelheimer was decorated handsomely for the occasion with a profusion of flowers. A handsome lover's knot, made of beautiful flowers hung from the ceiling and standing under which the young couple, by solemn service of their faith, read by Rabbi M. S. Levy, were made man and wife. . . The wedding presents were numerous and costly. . . They are expected home on Thursday and will go at once to their new home, which has been furnished and fitted up in nice style.²⁰

Julius and Fannie's first daughter was born 18 months later in January 1896, and a second daughter in 1898.²¹ The 1900 Census lists the Weilheimers, their two daughters, Helen and Pauline, and a female housekeeper as residing at their Mountain View home. At that time, Julian was 40, and Fannie was 29 years old.²²

After his father's death in June 1899, Julius took over the Weilheimer general store.²³ Julius' mother, Sophie Weilheimer died in 1903. The *San Francisco Call* noted of Sophie Weilheimer that she was "one of the best known and oldest inhabitants of Santa Clara County."²⁴

¹⁸ *San Jose Daily Mercury*. January 1, 1892

¹⁹ *San Francisco Call* July 15, 1894: Page 9, Col 4.

²⁰ *Mountain View Register*. July 22, 1894.

²¹ *San Francisco Call*. January 30, 1896: Page 13, Col 7; and *San Francisco Call*. July 9, 1898: Page 13, Col 7.

²² United States Federal Census for 1900, Santa Clara County, California, Fremont Township, Supervisor District 2, Enumeration District 48, Sheet 4.

²³ California Death and Burial Records Santa Clara County Index 1873-1905, Ancestry.com and Santa Clara Genealogical Society.

²⁴ *San Francisco Call* August 1, 1903: Page 2, Col 2.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

In 1905, Julius invested with his childhood friends Jacob Mockbee and Wilber Camp, to opened the Farmers & Merchants Bank at 201 Castro Street. This building remains on Castro Street today. Julius invested in the bank and served as its vice-president. Julius, Mockbee and Camp are pictured inside the bank in a 1907 photograph.²⁵ The bank was acquired by the Bank of America in 1926. While this building is representative of Julius' additional commercial interests, he was not the sole investor, in fact Jacob Mockbee served as President of the bank. Further, the building has received a not very sympathetic third story addition that somewhat impairs its integrity.

Julius, Fannie, and their two daughters moved to San Francisco in 1908 so that Julius could take over operation of his brother-in-law's business, Ickelheimer Brothers Plumbing Gas and Electric Fixtures, with offices at 1115 Sutter Street. The 1908 San Francisco City Directory and the 1910 Census listed the Weilheimers as residing at 2021 Baker Street in San Francisco. Samuel Ickelheimer, and his family, lived at 2025 Baker Street.²⁶

Julius Weilheimer passed away from "an acute attack of indigestion" on December 31, 1922. Upon his death the *Mountain View Register* reported: "No man ever lived in this town who had more real sincere friends than Julius Weilheimer. He was honorable, clean and upright and had the heart of a child."²⁷

An article from the October 1997 edition of the *Western States Jewish History Journal* summarizes the role of the Weilheimer family in the Santa Clara valley:

They were an integral part of their community and heavily involved in the business, political and social aspects of the community. They were among the few Jewish families in Mountain View and they affiliated themselves with the large, vibrant Jewish community in San Francisco. Their descendants still live in the area and are still active in the Jewish community. The Weilheimer name will not be found on any street signs or city parks, yet they were the first of many Jews who would later build a large, dynamic community on the Peninsula.²⁸

CRITERION B: Important Persons, Weilheimer, Julius – Area of Significance: Politics / Government

During the period that Julius Weilheimer and his family resided at 938 Villa Street, Julius was active in the Mountain View's town government. Mountain View incorporated in 1902. Julius helped lead the newly incorporated town of Mountain View, elected to the town's Board of Trustees in 1904. He served as the city's third mayor (then called "president") from 1906 to 1908, leading the small community through the 1906 earthquake and the recovery efforts after. Like many of the surrounding communities, a number of Mountain View's buildings were severely damaged, or completely destroyed, in the 1906 earthquake. The town, however, reported no deaths.

²⁵ Nicholas Perry, *Images of America: Mountain View*, 53.

²⁶ San Francisco City Directory 1908; United States Federal Census for 1910, San Francisco County, California, Thirty-Ninth Assembly District, Supervisor District 4, Enumeration District 208, Sheet 1.

²⁷ *Mountain View Register* January 1923.

²⁸ Diane Claerbout, "The Weilheimers." *Western States Jewish History*. Vol 30: No. 1: 71-77. October 1997.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

During Julius' tenure as the town "president" there was not town hall or city hall in Mountain View. It is assumed that he conducted town business both at his home and at the store on Castro Street. The town hosted a parade on November 2, 1909 to celebrate the laying of the corner store of its first town hall, which was completed in 1910 and torn down in 1962.²⁹

The building at 938 Villa Street is the best surviving representative property associated with Julius Weilheimer that reflects both his success in commerce and his participation in local government. The only other surviving building that reflects his achievements in Mountain View is the store building at 124 Castro Street. However, this building, given its significant alterations would not likely meet the integrity thresholds of the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Information: Subsequent Occupants of the Julius Weilheimer House

When Julius Weilheimer and his family moved to San Francisco in 1908, they had resided at 938 Villa Street for at least fourteen years. The 1910 Census indicates that attorney Arthur Free was renting a house on Villa Street (house numbers were not listed). At that time, Free was 31, his wife, Mabel, was 29 and they had a son, Lloyd, who was under 2 years in age. The San Jose Santa Clara County Directory for 1908 lists Free as a resident of Mountain View, but gives no address. However, the 1911 Directory indicates that the Free family lived in Mountain View on Villa near Oak.³⁰ In that publication Free was identified as the District Attorney. By 1919, the Free family resided at 66 South Fourteenth Street in San Jose; this is also confirmed in the 1920 Census for San Jose.³¹

Arthur Monroe Free (1879-1953) was born in San Jose and attended Stanford University, graduating in 1901 and completing his law degree in 1903. He commenced a law practice in San Jose, but moved to Mountain View to serve as the city attorney from 1904 to 1910. From 1907 to 1919, he also served as a Santa Clara County District Attorney. Free was elected as a Republican to the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1921 to 1933. Free was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1932. After his tenure in Congress, Free resumed private practice in San Jose, where he died in 1953. His son, who was likely born in the house at 938 Villa Street, Lloyd A. Free, founded the Institute for International Social Research, with Psychologist Hadley Cantril.³²

The 1930 Census and the 1930 San Jose and Santa Clara County Directory list Louis, Alonzo (wife Dolores), Chris (wife Mary), Lawrence, Joseph, and Domingo Sanchez as the residents of 938 Villa Street in Mountain View. The Sanchez family operated the Louis Sanchez men's furnishings store at 181 Castro Street during this period.³³

The 1940 Census indicates that Dr. A. Burrell was renting the house at 938 Villa Street and had also resided there in 1935.³⁴ 1954 City Directory indicates that Raymond Bianchi resided at this location. In 1962, Charles Gordon and Mrs. Aurora Sanchez were listed at this address in the City Directory. By 1965-66, Mrs. Gloria Guerrero and Mrs. Aurora Sanchez were the residents and the

²⁹ Nicholas Perry, *Images of America: Mountain View*, 56

³⁰ San Jose and Mountain View City Directories.

³¹ City Directories and census.

³² *Biographical Directory of United States Congress*.

³³ City Directory 1930 and United States Federal Census for 1930, Santa Clara County, California, Supervisor District 10, Enumeration District 43-7, Sheet 22A.

³⁴ United States Federal Census for 1940, Santa Clara County, California, Supervisor District 7, Enumeration District 43-8, Sheet 7A.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

1968 City Directory identified Mrs. Maria Quesada, and Maria and Octaviano Soria as the occupants.

For a brief period of time in the late 1970s, the house was operated as a bed and breakfast operating under the name, "The Weilheimer House." In the early 1980s, the property was purchased by George Aviet and Thomas J. McCombie, who opened a fine-dining, French-inspired restaurant, Chez TJ, on November 26, 1982. The building has housed Chez TJ since that time.

The house at 938 Villa Street is significant under Criterion B for its association with Julius Weilheimer in the areas of Commerce and Politics / Government. However, the building does not appear to be significant under Criterion B for its association with Arthur Free, who is primarily important for his service in the United States House of Representatives, but did not live in this house during his tenure in Congress. Additionally, limited information was found on the Sanchez family who ran a clothing shop on Castro Street and lived in the house during the 1930s and into the 1960s. If additional information comes to light about the Sanchez family, it is possible their significance and association with the house could be reassessed.

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

**CRITERION C: DESIGN, AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE ARCHITECTURE, EXCELLENT
EXAMPLE OF QUEEN ANNE STYLE RESIDENCE IN MOUNTAIN VIEW**

The house at 938 Villa Street is an excellent example of a Queen Anne style residence in Mountain View. There are few other examples of this style of architecture in the older residential neighborhoods surrounding the downtown Mountain View. The building is one of the few examples of the style in Mountain View that also has Classically inspired elements such as the porch columns and the Palladian window at the front gable.

The Queen Anne was popular in the United States and California from the 1890s to about 1910. The Weilheimer House is a simplified cottage version of what can sometimes take on a grander, more ornate appearance. The typical Queen Anne cottage as it manifested in California was a wood-frame dwelling. These houses almost always had a main hipped roof intersected by a gable with decorative shingles, side gables or dormers, a wrap-around porch, and an interior chimney as opposed to one at the exterior wall. The typical Queen Anne cottage was often one-story, but sometimes with an attic level at the gable. The Weilheimer House possesses all of these typical characteristics and is augmented by the use of Colonial Revival or Classical detailing.

Other examples of the Queen Anne in Mountain View had either been lost to demolition or extensively altered. This is evidenced in the house at 1114 Villa Street, a Queen Anne house built for Judge Burns has been significantly altered.³⁵ Further, the other residential properties along the 900 block of Villa Street have been demolished. This building is the best remaining representative example of a Queen Anne style house in the immediate vicinity of Castro Street in downtown Mountain View.

The exact date of construction, builder or architect for the house is not known. No original building permit or newspaper announcement of the construction of the house at 938 Villa Street was located. However, the 1894 wedding announcement of Julius Weilheimer and Fannie Ickleheimer seems to indicate that Julius had the house built for his new wife. A smaller house with a much simplified footprint appears on the 1888, 1891 and 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Mountain View. However, the bay windows and wrap around porch are clearly visible on the 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. It is possible that the Weilheimers purchased this earlier house and renovated the house at a later date. The 1894 wedding announcement of Julius Weilheimer mentions moving to a "new" house. However, this could have been a newly purchased house, not necessarily a newly constructed house. Early directories and census records for Mountain View do not list house numbers, but the house was illustrated in the *Mountain View Register* on March 5, 1905 (See historic image Figure 1).³⁶

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1894-1908

The period of significance for the house under both Criterion B and C is from 1894, the year Julius Weilheimer married Fannie Ickleheimer and they moved into this house, and 1908, the year the family moved to San Francisco from Mountain View.

³⁵ Nicholas Perry, *Images of America: Mountain View*, 44.

³⁶ *Mountain View Register*. March 5, 1905

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY

Overall, this house has a strong degree of integrity within all seven aspects.

Location

The house is located on its original site on a Villa Tract lot and has not been moved.

Design

While this house has been converted to commercial use the alterations required were mainly at the interior rear and do not impact the design features of the main Villa Street-facing elevation. The overall design remains unchanged and it retains integrity of design. This is evidenced when comparing the building's current front façade with the 1905 historic photograph.

Setting

This building has impaired integrity of setting as there have been a number of very large-scale, modern intrusions in the immediate vicinity. The nearby railroad tracks and the commercial downtown of Mountain View along Castro Street remain a key component of its setting.

Materials / Workmanship

Aside from the interior renovations to the building discussed under the aspect of design, the building retains integrity of materials and workmanship, especially at the exterior where the wrap around porch, Palladian window and lower story bay windows all are composed of original materials.

Feeling

The overall feeling of the building is retained. While its current use is commercial it retains a strong feeling of a residential building from the turn of the century.

Association

The house has a strong association with the early settlement of Mountain View, with Julius Wielheimer and its original features and architecture reflect this association.

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

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Maps

Official map of the County of Santa Clara, California: compiled from U.S. surveys, county records, and private surveys and the tax-list of 1889.

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Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

Weilheimer Family

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Perry, Nick. "History of the Weilheimer House." *Mountain Review: Newsletter of the Mountain View Historical Association*. Vol VII, Issue III: Summer 2017, 4-5.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: Mountain View Public Library – History Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .25 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: N37.393780 Longitude: W122.082776

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary corresponds to the single Santa Clara County assessor's parcel on which the building sits. The lot measures 75' x 150' with the front or south face measuring 75 feet across. The property or lot description with the Santa Clara County Assessor reads:

Beginning at a point on the northerly line of Villa Street, 75 feet westerly from the intersection of the northerly line of Villa Street with the northerly line of Bryant Street; running thence northerly and parallel with Bryant Street, 150 feet; thence at right angles westerly 75 feet; thence at right angles southerly 150 feet to the northerly line of Villa Street; and thence at right angles easterly and along the northerly line of Villa Street, 75 feet to the place of beginning, the same being the westerly ½ of Lot 5 in Block 2, range 1 south, according to a map entitled, "Map of Villa Lands at Maps at Mountain View Railroad Station, the property of D. B. Bailey" which map was filed for record in the office of the recorder of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on January 26, 1887 in Book B of Maps at Page 45.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary corresponds to the single Santa Clara County assessor's parcel on which the building sits.

Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jean McCloskey
organization: Livable Mountain View
street & number: 575 Oak Street
city or town: Mountain View state: CA zip code: 94041
e-mail jean_mccloskey@tenacityu.com
telephone: 650-302-2834
date: October 2018

Additional information, research and guidance provided by
Bridget Maley, architecture + history, llc bridget@architecture-history.com 415 760 4318

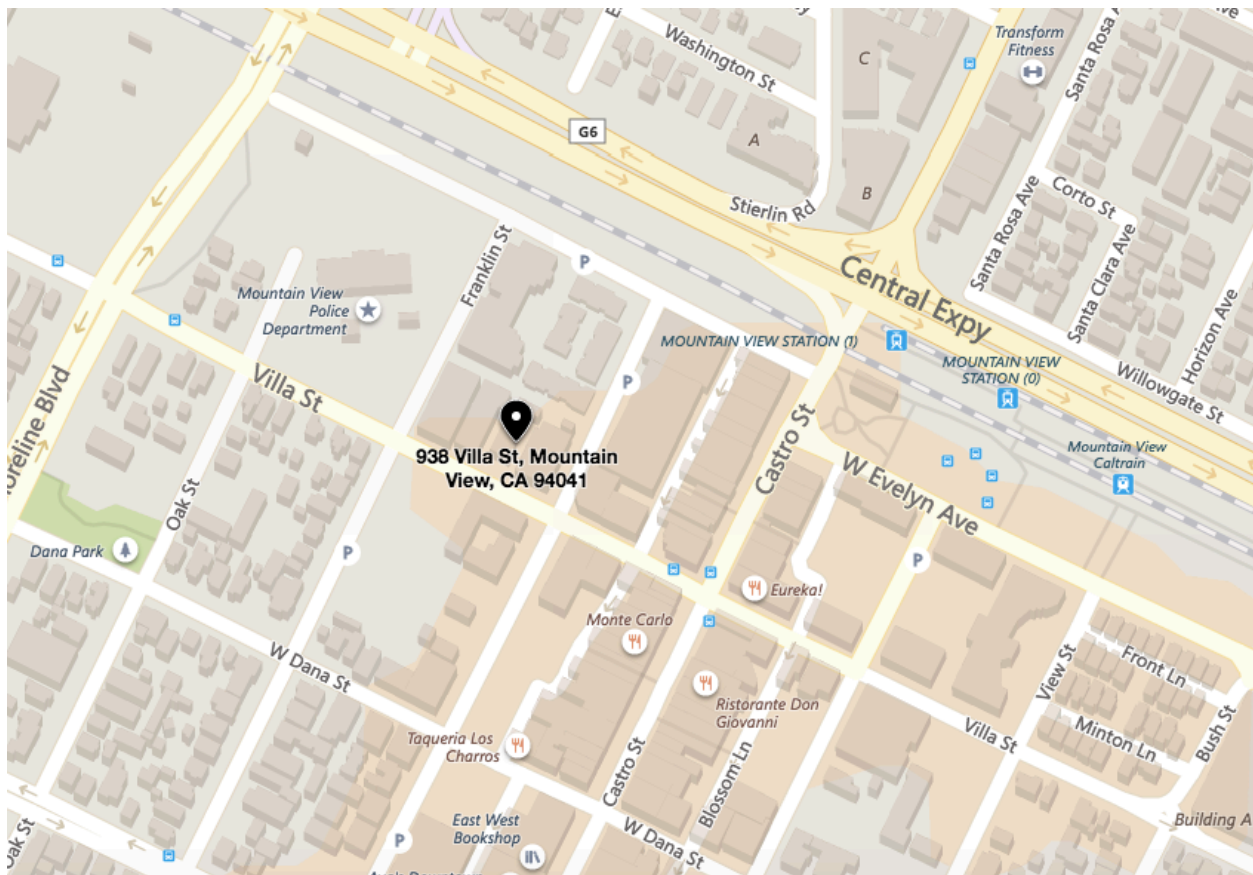
Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** Bing Map indicating the property's location.

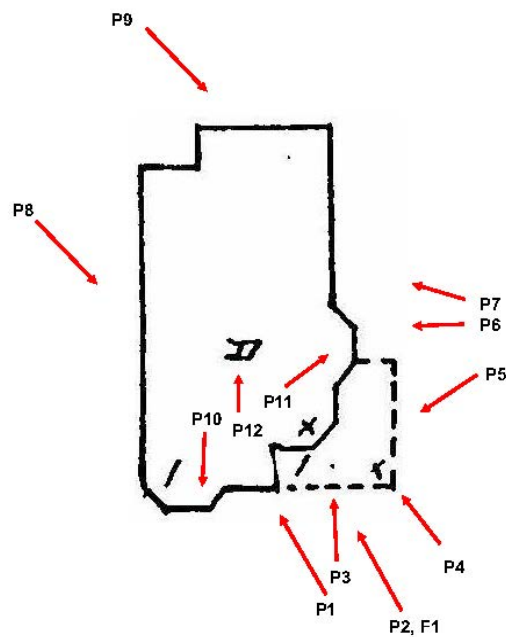


Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Photograph and Figure Key: North is up on the drawing.



Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: 938 Villa Street – Weilheimer House

City or Vicinity: Mountain View

County: Santa Clara

State: California

Photographer: Photographs 1 – 8, Carole Whitacre, May and August 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8 View of the front (south) elevation, looking north.
- 2 of 8 View of the front (south) elevation, looking slightly northwest.
- 3 of 12 Detail of porch looking north.
- 4 of 12 Detail of entry, porch and windows, looking northwest.
- 5 of 12 Detail of porch columns and solid railing of horizontal wood siding, looking southwest
- 6 of 12 View of east elevation, looking west.
- 7 of 12 View of north end of east elevation, looking north west.
- 8 of 12 View of west elevation looking south.
- 9 of 12 View of north elevation, looking southeast.
- 10 of 12 Interior view looking south at bay window in front room.
- 11 of 12 Interior view looking northwest at the east bay window.
- 12 of 12 Interior view looking north at pocket doors and east bay window.

Figures

- 1 of 1 Historic photograph of house from March 1905 *Mountain View Register*

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Photograph 0001

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State



Photograph 0002



Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photograph 0003



Photograph 0004



Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Photograph 0005

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State



Photograph 0006



Weilheimer House

Name of Property

Photograph 0007

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State



Photograph 0008



Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photograph 0009



Photograph 0010



Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photograph 0011



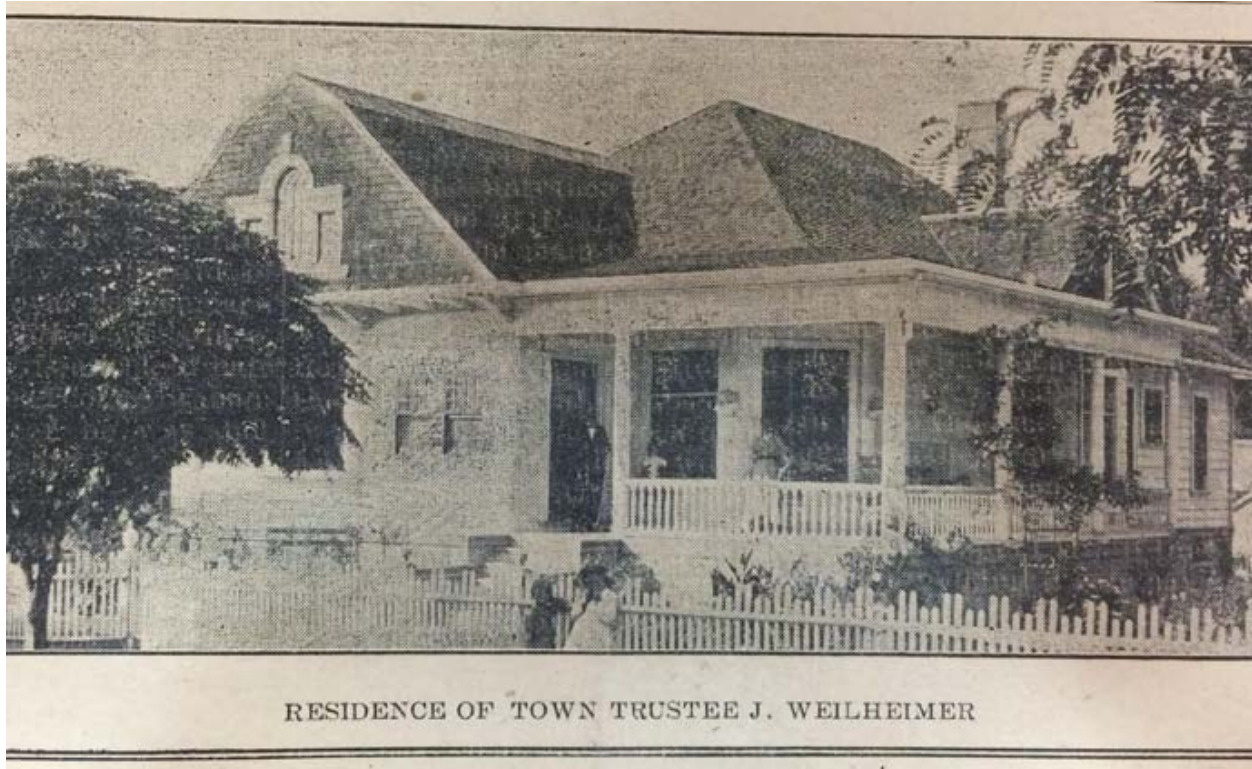
Photograph 0012



Weilheimer House
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Figure 0001





**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

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November 28, 2018

The Honorable Mayor Lenny Siegel
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street, PO Box 7540
Mountain View, California 94039-7540

RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Air Base Laundry

Dear Mayor Siegel:

The State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) at its next meeting intends to consider and take action on the nomination of the above-named property to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Details on that meeting are on the enclosed notice. The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings and other cultural resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving California's cultural heritage. If the item is removed from the scheduled agenda, you will be notified by mail. Local government comments regarding the National Register eligibility of this property are welcomed. Letters should be sent to California State Parks, Attn: Office of Historic Preservation, Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95816. So that the SHRC will have adequate time to consider them, it is requested, but not required, that written comments be received by the Office of Historic Preservation fifteen (15) days before the SHRC meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the SHRC meeting and present oral testimony.

As of January 1, 1993, all National Register properties are automatically included in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) and afforded consideration in accordance with state and local environmental review procedures.

A copy of the nomination has been included for your review. Supplemental information on the National Register and the California Register programs is available on our website at the following address: <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov>. The federal requirements covering the National Register program are to be found in the National Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and in Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 60. State law regarding the California Register is in the Public Resources Code, Section 5024. Should you have questions regarding this nomination, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7004. **Please note that staff revises nominations throughout the nomination process.**

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: Nomination, Meeting Notice

NR_Local Gov City Notice_Final.doc

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Air Base Laundry

Other names/site number: Tied House Restaurant

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

DRAFT

2. Location

Street & number: 954 Villa Street

City or town: Mountain View State: CA County: Santa Clara

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce – business, laundry

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce: Restaurant

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

20th Century Revival: Spanish Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Reinforced concrete and concrete block

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The building at 954 Villa Street, the former Air Base Laundry, now the Tied House Restaurant, is a one-story, reinforced concrete, commercial building executed in the Spanish Revival or Spanish Eclectic style. The building is situated in downtown Mountain View, California in an area that was historically residential, but that has transitioned over time to more commercial uses, and is adjacent to Castro Street, which was historically the primary commercial street or "Main Street" in Mountain View. It is located within one of the earliest subdivisions in Mountain View. The building sits on a rectangular, 75 x 100-foot sized, parcel with the front elevation facing south along the northerly line of Villa Street. Rectangular in plan with a gable roof and an inset roof monitor over the tall interior, formerly light industrial space, the red tile parapet, decorative cornice, and arched entry at the Villa Street facade give the building its Spanish character. The building retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Narrative Description

EXTERIOR

Constructed in 1931, this one-story, reinforced concrete, Spanish Revival, commercial building is rectangular in plan with a gabled parapet sheathed in red roofing tiles. The board forms of the original concrete construction are visible at the east and west elevations. The front, Villa Street, façade has a rough troweled finish. The building is painted white with red trim. There is centrally-placed, glazed roof monitor behind a tall front gabled parapet. The remainder of the roof is flat. The asymmetrical Villa Street, or south elevation, includes an arched entry flanked on each side by a large, multi-paned industrial style windows at the lower portion. These large, divided light windows are not original, but are located in the openings where there were historically two, large, plate glass windows. These original character of the windows is shown in an early newspaper sketch of the building. The eastern-most of these two windows is wider than its western counterpart; however, they are the same height. The upper component of the front façade includes a series of original, deeply-recessed, steel sash, casement windows with textured glazing. There is a Spanish Colonial revival inspired decorative cornice that includes recessed arches supported on stacked brackets, that also has a somewhat Medieval character. The cornice is capped by a tall, gabled parapet sheathed in red roofing tiles that conceals the larger roof behind. For many years there were two street trees along Villa Street in front of this building. However, the westernmost tree was recently removed.

The east elevation is accessed via a wood gate and is not highly visible from the street, as it is obscured by a tall fence or trellis covered in vegetation. However, the side elevations have multi-light industrial sash windows. This area at the east side, between the building and the trellis, forms an outdoor area for restaurant seating. The west elevation abuts an adjacent building and is not visible. The rear, or north elevation, includes a series of small additions and an outdoor room with a canvas tented roof. There are beer barrels stored at the rear as well. A secondary, rear entry has modern landscape pavers and planting beds and is accessed via a handicap ramp with metal railings. A small addition at the rear is constructed of concrete masonry units.

INTERIOR

Originally, a large, open industrial space with a double-height interior and operable roof monitor for ventilation and light, the building remains a fairly open floor plan at the interior. The interior walls are concrete and show the original board forms, similar to the exterior east and west elevations. The interior has an exposed roof structure of metal trusses and a modern inserted HVAC system with round ducting. There are also industrial sash windows at the clerestory that correspond to the roof monitor.

Restaurant seating consists of built in booths along the east and west elevations and movable tables and chairs toward the center. The kitchen and storage areas are located toward the rear of the structure. In plan, this was likely a storage area for the laundry, but has been reconfigured for modern restaurant use.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Builder: Lindholm, Carl & Company

Air Base Laundry

Santa Clara, Ca

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The building at 954 Villa Street in Mountain View, California is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance as an excellent example of its type and style. The small-scale, Spanish Revival style commercial building, is located in downtown Mountain View's commercial center. Built during a period of expansion in Mountain View directly related to the establishment of the nearby Air Base Sunnyvale (now Moffett Field), the building, historically known as the Air Base Laundry, reflects the fervor over the selection, planning and development of Air Base Sunnyvale, including the selected style of architecture for the base's first buildings, Spanish Revival. The period of significance for the property is 1931, its date of construction, which also falls within the time frame that the Spanish Revival style was immensely popular in California, from 1915 into the 1930s.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

BUILDING HISTORY

The building at 954 Villa Street was built as the Air Base Laundry, completed in July 1931. The *Mountain View Register-Leader* reported on July 31, 1931 that the business was owned and operated by George Lacoste and Company, and the building was constructed by builder Carl Lindholm.¹ A sketch appearing in this same article shows the building, much as it is today.² The article was headlined: "A New Enterprise for Mountain View: The New Air Base Laundry Ready for Work."³

The building's architecture and construction were most likely influenced by the early planning efforts of the Air Base Sunnyvale (now Moffett Field), to the east of downtown Mountain View. Built specifically to support a growing fleet of large-scale dirigibles, the early development of Air Base Sunnyvale proceeded in two primary areas: a residential and administrative district built in the Spanish Revival style, and an area to support flight activity, including several uniquely designed, and highly industrial in character, hangars to house the dirigibles. As early as October 1929, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported in an article headlined: "Counties Unite in Fight for Dirigible Base: Bay Area Interests All Back Sunnyvale as Government Site," the results of lobbying efforts with regard to a new base. The article chronicled the race to beat San Diego interests in securing the much sought after base.⁴ The editorial page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on February 13, 1931 screamed: "the Chronicle Headed this Victorious Fight to Bring Navy's Pacific Dirigible Base to San Francisco Bay." Continuing, the article declared: "the President's signature on the Free bill has put the final stamp on the order to set up the base a

¹ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. "A New Enterprise for Mountain View: The New Air Base Laundry Ready for Work." July 31, 1931.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Counties Unite in Fight for Dirigible Base: Bay Area Interests All Back Sunnyvale as Government Site." October 8, 1929, Page 9, Col 1.

Air Base Laundry

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

Sunnyvale.” This declaration by the *Chronicle* was followed by images of numerous past articles about securing the base for the Bay Area.⁵ Arthur Monroe Free, a Congressman from San Jose, and who lived briefly in the house at 938 Villa Street (from about 1909 to 1918), adjacent to the Air Base Laundry building, was the co-author of the Congressional Bill ensuring the base would come to Sunnyvale.⁶

Construction began at Air Base Sunnyvale shortly after lands were formally acquired in 1931; however, planning efforts were underway earlier and were detailed in news articles. In both 1929 and 1930 there were over 100 articles in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the acquisition of the site and early development planning for the Air Base.⁷ The original name of this former laundry building in downtown Mountain View clearly reflects the anticipation of the impact of the new Air Base within the local business community. As Air Base Sunnyvale developed between 1931 and 1935 there were immediate results on the local economy. New businesses cropped up in both Sunnyvale and Mountain View to support base operations and to provide additional services to those individuals who constructed the complex and who were eventually stationed on the base. The Air Base Laundry catered to both the servicemen stationed at the base, as well as locals who were working to build the base.

Mountain View’s “main street” developed as Castro Street after the establishment of train service between San Francisco and San Jose in 1864 spurred growth. The Villa Lands subdivision, a six block extension of Mountain View, including the subject parcel, was platted soon after in March 1865. Castro Street formed the eastern boundary and the rail tracks the north boundary of Villa Lands. These parcels developed over time as a mix of commercial and residential properties. A number of canning as well as fruit and vegetable processing plants also occupied this area of Mountain View.⁸ In fact, when the Air Base Laundry opened in 1931 these businesses and their employees were also likely customers of the laundry.

The building was occupied by the Air Base Laundry from 1931 to 1935 when the business was sold to Walter Doust, who renamed it the Band Box Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company.⁹ By 1938, Band Box closed due to financial difficulties, and Ray Wright took over delivery and collection of laundry through St. Clair Laundry.¹⁰ Later that year, Band Box was purchased by Dan Harris, who changed the business name to the Fremont Laundry.¹¹ A few weeks later an advertisement noting “employing home folks,” and “catering to home folks,” appeared in the *Mountain View Register Leader*.¹² The 1942 Polk’s City Directory for San Jose and Santa Clara County lists Daniel Harris’ Laundry at 954 Villa Street, Mountain View.¹³ The 1943 Sanborn Map

⁵ *San Francisco Chronicle*. “Chronicle Headed this Victorious Fight to Bring Navy’s Pacific Dirigible Base to San Francisco Bay.” February 13, 1931.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Search of San Francisco Chronicle articles on ProQuest through San Francisco Public Library databases.

⁸ General background on the history of Mountain View is summarized from the following sources: Mary Jo Ignoffo, *Milestones: A History of Mountain View, California*. Cupertino, CA: California History Center & Foundation, 2002; Nicholas Perry, *Mountain View: Then and Now*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2012; Mildred Winters, *Old Mountain View: 1850-1880*. Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association, 1977.

⁹ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. December 27, 1935.

¹⁰ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. June 13, 1938

¹¹ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. December 8, 1938.

¹² *Mountain View Register-Leader*.

¹³ Polk’s San Jose and Santa Clara City Directory, 1942.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

illustrated the building, and it was noted as being occupied by the Fremont Laundry.¹⁴ In April 1946, Harry Lerman and Albert Victor purchased the business from Dan Harris.¹⁵ In 1948, the Fremont Laundry was purchased by Herman Austen.¹⁶ The 1954 San Jose and Santa Clara County City Directory identified the Fremont Laundry and Cleaners in the building on Villa Street.¹⁷ In 1962, the *Mountain View Herald* announced that proprietor Austen would open a new laundry next door at 990 Villa Street.¹⁸ The 1965-66 City Directory indicates that the building at 954 Villa Street was vacant, reflecting the 1962 announcement. By the 1968 City Directory, the building was occupied by Meyer Electric Warehouse. In 1978, the Lighting Station, lighting décor, occupied the building.¹⁹ In 1988, a *Peninsula Times Tribune* article announced that the Tied House restaurant would renovate and occupy the building.²⁰ The building has remained the Tied House restaurant since 1988.

CRITERION C: DESIGN, AREA OF ARCHITECTURE, EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF SPANISH REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Air Base Laundry building was constructed in the Spanish Revival style, commonly used along California's small-scale, "Main Street" and commercial centers from 1915 into the 1930s. The style became hugely popular in California after the 1915 San Diego California Pacific International Exposition. This exposition, or "World's Fair," specifically celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal to shipping traffic. San Diego, the first United States port of call on the Pacific Coast, planned, and built an elaborate fair grounds. The chief designer for the event embraced Spanish or Mediterranean styles of architecture for the San Diego fair. This was a departure from the cold, formal Renaissance and Neoclassical architecture previously used to create many Exposition grounds, such as the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Instead, the San Diego exposition was envisioned as a fairytale city with a festive, Mediterranean and distinctive Spanish flavor. Within just a few years, the design influence of the San Diego Fair was felt across California. As the state's population exploded in the 1920s, its small towns expanded, and both residential and commercial building designers took up the Spanish Colonial, Mission and Mediterranean Revival styles with much enthusiasm and with a great debt to the San Diego fair.²¹ The style was applied to dwellings, but also to civic buildings, libraries, train stations, and all manner of small and large-scale commercial buildings. The style was adapted to California's growing United States military presence and was employed at several important military installations in both southern and northern California.

As Bonnie Bamburg demonstrated in her National Register nomination for Moffett Field, several military installations in San Diego, constructed after the 1915 Exposition, adopted the Spanish Revival architecture to the military campus buildings.²² Similarly, some of the first buildings on the Air Base Sunnyvale's campus, along what became known as Shenandoah Plaza, reflected

¹⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map Mountain View, 1943, Sheet, 5.

¹⁵ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. April 25, 1946.

¹⁶ *Mountain View Register-Leader*. March 3, 1948.

¹⁷ Polk's San Jose and Santa Clara City Directory, 1954.

¹⁸ *Mountain View Herald*.

¹⁹ Polk's San Jose and Santa Clara City Directories, various years.

²⁰ *Peninsula Times Tribune*.

²¹ Karen J. Weitze, *California's Mission Revival*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1984.

²² Bonnie Bamburg, United States Naval Air Station Sunnyvale (Moffett Field), California Historic District National Register Nomination. November 9, 1991. Listed on National Register February 24, 1994.

Air Base Laundry

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

a formal Spanish Revival architecture, including the officer's quarters and administrative buildings. These buildings were being planned as Mountain View's Air Base Laundry was opening. The local newspapers covered the planning of Air Base Sunnyvale extensively. The commercial building at 954 Villa Street is a particularly good example of the influence of the San Diego Exposition and the early planning for Air Base Sunnyvale on local commercial architecture in Mountain View. This is evidenced by the fact that in that same year, 1931, two other important Spanish Revival style buildings appeared in downtown Mountain View, but they were not commercial buildings. First, the Masonic Temple at 890 Church Street, was built by the same builder Carl Lindholm & Sons, and was designed by architect Alexander Cantin. Additionally, also in the downtown and built in 1931, is the mortuary building at 799 Castro Street. A third building, constructed in 1929, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, at 582 Hope Street, is also heavily influenced by the Spanish Revival style.²³

A review of the *Downtown Mountain View Precise Plan Historic Resource Survey* identifies only two other commercial buildings with Spanish Revival influences. First, the Swall Building, originally constructed in 1904, at 275-277 Castro Street, was heavily remodeled in the 1930s to reflect the popularity of the Spanish Revival. However, this building's only remaining feature of the style is a red-tiled parapet; the facade has been subsequently remodeled at the storefront and second story. Further, the building at 655 Castro Street, constructed in 1930, is also Spanish Revival in style. This is a courtyard style commercial structure with shops along the front and courtyard elevations and a two-story element behind, with several apartments. An early example of mixed-use, this complex has a much more residential character to its architecture.²⁴

There are other Mission Revival style commercial buildings in downtown Mountain View, particularly the Ames (169-175 Castro Street) and Rodgers (142-156 Castro Street) Buildings, both with the scalloped parapet so popular in the buildings that emulated California's Mission churches.²⁵ A third building, the Juvian Building (194-198 Castro Street; 1913) has been heavily rebuilt and altered at first floor. However, the Mission Revival style has a different history, and developed and grew in popularity earlier between 1890 and 1910, becoming even more admired after the expansion of the Mission Inn Riverside in 1903.

Based on this review of similarly styled, commercial and other, buildings in downtown Mountain View, the Air Base Laundry at 954 Villa Street is Mountain View's strongest example of commercial architecture executed in the Spanish Revival style. It reflects the growing popularity of the style as originally influenced by the San Diego Exposition in 1915, then further influenced by the more regional development of Air Base Sunnyvale.

The key features of the small-scale, commercial building at 954 Villa Street that convey its Spanish Revival influences are the stuccoed finish at the front façade, the red tile parapet, the arches and brackets below the parapet, the arched entryway and the symmetrically-placed, deeply recessed windows across the façade. The building embodies a particular type and style, small-scale commercial Spanish Revival, as executed at the local level, influenced by the broader architectural trends of the day

²³ Carey & Company. *Downtown Mountain View Precise Plan Areas A – J Historic Resources Survey*, 2003.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1931

The period of significance for the property is 1931, its date of construction, which also falls within the time frame that the Spanish Revival style was immensely popular in California, from 1915 into the 1930s.

EVALUATION OF INTEGRITY

Overall, this house has a good degree of integrity within all seven aspects.

Location

The building is located on its original parcel and has not been moved.

Design

While this former laundry building has been converted to another commercial use, a restaurant, the alterations required have not impacted the original character-defining design features of the main Villa Street-facing elevation. The building still conveys its strong Spanish Revival influences from its original design. This is evidenced in comparing early images of the building to its present features. The interior has been somewhat modified to accommodate a new commercial use. This has not impacted the exterior design. The overall primary façade design remains unchanged and it retains integrity of design.

Setting

This building has impaired integrity of setting as there have been a number of very large-scale, modern intrusions in the immediate vicinity. The nearby railroad tracks and the commercial downtown of Mountain View along Castro Street remain a key component of its setting.

Materials / Workmanship

Aside from the interior renovations to the building discussed under the aspect of design, the building retains integrity of materials and workmanship, especially at the exterior where the key Spanish Revival features such as the red tiles and coved arches remain intact. While the large, industrial sash windows at the front elevation are not original, they sit in the original location of large, plate glass windows.

Feeling

The overall historical feeling of the building is retained. While it has been converted to a different commercial use, it retains a strong feeling of a 1930s small-scale, commercial building in within downtown Mountain View.

Association

The building has a strong association with the early development of the nearby Air Base Sunnyvale and its original features and Spanish revival architecture reflect this association.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

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Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

California and American Architectural History

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Maps

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Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Air Base Laundry - Tied House

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Newspaper articles as cited in text.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
 - ☐ Other State agency
 - ☐ Federal agency
 - ☒ Local government
 - ☐ University
 - ☐ Other
- Name of repository: Mountain View Public Library – History Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .25 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: N37.394686

Longitude: W122.082870

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐

NAD 1927

or

☐

NAD 1983

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary corresponds to the single Santa Clara County assessor's parcel on which the building sits. The lot measures 75' x 150' with the front or south face measuring 75 feet across. The property or lot description with the Santa Clara County Assessor reads:

Beginning at a point in the northerly line of Villa Street, distant easterly thereon 75 feet from the point of intersection of the easterly line of Franklin Street with the said northerly line of Villa Street; thence northerly and parallel to the said easterly line of Franklin Street 150 feet to a point; thence at right angles easterly and parallel to the said northerly line of Villa Street 75 feet to a point; thence at right angles southerly and parallel to the easterly line of Franklin Street 150 feet to the said northerly line of Villa Street; thence at right angles westerly and along the said northerly line of Villa Street 75 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary corresponds to the single Santa Clara County assessor's parcel on which the building sits.

Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jean McCloskey
organization: Livable Mountain View
street & number: 575 Oak Street
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telephone: 650-302-2834
date: October 2018

Additional information, research and guidance provided by
Bridget Maley, architecture + history, llc bridget@architecture-history.com 415 760 4318.

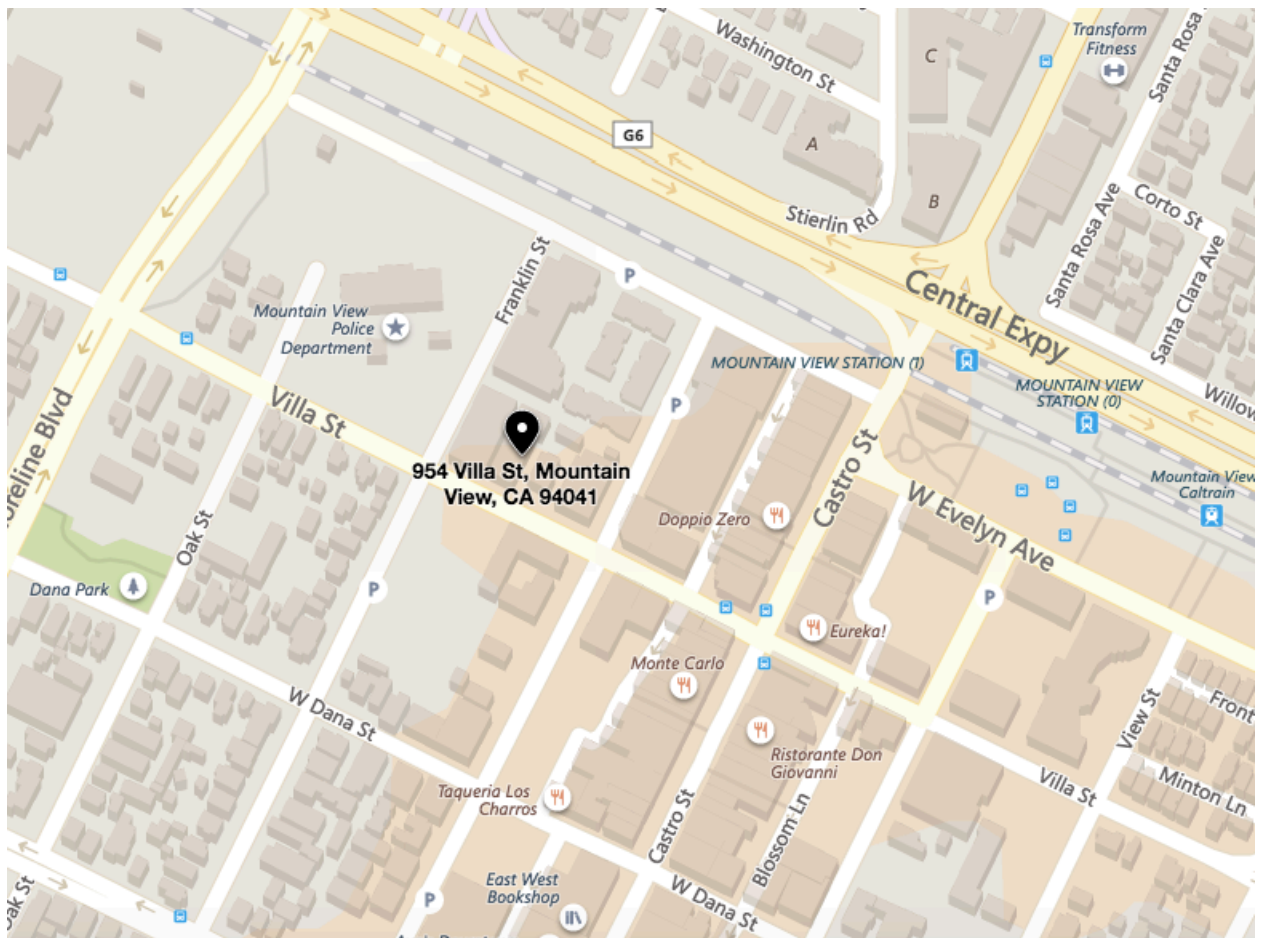
Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A Bing Map is provided.

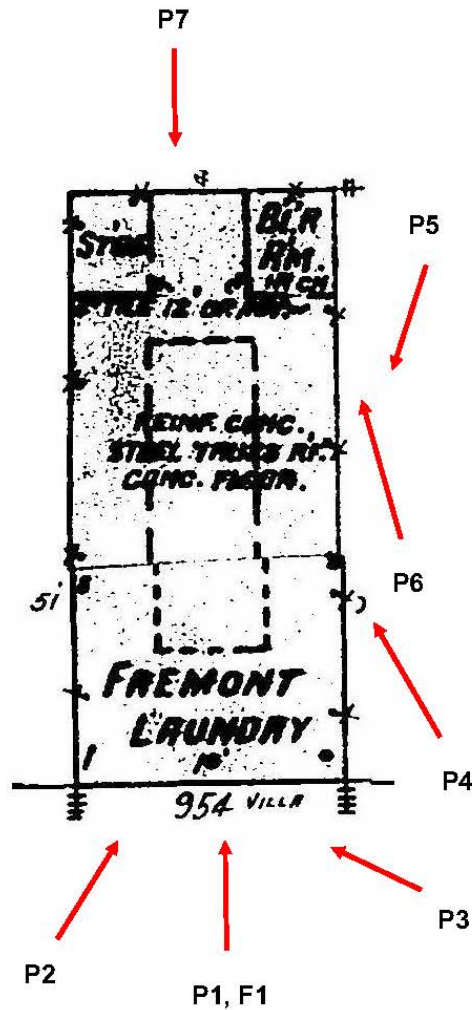


Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Photograph and Figure Key: North is up on the drawing.



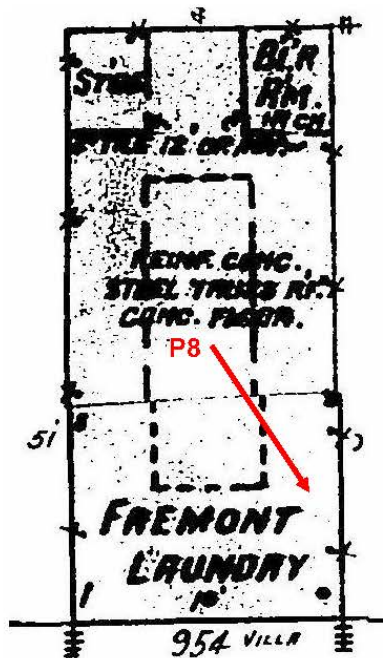
Air Base Laundry

Name of Property

Photograph Key – Interior

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State



Air Base Laundry

Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Name of Property: 954 Villa Street – Air Base Laundry

City or Vicinity: Mountain View

County: Santa Clara

State: California

Photographer: Photographs 1 – 8, Carole Whitacre, May 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8 View of Villa Street façade, or south elevation, looking north.
- 2 of 8 Detail of south elevation entry looking northeast
- 3 of 8 Detail of south elevation looking northwest.
- 4 of 8 View of east elevation trellis looking northwest.
- 5 of 8 View of east elevation windows looking south.
- 6 of 8 View of east elevation looking north.
- 7 of 8 View of rear façade, north elevation, looking south
- 8 of 8 Interior view looking south east.

Figures

- 1 of 1 Sketch of the building provided in the July 31, 1931 *Mountain View Register and Ledger*. Sketch view is of the south elevation looking north.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Air Base Laundry

Name of Property

Photograph 0001

Santa Clara, Ca

County and State



Photograph 0002



Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photograph 0003



Photograph 0004



Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photograph 0005



Photo 0006



Air Base Laundry
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Ca
County and State

Photo 0007



Photo 0008



