

# San Jose Redevelopment Agency downtown project **fact sheet**



Construction:  
1925

Start of Renovation:  
2006

Completion:  
2008

**Project:** Sainte Claire Building

**Description:** The historic Sainte Claire Building, built in 1925, received an extensive rehabilitation. The 44,000-square-foot building underwent seismic retrofitting and preservation work on its original terra cotta facade, staircase, and elevator lobbies. In 1973, the building's upper floors were destroyed by a fire and now, after a 35-year vacancy, have been rebuilt and feature 36 apartment units.

The Sainte Claire Building, designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Weeks & Day, the architects of the adjacent California Theatre, was designated as a City of San Jose Landmark in 2001. The building is home to Original Joe's, the anchor tenant since 1956, and a new tenant, Caffe Trieste

**Location:** 311 South First Street (at San Carlos Street)

**Benefit:** The rehabilitation of the Sainte Claire Building preserves an important Downtown structure and City Landmark and enlivens a central Downtown corner. After a 35-year vacancy, the upper-floors of the building have been transformed from its fire-damaged status to 36 apartment units, serving the growing downtown population.

**Features:**

- 44,000-square-foot mixed use building
- Original exterior terra-cotta facade, lobby tile, and marble
- Rooftop patio
- Two high-quality tenants: Original Joe's and Caffe Trieste
- 36 apartments
  - 7-affordable units
  - High-ceilings, extensive glazing, historic features

**Total Costs:** \$11.4 million  
\$8.4 million from private investment  
\$3 million from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency

**Project Team:** Council District: 3  
Developer: Saratoga Capitol, Inc.  
Architect: Weeks & Day, MBH Architects  
Contractor: Garden City Construction  
Owner: Pacific Properties III