

**STAFF REPORT**  
**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**FILE NO.:** HL10-193, 1650 Senter Road, Coyote Post Office

**APPLICATION TYPE:**

Historic Landmark Nomination (HL)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Nomination of the subject building as a designated City Landmark

Existing Zoning	R-1-8 – Residence District
General Plan	Public Park and Open Space
Council District	7
Annexation Date	Original City
Historic Classification	n/a
Historic Area	n/a
SNI	Tully-Senter
Redevelopment Area	SNI
Specific Plan	N/A

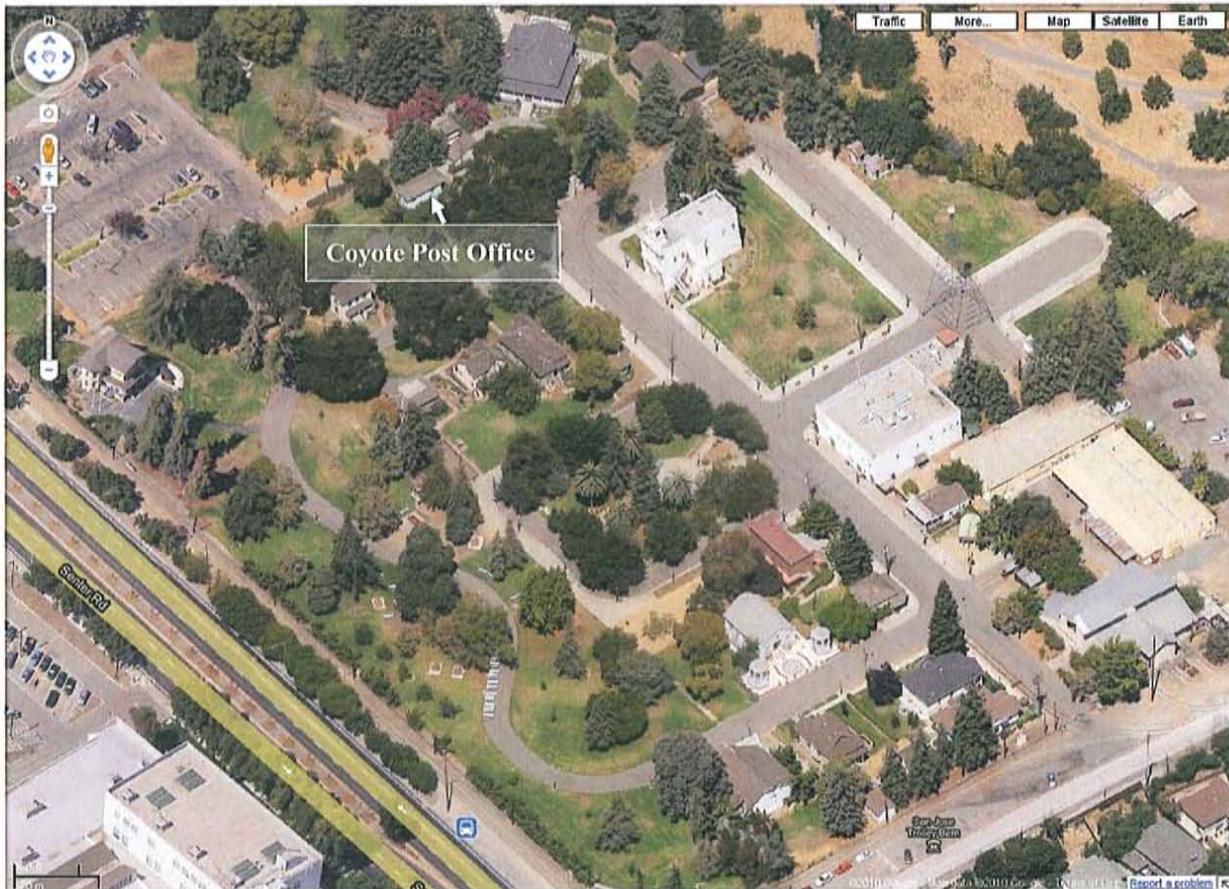


Figure 1. History San Jose site (Image source: Google Maps).

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OWNERS/APPLICANTS

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Owner: City of San Jose, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Applicant: History San Jose, attn: Alida Bray, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose CA 95112

## **BACKGROUND**

In August 2010, the Coyote Post Office was evaluated in a Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form and historic evaluation sheet. This building is a simply designed rectangular structure with a hipped roof that is representative of Post Offices from the past.

Although the building is a simple, utilitarian design, the building is individually eligible for listing as a City Landmark for its representation as a pre-1900 U.S. Post Office, and as the longest operating post office in the County, before it closed in 1972.

Designation of the structure as a City Landmark would establish the requirement for the issuance of Historic Preservation (HP) permits for City approval of any exterior changes proposed to the structure. The designation would also allow History San Jose to obtain grant funding through the County of Santa Clara for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the structure.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **I. Historic Landmark Criteria (HL10-193)**

In making the findings that a proposed landmark has special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of an historical nature, the Commission may consider, among other relevant factors, the following:

- (1) Its character, interest or value as part of the local, regional, state or national history, heritage or culture;
- (2) Its location as a site of a significant historic event;
- (3) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the local, regional, state or national culture and history;
- (4) Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the city of San José;
- (5) Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style;
- (6) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen;
- (7) Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city of San José;
- (8) Its embodiment of elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represents a significant architectural innovation or which is unique.

**Summary:** Based on the information in the historical evaluation prepared by Urban Programmers for the building, as discussed below, the structure merits designation as a historic landmark based on its value as a part of the City's heritage and culture, and for its exemplification of the history of communication within the Santa Clara Valley. The DPR form indicates that although the building was moved from its original location in the hamlet of Coyote to the History Park, the structure retains its ability to communicate the history of rural post offices both in Coyote, and in other rural districts in the San Jose area, including Berryessa, Linda Vista, Evergreen and the West Side of San Jose.

Under the definition for historical significance within the City of San Jose Historic Preservation Ordinance, the structure helps to embody the communications history of the valley, and characterizes the presence of the Federal Government within rural areas of San Jose. The structure meets the criteria for designation as a City of San Jose Historic Landmark Structure in conformance with San José's Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 13.48 of the Municipal Code). Under the definition for historical significance within the City of San José Historic Preservation Ordinance, the structure clearly has value of a historical nature. The structure qualifies for City Landmark status based on: Criterion (1), its character, interest or value as part of the local, regional, state or national history, heritage or culture for its exemplification of the history of rural post offices in the valley; and Criterion (4), for its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of the City of San Jose at a time when the post office was the only source for personal communication and commerce for the widespread ranches and farms of Santa Clara County.

## **GENERAL PLAN CONFORMANCE**

The Landmark Designation for these structures conforms to, and furthers, the San Jose 2020 General Plan *Urban Conservation/Preservation Major Strategy*. This strategy recognizes that preservation activities contribute visual evidence to a sense of community. The structures also further the policies in the *Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources (HACR), in particular Policy No. 2* states that the City should use the Area of Historic Sensitivity overlay and the landmark designation process of the Historic Preservation Ordinance to promote and enhance the preservation of historically or architecturally significant sites and structures.

## **CEQA**

The environmental impacts of the project will not have an unacceptable negative effect on adjacent property or properties in that the project has been determined exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 15331. The project is limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The proposed Landmark nomination was initiated by the property owner. A public hearing notice for the project was published in a local newspaper, and posted at the site. Information about the proposed projects and the associated public hearings has been made available through the

Planning Division web site, and staff has been available to answer questions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### HL10-193– Landmark Designation

Planning Staff recommends that the Commission, after holding a public hearing on the subject proposal, recommend that the City Council approve the proposed Landmark Designation of the Coyote Post Office as Historical Landmark No. 187 at the City Council hearing scheduled for November 2, 2010 at 1:30 PM.

**Project Manager:** John Davidson    **Approved by:** John Davidson    **Date:** 9/30/2010

**Attachments:**    Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) form  
                          Location map

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

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code NA

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 14 resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Coyote Post Office, History Park, San Jose

P1. Other Identifier: Coyote Post Office at History Park San Jose \*P2.

Location: Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*a. County Santa Clara and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad San Jose West Date 1980 T    ; R    ; 3 of 3 of Sec    ;     B.M.

c. Address 1650 Senter Road City Santa Clara Zip 95112

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10,601083 mE/ 41 31075 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

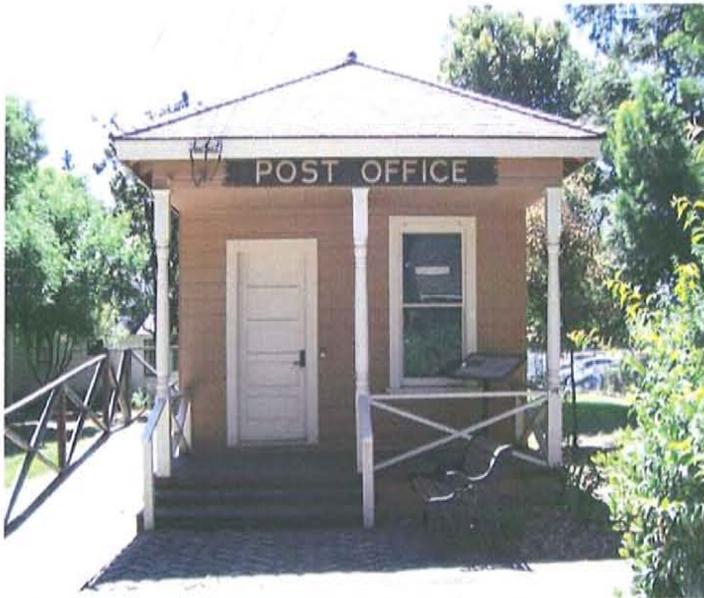
History Park - San Jose APN 47-38-001

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

History Park is located east of Senter Road and west of the Coyote Creek at Phelan Avenue. The 17 acre park includes historic buildings, reconstructed replicas of historic buildings and structures and an operating streetcar system. The grid of streets and open spaces allows the setting to communicate how the buildings related and functioned in their previous settings, albeit in a tranquil setting without urban congestion.

The Coyote Post Office is a single-story, rectangular wood frame building with a hipped roof. On the front façade, the roof covers a full width front porch that wraps to the south side facade. The porch supports are double turned posts that appear to be a mix of original and replaced members. The porch floor was recently replaced with in-kind wood boards. The main entry door is on the south side while divided single-pane windows are on the right. The building is covered with dropped wide-grove horizontal boards. The north facade has windows similar to the front façade. On the south (rear) facade there is a rear door and small window; these are set in plain board frames. The recent rehabilitation has provided in-kind replacement or repair of the elements that were severely deteriorated. The simply designed small wood building is representative of Post Offices from the past.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 6 Post Office, HP 14 City Museum



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

\*P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #)  
View Front Façade, 8/15/2010

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:  Historic  
 Prehistoric  Both  
Constructed: c.1895 - estimate

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
City of San Jose  
200 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose 95112

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)  
Bonnie Bamburg  
Urban Programmers  
10710 Ridgeview Avenue  
San Jose CA 95127

\*P9. Date Recorded: 8/20/2009

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Project Specific

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") San Jose Historic Museum Master Plan

\*Attachments: NONE  Location 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**

\*NRHP Status Code 5S1

Page 2 of 14 \*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Coyote Post Office at History Park, San Jose

- B1. Historic Name: Coyote Post Office  
B2. Common Name: Coyote Post Office At History Park  
B3. Original Use: Commercial/Govt. B4. Present Use: Historic Exhibit Building – History Museum  
\*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular Folk Victorian c. 1895  
\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Constructed c. 1895

\*B7. Moved? No  Yes  Unknown  Date: 1974 Original Location: Coyote, Santa Clara County

\*B8. Related Features:

History Park- Setting with other buildings of a similar age

B9a. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Government/Politics/Communication Area Santa Clara County  
Period of Significance 1907-1972 Property Type Commercial building Applicable Criteria NA

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)  
The Coyote Post Office is significant to the history of Santa Clara County for its association with *politics & government, communications*, and most recently for the association with *education* as an interpretive exhibit within History Park. It is a contributing and listed building in the *San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan* and EIR adopted by resolution of the San Jose City Council June 27, 1995, and is individually eligible as a City Landmark for its representation of a pre-1900 U.S. Post office, the longest operating post office in the County (possible the State) before it closed in 1972, further confirmed by a Historic Evaluation Tally of 80.66 points.

Coyote, the community originally known as Burnett Township, is located along the Coyote Creek on the El Camino Real, the trail connecting the Monterey and San Jose, as part of the chain that connected the California Missions and extended from Mexico to Sonoma. Always the important north south route, with the advent of automobiles it became a State Highway and is now known as State Highway #101 (Monterey highway). Settlement began with the Spanish Land Grant of Rancho Laguna Seca granted in 1834 by Governor Figueroa to Juan Alvarez. In 1842 the land was purchased at public auction by Captain William Fisher for \$6,000 .1 (Continued on page 3)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP 14 Commercial Building HP 15 – City Museum

\*B12. References: Official documents, U.S. Postal Service, An American History, U.S. Postal Service 2007, History San Jose, Coyote Post Office, Polk City Directories, U.S. Census Documents, SJ Historic Landmarks Correspondence.

B13. Remarks: The building has recently been rehabilitated and is in good condition.

\*B14. Evaluator: Bonnie Bamburg

\*Date of Evaluation: 8/20/2010

1. <http://dgmweb.net/FGS/F/FisherWilliamJ-iberataGCesena.html>

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

See attached location map Sheet 11

Page 3 of 14 Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Coyote Post Office - History Park, San Jose CA  
\*Recorded by: Urban Programmers \*Date August 20,2010 x Continuation Update

**B 10: .Significance continued;**

Fisher was a sea captain before purchasing the 20,000 acres after which he became a stock rancher who also planted grapes and was one of the early winemakers of the County. He brought his family to the ranch land in 1846. Fisher also operated a retail store in San Jose which he sold before he died in 1850, to Josiah Belden. His wife Liberata G. Fisher remarried twice, Dr. Bull and after he died, C. Paitti (grocer), who also left her a widow. She remained in Burnett until she was over 80 years old when she moved to 314 S. Sixth St. San Jose, where she died at age 89 in 1905. <sup>1</sup> The Fisher-Bull-Paitti family had several children, most of whom stayed in the Burnett or San Jose area as ranchers or merchants. Other pioneer families in the area were Martin Murphy Sr. who purchased land to the south in 1844, and William Tennant who purchased land to the east in 1852. Euogia Fisher, eldest daughter of William Fisher, married Daniel Murphy, son of Martin Murphy Sr., linking the two pioneer ranching families in the area. By the 1850's the population of Burnett Township was growing, spreading east and west into the hills, and by 1860, boasted farms, ranches and lumbering businesses that were served by a small township consisting of the first frame building to be constructed, the 12 Mile House, a tavern, hotel and blacksmith shop (believed to be twelve miles from the courthouse in San Jose). In 1862 this building added the first Burnett Township Post Office to its tenants.<sup>2</sup> The location, within a tavern building was handy since the service area extended from San Jose to Morgan Hill,<sup>3</sup> making patrons travel to send and receive their mail. Thus it was also a center for meeting and discussions. During the early years of settlement, mail was the only contact with relatives and businesses interests outside the immediate area. It was therefore a vital and essential part of the economic growth and well being of the region. Not only was communication accomplished but goods were ordered and delivered via the U.S. Mail Service and Rural Free Delivery. Initially operated with horseback riders or stage coach, the lucrative contracts for moving mail were won by the newly established railroads, the Santa Clara & Pajaro and in 1868-69 delivered mail to the Burnett Post Office. A year later that railroad was taken over by the Southern Pacific Railroad, and mail was carried from Burnett throughout the rail system. The community, named for the first governor of California, Peter Burnett, developed slowly continuing to serve additional farmers and a large seed company that located in the area. The 12 Mile House and post office, remained the center of the Township, with a few buildings including the Train Depot (c.1869), a grange hall (1892), and a single-story building (c.1905), constructed next to the 12 Mile House. By 1880, The Township boasted two physicians, Justice of the Peace L.J. Pinard and Constable William Fay<sup>4</sup>. In the mid 1890's the public school had two teachers. Most buildings were developed outside the center of town and were agricultural or residences. With agriculture the main industry, water was of great importance leading to the Citizens Water Company that paid \$111,600 for the land containing Laguna Seca Lake and by the early 1890's was constructing irrigation canals to deliver water to the orchards.<sup>5</sup> After a dispute over financial dealings between the U.S. Post Office/Post Master and the tavern owner, it was brought to light that U.S. Postal Service regulations did not allow the mail facility to be in the same building

<sup>1</sup> <http://dgmweb.net/FGS/F/FisherWilliamJ-LiberataGCesena.html>

<sup>2</sup> History San Jose, Coyote Post Office

<sup>3</sup> San Jose Mercury, Sunshine Fruit and Flowers, Smith-Eaton Press, San Jose 1895:20

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census 1880;

<sup>5</sup> San Jose Mercury, Sunshine Fruit and Flowers, Smith-Eaton Press, San Jose 1895:219

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\*Recorded by: Urban Programmers \*Date August 20,2010 x Continuation Update

**B 10: Significance cont.**

as a tavern serving liquor. In 1907, the Coyote Post Office moved into the small building next door where it remained the communications center of Coyote until 1972. It was at that time known as the longest continuously operating Post Office in Santa Clara County. It was also known as the most dilapidated with the Postmaster having to make do with cast-off equipment and furnishings. Prior to 1970, there was no phone in the Post Office, after the phone was installed customers could contact the Postmaster without having to come into the building. In 1972, the function of the Coyote Post Office was slated to be transferred to a new building further away from the road. Caltrans had determined that to accommodate better safety for motorists and local businesses, highway improvements, including widening the roadway were necessary. The new alignment included the land under the old post office building, requiring the building be demolished or moved. Past and then present members of the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission persuaded Santa Clara County and Caltrans to move the building to the San Jose Historical Museum in Kelly Park (History Park) where it arrived in 1974. The relocation met the recently enacted California Environmental Quality Act and, and was the result of consultation through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to preserve a historic resource important to the history of Santa Clara County.

Postmasters and Postmistresses were usually political appointments to fulfill the duties as set forth by the US Postal System. They were often the owners of the building, a grocery or drug store, or a spouse of someone of responsibility in the community. The U.S. Census for 1869-1900 does not list a postmaster for Burnett indicating the position was part-time and not a primary occupation. In 1895 the Postmaster was Emile Heple.<sup>6</sup> The postmaster who moved the Coyote Post Office from the 12 Mile House tavern into the single-story building was Frank S Dassel, who served as Post Master from 1906-1912 while operating a horse farm where he was the trainer.<sup>7</sup> Frank was born in the Washington District of Alameda County and prior to moving to Coyote, lived in San Jose where he was a grocer<sup>8</sup>. From 1913-1916, the City Directory does not list a postmaster in Coyote. The postmaster from 1917-1920 was Albert R. Straub. There is no listing for the years 1917-1922. In 1923, Signe Ober, the eldest of five children born in California to Alfred and Jeannie Ober, was Postmistress. The Obers emigrated from Sweden in the mid 1890's. Signe was 23 when she assumed the position which she held from 1923 to 1926. Mary A. Rodoni followed in 1927, at the age of 56, holding the position as Postmistress of Coyote for a total of 18 years until 1945<sup>9</sup>. Mary was the wife of Antonio A. Rodoni, a Section Foreman for the Southern Pacific Railroad who died in 1944. The next Post Master of the Coyote Post Office was Floyd W. Patterson who began in 1946 and remained into the late 1950's.

<sup>6</sup> San Jose Mercury, Sunshine Fruit & Flowers, Smith Eaton Press San Jose, 1896:219

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census 1910 Burnett Township Santa Clara County CA

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census, 1910 San Jose Fourth Ward, Santa Clara County CA

<sup>9</sup> Polk City Directories

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### B 10: Significance cont

#### Background and brief context statement regarding the U.S. Postal Service <sup>10</sup>

During the nineteenth century, the postal system served as the main and, for a long time, the only means of long distance communication. It provided both a physical and intellectual link between parties that were great distances apart. In the process of providing and increasing its services, the U.S. Post Office Department influenced the development of aspects of the nation's history other than communications, including transportation, publishing and commerce. Efforts to increase the speed and efficiency of mail delivery and competition for government contracts to carry mail, encouraged the growth of roads, railroads, shipping lines and eventually airlines. Congressional franking, special newspaper rates, the acceptance of books for delivery, and free delivery for cities and eventually rural areas spurred a boom in the publishing business by offering inexpensive rates and wide distribution of newspapers, journals, magazines, catalogs and paperback books. Mail order businesses benefited from reduced rates for catalogs, rural free delivery and parcel post service. Through the use of flat rates, stamps and envelopes, registered mail and money orders, and free delivery in many cities, the basic structure of modern postal service had been implemented by the time of the Civil War. Important services instituted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included rural free delivery, parcel post and postal savings. Long advocated by farmers, rural free delivery, which began experimentally in 1896 and became permanent a few years later, greatly reduced the isolation of rural areas. Between 1897 and 1908, local governments spent millions to improve roads in order to qualify for rural delivery service. This service resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of post offices in small communities, in which commercial establishments had sometimes been supported by necessary periodic visits of rural citizens to pick up mail. Parcel post, inaugurated in 1913, provided another great convenience to rural areas, which were often unprofitable for private express companies. The authorization of postal savings banks in 1910 encouraged thrift, increased the amount of money in circulation and provided security, especially for those without access to banks. They became particularly popular during the Great Depression of the 1930s, when the government inspired greater confidence than did private financial institutions. Communities applied to the U.S. postmaster general for the establishment of a local post office. Such requests were granted when the Post Office Department determined that a sufficient population existed to warrant establishing regular service. The official establishment of a post office literally put a community on the map. The establishment of a post office represented a commitment by the U.S. government to provide mail delivery and to appoint and pay for the services of a postmaster (or postmistress) and it was often the first government exercise in the community. Except in the largest of communities, the postmaster assumed responsibility for establishing the official post office facility. Occasionally, early postmasters established the post office in their own residence, but most often the facility operated in a commercial building, usually a retail store. Retailers welcomed such post offices, as the need to pick up and send letters and parcels brought a steady stream of potential customers. Often the business owner or spouse held the position of Postmaster.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Postal Service- An American History, U.S. Postal Service, 2007

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**B 10: Significance cont.**

In Santa Clara County, by the early 1900's, the larger cities such as San Jose, Santa Clara, Gilroy, and Palo Alto had federally planned post office buildings and politically appointed postmasters. Smaller towns and rural communities were often a partnership between a building owner and the federal government who leased the property. Coyote, like many small unincorporated communities, relied upon a partnership with part-time postmasters until 1923. Even with part time postmasters, the federal postal service maintained the communication link. In fact, the smaller post offices often provided more personalized service and created more of a community gathering spot than occurred in the larger city facilities. The small, rural post office remained the center of the community communication and was evidence of a contract with the federal government, often the first government element in the community.<sup>11</sup>

As the Postal Service became more efficient in the 1970's, many of the small post offices were closed and the service routed to larger facilities that did not have the personal charm or interaction of the small facilities. Roadside drop boxes replaced the post office in many areas. These were found to be problematic, attractive to vandals and limited in what could be deposited. After September 11, 2002, heightened security became a factor in removing most of the drop boxes. Another change occurred, (repeating history) whereby businesses, drug stores and grocery supermarkets began seeking the added enhancement of providing a postal and mailing center. These neighborhood facilities brought a more personal touch to the postal customer and since most have a clerk or staff person behind the "mail counter" they serve as security screeners.

In summary, the Coyote Post Office qualifies for San Jose City Landmark designation in the area of *politics/government* for its association with the federal government's role in establishing and maintaining local facilities for the delivery and shipment of mail. The post office represented the most visible presence of the federal government in the day-to-day life of rural communities. In the case of small non-federally owned buildings such as the Coyote Post Office, the building represented a partnership between the federal government and a local citizen to provide a link in the national mail network.

The period of significance for *politics/government* starts in 1907, when the post office moved to the small building and extends until 1970, the period of when the post office occupied the building. The Coyote Post Office is also significant in the area of *communications* for its association as the important local communication venue. A post office and its mail services provided the primary means of communication between those living in distant communities throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, particularly for those in rural communities like Coyote. A post office also became an informal location for exchanging information and conversations as well as the place for the posting government or community notices and information. The period of significance for this association is also 1907-1970.

Historically significant activity associated with the Coyote Post Office extends beyond 1974 and the relocation to History Park. After 1974, the significance is ascribed to *education* in recognition of the

<sup>11</sup> Monro, J.P. History of Santa Clara County, California Public Service Section, 1881

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preserved historic building providing interpretive Post Office exhibits as a contributing building in the San Jose Historical Museum Master Plan (History Park).

### Historical and Architectural Evaluation -City of San Jose Historic Landmark Criteria/Evaluation

The definition and criteria for evaluating a potential San Jose Historic Landmark are taken from the San Jose Historic Preservation Ordinance # 17 927 and appear in italic print.

Definition: *Historical Nature. The term "historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of an historical nature" shall mean a quality that derives from, is based upon, or related to any of the following factors:*

*1. Identification or association with persons, eras or events that have contributed to local, regional, state or national history, heritage or culture in a distinctive, significant or important way;*

The Coyote Post Office building that is the subject of this evaluation was constructed in Coyote, outside San Jose, during San Jose's Horticulture Era, 1870-1918. The building became the Coyote Post Office in 1907 and remained the center of communications for the community until the early 1970's. It is associated with the early operations of the US Postal Service the federal government, regional communication and development. The building was moved to San Jose and the Historical Museum in 1974, after which it is associated with education as a contributor to the exhibits at History Park. Although it was originally located outside San Jose, it contributes to the overall understanding of U. S. Postal Service as it served the rural communities through larger federal Post Office facilities such as the San Jose Post Office, and thus extends the understanding of how the postal service operated in and served the region. The building appears to be significant under Criteria 1.

*2. Identification as, or association with, a distinctive, significant or important work or vestige:*

*a. Of an architectural style, design or method of construction:*

*b. Of a master architect, builder, artist or craftsman:*

The architect was not identified and it is unlikely that one was used. The builder appears to have been from the local Coyote community. The original work was fair quality. It is not the work of a master craftsman.

*c. Of high artistic merit:*

The vernacular architecture does not represent high artistic design

*d. The totality of which comprises a distinctive, significant or important work or vestige whose component parts may lack the same attributes:*

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The Coyote Post Office is a contributing element in the large group of buildings, structures and systems that are History Park. In this context the totality comprises a distinctive and significant group of buildings in San Jose. The complex of buildings represents a distinctive vestige whose components may not all achieve the high historic or architectural attributes.

- e. *That has yielded or is substantially likely to yield information of value about history, architecture, engineering, culture or aesthetics, or that provides for existing and future generations an example of the physical surroundings in which past generations lived or worked:*

The building was moved to History Park and accepted by the San Jose City Council so that it could contribute and inform existing and future generations about the postal service use and the vernacular architecture and period construction.

- f. *That the construction materials or engineering methods used in the proposed landmark are unusual or significant or uniquely effective.*

The materials used in the construction and engineering methods are common, mostly milled wood members that are not significant or unusual, and are common in construction from the Horticulture Era.

3. *The factor of age alone does not necessarily confer a special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic or engineering significance, value or interest upon a structure or site, but it may have such effect if a more distinctive, significant or important example thereof no longer exists.*

The Coyote Post Office appears to be the last of its type in Santa Clara County. It was known to be the oldest operating post office in the County prior to closing. As such it is considered to be a significant historic resource.

San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission's Evaluation for Significance establishes the following levels of significance:

33-134 Evaluate for San Jose Historic Landmark  
32-0 Non-significant

In summary, the Coyote Post Office at History Park represents a significant building of landmark quality in San Jose. Evaluated using the Historic and Architectural Tally Sheet, the facility rated 80.66 points in the category of Candidate City Landmark. The Tally sheets are attached.

Generally, buildings that have been moved away from their original community are not eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places. However both registers make allowances for buildings that are otherwise eligible for listing and have been moved if the relocation was to prevent demolition and the relocation preserves the historic

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resource in a location that retains most of the elements of integrity, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

*Section 15064.5(b) (1) and (2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that demolition or the destruction, relocation or alteration activities that would impair the significance of a historic resource results in a "substantial adverse change."*

*Relocation of an historical resource may constitute an adverse impact to the resource. However, in situations where relocation is the only feasible alternative to demolition, relocation may mitigate below a level of significance provided that the new location is compatible with the original character and use of the historical resource and the resource retains eligibility for listing on the California register (14 CCR Section 4852 (d) (1)).*

The location in History Park provides a setting that conforms with much of the integrity elements. Facing a main street the Coyote Post Office is in proximity to buildings of a similar age as was found in the original setting. All but the attribute of original location are met. The Coyote Post Office in History Park appears to retain its eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources.

#### **B 12: References, Continued:**

Arbuckle, C., Clyde Arbuckle's History of San Jose, Smith McKay, San Jose, 1985

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CITY DIRECTORIES FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA;

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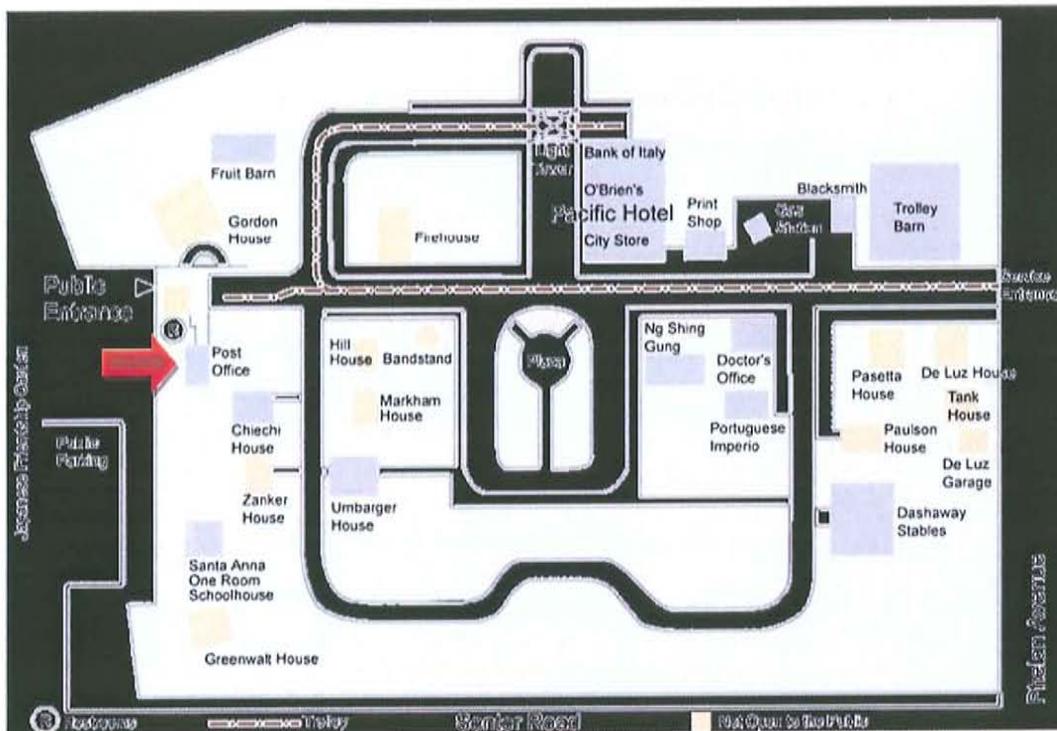
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**Sketch Map- History Park, San Jose CA**



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**P 5 Photographs: Coyote Post Office at History Park San Jose**



Photograph # 2 Coyote Post Office- History Park  
View: Front façade (north) and east façade showing the access compliant ramp that was part of the rehabilitation and repair done in 2010.  
Camera Facing North east  
Date of Photograph: August 15, 2010

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#

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Photograph # 3 Coyote Post Office- History Park  
View: Rear façade (south) showing the repaired porch and wood door replaced during rehabilitation in 2010.  
Camera Facing: Northwest  
Date of Photograph: August 15, 2010

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\*Recorded by: Urban Programmers \*Date August 20, 2010 x Continuation Update



Photograph # 4 Coyote Post Office- History Park  
View: West façade showing the rehabilitation (painting) in 2010.  
Camera Facing: Southeast  
Date of Photograph: August 15, 2010

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LAMONCE E. STONE - ASSESSOR  
 Located map for street and premises  
 Reference to the City of San Jose  
 Planning Dept. No. 200-10000

Location Map

File Nos. HL10-192, -193, -194, -195