

PH0076503

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Santa Clara
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
WINCHESTER HOUSE *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
525 South Winchester Blvd.

CITY OR TOWN:
San Jose

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th

STATE:
California 95128

CODE: **06**

COUNTY:
Santa Clara

CODE: **085**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Winchester Mystery House, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
525 South Winchester Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
San Jose

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Book 5895 Page 613

STREET AND NUMBER:
Superior Court Bldg. of Santa Clara County, Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
191 North First St.

CITY OR TOWN:
San Jose

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
California Registered Historical Landmark #868

DATE OF SURVEY:
January 1974

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Department of Parks and Recreation

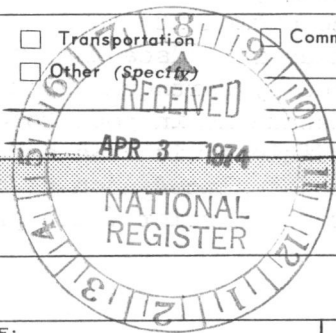
STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE:
California 95811

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE

AUG 7 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally, the Winchester Estate covered 161.919 acres (see 1922 Polk-Husted map of the City of San Jose), but the land was subdivided and sold in smaller lots by the heirs of Mrs. Sarah L. Winchester. Today the Winchester House is situated on the southeast third of an 18.40 acre tract of Winchester Mystery House Properties, with the front doors facing east and parallel to Winchester Blvd.

The house itself is of Victorian style, vaguely eastern in detail and cluttered with all manner of architectural ornaments as a middle period Victorian house frequently was, without any of the imitation Gothic features that the Victorian style so often incorporated at the end of the period.

Structurally, the house was built of light wood frame construction with studs as vertical members; horizontal members are wood joists of various types. Wood structural members, usual in light frame construction, form the multiplicity of roofs. Foundations are of brick and concrete as are the walls of the two basements.

Presently, the property is in the process of being completely restored to the condition it was in when Mrs. Winchester occupied the estate. This includes relandscaping, painting and/or replacing that which may have been damaged by earthquakes, the elements or vandals. As it now stands, however, the estate is in good to excellent repair without any changes, alterations or additions with the exception of having to comply with certain standards and codes placed upon us by the County of Santa Clara as well as our insurance carrier (fire prevention and security).



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Circa 1884-September 5, 1922

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winchester House is a 160-room Victorian Mansion that was built and owned by Sarah L. Winchester (Mrs. William Wirt Winchester). It is a prime example of construction at its best but construction that was unrestricted, to say the least.

The history begins at the height of the Civil War when Sarah L. Pardee met and married William Wirt Winchester, the son of the manufacturer of the famous Winchester Repeating Rifle. They were married on September 30, 1862. They had one child, Annie Pardee, who died about a month after birth. (June 15, 1866-July 24, 1866). Then, about 15 years later, on March 7, 1881, her husband died.¹

Mrs. Winchester was deeply upset at these deaths, and seems to have consulted a spiritualistic medium who told her that the reason for her husband's and daughter's deaths was that the victims who had been killed by the rifles her family had and was still manufacturing, were seeking their revenge by taking her husband's and daughter's lives. Further, they had placed a curse on Mrs. Winchester stating that if she wished to continue to live, she must appease them by moving out west and continuously, without ceasing, build a home for them night and day.²

She then did move out west and settled in what is now San Jose, California, purchasing an eight room farmhouse from a Dr. Caldwell. She then began her continuous construction operations in 1884.³

With a great deal of money and very few responsibilities, she satisfied her every whim and arrant notion in her uninterrupted building operations. She had no master plan for a house and according to her carpenters, built whenever, wherever and howsoever she pleased. As a result of the constant building, tearing down and remodeling, her mansion spread out over the southeast section of her 162-acre estate. She built steadily until her death on September 5, 1922.

The Winchester House is the only and, therefore, most significant of a type in its unique structure. Although it is basically Victorian, the structure has overtones of a midwestern or eastern Victorian home with its mixture of shingles, sidings, bric-a-brac, cornices and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Polk-Husted San Jose City and Santa Clara County Directory
1922. Sacramento:
 Santa Clara County Recorder, Deeds. Book 5895, p. 613.
 Santa Clara County Probate File #12772. S. L. Winchester

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

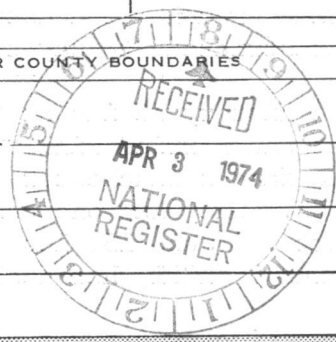
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 19' 05" #4	121° 57' 00" #8	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 10/593040
 4130460
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Brent W. Miller, Assistant Manager-Caretaker

ORGANIZATION: **Winchester Mystery House, Inc.** DATE: **1-29-74**

STREET AND NUMBER:
525 South Winchester Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: **San Jose** STATE: **California 95128** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *William Penn Mott, Jr.*
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: March 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. A. Markson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/1/74

ATTEST:
W. Mott
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8/1/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
California	
COUNTY	
Santa Clara	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 7 1974

(Number all entries)

#8. Statement of Significance

appurtenances which show traces of definite eastern influence in design not found in local craftsmen.

It is an outstanding example of Victorian construction, complete with the inevitable accidents of unrestricted and unchecked growth.

Two other areas of significance are: 1) the number of people who have visited the house. In over 50 years of business, we estimate that approximately 3,000,000 people, to date, have taken a tour and that more than 150,000 visited us last year, and 2) we have already been recognized as an Historical Landmark (#868) by the State of California.

Footnotes

1
Bruce Spoon, Sarah Winchester and Her House: How A Legend Grows, (New Haven: Yale University, 1951).

2
Harold F. Williamson, Winchester--The Gun That Won The West, (New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1952), p. 212.

3
Bruce Spoon, op. cit., p. 14.



PROPERTY Winchester ~~Mystery~~ House STATE Calif.

Santa Clara

WORKING NUMBER 4.3.74.528

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 5
MAPS 1

74000559

CONTROL REVIEW

cm
4.8.
74

OK

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN Ahead of sig. should include local history.
Arch. description is extremely brief for a house
of this size: # of rooms? Any unusual features?
(only in California...) Return, then ACCEPT. Howard
7/9/74

Accept
Oct
7/8/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF Name: "Winchester House."

Accept
7-31-74

KEEPER

WDR
8/1

National Register Write-up Oct 23, 1974

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry Oct. 1, 1974

Re-submit _____

Entered AUG 7 1974





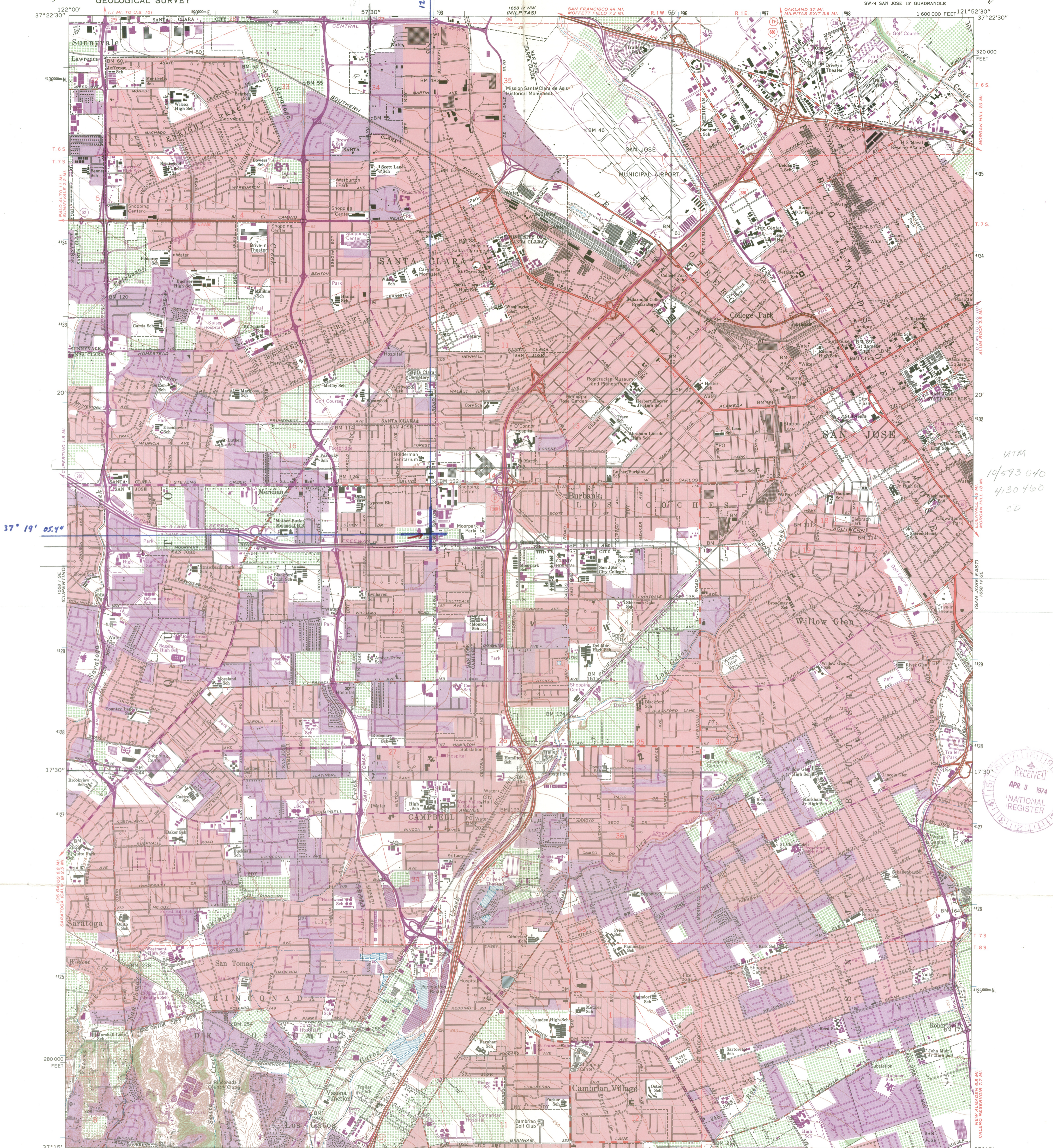






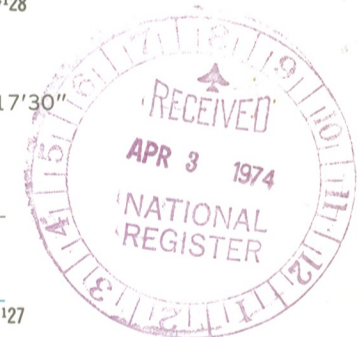
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SAN JOSE WEST QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA—SANTA CLARA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 SAN JOSE 19 QUADRANGLE

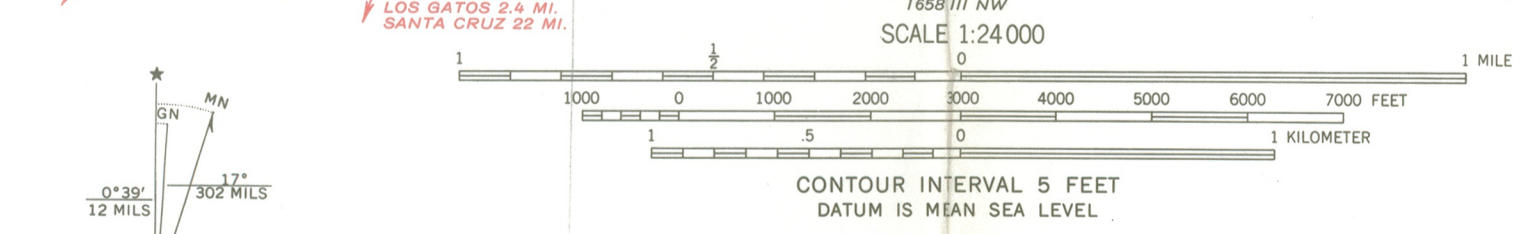


37° 19' 05.4"

UTM
10/593 040
4130 460
CD



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey with cooperation by the California Department of Water Resources Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by plane-table surveys 1953. Aerial photographs taken 1948. Revised from aerial photographs and by plane-table surveys 1961. Aerial photographs taken 1960.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3 100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 10, shown in blue.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations.
The north two-thirds of this map lies within a subsidence area.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



SAN JOSE WEST, CALIF.
SW/4 SAN JOSE 19 QUADRANGLE
N3715—W12152.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1968
AMS 1658 IV SW—SERIES V985

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered AUG 7 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Winchester House	San Jose Santa Clara County
St. John's Presbyterian Church	Berkeley Alameda County

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Cranston
Hon. John V. Tunney
Hon. Charles S. Gubser
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
Regional Director, Western Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
State Resources Agency
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

PR MMott/row 8/14/74