

Emily Horn House  
2341 North First Street  
San Jose  
Santa Clara County  
California

HABS No. CA-2108

HABS,  
CAL,  
43-SANJOSE  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EMILY J. HORN HOUSE

HABS No. CA-2108

Location: 2341 N. First Street, San Jose, Santa Clara County,  
California.

USGS Milpitas Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates 10.595340.4137430

Present Owner: Eiichi E. Sakauye, 681 Trimble Road, East  
San Jose, CA 95131

Present Occupant: Paul Ramsey

Present Use: Residence

Significance: The house was built in 1906 by Emily Horn as a residence  
surrounded by pear orchards, which are still producing  
fruit. The domestic architecture reflects the prosperity of  
the orchard industry in the Santa Clara Valley, and the house  
has had only one owner since the original owner. It is now  
being threatened by the ever growing industrial expansion  
surrounding it.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The wooden frame structure is somewhat unusual with its rounded front and porch extending along the side.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one story and attic structure above a raised basement is rectangular in shape, approximately thirty-three feet by seventy-two feet and has three bays.
2. Foundation: Concrete, with concrete piers supporting the raised porch.
3. Walls: Narrow board wooden siding with a wooden water table and wooden drop siding skirting.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame structure, wooden posts in the basement in the center and concrete perimeter walls.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: There is a large raised porch across the northeast front that extends approximately two thirds the length of the house on the northwest. The porch is covered by the roof of the house and has wooden flooring and ceiling. The front steps on the southeast side are closed-string concrete and have an iron pipe railing in the center. The low parapet extending around the porch has tapered round wooden columns with a simple wooden capital and base, and a solid wood cap on top of the parapet. The rear steps to the porch are enclosed on the open side by a stepped wooden parapet and extend down from the southwest face.

There is a bulkhead to the basement on the northwest facade near the rear, that has double wooden doors. There is a similar bulkhead on the southeast facade, near the center of the house.

6. Chimneys: There is a chimney through the roof near the rear center of the house. The chimney is plastered and has a rectangular metal flue extending above it. The chimney on the northwest side, near the front, extends up from a stepped brick fireplace on the side of the wall at the porch, through the roof. The chimney steps above the roof, is plastered, and ends with two projecting bands at the top.
7. Openings:
- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance leads from the porch into an entrance hall. The wooden framed door has a large full-length glass panel with beveled edges. The wooden surround has a wooden sill and threshold. There is a doorway leading from the porch into the dining room. The wooden door has five horizontal panels, wooden surrounds, sill and threshold and a wooden framed screen door. There is a doorway from the kitchen leading to the porch. The wooden door has five horizontal panels, wooden surround, sill and threshold and a wooden framed screen door.
- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden windows have one-over-one double-hung sashes, wooden surrounds and sills. The windows in the curved bays have curved glass lights. There is a fixed wooden window sash to the left of the front door that has a glass panel with beveled edges. In the dormers on the two sides a wooden window with fixed sash is diamond-shaped. Wooden windows in the basement and sun room have two-light casement sashes. Some windows have screens.
8. Roof:
- a. Shape, covering: The high hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice has a frieze band with wooden dentils extending around the house, and a crown molding.

- c. Dormers, cupoals, towers: There is a dormer on the northeast front with a hipped roof, two windows, and wooden shingles on the sides. Gable ends on the northwest and southeast sides each have a diamond-shaped wooden windows, each have a diamond-shaped wooden window, with wooden siding gable faces.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans

- a. Basement: The large basement is raised and extends under the entrie house. It has a concrete floor and houses mechanical equipment and storage.
- b. First floor: The entrance from the porch opens into an entrance hall. There is a small closet on the southeast wall. A large double opening on the northwest leads into the living room, and a doorway on the southwest leads into a long hallway. The living room has a rounded bay across the northeast wall and a fireplace on the northwest wall. A large double opening, with sliding pocket doors, on the southwest leads into the dining room. There is a curved bay on the northwest and a doorway to the exterior in the corner of the southwest wall. Also on the southwest wall is a doorway in the center to the pantry with a built-in cupboard on each side. There is a doorway to the hallway on the southeast wall. The pantry has cupboards on each side, windows above the counter on the northwest wall and a doorway in the center to the kitchen. There is a doorway on the southeast wall opening into the stairway to the attic. The kitchen has a door on the northwest to the exterior porch with a window to its left side. There is a small closet on the southwest wall. There is a doorway to a small vestibule on the northeast. The vestibule leads into the hallway on the southeast and to the basement stairway on the northeast. To the right side of the hallway is a bedroom behind the kitchen, with a closet on the northeast wall. There is a window on the northwest and southwest walls. There is a window at the end of the hall. On the left side of the hallway, there is a bedroom behind the entrance hall, with a doorway leading into the bathroom near the center of the hallway. The bedroom has a round bay window on the southeast, a closet on the northeast and a doorway into the bathroom on the southwest. The bathroom has a window on the southeast wall and a doorway into an anteroom on the southwest. There is a doorway leading into a small dressing room on the southwest wall of the anteroom. The dressing room has built-in wooden cupboards across the southwest wall. A doorway on the left, near the end of the hallway, is a doorway to a sun room. It has windows around the southwest and southeast walls.
- c. Attic: The unfinished attic is used for storage.

2. Stairways: The wooden stairway to both the attic and basement have enclosed winder steps. There is a wooden handrail on the wall to the basement, and a doorway at the foot of the stairway.
3. Flooring: Wooden board flooring, some covered with carpets. The bath room is covered asphalt tile, and the kitchen and pantry are covered with linoleum.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are plastered, with picture moldings. The ceilings have curved coved edges at the walls. The pantry has vertical wooden boards on the walls. There is a vertical wooden board wainscoting with wooden chair rail in the kitchen. On the southwest wall of the kitchen there is a framed ceramic tile panel, with decorative ceramic tile top band, behind the stove.
5. Doorways and doors: Five-panel wooden doors with wooden surrounds. Those in the hallway, living room and dining room have graining. There are plinths at the door trim.
6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinetwork: The double opening from the entrance hall to the living room has a large wooden architrave that has been grained. There is a round tapered column sitting on a pedestal, that has inset panels, and a simple wooden capital. The head has cymatium-like molding.

The door and window surrounds have a cymatium-like head trim. The cupboards in the dining room have an architrave around each, with a cymatium-like head molding. There is a pair of glass doors in the upper section, a drawer in the center and wooden panel doors in the lower section. The back and side walls inside the cabinet are vertical wood boards.

The fireplace in the living room has a red tile chimney piece. The small rectangular tile have a rock-faced surface and are laid to resemble brick work. There is a wooden mantelshelf extending across the chimneypiece. Above the mantelshelf is a mirror framed by the rock-faced tile, and a wooden shelf extending across the width, above the mirror. Framing the fire box is an inset panel of the same sized tile, with smooth-faced surface and a few rock-faced tiles forming a decorative motif in the panel. The edges of the firebox have a black wrought-iron facing. There is also decorative black wrought iron around the mirror and in the corners of the smooth-faced inset panel. The glazed tile hearth is edged with a very narrow black tile band.

7. Mechanical:
  - a. Heating: There are radiators and also wrought iron grilles at the baseboards for forced air heating. The grilles are set in and the base trim extends up and over the grills, making it an integral part of the trim.

- b. Lighting: There is a hanging lighting fixture in the entrance hall, living room and dining room, each suspended from the ceiling by four brass rods. At the end of the rods is an inverted glass shade, richly embossed. The fixtures in the living room and dining room have four brass arms extending out over the sides of the center shade, each with a bare light globe. There is a small hanging light fixture in the pantry that is hung from a black frame and has a white opal shade.

A single hanging light fixture in the hallway has a small glass shade with one light bulb.

In the bedrooms, hanging light fixtures have a center brass rod with two arms, each having one light bulb.

- c. Plumbing: There is a wall-hung enameled cast iron lavatory in the west corner bedroom.

The bathroom has an enameled cast-iron, round-end bathtub with the plumbing piping on the outside of the fixture, exposed. The freestanding lavatory is a large oval pedestal type.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house sits on the southwest side of the street, back from the road. There is an almost identical house on the northwest side, and both are surrounded by pear orchards. The dirt driveway leads in from the street along the southeast side of the house. Across the street there are agricultural fields. There is a large redwood tree near the tank house.
2. Outbuildings: On the southeast side of the house across the driveway is a long arbor. The wooden structure has square posts, a wooden board gable roof with lattice gable ends, a concrete floor and is open on all sides.

The wooden tank house behind the house on the southwest is in poor condition. The tank has been removed and some of the narrow-board wooden siding has been removed.

There is a large wooden frame barn at the end of the driveway. The structure, in fair condition, has wooden siding, a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, open eaves and is used for storage. There are two garage doors on the northeast face with a hay door in the center on the gable end. The wooden garage doors slide on a face-mounted metal track and have twelve light panels in the top section.

Prepared by: John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
August 1980

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record in cooperation with the County of Santa Clara, California. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS Field Office, Santa Clara, California by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor of Architecture Texas Tech. University); David T. Marsh, Jr., Project Foreman (Howard University); Jeffery Flemming, Project Historian (University of Chicago); Jane Lidz, Architect/Photographer; and student Architects Kimberley E. Harden (Auburn University); Melody S. Linger (University of Florida); and Mathew Poe (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).