

Appendix F
City Landmark District Assessment

Sakauye Farm Historic District - Landmark Assessment

Evans & De Shazo (EDS) Principal Architectural Historian Stacey De Shazo, M.A. completed the following local landmark assessment of potential Sakauye Farm Historic District (Table 1; Figure 1) per historic preservation ordinance 13.48.110, which provides the procedures for designation of a landmark through the consideration of eight "relevant factors" (i.e., criterion) labeled 1 – 8. The assessment complies with the City of San Jose's historic preservation guidelines and the goals and policies of the City of San Jose General Plan (adopted by the City Council in November 2011). The assessment is not a landmark nomination. Instead, it was completed at the city's request to provide guidance regarding the building's individual eligibility for landmark listing.

Current Historical Status: The Sakauye Farm Historic District is not currently eligible or listed on any local, state, or federal historical resource list.

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

The potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is a property associated with pre-WWII Japanese farming in Santa Clara Valley from ca. 1907 to 1941, and agricultural practices in Santa Clara Valley from ca. 1900 to ca. 1940.

The Property is associated with both first-generation (Issei) and second-generation (Nisei) Japanese farming in the early twentieth century (pre-WWII) in the Santa Clara Valley from ca. 1907 to 1941. At this time, Japanese farms were clustered in various regions throughout Santa Clara Valley including Trimble Road, North First Street, Alviso, Agnew, and Berryessa. Throughout the early twentieth century, the role of Japanese farmers in the Santa Clara Valley agricultural industry grew significantly, and soon Japanese farmers were producing most of the tomato and spinach crops in San Jose, contributing significantly to the economy of the region. Japanese farmers also grew strawberries and celery, as well as stone fruits such as pears, apples, and prunes. The Japanese farms such as the Sakauye contributed to the character, interest, and value of Santa Clara Valley. The Sakauye farm, including the current 11-acre Property consisting seven buildings and landscape associated with Japanese farming in Santa Clara Valley from ca. 1907 to 1941; and are also associated with farming in the Santa Clara Valley from ca. 1900 to 1940. As such the Sakauye farm is recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark district under this criterion.

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

The potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is associated with Japanese American farming pre-World War II (WWII) farming (ca. 1907-1941), which occurred during the Inter-War Period of San Jose's history (1918-1945) and is associated with the success of Japanese American farming in San Jose during the early twentieth century. The property demonstrates the success of the Sakauye Family and their farm. However, the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District cannot convey the significance of Japanese American farming as a whole but can convey this at a local level. As such, the potential Sakauye Farm

Historic District may be eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion.

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

The potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is associated with the Sakauye family from 1907 to 2011. The Sakauye family included Yuwakichi and Tamee Sakauye, successful Japanese farmers in Santa Clara Valley in the early 20th century. In ca. 1920, Yuwakichi and Tamee had the house constructed within the farm they owned in San Jose, replacing an older house on the property. Yuwakichi and Tamee lived in the house with their five children, Eiichi, Kenji, Kimiko, Ayako, and Isao.¹ However, in 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, ordering the immediate internment of all personnel of Japanese ancestry in internment camps. Prior to their internment, Yuwakichi and Tamee allowed many of their Japanese American neighbors and friends to store their belongings within the basement of the ca. 1920 Sakauye House before reporting to the assignment center for interment in 1942. Yuwakichi and Tamee also took measures to protect their property by signing ownership of their 20-acre farm to their neighbor Edward Seely, who agreed to take care of the farm for the Sakauye family in their absence. In the spring of 1942, Yuwakichi, Tamee, and their children Eiichi, Kenji, Kimiko, Ayako, and Isao were interned at the Heart Mount WWII internment camp in Wyoming where they lived until their release in 1945. During their internment, Eiichi, who had brought his camera equipment to the center, documented life within the internment camp. Although the Sakauye family story is of local significance, it is Eiichi, who is mostly associated with the property and is considered a person that contributed to local, regional, and state history, which is detailed in the section below.

Eiichi Sakauye

According to the City of San Jose "Notable Persons – Working List" Eiichi Sakauye is a person of note in the history of San Jose as a historian for his photo-documentation of the Japanese internment camps at Heart Mount, Wyoming, as well as his contribution to the agricultural landscape of San Jose and Santa Clara Valley agriculture between ca. 1925, which is the approximate time when he was farming the subject Property and 2005, which is the year that he died.² Throughout his lifetime, Eiichi was active in numerous organizations and committees, including serving on the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission for more than 20 years, the Jefferson School Board of Education in the City of Santa Clara, and as a Trustee for the Santa Clara Unified School District for nine years. Also, Eiichi worked closely with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the County Agricultural Commission, and he helped found the City of Milpitas Historical Museum in 1975. One of the most remarkable works that Eiichi was involved in during his lifetime was that he was a life member of the Japanese American Citizen League (JACL), which he joined in 1932. He was the only member with such an extensive record during his lifetime. In addition, he supported the local Santa Clara County Pear Association and the State Agriculture Association, and the cannery organizations. During the Sakauye families' internment during WWII at Heart Mountain in

¹ Dr. Joe Yasutake, Interview Eiichi Sakauye, July 25, 1997, to October 4, 1997, accessed via Calisphere.org.

² *Historic Context Statement*, "Notable Persons - Working List," Sanjoseca.gov (Accessed July 27, 2022)

Wyoming, cameras were banned at the camps; however, Eiichi was permitted to use a camera and photograph life in the camp. Although obtaining film and supplies was difficult, from 1943 to 1945, Eiichi managed to obtain supplies and document everyday life at the camp. During his internment, he served as a Weather Bureau Observer, Postmaster for blocks 23, 24, and 30, Assistant Farm Superintendent, and a Block Manager. In 1945, when Eiichi and his family returned to San Jose, Eiichi was contacted by Walter Cronkite, who had heard about the film and wanted to see his camp footage. Later Eiichi's images of life at Heart Mountain in a documentary called "Pride and Shame" and in 2000, from the Sakauye farm, he put together a photo essay called Heart Mountain, A Photo Essay that was published in 2000. In 1987, Eiichi was also one of four founding members of the Japanese American Resource Center (JARC) (later known as the Japanese American Museum of San Jose [JAMsj]), established to preserve San Jose and Santa Clara County's Japanese American history so subsequent generations of Japanese Americans could learn from and take pride in their heritage. During this time, Eiichi made one of the most important contributions to the City of San Jose and the Japanese American communities. In the 1990s, Eiichi purchased a building on North Fifth Street where the JAMsj could house and showcase their unique collection of Japanese American history and artifacts, and in 1998 Eiichi signed the ownership deed to JAMsj.

Based on Eiichi Sakauye's importance to the City of San Jose, the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion for its association with Eiichi Sakauye.

4. *Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of the City of San Jose*

The built environment within the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District *exemplifies* the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of San Jose's Japanese history. As such, it is recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion.

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

It appears that this question may be related to association with vernacular architecture or archaeology. As such, it does not appear to apply to the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District. Therefore, it is not recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion

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

The potential Sakauye Farm Historic District has characteristics of farming practices and vernacular architecture from the early 20th Century. However, these built environment element as a whole do not support a distinctive design. As such, the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is recommended as not eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion.

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

The built environment resources associated with the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is not associated with any known architect or builder and therefore has no association with an individual who was influential in the development of the City of San Jose. As such, potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is not recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion.

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

The built environment resources within the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District does not embody elements of any architectural or engineering design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship that represents any unique or significant architectural innovation. As such, the potential Sakauye Farm Historic District is not recommended as eligible for designation as a city landmark under this criterion.

Table 1. District contributors and non-contributors

EDS #/resource	Resource and Date of Construction	Architectural style, form, or design	District Contributor/Non-contributor	District Criteria	Individually eligible for the CRHR; Criterion
EDS 1	ca. 1880 "Seely house"	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 2	ca. 1920 cottage	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 3	ca. 1890 barn	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 4	ca. 1930 pump house	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 5	ca. 2005 steel "container" shed	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 6	ca. 1920 "Sakauye house"	Spanish Colonial Revival	Contributor	1, 2	Yes; Criterion 3
EDS 7	ca. 1930 doghouse Spanish Colonial Revival	Spanish Colonial Revival	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 8	ca. 1910 barn	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 9	2004 storage building	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 10	ca. 1930 shed	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 11	ca. 1930 pump house	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 12	ca. 1930 barn/wagon house	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No
EDS 13	ca. 1955 barn	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 14	ca. 1985 cold storage shed (ice house)	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No



EDS #/resource	Resource and Date of Construction	Architectural style, form, or design	District Contributor/Non-contributor	District Criteria	Individually eligible for the CRHR; Criterion
EDS 15	ca. 1975 barn	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 16	2002 garage/storage building	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 17	ca. 1995 doghouse	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 18	2010 greenhouse	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
EDS 19	ca. 1970 fruit stand	N/A	Non-contributor	N/A	No
Associated Landscape	fruit trees, planted rows of vegetables, and dirt roads	N/A	Contributor	1, 2	No



Resource Sketch Map

Eiichii Sakauye Farm
681 E. Trimble Road, San Jose
Santa Clara County, California
(APN 097-15-033)

- Resource Area
- Buildings

- | | |
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| 1. ca. 1880 "Seely house" | 10. ca. 1930 shed |
| 2. ca. 1920 cottage | 11. ca. 1930 pump house |
| 3. ca. 1890 barn | 12. ca. 1930 barn/wagon house |
| 4. ca. 1930 pump house | 13. ca. 1955 barn |
| 5. ca. 2005 steel "container" shed | 14. ca. 1985 cold storage shed (ice house) |
| 6. ca. 1920 "Sakauye house" | 15. ca. 1975 barn |
| 7. ca. 1930 doghouse | 16. 2002 garage/storage building |
| 8. ca. 1910 barn with ca. 1930/1940s additions | 17. ca. 1995 doghouse |
| 9. 2004 storage building | 18. 2010 greenhouse |
| | 19. ca. 1970 fruitstand |



Map by Sally Evans, 4/8/2021

Figure 1. Sakauye Farm Historic District Sketch Map.