



## **PRESERVATION ACTION COUNCIL OF SAN JOSE**

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*Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage*

September 7, 2006

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1416 9th Street, Room 1442  
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

Several years ago, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose's Board was one of the first organizations to meet and unanimously approve support to keep BAREC's 17 acres and its history intact, so that future generations would understand the Valley's agricultural history. We feel strongly that BAREC's history is so uniquely important to California and the Santa Clara Valley that it should be given State and National Historical Registry status. Some of the things we think that are unique about its history are: the cultural program to return the Japanese farmers to their strawberry farms after World War II; a historical weather station that served more than two counties; two historical buildings dating from the early 1900s to 1928; and, the much and varied historical agricultural research done for over 75 years making contributions to the entire nation (fruit tree research that made our Valley famous in the 1900s) and world (drought sod research).

BAREC is centered between the National Historical Registered Winchester House and the State Historical Registered Santa Clara Mission. Since both of these sites in their most important historical period were once surrounded by agricultural crops, it is especially important that BAREC represent what these two historically important sites *now* lack: farmland. BAREC existed in the 1800s when these two historical sites were in their prime; hence, it links them and places them in their appropriate historical context for future generations to understand their real history.

We are pleased to have been the first in a long line of historical organizations and historically important people to support saving BAREC's history for future generations. The following are other active organizations that support BAREC: Northern California Historical American Landscape Survey (HALS), California History Center and Foundation, California Garden and Landscape Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Civil War Roundtable, Argonauts Historical Society, Pioneer Club of Santa Clara County, Saratoga Historical Museum, E Clampus Vitas, Yvonne Jacobson (author of "Passing Farms Enduring Values, Santa Clara Valley"), Dr. Russell Skowronek (Santa Clara University Archeology Professor, foremost expert on California Missions, author on historical Santa Clara City

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book, and Smithsonian consultant), Lorie Garcia (former Santa Clara County Historical Commission, author of book on Santa Clara's history, and former Chairman of the Santa Clara City Planning Commission), and Jim Arbuckle (Past President of the Pioneers Society of Santa Clara County and son of Clyde Arbuckle who wrote the most definitive historical book titled "History of San Jose"), and local historian and author Leonard McKay.

The Preservation Action Council of San Jose strongly believes in BAREC's value as a historical site and we can not emphasize enough the importance of granting BAREC State and National Registry status. For over 150 years, BAREC has served the Santa Clara County community through its agricultural research and activities, and its role in the Valley's agricultural history is one that should be recognized and protected.

Sincerely,



Ellen Garboske

Board Member  
Preservation Action Council of San Jose