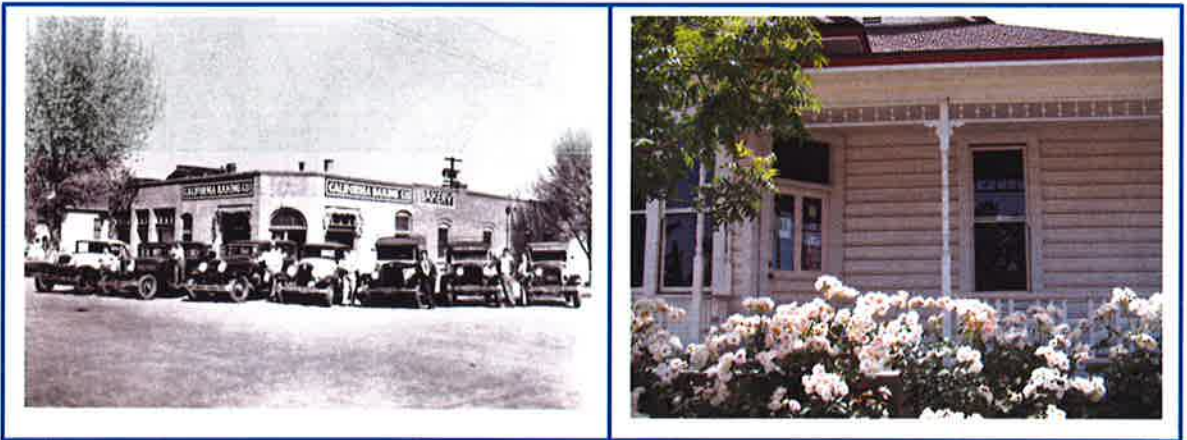
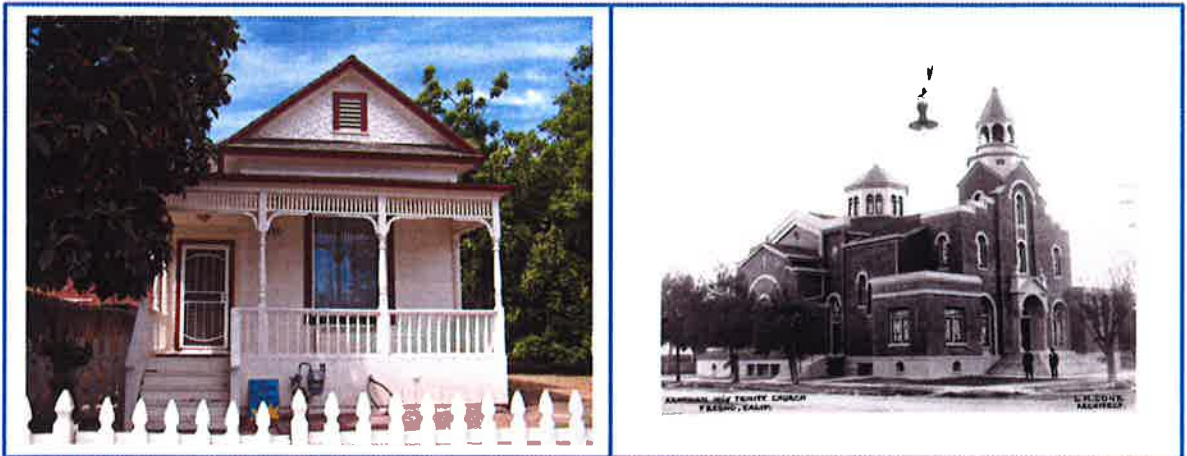


Proposed Armenian Town Historic District (draft)



Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation, City of Fresno
October 31, 2016

*Resource Name: Armenian Town Historic District

***D3. Detailed Description:** The Armenian Town Historic District includes 11 parcels with a total of 19 resources (see attached map, continuation sheets and survey forms). Two of the parcels are vacant and are thus non-contributors. All other resources meet the eligibility for age and significance for this dis-contiguous District which straddles State Route 41. Resources within the District include properties already designated on the Local and National Registers as well as several others found eligible in the 2015 *South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Survey*. The District includes some of the best extant resources from the (former) 60-block Armenian Town, including the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and its ancillary buildings, the Valley Lahvosh Bakery and the restored homes and one summer kitchen within the City's Armenian Town Project. Also included are several examples of working class homes that were typical for the era.

***D4. Boundary Description:** The proposed boundary includes those parcels and resources "north" of SR 41 and which are clustered nearest to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church complex. The freeway cut a swath through the heart of Armenian Town many years back, but several cottages (one of these already a designed resource) are located on M Street on the south side of the freeway; there is thus a visual connection. Two houses west of the cluster located on Van Ness have also been included upon request of the property owners.

***D5. Boundary Justification:** The current proposed boundary includes those extant resources located near to the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church as well as several cottages further south along M Street and Van Ness Avenue.

D6. Significance: Theme Fresno's Ethnic History Area Armenian Town Period of Significance c1899-2012 Applicable Criteria 1, 2 and 3

By the First World War 10,000 Armenians had settled in Fresno, refugees from the genocide that occurred in Turkey and Armenia. A 60-block "Armenian Town" developed here between the two World Wars, due in part to the restrictive covenants that precluded settlement in other parts of the city. Although State Route 41 cut a swath through the heart of this community, numerous buildings, including a church, a bakery, working class cottages and business buildings are extant. Preservation of these resources as a Historic District not only will honor a rich segment of Fresno's early ethnic history, but will also serve to provide greater visibility for the potential of cultural heritage tourism.

***D7. References**

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Shekoyan, Elish. "Fresno's Greater Armenia," In *Fresno Past and Present* 35:3 Fall 1993.

***D8. Evaluator:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. **Date:** 31 October 2016

Affiliation and Address: Historic Preservation Project Manager, 2600 Fresno Street, 93721.



Proposed
Armenian
Town
Historic
District
2015
aerial

CONTINUATION SHEET

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton

*Date: 18 July 2016

■ Continuation

Map Reference #01. Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Complex, 2226 Ventura Street (HP#019/National Register of Historic Places). Four separate buildings are located on this parcel at the southwest corner of Ventura and M Streets. The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church faces onto Ventura (1914) and was designed by an Armenian-born architect, L.J. Condrajan. The church itself is on both Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources as well as the National Register of Historic Places. A social hall (with kitchen and stage) is adjacent to the church and was built in 1958 with additions in 1962. A Sunday School/Youth Activity Building to the "south" of this social hall was designed by local Armenian-American architect Robby Antoyan in 1999. Most recently a two-story infill for additional offices was added in 2012 with a small gated courtyard wedged between the church and the social hall. This building was also designed by Antoyan.

Map Refererence #02. Valley Lahvosh Baking Company, 502 "M" Street and 2319 Santa Clara Street (HP#237). Two buildings are located on this one parcel, the retail building for the bakery, constructed in 1921 and designated on the Local Register in 2003 as well as a 1954 concrete commercial addition which was found eligible to the California Register of Historical Resources in the 2002 City-funded survey for the Armenian Town project. The bakery was founded in 1921 by Gazair Saghatelian who was born in Moosh, Armenia. He was already a third-generation baker when he fled the violence in Armenia in 1900 and resettled in Fresno in 1905 with his wife and child. Saghatelian was the first to commercially introduce Lahvosh in the United States and he invented peda bread at this bakery. Three generations of the family have owned and operated the bakery, which is the oldest family-owned bakery in Fresno.



Map Reference #03. The John Schmidt Home (aka J. Schmitt) 2320 Santa Clara Street (HP#055) is one of 6 buildings that was relocated to its current parcel as part of the Armenian Town Project. The Queen Anne style home is the most substantial of the five relocated homes. The first owner of record is listed as a waiter and was apparently of German from Russia descent. The property was later purchased by Mezik Terzian, whose daughter, Rose, lived in the home when it was acquired by the Redevelopment Agency in 2002. The home is depicted on the 1906 Sanborn and thus the construction date is circa 1902.

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 18 July 1016

■ Continuation

Map Reference #04. John Schmidt (Schmitt) Summer Kitchen, 450 "M" Street. A late discovery in the Armenian Town Project (2002) was this 126 sf summer kitchen, which was constructed in 1913 behind the Schmidt Home by a T.W. Birmingham for "John Scmitt" [sic]. The *Summerkuche* or *Backhaus* was once a common site on Volga German homesteads throughout the United States (Watson in *Architecture, Ethnic and Historic Landscapes of California's San Joaquin Valley* 2008). In Fresno, summer kitchens are clearly depicted in the Germantown neighborhood on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from the 1890s through the mid-20th century. This important resource is one of the few extant examples of this property type and the only known summer kitchen that has been fully restored on the exterior. It is also a clear example of the earlier multi-ethnic nature of this neighborhood which slowly became almost exclusively Armenian between the two World Wars.



Schmidt summer kitchen prior to restoration (2006)

Map Reference #05. The Alijian-Hoonanian Residence, 496 "M" Street (HP#203). The first known resident of this late Queen Anne home was Bedros Alijian, a tailor, in 1913, although the home was constructed prior to 1906. Dick Hoonanian, also a tailor, lived here in 1915-18 and 1920-21. The home was formerly located at 461 "N" Street. Modern additions were removed when the building was relocated to its present site.

Map Reference #06. The Damirgian Brothers Home, 484 "M" Street. This vernacular cottage has Queen Anne detailing of the spindlework sub-style and was constructed circa 1904. This home has the most social history associated with it, due to oral histories, formal and informal taken with former residents or relatives of residents. The house was formerly located at 530 N Street. The first known residents were A.J. and M.J. Damirgian, brothers and tailors with a business located at 2025 Mariposa in 1907-1912. By 1919 Manassey [sic] and Agnes Jerahian are noted as living in the home. Agnes is recorded in the Polk Directories as a clerk and may be the Armenian-born daughter of Manoush and Vartouy Jerahian. Manoush owned a flour mill in Samsun, Turkey on the Black Sea and emigrated to the United States with his brother when rumors of the atrocities against Armenians began to circulate. The Jerahians were keen to be Americans and had a Christmas tree each year, although neither of them ever spoke English (Telephone interview Gay Jerahian Diers 9 October 2013). In the early 1950s the Melikians moved into the home. Melik Melikian was Armenian and served in the Russian military during World War II. Olia Melikian was born in Russia. A taped interview with twin sons, Eshkan and George and their nephew Paul Melikian is attached to the District record.

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 18 July 1016

■ Continuation

Map Reference #07. The George Adams Home, 472 "M" Street. This vernacular cottage was constructed circa 1902 as it is depicted on the 1906 Sanborn map. The earliest resident recorded in the Polk Directories is a cook, George Adams. The home was thereafter the residence through 1921 for several working class individuals (and possibly families), none with Armenian surnames. By the 1930s building permits on file with the city indicate that M. and G. Karagosian owned the home. This residential pattern is another example of the change in the neighborhood from a multi-ethnic working class one to that of "Armenian Town" between the two World Wars.

Map Reference #08. The A. Tollikian-Lyman Tashjian Residence, 460 "M" Street. The first resident associated with this circa 1902 cottage is Manonel Tollikian, a carpenter. The property was vacant from 1915-16 after which a travelling salesman, Benjamin Miller is indicated as living in the home. Other non-Armenian surnamed individuals are recored through 1921 in the Polk Directories. At some point the cottage was purchased by Lyman Tashjian, an Exeter farmer who used the house as a weekend retreat for his family (1999 survey form prepared by former owner, George Bursik). Tashjian family members were indicated as owners when an Abatement for Non-conforming Use was filed in 1979 by the City of Fresno. The house was formerly located on a corner parcel at 459 O Street.

Properties Located "South" under SR 41 on "M" Street:

Map Reference #09. The Dirouhi Nishkian Home, 332 "M" Street. This modest Neoclassical cottage was constructed around 1912. The first known resident was an Armenian immigrant and widow, Mrs. Dirouhi (or Deroohi) Nishkian who lived in the home through 1926 with her children. The Nishkian family owned a store, the M.M. Niskian up until 1922. V.A. Nishkian was listed as the owner when the house was first assessed in 1936-7. Subsequent residents were Edward Tatarian in 1940-1944 and Kaqzar Kateian 1950-1960.

Map Reference #10. Vacant parcel (APN: 468-231-13).

Map Reference #11. The Luther Gray/Shanin Der Boghosian Home, 320 "M" Street. This modest Neoclassical cottage is the oldest documented home in the District with a circa 1899 construction date. According to the 1900 census, the first resident was a mail carrier Luther Gray and his wife Frances who lived in the home through 1921. Kazar Froonjian, a laborer, was a resident in 1925. From 1925 on the property was first the family home and most recently a rental for the Boghosian family. Shanin and Siranoush Der Boghosian were both from Harpoot, Armenia and escaped the Armenian Genocide by first relocating to France and thereafter to Fresno. Shanin supervised the stem crew at Sun Maid Raisins and worked there until he died in 1952. His wife, Siranoush, worked at Roeding Fig and Olive in Chinatown and walked to work every day. A transcription of a taped interview with Ara Boghosian, born in the home in 1926, is attached to the District record.

Map Reference #12. The John G. Foley Home, 303 "M" Street. This Queen Anne cottage was constructed circa 1902 and is depicted on the 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. From 1913 to 1918 John G. Foley lived in the home. Foley was a driver for the Fresno Brewing Company (located two blocks south at 100 M Street) and was later a fruit buyer. Armenian immigrants Krikor (a carpenter) and Araxie Shirinian lived in the home from 1925 through the 1940s. John Shirinian is indicated as the property owner when a new foundation was permitted in 1938.

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. *Date: 18 July 2016 revised 31 October ■ Continuation

Map Reference #13. The Neverman Home, 309 "M" Street (HP#097). This charming Queen Anne Home is a variant of the spindlework sub-type. According to the survey form prepared in 1978, the property was originally the residence of Rudolf C. Neverman, the assistant brewmaster for many years at the Fresno Brewing Company. Both Neverman and his neighbor, John G. Foley, could have easily walked to work. The home is depicted on the 1906 Sanborn and was thus constructed circa 1902. It was designated to the Local Register of Historic Resources in 1980. Moses Terzian is noted as the property owner when the parcel was assessed in 1936-7.

Map Reference #14. Vacant Parcel (468-234-05). This parcel is currently enclosed within a fence for the adjoining Historic Property on the south, the Neverman Home, 309 "M" Street.



Map Reference #15. The Andreas Bazolan Home, 321 "M" Street. This Neoclassical cottage was the home of laborer/salesman Andreas Bazolan from at least 1915 through 1920. By 1930 S. Uncababian was listed on the building permit for a porch repair. The home was constructed circa 1912 as it is depicted on the 1918 Sanborn map but not on the earlier map for 1906.

Map Reference #16. The Francis J. Haber Home, 340 Van Ness Avenue. This Neoclassical cottage is one of two buildings on this parcel. Haber lived in the house from circa 1910 through 1915 and was co-owner of the Haber Bros. Real Estate Company. The next resident was Mihran H. Simonian, an employee at Los Angeles Produce Company.

Map Reference #17. The Hooliani Gafarian Home, 342 Van Ness Avenue. This vernacular one-story home with gablet roof was the residence of Armenian immigrant, Hooliani Gafarian from the 1920s through the 1950s.

Armenian Town Historic District Research

Abstract: Taped Interview with Eshkan, George, and Paul Melikian

February 1, 2012, by Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

Transcribed by Ryan Brown

Eshkan and George Melikian were born in 1950 on a farm in Del Rey, California. Their family moved to Fresno in 1953 or 1954, first to a home they rented on O. Street, and soon afterward to the house located at 530 N. Street. Their father, Melik, was from Armenia, and served in the Russian military during World War II. Their mother, Olia, was from Russia, and lived and worked in the German camps during the war; the two of them eventually met one another in the camps. They came to the United States in 1949.

The house on 530 N. Street was built sometime between 1898 and 1906. During the war, it appeared that there were individuals with different last names living in the house simultaneously, so it appears that the house was internally divided at one point.

However, once the Melikian family purchased the house, they occupied it entirely. There was also a small, one bedroom home located behind the house, which they rented to a family from China for some period of time. That small home was later taken down by their father. The Melikian family owned the house at 530 N. Street up until they sold it in 2000 or 2001.

George and Eshkan attended Emerson Elementary School, Longfellow Junior High, and Roosevelt High School. When they were young, they also worked as paper boys to help their family earn extra money.

This interview contains predominantly George and Eshkan's memories of Armenian town (along with Paul's memories of it during later years), along with the nearby businesses and the neighborhood in which they grew up.

Summary: Interview with Eshkan, George, and Paul Melikian

February 1, 2012

by Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

Historic Preservation Project Manager, City of Fresno

Armenian Town Historic District Research

Tape is cued up. [Ms. Hattersley-Drayton explains purpose of interview; Mr. Eshkan, George, and Paul Melikian grant permission to be tape recorded.]

Melikian family background information. George and Eshkan (twins) were born on a farm in Del Rey in 1950. The family moved to Fresno in 1953 or 1954. The parents came over after WWII (during the war, they were in camps in Germany). According to George, their parents needed a sponsor when they immigrated to the United States, which ended up being an Armenian family in the United States. Their mother was from Russia, and their father was from Armenia. They landed in the United States on Christmas Eve, 1949, in New Orleans. As part of being sponsored, the father (Melik) had to work on a farm for a few years. However, Eshkan says that the parents were sponsored by the Armenian Church, stating that "they were sponsoring one hundred families to come here to work on the farms." The Armenian Church wanted to aid the families in learning English and finding work, as well as help the families get established within the United States. They grew grapes on their farm. The father was in the Russian military while in Armenia and fought in the war. After the war, when people were let go from the camps, "they were all going back over the Russian mountains, back to their countries, you know, Poland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and everything else. And the Russian government didn't like this, and so they put soldiers up on the mountains and shot and killed everybody, and said, 'Hey, don't cross our mountains, you guys are terrorists or whatever.'" Eleanor Roosevelt talked to President Roosevelt about this, stating that these individuals, who could not return to their home countries because of the Russian military, should be allowed to come to the United States.

530 N Street. After moving to Fresno from Del Rey, the family first moved to a home on O Street, where they rented the house, before purchasing the house on N Street in 1953 or 1954. There were previous owners of the house, such as an M.H. Aram, a dry cleaner, and was an owner "way back in the 20th century," according to Karana. His ledger book was discovered

underneath the house by one of the brothers. Other previous owners include the Damirgian Brothers, who were tailors (and owned the house before Aram), as well as the Jeranians, who owned the house in the 1930s.

Being Russian-Armenian. Their mother (Olia) was Russian, and the father spoke Russian, even though he was Armenian. Thus, the children were brought up speaking Russian, and considered themselves “Armenian-Russians.” When going into the Armenian communities, people referred to them, in Armenian, as being Armenian-Russians, or Russian-Armenians. “Well, see, our dad’s name *-ian*, that’s an Armenian name, so if I tell somebody that understands in Armenian... my name is George Melikian, they go, ‘Oh, you’re an Armenian,’ because we took the name from our father.

Parents’ lives during the war. They now begin discussing their parents’ lives during the war. Their parents met at the camp in Germany. The mother was taken from her village in Russia by being shackled and thrown into a box car with multiple other girls, and was then taken into the camps by the Germans. In the camp, she worked in a brick factory during the daytime, and was locked up at night. George states that, “In fact... I think my mother, she tried and make herself look Armenian when they exited for some reason, because she dyed her hair black; I don’t know what that reason was... maybe to make it easier to come over here.”

“Displaced Persons” or “DPs.” Although there were other Armenian-Russians within Fresno, the families that were strictly Armenians seemed to look down upon those that were “mixed” and called them “D.P.s” or “Displaced-Persons.” But the “local Armenians here, this last regime of Armenians, not just Russian-Armenians, but the Armenians that came over after World War II were called DPs because of this thing with Eleanor Roosevelt saying ‘Hey, come to our country.’ Because they couldn’t go back to their country because the Russians were killing them all.” Eshkan says that, “We used to walk the streets on N Street, and even in the neighborhood, and the Armenian people that were there first would throw rocks and brute(?) at us and tell us, ‘Go home you DPs.’” George says that, “... We were like rejects because our parents were mixed.” Local Armenians today will still make comments about people being “DPs.”

Neighborhood. Eshkan left the house in 1975 and George left in 1973. In the neighborhood, they were like “little rascals” when they were children. There were five brothers. They had a sister that died in the camps. Two of their brothers later also have passed away. They refer to their childhood as “fun times.” Eshkan says that, “My mom had a sofa out on the front porch. You could sit out there, sleep out there. Never have to lock your door. You didn’t have gates or

anything. Nobody would bother you. Well, those days were safer than today." The neighborhood was composed of approximately 70-80% Armenians, with the rest being Hispanic and German. Between the World War I and World War II, the neighborhood was predominantly strictly Armenian. Eshkan says that, "It was like 80-90% Armenians, and then a few, or one or two Hispanic families, and one black family. The majority was Armenians." There was a grocery store every one or two blocks, not solely in their neighborhood, which had stores like Arax Market, George's Market, and Jack's Market, but all over Fresno as well. Their mother was a housewife, and their father worked on the farms, normally pruning grapes. He then worked as a dishwasher at the Hotel California. Finding work "was hard for him because he didn't speak English." He later also worked for General Box for a few years. Although their father never learned English, their mother spoke seven languages. She "learned, herself, how to read by reading the *Fresno Bee*. [The boys] were all paper-boys to make extra money. She self-learned how to read without anybody, and can read the newspaper and explain everything that was going on." Growing up in Russia, as well as with living in other European nations, it was incredibly commonplace to speak multiple languages. She completed high school, which was 8th grade, back in Russia. "She had a family on a farm, and she was from Kiev, 60 miles south of Moscow. Her brothers all ended up in the Army, and the Russians came in and took all the girls. They came in and just kidnapped them."

Schooling. The brothers went to Emerson Elementary School, and George and Eshkan were a part of the last graduating class there. They were also a part of the last graduating class from Longfellow Junior High in 1966. They also went to Roosevelt High School, and were told they were going to be the last ones there as well, and were the last ones to leave there before the school was renovated. When they attended Emerson, it appeared that, "A lot of Armenians were moving out, and a lot of Hispanics were coming in... As the Armenians were moving out, into better neighborhoods, the Hispanics were moving into your homes."

530 N Street ctd. When George was painting the house, there was a long, brass chandelier that hung from a tall ceiling, which was dated 1903. "That's when they brought electricity in... But I think that when house was built, it didn't have electricity." When referencing the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Karana states that, "the house is there in 1906, it's not there in 1898, so it has to have been built before 1906." Out in front of the house, there were carriage rings, which were there until the house was vacated, after which they were stolen. There were columns on the front porch that were hand carved, which were taken off as well. By the time they occupied the house, the white fence wasn't there, nor was the lattice. The balustrade was later changed

by their father. (They look at pictures of the house and discuss the features of the house and any changes that were made). By 1918, there was a little building in the back of the house, which was a small, one-bedroom house that their father later tore down. They called it a "Poo-poo House." That small house had water and electricity. When they were living there, a family from China lived there. "The Chinese guy that was living there, as we were young kids, he learned in China to work on American cars to come to the United States. And he worked for Earl Shives... He came to work in the United States; it was his wife and one girl." Their parents rented out the house after the Chinese family moved out. There used to be a barn there, but that was removed before the Melikian family moved in. The house had side steps on the side of the house, along with the front steps. "When our parents moved in, someone was renting out half of the house. It was on the North side of the house. It was two bedrooms... but they had a stove in there. There was a door that went to the bathroom from that one bedroom. It was like a 'Jack and Jill' setup... Somebody did it internally." The house had a dirt basement where they would pickle food. (They discuss the layout of the house while referencing the Sanborn Maps). One of the bedrooms was the original kitchen. According to Karana, "It sounds like [the house] was subdivided during the war..." When referencing the Polk Directories, there were people living there with different last names during the war. It seems it was subdivided, as there was an Agnes Jerahian and a Manassey, and thus it was probably a split house. When the Melikians owned the house, they had three bedrooms in total, along with a front room and a living room. Those rooms (the front room and living room) had two big sliding doors. "On one wall in the living room, there were book shelves." However, there was no other shelving in the other rooms. There was a gas stove that had a chimney (a vent). They had a back porch. The washer was in the bathroom, and the clothes were hung out in the backyard to dry. There were numerous fruit trees out in the backyard, including: loquat trees, a lemon tree, an orange tree, a pine tree, a plum tree, a peach tree, a pomegranate tree, fig trees, a nectarine tree, and a pear tree. The mother rarely canned the fruit, but rather the fruit was for them simply to eat. In the front yard, the house did not have a lawn, but some of their neighbors had lawns. They had an orange tree and an evergreen tree out in front of the house. "That orange tree had the most tastiest oranges." The Terzian family lived on the Southeast corner of Santa Clara Ave, where the grandson, Norm, that lives there is married to the cousin of the wife of one of the brothers. "He was one of the ones that used to throw rocks at and things they'd call us, names that said 'DPs go home.'"

Neighborhood ctd. As Karana states, "So there was a lot of prejudice against Armenians, and then in the Armenian community there was prejudice." As different waves of Armenians came, the already settled Armenian groups would commonly look down upon the new immigrants. In the 1920s and 30s, there was a plague, according to Eshkan, that killed roughly "20,000 Armenians in Fresno." Growing up in their neighborhood, the brothers said that they "had fun." Everybody within the community was poor, and thus they would always be working somehow to try and earn more money, such as "collecting Coke bottles, newspaper, [they] had newspaper routes." They also would do things like cleaning yards and raking leaves. Growing up, their parents could not afford a refrigerator, so underneath the fig tree they would "run water and [they] would buy milk just for that day, and [they] would put the milk carton in the water running to keep it cold so [they] would have it." Because there was a store nearby, it was easy to go and get that which they needed just for the day, and if there was anything leftover, they would store it underneath the tree so that it would stay cool. Their father used to bring live chickens home from Schuster's Farm that they would kill for dinner. One day, the Chinese man who lived in the small house nearby asked if he could bring home a bird as well. The father approved, so the man went to "Cherry Auction," where one would commonly purchase animals, and bought an ostrich and brought it home to eat it, but the ostrich got loose and ran down Ventura Ave. and disappeared.

Food and Holidays. When discussing food, holidays, and social events, one brother says that there were "lots of pork chops." Furthermore, their mother "would make big pots of pilaf, and [they] always had at the house." Their mother was very good at "stretching the food out" to ensure that it would last a long time, while concurrently feeding everybody. Along with pork chops and pilaf, she would also cook fried chicken and lots of borscht. They would normally purchase their clothes from thrift stores. Many other Armenian children nearby would go to the "other stores" to go and buy new clothes, whereas the brothers would go to the thrift stores and buy "new clothes for school." Regarding holidays, their family was not Orthodox, and thus they would celebrate Christmas on December 25th, as opposed to celebrating it on January 6th, which is when the Armenian Church would celebrate Christmas. However, they would also go to the Armenian Church, Holy Trinity, on January 6th, as there was a large dinner and dance that took place. George and Eshkan were both baptized at Holy Trinity in 1950. The Armenian Evangelical Church, built in 1923, was located right next door to their home, and is where they attended Sunday school. At the Armenian Evangelical Church, it was predominantly elderly Armenians that attended the church. The people there were looking to grow the church, and so,

according to one of the brothers, “they came and talked to us, and we came and talked to them, and we start inviting anybody and everybody of all the kids in the neighborhood.” Eddy Sivas was the minister at the church, and he and his family lived on a farm. Sivas also painted houses.

The effects of new constructions. The Convention Center currently sits on what used to be four square-blocks of homes. When those houses were torn down, the brothers “lost a lot of friends at that time.” They also lost their school, as well as a lot more of their neighborhood when Freeway 41 was built.

William Saroyan. When discussing William Saroyan, Eshkan says that he was “a jerk... he stole my bike.” William Saroyan used to come to their house often, and they would play cards and checkers together. They used to use old electrical spools that were thrown out as chairs and a larger one for a dining room table. As boys they would take the spools and be rolling them down the streets with their friends while cars are driving by. (They erupt in laughter over this memory).

Story about the Ringling Brothers and the circus cat. The Ringling Brothers started using the Selland Arena when it was built in 1966. One brother recounts a story, saying, “I used to work downtown across from Community Hospital, and I come by and check on my mom and stuff, go by there since she called me, she says she’d make this soup called *lop shav*, it’s is a special Russian soup she would make with homemade baked noodles, it was really good. And then one day, we would park on the street, because we couldn’t park in the back yard, we didn’t have a gate back there, I walk around the side of the house to come to the back door, and I look over there underneath the plum tree, because the Poo-poo House was gone, and there was this tiger (Christie says it was a lion)... big ole’ cat sitting there, and I’m going ‘Wow! Mom got a new cat!’ (Laughter) And so I knock on the door, because I always knocked at the door, and my mom always had a lot of cats, and I go, ‘Hey Mom! When’d you get a new cat?’ And she goes, ‘I don’t have no more new cats.’ Remember she had a lot of cats. And I go, ‘Look over there!’ And she goes, ‘Ahhhh!’ So I walked over to Ringling Brothers and go, ‘Hey you guys missing a cat?’ And he goes, ‘No...’ because the alarm usually goes off... And they went to look and he says, ‘Yeah, we’re missing...’ He gave a name but I don’t remember. And he goes, ‘Do you know where it is?’ and I go, ‘Yeah, my mom’s yard.’ They all run across the street into my mom’s yard and they walked the cat back.”

Buildings in the District. When discussing music, they said that you could hear the band at Courthouse Park on weekends during the summer. (They debate whether it was during the day or at nighttime). Their father liked to go to the *Asberaz*, which was an Armenian Men's Social Club, which is where the Radisson Hotel sits currently. There was a print shop there where they printed the *Asberaz Newspaper*. The "Maroot Sign Company" was nearby (Maroot was known for his murals in the Hotel Fresno), and Maroot also did the decals for the police cars. There was also the Valley Bakery. As kids they would get twin rolls from the bakery (which are no longer sold) and RC Colas or Pepsis. There was an Armenian guy who owned a bottling company on Van Ness where they would bottle Donald Duck soda. Down the street there was "Squirt", and "Red Rock Soda", as well as "Canada Dry." There were quite a few bottling companies nearby, because where they lived was mixed into an industrial area.

Saroyan ctd. When Saroyan and others would come over, they would play card games like "Blackjack" and "War." Saroyan "liked playing checkers, and he liked to cheat... William Saroyan was really a shrewd person." Saroyan was significantly older than the Melikian boys were (Saroyan was born in 1908). They also had a family friend who was a dentist, to whom Saroyan owed a lot of money because Saroyan never paid his bills.

Paper routes. When they were boys, they had paper routes that spanned the downtown. However, when the Fulton Mall opened, they couldn't ride bikes there, because they were told "No bikes on the mall." And so, "The *Fresno Bee* went after the city and we were the only ones allowed with bikes on the mall to deliver our papers." One of the brothers was the paperboy for Doctor Meux's granddaughter. One brother would deliver the paper to Mayor Anderson at Tulare and M Street, where the Del Webb building was being built, and they saw a guy fall off the scaffolds on the building and die.

Paul and Christie recounting the house and group discussion of the house during later years. Christie (the daughter of one of the brothers in the Melikian family), along with Paul (the son of another brother in the family), would spend holidays at her grandparents' house (the brothers' parent's house). Her grandfather (George and Eshkan's father) passed away in 1984, and their grandmother passed away in 2000. She was taken in by one of the brothers for the last three years of her life. Her house was sold to an Armenian farmer from Fowler, and the house was sold in 2000 or 2001. Although the farmer owned it for a few years, he had his farm workers live in the house. When the family was at the house, their younger brother "redid the whole back porch from scratch." They did not really add anything, they only really fixed things.

The only thing that was torn down and then subsequently rebuilt was the back porch. The back porch had a chair, and it was where they would lock their bicycles. There was also a large chest back there, where they stored blankets, along with bamboo shade around the porch "to protect it." The back porch was "utilitarian." Paul says that the neighborhood was "fairly empty." "There was a house on the corner that's not there anymore.... I do remember it being really quiet on Sundays, except for like if the circus was in town or there was some other event going on at the Selland Arena." Christie also mentions that when weddings and funerals took place at Holy Trinity, there would be a lot of activity nearby. The brothers say that they really enjoyed growing up there.

Ms. Hattersley-Drayton thanks the Melikians for the interview. They then look through their photos of the family and the house.

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Jennifer K. Clark AICP
Director

SOUTH VAN NESS INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT HISTORIC SURVEY

Abstract: Taped Interview with Ara Boghosian August 14, 2015, by Karana Hattersley-Drayton

Ara Boghosian was born in 1926, the only son of Armenian immigrants Shanin and Siranoush Der Boghosian. His family home was located at 320 M Street in the project area, where he lived until he was married in 1948. His parents were both from Harpoot, Armenia and escaped the Armenian Genocide by first relocating to France and thereafter to Fresno. His father was born in 1889, his mother in 1904.

Mr. Boghosian attended Emerson Elementary School, Longfellow Junior High and Fresno Tech. He recalls, as did others, the bullying and prejudice of the Germans-from Russia families towards Armenians. "Armenian Town" had tight boundaries; he does not recall anyone other than Armenians living in his neighborhood. Ethnic mixing did not occur until high school, when his best friend was a German from Russia boy who often visited and ate with his family.

His father, Shanin Der Boghosian, supervised the stem crew at Sun Maid Raisins and apparently worked there until he died in 1952. His mother worked at Roeding Fig and Olive in the Chinatown area and walked to work every day. As with other families, the Boghosians had a large garden and raised chickens for eggs and made their own cracker bread. They attended Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

Mr. Boghosian worked early on in auto repair and later in marketing and sales for local subdivision developer Bonadelle Homes.

Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. is the City of Fresno's Historic Preservation Project Manager. The interview was conducted as research for the South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Survey, partially funded by a CLG grant through the California State Office of Historic Preservation.

Summary of Interview with Ara Boghosian August 14, 2015

At the home of Mr. Boghosian, Fresno

Interview by Karana Hattersley-Drayton, Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

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South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Survey

Tape is cued up. Ms. Hattersley-Drayton explains purpose of the interview, to provide social history for educational purposes only for the South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Survey. Mr. Boghosian gives his permission to be interviewed on tape.

Ara Boghosian: “ ... a lot of the Armenians were running away from Genocide, and my mother was one of them. She got out of there. She worked at a Swiss hospital as a nurse and they couldn't touch her there because she was under Swiss control.” His father also left Armenia and went to France and thus escaped. He learned to speak French and he went into business over there. Armenians trying to come to the United States were broke and his father helped to sponsor them. “And when I was a kid, they'd come to the house to pay him back. And I used to wonder, who is this guy, dad?” And he says, “Well I helped him to get to the United States somehow or another...” Some repaid his father; some could not, or did not.

Karana Hattersley-Drayton: Clarifies the spelling of his father's name: Shahin Der Boghosian and mother's name was Siranoush. Where was the father born or from in Armenia?

Boghosian: Harput [Harpoot]. Mother was also from the same area but they didn't know each other. Armenians clustered together based on regional identity or city of birth. Father was born March 15, 1889. He died on November 18, 1952. Mother was born in 1904 and died in 1976.

Hattersley-Drayton: So your dad would have been 26 or so when the Genocide started. Why did he go to France?

Boghosian: He could see what was happening: “the Turks were giving him a bad time to begin with... and he got out.” His mother had three sisters; one was here already in Fresno. His uncle owned a grocery store. His father worked at Sun Maid Raisins which was close to his aunt's grocery store. He doesn't remember the name of the store. His aunt's married name was Kushigian.

Hattersley-Drayton: How did his parents get to Fresno, what brought them here?

Boghosian: He isn't sure but possibly because his mother's sister was here already. He was his parents' only child. His mother worked at Roeding Fig and Olive. She packed figs. She would walk across town and across the railroad tracks to get to the factory which was in Chinatown. "She walked back and forth each day." Later she received a ride from another worker. His family did not have a car. They had a Model T Ford; his father drove this to Sun Maid which was not very far. When the car stopped working they went without until 1938. Mr. Boghosian worked at an automotive repair place downtown after school.

Mr. Boghosian was born in 1926. He was born at home (320 M Street). There were two bedrooms in the house; his parents had the one in the rear of the home, his [Ara's] was in the front by the porch. He could look out the window onto the porch.

Hattersley-Drayton: When did his parents actually come to Fresno, about what year?

Boghosian: His mother was 22 when he was born so obviously they were in Fresno prior to 1926.

Hattersley-Drayton: How long did they live at 320 M Street?

Boghosian: He lived there until he got married in 1948.

Hattersley-Drayton: So you probably saw a lot of changes in the neighborhood I would think?

Boghosian: Yes, people moving in and out. Next to them was the Soligian family and their grandparents lived right next door. Paul Soligian is his name. He still lives in town.

Hattersley-Drayton: Confirms that his parents owned their home.

Boghosian: "They rented it for a long time and eventually they bought it; they were both working and saving their money and all that." Another next door neighbor was Boronian. The other side was Soligian. Those were the two main ones. A couple of houses down there was a fellow named Terterian. He had a business downtown and he had two sisters.

Hattersley-Drayton: Did most people rent their homes or was it a mix?

Boghosian: It was a mix... as people purchased homes the renters would have to move out. After a while most houses were owner-occupied but in the beginning there were a lot of rentals.

He went to Longfellow Junior High and Fresno Tech High School. He walked to Longfellow every day and had to cross tracks. He went to Emerson Grammar School. There were a lot of Germans in school with him. "And they used to make fun of the

Armenians. They go like this [makes a gesture at his nose], you all have big noses." One time someone made a comment like this when he was at Longfellow and he turned around and hit him in the mouth, "and that was the end of that. No more trouble from anybody." "I was a little guy but I didn't care I was so mad; I popped him one in the mouth. That stopped everything."

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[Karana mentions that Abe Salvian shared the same experiences: even walking to school could be confrontational.]

When Mr. Boghosian went to high school his best friend was a German kid. Mr. Boghosian's mother loved it when his friend visited and she would cook anything he wanted. He was like a brother. They tried to enlist in the Navy together. His friend joined but Mr. Boghosian was rejected due to some issue with his heart. And yet he was drafted into the Army a month or so later. He spent two years in the service in the Philippines in the infantry. After they dropped the bomb that "ended everything." He then was stationed at Yokohama as the fire marshal for all military buildings. The Japanese did not demonstrate any hatred towards the Americans; he got to know the leading movie star there. The wife spoke English and he often spent time at their home on the weekends.

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks additional questions about their home in Armenian Town.

Boghosian: As you walked in the house there was a room right there with his bedroom right next to it. This was a large room; the front part was for entertainment and further back it was more informal. Behind that was the kitchen. There was also a room in the back that his father used for hobbies.

Hattersley-Drayton: Does he remember peddlers coming around that still used horses?

Boghosian: Yes, he remembers them coming down the street.

Hattersley-Drayton: "Did people around you grow their own food, have gardens?"

Boghosian: "Oh we all had gardens." Their whole backyard was a garden. They had tomatoes for example. They also had a small shed in the way back and when he got a car his father widened the shed so that he could use it as a garage. He worked downtown so that he learned a trade. When he got out of the service he went to work for John Torry [spelling] on Fulton Street in Armenian Town. He would often work on his cars out in the country. When he got out of the service he automatically had a job.

Hattersley-Drayton: Did his father talk about working at Sun Maid? Did he like the work there?

Boghosian: “Yes, he was satisfied because his job was a steady job. It wasn’t ‘We’ll call you when we’re ready’... he was steady, every day he went to work.” He was a stemmer boss, when they took the stems out of the raisins. They had machines for that and he supervised the crew that worked on the machines. He worked there until he died.

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks additionally about what they grew in their backyard garden.

Boghosian: Tomatoes, and trees for fruit, oranges and this and that. Parsley, they also raised chickens in a cage. That was his job, to feed them and gather the eggs. “There weren’t many of them, just a few, but it was enough that we didn’t have to go to the store to buy the eggs.” The grocery store was a few blocks away.

Hattersley-Drayton: “Well Arax Market was not too far from you.”

Boghosian: “Yeah, that’s where we used to go.” Down the street was Lahvosh Bakery. His mother used to make Armenian cracker bread at home... “they’d put them on the floor and stack them up, by the hundreds.” “Cut it or break it or whatever and put a little bit of water on it and they’d soften up and you could roll it up.”

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks if there were community events, dances, music... Did people get together and help each other?

Boghosian: He went to Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and was married there. His first cousin performed the ceremony. His groomsmen kept giving him drinks outside before he came in and he ended up being a little drunk by the time the ceremony started. His cousin said to him in Armenian, “You son of a dog, stand still!”

Hattersley-Drayton: Did people make their own wine?

Boghosian: His dad made red wine all the time. He would stand on the grapes to smash them. “But my mother didn’t like it. When that time of year came along she would get real nervous because he liked to drink.” He would go play cards a few blocks away.

When he got married his wife lived with him at the family home until they could afford to buy their own house which they did with a VA loan and they purchased a new house on Townsend off of Butler. These were built by an Armenian man.

Mr. Boghosian worked for Bonadelle Homes selling homes and he met his wife through the title company where she worked with Bonadelles’ wife. He eventually worked in Visalia although the commute was hard on him and his family. [He discusses the purchase of his current home.]

He has two children, Scott Boghosian (he works for the City, FAX); his daughter Kelly works for the heart hospital.

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks if he remembers the Fresno Brewery and the bowling alley nearby? Did he remember California Park or Playground? No. He thinks he went to Murray's Ice Cream Company a couple of times. Does he remember Shamshoian? Yes the Shamshoian family used to live right off of M Street, they were a big family.

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Mr. Boghosian also owns the building at 2902 E. Butler at Los Angeles [this property is also in the survey area but was found ineligible for listing.] He rents it to a motorcycle club.

Karana asks about Armenian holidays. They were on different days. Mr. Boghosian mentions that his folks were quite strict.

Hattersley-Drayton: "Was it a pretty good life growing up in Armenian Town? Do you have good memories, bad memories, mixed memories?"

Boghosian: "We had good neighbors. We'd get together sometimes, the neighbors have cake and this and that."

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks about ethnic boundaries. Did the Germans live in their neighborhood?

Boghosian: When he went to school it was always with Armenians. The only time he got to know a German from Russia family was when he went to high school. Implication is that there was no ethnic mixing when he was young.

He remembers William Saroyan, who lived across the street next to a vacant lot around the corner from M Street.

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks if there is anything else about living and growing up in Armenian Town that is worth sharing? Was there an impact from putting through State Route 99 on the new corridor?

Boghosian: Agrees with memory of another Armenian resident that the boundaries of Armenian Town were pretty set, and that there were very few non-Armenians in the neighborhood. "And you didn't communicate with them at all. I never went to their place or anything and they didn't come to mine. But if it was an Armenian it was different; you got more to talk about." He was brought up speaking Armenian. In junior high he had to go to Armenian School at Holy Trinity on Wednesdays and Saturdays to read and write Armenian. He apparently was quite good at the language. The teacher got to know his family and married his cousin, these were the Boyajians.

Mr. Boghosian also married in, thus his wife was Armenian-American. Her maiden name was Kolagian (means “steel”).

Hattersley-Drayton: “When you were a kid, and you were growing up, what did people do for fun? For recreation? Or did you have to work all the time?”

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Boghosian: “Well most of it was work because you weren’t getting paid much. The pay was cheap and the work you were doing wasn’t that great that it paid any big money. And we just tried to work and save our money and kind of watch things you know.”

Hattersley-Drayton: “So you didn’t get to go to the theater, go see a movie once in a while?”

Boghosian: “Yes, we did that, but it was really something. We used to go downtown to Harvey’s Theater...” It was not too far too walk.

Hattersley-Drayton: “Did you have Armenian dancing, or music?”

Boghosian: “Oh yeah.”

Hattersley-Drayton: “And where would that happen?”

Boghosian: There was a place across the street from Holy Trinity which had rooms that were used on occasion for dances. He didn’t really participate in these traditional dances although he learned to dance after he got married. Ensembles included the oud.

Hattersley-Drayton: Asks if he or his parents ever went [back] to Armenia.

Boghosian: No. His parents became citizens here. They studied at home to pass their citizenship tests. It was easier for his dad and so he helped his mother.

Hattersley-Drayton: Mentions the former YWCA which had a Hospitality House that held citizenship classes for immigrants. She asks if he heard of this.

Boghosian: He did go to the YMCA to work out and lift weights. His father was very concerned about the amount of weight Ara was lifting and made him stop.

Hattersley-Drayton: Thanks him for his time. Reiterates that his family home at 320 M Street appears to be eligible for the Local Register of Historic Resources. Designation helps to protect resources. He seems very interested in listing it. He has excellent tenants in the home and suggests that she meet with them. She will send him additional information about the Local Register and the form to sign. She notes the importance of Armenian Town to Fresno’s history. **End of Formal Interview**

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 _____

Map Ref. #01

Update

P1. Resource Name: Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Complex (HP#019/National Register)

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 2226 Ventura Street

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-225-19

***P3a. Description:** Four separate buildings are located on the southwest corner of Ventura and M Street: the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (1914), a social hall complex with kitchen and stage adjacent to and south of the church (1958/1962), a Sunday School/Youth Activity Building (1999) and a 2-story infill facing onto M Street which includes offices and a small gated courtyard (2012). The church was designated to the Local Register of Historic Resources (HP#019) on October 30, 1979. Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 31, 1986. It was designed by the Armenian-born architect L.K. Condrajian (a.k.a. L.K. Cone) who graduated in Architecture and sculpture from the Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul, the Ottoman branch of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Cone was hired as a draftsman by Henry F. Starbuck (who designed several Fresno churches) in 1910. In 1912 Cone received the commission to design a new sanctuary building for the Fresno Armenian community. The red brick building was designed in the style of churches built in Armenia and Turkey from the IV to the XVII centuries (see attached National Register nomination). Robby Antoyan designed the Sunday School building as well as the most recent infill addition.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP16 (Religious Building-Church)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building

●Element of District



P5b Photo date: circa 2002
Don Brewer

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
1914/1958/1999/2012

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 2226 Ventura Street, Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** Update
15 July 2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 15 July 2016

■ Continuation



*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 15 July 2016

■ Continuation

Social hall complex (1958-) and new infill office building (2012); Sunday School/Youth Activity Building (1999)





Holy
Trinity
Armenian
Apostolic
Church
Complex

2015
Aerial



City of Fresno

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2226 VENTURA at "M" STREET. ___ not for publication

city, town FRESNO ___ vicinity of

state CALIFORNIA code 06 county FRESNO code 93721

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

street & number 2226 VENTURA,

city, town FRESNO ___ vicinity of state CALIFORNIA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. FRESNO COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS

street & number 2281 TULARE STREET

city, town FRESNO, state CALIFORNIA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

LOCAL OFFICIAL REGISTER OF
title HISTORIC RESOURCES

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date OCTOBER 30, 1979 No. 19 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records FRESNO CITY HALL, 2326 FRESNO STREET,

city, town FRESNO state CALIFORNIA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (1914) is located at 2226 Ventura at "M" Street (southwest corner) in downtown Fresno, California. The church's exterior dimensions are roughly 71' wide x 103' deep x 68' high. It has a basement (+ 3,850 s.f.), a main floor (+6,550 s.f.) and a gallery level (+1,850 s.f.) totaling 12,250 s.f. with an approximate seating capacity of 660 people. The floor plan resembles the shape of an Armenian crucifix allowing the actual 3-dimensional physical form to develop its strong similarity to the ancient Armenian churches from the VII to XVII centuries A.D. in Asia Minor. To emphasize this relationship further, the red brick walls are left exposed with plastered trim where the ancient Armenians used blocks of carved stone to construct their churches including the domes. The interior and exterior of this church remain virtually unaltered since its completion 71 years ago. The function remains unchanged along with its owner/user.

The exterior of the church has gone through minimal alterations as shown in photographic exhibits #1 and #2. Photo #1 was taken just before the November 13, 1914 dedication, and photo #2 was taken on May 22, 1985. The exterior material is predominantly brick masonry, made by a local manufacturer, with cement plastered veneer over brick masonry at parapets, window sills, and various other exterior detailing. The roof material on the two domes are sheathed with painted galvanized sheet metal. Apparently the initial intent of the architect was to apply a cement plaster veneer over the entire building. However, at some point between the working drawing stage and the actual construction, it was decided to change and expose the brick. Front step rails as shown on photo #2 were added for code adherence in 1982.

The interior of Holy Trinity has gone through more change than the exterior. In the early 1930s, it was decided to convert the chamber on the west side of the church into a library. With this change, the two panels of double windows between the front porch and the nave were considered unnecessary and eliminated. The library was then converted into an office in 1964. On July 30, 1956 the church suffered a small fire of unknown origin in the basement under the altar. There was considerable smoke and heat damage done to the interior finishes along with structural damage to the floor in front of the altar. Estimated cost of the repair due to the blaze was set at \$25,000. As a result of the fire, the Board of Trustees decided to paint all the exposed oak of the pews, rails, and columns the same color as the walls and ceilings. The interior is now uniformly beige in color. It was also decided at that time to construct a new social hall/kitchen/ classroom building physically detached but adjacent to the church. The structure has two halls, one with a seating capacity of 100, and the other with a stage

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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with seating for approximately 570. The church congregation at that time increased quite rapidly, resulting in a need of more classrooms for Sunday School and Armenian School (commuted on Saturday.) The outcome of this growth was that the Board of Trustees decided to reorganize the basement of the church to allow for this expansion. The basement was remodeled into 8 classrooms, at the expense of losing the original large Sunday School room (relocated upstairs in the small hall). The latter alteration was completed in 1964. The library located in the original west chamber was also relocated into one of the 8 new rooms.

From 1964 to 1982 no renovation or reconstruction was undertaken at the church. Mural works were designed and painted on the four triangular pendentives by a Los Angeles artist named Kero Antoyan in 1982 (photos #9-12). The following year a new electronic pipe organ was donated and installed. The new pipe organ speakers were mounted at the original location of the first pipe organ (destroyed by the fire in 1956), photos #9 and #10. The sound consultant recommended that there was a need for additional speakers near the middle of the sanctuary. Architect Robby Antoyan designed two speaker cabinets to conform with the architecture, locating them at the top of the arch at the east and west entrances of the chancel. (see photo #11).

New pews were donated in 1983 for the Gallery level (balcony), replacing original seating. All pews on the main floor, stained glass, the painting of Christ and the Virgin Mary, along with the paintings of St. Sahag and St. Mestrob (founders of the Armenian alphabet in 424 A.D.), located on each side of the altar in niches are original (photos #9 and #10). Crystal wall sconces and ceiling-hung crystal chandeliers are also original. The center crystal chandelier hanging from the dome (photos #9-13) has an inscription on the escutcheon plate at the top. It tells of a story where an entire Armenian family was killed at the turn of this century by the Turks. Saved were two brothers who escaped to Cairo, Egypt. While there they were at a cafe and overheard the conversation from the adjacent table of two Turkish soldiers. One was commenting on how he had killed this one family in an Armenian village. It ended up being this same family. The two brothers then killed these two Turkish soldiers. One brother was caught and hung while the other escaped to Fresno, CA., where upon the construction of this church he donated this crystal chandelier in memory of his family. The chandelier was handmade in Italy and brought to the church for \$10,000.00. The main altar cabinetry and the smaller cabinets to each side of the niches are original to the building. However, the marble that was installed on the steps and landings at each end of the altar, including the front floor portion of the altar, was destroyed by the fire of 1956. Carpet was installed in replacement of the original marble surface.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Most ancient Armenian churches that are crucifix in plan are massive, powerful, intimidating structures. They commonly have a center dome at the intersection or crossing over the nave. A second remote and smaller dome was used on occasion at the front of the church as the bell tower as seen at Ejmiadzin Cathedral, IV century; St. Hripsime church, VII century; and Aghtamar Holy Cross church, c. X century, to name a few. What Mr. Cone has done is to take the remote bell tower and incorporate it as part of the foyer/lobby area of the church, similar to Gothic cathedrals. However, as in most ancient Armenian churches, there is one bell tower centered on its longitudinal axis (whereas Gothic cathedrals had typically two bell towers). He has developed the bell tower with Armenian characteristics such as using an octagonal roof with a cross on the top transitioning to an octagonal but columned wall, resting on a cross-gable roof under which is an arched window centered at each gable end. All of this is typically Armenian. The center dome has similar characteristics, although it is not as pronounced as is typical with ancient Armenian church architecture.

As one approaches the church from its front (north) elevation, one will notice an imposing structure with a powerful symmetry. This forces the eyes to focus on the raised landing at the main entrance and up to the top of the bell tower and cross. Once there, the eyes begin to transcend down from the tower along the stepped parapet and terminating at the east and west chambers, which seemingly act as anchors. All this allows the person to feel a sense of stability and solid foundation. Once inside, those feelings are still within you along with a new sense, a sense of warmth and compassion. This is what the Armenian religion is based on and has been fought for for many years.

Arched windows with a pronounced, single-piece stone lintel and sill are common to both ancient Armenian church architecture and to Holy Trinity. In most ancient Armenian churches, windows were not abundant. This may have been a partial response to the harsh climatic conditions of Armenia and/or a feature providing protective sanctuary from invading non-Christian forces. When used, windows were typically proportioned as long, narrow, arched, verticle slits. There are, however, a few exceptions some of which are seen in the previously named churches, and in the Black Cathedral of St. Thaddeus Monastery, III and XIV centuries; Zvartnotz St. Gregory, VII century; and St. Gregory church of king Kakig I of Ani, IX century, the latter two being circular churches. Mr. Cone used an abundance of glass along with a peaceful context to introduce more natural light into the

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH / Fresno, Ca.
Addendum / April 10, 1986

United States Department of the Interior
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the church, without deviating greatly from the traditional Armenian church architecture. The majority of windows on all elevations, with the exception of the rear(south), are arched. A few are rectilinear. All display the pronounced detailing described previously.

The single most prominent American Revival Era feature on this otherwise literal interpretation of Armenian church forms, is the classical patterned Beaux-Arts styled entrance. Simple unpaneled double entry doors are flanked by "cement columns". The columns rest on square pedestals which bear on the raised entry landing. The attenuated columns, with Byzantine capitols, carry an arched broken pediment. The doors are surmounted by an arched transom light featuring a glazed oculus. Three-part lunette, wood casement windows flank the entrance. The east and west elevations step and mass similarly to the front elevation, and are typically relieved by lunette windows and glazed oculi. The rear elevation is comparatively flat and utilitarian, from which the semi-circular apse (with a skylight at its peak) and niches project. Three service chimneys to the rear elevation provide venting from mechanical services in the building.

Even with all of the window fenestrations, Mr. Cone has been able to maintain the massive quality common to all ancient Armenian church architecture. With the use of a dark, stone-type material (brick masonry), allowing the height of the gable ends of the crucifix to become in close physical proximity to the human, placing the building on a raised platform and using a variety of different heights and shapes all combine together to give the feeling of a larger, more massive building than what really exists.

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH / Fresno, Ca.
Addendum / April 10, 1986

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church (1914) was the first church built in the tradition of Armenian church architecture in the United States of America. It is additionally the first designed by an Armenian Architect, L.K. Condrajian [a.k.a. L.K. Cone], Fresno's first Armenian architect. Although there are older churches in the United States that have been used for Armenian services, these facilities were either existing church structures (not built for Armenians) bought by an Armenian congregation, or built by the congregation with no reference to Armenian church Architecture.

On July 9, 1913, the first Armenian Church in Fresno, California was destroyed by fire. The congregation had already been making plans to purchase the southwest corner property a few blocks away on "M" and Ventura streets in order to build a new, larger church. After the fire, the urgency of constructing a new building became more critical. The Board of Trustees decided to commission an Armenian architect named Lawrence Karekin Condrajian (1888-1983) [a.k.a. L.K. Cone], to design, draw, and supervise the construction of the new church. Ground breaking ceremonies took place on November 1, 1914 when a handful of soil brought from the Monastery of St. Krikor the Illuminator in Erzeroum, Armenia, was placed in the foundation along with other holy objects brought from St. James Monastery in Jerusalem. The official dedication occurred on November 13, 1914, with Archbishop Mousgeg Seropan of Boston delivering the sermon and dedication speech. The actual construction cost of the church was \$22,594.84. The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church was located at the center of "Armenian Town" until the mid-1950s, when the Armenians living within this 10 to 12 block area became financially and socially successful and moved out. Armenian businesses within this area also flourished. Since the early 1960s, "Armenian Town" has gone through a harsh transition. The first major change came in 1963 when the City of Fresno, using eminent domain, condemned 6 square blocks for construction of a convention/sports complex located at the northeast of "M" and Ventura (diagonally opposite from the site and the church.) A new freeway system was constructed between 1968 to 1982, portions of which were located several blocks south of the church. Between 1982 and 1983, the City of Fresno, on behalf of a private developer, condemned 2 full blocks located immediately north of the church for construction of an 8 story Holiday Inn hotel and 4 story parking structure. At the center of this property stood a residence designed by L.K. Cone in 1915 for Mr. H.H. Chorbajian. The structure had been placed on the Local

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Register. An application for the National Register had been prepared and submitted on June 1, 1983 in an attempt to save it. During this time the City of Fresno, publically pressured not to demolish the home, ordered the residence moved. It consequently put the home up for auction. One bid for \$2,000 was offered. Because of the cost of reconstruction, repair, relocation to a suitable location, and attendant code adherence requirements, the Chorbajian home remained on blocks until May 9, 1985, when the city ordered it demolished. The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church is located on property that faces a similar destiny since it lies within redevelopment boundaries. It is rumored that a private developer is considering approaching Fresno to acquire the church property for another development project.

While designing this church, L.K. Cone followed very closely the style of old Armenian churches of the IV to XVII centuries in Armenia and Turkey. Armenian church architecture has long been recognized as the first church architecture to reflect a unique style which was perfected in its various complex forms after the 7th century A.D.. The style's unique dome characterizes this historic church architecture as Armenian more than any other single design feature. It is believed that this style and the method of its construction (built of stone) helped to develop the later Romanesque and Gothic architecture of Europe. The Armenian church, founded by Krikor the Illuminator in 301 A.D., is the oldest national church in existence. Christianity was introduced into Armenia as early as the second century A.D. when Thaddeus and Bartholomew (two Apostles of Christ) preached the gospel, helped establish churches, ordained bishops, and performed other church functions. When they died, they were buried in the southeast region of Armenia. Inspired by this rich historical tradition, architect Cone (a.k.a. Condrajian) designed Fresno's Holy Trinity as a cultural symbol for local Armenians. The church is not only appreciated by the Armenian community, but also by the non-Armenians as well. There are numerous weddings performed at Holy Trinity each year where neither the bride nor groom has any Armenian descendents whatsoever. Regionally, Holy Trinity is popularly referred to as the "Red Brick Church".

L.K. Cone was born on July 2, 1888 in Istanbul, Turkey and completed his primary education at an American mission school in Bardezag, Turkey. In 1909 he graduated in Architecture and sculpture from the Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul. This school was the Ottoman branch of the Ecole de Beaux-Arts, Paris. Because of this, the Academy's Franco-Italian faculty instructed Cone in the classical form of architectural education. After graduation, Cone worked in Istanbul for two years before emigrating to Los Angeles, via New York City, to live with relatives and to find work. After a short period of time he responded to an advertisement in a Los Angeles newspaper regarding employment with an

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Item number 8

Page 3

architect in Fresno, California. That architect was Henry F. Starbuck (1850-1935), a San Francisco Bay Area architect who had semi-retired to some of his property just outside Fresno. Cone was hired as a draftsman by Starbuck and moved to Fresno in 1910. It was in 1912 that the Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church approached Cone to design its church. Cone accepted the Board's offer and started his own practice. In 1927 he moved to Washington, D.C. where he was an architect for the Federal Government designing post offices, armed forces dormitories, and other government buildings for 27 years. He moved to the San Francisco bay area in 1961 and became a city architect for San Francisco for a number of years. He died of natural causes in 1983. His original drawings, letters, diplomas, and certification papers are now in the process of being donated by his family to the Department of Special Collections at California State University at Fresno. There has been an approval for the construction of the first Armenian Cultural Museum in the U.S., on that campus. When it is constructed, Cone's work is targeted to become a part of the permanent collection.

9. Major Bibliographical References

REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEETS 9-1 and 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.31 ACRES

Quadrangle name FRESNO SOUTH, CALIFORNIA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

REFER TO CONTINUATION SHEET 10-4

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ROBBY ANTOYAN - ARCHITECT

organization HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH date OCTOBER 15, 1985

street & number 2226 VENTURA telephone (209) 486-1141

city or town FRESNO state CALIFORNIA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

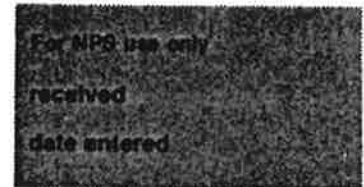
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title	date
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest: Chief of Registration	date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

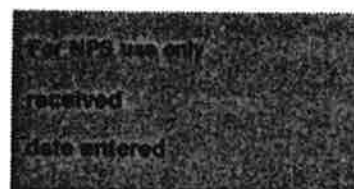
Page 1

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

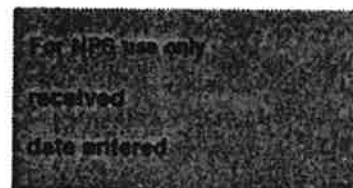
9

Page 2

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National Park Service

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Item number 10

Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

APN 468-225-19

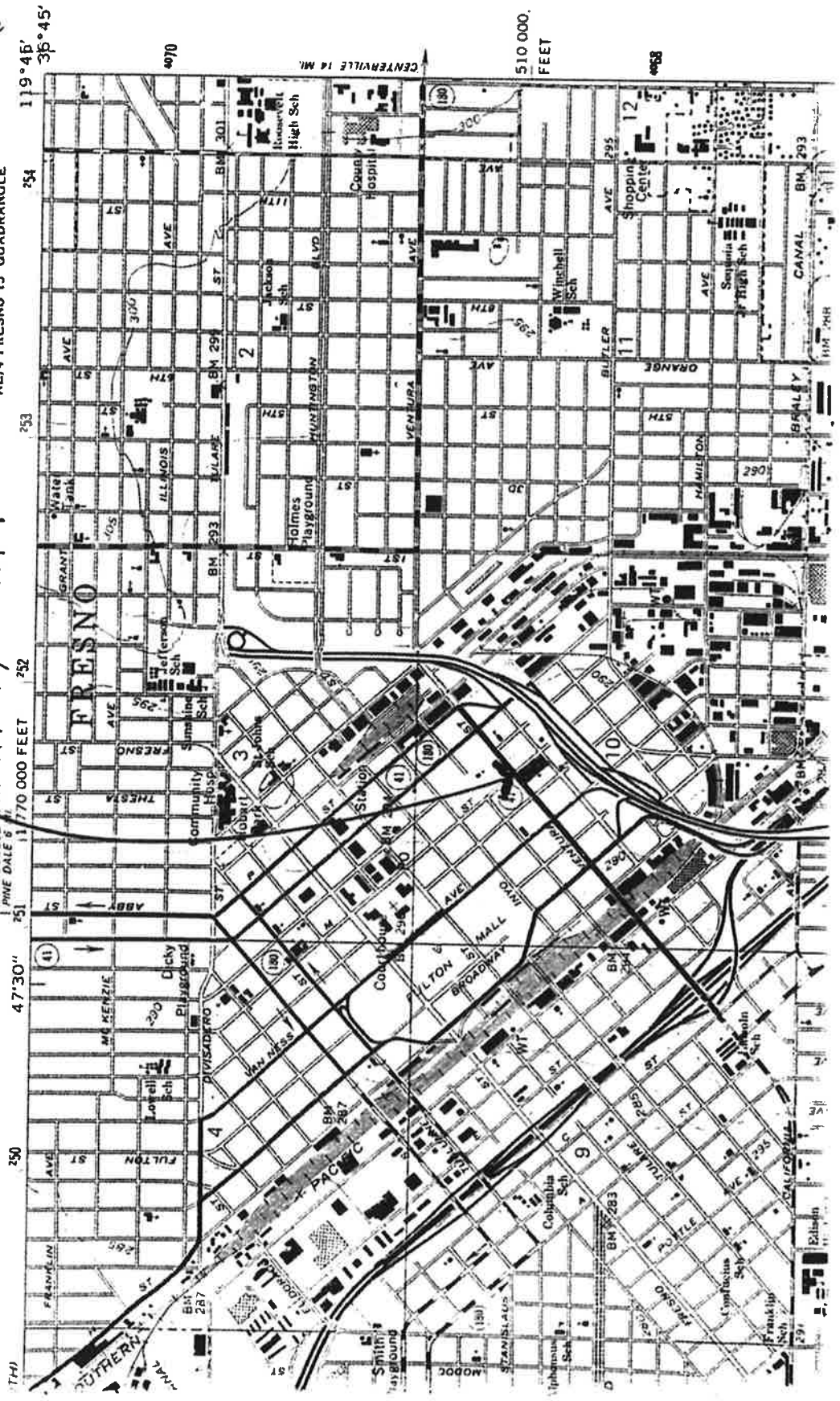
LOTS I TO I6, IN BLOCK I00 OF THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF FRESNO ACCORDING TO THE SUPPLEMENT MAP THERE OF RECORDED NOVEMBER 4, 1885, IN BLOCK I, PAGE I5 OF PLATS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY: ALSO ACCORDING TO THAT CERTAIN OTHER MAP RECORDED DECEMBER 7, 1885 IN BOOK I, PAGE I6 OF PLATS, RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY.

IFORNIA
ER RESOURCES

HOLY TRINITY
APARTMENT APOSTOLIC
CHURCH
2200 VENTURA Cth ST.
FRESNO, CA 93721

FRESNO SOUTH QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA - FRESNO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 1/4 FRESNO 15' QUADRANGLE

1:25000
1967 S.W.
151070



COARSE GOLD 7 MI.
PINE DALE S

47'30"

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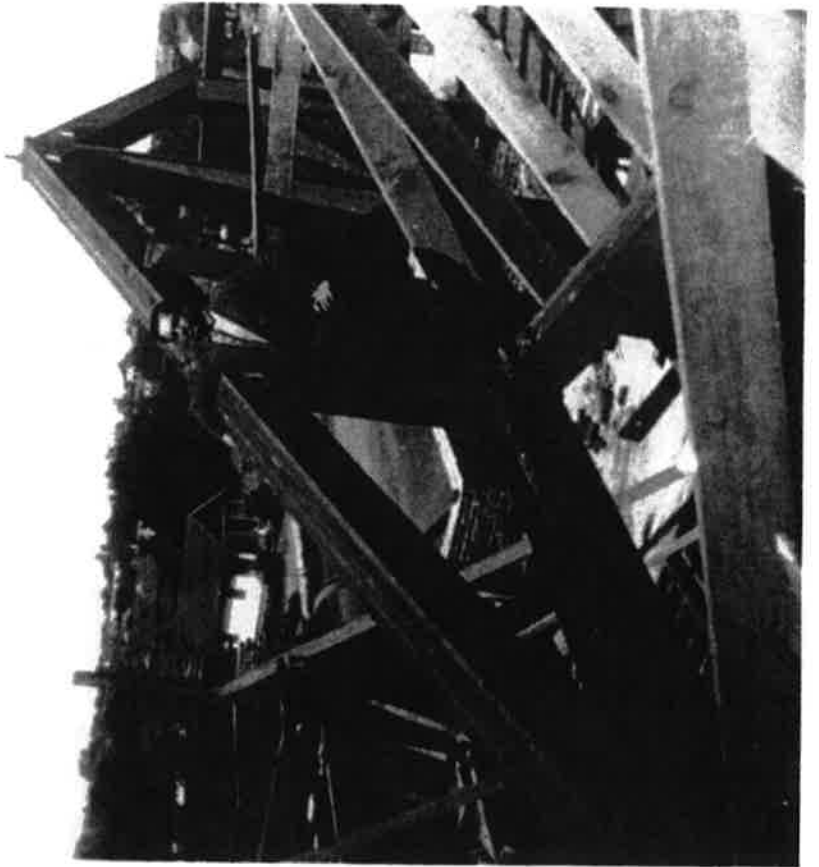
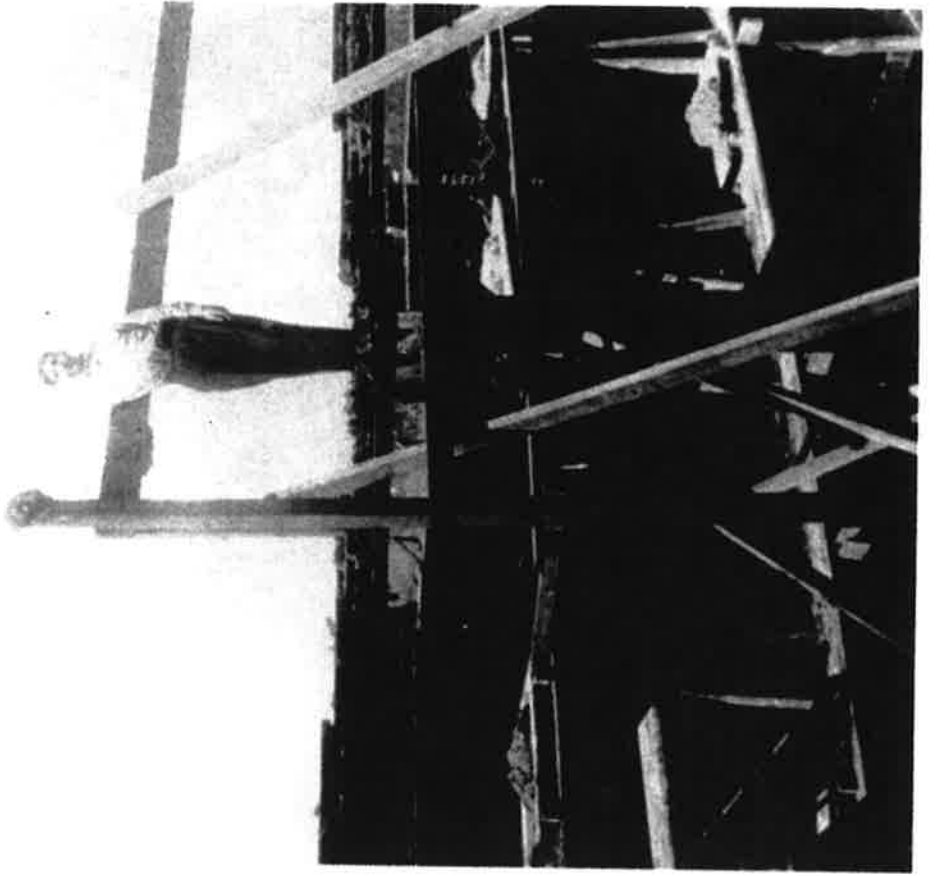
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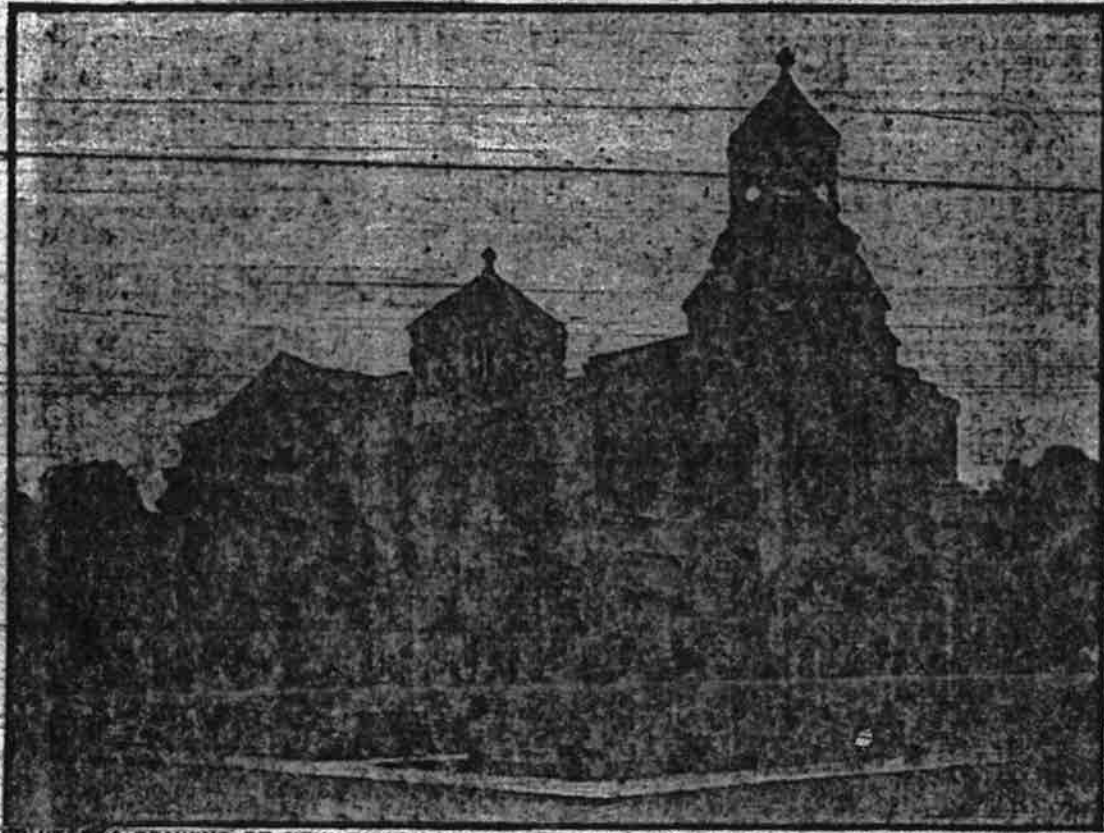
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SAT. NOV. 4, 1912

Will Break Ground Tomorrow For \$20,000 Armenian Church



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF NEW BUILDING FOR ARMENIAN HOLY CHURCH PLANNED FOR THIS CITY.

The ceremony of breaking the ground for the new \$20,000 Armenian Holy Trinity church which is to be built on the corner of M and Ventura streets will take place tomorrow afternoon. The work from then on will be rapidly carried to a finish.

The contract for the excavation and concrete work is already let and the work upon the superstructure will be carried on from this point as soon as the foundations are completed.

The building is designed on lines closely following the old Armenian churches of the early centuries, many of which still exist in Russian and Turkish Armenia and are notable for their architectural beauty.

The material is to be local brick with an exterior finish of cement, the steps and approaches being of granite. The frame is built around steel columns and girders making the most substantial construction.

The plans comprise a main floor to comply fully with all requirements of the services of the church, the sanctuary being of mahogany and elevated several steps on a marble platform and richly finished in all its details. There is also a gallery adding to the seating capacity and bringing the full seating to about 1,800 in all.

The interior finish is to be in local woods in natural color and the arched ceiling with stained glass in windows

and dome will give a most refined and church-like effect.

The basement is to be arranged to allow of finishing a hall eleven feet in height, permitting the best light and ventilation.

A ventilating and heating apparatus will be installed and the whole building will be in every respect a model church edifice.

The general dimensions are 75x35 feet and the cost will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

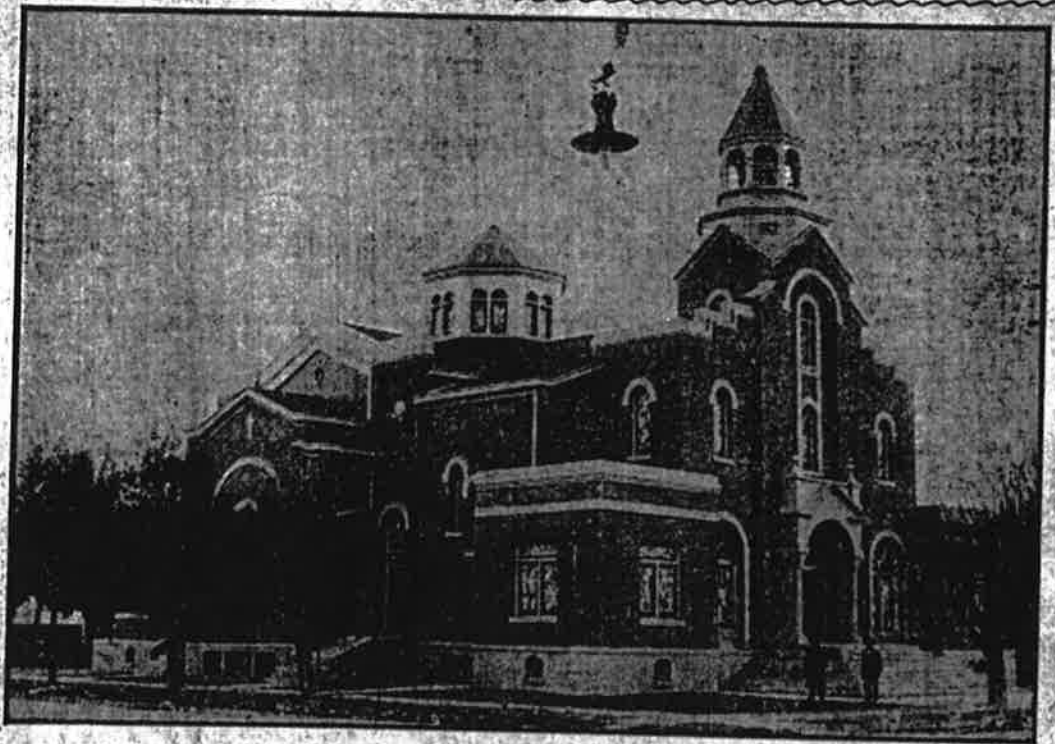
The plans are being made by L. Condralian, an Armenian architect, educated in Constantinople, who is associated with Architect Henry F. Starbuck of Fresno.

**FARM LAND VALUES
ADVANCE EACH YEAR**

**FOREST EXHIBIT TO
SHOW BEAUTY OF**

**PROPERTY DEMAND ON
INCREASE SAYS FIRM**

Dedicate Handsome New Armenian Apostolic Church Edifice Today



Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic church, erected at a cost of \$25,000 at M and Ventura streets.

Dedication services at the new Armenian Apostolic Holy Trinity church, erected at a cost of \$25,000 at the corner of M and Ventura streets will be held between 1 and 2 o'clock today. Archbishop Mousseg Seropian of Boston will preach the dedication sermon.

Although preliminary services began last night the main services take place today between 9:30 o'clock and 2:30 in the afternoon. The order of events for today follow: morning service, 9-10:30 o'clock; report of building committee, 10-10:30; lecture by Archbishop Seropian, 10:30-11; collection, 11; dedication, high mass, sermon, 1-2 o'clock. Rev. V. C. Kasparian, the pastor and Bishop L. C. Sanford of the Episcopal church will take part in the program.

The dedication ceremonies in the church follow the customs and forms that have been in the church for centuries. An important part of the ceremonies consists in washing the altars, crosses and columns with holy water and sanctifying them with holy oil.

The central main sanctuary will be dedicated in the name of Mary, the mother of Jesus, two smaller sanctuaries will be dedicated to Sahag and Mesrob, originators of Armenian letters in 424 A. D.

The former church structure on F street was destroyed by fire one year ago last July, leaving the congregation without a place of worship. Soon afterward the building committee was elected and the new structure started.

The building is designed along lines following the Armenian churches of the early centuries. The exterior is of red brick with cement trimmings, the steps and approaches are formed of concrete and the frame is built around steel columns and girders.

The plans comprise a main floor to comply with all the requirements of the services of the church. There is also a gallery, adding to seating capacity and providing seats for 1000.

The interior is finished in the dark oak. The ceiling is arched and with the stained glass windows and with the round dome, a refined church-like effect is produced.

The general dimensions of the building are 75x35 feet. The plans and construction were managed by L. K. Condrajian.

"Baymiller's Suit and Cloak House"

Dresses, Coats and Suits At Big Reductions at Our Big Removal Sale

Another big feast of bargains is spread before you in the list of suits, dresses and coats that we are listing, describing and pricing here.

This is one of the most attractive lists of the entire Removal Sale. This sale has been offering remarkably low prices on the high grade, exclusive styles that we handle.

Be sure to see these garments.

Stylish Dresses Priced To Save You Money

Designed for afternoon, street and evening wear, showing silks, satin, serge, velvet, broadcloth and cloth-and-satin combinations. All colors and sizes; over 35 grand styles; and you will note that the savings are considerable.

\$15 Dresses at \$10.75

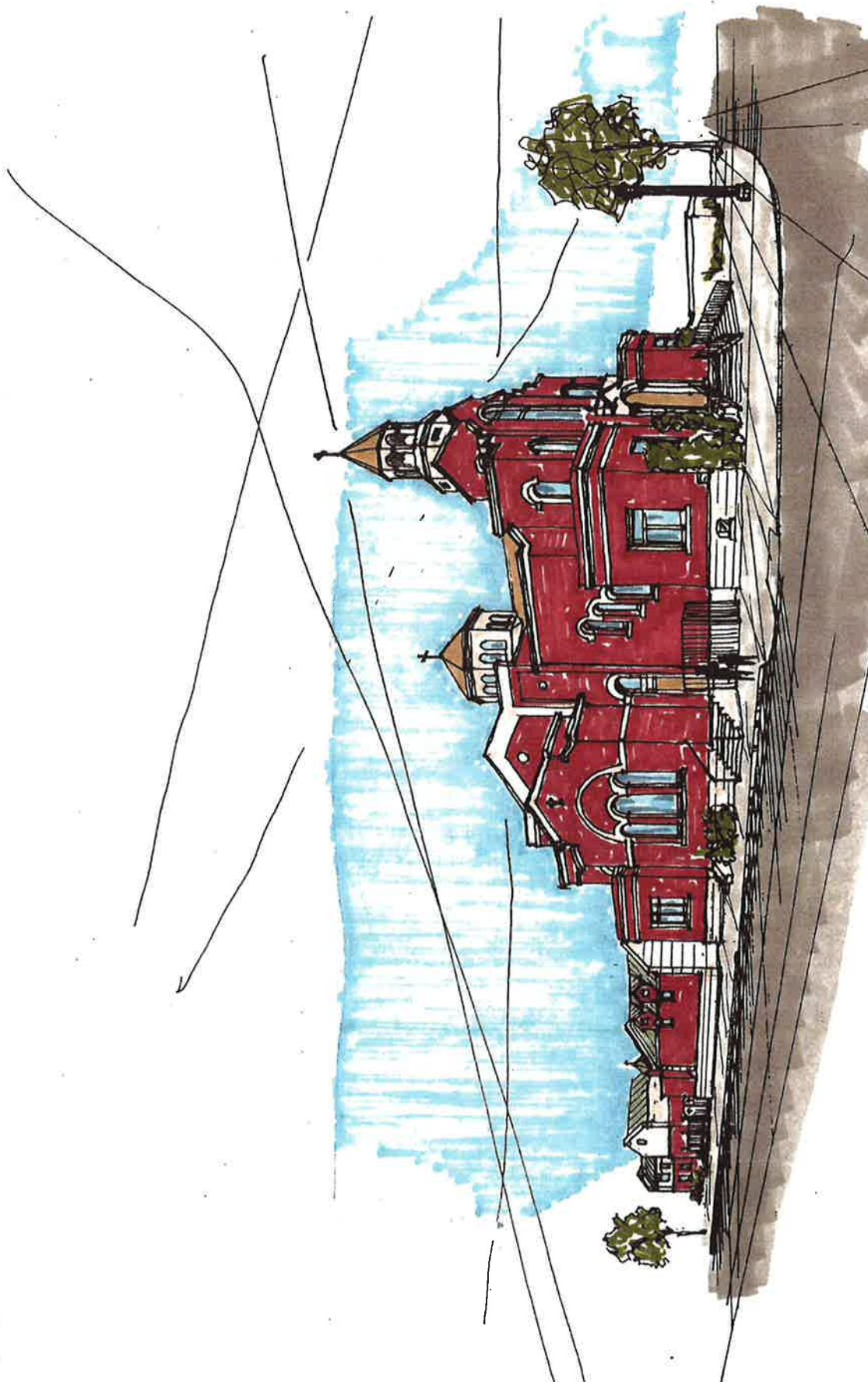
\$20 Dresses at \$13.75

\$25 Dresses at \$16.75

\$30 Dresses at \$21.75

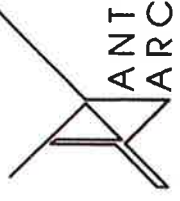


FRESNO REPUBLICAN DECEMBER 13, 1914 - SATURDAY

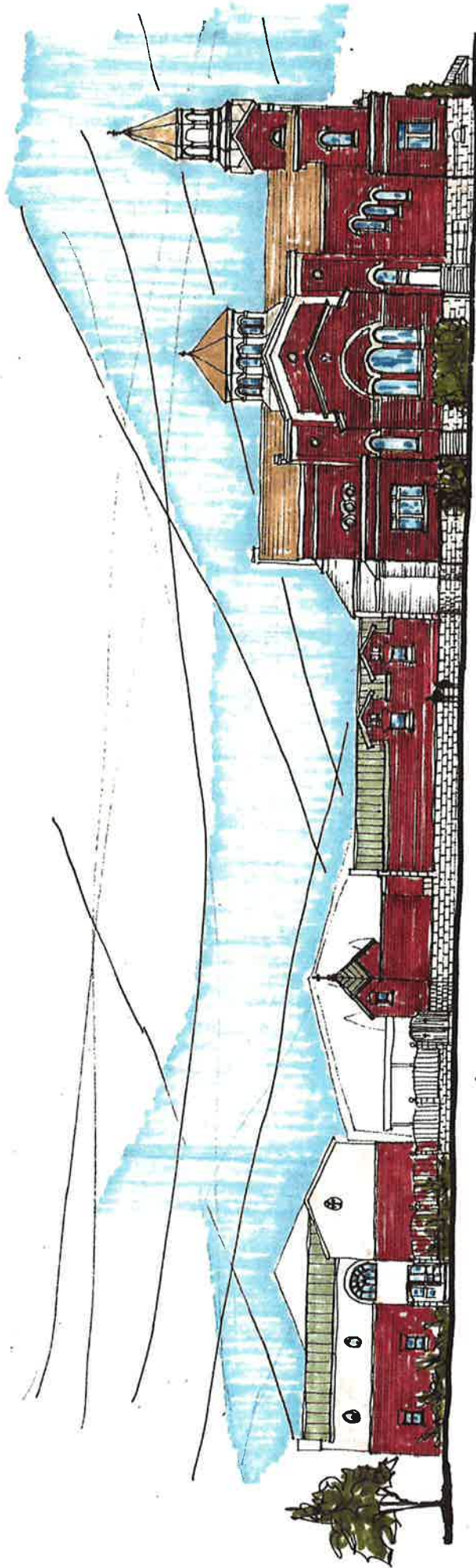


VIEW FROM VENTURA LOOKING DOWN N STREET - HOLY TRINITY PARISH ANNUAL POSSIBLE CHURCH

JOB 1105 11/11/11

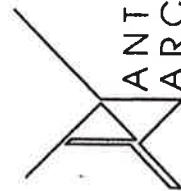


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ARCHITECTURE
2133 AMADOR ST. • FRESNO, CA • 93721-1102
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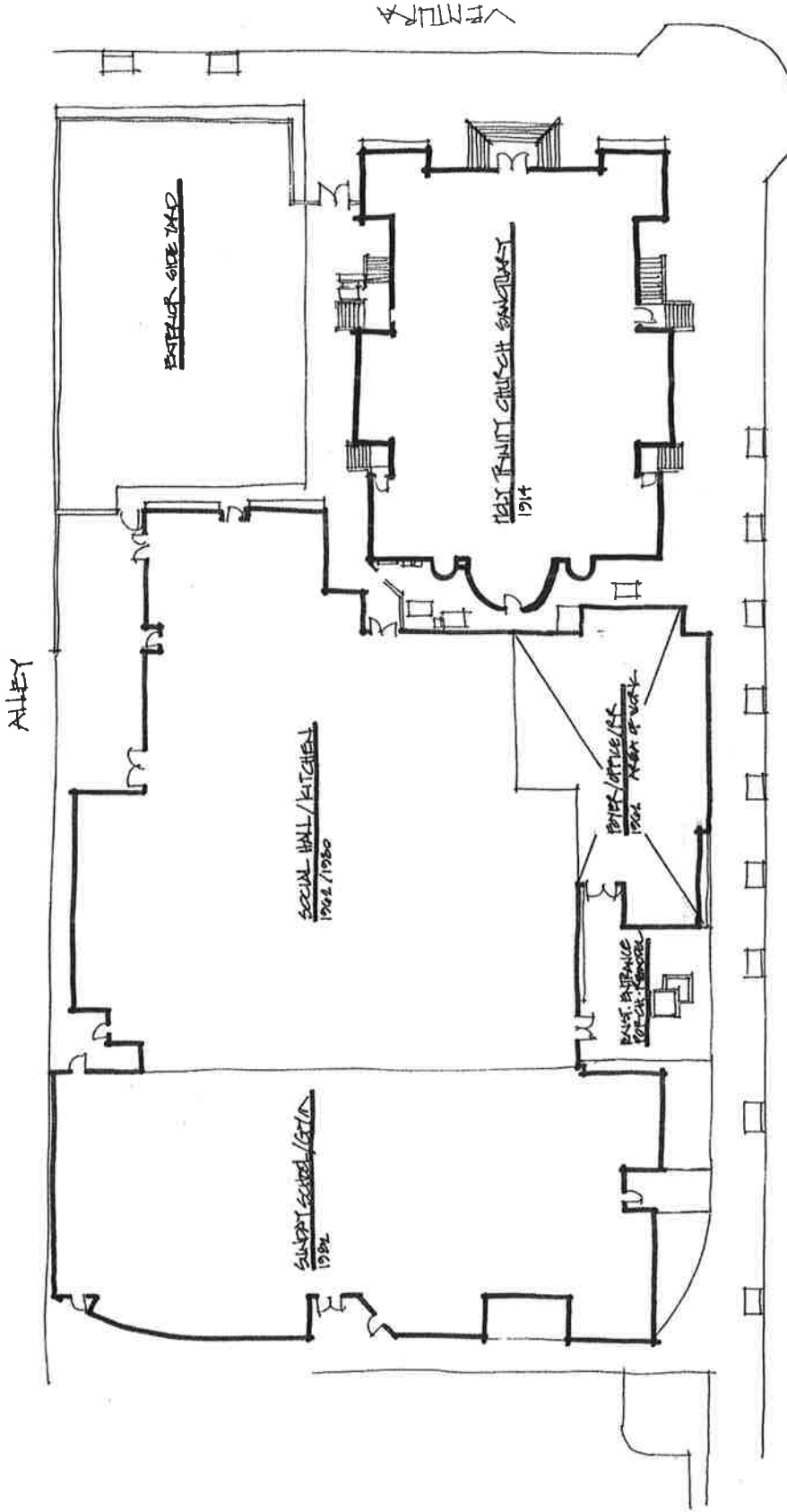


PROPOSED "N" STREET ELEVATION - HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION

11/11/11 11:57 AM

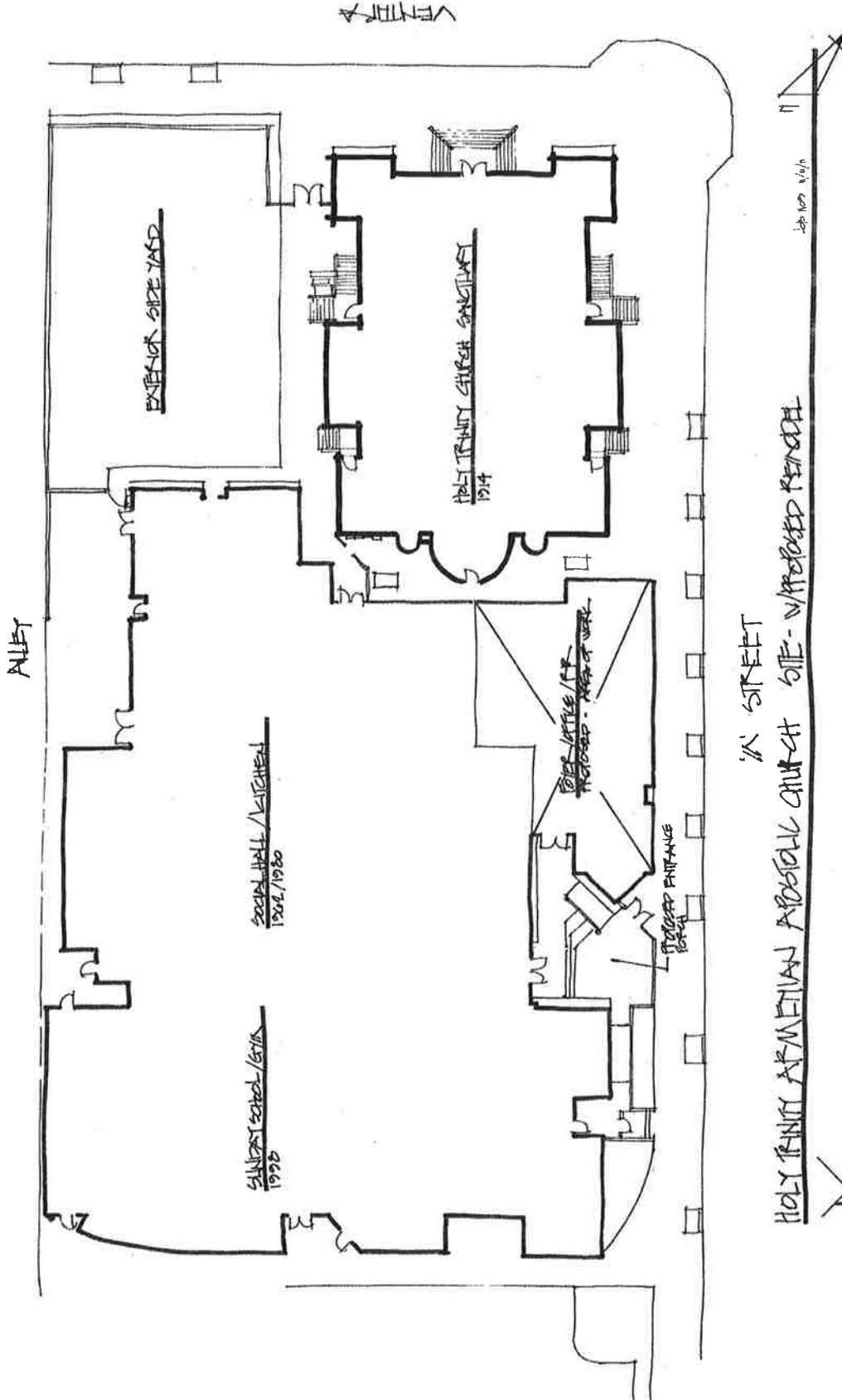


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ARCHITECTURE
2133 AMADOR ST. • FRESNO, CA • 93721-1102
5 5 9 • 4 9 7 • 6 9 4 2



HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH SITE NO IT EXISTS TODAY
 'N' STREET
 1914

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 ARCHITECTURE
 213 AMADOR ST. • BERKELEY, CA • 415-771-1102




 ANTOYAN
 ARCHITECTURE
 213 AMADOR ST. - BERKELEY, CA 94704-1105

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 _____

Map Ref. #002

P1. Resource Name: Valley Lahvosh Baking Company

HP# 237 Update

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 502 M Street

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-222-17

***P3a. Description:** The 1921 retail building on this parcel was designated as Historic Property #237 by action of the Fresno City Council on December 16, 2003. There are no architectural changes since the property was listed. The 1954 addition was found eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources in the 2002 survey prepared for the Armenian Town Project.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP6 (1-3 story commercial building)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 2 May 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1921

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Agnes C. Wilson, Trustee
502 M Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3013

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** recorded
25 June 2002

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ●District Record

Primary # _____
HR # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Page 1 of 2

* Resource Name or #: Valley Lahvosh Bakery

P1. Other Identifier: _____

* P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted a. County Fresno
b. USGS 7.5' Quad Fresno South Date _____ T 14S; R 20E; _____ 1/4 of _____ 1/4 of Sec _____; _____ B.M.
c. Address 502 M St City Fresno Zip 93721
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear feature) Zone _____, _____ mE/ _____ mN
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g. parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, elevation, additional UTM, etc. as app
APN: 468-222-17

* P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)
The building at 502 M Street is a one story brick commercial building with a flat roof and parapet, plain rectangular window openings, and a central entry located in the southern corner of the building facing the intersection of M and Santa Clara Streets. A two sided neon can sign with exposed neon tubing in channel letters projects from the façade above the main corner entry.

* P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6 1-3 story commercial building

* P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

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



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, etc.)

Front façade and entry, view north/northwest.

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

1922 Est.

* P7. Owner and Address:

Janet Saphatelian

902 M St.

Fresno 93721

P--Private

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

Ray Beach-Fresno Dev. Dept.

Arnoldo Rodriguez-Fresno Dev. Dept.

John English-Myra Frank & Assoc.

* P9. Date Recorded: 6/25/2002

* P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive Survey Effort

CEOA Compliance

Project Review

* P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report/other sources or "none") Old Armenian Town Fresno Historical resources survey for environmental compliance, June 2002

* 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) _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 2

* NRHP Status Code 5S1

* Resource Name or #: Valley Lahvosh Bakery

B1. Historic Name: Valley Bakery

B2. Common Name Valley Lahvosh Bakery

B3. Original Use: Bakery

B4. Present Use: Same

* B5. Architectural Style: Brick commercial

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

A number of windows have been filled in with brick, canvas awnings added. Recent wood sign attached to façade.

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

* B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

* B10. Significance: Theme Early 20th Century Construction Area Fresno

Period of Significance 1922 Property Type Residential 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 resource is located on lot 17-20 of block 121. The building was constructed for Gazair Saghatelian owner of Valley Bakery in 1921. The Valley Bakery was one of a number of bakeries in Fresno's Armenian Town and is famous for their Valley Lahvosh bread. The bakery is still operated by the Saghatelian family in the original building and is the only remaining Armenian bakery in Old Armenian Town. The Valley Lahvosh Bakery appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criterion 1 for its association with the Armenian American community in Fresno and its role in the development of Fresno Armenian Town.

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

* B12. References:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

City of Fresno Building permits

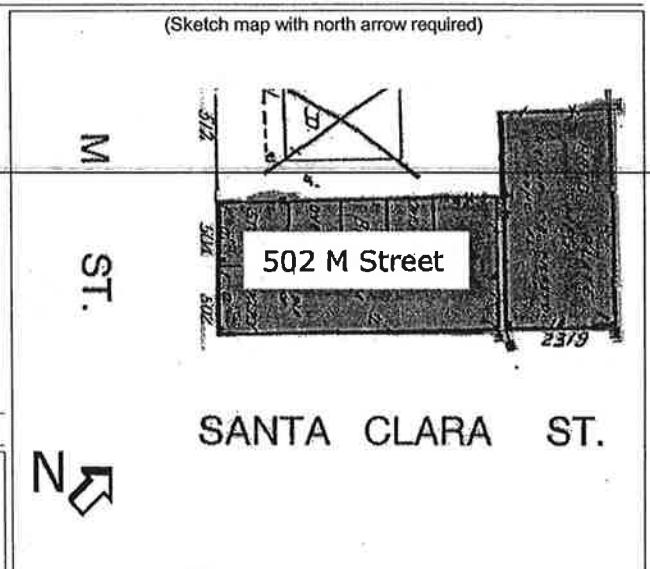
The Fresno Armenians, B. Bulbulian; 2000 with Map of Old Armenian Town by Elish Shekoyan

B13. Remarks:

* B14. Evaluator: Carson Anderson, MFA

Date of Evaluation: 7/1/2002

(This space reserved for official comments.)



Primary # _____

HR # _____

Trinomial _____

NRHP Status Code _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings _____

Review Code _____

Reviewer _____

Date _____

Page 1 of 2

* Resource Name or #: 2319 Santa Clara

P1. Other Identifier: _____

* P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

a. County Fresno

b. USGS 7.5' Quad Fresno South Date T 145; R20E; 1/4 of 1/4 of Sec. ; _____ B.M.

c. Address 2319 Santa Clara city Fresno Zip 93721

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear feature) Zone _____, _____ mE/ _____ mN

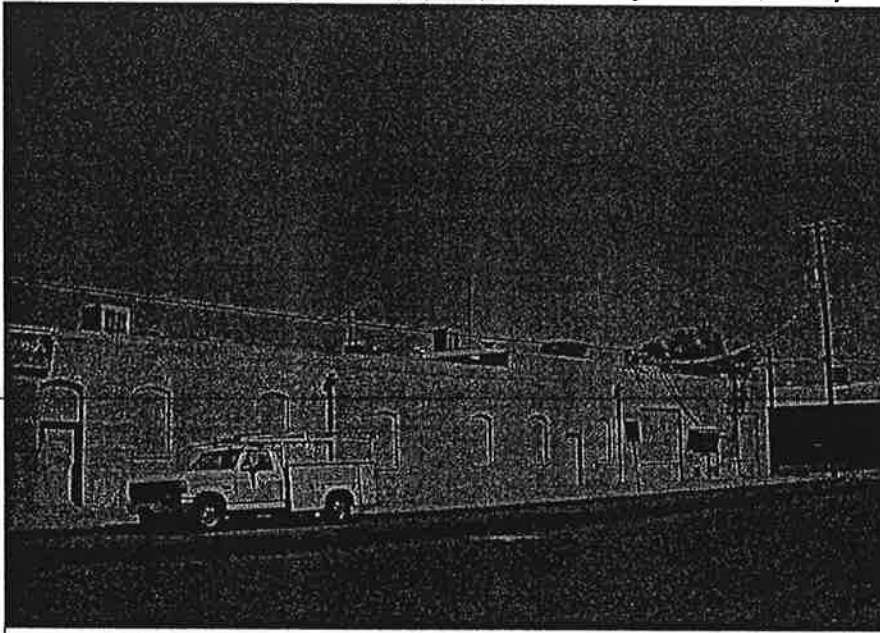
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g. parcel #, legal description, directions to resource, elevation, additional UTM's, etc. as app
APN: 468-222-17

* P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)
The building at 2319 Santa Clara is a 1 story commercial building of concrete construction, with a flat roof and a single entry flanked by two large shop windows. A small fixed canopy shelters the entry.

* P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6 1-3 story commercial building

* P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

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



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, etc.)

Front façade with original 1921 building on left view north

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

1954 Building permit records

* P7. Owner and Address:

Janet Saghatelian

502 M Street

Fresno, California 93721

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

Rav Beach-Fresno Dev. Dept.

Arnoldo Rodriguez-Fresno Dev. Dept.

John English-Myra Frank & Assoc.

* P9. Date Recorded: 6/25/2002

* P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive Survey Effort

CEOA Compliance

Project Review

* P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report/other sources or "none") Old Armenian Town Fresno

Historical resources survey for environmental compliance, June 2002

* 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) _____

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 2

* NRHP Status Code 5S1

* Resource Name or #: 2319 Santa Clara

B1. Historic Name: Valley Bakery addition

B2. Common Name: Valley Lahvosh Bakery

B3. Original Use: Commercial

B4. Present Use: Commercial

* B5. Architectural Style: Utilitarian comercial

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

Shop wndows have been filled in and the main entry appears to have sustained minor alterations.

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

* B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Sam Sachatelian (owner)

* B10. Significance: Theme Early 20th Century Construction

Area Fresno

Period of Significance _____

Property Type Commercial

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 resource is located on lots 17-20 of block 121. The resource is a one story utilitarian commercial building and is not architecturally unique. Therefore it does not appear to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion 3. However the building was constructed in 1954 by the Saghatelian family as an addition the 1922 Valley Bakery building imediately adjacent. The Valley Bakery was one of a number of bakeries in Fresno's Armenian Town and is famous for their Valley Lahvosh bread. The bakery is still operated by the Saghatelian family in the original building and is the only remaining Armenian bakery in Old Armenian Town. The Valley Lahvosh Bakery appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under criterion 1 for its association with the Armenian American community in Fresno and its role in the development of Fresno Armenian Town. This building is significant as part of the physical bakery plant of the Valley Bakery business. Therefore it also appears eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1.

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

* B12. References:

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

City of Fresno Building permits. City Directories 1918, 1926, 1929, 1939

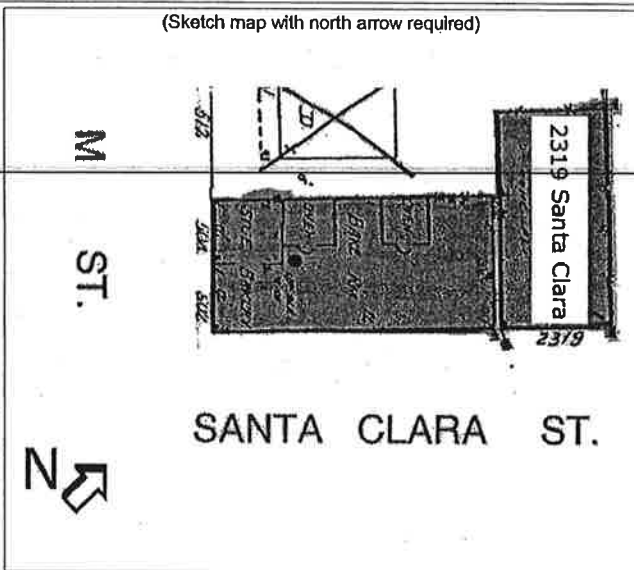
B13. Remarks:

* B14. Evaluator: Carson Anderson, MFA

Date of Evaluation: 7/1/2002

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch map with north arrow required)



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 _____

Map Ref. #003

HP# 055

P1. Resource Name: John Schmidt (Schmitt) Home

***P2. Location: *a. County: Fresno**

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981**

c. Address: 2320 Santa Clara Street, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-223-20T

***P3a. Description:** This Queen Anne style home is of the Spindework subtype, is wood framed with horizontal wood drop siding and faces "north" onto Santa Clara Street. It has an irregular plan and complex roof with a shallow overhang and boxed cornice. A pedimented gable bay extends from the northwest corner. Typical to the Queen Anne is the asymmetrical façade and mix of textures. Character defining features include the spindework frieze along the porch which wraps 2 sides of the house, the Chinoiserie style wood balustrade, the fishscale shingles in the pediments and above the double hung sash windows and the fixed stained glass window on the front porch. A bay window is located on the west side of the home and includes two 1/1 double hung wood sash windows. Of interest is that this window and several others in the home have a decorative inset of vertical boards under each window. The front and back doors have been replaced and are now "Craftsman" style wood panel with 6 true-divided lights. A door leading out to the side of the porch is original wood with two long panels of clear glass. Both front and side doors have transoms of clear glass. The rear of the home has an end gabled roof with broken pediment and two shed room "additions," one on each side. The home's former summer kitchen is now located directly behind (to the south) of the main building.

***P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2 (Single-family residence)**

***P4. Resources Present: ●Building ●Element of District**



***P5b Photo date: 16 August 2013**

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: c1905 (prior survey form; also on 1906 Sanborn map)**

***P7. Owner and Address: City of Fresno**

***P8. Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. Historic Preservation Project Manager, City of Fresno**

***P9. Date Recorded: April 26, 2016**

***P10. Survey Type: Intensive**

***P11. Report Citation: "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."**

***Attachments: ● District Record**

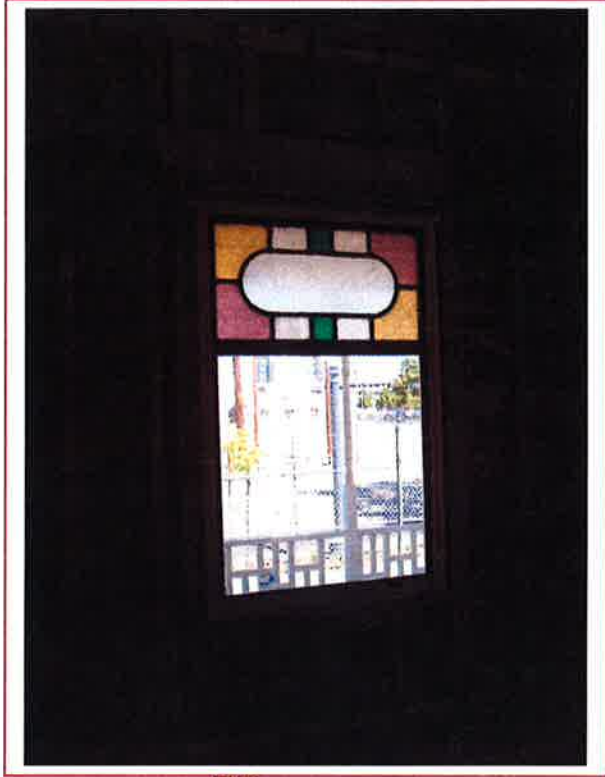
*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: April 26, 2016

■ Continuation

*Stained glass window on façade.
Looking northwest to side porch.*

Photo below 26 April 2016





*West
elevation;
Rear elevation
26 April 2016*



PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____

Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Map Ref. #4

P1. Resource Name: John Schmitt Summer Kitchen

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 450 M Street, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-223-20T

***P3a. Description:** This 126sf summer kitchen faces "north" onto Santa Clara Street and is located behind the relocated John Schmitt Home. The outbuilding was formerly at the rear of the "Schmidt Residence" (HP#055) at 460 N Street and was a "late discovery" in 2002 as part of the Armenian Town Project. The outbuilding is wood framed and clad in vertical board siding with wide board battens. The side gabled roof has a wide overhang and exposed rafter tails. The wood panel door, currently boarded, is off center to the west. Three piercings for windows are located, one to the east of the door and one on the east and west ends of the building. The summer kitchen sits on a new raised concrete foundation with two front steps with landscaping around it.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP4 (Summer kitchen)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



***P5b Photo date:** 11 January 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1913, building permit 1560 4 June 1913

***P7. Owner and Address:** City of Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. Historic Preservation Project Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 26 April 2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

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 _____

Map Ref. #005

P1. Resource Name: The Alijian-Hoonanian Residence

HP#203 (Update)

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 496 M Street

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-223-20T

***P3a. Description:** This one-story late Queen Anne residence has a nominal rectangular plan and faces west onto M Street at the corner of Santa Clara. The truncated hip roof is cross gabled with a front facing gable on the facade and a dormer on the south elevation, both of which are pedimented and deeply inset. Contrasting fishscale shingles as well as a dentil molding articulate the forward facing gable. This dentil pattern extends around the cornice of the home on two elevations. A narrow frieze of spindlework is on the partial width recessed front porch. The new Craftsman style front door is centrally located and has a fixed transom. All windows other than one small fixed window on the dormer are 1/1 wood sash and are often found in pairs.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2 (Single family residence)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building

●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 2 May 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** circa 1902; located on the 1906 Sanborn map.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
City of Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 25 April
2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

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 _____

Map Ref. #006

***P1. Resource Name:** The Damirgian Brothers Home

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 484 M Street, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number:

***P3a. Description:** This rectangular plan one story home is a vernacular cottage with Queen Anne detailing of the spindlework sub-style. The truncated hip roof has a boxed cornice and a gable dormer on the façade with a 6 pane "wagon wheel" window and fishscale shingles inset within the deeply set pediment. The partial width front porch has a shallow hip roof with a restored Chinoiserie style frieze, slender turned wood posts and a Chinoiserie style wood balustrade. Both the frieze and the balustrade were reconstructed from a historic photo of the home. The home (unlike a true Queen Anne) is rational, thus it has a symmetrical façade with a centered new Craftsman style door flanked by a double set of 1/1 sash windows on either side. The home is clad in narrow horizontal clapboard. All other windows on the rear and side elevations are 1/1 wood sash.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2 (Single-family residence)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 26 April 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** c1904 1906
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

***P7. Owner and Address:**
City of Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 26 April
2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Map Ref. #007

P1. Resource Name: The George Adams Home

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 472 M Street, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-223-20T

***P3a. Description:** This vernacular cottage has a rectangular plan and hipped roof with overhanging eaves and boxed cornice. The house faces west onto M Street and is clad with wide horizontal drop siding. The partial inset porch has two square posts that rest on a solid wood balustrade. The front door is located centrally and is wood paneled with two horizontal panes of glass separated by a wide wood muntin on the top. Two 1/1 wood sash windows are located to the north of the front door, a 1/1 sash window is on the south façade. The rear of the home has a new "Craftsman" style door, thus is two panel wood with 6 true divided lights on top with one 1/1 double hung sash window to the north. All other windows on the side elevations are double hung sash.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2 (Single-family dwelling)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 2 May 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** c1902; depicted on 1906 Sanborn but not on the 1898 map.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
City of Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 26 April 2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

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 _____

Map Ref. #008

P1. Resource Name: A.Tollikian-Lyman Tashjian Residence

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 460 M Street, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-223-20T

***P3a. Description:** This one story cottage has an irregular plan and is clad in narrow horizontal wood clapboard. It faces west onto M Street. The hipped roof has wide overhanging eaves and a boxed cornice. A partial width front porch is inset and supported by square wood posts that rest on a solid balustrade of clapboards. A pedimented bay extends forward off the north corner of the home and includes a stained glass window with diamond design in the center and 1/1 double hung sash windows on both sides of the bay. A nod to the Queen Anne style is not only the bay window but also the application of contrasting shingles within the deeply set pediment. Another character defining feature of this home is a large diamond shaped window on the porch that is recessed to the right of the front door which is wood with three horizontal panels of glass. A new Craftsman style door of wood with 6 true divided lights is on the rear of the cottage. All windows are 1/1 double hung sash of wood.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2 (Single-family residence)

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 2 May 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** c1902 (Depicted on 1906 Sanborn map at former location, 459 O Street)

***P7. Owner and Address:** City of Fresno

***P8. Recorded by:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A. Historic Preservation Project Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 26 April 2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record



Bay window on façade with stained glass; Diamond shaped window on inset front porch.



State of California  The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code 5D3

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name or #: The Dirouhi Nishkian Home – Resource Number 105

*P2. Location: Unrestricted Map Ref. #09

*a. County; Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5': Fresno South, CA, 1981

c. Address 332 M Street Fresno, CA 93721

d. Other Locational Data: APN - 46823114

*P3a. Description:

The residence at 332 M Street is one story in height and has a rectangular footprint. The building is covered by a hipped roof with boxed eaves. The roof is sheathed in composition shingle roofing. A hipped-roof dormer projects from the roof over the main façade; the dormer has a rectangular window flanked by two rectangular wood vents. The building's walls are sheathed in narrow, beveled, wood siding applied horizontally. There is a simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners. The main (M Street) façade is dominated by a raised, recessed porch that spans the width of the façade and wraps around the west facade. The porch's roof is supported by wood columns. A wood balustrade encircles the porch, and a simple, wood frieze is suspended from the porch ceiling. The porch base and steps are concrete. The primary entrance door is at the center and flanked by two double-hung, 1/1 wood windows with wood surrounds. Window openings at the east façade contain wood, double-hung, 1/1, wood windows and single-light wood windows with wood surrounds. Windows at the west façade are obscured but retain their original configuration and wood surrounds. A chain-link fence encircles the front yard. (See continuation sheet.)

P5a.



*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2.
Single Family Property

*P4. Resources Present: Building

P5b. Description of Photo:
Looking N: Jan 2015

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and
Source: Historic, c. 1912 (Sanborn
maps)

*P7. Owner and Address:
Victor Garcia
332 M St.
Fresno, CA 93721

*P8. Recorded by:
architecture + history
B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson
1715 Green Street
San Francisco CA 94123

*P9. Date Recorded: January 2015

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive Phase I

*P11. Report Citation: City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Resource Survey

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet

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

*Resource Name or # 332 M Street, Fresno, Ca 93721 *NRHP Status Code 5D3
 Page 2 of 3

B1. Historic Name: Dirouhi Nishkian Home B2. Common Name: 332 M Street
 B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
 *B5. Architectural Style: Neoclassical Cottage
 *B6. Construction History:
 See continuation sheet.

*B7. Moved? No
 *B8. Related Features: None
 B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
 *B10. Significance: Theme Armenian Town Area Fresno, California
 Period of Significance c. 1912 / 1914-1960 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno’s Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). “Armenian Town” included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 332 M Street is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

*B12. References:
 Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk’s Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; HistoricAerials.com; Google street view; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

*B14. Evaluator: architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
 B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

*Date of Evaluation: June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Dirouhi Nishkian Home / 332 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; hipped roof and hipped dormer; boxed roof eaves; beveled wood siding; recessed, wrap-around porch with wood columns, frieze, and balustrade; offset, symmetrical façade; wood windows with wood surrounds.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The residence was constructed in c. 1912. Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone very few modifications since it was built. From 1918 through at least 1970, a small dwelling was located at the rear of the property; the building was demolished at an unknown date.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

According to city directories and census data, one of the first known residents was Armenian immigrant and widow Mrs. Dirouhi (or Deroohi) Nishkian. Nishkian lived at the residence with her children from at least 1914 through 1926. Nishkian's family owned a store called M.M. Nishkian up until 1922. Subsequent residents were Edward Tatarian in 1940-1944; Kazar Keteian in 1950-1960; Frank Cervantez in 1970; Kirk Khanzadian in 1977; and Frank Flores in 1980.

Significance Statement

The residence at 332 M Street appears to retain high integrity. Aspects of integrity for location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Although the building is surrounded by other residential buildings on the block, integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property does not appear to reach the level of significance necessary to be individually eligible for the Fresno Local Register of Historic Resources, California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places. This property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 322 M Street is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

Note: When considering the significance of Fresno's Armenian Town in light of the relative rarity of the resources associated with it, issues of integrity related to setting and loss of resources should be viewed with more flexibility than usual.

State of California  The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code 5D3

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name: The Luther Gray Home Map. Ref. #11

*P2. Location: Unrestricted

*a. County; Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5': Fresno South, CA, 1981

*c. Address 320 M Street Fresno, CA 93721

*d. Other Locational Data: APN - 46823112

*P3a. Description:

The residence at 320 M Street is one story in height and has a rectangular footprint. A pyramidal hipped roof covers the building. The roof is sheathed in composition sheet roofing. A gabled dormer projects from the roof over the main façade; the dormer has a polygonal, wood vent. The building's walls are sheathed in wood drop, siding applied horizontally. A raised entrance porch with a hipped roof spans the width of the main (M Street) façade. The porch is accessed by concrete steps. The roof is supported by wood posts with hefty bases; a simple, wood frieze is suspended from the porch ceiling. The primary entrance door is at the center of the main façade; it is obscured by a metal security door. The door is flanked by two matching windows with wood surrounds. All windows are obscured by screens or heavy foliage. A wood fence encircles the front yard. (See continuation sheet.)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2. Single Family Property

*P4. Resources Present: Building

P5a.



P5b. Description of Photo:

Looking NE: Jan 2015

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic - c. 1899 (Sanborn maps and census data)

*P7. Owner and Address:

Ara Boghosian, Trustee
1526 W. Paul
Fresno, CA 93711

*P8. Recorded by:

architecture + history
B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson
1715 Green Street
San Francisco CA 94123

*P9. Date Recorded: January 2015

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive Phase I

*P11. Report Citation: City of Fresno
South Van Ness Industrial District
Historic Resource Survey

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet

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

*Resource Name or # 320 M Street, Fresno, Ca 93721 *NRHP Status Code 5D3
 Page 2 of 3

B1. Historic Name: Luther Gray Home B2. Common Name: 320 M Street
 B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
 *B5. Architectural Style: Neoclassical Cottage
 *B6. Construction History:

No original building permit was found. The building appears on the 1906 Sanborn map. (See continuation sheet.)

*B7. Moved? No
 *B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
 *B10. Significance: Theme Armenian Town Area Fresno, California
 Period of Significance c. 1899 / 1914-1960 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno's Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). "Armenian Town" included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 320 M Street is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

*B12. References:
 Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk's Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; HistoricAerials.com; Google street view; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

*B14. Evaluator: architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
 B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

*Date of Evaluation: June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Luther Gray Home / 320 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; hipped roof with dormer; drop wood siding; symmetrical façade; entrance porch; wood window surrounds.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The building is not shown on the 1898 Sanborn map but is listed in the 1900 census, so it was likely built in c. 1899. Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone very few modifications since it was built. An addition was built at the rear of the building sometime after 1970. A small dwelling was located at the rear of the property from at least 1918 through 1970 but is no longer extant.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

The 1900 census shows that the first owner of 320 M Street was mail carrier Luther Gray and his wife, Frances. The Grays lived in the house through 1921. Kazar Froonjian, a laborer, was a resident in 1925. From at least 1926 through 1982, the residents were Shahin Der Boghosian, a laborer at a fruit-packing plant, and his wife, Siran.

Significance Statement

The residence at 320 M Street appears to retain moderate integrity. Aspects of integrity for location, design, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Integrity levels for materials and workmanship are mostly intact, but windows appear to be replacements. Although the building is surrounded by a few other residential buildings on the block, integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property does not appear to reach the level of significance necessary to be individually eligible for the Fresno Local Register of Historic Resources, California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places. This property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 320 M Street is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

Note: When considering the significance of Fresno's Armenian Town in light of the relative rarity of the resources associated with it, issues of integrity related to setting and loss of resources should be viewed with more flexibility than usual.

State of California  The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code 5D3

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

*P2. **Location:** Unrestricted

Map Ref. #12

*a. **County:** Fresno

*b. **USGS 7.5':** Fresno South, CA, 1981

c. **Address** 303 M Street Fresno, CA 93721

d. **Other Locational Data:** APN - 46823429

*P3a. **Description:**

This is a one-story Queen Anne cottage with an irregular footprint. At the primary (M Street) façade, the west side of the building projects into a bay. The primary block of the building is covered by a gable-on-hip roof and the projecting bay is capped with a front-facing gable roof. Both roofs are sheathed in composition shingles, and both gables feature offset, wood shingles and rectangular wood vents. The projecting bay features corner-bracket detailing above the bay windows. The roof eaves are boxed. The building's walls are sheathed in narrow, beveled, wood siding applied horizontally. There is a simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners. A raised entrance porch with a hipped roof is located at the south side of the main façade. The porch is accessed by wood steps with metal handrails. The porch is supported by turned, wood columns and is encircled by a balustrade of wood posts. A spindlework frieze is suspended from the porch ceiling. The primary entrance door is at the west side of the porch; it is obscured by a metal security door. To the east of the door is a 1/1 vinyl window with a wood surround (the window is obscured by a metal security grill). Windows on the projecting bay are 1/1 vinyl with wood surrounds. (See continuation sheet.)

*P3b. **Resource Attributes:** HP2. Single Family Property

P5a.



*P4. **Resources Present:** Building

*P5b. **Description of Photo:**
Looking SW: Jan 2015

*P6. **Date Constructed/Age and Source:** Historic, c. 1902 (Sanborn maps)

*P7. **Owner and Address:**
Leslie Avakian
3118 N. Pacific
Fresno, CA 93705

*P8. **Recorded by:**
architecture + history
B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson
1715 Green Street
San Francisco CA 94123

*P9. **Date Recorded:** January 2015

*P10. **Survey Type:** Intensive Phase I

*P11. **Report Citation:** City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Resource Survey

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet
DPR 523A (9/2013)

*Required information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B1. Historic Name: John G. Foley Home

B2. Common Name: 303 M Street

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: Residential

***B5. Architectural Style:** Queen Anne

***B6. Construction History:**

See continuation sheet.

***B7. Moved?** No

***B8. Related Features:** None

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme** Armenian Town

Area Fresno, California

Period of Significance c. 1902 / 1914-1960

Property Type Residential

Applicable Criteria i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno's Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). "Armenian Town" included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 303 M Street is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

***B12. References:**

Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk's Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; HistoricAerials.com; Google street view; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

***Date of Evaluation:** June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: John G. Foley Home / 303 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

The upper portion of the middle window is a multi-light window with a diamond-shaped pane in the center. All three windows are obscured by metal security grills. At the east façade, there are three window openings with 1/1 vinyl windows and wood surrounds. The windows are obscured by metal security grills, but all appear to be vinyl replacements. A wood, picket fence encircles the front yard.

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; gable-on-hip roof and gable roof over projecting bay; gables with wood shingle detailing; corner-bracket detailing above bay windows; original window openings (windows are vinyl replacements) narrow, beveled, wood siding applied horizontally; simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners; entrance porch with a hipped roof supported by turned, wood columns; porch balustrade and spindlework frieze; wood window surrounds.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The building was constructed c. 1902 (Sanborn Map, 1906). Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone very few modifications since it was built. There were a few additions at the back of the building sometime after 1970. From 1906 until at least 1970, there was a small dwelling at the rear of the property. The dwelling was demolished at an unknown date.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

According to city directories and census data, the first known resident at 303 M Street was John G. Foley, a driver for the Fresno Brewing Company and later a fruit buyer, who lived on the property from at least 1913 to 1918. Armenian immigrants Krikor and Araxie Shirinian lived on the property from at least 1925 through the 1940s; Krikor was a carpenter at a mill. (Early tenants were not found in pre-1920s city directories.) Farm laborer Arsen Chatoian and his wife, Mary, lived at 303 M Street from at least 1950 to 1960. Benancio Soto was there in 1970; Harry Sudjian in 1980; and Leslie Avakian in 1981.

Significance Statement

The residence at 303 M Street appears to retain high integrity, despite the vinyl window replacements. Aspects of integrity for location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Although the building is surrounded by other residential buildings on the block, integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property appears to meet the criteria for a City of Fresno Heritage property under criterion iii as a strong example of a Queen Anne cottage. Further, this property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 303 M Street is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

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 _____

Map Ref. #13

P1. Resource Name: Neverman Residence

Update (HP#097)

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South 1963 Photorevised 1981

c. Address: 309 M Street

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 468-234-06

***P3a. Description:** The Neverman Residence was designated to Fresno's Local Register on March 4th, 1980. The home was in the process of restoration in 2006, when it was inspected by a consultant for the City's Historic Preservation program. This nominally rectangular plan Queen Anne cottage has a hipped roof and lower cross gable with decorative shingles within the façade pediment. The eaves have a wide overhang and boxed cornice. The wood frame home is clad in horizontal lapped siding. A distinct character-defining feature is the spindlework frieze on the porch which partially wraps around the south elevation. The porch is supported by seven turned posts which connect to the frieze with brackets that have a delicate sawtooth pattern. A fixed picture window faces onto the porch. Most other visible windows are replaced 1/1 vinyl sash. The front door is offset to the south and obscured by a screen. The porch balustrade has been replaced since 1980. A seven sided window with faux muntins is located on the south elevation.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2

***P4. Resources Present:** ●Building ●Element of District



P5b Photo date: 8 June 2016

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** c1902, depicted on 1906 Sanborn, but not on 1898 map.

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Otillo and Hortencia Villasenor
309 M Street
Fresno, CA 93721-3009

***P8. Recorded by:**
Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 8 June 2016

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Armenian Town Historic District Nomination to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● District Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

***Required information**

Resource: Vacant lot (with car) and Map Reference #12 and #13

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 15 July 1016

■ Continuation



*P2. Location: Unrestricted

- *a. County; Fresno
- *b. USGS 7.5': Fresno South, CA, 1981
- c. Address 321 M Street Fresno, CA 93721
- d. Other Locational Data: APN - 46823404

*P3a. Description:

The residence at 321 M Street is one story in height and has a rectangular footprint. A pyramidal hipped roof covers the building. The roof is sheathed in composition shingle roofing. The building's walls are sheathed in narrow, beveled, wood siding applied horizontally. There is a simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners. A raised entrance porch with a hipped roof spans the width of the main (M Street) façade. The porch is accessed by concrete steps with low, concrete railings. The porch roof is supported by turned wood columns with lacy wood brackets. A wood balustrade with decorative carving encircles the porch. The primary entrance door is at the center of the main façade; it is obscured by a metal security door. A transom window is above the door. The door is flanked by two matching windows with original wood surrounds. All windows are obscured by screens, so material and number of lights are unknown. (See continuation sheet.)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2. Single Family Property



*P4. Resources Present: Building

P5b. Description of Photo:
Looking SW: Jan 2015

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic - c. 1912 (Sanborn maps)

*P7. Owner and Address:
Timothy Dockter
321 M St.
Fresno, CA 93721

*P8. Recorded by:
architecture + history
B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson
1715 Green Street
San Francisco CA 94123

*P9. Date Recorded: January 2015

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive Phase I

*P11. Report Citation: City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Resource Survey

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet

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

*Resource Name or # 321 M Street, Fresno, Ca 93721 *NRHP Status Code 5D3
 Page 2 of 3

B1. Historic Name: Andreas Bazolan Home **B2. Common Name:** 321 M Street
B3. Original Use: Residential **B4. Present Use:** Residential
***B5. Architectural Style:** Neoclassical Cottage
***B6. Construction History:**
 See continuation sheet.

***B7. Moved?** No
***B8. Related Features:** None
B9a. Architect: Unknown **b. Builder:** Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** Armenian Town **Area** Fresno, California
Period of Significance c. 1912 / 1914-1960 **Property Type** Residential **Applicable Criteria** i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno’s Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). “Armenian Town” included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 321 M Street is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

***B12. References:**
 Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk’s Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

***B14. Evaluator:** architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
 B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

***Date of Evaluation:** June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Andreas Bazolan Home / 321 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; pyramidal hipped roof; beveled wood siding; symmetrical façade; entrance porch with turned wood posts, decorative brackets, and carved balustrade; wood window surrounds; simple wood frieze and plain wood molding at corners.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The residence was constructed in c. 1912. Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone relatively few major modifications since it was built. A small addition was added to the rear of the building in 1949.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

According to city directories, one of the first known residents at 321 M Street was laborer/salesman Andreas Bazolan, who lived on the property from at least 1915 through 1920. In 1925, laborer Kasper Donabedian lived in the house. Tailor Moses Terzian and his wife, Anna, lived in the house in 1926. After that, tenants changed every five years or so: Serop Uncababian in 1930; Reuben Aivazian in 1940; Wayman Johnson in 1944; R. Deovletian in 1947; Luigi Feretti in 1950; Mihran Kasesian in 1960-1970; and Frank Blanco in 1980.

Significance Statement

The residence at 321 M Street appears to retain high integrity. Aspects of integrity for location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Although the building is surrounded by a few other residential buildings on the block, integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property does not appear to reach the level of significance necessary to be individually eligible for the Fresno Local Register of Historic Resources, California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places. This property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 321 M Street is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

Note: When considering the significance of Fresno's Armenian Town in light of the relative rarity of the resources associated with it, issues of integrity related to setting and loss of resources should be viewed with more flexibility than usual.

State of California The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code 5D3

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 3

*Resource Name or #: The Francis J. Haber Home – Resource Number 203a

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Unrestricted

*a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5': Fresno South, CA, 1981

c. Address 340 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721

d. Other Locational Data: APN – 46827119

*P3a. Description:

The residence at 340 Van Ness Avenue is a one-story building with a rectangular footprint. At the main (Van Ness Avenue) façade, the east side of the building projects into a bay. The building is covered by a hipped roof with overhanging, boxed eaves. The roof is sheathed in composition asphalt shingles. A hipped-roof dormer projects from the roof over the main façade; the dormer has a window flanked by two rectangular vents. The walls are sheathed in narrow, beveled, wood siding applied horizontally. There is a simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners. At the east side of the main façade, the projecting bay features three, wood, double-hung, 1/1 windows with wood surrounds. At the west side of the façade, there is a recessed entrance porch supported by round columns. A solid wood balustrade wraps the porch, and a simple frieze is suspended from the porch ceiling. The porch steps are concrete. The main entrance door is located off of the porch at the center of the main façade; it is obscured by a metal security door. (See continuation sheet.)

P5a.



*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2.
Single Family Property

*P4. Resources Present: Building

P5b. Description of Photo:

Looking SW: Jan 2015

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and

Source: Historic - c. 1908 (Sanborn maps)

*P7. Owner and Address:

Chilingerian Family

1275 S. Maple

Fresno, CA 93702

*P8. Recorded by:

architecture + history

B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson

1715 Green Street

San Francisco CA 94123

*P9. Date Recorded: January 2015

*P10. Survey Type: Intensive Phase I

*P11. Report Citation: City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Resource Survey

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet

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

*Resource Name or # 340 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, Ca 93721 *NRHP Status Code 5D3
 Page 2 of 3

B1. Historic Name: Francis J. Haber Home B2. Common Name: 340 Van Ness Avenue
 B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
 *B5. Architectural Style: Neoclassical Cottage
 *B6. Construction History:
 See continuation sheet.

*B7. Moved? No
 *B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
 *B10. Significance: Theme Armenian Town Area Fresno, California
 Period of Significance c. 1908 / 1914-1960 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno’s Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). “Armenian Town” included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 340 Van Ness Avenue is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

*B12. References:
 Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk’s Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; HistoricAerials.com; Google street view; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

*B14. Evaluator: architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
 B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

*Date of Evaluation: June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Francis J. Haber Home / 340 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

To the left of the door is a double-hung, 1/1 wood window with wood surround. Windows at secondary facades are double-hung, 1/1 wood windows with wood surrounds. A chain-link fence encircles the front yard.

A garage is located at the northwest corner of the property. The garage is covered by a gabled roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. Walls are vertical wood boards.

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; projecting bay; hipped roof; hipped-roof dormer; beveled wood siding; asymmetrical façade; double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds; recessed entrance porch supported by round columns with simple capitals; simple wood moldings at the roof lines and at corners.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The building was constructed sometime between 1906 and 1910 (c. 1908). Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone very few modifications since it was built.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

According to city directories and census data, the first known resident at 340 Van Ness Avenue was Francis J. Haber, who lived on the property from at least 1910 through 1915; Haber was a co-owner of the Haber Bros. real estate company. The residence was vacant in 1920. Mihran H. Simonian, an employee at Los Angeles Produce Company, lived on the property from at least 1925. Subsequent residents were V.M. Gafarian from at least 1929 through the 1940s; B.L. Sims in 1944; J.H. Merigian in 1950; William Smith in 1960; Frank R. Fackler in 1970; and Adeline Fackler in 1980.

Significance Statement

The building at 340 Van Ness Avenue appears to retain moderate integrity. Aspects of integrity for location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property does not appear to reach the level of significance necessary to be individually eligible for the Fresno Local Register of Historic Resources, California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places. This property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 340 Van Ness Avenue is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

Note: When considering the significance of Fresno's Armenian Town in light of the relative rarity of the resources associated with it, issues of integrity related to setting and loss of resources should be viewed with more flexibility than usual.

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. **Location:** Unrestricted

*a. **County:** Fresno

*b. **USGS 7.5':** Fresno South, CA, 1981

*c. **Address** 340 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721

*d. **Other Locational Data:** APN – 46827119

***P3a. Description:**

The residence at 342 Van Ness Avenue is a one-story building with a rectangular footprint. The building is covered by a gable-on-hip roof. The gables have a rectangular vent. Composition asphalt shingles clad the main and porch roofs. Clapboard wood siding, applied horizontally, covers the walls of the wood-framed building. There is a simple wood frieze at the roofline and plain wood molding applied vertically at the building's corners. The Van Ness façade is symmetrical. At the center is an entrance porch with a shed roof supported by wood posts. The main entrance door is at the center of the façade and is obscured by a metal security grill. To the left and right of the door are 2/2, double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds. There are two 2/2, double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds at the west façade. (See continuation sheet.)

P5a.



***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2.
Single Family Property

***P4. Resources Present:** Building

P5b. Description of Photo:
Looking SW: Jan 2015

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:** Historic - c. 1908 (Sanborn maps)

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Chilingirian Family
1275 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93702

***P8. Recorded by:**
architecture + history
B. Maley, J. Stock, S. Watson
1715 Green Street
San Francisco CA 94123

***P9. Date Recorded:** January 2015

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive Phase I

***P11. Report Citation:** City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Historic Resource Survey

***Attachments:** Building, Structure, and Object Record (BSO) and Continuation Sheet

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

*Resource Name or # 342 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, Ca 93721 *NRHP Status Code 5D3
 Page 2 of 3

B1. Historic Name: Hooliani Gafarian Home B2. Common Name: 342 Van Ness Avenue
 B3. Original Use: Residential B4. Present Use: Residential
 *B5. Architectural Style: Neoclassical Cottage
 *B6. Construction History:
 See continuation sheet.

*B7. Moved? No
 *B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown
 *B10. Significance: Theme Armenian Town Area Fresno, California
 Period of Significance c. 1908 / 1914-1960 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria i

Context: Armenian Town (1914-1960)

Armenians first settled west of Fresno's Southern Pacific tracks but around 1914 they began to move into a 64 square block area bounded by Broadway on the west, the Southern Pacific tracks on the south, O Street on the east, and Kern Street on the north (Bulbulian 2001:37). "Armenian Town" included residences, bakeries, schools and churches. In the early years Armenians preferred to live on lettered streets, I Street to O as well as on Los Angeles and Monterey Streets as these were paved and relatively free of dust in summer and mud in winter. Younger families began to move out of Armenian Town following World War II and by the 1960s and 1970s the neighborhood had lost its distinct ethnic identity (Bulbulian 2001:39). The southern section of this former ethnic enclave, from San Benito Street past Los Angeles Street, is included within the project boundaries although it is important to note that the construction and significance of some properties predates their association with Armenian Town. The residence at 340 Van Ness Avenue is one of hundreds of residential properties constructed in the project area around the turn of the 20th century. (See continuation sheet.)

*B12. References:
 Sanborn Maps City of Fresno (1918, 1928, 1931, 1950, 1970); Polk's Fresno City Directories; Building Permits; Ancestry.com; HistoricAerials.com; Google street view; and see City of Fresno South Van Ness Industrial District Survey and Context Statement Bibliography.

B13. Remarks: None.

*B14. Evaluator: architecture + history, llc, San Francisco, Ca
 B. Maley, J. Stock, and S. Watson

*Date of Evaluation: June 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name: Hooliani Gafarian Home / 340 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721
Page 3 of 3

P3a. Description (continued)

The building's character-defining features include: one-story massing; hipped roof with clipped gables; clapboard wood siding; symmetrical main façade; entrance porch with shed roof; multi-light, double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds; simple wood molding near the roofline and at corners.

B6. Construction History (continued)

The building was constructed sometime between 1906 and 1910 (i.e., c. 1908). Building permit and Sanborn map research reveals that the building has undergone very few modifications since it was built.

B10. Significance (continued)

Building History

According to city directories and census data, the first known resident at 342 Van Ness Avenue was Armenian immigrant, Hooliani Gafarian, who lived on the property from at least the 1920s through the 1950s. Subsequent residents were Setrak Abrahamian in the 1960s and Alice Brown in the 1970s and 80s.

Significance Statement

The residence at 342 Van Ness Avenue appears to retain moderate integrity. Aspects of integrity for location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are mostly intact. Integrity of setting has been diminished by the introduction of State Route 41 to the immediate west and the loss of a majority of residences that originally filled the surrounding blocks.

This property does not appear to reach the level of significance necessary to be individually eligible for the Fresno Local Register of Historic Resources, California Register of Historical Resources, or the National Register of Historic Places. This property appears to be a contributor to a discontinuous thematic historic district under the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Ordinance. The building at 342 Van Ness Avenue is one of a number of residential buildings in the South Van Ness Survey area that were once occupied by Fresno's Armenian community. These buildings share a common cultural history and are significant as the few extant remnants of Fresno's once thriving Armenian Town.

Note: When considering the significance of Fresno's Armenian Town in light of the relative rarity of the resources associated with it, issues of integrity related to setting and loss of resources should be viewed with more flexibility than usual.