

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 #: #007

P1. Other Identifier: Japanese Cultural Center

***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 Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted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: 300 7th Avenue

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 027-103-11

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)
 The structure is rectilinear in plan with front gable roof and a flat over hang (visor awning) with double brackets in the Craftsman style. The wood frame store front may be original, although the aluminum frame doors are new. The building is now sided on two sides in wood shingles however, the original V-groove wood siding on the remaining two sides. There are 5 paired original one-over-one wood sash windows. The building was built by the Japanese Clutural Association in 1934 to hold langage classes as well as Buddhist services. After 1942, with the relocation of the Japanese, the building was auctioned off.

Significance: The property retains much of the original features including material, elements, forms and setting of an ethnic/minority community center in Live Oak and meets the County of Santa Cruz criteria for a historic resource NR5.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP13; 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 #) front view

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

1934

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Rivers, Maria
 711 Carmel Street
 Santa Cruz, CA95062

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)
 Sheila McElroy
 Circa: Historic Property Development
 One Sutter St. # 910
 San Francisco, CA 94104
 with Ross Gibson and Phil Reader

***P9. Date Recorded:** 7/28/04

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

***P11. Report Citation:**
 Live Oak Folks, Oral History
 project, 1981

***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

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*NRHP Status Code NR5

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) 007

B1. Historic Name: Japanese Cultural Center

B2. Common Name:

B3. Original Use: Cultural center

B4. Present Use: Offices

*B5. Architectural Style: Craftsman

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
1930s; remodeled 1945

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: 1945 Original Location: 17th Avenue near present day Methodist Church

*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme: Japanese community

Area: Santa Cruz County

Period of Significance: 1930s-1960

Property Type: Community center

Applicable Criteria: SC C2

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

The Japanese Cultural Center is a rare vestige of a once thriving Japanese community. The Cultural center building on 17th (next to the Takei family home) was first held by lease by the Japanese during the depression and before the war (1936 to 1945). Upon their return from internment (1942-1945) in Poston AZ, the Japanese purchased the old center, remodeled and modified it to suit their needs. It was moved to 7th Avenue in the 1960s. Over the years it served as a community center, chapel and Japanese language school. At its peak, the Japanese community consisted of over 25 families, the first of whom settled here in 1913. Most either bought or rented small tracts ranging from three to ten acres and planted them in strawberries. They were highly successful growers. The largest fields were located along 41st Avenue running the length of that road from the foothills to the ocean cliffs. In August of 1930 the farmers organized the Japanese Berry Growers Association headquartered first on Bulkhead Street and later moved to larger quarters on the corner of Soquel and Seabright Avenues. The property has been relocated and altered however it is significant for its association to the Japanese community and meets the county criteria.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP13; HP36JP

*B12. References:

RL Polk St. Directories, Santa Cruz Co. 1920-1958, Personal Interview w/ Jean Takei, by Phil Reader 1990; Personal Interview w/ Frank Masamori by Phil Reader, 1990; Phone conversation w/Carolyn Swift, 7/2005, A Field Guide to American Houses by McAlester & McAlester 1997.

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator:

Sheila McElroy

Circa: Historic Property Development

One Sutter St. # 910

San Francisco, CA 94104

Research: Norman Poitevin and Phil Reader

*Date of Evaluation: 8/22/05

(This space reserved for official comments.)

