

LS

Anne Bloomfield

Los Gatos Fire House / Museum ARCHITECTURAL/CULTURAL SURVEY
LOS GATOS RESEARCH

968
e

File address C. 4 Taft - Los Gatos Museum

PARCEL MAP INFORMATION

Parcel # 510-44-054 Lot size: 80 front ft. x ? ft. deep
Lot shape: Rectangle 1st L 1st Rectangle with small rear jog 1st Other 1st
Location: N 1st S 1st E 1st W 1st side of Taft St 1st Ave 1st Other 1st
distance to cross st: 1st ft. N 1st S 1st E 1st W 1st from 1st
at NE 1st NW 1st SE 1st SW 1st corner of W Main

HISTORIC INFORMATION ON PARCEL MAP

Old tract or subdivision name JW Lyndon's Sub Old Block # 2 Old lot # 3 & 4

FIELD SURVEY INFORMATION (handwritten in red)

Preliminary rating + Estimated age 1927 Style Mediterr. Rev. # stories 1
Alterations 1st
Other Los Gatos Museum 1941: "Fire House Site"
No improve. shown

COUNTY ASSESSOR--PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS (paste on copy) 8993 Effective date 12-87

APN 510-44-054 ADDRESS 000004 TAFT
MISCELLANEOUS TRA 3-001 WIDTH
USE CODE 0 DEPTH
YR BUILT ACRES

OWNERSHIP SHOWN ON MAPS

Source Name	Source Date	Source Page	Location of property, or Old tract/block/lot	Lot Size	Owner Name
	1891		Lyndon Subd. Block 2, Lots 3 & 4	34 x 150+/- 50 x 150+/-	illegible (owner had both lots together)
Blk Book	1908				
Survey	1944	Block 76 lots 3 & 4	N.E. Cor. Main & Taft		Town of Los Gatos

MISCELLANEOUS

National Register listed date 1st
County Inventory 1979 1st
Town of Los Gatos: Designation 1st Recognition 1st
District Name 1st

PHOTOS: Roll/frame # 020/5 Date 25-1-90



4 Taft
EVALUATION Date 1927 (Ham)
Contributor 1st
District Non-contrib 1st
Earliest known 1st
Owner 1st Resident 1st: LG Fire House
Context: for volunteer Fire Dept. now LG Museum
Alterations: 1st Moved 1st
1st Raised 1st Porch encl 1st
1st Addition 1st Siding 1st
1st Windows 1st Condition 1st
Designer: 1st a 1st b 1st d 1st
1st Couchot & 1st Rosenwald

Anne Roomfield
ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY
BUILDING RESEARCH

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Builder/Contractor</u>	<u>Architect/Engineer</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nature of work</u>	<u>Cost</u>

<u>Initials</u>	<u>Date</u>

[illegible]

Initials	Date
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Date	Vol/ page	Vac. or dif. bldg	Address	Use	Patches Yes/ No	No. of stories	Height (ft.)	No. of bay windows	Porch	Misc.	Date of constr.	Describe or sketch plan
1888	2	diff.										
1895	8	"										
1904	"	"										
1908	9	"										
1928	16	this	250-52 W Main	yell? 2 colors blue?? gold	D west 250 LGFD east 250	1		8	8	reinf conc. fireproof const.	1927	

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

Date _____

date

Date _____

Date _____

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
(415) 922-1063
2229 WEBSTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

relevant dates: construction_____. birth_____. death_____. other_____

I. DIRECTORY SEARCH (City Directories, County Directories, Telephone Books, society directories, etc.)

Year	Book	Name/Classified Heading	Listing (copy entire, exactly as shown; use * for boldface)
1968	1	1	1
1969	2	2	2
1970	3	3	3
1971	4	4	4
1972	5	5	5
1973	6	6	6
1974	7	7	7
1975	8	8	8
1976	9	9	9
1977	10	10	10
1978	11	11	11
1979	12	12	12
1980	13	13	13
1981	14	14	14
1982	15	15	15
1983	16	16	16
1984	17	17	17
1985	18	18	18
1986	19	19	19
1987	20	20	20
1988	21	21	21
1989	22	22	22
1990	23	23	23
1991	24	24	24
1992	25	25	25
1993	26	26	26
1994	27	27	27
1995	28	28	28
1996	29	29	29
1997	30	30	30
1998	31	31	31
1999	32	32	32
2000	33	33	33
2001	34	34	34
2002	35	35	35
2003	36	36	36
2004	37	37	37
2005	38	38	38
2006	39	39	39
2007	40	40	40
2008	41	41	41
2009	42	42	42
2010	43	43	43
2011	44	44	44
2012	45	45	45
2013	46	46	46
2014	47	47	47
2015	48	48	48
2016	49	49	49
2017	50	50	50
2018	51	51	51
2019	52	52	52
2020	53	53	53
2021	54	54	54
2022	55	55	55
2023	56	56	56
2024	57	57	57
2025	58	58	58
2026	59	59	59
2027	60	60	60
2028	61	61	61
2029	62	62	62
2030	63	63	63
2031	64	64	64
2032	65	65	65
2033	66	66	66
2034	67	67	67
2035	68	68	68
2036	69	69	69
2037	70	70	70
2038	71	71	71
2039	72	72	72
2040	73	73	73
2041	74	74	74
2042	75	75	75
2043	76	76	76
2044	77	77	77
2045	78	78	78
2046	79	79	79
2047	80	80	80
2048	81	81	81
2049	82	82	82
2050	83	83	83
2051	84	84	84
2052	85	85	85
2053	86	86	86
2054	87	87	87
2055	88	88	88
2056	89	89	89
2057	90	90	90
2058	91	91	91
2059	92	92	92
2060	93	93	93
2061	94	94	94
2062	95	95	95
2063	96	96	96
2064	97	97	97
2065	98	98	98
2066	99	99	99

30	LGD	Sullivan, John M	chief Los Gatos Fire Dept 256 W. Main h 80
"	LGD	Lord Alfd L	(Leona M) firemn LGFD h 4 Taitanckland
25	"	Lord Alfd L	(Leona) tmstr h 500 N Santa Cruz

initials	date
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BIOGRAPHICAL SEARCH, indexes & other alphabetical listings.

Mark 'X' (info) or 'Ø' (nothing found) at each source you try. List findings below.

Los Gatos Library:

- ✕ City directories (name & street index)

Historic Collection Index (green boxes)

Thompson & West, 1876 (bio index)

Pen Pictures, 1888 (bio index)

Sunshine Fruit & Flowers, 1895 (bio index)

Guinn, 1904 (bio index)

Sawyer, 1922 (bio index)

Extended index to Bruntz

Bio index of Munroe Frazer, 1881 (Survey box)

Photo collection (2 boxes)

Los Gatos Museum (Forbes Mill):

Death records by year

Funeral records (index cards to big books)

Photo collection

California History Center, De Anza College:

Biographical file

Photo collection

San Jose Historical Museum:

Great Registers (of voters)

— Indexes

Photo collection

Other sources:

Indexes, California Historical Quarterly

State Library Information Index (fiche)

State Library-S.F. Newspaper Index ("

III. LIST ALL REFERENCES FROM ABOVE. Find them. Copy good material & attach. Or copy below if only a few words. Or explain why not relevant (as, wrong person).

Feb. 10

MODERN FIRE APPARATUS IS COMING HERE

AMERICAN LA FRANCE CO.
TO HAVE ENGINE READY
IN 90 DAYS

Combination Ladder

WILL FORCE THREE STREAMS
OF 250 GALLONS EACH
MINUTE

Purchase of a 750-gallon pumping engine and hose car at the price of \$12,750 will be made by the City of Los Gatos for the fire department according to decision of the Town Board Monday night when the bid of the American La France company was accepted. The Seagraves company was the only other fire engine company submitting a bid.

This fire engine, which will be made by the manufacturer of the one now in use in Los Gatos, can throw three large streams of 250 gallons each per minute, and it has an 80 gallon auxiliary tank which forces water under high pressure taking the place of ordinary soda and acid tanks and does not do as much damage to property in smothering the fire. This equipment is complete and covers all working tools for the fire fighting trade.

The largest combination ladder that can be carried on a pumping engine truck is included, and with this ladder practically any building in Los Gatos can be reached. There are special extinguishers on the truck for gasoline and oil fires, and masks for smoke, gas and ammonia will be a part of the accessories.

This equipment will be shipped within 90 days and will reach Los Gatos about the time the building at the corner of Tait Avenue and Main Street is completed.

May 13 1927

"Bud" Lord Appointed Fire Truck Driver

Excellent progress has been going on at West Main Street and Tait Avenue where Contractor R. H. Sund is erecting Los Gatos new Spanish Style Fire Station and Dwelling House. All the work except painting, finishing and furnishing has been completed, and the building will be ready for occupancy soon.

"Bud" Lord, Los Gatos young man, has been chosen Driver of the new Fire Truck. He and his family will live in the new apartment at the Fire House.

The new engine has arrived in San Francisco and will be delivered when the house is completed, according to Lewis H. Neumann, Chairman of the Fire Committee of the Town Board.

Fire Chief J. M. Sullivan cautions residents against building bonfires and grass fires in the city without a permit. "This is the dangerous time for grass fires," Mr. Sullivan said. "Property owners should see that their property is cleared of high grass, and should not permit fires to be built without first securing the proper authority."

May 26

Fire House Will Be Ready Before June 1

The new Spanish Style Fire House and Dwelling will be ready for occupancy before June 1st, Fire Chief J. M. Sullivan said yesterday. This week the painters are doing the finishing touches and General Contractor R. H. Sund is attending to details of (Continued on page Sixteen)

NEW FIRE HOUSE

(Continued from Page One)

finishing both outside and in.

The architects for the building are Maurice C. Couchot and Jesse Rosenwald, and the building they designed is unique in Los Gatos. It is probably the finest fire house in any town the size of Los Gatos in the State. J. M. Sullivan is the painter, Fred Berryman the plumber, H. E. Howard, electrician, and the Duffield Lumber Co. of Palo Alto furnished the redwood woodwork.

July 14

OPENING OF FIRE HOUSE IS SATURDAY

Formal opening of Los Gatos' new fire house will be given next Saturday, July 16, according to Fire Chief Jack Sullivan. The new fireman's club room has been beautifully furnished, and with its combed Redwood and unique mellow walls that give an appearance of rich realities in Spain.

At any time during the day Alfred Lord, in charge of the fire house, will be glad to show visitors through the building. In the evening the firemen will be on hand—probably the Los Gatos band will play—and the new building and equipment will be officially dedicated.

May 10

Sund Makes Rapid Progress on Fire House Construction

Pouring of concrete into forms for the walls of Los Gatos new Fire House has started, and the work is well ahead under direction of Contractor R. H. Sund, who secured the contract to finish the job in 70 days.

The Fire House will be of Spanish Style with a red tiled roof and will be solid concrete throughout. The Fireman's quarters and living quarters of the truck driver will be of reinforced concrete. A hose rack will be constructed in the rear.

5A

July
30

Los Gatos Fire Department Has Fine Record of Efficiency 1931

In 1884 the first volunteer fire department was organized. In 1886 it was reorganized, and has functioned from then until the present day. The records prior to 1901 were destroyed in the fire of October of that year, which destroyed the entire business district, consisting of four blocks. It was impossible to check the fire due to the lack of water and high winds.

The equipment up until 1915 consisted of three hose carts and a hand-drawn hook-and-ladder wagon. In 1915 the city purchased a LaFrance combination chemical and hose truck, which is still in active service. In 1916 a \$30,000 bond election for a new fire house and equipment was carried by a large majority. The equipment purchased was a 750-gallon American LaFrance pumper which is now installed with the old chemical in the new Spanish bungalow type fire house.

The department now consists of 25 volunteer members, the driver, "Bud" Lord, completing the membership of 26. Lord is on duty at the fire house at all times. The department is under the able direction of Chief J. M. Sullivan, who was re-elected for his eleventh year in office. Too much praise cannot be given Chief Sullivan for his untiring efforts to improve the efficiency of his department, and no man works harder in the interest of fire prevention and protection.

In over twenty years, Los Gatos has not suffered any big fire loss,

and this is due largely to the efficiency of the department, which includes only one full time man. The rest of the personnel are volunteers who receive a nominal fee for every fire answered.

The following story of the department is by that man of fire and ice, grand-daddy and charter member of the department, J. D. Shore, who when he is not purveying ice, is planning for the department.

The old fire truck was stalled in the Bell store at Main street and Santa Cruz avenue.

Nate Baumgardner

The second chief was Nate Baumgardner. Quite a hero Nate was, although he died young. He has a daughter and a son living in Los Gatos now. Billy Baumgardner runs the Richfield service station. Nate was a member of the famous baseball team of Los Gatos; on this team were Frank Arollano, pitcher (afterwards with the Boston Red Socks, champion team for two years); Clarence Lyndon, Jack Sullivan, Hal Chase (the greatest first baseman that ever lived); Adolph Baer, Dick Shore, Charles Snyder, Nate Wilder, Charles Baker and many others. Nate Baumgardner played center fielder on this team.

Matt Doolin

Matt Doolin, the third chief, kept a saloon across from Green's drug store, on the property which now belongs to E. F. Robertson. Mr. Doolin belonged to the Los Gatos Sportsmen's club. This same club had a dancing platform and a skating rink in the then called Shore's park, better known as Bunker Hill park, and now called Memorial park.

By J. D. SHORE

The following men have been fire chiefs in Los Gatos: Charles Drieling, Nate Baumgardner, Matt Doolin, Lloyd Lyndon, J. D. Shore, and Jack Sullivan.

Charles Drieling

Charles Drieling, who with his two brothers, were barbers in town in the early days was the first fire chief. The first fire to amount to anything occurred when the Van Meter tin shop caught fire. Charles and his brothers lived in the old "Ten-Mile House," which is now called "Feather's Hotel." Their place of business was located on the spot where the Los Gatos hardware store is now. The Van Meter tin shop was situated where Davies' store stands. When the alarm sounded the brothers hurried to their home, donned their red shirts and red hats, but when they got to Van Meter's shop they found that the fire had already been put out by Dick Shore and Billy Mullen. Were they "burned up"?

Lloyd Lyndon

The fourth chief was Lloyd Lyndon, secretary and business manager of Lyndon's Lumber Yard, which was owned by his father, Jim Lyndon, sheriff of Santa Clara county. At present Lloyd Lyndon is in San Francisco.

J. D. Shore

J. D. Shore, the fifth fire chief came to Los Gatos in 1881, so saw all the good fun of those early days. One of the most exciting instances was the waterfight between the No. 1 and the No. 2 fire companies. The fight occurred in this way: La Montain's hay barn caught on fire, one company was on one side, and one on the other side. Ergo, each threw a stream of water on the barn, the play going over the top and striking the company on the other side. Department No. 1 won the fight. At this incident Nate Baumgardner was fire chief. Wildebrandt and Brown were the captains of No. 2 department.

Mr. Shore was fire chief for 13 years. He joined the outfit in 1886, and he is still a fireman. Also he is fire warden for the Los Gatos district.

Jack Sullivan

The sixth and present chief is Jack Sullivan, member of the famous baseball team. He has been chief for a number of years, and has been a credit to the department and to his predecessors.

When the fire bell rings all the volunteer firemen forget that they are business men, and become minute-men, "Johnny on the spot." A fire isn't a good sight, but seeing a group of men forget their own interests for the common good is a fine thing.

The fire company has always entered whole heartedly into com-

munity activities. On Christmas it used to decorate the tree and give entertainments. Years ago, one day every May, it would hold a great outdoor picnic which included all the trimmings, a barbecue, dancing, races, catching a greased pig race, rags of war, and all forms of sport.