

JOE DUCKGEISCHEL RANCH

506 South Sunnyvale Avenue



Joe Duckgeischel, whose brother William was in partnership during the 1920s in Homer Langdon's Sunnyvale lumberyard built this small one story, cross gabled, wood framed, Bungalow around 1910. He probably got his design from a pattern book, a popular source for cheap house plans. Although small in size, the building contains most of the distinguishing features of the Bungalow style, including wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafters and purlins, slightly

battered porch piers, and Craftsman windows.

Willard Coates bought the house in 1919. Coates was in charge of the Sunnyvale Water Works. There were no extant maps of the city's water system, so if one wanted to know where pipes were located they had to get Coates to show them. He had committed the city's piping layout to memory. Family members still lived there in 1981.

RIEMER HOUSE

525 South Sunnyvale Avenue



Burr Matthews designed and built this one and a half story, cross gabled, wood framed Tudor Revival home for Andy and Leona Riemer in 1937. It was the first home south of Olive on Arques Avenue (now Sunnyvale Avenue), and for a time it stood alone in its tract.

The entry gable has a raked cornice and open arches. The gable head is decorated with horizontal siding supported by

oversize wood dentils. Except for the use of the dentils, the horizontal siding is carried over in the main gable and on the garage. The tall brick capped chimney is the work of Matthews' mason, Bert Bergess. Matthews drew from house designs published in Thomas Brothers Plan Books for some of his Tudor Revival homes. He always modified the pattern book material to meet the needs and desires of his clients.

General Inventory

The properties and trees listed in the following general inventory of historic resources are found scattered throughout Sunnyvale. None of them can be grouped to comprise historic neighborhoods or street scapes. They are listed alphabetically by street name.

DAVID S. ARATA HOUSE

666 Alberta



The Arata Winery and Orchards made their headquarters at this two story residence. The building has a complex roof treatment of steep pitched gables and hipped roof wall dormers. It also exhibits an early use of stucco as wall cladding in residential construction. The house was built by Mrs. Arata's uncle, a carpenter named Martinelli sometime after 1906. The family property was a garden spot, beautifully landscaped and maintained with a traditional Italian bocci ball court.

The David Arata family moved to Sunnyvale from San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire. They grew apricots, prunes, and walnuts as well as operating a wholesale wine business. They purchased bulk wine from as far north as Ukiah to Delano in the San Joaquin Valley, storing and aging the wines in vats located in what has come to be called the "Engine House." They bottled under labels such as *Alberta*, *Aroma*, *Leroy*, and *Arata*, selling them on the San Francisco market before and after Prohibition.

MAST HOUSE

252 Bayview Avenue



This one and a half story, wood framed residence with its dominant cross gables and cutaway porch is an unusual cottage version of the Eastern Shingle style of architecture. It is the only example of its type in Sunnyvale. Originally the

roofing and wall cladding were of continuous wood shingle. Decoration is limited to simple brackets supporting the stepped gable-head and roof cornice returns. The building was constructed in 1910 by Mr. Mast, a contractor/builder.

HARE RANCH

655 Borregas Avenue



This large one and a half story, wood framed ranch house was built in simple Bungalow style about 1910. It was constructed on Mr. Hare's 40 acre pear orchard. The builder, Mr. Schumaker, may have gotten his plans from Gustave Stickley's *Craftsman Magazine* or from a proliferation of

Bungalow pattern books available at the time. It is probable that the residence as constructed had an open, full width front porch. Walter and Josephine Jenson purchased the property in 1923. The ranch was subdivided in 1955.

COAST LIVE OAK

1650 South Bernardo Avenue



Located at the northeast corner of South Bernardo and Homestead Road, this Coast Live Oak (*Quercus Agrifolia*) was standing on the site when the area was first settled by the Christopher Meyerholtz family in the 1880s. The family planted their "west side" 60 acres with peaches, apricots, and

almonds. They had a vineyard and winery as well. The Meyerholtz children and grandchildren built their homes on the property before it was sold to the Cupertino School District in 1956. This heritage tree now graces the grounds of the Cupertino Junior High School.



A modest one story, wood framed building, this example of an early farmhouse has been expanded and enlarged over time. On the exterior there is little left of the original 1910 Colonial Revival character of the house. Constructed as a three

room home, additions in 1936 and in the 1950s brought the building up to 17 rooms. Despite exterior changes, however, the house still retains some of its original interior spaces, including the kitchen.



**WELFORD COCHRANE
HOUSE***

283 Charles Avenue

Early Sunnyvale builder Welford Cochrane built this rectangular, one story, wood framed residence with hipped roof and clapboard siding. A native of Louisiana, Cochrane came to the Sunnyvale area as a young man in the April 1885 and established a vineyard and winery near Wolfe Road and El Camino Real. He moved into Sunnyvale in 1906, designing and constructing this home whose overall decoration possesses a Colonial Revival feeling.

Cochrane also built Fred Cornell's grocery store, the first

commercial building in town. He worked on many construction projects, both commercial and residential, including many houses on the 300 block of Frances. Sometimes he worked in partnership with Austin Barnes, another Sunnyvale carpenter. Cochrane is best remembered for his daughter, Edwinna Benner, who in 1924 became the first woman mayor of Sunnyvale and one of the first women to be elected to that office in the State of California.

*Official inventory status pending Council action.

DALTON HOUSE

297 Charles Avenue



This one and a half story residence with hipped roof and boxed dormers is one of the larger early homes still standing in the 1905 H. C. Fuller Tract. Its exterior has been modified, including a stucco coating over the original wood cladding and addition of an iron balcony railing which dominates the front elevation. Vestiges of its Colonial Revival design can be

seen in the diamond patterned window heads placed symmetrically around the building as well as in its fish scale shingles. Welford Cochrane helped build the house around 1908. Mr. Dalton, the first owner, commuted daily to San Francisco, and another early owner, George Hartwell, was a superintendent at Libby's.



An unusual feature of this earlier one and a half story residence is its large gabled central block. The flanking hip roof wings suggest the form was derived from a standard pattern book plan and modified to meet the owner's requirements. Constructed sometime after 1911, the house's decorative vocabulary comes from the Craftsman Bungalow tradition. Exposed rafters, flared eaves in the gable, a

bracketed window box, and shed dormer are typical of the form. Original paired windows with multipaned upper sashes remain in the flanking wings. Fenestration in the main gable has been modified with aluminum sliders at the second floor and changes appear to have been made in the principal bay window below.

CLAWSON HOUSE

802 Coolidge Avenue



About 1927 Charles Fuller had this interesting single story "L" shaped Bungalow constructed in the Fuller Tract, possibly built by carpenter Arthur Wibel. Typical Bungalow style features include the low pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves, and knee bracing. Well sited on its corner lot, the residence is unusual in the contrasting treatment of its gable ends. The elevation facing Coolidge exhibits a clipped gable

roof repeated in the small square bay. Its asymmetrically placed windows are double hung sash. The Pastoria Avenue elevation, on the other hand, presents a raking cornice and tall slender arched windows suggesting an English cottage style. The wide variety of decorative possibilities inherent in the Bungalow style are given full expression in this small, well kept home. It originally was owned by a Mrs. Clawson.

OLSON BARN

El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue



With rapid transition from agriculture to industry following World War Two, Sunnyvale lost its farms and orchards as well as the agricultural outbuildings that helped define them. Hay barns, horse barns, dairy barns, and tank houses were part of the farming infrastructure which disappeared. Two remaining examples of these most American of vernacular architectural forms are the Olson Barns.

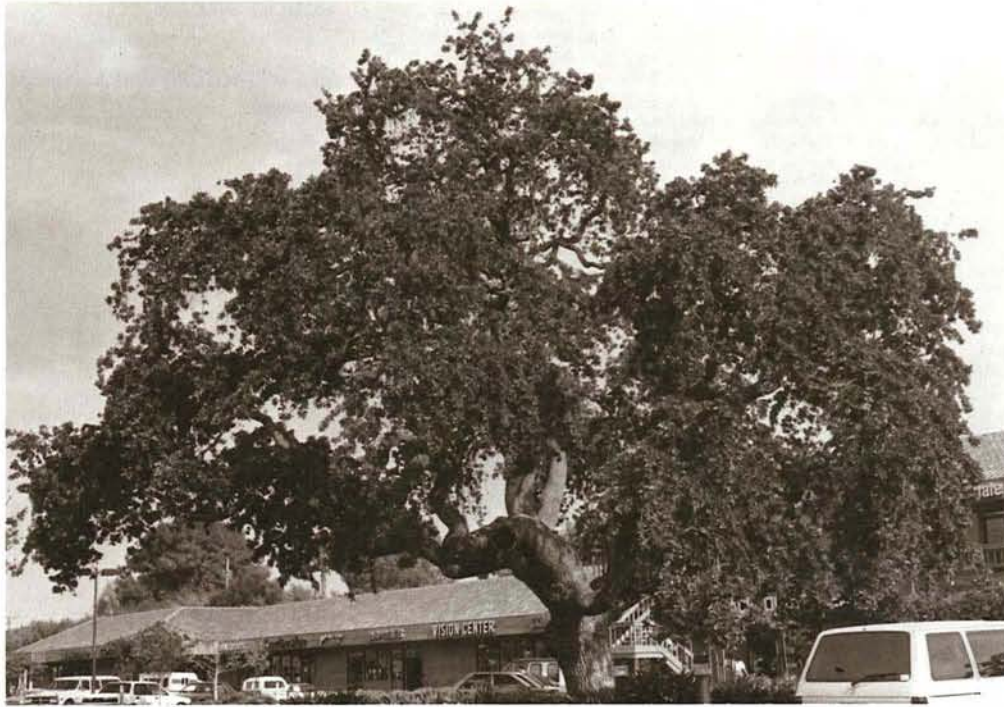
The Carl Olson family moved to Sunnyvale in 1899 and began farming on five acres planted with cherries. As time

passed they continued to buy and cultivate more land. They also operated a dairy business for ten years.

At El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue in 1922, the Olsons constructed a large gabled wooden barn with full length monitor roof. To this they added a corrugated iron hay barn in 1938. Today the Olson Orchard and Barns remain as one of the last visible reminders of Sunnyvale's agricultural heritage.

CALA CENTER VALLEY OAK

1111 West El Camino Real



Well sited in the Cala Shopping Center along El Camino Real, this majestic Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) is estimated to be 350 years old. It stood adjacent to a farmhouse erected by a Mr. Nelson in the early part of the century. It was surrounded by apricot, pear, prune, and cherry trees. In the 1920s, Louis Beroni purchased the property, continuing to farm it, and Salvatore Cala became the owner in 1946.

In the early 1980s the property was developed as Cala

Center. The City, recognizing the historic and aesthetic value of this handsome tree, required the shopping complex be designed to retain it. Over its life the Cala Valley Oak has borne silent witness to the evolution of man's use of the land. Probably providing a food source for Ohlone Indians, it came to shade an orchardist's home and now functions as a decorative element in a vastly expanded urban environment. It was designated a Sunnyvale heritage tree in August 1985.

RYAN HOTEL

394 East Evelyn Avenue



This two story, workingman's hotel was one of the first Sunnyvale hotels. Built in 1907, it accommodated single men working at the Joshua Hendy Iron Works. A 1912 Polk Directory lists James Ryan as proprietor. According to local historian Fern Orht, the Ryan Hotel was the scene of many parties and social events, because it had the greatest concentration of single men in town. In the 1920s rooms rented for \$3.50 per week, and during Prohibition the hotel had a reputation as a "Blind Pig," a location where illegal

alcohol could be obtained.

The Ryan was originally designed in a commercial Italianate style, with brackets at its flat roofed cornice and angled second story bays. Sometime later it received its stucco wall cladding. As a corner block, the two principal elevations are integrated by a belt course between the first and second floors. Its principal entrance is canted, set at 45 degrees to the intersection of the Bayview and Evelyn elevations.



KEHL HOUSE

358 Florence Street

Kehl's one and a half story residence with a gable on hip roof takes the shape of the Queen Anne cottage but lacks the style's usual exuberant spindle work. Its cutaway porch recedes into the building envelope, suggesting a move away from Victorian excesses of the 1890s towards the more reserved Colonial Revival style.

The neat cottage, however, is not without its decorative elements. The small, squared bay window at the facade is

supported by three sets of sawn brackets and capped through the roof line with a gabled dormer framed by a curved fascia. A fixed diamond paned window completes the ensemble. Constructed about 1907, this simple and dignified family home is a significant contribution to the Florence street scape. Othmar B. Kehl, a machinist at Hendy's who moved with the company from San Francisco to Sunnyvale in 1906, was the first owner.



LoPRESTI HOUSE

373 Florence Street



This curious little one story, false fronted cottage is a one-of-a-kind residence in Sunnyvale. It was built in 1928 by John LoPresti, an Italian miner from Canada. LoPresti had apparently left mining after an accident, and the large Italian community in Sunnyvale attracted him to the area, where he went into farming. The small house he built on Florence may well be a reflection of the vernacular mining buildings with which he was familiar in Canada. There certainly is no local

precedent for this house form in the 1920s.

Its principal features include a flat roofed, full width, raised front porch and a series of single and paired craftsman style windows which surround the house and open it to the outside. The porch is defined by a simple cornice detailed with a classic dentil course. LoPresti and his wife Sylvia later lived across the street at 358 Florence.

CHRISTIANSSEN HOUSE

1409 Galloway Court



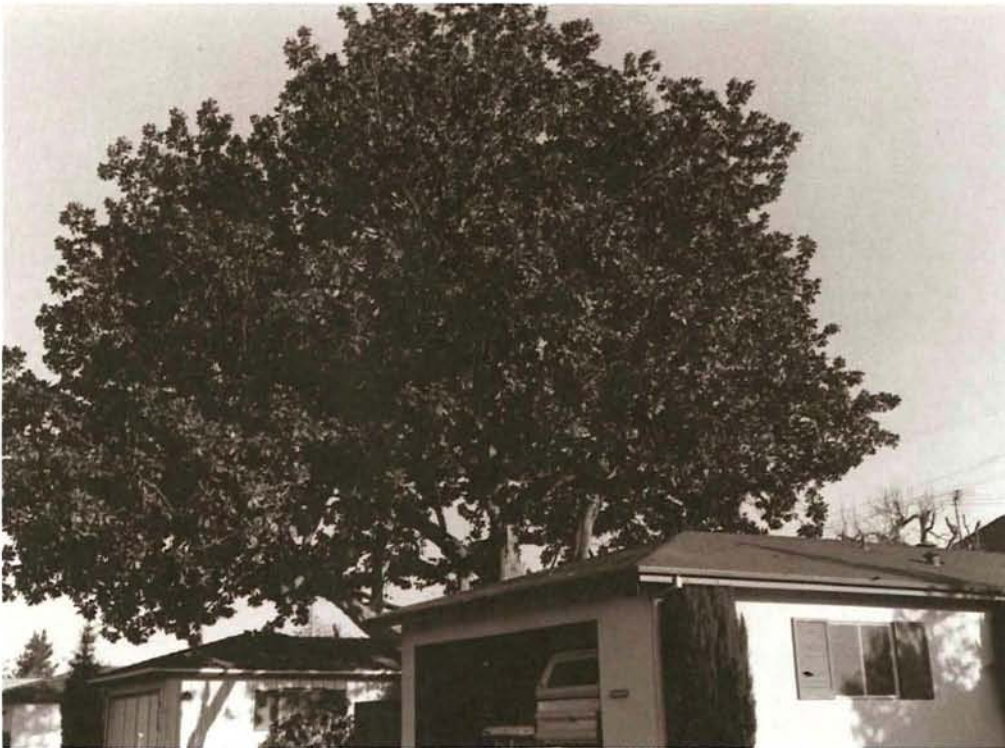
Rectangular in plan, the one and a half story, side-gabled, clapboard clad Christianssen house is a fine Bungalow cottage. The term "cottage" refers to many vernacular houses built in the 19th century. "Bungalow," sometimes inappropriately applied, refers to a good many domestic structures built in the first half of the 20th century. The integration of design elements are clearly visible in this 1911 house built by the Danish Christiansen family.

Bungalow traits include the main roof covering of the porch, which is wide and uses battered bungalow piers supported on a river rock foundation. Its close to the ground character, exposed rafters, and knee braces are also Bungalow features. The eave line running parallel to the street and a shed dormer dominating the roof give the cottage expression.

The house has been modified over time by a series of additions sympathetic to the core structure.

CASA DELMAS MAGNOLIA

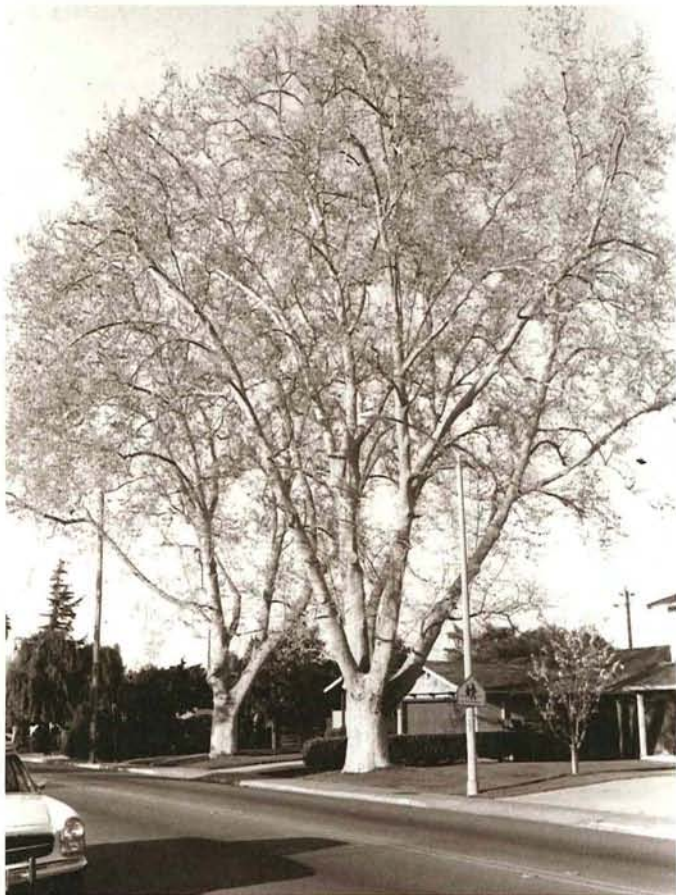
960 Heatherstone Avenue



This large magnolia (*Magnolia Grandiflora*) has come to be known in its neighborhood as the "Casa Delmas Magnolia Tree." It is all that remains of the 504 acre Delmas Estate in the old town of Encinal. It originally was part of an extensive garden surrounding attorney Delphine M. Delmas' estate home.

Delmas came to California from France in 1857, went to Santa Clara University where he received highest honors, and in 1865 earned a doctorate in law from Yale School of Law.

Returning from Yale to San Jose, he became the Santa Clara County District Attorney in 1867. Twelve years later he was elected to the California State Supreme Court, and in the 1880s he established "Casa Delmas," from which he commuted daily by train to San Francisco. One of California's prominent jurists, he is best remembered for his successful defense of New York millionaire Harry K. Thaw in the shooting death of noted architect Sanford White.



This pair of sycamores (*Platanus Acerifola*) were planted on either side of the entry to Lester E. Bocks' farm and fruit orchard in 1927. The ornamental trees were purchased from a San Jose nursery, as nothing like them were available in Sunnyvale at the time. The original 50 acre tract owned by

BOCKS RANCH TREES

880-882 Hollenbeck Road

C. O. Bocks was the largest cherry orchard in the world at one time, and Bocks was known as "The Cherry King."

On Bocks' death the estate was divided evenly between his two sons, Lester and Charles. Lester grew pears, apricots, and walnuts on the land, later replacing the apricots and walnuts with cherries. Eventually he also planted strawberries and did some truck gardening. The Bocks family sold the property in 1964 for a subdivision, and all that remains to identify the site of the farm are these two grand, heritage sycamore trees.

**SUNNYSIDE FOODS
PRODUCTS FACTORY**

435 East McKinley Avenue



Asymmetrical massing and multiple rooflines suggest the earlier commercial nature of this one and a half story stuccoed residence. Sam DeVita began the Sunnyside Foods Products Factory in the 1920s, producing among other things potato chips, packaged peanuts, and raisins. He built the factory

building on McKinley in the 1930s, and it was later converted into a home while retaining its unpretentious industrial design. The structure is a significant reminder of Sunnyvale's agricultural origins.