

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 2 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 236 Eleanor Avenue

P1. Other Identifier: HRI #: 24; Morris House

*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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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 236 Eleanor Avenue 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)
170 41 093

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

This two-story, wood-frame residence is constructed on a square plan and topped by a side-gabled roof. Gable ends are supported by decorative wood knee brackets and the open eaves reveal exposed rafterails. A large front-facing gable with balcony is set over the ground floor entry porch. The balcony is supported from below by paired, square wood porch posts; this balcony has been remodeled since the property was recorded in 1997 with the square support posts replacing the original angled knee bracket supports. The existing balcony rail was also added at that time. Additional paired porch posts are set at either end of the full-width porch and are connected by simple wood railings. The entrance is offset to the right and two large plate glass windows are located to the left. Other original wood sash windows appear to be extant. Each has a single row of smaller panes across the top. A circular driveway surrounds a single mature palm tree in the front yard. The property appears to be in excellent condition.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2. Single family property

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

P5b. Description of Photo:
 Primary Elevation

July 2011

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: Historic Prehistoric

Both

1919

G. Laffey

*P7. Owner and Address:

Guido E. & Barbara M. Van Thillo

236 Eleanor Avenue Los Altos, CA

94022

*P8. Recorded by:

Circa: Historic Property Development

582 Market Street, Suite 1800

San Francisco, CA 94104

*P9. Date Recorded: _____

July 2011

*P10. Survey Type:

Intensive



*P11. Report Citation:
Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory Update Report (Circa: Historic Property Development, March 2012).

*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): _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code CA Reg. 5S1

Page 2 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 236 Eleanor Avenue

B1. Historic Name: Morris House

B2. Common Name: _____

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: Residential

*B5. Architectural Style: _____

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Built 1919. "Remodel & repair interior of vintage house," 1994.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features:

Mature palm.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture/Agriculture

Area Los Altos

Period of Significance c.1919-1961 (50 year mark)

Property Type Residence

Applicable Criteria NR/CR/Local

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

This bungalow was associated with agriculture, specifically orchards. Originally a part of the 1911 Adams Subdivision, oral history transcripts indicate that the house was occupied by the Morris family. C. W. Morris shows up in 1922 in city directories and is listed as an orchardist. His son Doug indicated that the family owned the surrounding 14 acres in orchard. He also indicates that the residence was built around 1919. It is not clear if the Morris family was the original occupant of the home. The house is one of the few remaining farmhouses left in the city today (G. Laffey).

Character Defining Features: two-story form; side-gable roof with wood knee brackets; open eaves with exposed rafterails; large front-facing gable; paired porch posts set at either end of the full-width porch; original wood sash windows with rows of smaller panes across top; mature palm in front yard.

Evaluation: 236 Eleanor Avenue is a good representative example of its style, is associated with the historical theme of agriculture in Los Altos, and retains a fair degree of integrity of location, workmanship, feeling, design and materials. Therefore, it is listed on the Los Altos Historic Resources Inventory as a Historic Resource and is assigned the California Register Status Code 5S1: "Individual property that is listed or designated locally."

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

*B12. References:

Los Altos Historical Commission: Los Altos HRI (9.28.1997); McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; DPR series forms by G. Laffey (1997); Sanborn Maps; Los Altos HRI (February 2011).

B13. Remarks:

Vicinity map provided by the City of Los Altos and amended by Circa: Historic Property Development.

*B14. Evaluator: Circa: Historic Property Development

*Date of Evaluation: July 2011

(This space reserved for official comments.)

