

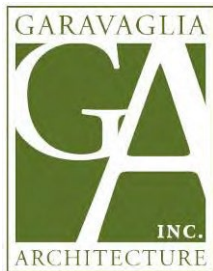


The American Legion 558

347 First Street, Los Altos, CA

Historic Resource Evaluation – FINAL

Prepared for
City of Los Altos
Los Altos, CA



Prepared by
Garavaglia Architecture, Inc.
Updated: November 23, 2021

Innovating Tradition

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INTRODUCTION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. was contracted by the City of Los Altos in February of 2020 to prepare a Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) for the property at 347 First Street in Los Altos, California (**Figure 1, 2**). This HRE has been prepared at the request of the City of Los Altos in response to concerns raised by Los Altos residents, particularly military veterans, regarding the potential for the subject property to be historically significant. 347 First Street is currently not listed as a historic resource on any historic inventory.

This HRE assesses the subject property's potential to be eligible for listing as a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as well as a historical resource on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The building has also been assessed using the City of Los Altos historic resources evaluation framework established in the 2012 City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

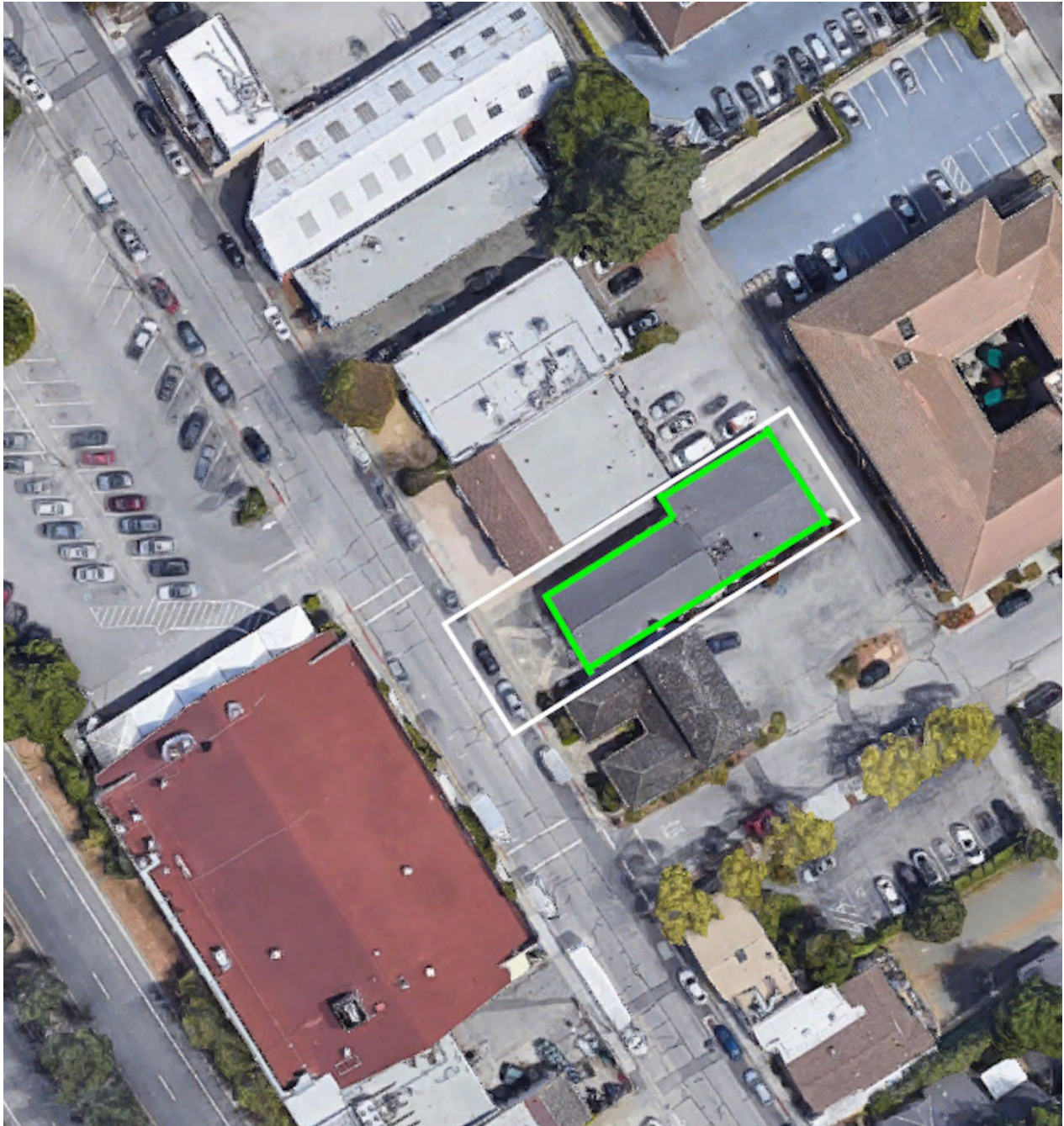


Figure 1. Aerial view of subject property outlined in white with subject building outlined in green (Google Maps, amended by author)

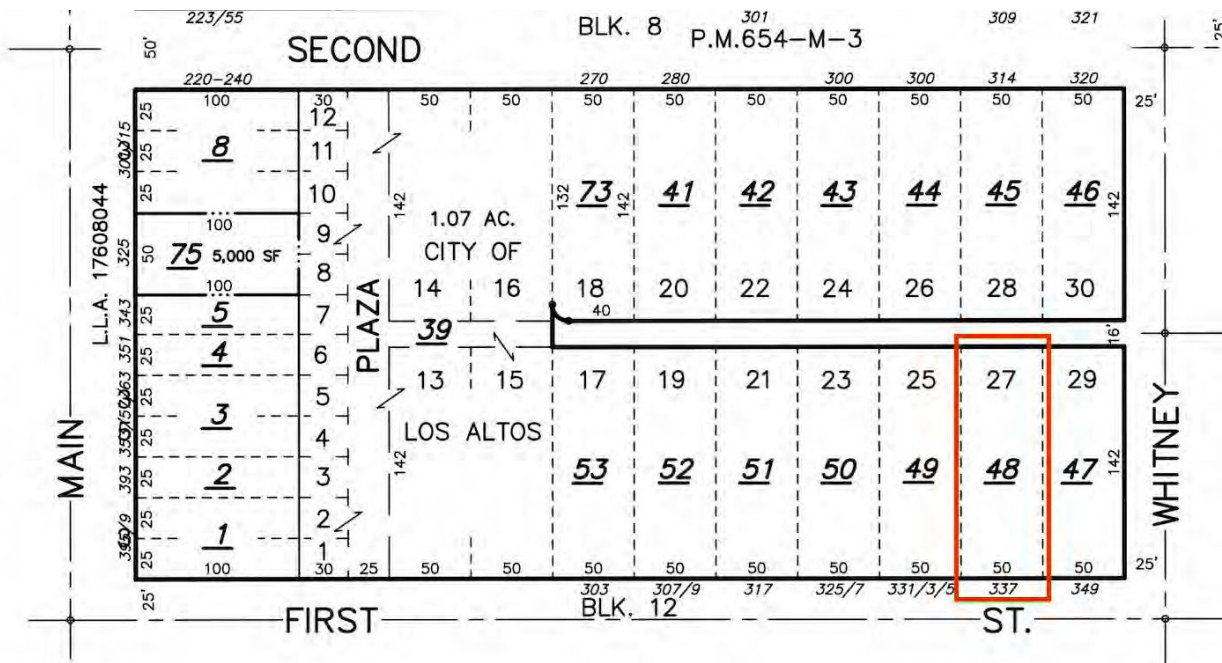


Figure 2. Parcel map with subject property outlined in red (Office of the Assessor, Santa Clara County, amended by author)

PRIOR DOCUMENTATION OF 347 FIRST STREET

In 1990, the Los Altos City Council gave approval for the completion of a historic property survey to identify properties within the geographical limits of the city that were potentially significant because of their architectural style, and to make recommendations about the possible designation of these properties as local historical landmarks.¹ The first official historic property survey for Los Altos was completed in 1997 and did not include the subject property. The subject property is currently not included as a Los Altos Historic Landmark or as a Los Altos Historic Resource. The resource at 347 First Street was later recorded in 2008 as part of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update & Evaluation Report and is listed as number six on the list². The 2008 survey was only a listing of historic or potential historic resource. William Bassett, Vietnam Veteran and member of the American Legion completed a California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Form 523 for the subject property.

At a December 8, 2009, City Council meeting, the Council approved a capital improvement program (CIP) project to develop an updated historic resources rating system. This would replace the system used in the 2008 survey to make it more consistent with the system used by the state of California.³ The updated evaluation standards were developed as part of the City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory (2012). In the final report, the subject property is not identified as a local historic landmark or historic resource.

¹ Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Survey, 1997.

² Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update & Evaluation Report, Circa: Historic Property Development, 2008

³ Author personal communication with Los Altos Planning Department, 8/4/2021

METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of the research and preparation of this HRE, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. (GA) were initially unable to conduct a site visit of the subject property. Proponents of historic designation of the subject property, with direction from GA, documented the building's configuration and architectural elements with photographs. Subsequently, a site visit took place by GA in June 2021, during which time photographed the exterior of the building and the property. The City of Los Altos provided available permit history of the subject property, previously completed DPR's of historic properties; as well as city of historical reports and inventories of Los Altos. In March 2021, Covid-19 restrictions remained in place and, in addition to using available online resources, Garavaglia staff relied on Santa Clara County employees, librarians, and the Los Altos History House staff to conduct research and provide documents not available online. Vietnam Veteran William Bassett provided history, documentation and photographs, including a Historic Resource Application, dated Nov. 15, 2019 that was essential for this report. Los Altos Planning Office staff assisted GA by gathering building permit information for 347 First Street.

Research by GA was relegated primarily to the portions of archives available online or which were accessible with the help of county, city, and museum staff, as mentioned above. The following repositories/collections were consulted to complete the research process (see References section for complete list of resources).

- California Digital Newspaper Collection
- Calisphere.org
- City of Los Altos, online
- Los Altos History Museum
- Los Altos Town Crier (Los Altos Online)
- Newspapers.com
- Online Archive of California
- Santa Clara County Library Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society
- Santa Clara County Office of the Assessor
- U.C. Santa Barbara, Special Collections, FrameFinder database, online
- Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development Online Property Profile

Chapter 1

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

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 to a historic neighborhood in Los Altos. The building is set back from the road approximately 20 feet. The building's entrance faces southwest but for this report, we will refer the front entrance to be facing south and as the south elevation. The main body of the building is painted beige and the wood fascia is painted a burnt sienna red color that matches the other exterior trim features of the building (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3. American Legion Hall front elevation and site (GA August, 2021)

Site

The building site is paved with concrete. Notable site features on the south side of the building include a central flagpole, a mailbox, and a sidewalk with curving concrete walkway leading to the front entry. Garden like features on the south side include two concrete planters, a concrete

garbage can and a bench (**Figure 3**). The site slopes slightly downward from south to north. The front entry is on grade where other entrances have entry stairs. Poured-in-place concrete surrounds the building on all sides. The side setbacks are approximately five feet wide. The front of the building was originally landscaped, as depicted in historic photos, but has since been in-filled with concrete (**Figure 4**). The setback on the east is gated and used for secure storage by the Boy Scouts and organizations hosted by the American Legion.



Figure 4. American Legion Hall, 1954 (*Los Altos News*, via Historic Resource Application)

Exterior

The American Legion building is a rectangular structure built on a concrete foundation made up of two front gable roof structures built end-to-end. The front, narrower gabled rectangle was built in 1940 and the wider gabled rectangle addition was completed in 1948. The addition is referred to as “The Club.” The single story building’s dimensions are approximately 40 feet by 115 feet, with an open-eave front gabled roof. The building’s architectural style can be classified as Minimal Traditional style with some Craftsman elements, like exposed rafter tails, exaggerated wide entrance and horizontal wood siding.

The Minimal Traditional architectural style is associated with residential architecture characterized with either having hipped-roof or front-gabled roof that is one story and simple in design. The style was in response to the Great Depression and WW II to satisfy the need for immediate housing, thus the small house developed. Pattern books and house plans for small houses in the Minimal Traditional style were published between 1935 and 1950. These books also contained the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans available to build these homes. This style of residential architecture is commonly represented by 1940’s tract homes. Characteristics of this style: small (1 to 1 ½ story), low to medium-pitched hipped or gabled roof, windows may be single- or double-hung, wall cladding according to local availability, chimney, small covered front entry, and little ornamentation. This style was also prevalent on military bases for individual housing and barracks. It is likely that the veterans who built the

hall were already familiar with this style of architecture, which was cost effective and easy to construct. This style of architecture was used as barracks and temporary construction during WW II (**Figure 5**). The barracks, like this example from the Golden Gate National Recreational Area, had a long rectangular shape, a low-pitched gable roof, horizontal wood siding, projecting overhang and double-hung windows.



Figure 5. WWII temporary construction type building, constructed c. 1942 (National Parks Service, Golden Gate National Recreational Area)⁴



Figure 6. Minimal Traditional style markers as shown on a Minimal Traditional home in Glendale, California (Glendale Design Guidelines for Residential Buildings in Adopted Historic Districts)⁵

The south, or front, elevation is clad in painted stucco and the remainder exterior clad in horizontal wood V-groove siding. This roof has gray asphalt composite shingles. The exposed rafters tails beneath the open eaves on the front elevation are painted the same light beige as the rest of the exterior. The fascia, eaves, doorframes, and window trim is painted a burnt sienna color that contrasts with the lighter exterior paint. An exterior light fixture is seen on this elevation (**Figure 3**).

⁴ National Parks Service. "World War II Temporary Construction". *Golden Gate National Recreational Area* <https://www.nps.gov/articles/ww2-tempconstruction.htm>

⁵ Glendale, City of. "Minimal Traditional Style", *Glendale Design Guidelines for Residential Buildings in Adopted Historic District*. <https://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showdocument?id=12904>

South Elevation (Front Elevation)

The south elevation features the main entrance. The front door is set into a deep recessed trapezoid space. Directly in front of the door is a large flagpole. The front entrance is on a slight incline. The door is not original and is an aluminum clad glass door with sidelights on the left. Above the door, a framed sign reads: "American Legion, Los Altos Post 558" between two American Legion emblems. Above the framed sign is a ghost outline of a possible earlier sign that has now been removed (**Figure 3**). Originally, the front facade had horizontal V-groove siding as does the other elevations as seen in the 1941 photo (**Figure 7**). The front facade was altered around early to mid 1960's and covered with plaster (**Figure 8**). The window sashes were originally wood, double-hung windows but are now sliding windows or fixed. The windows were altered at the same time as the plasterwork was done. The original wood frames and windowsills are intact, only the sashes have been changed. Below the peak of the gable, and exterior vent is a sign identifying the building.



Figure 7. Exterior view with V-groove wood siding, 1941 (Los Altos Newspaper, 1941)



Figure 8. Exterior, south elevation, showing current hardscape (W. Bassett, 2021)

Exterior – West Elevation

The west elevation is clad in horizontal V-groove wood siding in the same neutral paint color. There are five windows in the front section and four windows in the back section. The windows appear to be aluminum framed, sliding windows that replaced the original wood double-hung sashes. The window openings, wood frames, sills and trims have remained unchanged. There are two entrances on this elevation. The closest entry, facing west has two concrete steps to access the door and the door has a side light on the left. The other entrance facing south is located on grade. Both of the doors are not original and are no commercial aluminum and glass door. The original wood door trims are still evident. Rain gutters and rainwater leader are found on the rear section. A metal roof vent sits near the connection where the rear addition was added (**Figure 9, Figure 10**).



Figure 9. Oblique view of southwest elevations looking north (W. Bassett, 2021)



Figure 10. West elevation looking north (W. Bassett, 2021)

Exterior – North Elevation

On the rear, or north facing elevation, the light colored horizontal V-groove wood siding continues throughout. There is an exterior stairway with four risers and a landing constructed out of wood to access the rear door entry. The door is not original but is a commercial aluminum and glass door. There are four window openings that are now covered with plywood and painted to match the rest of the wall, but the windowsills are still intact. There are also utilities with connections to electrical, gas, and the security system located on this facade with meters and conduits. There is a centrally located vent at the gable peak, similar to the front facade (**Figure 10**).



Figure 11. Oblique view of rear (north) elevation, looking south (W. Bassett, 2021)

Exterior – East Elevation

The east elevation is similar to the west elevation. It has replacement window sashes, a stepped entrance, a chimney, and horizontal V-groove wood siding. This entrance has steps facing the front entrance and a ramp facing the rear of the building constructed of wood. This side of the building is fenced off along First Street with a five-foot high metal chain-link gate. The side yard is not accessible by visitors coming from the front but is accessible from the rear. On this side, the windows are slightly different shapes, but the openings are original and most of the window sashes have been replaced with aluminum sliders. There is one small original wood double-hung window located near the door entrance. The chimney is constructed of unpainted red clay bricks. The top four courses create a decorative capital for the simple chimney shaft. There are storage sheds placed up against the exterior wall and consist of three small structures extending beyond the footprint of the building. These additional shed or closet structures provide secure storage for items used by various clubs at the American Legion Hall (**Figure 12, 13, 14, 15**).



Figure 12. Left: East elevation, ramp up to kitchen entrance, looking south (GA, 2021)
Figure 13. Right: East elevation, original window, looking west (GA, 2021)



Figure 14. Left: East elevation, looking north toward the storage closets (W. Bassett, 2021)
Figure 15. Right: East elevation, looking south toward primary elevation (GA, 2021)

Interior

The main space of the hall is a large open room with hardwood floors, paneled wainscoting and white walls in the original portion of the building. The front entry doors are sectioned off by a center wood partition with the top portion having breezeblock paneling. String lights are hung across the span of the building. The central room takes up most of the original, narrower segment of the building. The volume of space remains as originally designed with only the replacement of light fixtures. After the Loma Prieta earthquake, a building inspector found a lower roof-framing member missing. To resolve this matter, the Post had an architectural and engineering design a solution and in March, 1994 four steel braided cable cross ties were installed to both the east and west walls for support to prevent the walls to lean outward. The building permits for this work are found in Appendix D, Available Building Permits (**Figure 16, 17**).

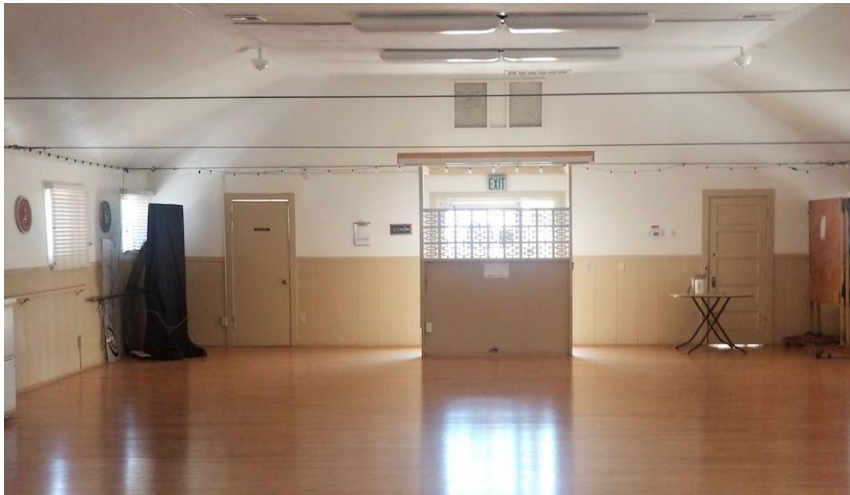


Figure 16. Main hall, looking south (W. Bassett, 2021)

The south wall features a centrally located front door; there are two matching interior doors on either side of the front door. The wall is flat, suggesting that the two spaces extend beyond the wall with the front entrance. The interior ceiling levels off the gable. This ceiling features wide fluorescent fixtures with integrated wiring in the flat section. The light fixtures are not original. The windows currently have hanging blinds installed. Looking to the west, a row of cabinets and counter space has been installed close to the side door.



Figure 17. Rear of main hall, looking northwest (W. Bassett, 2021)

In the space, looking north (in the 1948 addition, referred to as “The Club”) the room is wider and has a dropped paneled ceiling and recessed fluorescent lighting. This room is long but irregular, as the kitchen takes up some of the rectangular space. The floor in the rear room has wider and darker planks. The north wall shows no signs of the covered windows, suggesting that the windows were installed before this finished wall. This room has a central white column that supports the interior frame. On the east part of the room looking north the room has two ceiling heights. The building uses this height difference and structural beam to place a display shelf and lighting (Figure 18).



Figure 18. View of rear meeting room, looking northwest (W. Bassett, 2021)

The American Legion space also has a commercial kitchen with an exit on the eastern side of the building at the rear addition (**Figure 19**).



Figure 19. Commercial kitchen space in rear section on eastern side, looking northeast (W. Bassett, 2020)

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

LOS ALTOS HISTORIC CONTEXT

The first people to make the Santa Clara Valley their home were the Ohlone, who lived in semi-permanent villages ranging from the Carquinez Strait in the north to Monterey Bay in the south. The valley provided rich foraging and hunting along the many streams and rivers that flow into San Francisco Bay.

With the coming of the Spanish to the region following Gaspar de Portolá's expedition, life in the valley began to orient toward the Missions and settlements at Santa Clara and San Jose, respectively. Large land grants known as Ranchos were awarded to Spanish settlers who began to raise cattle in large numbers. Cattle ranching were to remain the Santa Clara Valley's major industry until well into the 19th century, even as Mexican independence and the Mexican American War began to bring changes to the region.

Following the conclusion of the Mexican-American War in 1848, California became a territory of the United States, then the 31st state in 1850. With the discovery of gold in 1848, California was a draw to thousands of migrants. By the 1850's, failing to strike it rich or simply seeking a more reliable form of income, many began to settle in the southern Santa Clara Valley and began to grow wheat, which until then had been imported to California. The valley soon became an agricultural center, with small towns springing up along the old Camino Real, which ran north from Monterey.

Los Altos is translated to mean "the heights" or "foothill" in Spanish. The following excerpts come from a variety of sources. Please refer to footnotes for sourcing the following context information.

Los Altos comprises a portion of what was the La Purissima Conception Rancho and Rancho San Antonio and later, after the adoption of the State constitution in 1849 and the official creation of Santa Clara County in 1851, a portion of the Fremont Township.

In the early rancho days, much of the Santa Clara Valley was used for cattle grazing. This activity later gave way to wheat and grain fields in the 1860s and 1870s. Mountain View was the principal settlement in the area and grew primarily as a result of the old Mountain View Station, a stage stop located along the San Francisco-San Jose Stage

Road. This route today is known as El Camino Real.

When the Southern Pacific railroad came through in 1864, the line was located about a mile from Mountain View Station, bypassing what was known as Old Mountain View (near present day Calderon). The “New Mountain View” was officially laid out in 1865 at the present downtown area along Castro Street. Settlement in and around Los Altos area grew as a result of the railroad and Mountain View was the center for all business activity for these early residents. One early name is that of Charles Berry, who according to Sawyer’s *History of Santa Clara County*; was one of the earliest inhabitants of the area, arriving just prior to the railroad. Berry is said to have purchased 15 acres of the Taaffe Ranch and immediately planted it in fruit.

According to the *Thompson and West Historical Atlas of 1876*, Santa Clara County comprised some 578,850 acres. Nearly half of this was cultivated and included some 170,000 acres of wheat growing alone. The 1890 *Sunshine, Fruit and Flowers* publication of the San Jose Mercury Newspaper describes much of the area north of Mountain View as being planted in wheat fields with the area west and south devoted to orchards. Prior to this time, it appears that most land was used for grain growing; in 1875 some 2,000 acres in the county are listed-as vineyards and wineries.

Other accounts describe the Mountain View area as having some 22 wineries, including that of John Snyder. In 1875, over 182,000 gallons of wine were produced in the county, with an additional 45,000 gallons of brandy the same year. The Snyder Ranch was one of the largest in the area comprising 700 acres. Others include the Campbell Ranch (the present-day Rancho Shopping Center) encompassing 150 acres, the Taaffe Ranch, the Madigan Ranch, and the Emerson Ranch. It is clear that by the end of the nineteenth century, smaller farms began to appear and the large ranches, which were largely in grain, began to give way to smaller subdivisions and orchards.

By 1890, according to *Eastman’s History of the Los Altos Area*, smaller ranches were producing as “much as 200 dollars per acre from prunes, apricots, peaches, cherries, pears and other fruits.” The properties were lived in year-round by their occupants and represent a phase in this history of the community that emphasizes farming as the means of livelihood. This activity predates the later relocation of San Francisco businessmen and their families to town after 1907. After the official establishment of the town, businesses in Los Altos grew and the beginning of residential subdivisions began to take over the orchard land use.⁶

Change in land ownership by the turn-of-the-century in the Los Altos area began to have an impact on land usage and development. Some 600 acres of the Loyola Tract were sold to the University of Santa Clara as a relocation university site. By 1906, big ranches were sold off in smaller parcels of approximately 40 to 100 acres. Many of these lots were bought by professors from the newly formed Stanford University (1891), according to Eastman’s account. Mrs. Winchester, the widow of the Winchester rifle manufacturer, purchased the present site of Los Altos.

Los Altos followed the same pattern as other larger cities [where land companies associated with a railroad bought up land in developing, formerly rural areas]. A

⁶ City of Los Altos, “City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Report” (Santa Clara County, Calif., 2012), Context 2: Agriculture 1850 to 1940.

typical scenario was that of a transportation official privately purchasing large tracts of undeveloped land and then subdividing the land after the development of a transit line. In Los Altos, Southern Pacific president, Paul Shoup, and his brother, Southern Pacific attorney, Guy Shoup, bought a right-of-way from Palo Alto through Los Altos to run a connecting line through Los Gates and points south. On October 19, 1907, the Altos Land Company was incorporated with L. E. Petree as Secretary. The University Land Company was also incorporated on exactly the same day with Petree as Secretary. Paul Shoup served as a director of the Altos Land Company; there is no documentation showing the directors of the University Land Company. Both companies had as their objective the layout and subsequent sale of lots in the newly laid out town of Los Altos.

Prior to the land company incorporation, the San Jose-Los Gates Interurban Electric Railway Company had acquired 100 acres of land from Sarah Winchester for the proposed route of the railway and town-site of what was then called "Banks and Braes." The company was shortly thereafter acquired by Southern Pacific's newly created subsidiary known as the Peninsular Railway with the stipulation that the Altos Land Company would lay out the lots for the town-site, and the town name changed to a Los Altos in 1907.

The Southern Pacific had already established its line from Mayfield through Los Altos and Saratoga on to the final destination of Santa Cruz. The Peninsular Railway, the suburban electric route, built its line from Mayfield to San Jose. According to McCaleb's *Tracks, Tires, and Wires*, the line was formally dedicated on April 12, 1908 when two Southern Pacific steam trains brought prospective lot buyers to a land sale and barbecue in Los Altos. Regular service was established on April 19, 1908 with five trains per day passing through Los Altos. With the establishment of this regular rail service, more families could move outward into the "country," and many promotional brochures hailed this new lifestyle available to the middle-class. Lot prices ranged from \$400 to \$650 and homes could be built from \$2,000 to \$4,000. This era marks the beginning of small fruit farmers occupying 10-acre lots. With the movement of families to the Los Altos area, comes the development between 1910 and 1930 of many small subdivisions and the establishment of additional roadways.⁷

By 1911 there were 50 homes in Los Altos and a few office buildings and stores on Main Street. Twelve steam trains a day stopped at the two-boxcar railway station. Eschenbreucher's Hardware Store, now 316 Main Street, was the first business in town and also housed the post office. Los Altos Water Company, Los Altos Building and Loan, Union Land Company and the railroad company all occupied offices in downtown Los Altos. In 1909, the two-story Shoup Building at Main and Second streets, housed a grocery store downstairs while upstairs one teacher taught all eight grades of the first public school classes in Los Altos.⁸

⁷ City of Los Altos, "City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Report" (Santa Clara County, Calif., 2012), Context 5: Agriculture 1850 to 1940.

⁸ Los Altos Chamber of Commerce website: [History of Two Cities - Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, CA](#). Accessed 8/9/2021

INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE 1907 TO 1940

The following is also excerpted from the 2012_City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory.

Many believe that the real beginning of Los Altos started with the Altos Land Company and acquisition of Sarah Winchester's 100 acres in 1906. This land became what is known today as the downtown triangle.⁹

This is the location where the Veteran's Hall was constructed at the edge of downtown, but inside of the triangle shaped plot of land that once belonged to Sara L. Winchester and then acquired by Paul Shoup and his Altos Land Company (**Figure 20**).



Figure 20. 1906 Map of Los Altos, depicting Sara L. Winchester land (Paul Shoup House National Register Nomination, 2011)

The earliest account, dated August 2, 1906, was found in the *Palo Alto Times* in an article describing the purchase of the 100 acres mentioned above by the Interurban Electrical Railway for a right-of-way. It mentioned the creation of a new town-site to be called "Banks and Braes." Just when the name was changed to Los Altos in unknown, but we do know that the Altos Land Company and the University Land Company were formed in 1907. The October 2, 1913 issue of the *Mayfield News*, however, describes the town-site as being sold again and placed solely into the hands of Paul Shoup and George Herbert, a

⁹ City of Los Altos, "City of Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Report" (Santa Clara County, Calif., 2012), Context 3: Residential Architecture 1907 to 1940.

San Jose fruit packer. The deal is described as one of the most important real estate transactions in Santa Clara County.¹⁰

The development of civic organizations, schools, and clubs began shortly after the creation of the new town-site. Few resources are remaining today in Los Altos from the early days of the community, but other resources will become significant as more years go by. Civic organizations, such as the Los Altos Men's Club or the Garden Club, are recorded in detail in Joe Salameda's *Los Altos Memories*, which is available at the Los Altos History Museum or the Los Altos Library.¹¹

With the establishment of the town-site came the beginnings of commercial development in Los Altos. The first building to locate on Main Street is the well-known Eschenbruecher hardware store in 1908 (316 Main Street), followed by the Shoup building (300 Main Street). The Shoup building was the first grammar school location as well as the meeting place for the local Boy Scouts. The Altos Land Company occupied a building at the corner of Main and First (388-398 Main Street). The Copeland building sits across Main Street (395-399 Main Street). All four buildings were constructed by 1911 and all are Los Altos City Designated Landmarks. Perhaps the most significant building within the commercial context is the Los Altos Railroad Station (288 First Street). Built in 1913 by the Architectural Bureau for Southern Pacific, the railroad station represents the real force behind the development of the town. The railroad station is a City Designated Landmark and appears eligible for listing on the National Register.¹²

As Paul Shoup envisioned, Los Altos grew and prospered. The business community thrived, and orchards gave way to beautiful tree-lined residential streets. Following World War II, Los Altos experienced a boom in home construction and new schools were built in rapid succession to accommodate the expanding student population.¹³

Lying roughly between San Francisco and San José, workers commuting by rail or private automobile were attracted by the rural bucolic qualities of Los Altos. The construction of the Bayshore Freeway (modern U.S. 101) in 1937 further changed land use patterns and transportation networks in the Santa Clara Valley. After World War II, a construction and population boom took place in Los Altos and statewide; anxious about annexation by neighboring cities, residents approved the incorporation of the City of Los Altos in 1952.¹⁴ Incorporation of the City of Los Altos occurred at the Legion Hall, Post 558.¹⁵

¹⁰ Ibid, Context 3: Residential Architecture 1907 to 1940.

¹¹ Ibid, Context 4: Institutional Development 1907 to 1940.

¹² Ibid, Context 5: Commercial Development 1907 to 1940.

¹³ Los Altos Chamber of Commerce website: [History of Two Cities - Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, CA](#). Accessed 8/9/2021

¹⁴ Hibma and Long of LSA (firm), *Historical Context for the First Street Survey*, 2017.

¹⁵ Robin Chapman, "Santa Clara Valley Lives: Historical Los Altos American Legion Works on Landmark Building Status," *Los Altos Town Crier*, March 25, 2020. Accessed 9/9/2021.

Post-World War II development in the Valley mirrored nationwide trends and the region's population and development increased markedly. It was during this time that the county began to undergo a dramatic shift from its agricultural past to a largely suburban present. The town leaders in Los Altos, fearing annexation by neighboring cities, realized that incorporation was one way to control zoning and development. After a bitter campaign and an incorporation election, Los Altos became Santa Clara County's 11th city on December 1, 1952.¹⁶ The "Valley of the Heart's Delight" has since given way to "Silicon Valley," the economic focus now centering largely on technological innovation.

VETERAN'S HALL HISTORY

The following information was taken from the *American Legion website*:

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.

Sept 16, 1919 Congress charters The American Legion.¹⁷

The American Legion Hall contributed to the beginning formation of the City of Los Altos and has been instrumental to the growth of the city and functioned as Los Altos' city hall building. The building served as a social and governance gathering place. The first Los Altos Citizens Association gathered at the post in March 1949 to create the City of Los Altos. In June 1949 the first Los Altos Town Forum was held to implement the planning for the incorporation of the City of Los Altos. The meeting to determine the boundaries of the City of Los Altos took place in September 1950. In addition the Legion Post 558 has served many organizations, non-profits and private individuals as a gathering place. A partial list includes:

- Los Altos Youth Programs and the Youth Boys California State Organization
- Parent-Teacher Associations
- Card Players Associations
- California Red Cross, Nurse Associations and First-Aid meetings
- Local Fire Department
- Home Defense Meeting
- Civilian Defense meetings
- Garden Club organizations
- Los Altos Citizens Association meetings

¹⁶ Los Altos Chamber of Commerce website: [History of Two Cities - Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, CA](#). Accessed 8/9/2021

¹⁷ "History | The American Legion," accessed September 9, 2021, <https://www.legion.org/history>.

Chapter 3

SITE EVOLUTION AND CONSTRUCTION CHRONOLOGY

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPANCY

Much of the below information was gathered from a variety of sources, including the information collected by Legion Post 558 members William Bassett and Ken Newman. Items are footnoted where appropriate. See Appendices A, D, E, F for aerial photographs, building permits, deeds, and historical photos.

The latest Sanborn map is from 1932, where the subject property was located, but it is empty during that time. Early aerial photographs dating to 1930, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1956 and 1964 clearly show the 347 First Street property and the surrounding orchard lands prior to 1943. The 1943 USGS aerial map depicts a building on the site and is presumably the Legion Hall.

Prior to the Hall's construction, the site was originally part of Sarah L. Winchester's ranch land (**Figure 20**) and then owned by Paul Shoup and the Altos Land Company. The downtown triangle, especially that section was likely valuable, due to its proximity to the train station. The aerial photograph from 1956 depicts a significant increase in development of the neighborhood with new houses and increased density in the urban core. During this period, the original setting of 347 First Street has significantly been altered as the area transitioned from rural to suburban (**Appendix A: Aerial Photographs**).

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. There has only been one owner for the property, but the setting has changed. The neighborhood has changed from rural to suburban and the entire property itself is now covered with hardscape surrounding the building.

Initial Planning

World War I veterans built the American Legion Los Altos Post 558 in 1940.

The process 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.^{18 19} By January 1939, the post was hosting community functions and had formed committees. These functions were based out of Scout Hall.²⁰ In April of 1939, the Post 558 received its official charter.²¹

In March of 1940, it was announced that Post 558 was building a “home of its own” after receiving building permits and purchasing the lot. The below section is taken from *The Los Altos News* (March 21, 1940):

The building will be one of one story and will include a meeting hall, an office, a storeroom, rest rooms, and a kitchen. While the hall will be primarily a Legion Home, it will be large enough for good-sized dances or card parties... It is hoped it may be the scene of many community activities. There will be a good hardwood dance floor. All the construction work will be done by Legionnaires, which is something not every Post could accomplish. That the building will architecturally be a credit to the town goes without saying. The Post obtained a building permit from the county board of supervisors about a month ago, before they had actually concluded purchase of the lot. The comrades wanted to be sure of their permit. Willow Glen Post went merrily ahead, several years ago and purchased a lot, only to find them refused a permit to build. Lieut. John Howard Post took no such changes. They have their lot. They have their building permit. They will soon have their building, in which every one in Los Altos will share in spirit.²²

Construction

The building plans were getting finalized and bids for the materials were being sought by April 1940. The building was designed in the Minimal Traditional style that was typical of military buildings built between 1935-1955 with front gable roof, double hung windows and few architectural detailing. Being that the subject building was designed and constructed by WWI army veterans, they would be familiar with this style of architecture (**Figure 21**).

A financing plan was announced to finance the building. The plan was to sell promissory notes of difference classes in denominations of \$2 in 1940 dollars. These different classes were divided into the community, legionnaires, and legionnaires who worked on the construction of the building.²³ The entire cost of materials was \$3,300 in 1940 dollars,

¹⁸ (1938, March 11). *Los Altos Welcomes New Legion Post*. Los Altos News.

¹⁹ (1938, December 15). *Report on New Local American Legion Post is Made*. Los Altos News.

²⁰ (1939, January 12). *Local Legion Post Formally Installed Here, Tuesday*. Los Altos News.

²¹ (1939, April 20). *Local Legion Post Receives Charter*. Los Altos News.

²² (1940, March 21). *Legion Post Will Build “Own Home” on First St.* Los Altos News.

²³ (1940, April 4). *Legion Post To Send Local Youth To ‘Boy’s State’ - Arrange For Financing Building At Tuesdays Meeting*. Los Altos News.

compared to \$62,514.52 in 2021 dollars.²⁴ Construction began on April 18, 1940, on the Post's anniversary of the presentation of its charter.²⁵



Figure 21. 1940 photo depicting the Legion Hall under construction by war veterans (American Legion Hall Post 558, Historic Resource Application, Nov. 2019)

Early Use and Hall Functions during WWII

By January 1941, Legion meetings were being held at the Post Hall, and the “compact white building on First Street” was dedicated on February 7, 1941.²⁶ In December 1941, Guy Shoup, an attorney, Red Cross Chairman, and the brother of Paul Shoup, held a special meeting of the Red Cross at the Post Hall to mobilize the community as a reaction to the events at Pearl Harbor.²⁷ In 1942, the Hall “offers rent free use of Hall for organizations connected to Defense” and has a “‘complete black-out’ for civil defense purposes.” While also hosting the same types of community events as before, like card parties and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) events.²⁸ Ticket sales to these more usual events were supposed to help continue to fund the operations of the building and thus support the broader war effort.²⁹ The community continued to use the Hall in this fashion throughout the war.³⁰

1948 - Addition

²⁴ “US\$3300 (1940 US Dollars) - Wolfram | Alpha,” accessed 9/9/2021.

²⁵ (1940, April 18). *Work on New Legion Home, Starts Today*. Los Altos News.

²⁶ (1941, January 23). *Legion Hall Dedication on Feb. 7*. Los Altos News.

²⁷ (1941, December 11). Shoup, Guy V. *Special Meeting of L.A. Red Cross Tonight*. Los Altos News.

²⁸ (1941, October 16). *Legion Hall Setting for P.T.A. Play Day*. Los Altos News.

²⁹ (1942, January 8). *Legion to Sponsor Card Party Jan. 22*. Los Altos News.

³⁰ (1942, January - December) *Headline Clippings*. Los Altos News. Collected by W. Bassett and K. Newman for 2019 Application.

In 1948, Post 558 added a 42 ft. x 50 ft. addition to the rear of the original building. This addition is referred to as “the club.” Sanborn maps do not cover this area since the town was unincorporated at the time. Both historic ground level and aerial photos show that the addition was constructed between 1948 and 1953 (**Appendix A: Aerial Photographs**). Building permits also note the addition as well (**Appendix D**).

Late 1940’s – 1950’s – Incorporation and Civic Center

The first meeting of the Los Altos Citizens Association convened on March 1949 to begin the process to incorporate the City of Los Altos (**Figure 22**).

In 1949, the Los Altos Citizens Association uses Legion Hall for planning meetings.³¹ Prominent members of the community partake in these in order to “address problems facing the incorporated Los Altos and Los Altos Hills” and this includes the future Senator Alan Cranston.³² What started as association meetings, become Town Forums held at the hall to discuss plans for making Los Altos its own city.³³ In September of 1950, City Incorporation meetings are being held at Legion Hall.³⁴ Prior to the process of incorporation, the Hall was given two different addresses, which accounts for the assessor’s office listing it at 337 First Street and the Hall itself addressing itself at 347 First Street.³⁵



Figure 22. 1949 photo depicting the Los Altos Citizens Association at the Legion Hall (American Legion Hall Post 558, Historic Resource Application, Nov. 2019)

³¹ (1949, February 3). *Citizens’ Group Officers Nominated*. Los Altos News.

³² (1949, March) *Peek into the Past- The first meeting of the Los Altos Citizens Association*. Los Altos News.

³³ (1949, June 23) *Forming Planning District Discussed*. Los Altos News.

³⁴ (1950, September 21) *Boundaries to be Fixed*. Los Altos News.

³⁵ Bassett, 347 First Street Application for Los Altos Historical Designation, 2019.

The City of Los Altos officially incorporated on December 1, 1952, becoming the eleventh city in Santa Clara County. Legion Hall continued to be utilized as the city's main gathering space and functioned as the town hall until the Civic Center was completed in 1959.

The newly incorporated City of Los Altos decided it had outgrown having only one main gathering space. In 1954, the City of Los Altos purchased a site on San Antonio Rd from J. Gilbert Smith. The 10.44-acre lot was an apricot orchard. Ernest J. Kump, a modernist designer known for school designs, designed the Los Altos "Civic Center" in 1957. By 1958, Civic Center was a jointly built campus for the new city's community center and the police station. The groundbreaking ceremony was Tuesday, May 27, 1958. In July 1959, construction was complete on the Civic Center, located on the corner of Edith Avenue and San Antonio Road and was occupied shortly after that.

Whitecliff Market Temporary Relocation

A fire damaged Whitecliff Market, located across the street from Legion Hall 558.

Whitecliff Market, at Main and First Streets, burned down in what is described as "the worst fire in Los Altos history" in 1966.³⁶ Given its community importance and central location in the downtown triangle, the City moves the Legion to an alternate meeting place and the Hall hosted the market while the store was rebuilt.³⁷

Early 1990's Building Refurbishments

In December 1990, the roof on Legion Hall 558 was replaced with new composition tiles. In 1993, an additional layer of composition tiles was reapplied to the roof. Later that year, a structural assessment was made and determined that a roof member was missing due to the Loma Prieta earthquake. Both an architecture and engineering firm proposed the installation of four steel braided cable cross ties both the east and west walls for support and to prevent the walls to list outward. (**Appendix D: Building Permits**)

President Carter's Visit

On May 4, 2001, President Jimmy Carter spoke at a Packard Foundation event sponsored at Legion Hall.³⁸

Previous HRIs: 1997, 2008, and 2012

The City of Los Altos conducted Historic Resource Inventories (HRI) in 1997, 2008 and 2012. While undergoing an HRI in 1997, the City offered American Legion Post 558 a "Historical Designation," but the offer was not accepted. 347 First Street is not recognized as an historic resource on the 1997 survey. A survey of the building was completed for 347 First Street by Circa Property Development as part of the 2008 Historic Resource Inventory and did not identify the property as a historic resource. A Historic Resource Inventory was completed in 2012, and 347 First Street was not recognized as an historic resource in that survey.

The Legion Hall at 347 First Street continues to provide a space for both the Legion's Veteran members and the broader Los Altos community. The Legionnaires continue to conduct their

³⁶ Don McDonald, "Los Altos Viewed Flaming Sky on Night of 1906 Earthquake: Early Los Altos," Los Altos Town Crier, April 27, 2005, Accessed 9/9/2021.

³⁷ Chapman, "Santa Clara Valley Lives: Historical Los Altos American Legion Works on Landmark Building Status," Los Altos Town Crier, March 25, 2020. Accessed 9/9/2021.

³⁸ Los Altos Town Crier Staff, "Los Altos Veterans Look to Preserve Hall with Historical Designation," Los Altos Town Crier, February 5, 2020, Accessed 9/9/2021.

meetings and activities on site as well as hosting other Los Altos community activities including athletic classes, community meetings, social gatherings, weekly martial arts classes, Boy Scouts, local club gatherings and large family gatherings for funerals and quinceañeras (girl's 15th birthday celebrations).

CONSTRUCTION CHRONOLOGY

The exact start of construction date of 347 First Street is April 18, 1940. It was constructed by local legionnaires, World War I Veterans. In 1948, an addition was added to the rear (north) end of the original gabled building. The original section of the building is identified as the "Hall" and the new section is identified as the "Club". In 1993, a structural engineering report made recommendations for adding crossties to the walls for support, and that work was completed in August of the same year.

Date	Owner	Alteration
February, 1940	American Legion, Post 558	Building permits obtained from the county board of supervisors, before conclusion of property purchase
March, 1940	American Legion, Post 558	Property purchased for American Legion Post 558 by March 21, 1940, refer to page 19 for more information
4/18/1940	American Legion, Post 558	The construction of the Legion Hall begins and built by local legionnaires
1/16/1941	American Legion, Post 558	Legion Meetings hosted at new hall building
2/7/1941	American Legion, Post 558	Lieut. Col. John Howard, Post 558 is dedicated
1953	American Legion, Post 558	The building was repainted
08/03/1948	American Legion, Post 558	Official Deed granted to Post 558 for the purchase of lot 27, block 12 (Appendix E: Deed)
1948	American Legion, Post 558	The building is extended in 1948 by the addition of "The Club," 42 ft. x 50 ft. on the rear end
1960-1966	American Legion, Post 558	Sometime prior to 1966, the plaster finish was added to the front facade, the sashes of the double hung windows were replaced and the concrete was laid in the front yard
12/12/90	American Legion, Post 558	The exiting composite roofing is removed and new composite roofing material is applied
6/03/93	American Legion, Post 558	An additional layer of composition roofing is laid over the existing composition roof (2-layer maximum)
7/30/93	American Legion, Post 558	A building permit was granted on 8/10/93 to correct the structural inadequacies due to the Loma Prieta Earthquake

Date	Owner	Alteration
		Structural engineering report finds that a lower member of the roof frame is missing; Cross tie cables were installed to prevent the walls to lean outward
8/10/93	American Legion, Post 558	Additional seismic upgrade to the building was completed.

OWNERSHIP/OCCUPANT HISTORY

Date Range	Owner	Notes
March, 1938	American Legion, Post 558	Application to charter Los Altos Post forwarded to National headquarters by organizer, Howard A. "Jack" Welch
November, 1938	American Legion, Post 558	Temporary American Legion Post 588 charter was approved and signed by National and State Commanders
1940	American Legion, Post 558	American Legion, Post 558 submit building permits and complete purchase of lot
2/7/1941 to Present	American Legion, Post 558	Lieut. Col. John Howard, Post 558 is dedicated and the owners are the American Legion, Post 558 and remain so today

Chapter 4

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's master inventory of known historic resources. It is administered by the National Parks Service (NPS) in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The National Register includes listings of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts possessing historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local levels. The National Register criteria and associated definitions are outlined in the National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The following is quoted from National Register Bulletin 15:

Criteria

Generally, resources (structures, sites, buildings, districts, and objects) over 50 years of age can be listed in the National Register provided that they meet the evaluative criteria described below. Resources can be listed individually in the National Register or as contributors to an historic district. The National Register criteria are as follows:

- A. Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- B. Resources that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Resources 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 or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Resources that have yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history.

THE CALIFORNIA REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) is the official list of properties, structures, districts, and objects significant at the local, state, or national level. California Register properties must have significance under one of the four following criteria and must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and convey the reasons for their significance (i.e. retain integrity). The California Register

utilizes the same seven aspects of integrity as the National Register. Properties that are eligible for the National Register are automatically eligible for the California Register. Properties that do not meet the threshold for the National Register may meet the California Register criteria.

1. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history, or cultural heritage of California or the United States;
2. Associated with the lives of persons important to the local, California or national history;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a design-type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value; or
4. Yields important information about prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

CRHR criteria are similar to National Register of Historic Places criteria, and are tied to CEQA, so any resource that meets the above criteria, and retains a sufficient level of historic integrity, is considered an historical resource under CEQA.

CITY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORIC PRESERVATION CRITERIA FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Under municipal code 12.44.040 - Criteria for designation, a structure, property or object may be eligible for designation as a historic resource or historic landmark, if it/they satisfy each of the three criteria listed below:

A. Age.

A structure or property should be more than fifty (50) years in age. (Exceptions can be made to this rule if the building(s) or site(s) is/are truly remarkable for some reason - such as being associated with an outstanding architect, personage, usage or event).

B. Determination of Integrity.

A structure or property should retain sufficient historic integrity in most of the following areas:

1. Design: The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of a property.
2. Setting: The physical environment of a historic property.
3. Materials: The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
4. Workmanship: The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
5. Feeling: A property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

C. Historic Significance.

A structure or property should be clearly associated with one or more of the following areas of significance:

1. Event: 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;
2. Person/People: Associated with the lives of persons important to the local, California or national history;
3. Architecture/Design: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a design-type, period, region or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic value; or
4. Archaeology: Yields important information about prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

The city's historic resource evaluation methodology, which provides more details about the above listed criteria, is available from the planning division (Ord. No. 2011-363, § 1, 3-8-2011; Ord. No. 2017-437, § 1, 3-13-2018).³⁹

Once the historical commission has received an application for a proposed designation, additional criteria is applied and is listed below under municipal code 12.44.070 - Historic landmark designation. This ordinance of the City of Los Altos amends Chapter 12.44, Historic Preservation, of the Los Altos Municipal Code. The two criteria are listed below:

C. The commission shall make a recommendation to the city council on the proposed designation. In order to make a positive recommendation, the commission shall make the following findings:

1. That the proposed historic landmark satisfies the three criteria outlined in Section 12.44.040; and
2. That the proposed landmark has 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.

The city's historic resource evaluation methodology, which provides more details about the above listed criteria, is available from the planning division (Ord. No. 201-437: Historic Preservation Code Amendments).⁴⁰

³⁹ Los Altos Code of Ordinances, Title 12, Chapter 12.44, Article 2 accessed online: http://losaltos-ca.elaws.us/code/coor_title12_ch12.44_art2_sec12.44.040

⁴⁰ City of Los Altos Ordinance No. 2017-437; historic Preservation Code Amendments accessed online https://los-altos.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=1308&meta_id=53994

HISTORIC INTEGRITY

When evaluating a resource for the NRHP or CRHR, one must evaluate and clearly state the significance of that resource to American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. A resource may be considered individually eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR if it meets one or more of the above listed criteria for significance and it possesses historic integrity. If a property is found to meet one or more of the significance criteria it also must retain sufficient historic integrity to convey its significance. The following seven aspects that define historic integrity are applied to properties found to be eligible for the NRHP and CRHR:

- Location. The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
- Design. The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- Setting. The physical environment of a historic property.
- Materials. The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
- Workmanship. The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
- Feeling. A property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
- Association. The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

To retain historic integrity, a resource should possess several of the above-mentioned aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is essential for a resource to convey its significance. Comparisons with similar properties should also be considered when evaluating integrity as it may be important in deciding what physical features are essential to reflect the significance of a historic context. If a property is determined to not be eligible or individual listing on the NRHP or CRHR, then it will not be evaluated for historic integrity.

Chapter 5

EVALUATION FINDINGS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP) / CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES (CRHR)

This section uses the historic information discussed above to evaluate the property at 347 First Street in Los Altos for historic significance and for local landmark designation. The CRHR uses generally the same guidelines as the NRHP (developed by the National Park Service); as such, selected language from those guidelines will be quoted below to help clarify the evaluation discussion.

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:

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.”⁴¹ 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”⁴²

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 property purchase, building construction and dedication ceremony were all published on the front pages of *The Los Altos News*. 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. A temporary charter was approved by the American Legion headquarters on November 29, 1938 and finalized on December 15, 1938. The Legion Hall building at 347 First Street was not yet constructed and Post 558 held temporary quarters. The legion purchased the subject property in 1940 and

⁴¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources staff, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,” National Register Bulletin, no. 15 (1990: revised for internet 1995).

⁴² Ibid.

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.

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. It was determined that the new city needed an official town hall. The City of Los Altos awarded modernist designer Ernest J. Kump the design for the Civic Center, which is a campus that includes municipal functions like City Hall and the town's main library branch. The Civic Center began construction in 1958 and was completed and occupied in 1959.

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, so Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does find 347 First Street to be eligible for consideration for the NRHP/CRHR under criterion A/1 at any level for association.

Criterion B/2: Individuals

This criterion applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. The NPS defines significant persons as "individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. The criterion is generally restricted to those properties that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person's important achievements. The persons associated with the property must be individually significant within a historic context." The NPS also specifies that these properties "are usually those associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance."⁴³

As the site was unoccupied until the Post's construction, it was owned but not utilized by the Los Altos Land Company. The American Legion Post 558 has owned the land on which the 347

First Street building is sited since 1940. Post 558's namesake is Lt. Colonel John J. Howard, a WWI war veteran, who devoted forty years to the Army and passed away on October 18, 1929. Lt. Colonel Howard settled in Los Altos after being granted an honorable retirement. Properties significant under criterion B/2 are usually reflective of the time period during which the individual contributed to history. Properties that post-date an individual's significant accomplishments are not considered as having an adequate association with the individual. Had the subject property been developed during Lt. Colonel John J. Howard's lifetime, it would be more illustrative of his contributions to local history.

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, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does not find 347 First Street to be 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."⁴⁴

According to the NPS, "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."⁴⁵

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

⁴⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources staff, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," National Register Bulletin, no. 15 (1990: revised for internet 1995).

⁴⁵ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources staff, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," National Register Bulletin, no. 15 (1990: revised for internet 1995).

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.

347 First Street therefore does not appear to be a significant example of a Minimal Traditional, the architectural style it most closely represents. Therefore, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does not find 347 First Street 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 Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does not find the property 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.

CITY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORIC RESOURCES EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Under municipal code 12.44.040 - Criteria for designation, a structure, property or object may be eligible for designation as a historic resource or historic landmark, if it/they satisfy each of the three criteria listed below:

A. Age. A structure or property should be more than fifty (50) years in age.

The property at 347 First Street is at least 50 years old and has met the age threshold.

B. Determination of Integrity. A structure or property should retain sufficient historic integrity in most of the following areas:

Design:

347 First Street most closely resembles Minimal Traditional style of architecture. This style of architecture is characterized with their stripped-down detailing and features include: one-story rectangular plan, front-gabled (or hipped-) roof with shallow overhangs, horizontal wood siding, double-hung windows, chimney, and lack of ornamentation. The United States Military adopted this style around 1940 to house the enlisted service men for the pre-war mobilization effort and is termed WWII Temporary Construction for one-or two-story buildings (**Figure 5**). The typical elements found in this style are similar to those of the Minimal Traditional style and include: long rectangular shape, gable roof, horizontal wood siding multi paned, double hung windows and a first story projecting overhang. The building at 347 First Street has many of the above-mentioned features including: no ornamentation, one-story rectangular plan building, front-gabled roof, shallow overhangs, and horizontal wood siding. 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 as evident from historic photos and from interviews with the veterans and elders of Legion Hall 558. 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.

Overall, the form and interior layout are intact as well as the above-mentioned elements of Minimal Traditional style and WWII Temporary Construction style of architecture; therefore, 347 First Street **does retain** integrity of design.

Setting:

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.

Materials:

347 First Street 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. At the same time the window sashes on the front facade windows were also changed. 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. Again, the changes to these windows occurred after the period of significance. The exterior doors are not original and have been replaced with modern commercial aluminum and glass doors. On the east facade, a ramp and a stairway leading to the door entry are a later addition but a requirement for ADA accessibility. The stairway and ramp can also be easily removed without damaging the existing structure. The storage units located on the east facade conceal the original V-groove siding, but these are not permanent structures. 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.

Workmanship:

347 First Street was constructed by Legionnaires. It has been recorded that WWI army veterans constructed the building. This may be why they chose a Minimal Traditional style of architecture for the building. Being war veterans, they would be familiar with this style of architecture, which is cost effective and simple to build, and used for military type structures. Minimal Traditional architectural elements include single story, with horizontal massing, and dominant gable front. Other features include small scale, minimal architectural decoration, and simple windows, typically double-hung. The Minimal Traditional building elements and original workmanship are still apparent; therefore, 347 First Street **does maintain** integrity of workmanship.

Feeling:

The architectural design of 347 First Street is generally that of a Minimal Traditional architectural style, a representative style of the time of its construction. The minimal alterations over time have not diminished its origins of that architectural style. The building today is completely recognizable of when it was built in 1940 and the interior is mostly intact. The front section of the building is the "hall" and the rear 1948 addition is identified as the "club". These two areas are similar to the way they were in 1948, except for some modernizing of the kitchen and replacing the exterior doors. The building has and continues to provide a place of camaraderie for veterans and to conduct a variety of community services. The changes to the front facade occurred during the building's period of significance. The hardscapes surrounding the property does diminish the original feeling of the building, only the setting. The original curved walkways in the front setback are also still visible. Overall, the feeling of the building is intact; therefore, 347 First Street **does maintain** integrity of feeling.

C. Historic Significance. A structure or property should be clearly associated with one or more of the following areas of significance:

1. Event: 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 property purchase, building construction and dedication ceremony were all published on the front pages of *the Los Altos News*. 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.

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.

While the subject property is associated with the development trends and activities of the City of Los Altos, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. **does find 347 First Street to be a significant resource under events** associated with its significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history.

2. Person/People: Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history (as noted earlier under NRHP/CRHR criteria);

The Los Altos Land Company owned the land prior to the construction of the Legion Hall at 347 First Street. The land on which the 347 First Street building is sited has belonged to the American Legion Post 558 since 1940, and was named after WWI veteran Lt. Colonel John J. Howard. After devoting forty years to the Army, Lt. Colonel Howard settled in Los Altos after being granted an honorable retirement and passed away on October 18, 1929. Properties significant under criterion "Person/People" are usually reflective of the time period during which the individual contributed to history. Properties that post-date an individual's significant accomplishments are not considered as having an adequate association with the individual. Had the subject property been developed during Lt. Colonel John J. Howard's lifetime, it would be more illustrative of his contributions to local history.

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, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does not find 347 First Street to be significant for its association with any important person or people.

3. Architecture/Design: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a design-type, period, region or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic value;

The design of the 347 First Street most closely resembles that of Minimal Traditional architectural style, with its a one-story rectangular plan, horizontal massing, dominant front-gabled roof and use of redwood. While the subject property has features of this architectural style, it does not represent work of master or possess high artistic value as required to be eligible under criterion Architecture/Design. The building was designed and constructed by military veterans. The Minimal Traditional style, usually associated with WWII-era residential architecture, has more prevalence in Southern California. Los Altos has not identified Minimal Traditional buildings in its past historic resources inventories. Because of the simple and military-influenced design, also seen in places like the barracks at Fort Cronkhite, the building is a good example of an almost vernacular application of the Minimal Traditional style.⁴⁶ The site, which originally featured established trees and grass, has changed, reflecting the area's shift toward a denser business district.

The property, as it appears now, is not fully representative as a prominent example of Minimal Traditional style of architecture.

⁴⁶ National Parks Service, "World War II Temporary Construction" *Golden Gate National Recreational Area*. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/ww2-tempconstruction.htm>

347 First Street therefore does not appear to be a significant example of the Minimal Traditional architectural style and does not possess high artistic value; therefore, Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. does not find 347 First Street to be significant for its association with architecture/design.

4. Archaeology: Yields important information about prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

The building is of common methods of construction and does not appear likely to yield important information about historic construction, methods, materials or technologies. Archival research and physical investigation of the site is focused on the above ground resource only; therefore, no informed determination could be made regarding the property's potential for archaeological resource.

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. 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.

CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURES

The property at 347 First Street was found to be potentially significant under criteria A/1: Event, as it is reflective of the local development and incorporation of the City of Los Altos. 347 First Street reflects a simplistic architectural style during the WWII era and is classified as Minimal Traditional style of architecture. It is a vernacular, flexible architectural form that often incorporates design elements or references ornamentation from historic styles, including American Colonial, Colonial Revival, Spanish Revival, Tudor Revival, and American Craftsman. Minimal Traditional buildings are usually smaller in scale and have minimal, or pared-down ornamentation. Design features that represent this style include one story massing, front gable or hipped roof, simple eaves, and cladding in various materials (wood, brick or stone).

As such, individual features of the building have been identified that define the historic character of the building and property. Assessment of various features is done according to a prioritized evaluation system. Once the character-defining features have been identified, each is assigned a priority rating to create a sense of the relative historical importance of these spaces

and features. A rating scale of “Premier-Important-Contributing-Non-Contributing” is used. In general, this system allows for the analysis of the structure as a whole to guide what types of work should be done, and where such work could be completed with the least damage to the historic integrity of the resource.

The character-defining features of the building and property at 347 First Street, include:

Primary

- One-story
- Horizontal massing
- Dominate, from gable roof
- Original window fenestrations with wood frames and sills
- V-groove horizontal wood siding
- Recessed entry

Important

- Wood framed fixed windows on front facade
- Brick chimney

Contributing

- Front, side and rear setbacks
- Flagpole located within front setback

Non-Contributing

- Plaster applied sheathing covering wood siding on front facade
- Window sash replacements
- Exterior doors replaced with commercial aluminum and glass doors
- Concrete infill at front setback location
- Non-permanent storage sheds on east side of the building
- Chain-link gate on east side of the building

HISTORIC INTEGRITY, NRHP/CRHR

The evaluation of historic significance is a two-step process. First, the historic significance of the property must be established. If the property appears to possess historic significance, then a determination of its physical integrity is conducted; that is, its authenticity as evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance (1940-1959).

347 First Street does appear to be historically significant, and is eligible under any NRHP or CRHR criteria. To provide a complete assessment of the subject property, the seven aspects of integrity are nonetheless addressed.

Location:

The building at 347 First Street has not been moved. Therefore, it retains its integrity of location.

Design:

347 First Street most closely resembles Minimal Traditional style of architecture. Alterations to the original design have not significantly reduced the features typical of this style of architecture, except for the replacement of the doors and window sashes. The rear addition alters the original scale and proportion of the original structure. This addition occurred over 50 years ago in 1948 and during the period of significance. In addition the building retains the same horizontal massing, rectangular shape and roof form. The minor alterations include: replacing the original 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. The window fenestrations, window wood frames and wood sills have been left intact. The other alteration includes covering the wood V-groove siding with stucco on the front facade, whereas the other three facades have kept the original V-groove wood siding. These alterations occurred sometime between 1945 and 1966 as evident from historic photos and from interviews with the veterans and elders of Legion Hall 558. 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.

Overall, the form, interior layout, structure and style are intact and features of Minimal Traditional style of architecture; therefore, 347 First Street does retain integrity of design.

Setting:

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.

Materials:

347 First Street 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 sills 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. At the same time the window sashes on the front facade windows were also changed. 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. Again, the changes to these windows occurred after the period of significance. The exterior doors are not original and have been replaced with modern commercial aluminum and glass doors. On the east facade, a ramp and a stairway leading to the door entry are a later addition but a requirement for ADA accessibility. The stairway and ramp can also be easily removed without damaging the existing structure. The storage units located on the east facade conceal the original V-groove siding, but these are not permanent structures. 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 only some of its building materials; therefore, 347 First Street does not retain integrity of materials.

Workmanship:

347 First Street was constructed by Legionnaires. It has been recorded that WWI army veterans constructed the building. This may be why they chose Minimal Traditional style of architecture for the building. Being war veterans, they would be familiar with this style of architecture, which is cost effective and simple to build, and used for military type structures. Minimal Traditional architectural elements include single story, with horizontal massing, and dominant gable front. Other features include small scale, minimal architectural decoration, and simple windows, typically double-hung.

The Minimal Traditional building elements and original workmanship are still apparent; therefore, 347 First Street does maintain integrity of workmanship.

Feeling:

The architectural design of 347 First Street is generally that of a Minimal Traditional architectural style, a representative style of the time of its construction. The minimal alterations over time have not diminished its origins of that architectural style. The building today is completely recognizable of when it was built in 1940 and the interior is pretty much intact. The front section of the building is the "hall" and the rear 1948 addition is identified as the "club". These two areas are pretty much the same as they were in 1948 except for some modernizing of the kitchen and replacing the exterior doors. The building has and continues to provide a place of camaraderie for veterans and to conduct a variety of community services. The changes to the front facade occurred during the building's period of significance. The hardscapes surrounding the property does diminish the original feeling of the building, only the setting. The original curved walkways in the front setback are also still visible. Overall, the feeling of the building is intact; therefore, 347 First Street does maintain integrity of feeling.

Association:

347 First Street, as a legion hall built two years after the 1938 launch of Post 558 and has been as part of the early 20th century development of 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. Clearly the surrounding suburban development has changed over time but the building has retained its integrity of association with the military veterans and with the community at large. It was instrumental meeting place when the city was being incorporated and was the primary gathering space until the Civic Center and other areas were developed in the late 1950's.

The Legion Hall has been associated with the broad patterns of Los Altos history and therefore, 347 First Street does retain integrity of association.

HISTORIC INTEGRITY AND SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

347 First Street retains six (6) out of seven (7) aspects of integrity. As such, the building retains sufficient integrity to remain eligible under the local criteria discussed above.

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 the City 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 A/1. The subject property's period of significance is considered to be from 1940-1959. These dates correspond to when the American Legion Hall Post 558 was constructed in 1940 and continued with the hall's association with the towns' gatherings, activities and events until 1959. The construction of the Civic Center began in 1958 and occupation began in 1959 and offered the City of Los Altos a municipal gathering place for civic and political activities and events.

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, the subject resource meets the criteria as noted above. In addition, a proposed landmark 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.

The 347 First Street was instrumental in the establishment of the City of Los Altos, as such the subject building has special historical value as part of the history of the City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the subject property at 347 First Street in Los Altos is known as the Los Altos Post 558, American Legion Hall. The land was purchased by, and its building constructed by the Legionnaires in 1940 as a community gathering space for the unincorporated town of Los Altos.

The subject building does appear to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR under Criterion A/1 for association with patterns of development, events and repeated activities. Research did not find evidence that the owners or occupants of the building made significant contributions to local, state, or national history. As such, the subject building does not appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR under Criterion B/2 for association with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history. The subject building's architectural design does not provide a very good example of Minimal Traditional style of architecture, and as such does not appear eligible for listing in the NRHP/CRHR under Criterion C/3.

The subject building also appears to qualify under several evaluative criteria for local historic listing under the City of Los Altos, Historic Preservation Criteria for Landmark Designation. The American Legion Hall does meet the local Los Altos criteria for:

- A. Age: The structure is over 50 years old;
- B. Determination of Integrity: The structure retains sufficient historic integrity of, Location, Design, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association;
- C. Historic Significance: The structure is associated with a pattern of events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of local or regional history.

An analysis of the building's historic integrity determines that overall historic integrity has been retained, enabling the building to represent its significance. The significant time period is considered to be from 1940 when the building was constructed, until 1959, when the new Civic Center buildings were occupied. The building does display a level of historical significance and integrity that would qualify it for listing as a historic resource on the National Register of Historic Places and on the California Register of Historical Places. Further, 347 First Street does display a level of significance or integrity that would qualify it for designation as a local City of Los Altos landmark at the local level.

In addition, this report finds that Legion Hall as a proposed landmark, has special historical interest as part of the heritage or history of the City of Los Altos and Santa Clara County.

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Appendix A

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Aerial photo of Los Altos 1930, UCSB Library. Flight C_1180, Frame 9.



Aerial photo of Los Altos 1939, UCSB Library. Flight C_5750_286. Frame 8.



Aerial photo of Los Altos 1941, UCSB Library. Flight C_6660. Frame 379.



Aerial photo of Los Altos 1956, UCSB Library. Flight civ_9r. Frame 37.



Aerial photo of Los Altos 1964, UCSB Library. Flight CAS-SCL_5. Frame 37.

Appendix B

PRIOR RELATED DOCUMENTATION

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 _____
---	--

Page 1 of 1 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 347 First Street

P1. Other Identifier: American Legion Building

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County Santa Clara and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad _____ Date _____ T: _____ R: _____ of _____ of Sec _____ B.M.

c. Address 337 First St City Los Altos Zip 94022

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____ mE/ _____ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

APN: 167 40 048

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

The American Legion building at 347 First Street in downtown Los Altos is generally rectangular in plan and is comprised of two gable roofed sections attached end to end. Composition shingles cover all roof surfaces. Stucco clads the front elevation of the foremost structure and the remainder of the building is sheathed in wood shiplap siding. Both sections have rectangular window openings with wood trim and sills, glazed with aluminum sliders. Metal sash glazed doors with sidelights provide access to the building at both the front and side (north) elevations. Rear access is also through a glazed metal frame door. Wood boards cover all windows on the rear elevation. Two fixed, wood sash windows flank the primary entrance and a slatted wood vent is set beneath the gable peak. Overall the building appears to be in good condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP13, Community center / social hall

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



P5b. Description of Photo: Primary Elevation

June-08

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: Historic Prehistoric

Both

n/d

(Los Altos Planning Dept)

*P7. Owner and Address:

Los Altos American Legion Post 558

347 First Street Los Altos, CA

94022

*P8. Recorded by:

Circa: Historic Property Development

1 Sutter St., Ste. 910

San Francisco, CA 94104

*P9. Date Recorded: June-08

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update & Evaluation Report (Circa: Historic Property Development, 2005)

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record

Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record

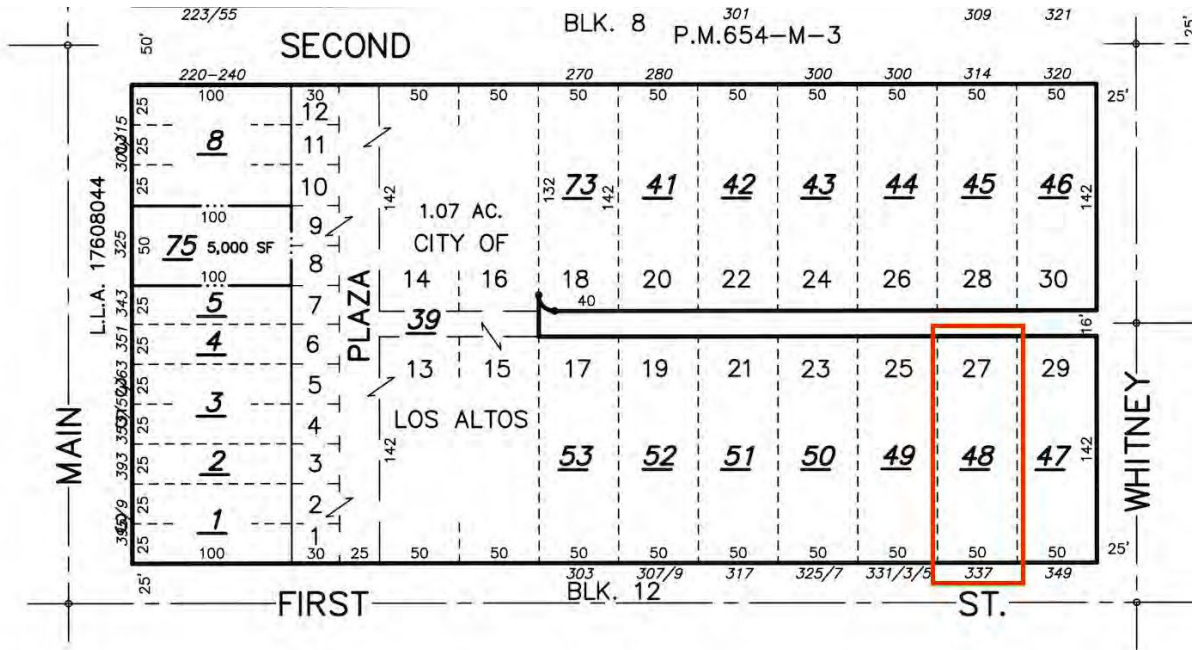
Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List): _____



Appendix C

SUBDIVISION AND HISTORIC MAPS

ATTACHMENT 2

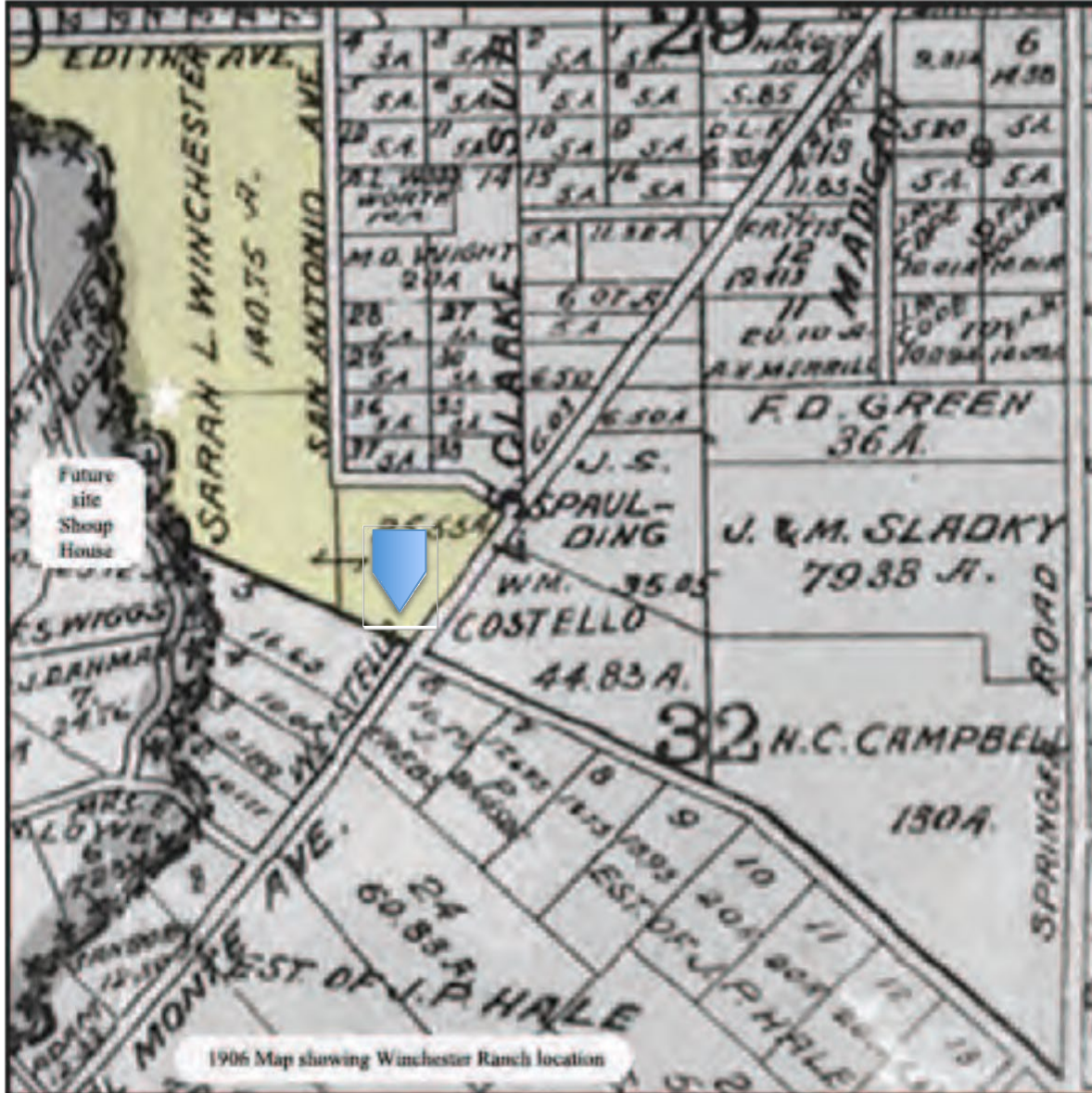


Current Subdivision Map





1899 USGS Map of Los Altos Area, Blue Pin approximates location of 347 First Street



1906 Map of Sara Winchester Ranch, Blue Pin approximates location of 347 First Street



1943 USGS Map of Los Altos Area, Blue Pin approximates location of 347 First Street



1948 USGS Map of Los Altos Area, Blue Pin approximates location of 347 First Street



1961 USGS Map of Los Altos Area, Blue Pin approximates location of 347 First Street. Note Civic Center in top right corner.

Appendix D

**AVAILABLE BUILDING
PERMITS/PLANS**

State of California X Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	Primary# HRI # Trinomial
CONTINUATION SHEET	
Property Name: _____	347 First Street
Page 8 of 13	

DPR523B B6 Attachment 1

1948 Addition Permit

167-40-48 No 10237

Date	Description	Dimensions	Area	Ac. %	Assess	Depreciation %	Volume	Value

NO PART OF BUILDING
 15'-0" 15'-0"
 12'-0" 12'-0"
 6'-0" New Add. 1948

41-5 First Street

CALCULATION

32 x 60 = 1920
 9 x 26 = 234
 3754

New Add.

40 x 4.12 = 1648
 4 x 8 = 32
 3 x 9 = 27
 1707

Total = 5461

1948 Addition Permit Backside Notes

Estimated by Volunteer Review
 11/11/13
 15' x 12' = 180'
 12' x 12' = 144'
 12' x 12' = 144'



CITY OF LOS ALTOS DIVISION OF BUILDING INSPECTION 1 N. SAN ANTONIO RD. LOS ALTOS, CA 94022 (415) 948-0226		APPR. DATE: 12/12/90 BY: [Signature] BUILDING ADDRESS: 347 First St CITY: Los Altos STATE: CA MAILING ADDRESS: 347 First St CITY: Los Altos STATE: CA	PERMIT ISSUED: 12/12/90 BY: Kelley, Kuehn VALUATIONS: Blg: 3125 NO. 33687 Plumbing: [Signature] Mechanical: [Signature] Other: [Signature] Total: 3125
I certify that I am exempt from the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, 8 and P Code (Contractor's License Law) because: (Check applicable statement) W. A. I am the owner of the above property and I will contract to have all of the above work performed by licensed contractors. W. B. I am the owner of the property and the work will be partially accomplished in accordance with Statement "A" and the other work will be accomplished in accordance with Statement "C". W. C. I am the owner of the above property and I will perform the above work personally or through the employees whose sole compensation will be wages, and the above-described structure is not intended or offered for sale.		MAILING ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: () _____ ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER: _____ TELEPHONE: () _____ BUILDING PERMIT TYPE OF CONGT. OCC. GROUP USE ZONE ASSESSMENT PARCEL NO. FLOOD ZONE (YES OR NO) DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Repair of the existing Comp Roofing, Apply Comp NEW ADDITION ALTERATIONS REPAIRS SQ. FT. SIZE NO. OF BEDROOMS NO. OF STORIES GARAGE SIZE GARAGE ATT. DET. LOT SIZE LOT AREA HEIGHT LIVING UNITS TOTAL AREA OCCUPIED SQ. FT. LOT AREA VARIANCE NEEDED YES NO PLUMBING PERMIT PLUMBING CONTRACTOR WORK COMP. # TELEPHONE () MAILING ADDRESS CITY LICENSE # STATE LICENSE # ELECTRICAL PERMIT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR WORK COMP. # TELEPHONE () MAILING ADDRESS CITY LICENSE # STATE LICENSE # MECHANICAL PERMIT MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR WORK COMP. # TELEPHONE () MAILING ADDRESS CITY LICENSE # STATE LICENSE #	
Signature: [Signature] Date: 12-12-90 I certify that in the performance of the work for which this permit is issued I shall not employ any person in any manner so as to become subject to the Worker's Compensation Laws of California. Signature: [Signature] Date: 12-12-90 NOTICE TO APPLICANT: If, after making the Certificate of Exemption, you should become subject to the Worker's Compensation provisions of the Labor Code, you must forthwith comply with such provisions or this permit shall be deemed revoked. I certify that I have a certificate of consent to self-insure, or a Certificate of Worker's Compensation Insurance, or a certified copy thereof. Policy No. 0119380-40 State Ind [Signature]		DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS POINT: PERMIT FEES: Blg: 63 Plan Check Fee _____ Date Paid _____ Invt. # _____ APPROVALS: S.C.V.W.D. Date _____ Map. Rec. Date _____ Plan. Date _____ Fire Date _____ Eng. Date _____ Blg. Date _____ A. & S. Date _____ Variance Date _____ Total Fees: 63.50 COMMENTS: 52A	

Building Permit #33687, dated 12/12/1990 for roof work.



ALL WORK MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO COVERING UP

AREA	APPROVAL DATE	INSPECTED BY	COMMENTS	CORRECTION NOTICE
FOUNDATIONS				
RETICULATIONS				
FORM STEEL				
SLAB				
COLUMNS				
FIREPLACE				
UNDERFL INSUL.				
ELECTRICAL				
UNDERGROUND				
ROUGH				
SERVICE				
TEMP. POWER				
PRE-GUNITE				
FINAL				
PLUMBING				
STORM				
SEWER				
ROUGH				
VENTS				
BATHWATER PAN				
ROUGH GAS				
SOLAR FINAL				
UNDER FLOOR				
UNDER GROUND				
FINAL GAS				
FINAL				
HEATING				
DUCTS				
FLUES				
FURN BOILER				
HOODS				
AC UNITS				
UNDER FLOOR				
FINAL				
STRUCTURE				
JOIST/GIRDERS				
BOARD BEAM				
WALL STEEL				
SHEARNAE				
ROOF NAEL				
FRAME				
EXT. SHEATHING				
T-BAR				
INSULATION				
PRE-GUNITE				
FINISH				
DRYWALL				
TRE LATH				
INT LATH				
EXT LATH				
ROOF PROG				
ROOF FINAL	12-26-90	W. Bud	<i>Inspected this on 12-27-90 & they were not compliant with all required requirements for an inspection at that time.</i>	
FINAL				
ENGINEER				
FIRE DEPT.				
PLANNING				
FINAL DISP.	12-26-90	W. Bud	<i>Signed Conditionally w/Prejudice for all - Project non-compliance. 2/19/86</i>	

ARRANGE FOR INSPECTIONS BY PHONING 948-0226. ALL INSPECTIONS REQUIRE AN ADULT TO BE PRESENT AT TIME OF INSPECTION. PLEASE GIVE JOB ADDRESS WHEN PHONING.

Building Permit #33687, dated 12/12/1990 for roof work. Back of permit.



ALL WORK MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO COVERING UP

AREA OF INSPECTION	APPROVAL DATE	INSPECTED BY	COMMENTS	CORRECTION NOTICE
SETBACKS				
FORM STEEL				
SLAB				
COLUMNS				
FIREPLACE				
UNDERFL. INSUL.				
ELECTRICAL				
UNDERGROUND				
ROUGH				
SERVICE				
TEMP. POWER				
FIRE-GRNITE				
FINAL				
PLUMBING				
STORM				
SEWER				
ROUGH				
VENTS				
SHOWER PAN				
ROUGH GAS				
SOLAR/HEAT				
UNDER FLOOR				
UNDERGROUND				
FINAL GAS				
FINAL				
HEATING				
DUCTS				
FLUES				
FURN / BOILER				
HOODS				
A/C UNITS				
UNDER FLOOR				
FINAL				
STRUCTURE				
JOIST / GIRDERS				
BOND BEAM				
WALL STEEL				
SHEAR WALL				
ROOF NAJ				
FRAME				
EXT. SHEATHING				
T BAR				
INSULATION				
FIRE GRNITE				
FINISH				
DRYWALL				
INT. LATH				
EXT. LATH				
ROOF FROG				
ROOF FINAL				
ENGINEERING				
FIRE DEPT.				
PLANNING				
FINAL DISP.				

1-11-94 *Nov*

ARRANGE FOR INSPECTIONS BY PHONING 948-0226. ALL INSPECTIONS REQUIRE AN ADULT TO BE PRESENT AT TIME OF INSPECTION. PLEASE GIVE JOB ADDRESS WHEN PHONING.



AAE - Architects & Engineers
1186 Huntingdon Dr.
San Jose, CA 95129

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING
347 First Street
Los Altos, California

THE PROBLEM.

The Los Altos American Legion building has two sections, one which is 40 ft. x 50 ft. and a narrower section which is 32 ft. x 60 ft. This report refers to the narrower section of the building.

The section of our concern has a roof frame whose lower member is missing. As a consequence the top member has deformed and pushed out the studs to the point that the out-of-verticality of the long walls is clearly visible.

THE SOLUTION.

The attached calculations show that the above mentioned deformation can be stopped by providing cross tie cables at 15 ft. on centers. Four 3/8" cables are required to provide a restraining force of 3,000 pounds each. Steel angles are required, throughout the whole length of both walls of the section of concern, to transfer the restraining force to the lateral walls.

Details of the sizes and location of the cables and appurtenances are found in the attached five calculation sheets and the 24" x 36" drawing that form part of this report.

Guillermo A. Noffal
Guillermo A. Noffal P.E.
7-30-93



BUILDING
DATE _____

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
DATE 8-10-93 BY [Signature]



AAE - ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
2797 Park Ave. Suite 202
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel. (408) 247 8805

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
CALCULATIONS
FOR
BUILDING REPAIR

LOCATION: 347 FIRST ST.
LOS ALTOS, CA 94026

JOB No. 9156

CLIENT: LOS ALTOS AMERICAN LEGION
347 FIRST ST.
LOS ALTOS, CA 94026

I N D E X

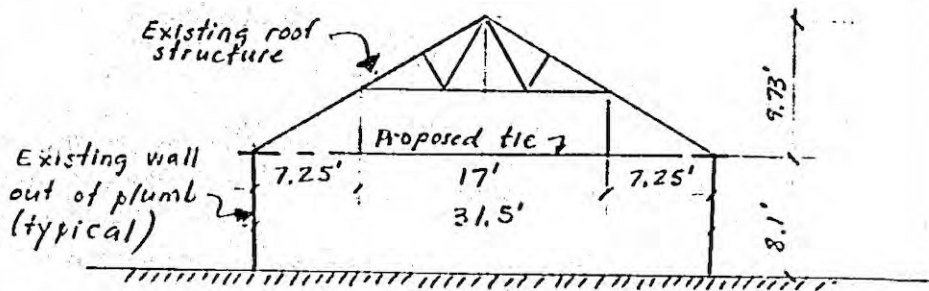
Content	Page(s)
<u>DATA</u>	<u>01</u>
<u>CROSS TIE</u>	<u>51-53</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>



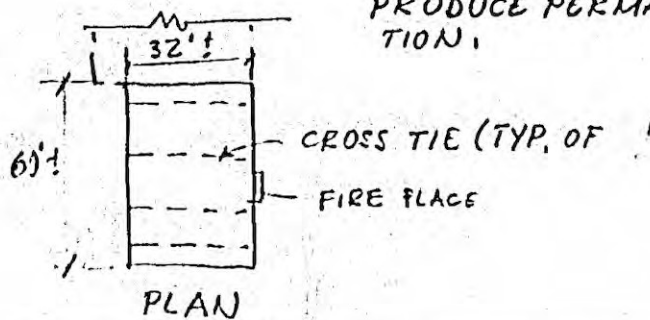
AAE-ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
 2797 Park Ave. Suite 202
 SANTA CLARA, CA 95050
 Phone (408) 247-8805
 FAX (408) 247-8805*

JOB 9156
 SHEET NO D1 OF _____
 CALCULATED BY gan DATE 7-26-93
 CHECKED BY _____ DATE _____
 SCALE _____

DATA



PROBLEM: Walls out of plumb
 CAUSE: LACK OF RESTRAINT
 REMEDY: PROVIDE CROSS TIES @ 15' ±
 ASSUMPTION: DEAD LOAD = 15 psf
 DESIGN CRITERIA: CROSS TIE TO TAKE THE THRUST DUE TO DEAD LOAD ONLY. TEMPORARY LIVE LOADS DO NOT PRODUCE PERMANENT DEFORMATION.



AAE ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
 2797 Park Ave. Suite 202
 SANTA CLARA, CA 95050
 Phone (408) 247-8805
 FAX (408) 247-8805*

JOB 9156
 SHEET NO. 51 OF _____
 CALCULATED BY jam DATE 7-26-93
 CHECKED BY _____ DATE _____
 SCALE _____

TIE

$$\text{LOAD / TIE} = W = 15 \text{ psf } (15') = 225 \text{ pif}$$

MAX. CONC. LOAD AT RIDGE:

$$P = \frac{W L}{2} = \frac{225 (31.5')}{2} = 3,544 \text{ \# / TIE}$$

$$M_{\text{MAX}} = \frac{P L}{4} = \frac{3544 (31.5)}{4} = 27,909 \text{ lbf-ft}$$

$$\text{FORCE / TIE} = \frac{M}{9.73'} = \frac{27,909 \text{ lbf-ft}}{9.73'} = 2,868 \text{ \# TENSION}$$

USE $3/8" \phi$ 7x19 nonfraying galvanized cable
 to satisfy ASTM A-90.

WORKING LOAD LIMIT: $3000 \text{ \#} > 2,868 \text{ \#}$

DOUBLE PLATE REINFORCEMENT:

$$\text{LOAD} = \frac{2,868 \text{ \#}}{15'} = 191 \text{ pif}$$

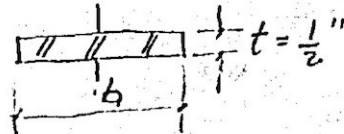
SPAN: 15'

$$M_{\text{max}} = \frac{W L^2}{8} = \frac{191 (15^2)}{8} = 5,378 \text{ lbf-ft}$$

$$S = \frac{M}{20,000 \text{ psi}} = \frac{5378 \times 12}{20,000} = 3.227 \text{ in}^3$$

$$S = \frac{t b^2}{6}$$

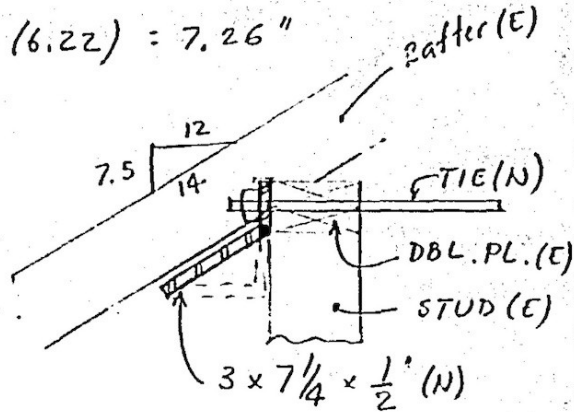
$$\therefore b = \sqrt{\frac{6 S}{0.5}} = 6.22$$



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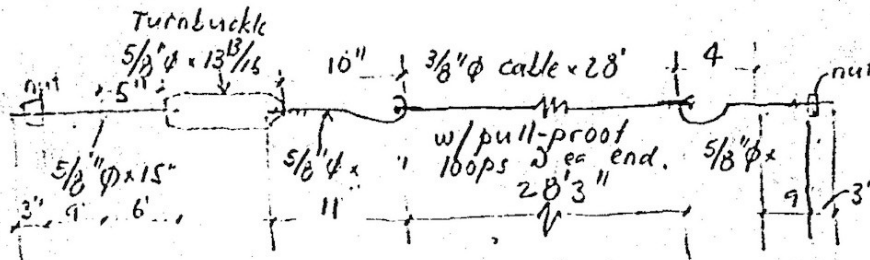
JOB 9156
 SHEET NO 52 OF _____
 CALCULATED BY Tom DATE 7-26-93
 CHECKED BY gan DATE _____
 SCALE _____

PLATE LENGTH: $\frac{14}{12} (6.22) = 7.26''$
 OR L 6x6x3/8
 S = 3.53



TURNBUCKLE

USE $5/8'' \phi \times 13 \frac{3}{16}''$ (a = 12")
 CAPACITY : 3,500 # [AISC Manual]



CROSS TIE DETAIL
 (FIVE)

28' 5" CABLE (O. TO O.)

AAE-ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
2797 Park Ave. Suite 202
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050
Phone (408) 247-8805
FAX (408) 247-8805*

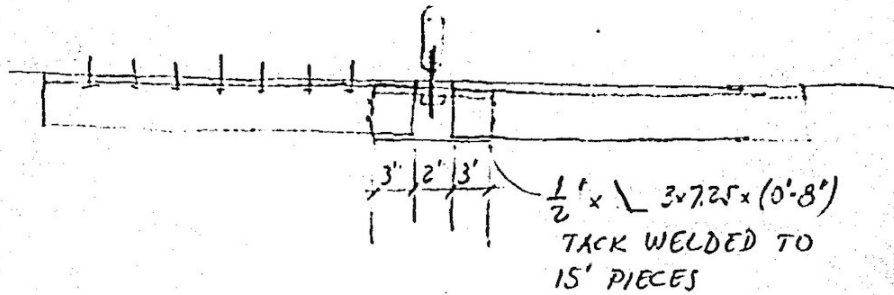
JOB 9156
SHEET NO 53 OF _____
CALCULATED BY plw DATE 7-26-93
CHECKED BY gan DATE _____
SCALE _____

DETAILING

WT. OF $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x (15'0") PL.

$$17.9 \times \frac{10.5}{11.0} (15') = 256 \#$$

CONNECT 10 DOUBLE PLATE W/ 7-8^d
OR 8^d @ 2' O.C.



C E R T I F I C A T E

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that:

- 1- I am the engineer on record for the repair of the LOS ALTOS AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING located at 347 First Street, Los Altos, California;
- 2- A steel angle 6"x 6"x 3/8" could very well be used to reinforce the existing wood double plate instead of the one shown on the plan dated 7-27-1993.

Given in San Jose, California on this 4th day of August of 1,993 at the request of Mr. Bill Goss.


Guillermo A. Noffal



Appendix E

DEED

FORM No. 4

1617 PAS 146

Comparative Grant Deed

LT. COL. JOHN HOWARD POST NO. 558 OF AMERICAN LEGION, an unincorporated association,

~~incorporated~~ party of the first part, does hereby Grant to

LIEUT. COLONEL JOHN HOWARD POST NO. 558 THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA, a corporation,

part...Y..... of the second part, all that real property situate in the

County of Santa Clara, State of California, described as follows:

ALL OF LOT 27, in Block 12, as shown upon that certain Map entitled, "Map No. 1 of the Town of Los Altos", which Map was filed for record in the office of the Recorder of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, October 25, 1907 in Book L of Maps, at page 99.

In Witness Whereof, said party of the first part, by its ^{Commander} President and ^{Adjutant} Adjutant Secretary thereunto duly authorized, has caused its corporate name to be hereunto subscribed and its corporate seal to be hereto affixed, this 3rd day of August, 1948.

LT. COL. JOHN HOWARD POST NO. 558 AMERICAN LEGION, an unincorporated association.

By *Joseph J. Gault* Commander PRESIDENT

By *J. M. Eaton* Adjutant SECRETARY



Appendix F

**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS
AND DOCUMENTS**



Image of Legion Members constructing American Legion Post Hall 558 in 1940. (Los Altos Town Crier and W. Bassett)

• LOS ALTOS
and Adjacent
Community

LOS ALTOS NEWS

"Dedicated to the Heights Where Life Is Better Because of Friends"

Vol. 55—P. L. & A.
C. S. Prange
PAID
PERMIT NO. 26
LOS ALTOS, CALIF.
P.O. REGISTERED
P.O. BOX 100

VOLUME IV

LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1941

3 months per year

No. 23

NEW LEGION HALL DEDICATION TOMORROW

Improvements Underway On Women's Club

Improvements and repairs have been going on in the San Antonio Women's Club house, which will add much to the comfort and convenience of the members. The regular meeting of the club will be held today, February 6, from 11 to 4.

To increase the fund for making the annual Valentine Party will be given on Friday, February 14. All women who are interested in philanthropic work are asked to attend. Reservations may be had from Mrs. J. C. Feltner, Comrade Avenue, Phone L. A. 40. Tables are being made up in bridge, whist and other games according to the choice of guests.

Every Thursday, on all day morning of a unit of the Palms Chapter of the Red Cross, is held at the Club House. As a result of last week's work, Mrs. Oscar Ritzhaus, the supervisor, secured at the headquarters, 12 thirty Danadette nightgowns, five and twenty pajamas, three silk dresses, three sweaters, and two socks and two pair boy's socks.

Los Altos To Attend Fascia Society Meet

ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT STANFORD SOON

Stanford University's 40th annual conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4, on the campus.

By far the most important of various gatherings set for the present time the event is one which specialists of Stanford Island are trying to attract. There will be news and discussion from and about most of the present day life frontiers.

Stanford President Ben Carter Walker will deliver an important address dealing with world conditions at the closing banquet at the women's apartments in student hall.

Jack Shoup of Los Altos is chairman of the banquet committee. He comments that there are still a few tickets left for the banquet and that those who are interested may make reservations by calling Altona (Lester) Riser, Executive of Stanford.

New Mrs. Temple Given Shower Just Before Wedding

Interesting little story in the tea sup and shower shower given by Mrs. Eugene Martin (Lucia Martin), of Berkeley, in honor of Mrs. Jack Temple. Neither has old school friends.

Civic Improvement



Los Altos tomorrow will take part in dedication exercises of the new meeting hall of Lieut. Col. John Howard Post, No. 136, American Legion, completed recently after months of work on part of members of the post. American Legion officials from all sections of northern California will attend the dedication exercises. The new meeting place is on First Street. Also shown in the above picture are several Los Altos construction projects.

Widely Known Whist Party of Welfare Week

Prominent Legionnaires To Attend Big Event

Months of hard work on the part of members of Lieut. Col. John Howard Post No. 136, American Legion, will be crowned tomorrow night when the new Legion hall on First Street will be dedicated.

Leaders in American Legion circles from all sections of northern and central California will come here to attend the impressive dedication rites.

Los Altos have had plenty of opportunity to see the new white structure on First Street rapidly take shape and have watched members of the local legion post put their heart and soul into its construction.

The hall will be the home of all the activities of Lieut. Col. John Howard Post in the future. The dining, company kitchen, the large banquet hall, the gymnasium, the swimming pool, the excellent lighting system, all combine to make the hall not only a meeting place for the legion, but a new community house as well.

MILDRED PEARSON IS INSTALLED NOBLE GRAND OF REBEKAHS

Mrs. JEAN COHENFORD, Executive Rebekah Lodge, 48 Alameda View, shared in New Year with a "Public Institution" of officers.

Mildred Pearson, who is born, lives and works in San Jose, is the new Noble Grand of the Lodge. Everybody is congratulating her pretty young woman upon assuming the office in what is a short period of time in lodge life.

Lillian Sherman, who has lived in Los Altos a good many years, is first out in the high backed chair, backed on either side by two other grand chairs, not quite so high, are the outgoing Noble Grand, Mrs. Helen Sherman, and District Commander Allen F. (Pete) Lindsey of San Jose and his entire staff will be in attendance while the address of the evening will be delivered by Dr. Henry (Doc) Waters of Watsonville, past commander of the department of California.

At 8 o'clock, Commander Fred

Los Altos News, February 6, 1941 Front Page. (Los Altos News, Post Hall 558 2019 Application)

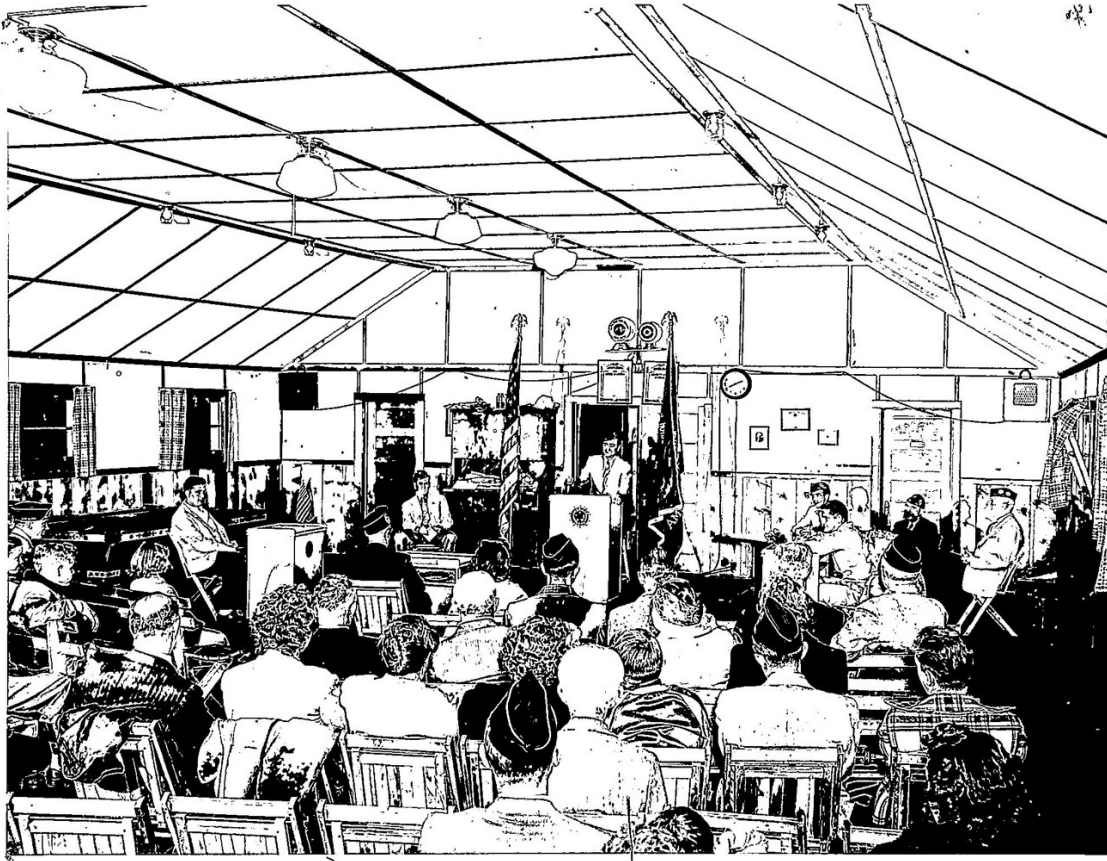




Post Hall with early landscaping, between 1948 addition and 1960's landscaping changes
(Post Hall 558 2019 Application)



Colored photo of Scout Hall (Left) and Legion Hall (Right) looking west down First Street.
(Post Hall 558 2019 Application)



Hall Construction and Interior Circa 1954 (Post Hall 588 2019 Application)



Image of Whitecliff Market's tent during its time at Post Hall after the fire of 1966.
(Post Hall 588 2019 Application)



Jimmy Carter Speaks at Post Hall 558 for a Spring 2001 Packard Foundation event held at Legion Hall. (Post Hall 2019 Application).