

ATTACHMENT 2

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

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*Resource Name or #: American Legion Hall Post 558

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Santa Clara

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Mountain View

Date: 1997 T 6S; R 2W; Mountain Diablo.

B.M.

c. Address: 347 1st Street

City: Los Altos

Zip: 94022

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:
 Assessor Parcel No. 167-40-047

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The 3,920 sq. ft. building at 347 First Street (APN #167-40-048) is a single-story community recreational building, known as the American Legion Hall, Post 558, occupies a 6,970 sq. ft. lot adjacent in Los Altos.

The building's architectural style can be classified as Minimal Traditional style, with a one-story rectangular structure with a concrete foundation, two gabled roof forms build end-to-end, horizontal wood siding, double-hung windows, chimney, and lack of ornamentation. The building alterations to the original design have not significantly reduced the overall features typical of this style of architecture and the changes that were made can be reversed. Replacing the double-hung window sashes and covering the V-groove wood siding with stucco have altered the primary facade. The stucco can be removed and horizontal V-groove wood siding could be restored. All of the remaining facades have the original siding intact. Double-hung window sashes can replace the existing window sashes as well. All of the original double hung window sashes have been replaced with sliding or fixed sashes, and a few original window openings at the rear are covered with plywood. The window fenestrations, window wood frames and wood sills have been left intact. The rear gable-roof addition occurred over 50 years ago in 1948 and during the period of significance. The exterior doors are not original but have maintained the original door opening locations. The building retains the same horizontal massing, footprint, shape and roof form, with the original window fenestrations and horizontal siding (on three facades). The alterations to the doors and windows occurred sometime between 1945 and 1966. Subsequently, some of the present day exterior aluminum-clad glass doors may have been changed recently in the 1990's due to their contemporary style. (See continuation sheet DPR523L)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP13. Community Center

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: Primary Front Elevation, August 2021



*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic

Prehistoric Both

*P7. Owner and Address:

American Legion, Post 558, 347 1st Street, Los Altos, CA 94022

*P8. Recorded by: Garvaglia Architecture, Inc., 582 Market Street
 #1800, San Francisco, CA 94104

*P9. Date Recorded: 11/23/21

*P10. Survey Type:

Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: Garvaglia Architecture, Inc: The American Legion 558, 347 1st Street, Los Altos, CA Historic Resource Evaluation

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

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(Continued from DPR523A, P3A Description)

The landscaping and setting at 347 First Street has been altered considerably since 1940 when the building was constructed. Originally this part of Los Altos was primarily an agricultural town and has now developed into a dense suburban city, as is evident by comparing the aerial photographs. The City of Los Altos was incorporated in 1952 and thus the major transformation of Los Altos began. Much of the surrounding area consisted of orchards and farmlands in 1940's. The lot has remained its original size but the neighborhood has changed as well as the lot itself. The property's former landscaping is no longer extant and the front yard has been in filled with concrete. Concrete also surrounds the building on the sides and rear portion of the building; therefore, 347 First Street does not retain integrity of setting.

The building retains some elements of its original materials, including the wood V-groove siding (on the north, east and west facades), window fenestrations, wood window frames, wood windowsills and wood roof framing. Most of the wood elements were made of redwood. The front and rear gables with vents are original. The rear addition alters the original scale and proportion of the original structure but this addition occurred over 50 years ago in 1948 during the period of significance (1940-1959). The V-groove wood siding on the front facade has been covered over with plaster, but this occurred sometime between 1960-66, after the period of significance. All of the original window sashes on the building, except for the one on the east facade have been replaced or covered over with plywood. The original window fenestrations, wood frames and wood sills have been left intact.

The rear entry porch may be original but is unknown but appears similar to what was originally there. 347 First Street retains the integrity of some of its building materials; therefore, 347 First Street does not retain integrity of materials.

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BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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- B1. Historic Name: None
 B2. Common Name: None
 B3. Original Use: Community Hall
 B4. Present Use: Community Hall
 *B5. **Architectural Style:** Minimal Traditional style
 *B6. **Construction History:** Construction began on April 1940, with use beginning in January 1941.

*B7. **Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** N/a **Original Location:** N/a

*B8. **Related Features:**

None.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown War Veterans

*B10. **Significance: Theme:** Event

Area: Los Altos

Period of Significance: 1935 - 1950 **Property Type:** Commercial **Applicable Criteria:** California/National Register Criterion 3
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The building sits on a rectangular shaped landlocked on the sides and rear, with frontage along 1st Street. Prior to the hall's construction, the site was originally part of Sarah L. Winchester's ranch land and then owned by Paul Shoup and the Altos Land Company. The property was purchased in 1940 and construction began immediately by the legionnaires themselves. The building was occupied by 1941 with the rear addition constructed in 1948. At that time, the surrounding neighborhood was rural and even the lot had mature landscaping, pine trees and other shrubbery, plants within the front setback and along the west side of the building. By 1956, the immediate context depicts a significant increase in development of the neighborhood with new houses and increased density in the urban core.

The process to building the hall began in 1938, when army veterans headed by Jack Welch submitted their application to form a Legion post in March and it was approved by December of that year. By January 1939, the post was hosting community functions and had formed committees. In April of 1939, the Post 558 received its official charter. The property was purchased by the American Legion Post 558 in 1940. The building construction began on April 18, 1940 by World War I army veterans, and it was occupied in January 1941.

Integrity:

The property maintains most of its historic integrity per the National Register **seven** aspects of integrity and the five aspects of historical integrity under the Los Altos Preservation Code. The building maintains its original **location** within the parcel. The property's former landscaping is no longer extant and the front yard has been in filled with concrete. Concrete also surrounds the building on the sides and rear portion of the building. Originally, the site was located in a more rural setting, (Continued on next page, DPR523L)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

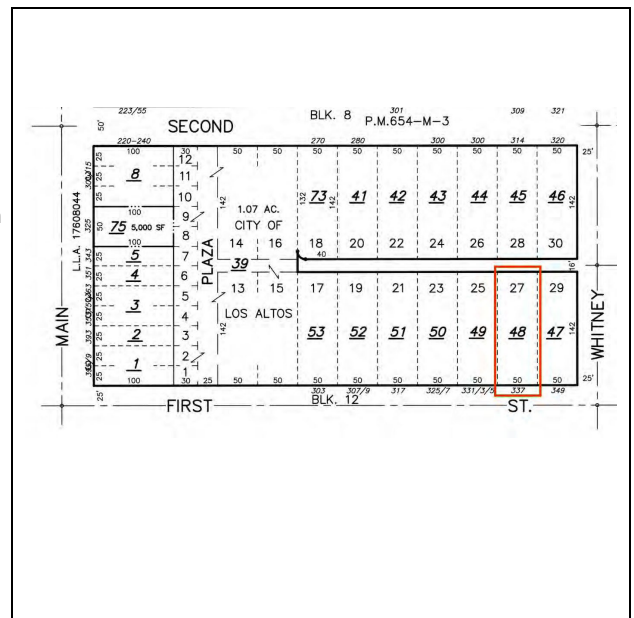
*B12. **References:**

B13. Remarks:

*B14. **Evaluator:** Garvaglia Architecture, Inc., 582 Market Street #1800, San Francisco, CA 94104

***Date of Evaluation:** November 23, 2021

(This space reserved for official comments.)



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(Continued from previous page, DPR523B, Integrity)

but the original setting has become more urbanized due to the incorporation of the City in 1952. Therefore, the site has not preserved the integrity of **setting**. Although the Minimal Tradition style of **design** has been altered due to replacing the original **materials**, including doors with commercial aluminum glass doors, replacing some of the original double hung window sashes with sliding or fixed sashes, and covering other window openings with plywood. A rear addition alters the original scale and proportion of the original structure. The building retains the same horizontal massing, rectangular shape and roof form. The window fenestrations, window wood frames and wood sills have been left intact, and three facades have kept the original V-groove wood siding. Overall, the form, interior layout, structure, design and materials are intact and features of Minimal Traditional design of architecture; therefore, 347 First Street does retain integrity of the original **workmanship, design and materials**. The hall continues to embody the **feeling** of a Minimal Traditional architectural style, a representative style from 1935 to 1955. The minimal alterations over time have not diminished its origins of that architectural style, and it continues to embody the property's **association** or **feeling** with early 20th century development in Los Altos. The hall served as a space for community meetings that led to the incorporation of the City of Los Altos. The subject property has continuously served and continues to serve the citizens of Los Altos and has housed meetings for local youth programs, school PTAs, the Red Cross, social clubs, military groups, political leaders and many other organizations. The structure continues to serve the community and is associated with the history of Los Altos. 347 1st Street retains six (6) out of seven (7) aspects of integrity under the National Register aspects of integrity and four out of five criteria for historical significance under the Los Altos Historic Preservation Ordinance.

As such, the building retains sufficient integrity to remain eligible under the National Register's **seven** aspects of integrity and the five local historical significance criteria discussed above.

EVALUATION:

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) / California Register of Historical Resources:

To be potentially eligible for individual listing on the NRHP/CRHR, a structure must usually be more than 50 years old, must have historic significance, and must retain its physical integrity. The subject building at 347 First Street was constructed in 1940 and is more than 50 years old, therefore meets the age requirement. In terms of historic significance, the NRHP/CRHR evaluates a resource based on the following four criteria:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

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Criterion A/1: Event

As stated by the National Park Service (NPS), this criterion “recognizes properties associated with single events, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, repeated activities, or historic trends, such as the gradual rise of a port

city's prominence in trade and commerce.” When considering a property for significance under this criterion, the associated event or trends “must clearly be important within the associated context: settlement, in the case of the town, or development of a maritime economy, in the case of the port city...Moreover, the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends”

The building at 347 First Street began construction in 1940 and was dedicated in 1941 during a period when Los Altos was not yet an incorporated city. The application to the American Legion Headquarters for a charter for a Los Altos post occurred on March 11, 1938, by organizer Howard “Jack” Welch. The legion purchased the subject property in 1940 and construction began immediately. In fact, Post 558 obtained the permit prior to completing the purchase of the land from Altos Land Company. At this time, the town was an unincorporated area with the central business district located near today's intersection of Foothill Expressway and Main Street, close to the subject property. With nowhere for the townspeople to meet, the Legion Hall, Post 558 at 347 First Street became the central meeting area for all of the towns' political, civic, and social events.

The American Legion Hall was instrumental in the formation of the City of Los Altos. The Hall functioned as the town's de facto town hall building and held town forum meetings. Future Senator Alan Cranston and other prominent members of Los Altos met there regularly. Legion Hall was the meeting place for all the city functions prior to Los Altos becoming an official city of Santa Clara County. By 1949, many Los Altos residents were dissatisfied with the zoning policy of Santa Clara County, and there was a constant threat of annexation by neighboring Palo Alto and Mountain View, so the citizens of Los Altos decided to incorporate. On December 1, 1952, Los Altos became the eleventh city of Santa Clara County.

347 First Street is most closely associated with the area's transition from an unincorporated town to become the incorporated city “Los Altos” and to the broad pattern of development of Los Altos and of Santa Clara County. The building functioned as the town hall building from 1940 up until the time that the Civic Center was occupied in 1959. The Legion Hall was instrumental in the formation of the City of Los Altos as it functioned as its town hall building and held town forum meetings and Senator Alan Cranston and other prominent members of Los Altos met there regularly. The subject property is associated with events, repeated activities and to the development trends of Los Altos to qualify it as significant under criterion A/1. The subject property has been found to have a particular or important association with all of the towns' activities and events until the late 1950's, when other gathering places and the Civic Center are built. Construction of the Civic Center began in 1958 and occupation began in 1959.

The subject property is associated with the development trends and activities of the town of Los Altos, and it does appear to be eligible for consideration for the NRHP/CRHR under criterion A/1 at any level for association.

Criterion B/2: Individuals

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This criterion applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. Based on the research conducted on the area's history a reasonable likelihood does not exist that additional information will identify any other historically significant person associated with the subject property. Therefore, it does not appear that 347 1st Street is eligible for consideration for the NRHP or CRHR under criterion B/1 and any level associated with individuals

Criterion C/3: Design and Construction

Under this criterion, properties may be eligible if they "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, ...represent the work of a master, ...possess high artistic values, or...represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." According to the National Park Service, "Type, period, or method of construction' refers to the way certain properties are related to one another by cultural tradition or function, by dates of construction or style, or by choice or availability of materials and technology. A structure is eligible as a specimen of its type or period of construction if it is an important example (within its context) of building practices of a particular time in history."

The design of the 347 First Street most closely resembles the Minimal Traditional architectural style. A one-story rectangular plan, front-gabled roof, horizontal wood siding and lack of ornamentation characterize Minimal Traditional architecture. While the subject property has features associated with this architectural style, it does not embody sufficient distinctive characteristics of the style due to alterations over time, as required to be eligible under criterion C/3. Replacing the windows, replacing the front entry door, and covering the horizontal siding with stucco altered the primary façade's integrity. The property, as it appears now, is not fully representative as a prominent example of Minimal Traditional style of architecture. The roof has connecting double gable roof structures. The second gable roof at the rear of the structure defines the later addition (referred to as the Club) and built in 1948. The side and rear walls are made of wood V-groove siding and it is known the front elevation originally had the same siding due to historic photo from Los Altos News. Alterations to the front facade occurred in the early-to-mid 1950's with the present day stucco sheathing covering the historic V-groove siding, replacement of the front entry door with a commercial style door and replacing the historic double-hung windows with fixed windows. The subject building contains only one original window on the east facade. The original window openings on the side elevations are intact with original wood frames and windowsills and only sashes replaced.

The subject property does not appear to be a significant example of a Minimal Traditional, the architectural style it most closely represents. Therefore, it does not appear eligible for consideration for the NRHP/CRHR as an individual resource under criterion C/3 at any level.

Criterion D/4: Information Potential

The building is of common methods of construction and does not appear likely to yield important information about historic construction, methods, materials or technologies. Therefore, it does not appear the property is eligible for consideration for the National Register under Criterion D/4 at any level. Archival research and physical investigation of the site focused on the above ground resource only. Therefore, no informed determination could be made regarding the property's potential for archaeological resources that would be eligible for the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion D/4.

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City of Los Altos Historic Preservation Ordinance:

As a part of this investigation and evaluation, the building and its parcel were evaluated according to the City of Los Altos Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the property meets the criteria for designation as an Historic Resource according the Municipal Code Section 12.44.040:

- A. Age: The building was built after the turn of the twentieth century and prior to 1948, making it at least 80 years old, meeting the 50-year age criteria;
- B. Integrity: As noted above, the building is substantially unchanged, retaining its historical integrity although exhibiting physical deterioration from its age and alterations over time. The majority of the character-defining features remain, and

the building and its immediate setting reflect the original design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling from the early twentieth century;

- C. Significance: The American Legion Hall building was associated with a single significant event or a pattern of events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history, or cultural heritage of California or the United States (as noted earlier under NRHP/CRHR criteria). The building at 347 First Street began construction in 1940 and was dedicated in 1941, during a period when Los Altos was not yet an incorporated city. The application to charter American Legion (Post 558) occurred on March 11, 1938. The Legion purchased the subject property in 1940 and construction began immediately. At this time the town was an unincorporated area with the central business district located near today's intersection of Foothill Expressway and Main Street, close to the subject property. With nowhere for the townspeople to meet, the Legion Post 558 at 347 First Street became the central meeting area for all of the towns' political, civic and social events. Los Altos became the eleventh city of Santa Clara County in December of 1952. Having outgrown Legion Hall, the City began construction of the modernist Civic Center in 1958. The American Legion building at 347 First Street is most closely associated with the area's transition from an unincorporated town to become an incorporated city and to the broad pattern of development of Los Altos and of Santa Clara County. The subject property is associated with events, repeated activities and to the development trends, to qualify it as significant under criterion "Event." The subject property has been found to have a particular or important association with all of the towns' activities and events until other gathering places and the Civic Center is built in 1959, and it is found to be a significant resource under events associated with its significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history.

Local Landmark Designation

To be potentially eligible for individual listing as a local landmark in the City of Los Altos, a structure must usually be more than 50 years old, must have historic significance, and must retain its physical integrity. The subject building at 347 First Street was constructed in 1940 and is more than 50 years old, therefore meets the age requirement. In terms of integrity and historic significance as outlined in Section 12.44.040 of the City of Los Altos Municipal Code, the subject resource meets the criteria as noted above.

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Under Chapter 12.44.070 of the City of Los Altos Municipal Code, a proposed landmark must not only satisfy the three criteria outlined in section 12.44.040. The Veteran's Hall at 347 First Street must have special historical, cultural, archeological, scientific, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as part of the heritage or history of the city, the county, the state or the nation. 347 First Street has special historical value as part of the history of the City of Los Altos. The subject building constructed in 1941, originally functioned as the Legion Hall Post 558. Soon after, the building became the meeting area for all of the town's political, civic and social events and was instrumental in the establishment of the City of Los Altos. The Hall became the town's de facto town hall. 347 First Street is associated with the area's transition from being an unincorporated town to become Los Altos City on Dec. 1, 1952. It was not until 1959 that Los Altos had a Civic Center to conduct official city business. The building is found to be associated with its significant contribution to the heritage and history of the city.

B12 References

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