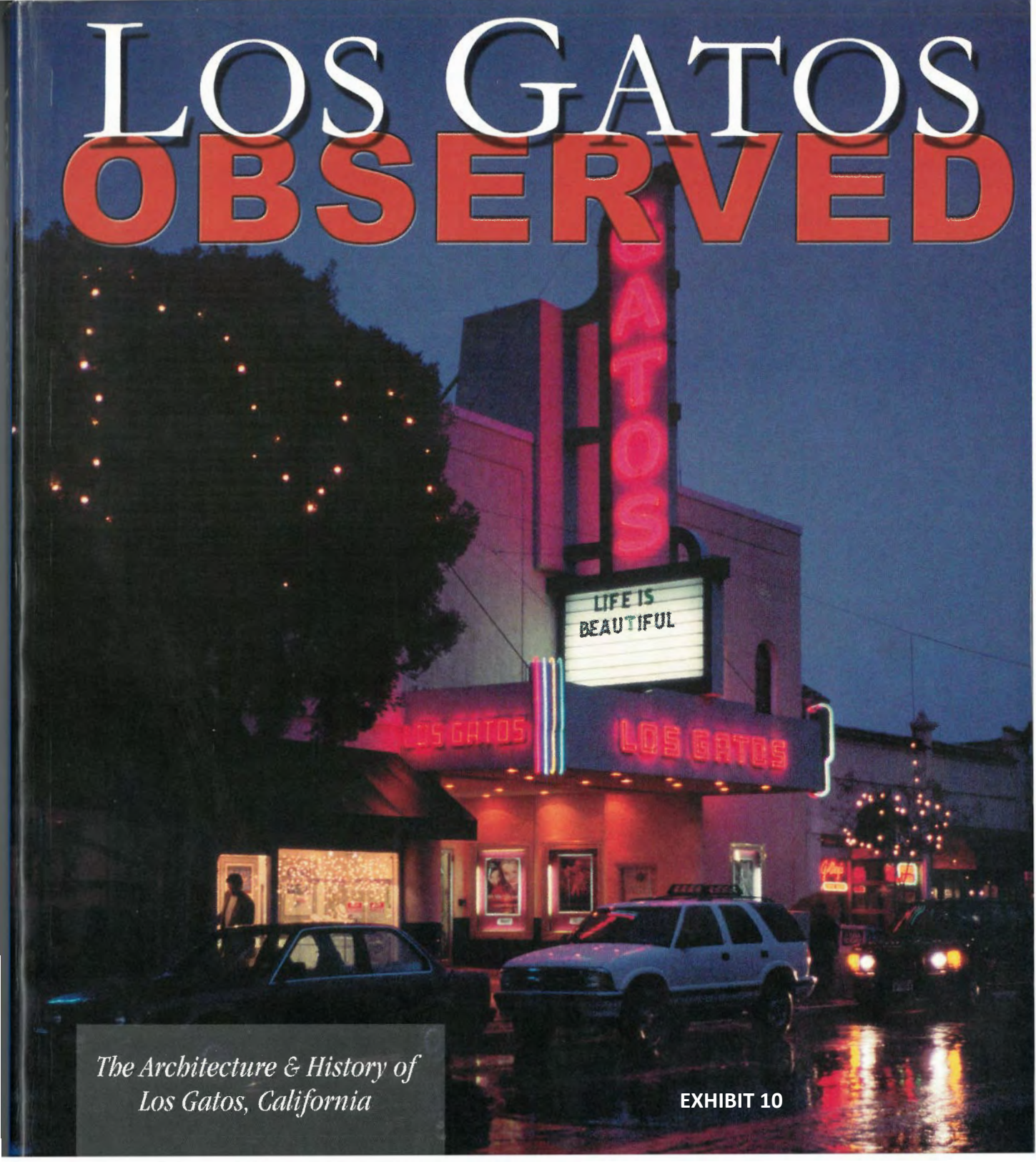


# LOS GATOS OBSERVED



*The Architecture & History of  
Los Gatos, California*

EXHIBIT 10

## I

I. O. O. F. hall, 3, 36  
 IBM, 23  
 Ice Works, 56  
 Ichinoi, Masatsune, 120  
*Il Nido*, 34  
*Il Ritrovo Sociale*, 72  
 In the Olde Manner, 38  
 Influenza epidemic (1919), 22  
 Inn at Southbridge, 144  
 Interior designers  
   Elle d'Lin, 128-129  
   Engstrom Design Group, 47  
   Mary Tomasi, ix-x  
   Valerie Irene Zacher, 120  
 International Business Machines, 23  
 Interurban line, 22-23, 25, 118  
 Italianate Victorian, 2  
*I Taught Amelia Earhart to Fly*, 78

## J

Jack and Jill (donkeys), 7  
 Jackrabbits, 139  
 Jackson, Frank, 72  
 Japan Society of Dental Medicine  
   History, 120  
 Jehovah's Witnesses, 87  
 Jennings, Dean, 65  
 Jenny Lind (steamboat), 164  
 Jensen, Egon, 177  
 Jesuits, 21, 53, 58  
 Jet, T33A, 158  
 Johns & Johnson Drug Store, 33,  
   83, 116  
 Johns, Thomas E., 83, 106, 116,  
   177  
 Johnson Ave  
   #142: 80  
   #143: 80  
   #122: 80  
   #200: 80  
   #239: 81  
   #341: 82  
   #348: 82  
   subdivision, 19  
 Johnson, Annie (wife of Peter), 83  
 Johnson, Elvira V. (daughter of  
   Peter), 78  
 Johnson, Peter, 16, 18, 20, 22, 73,  
   78, 80, 83, 177  
 Johnston, Lynn, 20  
 Johnston, Rev. William Henry, 80

Jones Road Trail, 139  
 Jones, Dr. W. Horace, 119  
 Jones, William, "Billy," &  
   Geraldine, 159, 163  
 Wildcat Railroad, 158-60

## K

Kangaroo Crossing, 148  
 Keeley Institute, 73  
 Kennedy Trail, 139  
 Kennedy, James Faris, 17, 24, 32,  
   142  
 Kennedy-Torrey house, 148  
 Kerouac, Jack, 6  
 KICU-TV, 7  
 Kilkenny, Maggie (wife of Patrick  
   O'Laughlin), 109, 123  
 Kimball, Levi W., 74  
 Kimble Ave, #3: 55  
 King, John. J., 53  
 King's Court Center, 150  
 Kissinger, Henry, 6  
 Kiwanis Club, 6, 7, 8, 67  
 Knickerbocker Company, 145  
 Konsterlie, Amy, 7, 8, 18, 41

## L

La Cañada Building, 4, 7, 26, 36-  
   37, 51, 125, 128, 152  
 La Estancia, 118-19  
 La France fire engine, 99, 158  
 La Hacienda Inn, 118, 163  
 La Luna, 146  
 La Rinconada Country Club, 25,  
   165  
 La Rinconada Park, 169  
 Lake Elsmar, 142  
 Lambda Gamma, 128  
 LaMontagne, 65  
 Landscape Solutions, 149  
 Laulainen, Frank, 46-47  
 Laurel tree, 139  
 Lawson Plumbing, 40  
 Le Boulanger, 22, 26, 33, 59  
 Leniham, James J., dam, 25, 137  
 Lentz, Tim, 126  
 Leo & Leona, 135-36  
 Les Moineaux, 96  
 Lewis, Osmer, 116  
 Lexington  
   dam, 25  
   lost town, 14-15, 16, 17, 23, 29,  
   137

Libante, Andre, 49, 114; Jean, 114  
 Library, 43, 67  
 Library, Carnegie, 22  
 Lien, John, 33, 62, 69-70, 89, 94,  
   131  
 Limekiln Trail, 139  
 Lin, Yvonne, 16  
 Lincoln, Abraham, 17, 72  
 Lincoln, Harry, 150  
 Lincoln, John, 177  
 Lions Club, 8, 20, 163  
 Listowel, Ireland, 42  
 Little League, 6  
 Little Theater, 46  
 Little Village, 42  
 Little, Luke, 116  
 Live Oak Manor Park, 169  
 Lobdell & Mahoney, 59  
 Lobdell, Frank, 59  
 Local option (prohibition), 70, 86  
 Lochner, John, 177  
 Lockheed, 6  
 Loftus, Edward, 124  
 Loma Alta Ave (Market Street), 19,  
   22, 78  
   #110: 78  
   #179: 78  
   #206: 79  
   #499: 79  
 London Oyster Room, 34  
 London, Becky, 98  
 London, Jack, 6, 98  
 Longmeadow, 142  
 Longstreth, Richard, 119  
 Lopes, Spencer, 16  
 Los Gatos Athletic Club, 71  
 Los Gatos Bank, 18, 35  
 Los Gatos Bar & Grill, 5  
 Los Gatos Blvd  
   #46: 84  
   #49: 83  
   #54: 26, 84  
   #112: 85  
   #116: 85  
   #122: 85  
   #204: 86  
   #207: 86  
   #214: 86  
   #227: 88  
   #256: 87  
   #269: 87  
   #271: 88  
   #315: 148





**FORBES MILL** on the bank of Los Gatos Creek  
(Spencer Lopes)

### Redwood Economy to Fruit Economy

As the Civil War began a continent away, pioneers were settling Los Gatos. John Lyndon of Vermont landed in San Francisco (by way of Panama) in October 1859 and found work in the mill at Lexington. He parlayed his savings into Willow Glen real estate and later made

investments in Los Gatos. Peter Johnson arrived from Denmark in 1861. A teamster, he established a stable at Los Gatos to support the heavy wagon traffic bringing Santa Cruz lumber to the valley and ports like Redwood City. Lyman Burrell experimented with fruit trees in the Los

Gatos hills in the 1850s, just as the first local vineyards were planted. The first wooden house in town was built by a Mr. Samuels in 1861, at Main and Church. (The home was later purchased by W. S. McMurtry and survived until the 1950s.) Like Johnson, Henry D. McCobb, formerly Santa Clara's postmaster, invested in Los Gatos to take advantage of the heavy wagon traffic. In 1864, McCobb bought one hundred acres, including today's Broadway district, and became the proprietor of the one-room redwood cabin, constructed in 1860, on the site of today's Toll House. This cabin was the town's first hotel, built by a retired stagecoach driver named Rockyfellow. Because it was ten miles south of San Jose, it was known as the Ten Mile House. Also in 1864, John J. Roberts settled in today's Vasona Park and built a family farmhouse on the site of the Hernandez adobe, which had returned to mud during a particularly wet winter. The first post office was established at Los Gatos in the Ten Mile House on December 8, 1864.

California was fifteen years old and was still not linked to the east by rail. The Civil War was still raging, and Governor Leland Stanford and his friends were building the empire that would become the Southern Pacific railroad. In 1865,



1864

## Railroad Transforms Town

One day in May or June, 1881, William S. Walker, a farmer from Missouri who had made a name in printing and newspaper publishing in towns in Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska and California, stepped off the train in Los Gatos. He had decided to publish a newspaper in Saratoga, and this was as close as the train came. Leaving the Los Gatos Hotel across from the depot to more common visitors, Mr. Walker traveled the length of Main Street, crossing the creek on the aging bridge, to reach the Coleman House, the town's newest and possibly most elegant hostelry. The Coleman House stood on the north side of Main across from Alpine Avenue.

William Walker decided quickly that things were more likely to happen in Los Gatos than in Saratoga. The first issue of the *Los Gatos Weekly News* was published July 2, 1881 from a house on Alpine Avenue. Soon, Walker was meeting with important men in town like Samuel Templeton, Thomas Shannon, Herman Sund and **Peter Johnson**, discussing the construction of a cannery in town and wooden sidewalks for tourists.

A first class wooden bridge, high enough to withstand the annual floods, was built across the creek between the mill and the hotel in 1882, and it marked the beginning of the "Golden Age" of Los Gatos.

schoolhouse was built on University Avenue (the Old Town site), St. Mary's Catholic Church was built at Bean and Santa Cruz Avenue, and the Los Gatos Canning Company, managed by George Hooke, was built about where the Los Gatos Theater is today. John Lyndon expanded his hotel, and also invested in the Los Gatos Gas Company, the Los Gatos Bank, and in the Canning Company. (In 1889, Lyndon was the town's second-highest taxpayer, responsible for 5% of the town's revenue.)

The town had seven saloons; Alexander Place's Furniture and Undertaking establishment on Main Street; a second newspaper, the *Mail*; an Opera House (Seanor's, near today's Masonic Lodge), and the Sunset Telephone Company. The redwood economy of Lexington had been replaced by a fruit economy centered in Los Gatos.

Herman Sund, a Swedish immigrant, emerged as the town's leading builder, and

orchardist John Cilker established the Co-op Winery. Both left lasting legacies. Sund's original farmhouse remains, along with many of the buildings he and his son built (Russell Sund built the Tait Museum, and the Mail-News Building, to name two examples). The stone walls of the Co-op Winery still stand behind the civic center, and the Cilker family developed the Cornerstone retail center (at Blossom Hill Road and Los Gatos Boulevard) and donated some of



**SUBSTANTIAL BRICK** buildings with sophisticated urban ornamentation began to appear around the train depot in the early 1890s.

# Been There, Done That, Got the Doorbell

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED HOMES in Los Gatos proudly display the brass wildcat plaque shown here. What does it mean and how can you get one? Unfortunately, the plaques were always intended to be a limited edition in order not to diminish the prestige of the award.

Bellringer plaques were awarded to 62 homeowners on June 26, 1976 at a barbecue on the Los Gatos High School lawn as part of the town's celebration of the nation's bicentennial. Conceived by Mardi Gualtieri Bennett, the project was an adjunct of the Los Gatos Bicentennial Committee, and was headed by Ed Dowd, with architectural consultation from Dennis Burrow. Ms. Bennett was elected to the town council in 1976 and served as mayor 1978-79. She later wrote *Images of Long Ago*, a collection of vintage photographs and historical anecdotes about Los Gatos.

Only homes built before 1900 were eligible for the award, thus leaving out many fine Craftsman houses and much of Glen Ridge. Owners had to propose restoration work, have it approved and complete it

The original Bellringer homes ranged from modest (64 Central) to grand (45 Broadway). Applications were carefully screened, because it appears that everyone who applied was accepted.

Broadway had eight Bellringers, the most of any street, with Glenridge, Los Gatos Boulevard and University beating out Fairview Plaza, Edelen and Hernandez.



Six additional plaques were awarded July 4, 1977. Project Bellringer II was organized by Sara Anderson in 1984. This time the team included Mardi

Bennett, historian William Wulf, architect Gary Schloh and Regina Falkner of the town's Community Services Department. Thirty-two homes were honored in January 1987 to celebrate the town's centennial, and this time Los Gatos Boulevard was the most represented, easily surpassing Tait and Wilder. The obviously historic homes of Peter Johnson, Daniel Simons and the Forrest family of Oak Meadow were among the honorees.

The original plaques were cast in brass by students at Los Gatos High School



which, after extensive earthquake renovations, still stands on East Main Street across from College Avenue. After fire destroyed Lyndon's Los Gatos Hotel in 1898, a fire bell was installed atop a wooden tower across the street. When disaster struck again on October 13, 1901, the wooden tower was burned as well, bringing the new bell crashing to the ground. That fire swept both sides of Main Street from the train tracks to the creek—in modern terms, from Le Boulanger to the freeway.

## Urban Growth

March 19, 1904, the electric interurban made its first run from San Jose west on Stevens Creek Boulevard, then the length of Saratoga Avenue, and finally east to Los Gatos. The Opera House that exists today was built by Southern Pacific stationmaster Eugene L. Ford in 1904. The wooden bridge across the creek was replaced in 1905 with a more substantial stone one, which was dedicated just days before the San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906. The shock of that catastrophe sent many who could afford it out looking for a calmer way of life, and Los Gatos gained many new residents, among them Richard and Anne Spreckles, distant relatives of the Spreckels Sugar family. They made their home on four acres of Peter Johnson's land and later established a sanitarium at the top of Loma Alta Avenue that is now the Eastfield Ming Quong Conference Center.

Another shaken city dweller was bohemian restaurateur Quintino Ceccanti, who bought an

mosaic tiles in hand-made fountains and established a fine reputation. He continued making and selling wine during Prohibition in the 1920s (for which he landed in jail several times).

As the town matured, impressive homes were built on Glen Ridge and Bella Vista Avenue. Home & Garden magazine recognized the home of Fairview Plaza developer Frank McCullagh in 1902 after its renovation by famous architect Willis Polk. A permanent Carnegie Library was erected in 1903, and a sturdy Town Hall was built in 1913 on a site that is now the lawn north of today's library. Sunset magazine featured Los Gatos in a 1915 issue, the year that Thomas Edison and Henry Ford visited the town. In 1916, Pacific Gas & Electric unceremoniously destroyed Forbes Mill, leaving only a little annex. J. Walter Crider converted Ford's Opera House into a department store and the Los Gatos Theater was built. It was the end of an era. In 1917, the United States entered the war to end all wars, and in 1918 an influenza epidemic killed half a million Americans. An unexpected downpour caught most of the prune crop in the drying ground trays and cost local businessmen millions of dollars.

In 1920, the first annual Los Gatos Pageant was held. Local celebrity poetess Ruth Comfort Mitchell attended, along with Governor William Stephens. Regular radio broadcasting began in the United States, women won the right to vote, and the first air mail letter was received in Los Gatos. Colonel Erskine Scott Wood and his wife, Sara Bard Field, bought property south of town and commissioned the two famous cat statues as an example of public

Herman Sund bought a tiny cabin and 30 acres from Peter Johnson in 1882. The cabin may have been the Johnson home in the early 1860s (see 60). Herman (1845-c1922), a ship's carpenter born in northeast Sweden, jumped ship in New York. He married Josephine Peterson in Kansas and came to California for her health. He lost her to tuberculosis in Knight's Ferry and came to Los Gatos with their three children, where he met and married Anna Louisa Schrepfer in 1883. Anna (1858-1943), was the Swiss neice of a Civil War veteran who had retired to the Foster Road area.

Herman improved the cabin in 1884, opened a lumber yard on Johnson Avenue and served on the first town council (1887-1890). As a contractor, he built the Cannery, the Los Gatos Store, several wineries and fruit drying plants and many of the area's finest homes. He built the Keeley Institute on East Main which served as the Town Hall until 1913. He completed many vital civil engineering projects as well, such as street drainage and the town's wooden sidewalks.

Herman's son, Russell Henry (1886-1976), was also a builder. In 1907, he built a home at 103 Alpine for his new bride, Margaret Cox. (They later returned to the family farmhouse.) Russell served on the fire brigade, was a Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1914 and served as a member of the board of key institutions such as the electric company (later PG&E) and the Los Gatos Telephone Company. He served on the town council 1932-40 and he built the fire house (78) and the Mail-News Building (11) among many other local projects.

Herman had intended to subdivide his prune and pear orchards in the 1880s, but his vision was delayed until the creation of Sund Avenue in the 1980s. Russell's grandson-in-law, builder Tom Ward, has restored the farm house beautifully.

The original farmhouse, painted sunny yellow, a charming parcel of land and an ancient eucalyptus tree with a 29' (9m) circumference remain as monument to the Sund family's remarkable contribution to our community.



**STEADFAST VALUES** helped create Los Gatos and it is fitting that this farmhouse that has been continuously occupied by a member of the Sund family abides, witness to three centuries.



**LIKE SOME ENDANGERED SPECIES**, the stone walls on either side of Alpine Avenue are protected by Historic Designation HD-73-9. The rock was quarried from Los Gatos Creek south of Main Street and is similar to rock found on Pennsylvania Avenue and elsewhere in town.



**JOHNSON & CROSS WAY,**  
named for Anna Cross.

## JOHNSON & LOMA ALTA

Johnson Avenue is named for Peter Johnson, a Danish immigrant who provided stable services to the teamsters plying the Santa Cruz Gap Turnpike. On February 7, 1921, the town considered changing the name of the street to El Monte Avenue, but residents objected. Market Street, also named by Mr. Johnson when he subdivided the area in the early 1880s, was changed to reflect the street's residential character. Market became known as Loma Alta (highland) Avenue.



**THE MACABEE HOUSE** is  
Eastlake-style, identified by the  
turned wood columns on the  
porch and the turned pendants.

### 54 Macabee Gopher Trap Factory HD-75-2 110 Loma Alta Avenue 1894

In 1887, Zephyr Macabee (1858-1940) was one of the signers of the petition for town incorporation. His father, Canadian Edward Macabee, owned the El Monte Hotel at East Main and Pleasant Street. The second son of eight children, Zepf came here when he was seven and worked at the El Monte as a clerk, handyman and busboy. He was later a barber for ten years, after which he was advised to work outside for health reasons.

In 1900, he invented the Macabee Gopher Trap, considered a godsend by orchardists in the Santa Clara Valley and worldwide. By the mid-1920s, some 1,000 traps per day were manufactured in this house and the Macabee family's residence had moved to Reservoir Road. In 1955, more than 230,000 traps were produced in this residential factory. For many years, Neta Snook Southern, the author of *I Taught Amelia Earhart to Fly*, assembled traps here. The company still sells traps from this house; stacked boxes waiting for shipment are occasionally visible through the window.



### 55 Market Street School HR-1 179 Loma Alta Avenue Peter Johnson?, 1891

Built as a part-residence, part-schoolhouse for first and second graders, the house was apparently originally owned by Peter Johnson, whose daughter, Elvira V. Johnson, taught at the school.





**A RARE HYBRID** of Victorian and Craftsman, the house at 142 Johnson was built in 1888 by Charles H. Wheeler, a builder in competition with Herman Sund.



**THE TURNED WOOD** post at the porch identifies an example of Eastlake style at 143 Johnson.



**PREDATING MORE ELABORATE** Queen Anne "cottages," the vernacular Victorian style was often inspired by pattern books of mid-west farm house designs. 122 Johnson is a fine example.



## 58 Johnson Barn

200 Johnson Avenue  
Peter Johnson, c1880



Peter Johnson built a barn on this site shortly before creating Johnson Avenue. Two large tanks in back held water used to palliate the dust on the street.

The Reverend William Henry Johnston (a Methodist minister not known to practice) operated a grocery store here from 1903 to 1925 and had the big tanks removed as a safety hazard. The store joined Herman Sund's lumber yard at Johnson and Cross Way, a taxi service at 145 Johnson and a French Laundry at 209 in creating a tiny commercial district.

Gatos Boulevard) extended all the way down to the east bank of the Los Gatos Creek. Farm houses were built on the high ground near the road and the creek-level portion (the "bottom land") was farmed or planted in trees. The bluff overlooking East Main Street was known as El Monte Hill.

Bella Vista dates to 1912 or so, about the time that Glen Ridge came into fashion. The name means "beautiful view."



*Peter Johnson*

## 60 Johnson House

49 Los Gatos Boulevard

Peter Johnson, c1864

HD-73-5

Peter Johnson (1842-c1897), a Danish immigrant, arrived in this county in 1861 and owned 131 acres on the high ground (El Monte Hill) overlooking East Main Street. No one knows precisely when he and his wife Annie M. Hays (1852-c1927) built this house (perhaps as early as 1864). He kept a barn and blacksmith shop across the San Jose Road (Los Gatos Boulevard) from the house. He fathered eight children, subdivided his property, published the Los Gatos *Mail* and served on the town council from 1888 to 1894, the last two years as the equivalent of Mayor.

Stacia Street is named for one of his daughters (we speculate that Miss A. S. Johnson in the town directory might be Annie Stacia). After his death, Annie became a partner in Thomas E. Johns' Rankin Block drug store, creating the Johns & Johnson pharmacy.

The house has apparently had only three subsequent owners, the most recent of whom is renovating with attention paid to historical accuracy.

The huge Coast Live Oak in the front yard is said to predate the house.



# Mayors

The town council was called the Board of Trustees prior to 1927, and the mayor was simply the Chairman of the Board.

1887	Palmer Perkins	1966	Egon Jensen
1888	John Weldon Lyndon	1968	John Michaelsen
1892	Peter Johnson	1969	Roland Perry
1894	Fenilen Massol (resigned)	1970	Dr. Charles DeFreitas
1897	Henry Schomberg	1971	Seymour Abrahams
1898	E. N. Davis	1972	Ruth Cannon (first woman)
1900	Thomas J. Davis	1973	Mark DiDuca
1902	James H. Lyndon	1974	John Lochner
1904	B. P. Shuler	1975	Egon Jensen
1906	T. E. Johns	1976	Ruth Cannon
1908	Daniel Page Simons	1977	Albert Smith
1910	George W. Turner	1978	Mardi Gualtieri
1912	R. R. Bell (resigned)	1979	John Lochner
1914	S. D. Balch	1980	Thomas Ferrito
1916	W. C. Short	1981	Peter Siemens
1918	J. J. Stanfield (resigned)	1982	Brent Ventura
1919	William F. Godfrey	1983	Thomas Ferrito
1920	Charles W. Gertridge	1984	Joanne Benjamin
1922	J. Walter Crider	1985	Terrence Daily
1924	Irving D. Mabie	1986	Brent Ventura
1926	George A. Green	1987	Eric Carlson
1928	A. H. Bell	1988	Joanne Benjamin
1930	Irving D. Mabie	1989	Thomas Ferrito
1932	Marcus Vertin	1990	Brent Ventura
1940	Carl S. Balch (resigned)	1991	Eric D. Carlson
1940	Stanley Mills	1992	Eric D. Carlson
1944	C. B. Spotswood	1993	Joanne Benjamin
1946	J. C. Adams	1994	Randy Attaway
1948	James F. Thompson (resigned)	1995	Patrick F. O'Laughlin
1951	Leroy H. Wright	1996	Randy Attaway
1952	Charles K. Gamble	1997	Joanne Benjamin
1954	Alberto E. Merrill	1998	Linda Lubeck
1962	John Lincoln	1999	Jan Hutchins



***This Page  
Intentionally  
Left Blank***