

August 16, 2017

Catherine Liu 11883 Shasta Spring Court Cupertino, California 95014

Subject: Historical Evaluation of the house at 316 Morse Avenue, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County, California.

Dear Catherine,

The letter report that follows, along with the DPR 523 form attached, comprise the evaluation of the property at 316 Morse Avenue, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County, California as required by the City of Sunnyvale.

Methodology

Brunzell Historical personnel conducted a site visit in July 2017. The site visit included collecting photographs of all exterior elevations of the buildings, the parcel, and the setting. Brunzell Historical conducted research through the City of Sunnyvale, the Santa Clara County Recorder's Office, the California Room at the San José Public Library, and online research at ancestry.com and other websites.

Summary of Findings

The City of Sunnyvale provided documentation from 1997 and 1988 indicating the property is on the local list of heritage resources. Although 316 Morse Avenue appears to have been added to that inventory in the late 1970s, the original DPR 523 form was not available. Both later documents call the house "considerably altered," and neither includes an evaluation section discussing the property's eligibility for historic listing under national, state, or local listing. In absence of any document arguing for the property's historical or architectural significance, the house appears to have been added to the list of heritage resources based on age alone. Broadly speaking, historic preservation practice and law require that qualified historic resources possess the following:

- Age: 50 years is the usual age threshold for consideration
- Significance: historic or architectural significance are required (criteria described below)
- Integrity: if a property is over 50 years old and qualifies under significance criteria, it must retain integrity

Significance Criteria

National Register of Historic Places

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- (a) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- (b) That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;

- (c) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- (d) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the area/region.

California Register of Historical Resources

California's standards are based on the national standards, and are stated slightly differently:

- 1) Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States (Criterion 1).
- 2) Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history (Criterion 2).
- 3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values (Criterion 3).
- 4) Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation (Criterion 4).

City of Sunnyvale Heritage Resources Inventory

The City of Sunnyvale has its own standards for its Heritage Resources Inventory, which restate the state and national criteria in greater detail.

- a) It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic engineering, architectural, or natural history;
- b) It is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history;
- c) It embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship;
- d) It is representative of the work of a notable builder, designer, or architect;
- e) It contributes to the significance of an historic area, being a geographically definable area possessing a concentration of historic or scenic properties or thematically related grouping of properties which contribute to each other and are unified aesthetically or by plan or physical development;
- f) It has a unique location or singular physical characteristic or is a view or vista representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city of Sunnyvale;
- g) It embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship that represents a significant structural or architectural achievement or innovation;
- h) It is similar to other distinctive properties, sites, areas, or objects based on a historic, cultural, or architectural motif;

- It reflects significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth, particular transportation modes, or distinctive examples of park or community planning;
- j) It is one of the few remaining examples in the city, region, state, or nation possessing distinguishing characteristics of an architectural or historic type or specimen;
- k) With respect to a local landmark, it is significant in that the resource materially benefits the historical character of a neighborhood or area, or the resource in its location represents an established and familiar visual feature of the community or city;
- l) With respect to a local landmark district, a collective high integrity of the district is essential to the sustained value of the separate individual resources;
- m) With respect to a designated landmark and designated landmark district, the heritage resource shall meet Criteria of the National Register of Historical Places, which are incorporated by reference into this chapter. (Ord. 2623-99 § 1; prior zoning code § 19.80.060).

Property Description

This property is located on a shady residential street. There are sidewalks on both sides of Morse Avenue. The house is close to the sidewalk, with a low wooden fence and small front yard in between. It is surrounded by tall trees. The building is one-and-a half stories with a composition shingle roof featuring several levels of gables; windows are aluminum sliders. The front door, on the west elevation, is accessed by a set of wooden steps with one concrete step at the bottom. Ivy grows over the doorway, and the door is flanked by decorative stained-glass windows.

There are multiple entrances, including a second-story entrance, on the north elevation. A simple wooden deck on the east elevation is sheltered by a corrugated metal awning. The backyard is surrounded by trees, with the ground covered in sparse grass and a concrete driveway north of the house. There are several small outbuildings to the east of the house, including a garage with front-gabled roof and clapboard siding with a shed-roof addition to its north and a prefabricated metal garden shed.

The house appears to have originally been a modest example of a Craftsman house. However, no photographs or plans of its original form have been discovered, and it has been altered so extensively it is difficult to discern its original characteristics.

Significance Evaluation

NRHP/CRHR

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) require that a significance criterion from A-D or 1-4 (respectively) be met for a resource to be eligible.

Criterion A/1: 316 Morse Avenue is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It was originally developed as a dwelling for a working-class family during Sunnyvale's twentieth century growth as a farm town. Every property is developed within a specific historic context; however, not every property is historically significant. Research has not revealed any significant associations between the property and the development of Sunnyvale, or with any other important historic context. The building is therefore not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion A/1.

Criterion B/2: 316 Morse Avenue is not significantly associated with the life of a person important to local, state, or national history. The Ferreira family were working-class members of Sunnyvale's Portuguese immigrant community. Research into their life histories has revealed no evidence that they were locally prominent or that they had any important impact on local history during the two decades they occupied the house. Therefore it is not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion B/2.

Criterion C/3: 316 Morse Avenue is not significant for its architecture. Its modest size and the simple massing of the original single-story front-gabled house indicate that it was a common example of inexpensive housing developed for working-class residents in the early twentieth century. Therefore, the house is not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion C/3.

Criterion D/4: In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies and be significant under Criterion D/4. 316 Morse Avenue does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

City of Sunnyvale

Although the City has a longer list of criteria than the NRHP or CRHR, its requirements are essentially a more detailed rendering of the state and national standards. The local criteria require historical or architectural/design significance like the state and national standards. In addition, a property may be locally significant as a neighborhood visual landmark, or because it is similar to another important local property, or because it is a rare surviving example of a property type. 316 Morse Avenue lacks significance under any of these criteria.

Integrity

Historic eligibility rests on integrity (the ability of a property to convey its historic identity) as well as significance. Loss of integrity, if sufficiently great, overwhelms significance and renders a property ineligible for historic listing. This property lacks significance, so integrity is irrelevant. However, if future research revealed significant associations between the property and an important historic context, it would still be ineligible for listing due to the extensive alterations that have been performed over the years. Many projects have resulted in radical changes to the property's original form. The most significant of these alterations are the large second story dormers (which destroyed the single-story massing and original roofline at the main façade), enclosure of the original front porch (an important character-defining feature of the main façade), replacement of wood-sash windows with inappropriate aluminum sliders, and replacement of wood siding with a variety of inappropriate modern materials. These changes altered original character-defining features and completely destroyed the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Therefore 316 Morse Avenue lacks sufficient integrity to convey its historic character.

Recommendations

The property lacks both the significance and integrity required for any level of historic listing. Research into its land use history and the City of Sunnyvale's documentation of the property's historic status did not reveal any rationale for its inclusion on the local Heritage Resource Inventory. It is likely that the property retained integrity when it was originally listed, but there is no evidence that it ever met the required significance criteria. 316 Morse Avenue should therefore be removed from the Heritage Resource Inventory in order to maintain the standards the City has set forth for inclusion on the list of historic resources. This action would both remove restrictions from the property that appear to have been applied in error and protect the credibility of the City's Heritage Resource Inventory.

Preparer's Qualifications

Kara Brunzell holds a Master's degree in Public History and has worked multiple facets of historic preservation and cultural resource evaluation since 2007. She meets the Secretary of Interior's Professional

Qualifications for both History and Architectural History. Her experience includes municipal preservation planning and working as the lead staff member of a non-profit preservation organization. Since 2012, she has worked full-time as a historical consultant, completing dozens of evaluations for CEQA and Section 106 compliance. Additionally, she has completed local and national register nominations, historic context statements, and HAER recordation. She frequently works in the greater Sacramento area and the Bay Area, and had also completed projects in Southern California, Oregon, and New York. In addition to work with historic-period domestic, agricultural, and commercial properties for private and municipal clients, she has evaluated post offices, military bases, university campuses, hospitals, church properties, and a NASA site. She is listed as a Historian and Architectural Historian on the California Office of Historic Preservation's roster of qualified consultants for every county in California.

Please contact me by phone at 707/290-2918 or e-mail at kara.brunzell@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kara Brunzell, M.A.

Architectural Historian

YMA & GUNGO

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*P9. Date Recorded: July 31, 2017 *P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Archaeological Record	Company (C)				
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*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive				Napa, California S	9 <u>4559</u>
PII. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter mone.) <u>None</u> Attachments: NONE ☒ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record		and the same		*P9. Date Record	led: July 31, 2017
Attachments: NONE 🗵 Location Map 🗆 Sketch Map 🗵 Continuation Sheet 🗵 Building, Structure, and Object Record 🗆 Archaeological Record				*P10. Survey Typ	e: (Describe) <u>Intensive</u>
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*NRHP Status Code 6Z

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 316 Morse Avenue

B1. Historic Name: 316 Morse Avenue B2. Common Name: 316 Morse Avenue

B3. Original Use: residence B4. Present Use: residence

*B5. Architectural Style: Unknown

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Original construction, c1931

1953, siding replaced

1969, remodel & reroof, (addition) 1978, repair & rehabilitate, (addition)

1980-81, kitchen remodel, water heater, window replacement

Unknown, (prior to 1988), second story dormer additions, front porch enclosure, greenhouse addition at south

Unknown (after 1988), projection added to dormers, greenhouse removed, addition to garage

*B7. Moved? ⊠ No ☐ Yes ☐ *B8. Related Features:	Unknown Date:		Original Location:	mand description
B9. Architect: none b. Builder:	Fred Ferreira			
*B10. Significance: Theme _	Residential Development	Area_	Sunnyvale	
Period of Significance	Property Type house	Арр	licable Criteria	
(Discuss importance in terms of hi	storical or architectural context as def	ined by	theme, period, and geographic scope.	Also address integrity.)

The house does not meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or the local City of Sunnyvale heritage resource inventory (see continuation sheet).

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

*B12. References:

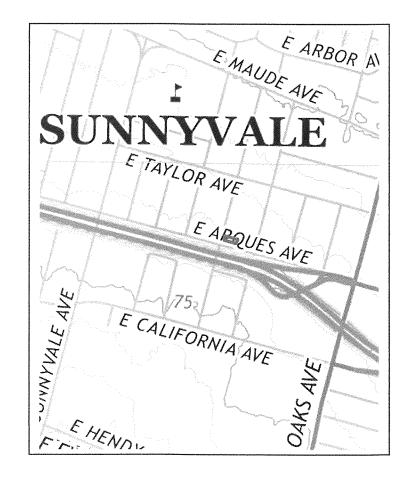
(See Footnotes)

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: Kara Brunzell

*Date of Evaluation: July 31, 2017

(This space reserved for official comments.)



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

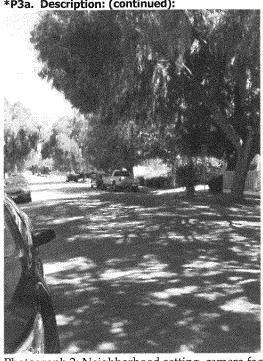
Primary # HRI# **Trinomial**

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 316 Morse Avenue Page 3 of 7

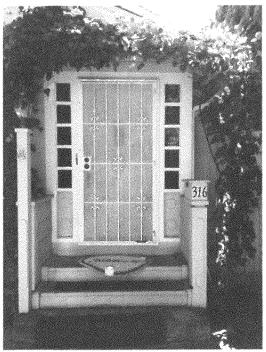
*Recorded by Kara Brunzell

*Date: July 31, 2017 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

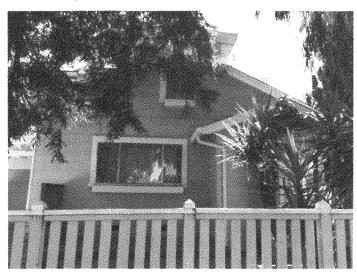
*P3a. Description: (continued):



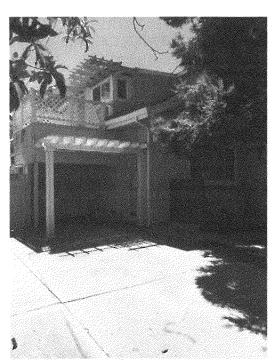
Photograph 2: Neighborhood setting, camera facing northeast, July 31, 2017.



Photograph 4: West elevation, detail, main entrance, camera facing east, July 31, 2017.



Photograph 3: West (main) elevation, camera facing east, July 31, 2017.

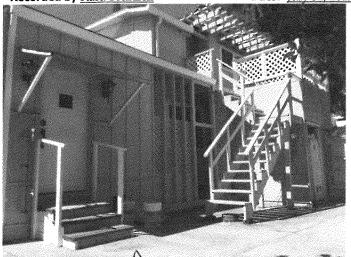


Photograph 5: West and north elevations, camera facing southeast, July 31, 2017.

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 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 316 Morse Avenue

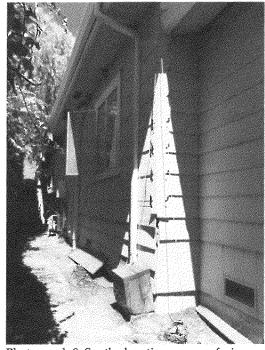
*Recorded by Kara Brunzell *Date: July 31, 2017 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



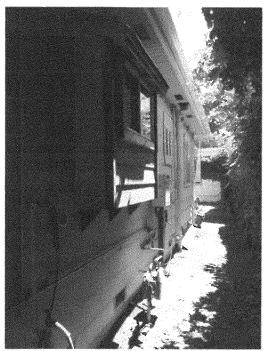
Photograph 6: North elevation, camera facing east, July 31, 2017.



Photograph 7: North and east elevations, camera facing west, July 31, 2017.



Photograph 8: South elevation, camera facing northwest, July 31, 2017.



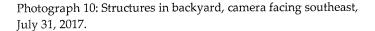
Photograph 9: South elevation, camera facing east, July 31, 2017.

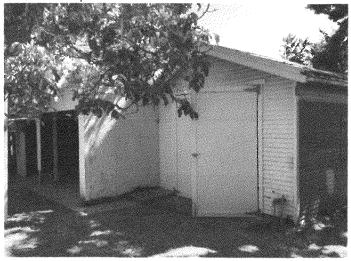
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*Recorded by Kara Brunzell *Date: July 31, 2017
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Photograph 11: Garage and adjoining shed, camera facing northeast, July 31, 2017.

B10. Significance (continued):

Sunnyvale

The Sunnyvale area, situated in the Santa Clara Valley between the southern Bay Area and the Santa Cruz mountains, was originally populated by Ohlone people. Spanish missionaries and explorers began arriving in the mid-18th century, and missions were established near the area beginning in the 1770s. In 1842, the Mexican government granted 8,800 acres to Francisco Estrada and his wife Inez Castro, calling it Rancho Pastoría de las Borregas in reference to its purpose raising herds for the mission. The expansive rancho covered the area that would become Sunnyvale and Mountain View. Rancho Pastoría de las Borregas was granted to Mariano Castro in 1845.

In 1850, Irish immigrant Martin Murphy Jr. established Bay View Ranch. He left Ireland in 1828, marrying his wife Mary in Quebec before they traveled to California together with three children in tow and another born on the way in 1844. Population growth began soon after the Murphys' arrival due to the Gold Rush. At one point, the Murphy family were the largest landowners in California. After Martin died in 1884 and Mary in 1892, their children divided the properties into 820-acre parcels, properties that would become the center of today's Sunnyvale.²

The San Francisco and San Jose Railroad was finished in 1864, becoming California's first complete railroad line; it passed through the Sunnyvale area thanks to Murphy's decision to allow the line to run across his property. Passenger and freight trains were running between San Francisco and San Jose, and stopping at Murphy's Station on the way, by 1870. The presence of the train station for shipping products attracted more farmers to the area, and the station gradually grew into a town. The first school opened in 1897. Charles Lincoln Stowell and Charles Clifton Spalding built the first large commercial building in town in 1906.³

Agriculture was the basis of the economy in Sunnyvale's early days; wheat was the primary crop at first, but tax laws and changes in soil made fruit more profitable around 1880. Walter Everett Crossman began a large housing tract in 1900, boosting local population and development; he called the area "Beautiful Murphy" and later "the City of Destiny." Murphy was the first name chosen by residents, but when the name was rejected for their post office, they settled on Sunnyvale. The 1906 earthquake devastated San Francisco but meant

¹ Nicholas Perry and Kimberly Chan, *Mountain View*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, 2012, ix; Diana Stickler, "A look back: Timeline of Mountain View history", San Jose Mercury News, February 25, 2007; Ben Koning and Anneke Metz with the Sunnyvale Historical Society, *Images of America: Sunnyvale*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, 2010, 8.

² Koning and Metz, 8, 11, 14, 19, 22; Perry and Chan, ix; Alia Wilson, "Driving through history: Sunnyvale's roots are traced through its street signs," The Mercury News, 22 September 2011.

³ Koning and Metz, 8, 13, 17; Wilson; SummerHill Homes: Communities of Distinction, "The History of Sunnyvale, California," SummerHill Homes Blog, 26 March 2015, accessed 9 August 2017.

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*Recorded by Kara Brunzell *Da

***Date:** <u>Iuly 31, 2017</u> **☒** Continuation ☐ Update

growth for Sunnyvale, as heavy manufacturers relocated there permanently following the disaster. Sunnyvale incorporated in 1912. The town campaigned for a naval base in the 1930s, and Naval Air Station Sunnyvale was established in 1933 between Sunnyvale and Mountain View, later becoming Moffett Field.⁴

The dominant industry in the area shifted gradually from agriculture through manufacturing to electronic technology. The construction of a plant for Sylvania Electronics Corp nearby was an early precedent to the region's focus on tech. Located at the heart of Silicon Valley, Sunnyvale was a hub of the computer revolution beginning in the 1970s. In the decades since, the tech industry has come to be a dominant factor in shaping the area, restructuring the economy and bringing in tech workers. Today, Silicon Valley is prosperous and high-priced, and the city of Sunnyvale is primarily suburban in character.⁵

316 Morse Avenue

According to Antony Kirk's 2014 DPR, the property at 316 Morse Avenue originally belonged to the Obourn Addition, which was subdivided in 1905 by Ira T. Obourn and was, at the time, south of Sunnyvale. It consisted of 15 lots. Obourn was born in 1862 in Pennsylvania to German immigrants. He lived in California as early as 1906 and married a woman named Alwilda, who was born around 1865 in Indiana. During his time in Sunnyvale, Obourn worked as a crane operator for Hendy's Iron Works as well as growing a 21-acre pear orchard. He died in 1948.6

Kirk writes that the house was constructed sometime between 1930 and 1932. It was probably built by Fred Ferreira, and has been referred to as the Ferreira House. Fred Ferreira was born in 1890 in Portugal. He married a woman named Madeleine about 1913, and Fred, Jr., the first of their eleven children, was born in Portugal the following year. By 1915, the family had moved to Santa Clara. After the construction of the house the Ferreiras lived there until at least 1944. By 1940, they were living in the house with eight children, who were between the ages of three and eighteen. Madeleine worked in a cannery for a time, like many other Portuguese immigrant women during this period. Fred was a common laborer and did farm work, moving into war work for the Oakland Foundry after 1940. Son Anthony joined U.S. navy as and served during World War II, while Fred, Jr. joined the merchant marines. In 1944, these two adult sons along with Beatrice and Angelina continued to reside at 316 Morse with their parents and the younger children. Manuel and Leonor C. Carvao purchased the property in 1948. Manuel Silveira Carvao was born in 1892 in Portugal. He immigrated to the United States as a teenager, arriving in 1910. In 1924, he married Leonor da Conceicao Bagaço; she was born in 1902 in Massachusetts. Their daughter Aldina was born in 1925, and son Gerald around 1933. At some point, according to Kirk, the Carvaos sold the property to their children Gerald and Aldina. Research did not reveal any evidence that the Carvao family ever lived in the house, and they apparently utilized it as a rental throughout the decades of their ownership. Manuel died in 1961 and Leonor in 1990. In 1991, the house was sold to Joseph Wible.

The house has been repeatedly and significantly altered over the years. Building permits were not required during the decades the Ferreiras occupied the house, but they are likely to have begun alterations within a few years of moving in. The original house would have been less than 1,000 square feet and by 1940 ten members of the family including two adults and four teenagers were residing there. They may have made small additions to the rear during this period. The bulk of the modifications took place after 1948. The Carvaos undertook many alteration and addition projects during the three decades they owned the house. Older building permits lack detail, and research has not revealed the first DPR 523 form for the house (which was presumably produced in the late 1970s), so the original footprint of the house and the dates of specific additions are unknown. The most significant changes to the building include:

- Replacement of original wood clapboard or drop siding (1953 & after 1988)
- Replacement of original wood windows with aluminum sliders (1980-81)
- Second story dormer addition (before 1988)
- Front porch enclosure & addition of decorative trim/sidelights (before 1988)
- Greenhouse addition at south (before 1988)

⁴ Koning and Metz, 8, 27; SummerHill Homes.

⁵ Stickler; Koning and Metz, 8.

⁶ City of Sunnyvale, "Images: Sunnyvale's Historic Resources," Prepared by the California History Center, De Anza College, 1988, 103; United States Federal Census, 1940; U.S. City Directories, 1822 – 1995; California, Death Index, 1940 – 1997.

⁷ 103; U.S. City Directories, 1822 – 1995; California, Death Index, 1940 – 1997; United States Federal Census, 1920, 1930, 1940; California, Marriage Index, 1949 – 1959.

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- Projection added to dormers (after 1988)
- Greenhouse removed (after 1988)
- Addition to garage (after 1988)
- · Additions of deck, exterior stairs, pergolas, etc. at rear (unknown)

Evaluation:

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) require that a significance criterion from A-D or 1-4 (respectively) be met for a resource to be eligible.

Criterion A/1: 316 Morse Avenue is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It was originally developed as a dwelling during Sunnyvale's twentieth century growth as a farm town. Every property is developed within a specific historic context; however, not every property is historically significant. Research has not revealed any significant associations between the property and the development of Sunnyvale, or with any other important historic context. The building is therefore not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion A/1.

Criterion B/2: 316 Morse Avenue is not significantly associated with the life of a person important to local, state, or national history. The Ferreira family were working-class members of Sunnyvale's Portuguese immigrant community. Research into their life histories has revealed no evidence that they were locally prominent or that they had any important impact on local history during the two decades they occupied the house. Therefore it is not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion B/2.

Criterion C/3: 316 Morse Avenue is not significant for its architecture. Its modest size and the simple massing of the original single-story front-gabled house indicate that it was a common example of inexpensive housing developed for working-class residents in the early twentieth century. Therefore, the house is not eligible to the NRHP or CRHR under Criterion C/3.

Criterion D/4: In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies and be significant under Criterion D/4. 316 Morse Avenue does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

Historic eligibility rests on integrity (the ability of a property to convey its historic identity) as well as significance. Loss of integrity, if sufficiently great, overwhelms significance and renders a property ineligible for historic listing. The property lacks significance, so integrity is irrelevant. However, if future research revealed significant associations between the property and an important historic context, it would still be ineligible for listing due to the extensive alterations that have been performed over the years. Many projects have resulted in radical changes to the property's original form. The most significant of these alterations are the large second story dormers (which destroyed the single-story massing and original roofline at the main façade), enclosure of the original front porch, replacement of wood-sash windows with inappropriate aluminum sliders, and replacement of wood siding with a variety of inappropriate modern materials. These changes altered its original character-defining features and completely destroyed the building's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Therefore 316 Morse Avenue lacks historic integrity.

The house lacks the significance and integrity required for historic listing and has been assigned a Historic Resource Status Code of 6Z, and therefore does not qualify as a historic resource under CEQA.