

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 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

P1. Other Identifier: Gallegos House City of Fremont Map No. 584-C-376 Ref. No. 48
 P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary)
 a. County Alameda
 b. USGS 7.5' Quad Niles Date 1980 T 5S R 1W; - ¼ of - ¼ of Sec. _____; Mount Diablo B.M.
 c. Address 830 Witherly Lane City Fremont Zip 94536
 d. UTM: Zone 10; ___ mE / ___ mN
 e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc.) _____

APN 513-0380-003-00
 Planning Area Mission San Jose

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

This large Italianate-Stick Eastlake residence is situated on a 3.82-acre hill lot with expansive views of the city of Fremont. The site is bordered on the south by the campus of Oholone College; on the north, by the convent campus of the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose; and on the east and west (up-slope and down-slope) by several other houses that appear to date from the 1960s and later.

The grounds between the road and the house, which has a deep setback, contain a horse pasture enclosed by a white rail fence bordered by an asphalt driveway. The house is oriented to the west, toward the view, with its south side toward the street. The front and back of the structure are also visible from the street, but the north side is not. The house was moved to the present site in 1974 from a site near St. Joseph Church.

The house is a two-story, wood-frame structure clad in channel-rustic siding with cornerboards. It has a generally rectangular plan, with two-story square bays at the sides, a two-story polygonal bay at the front, and a one-story slant-sided bay on the south side, at the front. The hip roof—a dominant visual element of the house—has overhanging eaves adorned with a frieze and carved brackets. A large, wide, flat-roofed porch extends across the front of the house, wrapping around to the north side. The porch has Tuscan columns with lathed balustrades at the floor and roof levels. The upper balustrade wraps around to the south side, over the slant-sided bay, and recurs as a narrow balcony at the upper level of the square bay. Most windows are wood sash and double hung, occurring in pairs on the side bays and singly on the front bay. There are six windows at the rear. A small, semi-detached, gabled wing (or dependency) adjoins the main house at its southeast corner. The interior was not inspected. (see continuation sheet)

P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2--Single Family Property

P4. Resources present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other



P5b. Description of Photo:
Side view from S (from Witherly Lane)

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:
 Historic Prehistoric Both
1882

P7. Owner and Address
Allen Mark K. & Valerie
P.O. Box 3302
Fremont, CA 94539

P8. Recorded by:
 (Name, affiliation, and address)

Woodruff Minor
Basin Research Associates, Inc.
1933 Davis St., Suite 210
San Leandro, CA 94577

P9. Date Recorded Dec. 2001

P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

P11. Report Citation (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none"):
City of Fremont, Historic Resources Inventory, Phase II by Basin Research Associates (Data on file - City of Fremont Development and Environmental Services Department).

Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch 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) _____

State of California – The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

NRHP Status Code _____

Page 2 of 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

- B1. Historic Name: Gallegos House
- B2. Common Name: Gallegos House
- B3. Original Use: Residence B4. Present Use: Residence
- B5. Architectural Style: Italianate with Stick Eastlake elements
- B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

The building was erected in 1882. The house was altered ca. 1910 by the addition of the porch, the slant-sided south bay, and the gabled dependency. The house was further altered in 1974, when it was moved to the present site. At that time, the brick from the old foundation was reused to create new stairs and flooring for the porch. New leaded windows have also been added to the south bay and gabled dependency. The dependency appears to have been substantially rebuilt.

- B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: 1974 Original Location: Near St. Joseph's Church
- B8. Related Features: _____
- B9a. Architect: Walter J. Cuthbertson B9b. Builder: S. Morrell
- B10. Significance: Theme Residential Architecture Area Mission San Jose District, Fremont
 Period of Significance 1882-1952 Property Type House Applicable Criteria C/3
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

Juan Gallegos (1833-1905) played an important role in the development of the Fremont area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The head of a wealthy and socially prominent émigré family from Costa Rica, he acquired substantial acreage in the vicinity of Mission San Jose and Irvington in the early 1880s and established one of the largest wineries in California. He owned the Beard estate in Mission San Jose, which he improved and named Palmdale, the name he also gave to his winery. Most of the vineyard property was subdivided and sold after 1904, and the winery building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. The Gallegos House on Witherly Lane and the Palmdale estate at Mission and Washington Boulevards are the principal landmarks associated with Gallegos.

Background: Land ownership before Gallegos

Founded on June 11, 1797, Mission San Jose was the fourteenth of 21 Franciscan missions established in Alta California between 1769 and 1823. The original mission compound of wood and adobe structures, completed in stages between 1797 and 1826, included quadrangles of attached dwellings for converts, barracks for soldiers, a building with schoolrooms, workshops, guest rooms, and sleeping cells for the priests, and a gristmill on Mission Creek. The large adobe church was dedicated in 1809. Mission San Jose was one of the most successful missions in Alta California. At its peak in the early 1830s, it had a population of 1,900 indigenous converts. The mission herds—12,000 cattle, 13,000 sheep, 13,000 horses—grazed over a vast territory covering present-day Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Vineyards, olive orchards, fruit orchards, and wheat fields adjoined the mission compound.

(see continuation sheet)

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

B12. References:

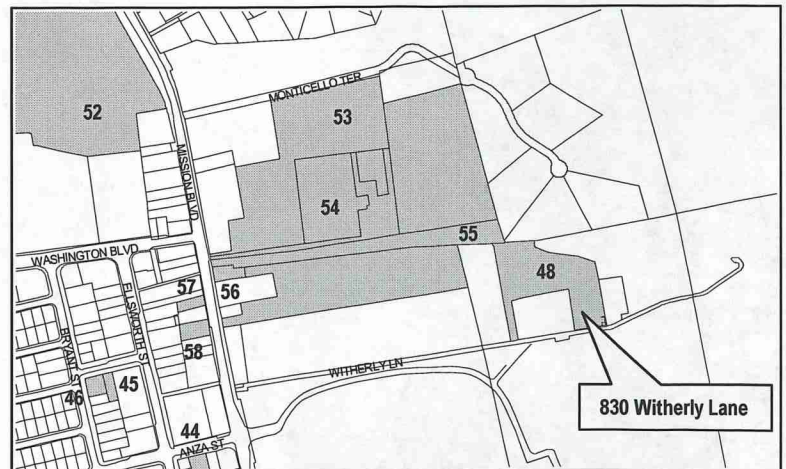
(see continuation sheet)

B13. Remarks:

B14. Evaluator Ward Hill, Woodruff Minor and Michael Corbett, Architectural Historians

Date of Evaluation: Dec. 2001

(This space reserved for official comments)



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____

Page 3 of 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

Recorded by Woodruff Minor

Date: Dec. 2001

Continuation Update

P3a. continued

The house was altered ca. 1910 by the addition of the porch, the slant-sided south bay, and the gabled dependency. The house was further altered in 1974, when it was moved to the present site. At that time, the brick from the old foundation was reused to create new stairs and flooring for the porch. New leaded windows have also been added to the south bay and gabled dependency. The dependency appears to have been substantially rebuilt.

B10. Continued

In 1833, the Mexican government secularized the missions and began disposing of the lands. Between 1836 and 1846, four ranchos were carved out of former Mission San Jose property in what became Washington Township—Rancho Agua Caliente (1836), Rancho Arroyo de la Alameda (1842), Rancho Potrero de Los Cerritos (1844), and Rancho Ex-Mission San Jose Lands (1846). The final land grant took in the Mission San Jose, Irvington, Centerville, and Central Districts of present-day Fremont. The legality of this grant was later challenged in the courts. American settlers in the area did not receive clear title to their property until the case was settled under the authority of an 1865 Act of Congress ("An Act for the relief of the occupants of the Lands of the Ex-Mission of San Jose in the State of California"). Based on the government survey—E. H. Dyer's *Plat of the Lands of the Ex-Mission San Jose* (1864)—successful claimants in the case finally received clear title to their property.

In 1867, the U.S. government granted Elias Lyman Beard and his stepson, Henry G. Ellsworth, clear title to over 3,500 acres of former mission lands (far exceeding any other land grant in the case). The bulk of Beard and Ellsworth's property consisted of three adjoining parcels, designated as Surveys 1, 28, and 38 of the Lands of Ex-Mission San Jose. Their land stretched from Irvington to Mission Peak, between present-day Driscoll and Durham Roads, largely encompassing the village of Mission San Jose. A native of New York, E. L. Beard was one of the earliest American settlers in Alameda County. At the height of the Gold Rush in 1849, he acquired the original mission compound (excluding the church and priest's quarters) along with the mission orchards and vineyards. He opened a general store in one of the mission buildings, renovated one of the quadrangles as a residence, cultivated the gardens and orchards, and rebuilt the gristmill on Mission Creek. In 1858, when the Archdiocese of San Francisco regained title to the mission compound and adjacent land, Beard vacated the premises and moved across Vallejo Street (Mission Boulevard) to a lushly landscaped estate later known as Palmdale.

By 1878, Beard and Ellsworth had sold most of their 3,500 acres to James R. Keene; Beard retained ownership of 368 acres adjoining his estate. By 1881, La Societe Francaise Depargnes et de Prevoyance Mutuelle owned Keene's property as well as Beard's (who had recently declared bankruptcy). Founded in San Francisco in 1851, La Societe offered assistance to ill and impoverished French immigrants by operating hospitals and insurance programs. It seems the organization purchased the land on speculation because it was quickly sold. In the spring of 1881, La Societe subdivided its property into 52 parcels, ranging in size from 5 acres to 913 acres, and sold much of it to Juan Gallegos.

Juan Gallegos and the Palmdale Company

Juan Gallegos belonged to a prominent Costa Rican family. His father, a Spanish nobleman, had been sent by King Carlos of Spain to govern the colony of Costa Rica. In 1833, he became the country's first president. Juan Gallegos was born in Costa Rica in June 1833. In 1869, he married Julia Montealegre, the 18-year-old daughter of another former president of Costa Rica, Jose Maria Montealegre (1815–1887), who had come to power in 1859 at the head of a revolutionary movement, serving as president until 1863. He helped draft a new constitution, reduced the national debt, and instituted a postal stamp system. He also amassed a fortune as a coffee grower.

In 1872, Juan and Julia Gallegos, accompanied by the elder Montealegre, left Costa Rica for California, settling in San Francisco. By 1883, there were seven Gallegos children—Adele (1872), John (1873), Robert (1875), Teresa (1876), Julia (1878), Anita (1881), and Sophie (1883). Other members of the extended family also came to the United States around 1872. Montealegre's brother established the coffee importing and exporting firm of Montealegre & Co. in San Francisco, in association with his children Carlos, Francisco, and Maria, and Juan Gallegos's brother Rafael later served as the Costa Rican Consul General in San Francisco. His brother-in-law Jose de Salazar and sister Ignacia (and their six children) would become closely associated with the Gallegos family.

It is not known exactly when Juan Gallegos began buying land from La Societe Francaise Depargnes et de Prevoyance Mutuelle. The principal transfer of property probably occurred sometime between the filing of La Societe's tract maps, in the spring of 1881, and the beginning of construction of a large residence for Gallegos, adjoining Mission Creek—the subject property—in the summer of 1882. Estimates of the acreage involved vary from source to source; most accounts cite a figure of 4,500 or 5,000 acres. A partial examination of county maps from the years 1889–1902 gives an idea of how the Gallegos parcels were distributed. The heart of his holdings, including the former Beard estate (Palmdale), comprised 612 acres within the triangle formed by Washington Boulevard, Driscoll Road, and Mission Boulevard. He also owned a large parcel south of Washington Boulevard, in the vicinity of the Central Pacific tracks in Irvington (where he built his winery), as well as several other large parcels east of Mission Boulevard, extending up and around Mission Peak. These tracts totaled less than 1,500 acres (suggesting that the higher estimates cited above are exaggerations).

Gallegos established one of the largest wineries in California on his property in Mission San Jose and Irvington. He laid out over 600 acres of vineyards north of Washington Boulevard and adjacent to his Irvington winery. Erected in 1884–85, this building was a massive three-story structure of stone and brick, measuring 240 feet by 110 feet. Built against the bluff at Osgood Road and Washington Boulevard, with caves dug into the hillside, the structure could be entered at the third-story level from the higher ground, where grapes were dumped into tanks for washing. After fermentation and processing (utilizing an ingenious gravity system) the wine was loaded onto rail cars on a depressed spur track. The building also generated its own electricity and steam. In 1886, its first full year of production, the Gallegos Winery produced 250,000 gallons of wine.

In 1889, the journalist Charles Howard Shinn, son of a pioneer Washington Township horticulturist, stated that the winery was "recognized as one of the very first in the state, whether for capital invested, for quantity handled, or for quality of the product. The \$125,000 winery at Irvington crushes not only the grapes of the Gallegos vineyard but also many of the grapes in the district." Shinn noted that Gallegos had more than 640 acres planted in wine grapes, making it the largest of approximately forty vineyards (and ten wineries) then operating in the vicinity of Mission San Jose, Irvington, and Warm Springs. (see continuation sheet)

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____

Page 4 of 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

Recorded by Woodruff Minor

Date: Dec. 2001

Continuation Update

B10. continued

In a complicated series of transactions in 1892, most of Gallegos's property, including the vineyards and winery, was transferred to the Palmdale Company, a firm that was partially owned by his wife's cousins Carlos and Francisco Montealegre. In 1894, the winery was incorporated as the Palmdale Wine Company. To supplement his income, Gallegos raised, packed, and sold prunes and other fruits (there is a label in the collection of the Fremont Local History Museum for "Selected Seedless Limes, Gallegos Estate, Mission San Jose"). Gallegos also raised horses and cattle on his hill land. Most sources state that he suffered financial reversals in the 1890s due to a depressed wine market and the destruction of his vines by plant lice.

In 1904, the Palmdale Company subdivided the former vineyard into 48 parcels ranging in size from 8 acres to nearly 32 acres (with most parcels in the 10–20 acre range). Occupying most of the area bounded by present-day Washington Boulevard, Driscoll Road, and Mission Boulevard, the 612-acre tract was bisected by two new roads, Olive Avenue and Mission Avenue (now Palm Avenue). The second largest parcel in the tract, Lot No. 48, covered 27.29 acres at the northwest corner of present-day Washington and Mission Boulevards. This parcel, which included the old Beard-Gallegos residence and gardens—christened "Palmdale" by Gallegos—was purchased by Henry Lachman, a San Francisco wine merchant who moved onto the property. Gallegos and his family moved across the street into another house owned by the family—the subject property (discussed below). He died in that house in 1905, at the age of 72, having broken his back falling down some stairs. The following year, the Palmdale Winery was destroyed by earthquake.

The Gallegos Residence

Most accounts agree that Juan Gallegos and his family resided for many years in the former Beard residence on the Palmdale estate. A souvenir booklet of Alameda County, published by the *Oakland Tribune* in 1898, includes a page of photographs of the Palmdale properties—vineyard, winery, and estate—with the following caption: "The Palmdale Winery, and Home of Juan Gallegos, Mission San Jose." Included in the collage is a picture of the Gallegos residence in Palmdale. The house has a partial upper story, a cross-gable roof, and gabled dormers. The porch, with boxed posts and rooftop balustrade, is adjoined by an Italianate bay window, and the central gable has a brace adorned with milled woodwork. The structure appears to be an early residence in the Greek or Gothic Revival style (1850s or 1860s) with Italianate additions (1870s or 1880s) and Eastlake or Queen Anne ornament (1880s or 1890s). The house was probably built by E. L. Beard soon after he began living on the estate in 1858, and altered by Gallegos beginning in the 1880s.

The subject property—the house at 830 Witherly Lane—was also owned by Gallegos, and his descendants resided there for many years after Palmdale was sold to Henry Lachman. The house was originally located on the east side of Mission Boulevard, on an 11-acre parcel adjoining Mission Creek; it was moved to its present location in 1974, and the site is now occupied by the rectory of St. Joseph's Church. Some sources state that the house was first moved across the street from Palmdale by Gallegos; others claim that it was built on the 11-acre site for the Montealegre family. All sources agree that the Gallegos family owned and occupied the property beginning in the early 20th century.

The most likely account is that the house always stood on the 11-acre site next to Mission Creek and that it was built by Juan Gallegos as a residence for his father-in-law or for other members of the extended Gallegos-Montealegre-Salazar clan. (Jose Maria Montealegre died in Mission San Jose on September 26, 1887.) A contract notice for the house appeared in the August 1882 issue of *California Architect & Building News*. The contract called for a "two-floor residence for J. Gallegos, Mission San Jose," to be built by S. Morrell, at a cost of \$5,500 (a substantial sum for the time). The architect of record, Walter J. Cuthbertson, was born in London in 1850 and came to San Francisco as a child; by the 1880s, he was a successful architect in that city. Over the course of his career, Cuthbertson specialized in houses and apartment buildings. According to his obituary in *Architect & Engineer*, "Mr. Cuthbertson was City Architect during the latter part of the Phelan and the first part of the Schmitz administrations and was active in plans for the reconstruction of San Francisco following the fire of 1906." He died in San Francisco in 1925, at the age of 75.

Photographs and Sanborn maps indicate that the house was sited fairly close to the street. The grounds were thickly planted with trees. Rows of palm trees bordered the street frontage of the property, and a double row of palms extended along both banks of the creek. Following the death of Juan Gallegos, in 1905, five of the children—Robert, Teresa, Julia, Anita, and Sophie—continued to live there with their mother. In 1909 or 1910, Julia married a young architect named Henry A. Minton, a recent Harvard graduate who became a well-known designer of churches and banks in the Bay Area. Around 1910, Minton designed additions for the house in the fashionable Colonial Revival style, including the spacious front porch and the slant-sided south bay. After Mrs. Gallegos died in 1929, the property was managed by Robert, Teresa, Anita, and Sophie. Robert raised avocados, citrus fruit, and nuts on the 11-acre tract; his sisters kept house and helped sell the produce. There was another house on the property, closer to the creek, and a garage at the rear with two apartments. Both buildings were rentals. Up the hill, adjoining the property, was the 1-acre plot containing the 300,000-gallon reservoir their father had built; a 5-inch pipeline provided water year-round. They also owned a 22-acre hillside tract behind the Dominican Convent. In the early 1960s, the City of Fremont considered buying or leasing the site for use as a historical park. The two surviving members of the family, Robert and Teresa, wanted \$150,000 for the 12-acre property (including the reservoir) but the City declined the offer.

As it happened, the property was sold to St. Joseph Parish, during the pastorate of Fr. James E. O'Neill (1958–68). The parish compound, which adjoined the Gallegos property across Mill Road, was in the midst of a major expansion, including a school (1960) and a new church (1965). Robert and Teresa Gallegos, by then quite elderly, were granted a life tenancy in the home. Following Teresa's death in 1973, at the age of 97, the church sold the residence to local realtor Robert Tavares, in 1974. Tavares moved the house to its present site on Witherly Lane, where it became the family home. That same year, the other house on the property was sold to local attorney John Weed, who moved it across the street and converted it into an office building. The garage remained in place and is now used for offices. The front portion of the property, on the site of the house, was partially relandscaped and redeveloped with a new rectory, opened in 1977. The old rectory and church were then moved so that a replica of the mission church could be built on its original site. The new church was dedicated in 1986.

Coda: In 1979, the body of Jose Maria Montealegre was exhumed from its grave in the old parish cemetery and flown to Costa Rica at the behest of the Costa Rican government. The body was reburied with full military honors in the national mausoleum in Jardines del Recuerdo, outside the capital city of San Jose.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____

Page 5 of 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

Recorded by Woodruff Minor

Date: Dec. 2001

Continuation Update

Evaluation

830 Witherly Lane has been moved from its original location and somewhat altered. Nonetheless, it is a significant large Victorian house in Washington Township, and appears to be eligible for the National and California Registers under Criterion C/3. The building does not appear to be associated with significant events or patterns of history in Washington Township and thus does not appear to be eligible for the National or California Registers under Criterion A/1. The building is associated with a major figure in the local wine industry and the émigré Costa Rican community. Therefore it appears to be eligible for the National and California Registers under Criterion B/2.

B12. References

1. General Sources

- Abeloe, Father William N. *A Brief History of Our Parish*. Fremont: St. Joseph's Church, Old Mission San Jose Parish, 1979.
- Basin Research Associates and Woodruff Minor. *City of Fremont, Washington Township: Mission San Jose Historic Context*. Developed as part of Phase I review of historic properties in Fremont, 1998.
- Berge, Wihelmine Perry, with Carmelita Berge Freitas. *I Remember Mission San Jose and Irvington*. Fremont: Washington Township Historical Society, 1976.
- Country Club of Washington Township Research Committee. *History of Washington Township*. Second Edition. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 1950.
- Directory Publishing Co. *Langley's San Francisco Directory*, 1881.
- Holmes, Philip. *Two Centuries at Mission San Jose, 1797–1997*. Fremont: Fremont Museum of Local History, 1997.
- Husted, F. M. *Husted's Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley and Alameda County Directory*. San Francisco: F. M. Husted (1894, 1900, 1905, 1907).
- Kirker, Harold. *California's Architectural Frontier: Style and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century*. Peregrine Smith Books: Salt Lake City. Third Edition, 1986.
- Oakland Tribune. *Alameda County: The Eden of the Pacific; the Flower Garden of California*. Oakland Tribune Publishing Company, Oakland, 1898. ("The Palmdale Winery, and Home of Juan Gallegos, Mission San Jose," p. 127.)
- Sandoval, John S. *The History of Washington Township*. Castro Valley: John S. Sandoval, 1985.
- Shinn, Charles Howard. *Historical Sketches of Southern Alameda County*. First published in the *Oakland Enquirer* as a series of articles, June–November 1889. Alameda County Historical Society, 1989.
- Todd, Ruth H., AIA, Architect. *Sisters of the Holy Family/159 Washington Street: Supplemental Site Studies, Architectural and Historical Analysis*, August 1996. Prepared for David L. Gates & Associates as part of *Sisters of the Holy Family/159 Washington: Supplemental Analysis*, 13 August 1996.

2. Public Records and Maps

- Alameda County Assessor.
Assessor's Map 513-363.
Assessor's Map Books (1898–1902, 1918–1958).
- Alameda County Recorder. Official records.
Book 6, page 17. *Map of the Town of Mission San Jose*. Surveyed by W. F. Boardman, May 1868. Filed 27 Oct 1868.
Book 7, page 49. *Map of the Addition to Washington Corners of Lands belonging to La Societe Francaise Depargnes et de Prevoyance Mutuelle*. Filed 21 May 1881.
Book 6, page 22. *Map of Plots Nos. 1 to 52 and Blocks A, B, C, D, E of Lands belonging to La Societe Francaise Depargnes et de Prevoyance Mutuelle*. Filed 23 May 1881.
Book 20, page 8. *Map of a Portion of the Palmdale Company, Washington Township, Alameda Co., Cal.* Surveyed by E. C. Prother, County Surveyor, Oct 1904. Filed 20 Dec 1904.
- Alameda County Surveyor. *Official Map of Alameda County* (1889, 1900, 1907, 1910, 1915).
- Dyer, E. H. *Plat of the Land of the Ex-Mission San Jose*. San Francisco: United States Surveyor General's Office, 1864.
- Fremont, City, Recreation Commission. Undated and unsigned memorandum re Gallegos property (ca. 1962).
- Sanborn Map Company. *Mission San Jose, Calif.* (1897, 1916, 1929, 1932).
- United States Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules for Washington Township (1900, 1910).

3. Newspapers and Magazines

- Architect & Engineer*: "Obituary: W. J. Cuthbertson" (Nov 1925).
- Argus*: "Dead leader's body exhumed" (n.d., ca. 1979).
- California Architect & Building News*: contract notice for Gallegos residence, Mission San Jose (Aug 1882).

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

Page 6 of 6

Resource Name or #: (assigned by recorder) 830 Witherly Lane

Recorded by Woodruff Minor

Date: Dec. 2001

Continuation

Update

Washington News, Special Edition (1887): "A Monster Vineyard: The Great Winery of Juan Gallegos."

4. Interviews

Celia Weed (Mission San Jose historian), 10 March 2001.

P5a. Photo, continued



View from SW, from Mission Boulevard

Welcome to the "Gallegos Mansion", presently owned by Bill and Pam Ledgewood and Pat Lujan (Pam's Mother).

The "House" was constructed in 1885 by the Don Juan Gallegos Family. The original location was on the Mission San Jose De Guadalupe Grounds, where the rectory presently sets.

Gallegos was born in Costa Rica. His father was the third President of Costa Rica after it received its' independence from Spain. Even in the mid-1800's Costa Rica was still engaged in a revolution. Don Juan didn't want his family raised in such a dangerous environment. Don Juan moved his family to San Francisco. The Gallegos family was involved in coffee beans in Costa Rica therefore they were able to afford a mansion in the more exclusive section of the city. It wasn't long before Don missed living in the country. He went searching for such a place and settled for the location near the old mission.

Wanting to expand on his own, other than coffee, Don Juan decided to go into the wine grape business. Don Gallegos was the first wine manufacturer to transport wine to the east coast but without the proper technology the wine spoiled before it reached its destination.

On the corner of Washington Blvd and Osgood road you will notice brick walls. These are the remains of the Gallegos winery. It was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake.

The last heir to the mansion was Don Juan's daughter Theresa. She stayed in the house until the mid-1970's when she passed away.

In 1977 Bob Tavares, a local realtor, acquired the mansion and paid \$75,000.00 to have it moved to its present location. The city of Fremont required the foundation, plumbing and electrical be brought up to code. Basically the house is 9 years old except for the wood portions.

When the house was located down by the mission it was actually three stories. The bottom story being a game/ballroom approxiamtely 1,000 square feet. When the house was moved the ceiling was damaged.

When the house was moved it required cutting down many power lines. It was moved in three sections. The north side of the porch and veranda was one section. The Kitchen the second section and the main house the third.

The narrow staircase at the back of the house was for the maid. The large room across from the stairwell was the maid's bedroom. The room across the hall was her parlor for entertaining her guests. The glass-paned door was there to seperate the maids quarters from the families.

The east window in the kitchen is the oldest part of the house. The Tavares removed the original swing out window and replaced it with the leaded glass, little Dutch girl window. This window was constructed in 1750. The south window is not original either. Originally there was a wood stove to cook and heat the kitchen. It was removed and the leaded glass was put in in 1979.

Gallegos family

The Gallegos Estate

- 1 "History of Washington Township!" Compiled and written by The Country Club of Washington Township Research Committee 1950-1965
- 2 Quote from Dr. R.B. Fisher, President of the Alameda County Historical Association
(Much of my information was from verbal contact with Dr. Fisher.)

The Gallegos Estate

The Gallegos Estate was built by Juan Gallegos in the mid 1800's on the property it is presently occupying, for his wife's brother, Juan Marlego, (sp.) President of Costa Rica. It is assumed that the house was built from the other structures along the vallejo, which was the name of the creek that is now called Alameda Creek in the town of Niles and surrounding areas.

As time passed, the modest, two-story rectangular shaped home, as it is thought to have been because of the present structure of the home, had other sections added to it. First a kitchen; later a huge porch. (The part of the home that was built first has been so established by because of the square wooden pegs used in the building which was the way buildings were erected prior to 1890, The other additions were done with metal nails much like the nails we use today.

As the estate has been sold many times, the home has had to be moved or destroyed, so the purchaser's have fortunately moved Gallegos Estate. It has remained on the same parcels of property where it was originally built, but moved around in different direction as parcels of land were sold. E. L. Beard was the first owner of this property which is adjacent to Ohlone College on Mission Blvd. The grounds that the estate is on is probably the most historically interesting part of the Gallegos Estate. It is believed to be the location of the first Misión del Gloriosísimo Patriarca Señor San José de Guadalupe, later changed to just plain old Mission San Jose de Guadalupe.

Crudely built in 1797 with bits of timber and with a thatched roof, the church of boughs celebrated its first mass on Trinity Sunday 1797. The original water mill and adjoining dam are still on the grounds. (The water was used not only for the mission and its people, but also for the surrounding farms and rancheros.

At one time Mr. E. L. Beard, one of the earliest settlers to the area, purchased the entire Mission San Jose for \$12,000.00 from Andres Pico, brother of Pio Pico, Governor at that time, and from former Governor Alvarado, but had to be re-imbursed the money...The seller's did not legally own what they sold!

There is no mention in any of the literature that I read of the length of time that any of the owners occupied Gallegos Estate or when the actual transactions of land took place. The Gallegos family owned a tremendous amount of land which included all of the winery area in the Mission section all the way down to Irvington, including the huge three story winery on the corner of Washington Blvd. and Osgood Road. Some of the remains of this winery can still be seen. Wine was the main commodity of Sr. Gallegos, but he prospered with other crops until 1906 when the earthquake destroyed the winery, part of their home, and much of their crops. "In 1883 Don Juan Gallegos developed Palmdale, the most wonderful vineyard of them all." 1

At the time of the gold rush, a rail system was established to accomodate the produce shipped by rail to San Francisco by all the ranchos in this area.

They were so pleased with the prices that the food was selling for that they all "over planted" on the following year. How would you like to pay \$1.00 for one single... potato or pear?!! (Cherries were more moderately priced at 39¢ per pound. The farmers became financial giants in one year and made almost nothing the following year. The decline in their sales was due primarily because of fewer people in San Francisco and partly because of education. The people found that it was much less expensive to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

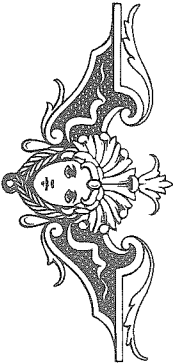
"Juan Gallegos was known to be quite a sporting ~~man~~ man." In the lower level of the estate home it has been discovered that there is a particular door on one side of the home that goes nowhere!" There are actually two doors just a few inches apart. It has been decided that the only possibility of why this door is like it is because of the gambling tables. They were probably raided during some of the games and then the door was built to keep the authorities out.

The Gallegos' were a very private, proud people and that is why it is thought there are no photographs of their home. When they were financially ruined by the earthquake in 1906, they began to sell parcels of land, but while they still owned what we may consider a large amount of land, they felt as if it were a disgrace to be "poverty stricken".²

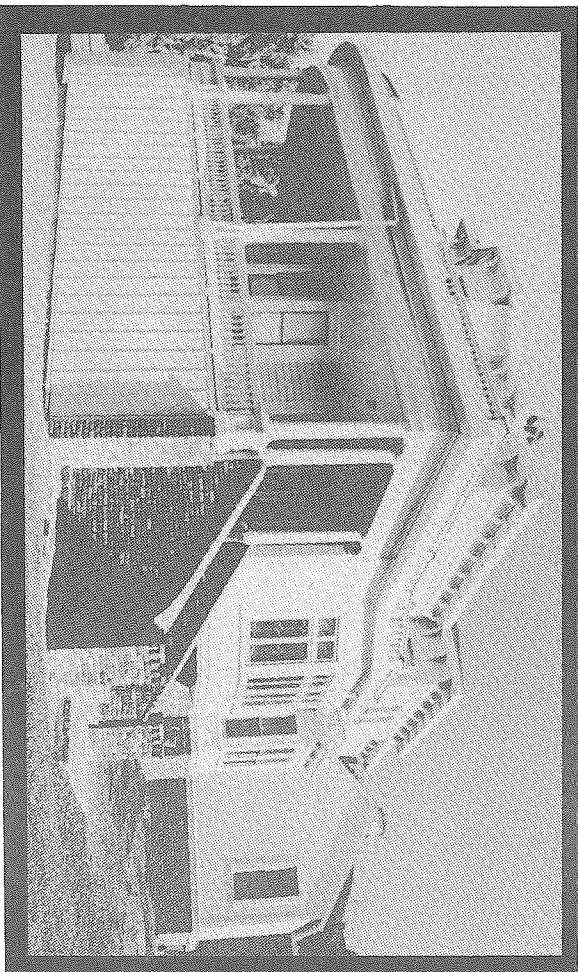
The grounds of the estate were so well known because of the beautiful garden which was started by Mrs. E. L. Beard with slips of plants that she brought from Lafayette, Indiana and San Francisco where she and her sons, John Lyman Beard (he became State Senator in 1896) and her son from a previous marriage, E. Ellsworth, stayed for 3 years while E. L. Beard prepared the land and home for his family after their move from Indiana. The gardens were kept up by Robert Gallegos, son of Juan until about 6 years ago (1969) when he died at the age of approximately 92 years of age. It has been said that Robert grew such fantastic avacados that he shipped them world-wide after packaging them individually with much care. They were apparently very large, choice avacados.

In the years around 1849, Gold Rush time, the Gallegos' and Beards supplied all the limes that were used in the salsas in San Francisco! A fitting ending.

The present owners of the Gallegos Estate are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Traveres who are presently restoring the mansion. They lived in the home for 8 months before moving the home to its present location. They intend to occupy the home again as soon as the re-construction is completed. Mrs. Traveres told me that she personally lifted 11,00 bricks that were in the foundation of the home.



'Presented For Sale'



THE GALLEGOS' MANSION

The **GALLEGOS' MANSION**, built in the early 1880's and designated a "Historical Monument" under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is presented for sale by owner Robert Tavares.

Located in traditional Mission San Jose (Fremont) and recently restored to reflect its Spanish influence, the stately two and a half story home is backed by tree-studded hills and fronted by a panoramic view of the Bay Area. The structure is centered on two-thirds of an acre with its rural setting protected from additional building by "open area" zoning and has been updated to meet present building codes.

The exterior offers the enchantment of a wide veranda which circles the entire front and west side of the redwood clapboard house which is set off by ornate railing works on the balconies. Brick from the original foundation forms the veneer on the lower portion of the home serving to add warmth and authenticity as does the two unique stair walks.

The interior combines the antiqueness of the Victorian era with the functional requirements of today. The floor plan contains an estimated 4,300 to 4,600 square feet and is designed to have little or no wasted floor space. All ceilings excepting the kitchen measure 12 ft.

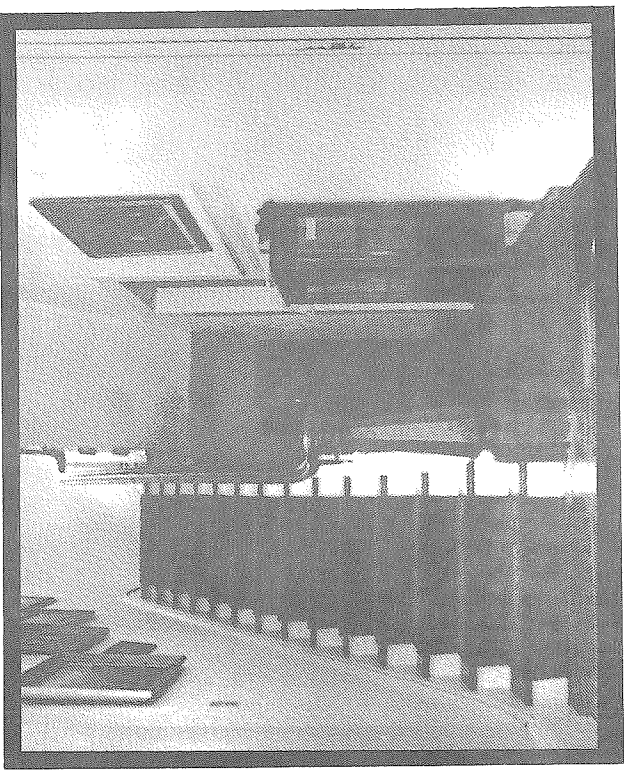
The main floor features a full parlor with window seats, a center-wall fireplace in the living room, a large formal dining room, a library with a second fireplace, a butler's pantry and a spacious domed kitchen with a center ceiling height of 18 ft.*The main floor is completed by indoor laundry facilities and two bathrooms.

A large master suite with a sitting room is featured on the second floor in addition to four bedrooms and two baths. All upstairs bedrooms have corner basins with hot and cold water.




'Presented For Sale'

Interior View—"Stairway of History"



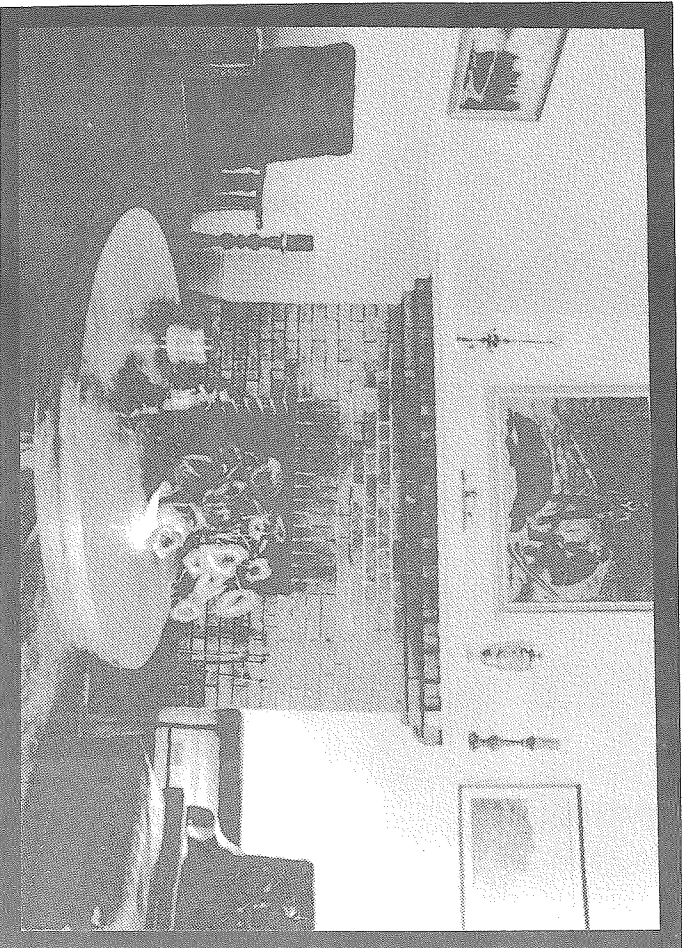
a Zenith in view and locality

The GALLEGOS MANSION



Realtor Tavares
41141 Roberts Ave.
Fremont, California 94538

Postage



*For an
exclusive showing*

Phone
(415) 651-0600

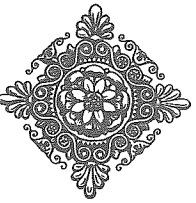
Or Write

**Realtor-Tavares
41141 Robert Ave.
Fremont, Calif. 94538**

The Gallegos Era . . .

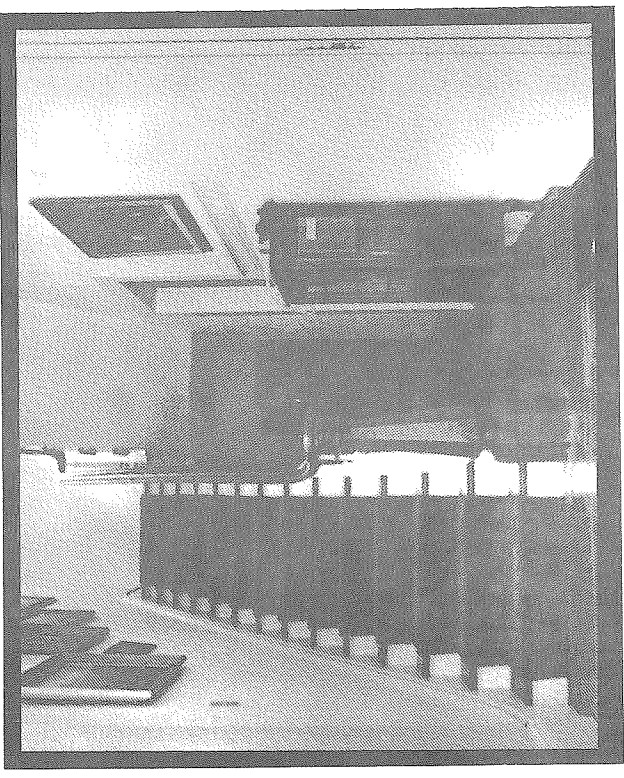
JUAN GALLEGOS, a wealthy Spanish gentleman from Costa Rica who had been educated in England, first settled in Mission San Jose in the late 1870's and by early 1880, following his purchase of some 5,000 acres from Senator E. L. Beard, had become one of the largest and best known viticulturists in the state. During this period construction began on the home which was to remain in the Gallegos family until 1973 when it was purchased from the estate by its present owner. It was then moved to its present site at 830 Witherly Lane in Mission San Jose, less than a mile from its original setting.

Originally built across from 'Old Mission Road', the Mansion was first moved in 1906 to 43182 Mission Blvd. on the east side of Highway 9 about one half mile from the famed Old Mission, one of the oldest landmarks in Northern California.




'Presented For Sale'

Interior View—"Stairway of History"



a Zenith in view and locality

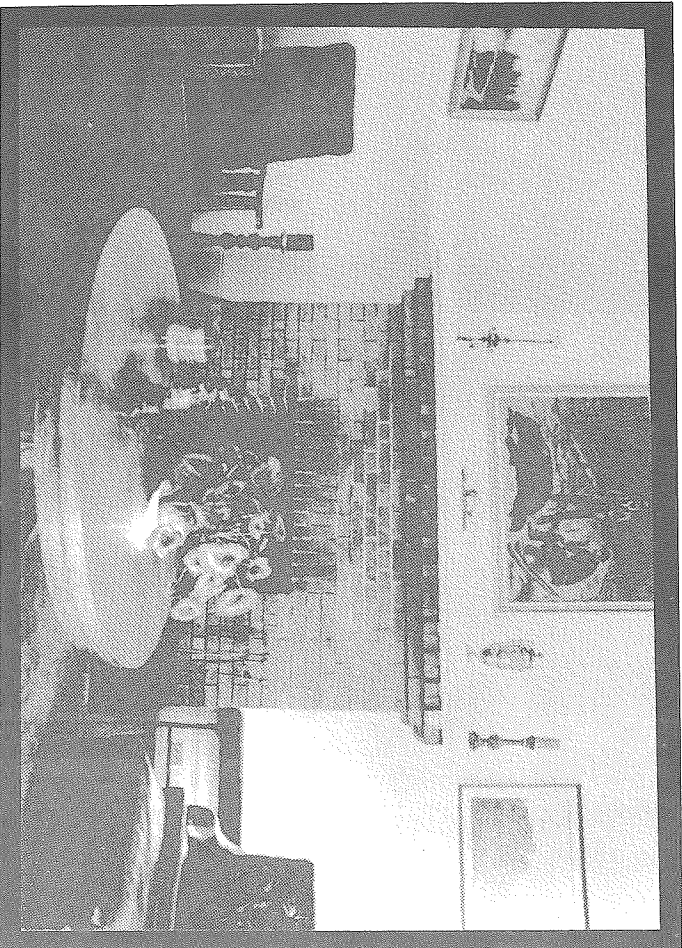
MISSION MANSION SOGGETTO



The

Realtor Tavares
41141 Roberts Ave.
Fremont, California 94538

Postage



For an
exclusive showing

Phone
(415) 651-0600

Or Write

Realtor-Tavares
41141 Robert Ave.
Fremont, Calif. 94538

The Gallegos Era . . .

IUAN GALLEGOS, a wealthy Spanish gentleman from Costa Rica who had been educated in England, first settled in Mission San Jose in the late 1870's and by early 1880, following his purchase of some 5,000 acres from Senator E. L. Beard, had become one of the largest and best known viticulturists in the state. During this period construction began on the home which was to remain in the Gallegos family until 1973 when it was purchased from the estate by its present owner. It was then moved to its present site at 830 Witherly Lane in Mission San Jose, less than a mile from its original setting.

Originally built across from 'Old Mission Road', the Mansion was first moved in 1906 to 43182 Mission Blvd. on the east side of Highway 9 about one half mile from the famed Old Mission, one of the oldest landmarks in Northern California.

