

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 9 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) 1590 Gold Street

P1. Other Identifier: none

*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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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 Milpitas Date 2021 T 06S; R 01W; of of Sec ; Mt. Diablo B.M.

c. Address 1590 Gold Street City San Jose Zip 95002

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S, 590617.00 mE/ 4142551.00 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, decimal degrees, etc., as appropriate)
APN 015-03-043

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

1590 Gold Street is a single-story residential building with an irregular footprint constructed (or possibly relocated to this lot) in 1969. It has been heavily modified since its original construction, including new exterior cladding, roof, and modern fenestration. The building's original gable roof has been modified with the addition of hipped elements on the western and eastern facades, along with a flat roof addition in the rear of the building connecting to another pyramidal roof structure at the rear of the parcel. Fenestration consists of modern vinyl picture windows on the primary (west) façade and single hung windows on the other facades. A large detached garage with a front facing gable roof and modern rollup door is present at the front of the parcel facing Gold Street.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2 (Single Family Residence)

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



*P4. Resources Present:

Building Structure Object
 Site District Element of District
 Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) View from Gold and Hoppe Streets, looking northeast, April 2023

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric
 Both

1969 (assessor records)

*P7. Owner and Address: David A And Joan Marie Sloan Trustee
580 El Patio Dr
Campbell CA 95008

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Becky Urbano, ESA
787 The Alameda, Ste. 250
San Jose, CA 95126

*P9. Date Recorded: April 2023

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

Neighborhood of Alviso Historic Context and Survey

*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

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 1590 Gold Street *NRHP Status Code 6Z

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B1. Historic Name: San Jose Fire Station 25
B2. Common Name: 1590 Gold Street
B3. Original Use: Firehouse B4. Present Use: Single Family Residential

*B5. Architectural Style: Ranch

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

c.1950 – Building constructed, date is based on style
1969 – Building relocated to Alviso and remodeled for use as a fire station
c. 2011 – conversion to residential

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: 1969 Original Location: unknown

*B8. Related Features:
none

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Civic Development Area Alviso
Period of Significance n/a Property Type Fire Station Applicable Criteria n/a

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

The building at 1590 Gold Street was constructed before 1969 and moved to the Alviso neighborhood to serve as the first City of San Jose fire station. It replaced the City of Alviso fire station at 1060 North Taylor Street (extant) and was one of the first civic improvements completed by San Jose after consolidation with Alviso in 1968. Archival research does not support consideration of the building as a historic resource for its association with this period in Alviso's civic development. No historically associations with people, businesses, or events were uncovered during archival research. The building is recommended **not eligible** for listing on either the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) or the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). Additionally, the building does is not recommended eligible for consideration as a City of San Jose Landmark. However, in recognition of its use as the local fire station, the building is **recommended** for consideration as a Structure of Merit.

See Continuation Sheet

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) none

*B12. References:
See Continuation Sheet

B13. Remarks:
None.

*B14. Evaluator: Kathy Cleveland, ESA

*Date of Evaluation: May 2023

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



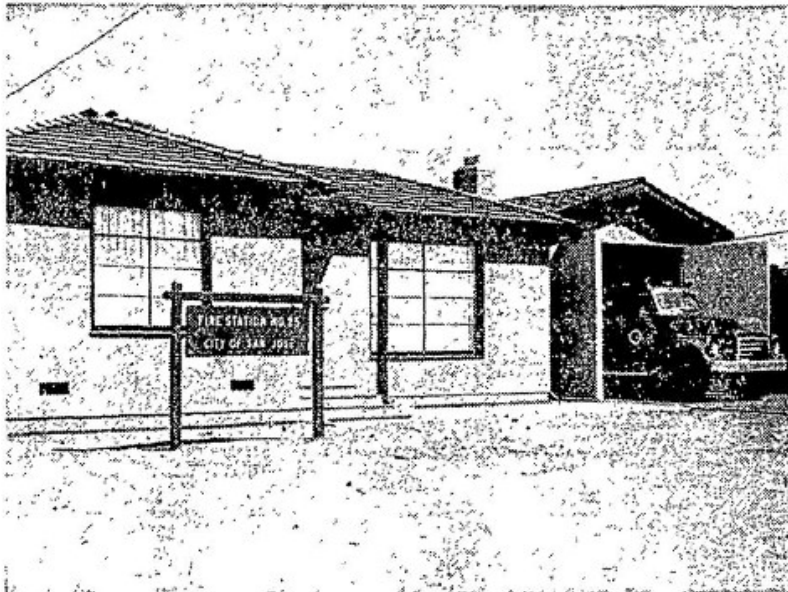
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B10: Significance (Continued)

The residence at 1590 Gold Street was moved to 1590 Gold Street in the year following the 1968 consolidation of Alviso with the City of San Jose. After consolidation, the City of San Jose converted the old city hall at 1060 North Taylor Street into the Alviso Branch of the San Jose Public Library and established a new fire station in a converted residential building that was moved onto the site of what is currently 1590 Gold Street.^{1,2} The station was converted at a cost of \$30,000 and consisted of the main building, a garage, and a community room at the rear of the building.³ In 2002, San Jose voters passed a bond that provided for the construction of a new fire station to replace the one at 1590 Gold Street out of concern for sea level rise.⁴ The new station is located at the intersection of Wilson Way and Grand Boulevard and opened in 2007. In September 2011, the City of San Jose sold the property at 1590 Gold Street.⁵ The new owners converted it back to a single-family home.



Fire House For Alviso

Just completed, save for landscaping, is the completely remodeled house that will serve as the Alviso fire station. The main building was moved in on the Gold Street site, and garage and separate community room at rear were added. Job was done at cost of \$30,000. Lounge (below) is appointed with comfortable furnishings. Crew also has kitchen, living room and office and three bedrooms. Community room at rear is for voting, youth activities, public meetings. Facility is one of projects done by San Jose since consolidation.

Figure 1. Newspaper image of 1590 Gold Street as a fire station, 1969. Source: *San Jose Mercury News*, September 3, 1969.

¹ San Jose Mercury News. "New Library, Fire House Perk Up Alviso Landscape" May 1, 1969. p 5.

² San Jose Mercury News. "Fire House for Alviso" September 3, 1969. p 6.

³ San Jose Mercury News. September 3, 1969.

⁴ San Jose City Council. Relocation of Fire Station No. 25 Project. June 2006. http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/060606/060606_08.01sup.pdf.

⁵ San Jose City Council. Minutes of the City Council. June 14, 2011. <http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/Agenda/20110614/20110614min.pdf>.

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Figure 2. 1590 Gold Street, 2011. Source: Facebook.com

Regulatory Framework

As part of the Alviso Neighborhood Historic Context and Survey project, the property at 1590 Gold Street has been evaluated for eligibility for listing at the national, state, and local levels. The criteria used for this evaluation are presented below and are followed by an analysis of eligibility.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (U.S. Code Title 54, Section 306108), and its implementing regulations established the National Register of Historic Places as a comprehensive inventory of known historic resources throughout the United States. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior. It includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, archaeological, engineering, or cultural significance. A property is considered significant if it meets the criteria for listing in the National Register at Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Section 60.4 (36 CFR 60.4), as stated below:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and that:

- A. *Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, or*
- B. *Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, or*

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- C. *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 and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or*
- D. *Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is "an authoritative listing and guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the state and to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (PRC Section 5024.1(a)). Certain resources are determined by law to be automatically included in the California Register, including California properties formally determined eligible for, or listed in, the National Register.

To be eligible for the California Register, a historical resource must be significant at the federal, state, or local level under one or more of the following criteria (PRC Section 5024.1(c)):

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

City of San Jose Historic Resources Inventory

The City of San José HRI identifies known and potential historic resources of varying significance, including individual properties and districts listed in or eligible for listing in the California and National Registers, City Landmarks, Candidate City Landmarks, City Landmark Districts (and their contributing sites/structures), and Candidate City Landmark Districts (and their contributing sites/structures). In addition, the HRI identifies Structures of Merit, Identified Sites/Structures, Conservation Areas, and Conservation Area Contributing Sites/Structures. HRI properties are classified into one of 16 categories, depending on how they were evaluated at the time they were added. The HRI serves as a resource for conducting environmental and project review related to demolition permits, as well as for land use and development approvals. It is not a definitive list of all historic resources in the city of San José, and it is continually updated as new information, project-related evaluations, and neighborhood surveys are completed. The purpose of the HRI is to promote awareness of community resources and to further preservation of historic resources and community character.

For clarity and simplicity, this property is evaluated under the criteria for the two major categories of historical resources in the City of San Jose: City Landmarks and Structures of Merit

City Landmark /Candidate City Landmark

As presented in Municipal Code Section 13.48.020(C), designated or candidate City Landmarks and City Landmark Districts (and their contributors) are highly significant historic resources. They are designated by the City Council through a formal process as defined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 13.48.110(H)). These resources are considered historic resources under CEQA.

Eligibility of a city landmark must consider:

- 1. Its character, interest, or value as part of the local, regional, state, or national history, heritage for culture;
- 2. Its location as a site of a significant historic event;

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3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the local, regional, date, or national culture and history;
4. Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of the city of San Jose;
5. Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style;
6. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen;
7. Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city of San Jose; and
8. Its embodiment of the elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represents a significant architectural innovation, or which is unique.

Structure of Merit

A structure of merit is an important historic property or feature of lesser significance that does not qualify as a city landmark or for the California or National Registers. Attempts should be made for the preservation to the extent feasible under the City of San Jose 2040 General Plan goals and policies.⁶ While there is no formal designation process for a structure of merit, it is generally understood to follow the same criteria as that for city landmarks, but with a lower threshold eligibility.

Integrity

In addition to meeting one or more of the criteria above, a property must also retain integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of a historic resource's physical identity as shown by the survival of characteristics that existed during the period of significance. For a resource to be eligible for the California Register, it must also retain enough integrity to be recognizable as a historic resource and to convey the reasons for its significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A resource that does not retain sufficient integrity to meet the National Register criteria may still be eligible for listing in the California Register or as a local resource.

The assessment of integrity is often weighted toward specific aspects traits and that weighting is depending on the reasons for historical significance. Properties significant for design (C/3) generally would have greater importance given to integrity of design, materials, and workmanship while properties significant for events or cultural associations (A/1) would have greater emphasis on feeling and association.

Evaluation

For simplicity, 1590 Gold Street is evaluated first within the criteria of the National and California registers. Because the criteria are nearly identical, they are evaluated for both registers simultaneously. A discussion regarding City of San Jose criteria is presented after.

Criterion A/1 (Events)

The building at 1590 Gold Street was moved to the subject property in 1969 and converted into a fire station. This is associated with the post-WWII period of growth in Alviso. As presented in the historic context statement, the period after World War II was one of slow but progressive change as the population began to increase after decades of slow decline. As the population expanded during the latter half of the twentieth century, so too did the need for civic services such as fire stations. 1590 Gold Street does not, however, appear to have been historically significant for its associations with this period in the development of Alviso, but rather was a typical representation of normal community growth patterns. Research about the building did not reveal any significant associations with the development of Alviso beyond those

⁶ "Historic Resources Inventory," City of San Jose Planning, Building & Code Enforcement, accessed April 28, 2023, <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/planning-building-code-enforcement/planning-division/historic-resources/historic-resources-inventory>.

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reasonably expected of a fire station in a small community. For that association to be historically significant, *National Register Bulletin 15* states that "a property must be important in the defined historic context...the event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context." Within the context of 20th century development in Alviso, the building is associated with civic development, yet this association does not appear to rise to the level where it could be considered important within that context. Because the building at 1590 Gold Street does not appear to be historically significant within the contexts of 20th century civic development in Alviso, it is recommended **not eligible** for listing as an individual resource on the National or the California registers under Criterion A/1 for its association with 20th century development in Alviso.

Criterion B/2 (People)

Archival research failed to indicate any significant persons associated with 1590 Gold Street. Therefore, the building at 1590 Gold Street is recommended **not eligible** for listing as an individual resource on the National or California Registers under Criterion B/2 for its association with historically significant persons.

Criterion C/3 (Design)

The building at 1590 Gold Street is simple in form and design, reflecting a typical mid-twentieth century single-family ranch style residence. The large picture windows, asymmetrical massing, and large brick chimney reflect mid-century ranch design trends, but do not embody the architectural style. Aside from the unusually tall garage door opening, there is nothing in the design of the building at 1590 Gold Street that alludes to its use as a City of San Jose fire station. Additionally, no architect or builder could be identified. As such, the building at 1590 Gold Street is recommended **not eligible** for listing as individual resource on the National or California registers under Criterion C/3 for its design.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential)

Criterion D/4 is most typically applied to archaeological sites. As applied to buildings and structures, it is necessary for the building or structure to have been a principal source of information that could not be gathered from other sources nearby or elsewhere. The building at 1590 Gold Street is constructed of common materials using standard building techniques. The building is unlikely to provide additional information on its construction methods, or the history of Alviso. As such, 1590 Gold Street is recommended **not eligible** for listing on the National or California registers under Criterion D/4 for its information potential.

Integrity

An assessment of integrity is necessary if the resource is found to be historically significant under one or more criteria for listing on the National or California registers. Because 1590 Gold Street is not recommended eligible under any criteria, a further assessment of integrity is not required.

City of San Jose Historic Resources Inventory

1. Its character, interest, or value as part of the local, regional, state, or national history, heritage for culture;

The building at 1590 Gold Street does not represent the character of Alviso. Its value was as a small local fire station during the mid- to late- twentieth century, but archival review failed to indicate any significant heritage or cultural importance of the building outside of its public service operation.

2. Its location as a site of a significant historic event;

Research did not suggest that 1590 Gold Street was the location of a significant historical event.

3. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the local, regional, state, or national culture and history;

Archival research failed to indicate any significant persons associated with 1590 Gold Street.

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4. Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of the city of San Jose;

The building at 1590 Gold Street does not appear to exemplify a particular cultural, social, or historic heritage with the city of San Jose. It served as a fire station for many years prior to conversion back to a single-family residence in 2011, and does not represent a particular group, period, or aspect of life in Alviso that is historically important.

5. Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style;

There is no specific overall style or distinctive character to 1590 Gold Street that would portray a group of people or era of history.

6. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen;

The building at 1590 Gold Street is simple in form and design, reflecting typical mid-twentieth century ranch design. As such, it does not significantly embody any distinguishing characteristics of the style, but rather demonstrates a common architectural type that would not rise to a level of local significance.

7. Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city of San Jose; and

Archival research failed to indicate any significant persons associated with 1590 Gold Street.

8. Its embodiment of the elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represents a significant architectural innovation, or which is unique.

The buildings at 1590 Gold Street do not embody the elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship representing a significant architectural innovation. The building reflects typical design choices and trends in mid-century ranch style architecture and is not an exceptional or unique example of the style.

Overall, the building does not meet any of the criteria for consideration as a City of San Jose Landmark. A structure of merit is an important historic property or feature of lesser significance that does not qualify as a city landmark or for the California or National Registers. While there is no formal designation process for a structure of merit, it is generally understood to follow the same criteria as that for city landmarks, but with a lower threshold eligibility. 1590 Gold Street served as the local fire station for decades, and while the building does not meet the criteria for historical designation, it is **recommended as a Structure of Merit** in recognition of its role as a community asset from 1969-c.1978.

Summary

The building at 1590 Gold Street was constructed before 1969 and moved to the Alviso neighborhood to serve as the first City of San Jose fire station. It replaced the City of Alviso fire station at 1060 North Taylor Street (extant) and was one of the first civic improvements completed by San Jose after consolidation with Alviso in 1968. Archival research does not support consideration of the building as a historic resource for its association with this period in Alviso's civic development. No historically associations with people, businesses, or events were uncovered during archival research. The building is recommended **not eligible** for listing on either the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) or the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). Additionally, the building does is not recommended eligible for consideration as a City of San Jose Landmark. However, in recognition of its use as the local fire station, the building is **recommended** for consideration as a Structure of Merit.

B12: References (Continued)

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HistoricAerials.com. "1590 Gold Street, San Jose." <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior.) 1995.

Parcelquest.com. "1590 Gold Street, San Jose." <https://pqweb.parcelquest.com/#home>.

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