

October 4, 2021

To: The Historical and Landmarks Commission

From: Lorie Garcia, City Historian, City of Santa Clara

RE: January 2021, Historic Resources Survey Report by William Kostura.

Dear Commissioners.

On page 6. Mr. Kostura writes, "Information supplied by the owner states that the Sisters of the Holy Family of the Roman Catholic church taught catechism classes in this house in 1929 and 1946, and presumably in the intervening years. **This information could not be verified and is not supported by the city directory research cited above.** The owner also supplied some chain-of-title information from recent decades that does support a history of Roman Catholic Church ownership:"

For the record, I would like to state that from early on and prior to the Church's sale of the home to John Kiely (the brother of Mayor William Kiely) Sainte Claire's Parish did own the property at 1390 Madison Street and that the home provided housing for religious personnel along with migrant and transient workers. Also, it is correct that students from Fremont Elementary School came here after school to be taught catechism by the parish sisters.

For those of you who might not know, Fremont Elementary School was located where the Senior Center is today on the corner of Fremont and Monroe. Prior to Urban Redevelopment, Madison Street continued through the land that runs today between the Senior Center and Fremont Park from Fremont Street to Harrison Street (you can still see the street trees), so the school was only a block away from the home at 1390 Madison.

Thirty plus years ago, when Ralph and Teresa turned the house into Santa Clara's first B&B (and still its only one) I found the information about Sainte Claire's ownership and use of the home in the Parish Records. I also spoke to several elderly people who had been there for their catechism classes.

Sincerely, Lorie Garcia

Historical Advisor to the Historical and Landmarks Commission