

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

Primary #  
 HRI #  
 Trinomial  
 NRHP Status Code NR5

Other Listings  
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

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\*Resource Name or #: field

**P1. Other Identifier:** James Morrissey House

**\*P2. Location:**  Not for Publication  Unrestricted

\*a. County: Santa Cruz County and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: T ; R ; \_ of \_ of Sec ; M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 1615 El Dorado Ave City: Santa Cruz Zip: 95062

d. UTM: Zone: mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
 APN 026-181-23

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

The two story Italianate farm house is rectilinear in plan with a gable end with returns and a single story addition. Rustic wood siding and brick chimney. The main entry is on the side elevation (north elevation) in the Italianate style with an asymmetrical inset entryway, deep hood and brackets and pilasters. Windows have four-over-four wood sashes, deep hoods, brackets and wood trim and drop sill. Rear windows (south) have simple wood trim. Windows on addition have combination sliders and wood sashes. The farm house was built by Jame Morrissey who owned the wheat farm of more than 125 acres. The original carriage house has been converted to residence.

Significance: The property retains the materials, features, forms and setting and use of an early Live Oak farm house and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR5

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP2; NR5

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

P5a. Photo or Drawing



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**  Historic  Prehistoric  
 Both

1885

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

La Francesca, Christine

1615 El Dorado

Santa Cruz, 95062

**\*P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)

Sheila McElroy

Circa: Historic Property Development

One Sutter St. # 910

San Francisco, CA 94104

with Phil Reader and Ross Gibson

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** July 30, 2004

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

Reconnaissance Survey

**\*P11. Report Citation:**

**\*Attachments:**  NONE  Location Map  Sketch 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**

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Field

B1. Historic Name: James Morrissey House

B2. Common Name: Morrissey House

B3. Original Use: Residence

B4. Present Use: Same

\*B5. Architectural Style: Italianate

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
Dwelling and carriage house circa 1880, garage/shed unknown

\*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date:

Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features:

Carriage house

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Pioneer family residence

Area: Santa Cruz/Live Oak

Period of Significance: 1880-1932

Property Type: Residence

Applicable Criteria: SC Co.

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

In 1860 James Morrissey and his brother Patrick, immigrated to Santa Cruz from Ireland to work at the paper mill. After 20 years both brothers were able to purchase large farms in the eastern section of Santa Cruz. In 1880, James Morrissey bought 90 acres of flatland in the Live Oak district. In contemporary terms the boundaries were Capitola Road (Lower Soquel Road), 17th Avenue, Harper Street and El Dorado Avenue. Soon after purchasing the property James Morrissey married Bridget Donahue. In 1880 they began construction of the subject residence. They developed the property into a first-class wheat farm and added a large orchard below the house along Capitola Road. J. Morrissey helped form the Santa Cruz - Live Oak Grange and served on the S. C. Farm Fair Board. After the turn of the century James helped create the Live Oak Farm center with the State of California Farm Bureau. James and Bridget were active in many community organizations. They remained residents until the time of their deaths, 1923 and 1932 respectively. Morrissey Avenue is named after this early Live Oak pioneer family. The original acreage has been subdivided, however the residence and carriage house remain, and retain a high level of integrity.

Significance: The property retains the materials, features, forms, setting and use of an early Live Oak farm house and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR5 on the local level.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2 single family residence; HP 4 ancillary building

\*B12. References: *Field Guide to American Houses*, McAlester, 1997; *Great Registers*, Santa Cruz County - 1884, 1890, 1914.; *Polk St. Directories*, Santa Cruz, 1892, 1902, to 1923; *Cruz Sentinel*, March 6, 1923; *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 6, 1923; *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 24, 1932; *Tract Maps*, Wilson Brothers Poultry Tracts, Santa Cruz Co.

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator:

Sheila McElroy

Circa: Historic Property Development

One Sutter St. # 910

San Francisco, CA 94104

\*Date of Evaluation: 4/17/06

(This space reserved for official comments.)

