

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

Primary #: _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code: _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Calvary Episcopal Church

- P1. Other Identifier:** Calvary Church
- *P2. Location:** ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted ***a. County:** Santa Cruz
- b. USGS 7.5' Quadrangle:** Santa Cruz, CA 1954
- c. Address:** 532 Center Street **City:** Santa Cruz **Zip:** 95060
- d. UTM:** N/A
- e. Other Locational Data (APN #):** The church is sited at the northeast corner of Center and Lincoln Street in downtown Santa Cruz, APN 005-148-21 and 005-148-22 and Portions of 005-148-17, 005-148-18, and 5731-019-100.
- *P3a. Description:** The subject property, commonly known as the Calvary Episcopal Church, was built in 1864 and completed in 1865. The Carpenter Gothic Revival church is flanked to the east by the Parish Hall and to the south by classrooms that reportedly date to the 1950s. In the far east end of the property is a paved parking lot and to the south is much larger parking lot. Architectural defining characteristics of the church or sanctuary include a steep gable wood shake roof with two parallel single-story gable roofs forming the entry vestibule, and an intersecting gable roof in the rear of the church that returns towards the front of the church facing Center Street with another steep gable roof clad with wood shakes. The north elevation of the church along Lincoln Street forming the nave, features a gablet on the north center of the left vestibule roof, an enclosed secondary gable roof entrance near the center of the church, and a tall intersecting gable near the rear of the church. The rear or chancel of the church features a unique apsidal style bay filled with Gothic influenced stained-glass windows in each panel. The upper roof forms a modest hip with a small cross affixed to it. The exterior walls of the church are sided with horizontal wood clapboard. The sidewalls feature wooden buttresses that divide individual stained-glass Gothic windows. The front entrance is characterized by the two gables with wooden buttresses that flank each of the two double-arched (replacement) entry doors. Between the two sets of doors are three arched stained-glass windows. The church is accessed via replaced concrete stairs with steel hand rails. The top of the front gable includes a small wooden cross as do the two gable entrances. The intersecting gable addition on the south side of the church or sanctuary features a bank of (replacement) fixed plate glass windows that face Center Street. The detached rectory and office or administration building on the east side of the church features a more modest intersecting gable roof with contemporary Gothic inspired wood windows along its north elevation. The building appears to have a basement evidenced by windows along the skirt of the building and two entrances facing the rear of the church. The main entrance to the building faces the parking lot and Cedar Street. The building is sided with horizontal wood clapboard similar to the church and features wood-sash windows, the main entrance having Gothic arch surrounding two wooden double doors. To the west of the rectory and office are classrooms in a shallow gable rectangular-shaped building that runs east to west bordering the parking lot to the west. The church grounds are fully landscaped with lawns, shrubs, several mature palm trees, concrete walkways, and metal fencing.
- *P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP16 - Religious Buildings
- *P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



- P5b. Description of Photo:** View northwest at the Calvary Episcopal Church from Center Street.
- *P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic The church or sanctuary was reportedly built in 1864 and completed in 1865. The Parish Hall was built between 1892 and 1905 with later additions, and the school or classrooms were built between 1905 and 1928 with later additions and alterations (Santa Cruz Historic Building Survey, 1976, p. 65; historic aerial photographs, newspapers, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps).
- *P7. Owner and Address:** Calvary Episcopal Church, 532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.
- *P8. Recorded by:** Dana E. Supernowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Resource Associates, 3142 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
- *P9. Date Recorded:** January 2022
- *P10. Type of Survey:** ☒ Architectural
- *P11. Report Citation:** Cultural Resources Study, Cedar Street Family Apartments, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 005-148-21 and 005-148-22 and Portions of 005-148-17 and 005-148-18, 532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California 95060. Prepared for R.L. Hastings & Associates, LLC, P.O. Box 552, Placerville, CA 95667. Prepared by Historic Resource Associates, 3102 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953. January 2022.

*Attachments: Building, Structure, and Object Record; Photograph Record.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) Calvary Episcopal Church

NRHP Status Code: 3S

B1. Historic Name: Calvary Church

B2. Common Name: Calvary Episcopal Church

B3. Original Use: Church

B4. Present Use: Same

***B5. Architectural Style:** Carpenter Gothic

***B6. Construction History:** Based upon church records, an historical building survey of Santa Cruz, historical aerials, and newspapers, the church or sanctuary was constructed in 1864 and completed in 1865/1866. A review of historic topographic quadrangle maps from 1954-2020, aerial photographs from 1950-2021, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1886-1950, reveal the evolution of the project site and the Calvary Episcopal Church. In 1886, the project site was developed with an "L" shaped church at the corner of Center and Lincoln Streets with two single-family residences to the east bordering Cedar Street, which at the time was no more than an alley. By 1892, little had changed, with the exception of the front double-gable entryway leading into the church having been built and a privy placed south of the church, where the school or classrooms were later constructed. Between 1892 and 1928, the Parish Hall was built east of the church in a similar configuration as it is today, with the exception of an addition to the north. In addition, between 1892 and 1928, classrooms were built to the south of the church and Parish Hall, along with a residence southwest of the classrooms fronting Center Street and a shed or garage in the rear of the parcel fronting Cedar Street. In 1950, the revised Sanborn Fire Insurance Map depicts the property much the same as it was in 1928. During the 1950s, aerial photographs illustrate the expansion of the church with a cross-gable wing projecting west from the south wing of the church, expansion of the school or classrooms to the south, and, as previously noted, enlargement to the north of the Parish Hall. The residence to the southwest on the parcel was demolished, as was the shed or garage in the rear of the parcel, both of which appear to lie along the northern edge of the current parking lot.

***B7. Moved?** ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown

Date: N/A

Original Location:

***B8. Related Features:** The historic downtown district of Santa Cruz is located one block to the east. To the north is a previously developed paved parking lot, and single-family houses and businesses flanking Center Street between Lincoln and Elm Street.

B9a. Architect: Possibly Joseph Boston

B9b. Builder: Undetermined

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Religion/Socio-Cultural/Carpenter Gothic Architecture

Area: Santa Cruz

Period of Significance: 1865-1866

Property Type: Church

Applicable Criteria: A, B & C

The indigenous Ohlone people occupied the land that would become Santa Cruz when the Spanish arrived in California in 1769. Beginning in the 1790s, the future city accommodated a Spanish mission and a secular pueblo, but the area remained sparsely populated until the 1840s, when American settlers began to arrive in the area, then under Mexican rule. By the time the American government took possession of California in 1848, a commercial center developed in the flatlands south of the former mission. As more settlers arrived, various industries developed in Santa Cruz, including a sawmill, a kiln, and a foundry. Powder manufacturing and lumber became the city's primary early industries, and Santa Cruz County became a major supplier of wood to San Francisco as its northern neighbor developed into a major city. The arrival of community services to Santa Cruz, such as churches, facilitated the city's growth into a comfortable residential community. Early churches included United Methodist Church, founded in 1848, and Calvary Episcopal Church, founded in 1862. A railroad line connected Santa Cruz to nearby Watsonville and Gilroy in 1876, allowing Santa Cruz to be more accessible to tourists. In the 1880s, hotels, baths, and amusements were constructed to attract visitors who would sometimes stay weeks at a time. In 1894, the city received national publicity with an article in Harper's Weekly and by the turn of the century, Santa Cruz became one of the West Coast's major seaside resort towns. President Teddy Roosevelt visited Santa Cruz in 1903 and the Santa Cruz Boardwalk opened in 1907. Along with an increasing number of seasonal visitors, the year-round population increased as well. New residential neighborhoods developed in disarranged grids east and west of downtown, in the West Cliffs area and in Seabright. These neighborhoods were linked with a streetcar system. In 1915, a highway opened to Santa Cruz, changing the nature of tourism in the city. Visitors came for shorter periods of time, and auto camps, motels, and other car-centered accommodations were developed. While tourism slowed in the first decades of the twentieth century, the University of California system announced plans to expand with new campuses in 1957. In 1965, the University of California, Santa Cruz opened in the bluffs overlooking the city (Page & Turnbull, Inc. 2019) (refer to BSO Page 3 of 17).

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: None

B12. References: Calvary Episcopal Church Website. "History." www.calvarysantacruz.org. Accessed December 29, 2021; Charles Hall Page & Associates, Inc. Santa Cruz Historic Building Survey. Prepared for the City of Santa Cruz. 1976; Cocke, Thomas et al. "Recording a Church: An Illustrated Glossary." *Practical Handbook in Archaeology* 7. Council for British Archaeology, 1996 (reprinted 1999); McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1990; Page & Turnbull, Inc. Garfield Park Christian Church, Santa Cruz, California DPR forms. May 23, 2019; Rose, Michael S. *The Renovation Manipulation: The Church Counter-Renovation Handbook*. Hope of Saint Monica, Inc. 2001; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Santa Cruz, California 1886, 1892, 1905, 1928, and 1928-revised 1950; *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Newspaper, Santa Cruz, California, December 25, 1938, September 11, 2018; *Santa Cruz Surf*, Newspaper, Santa Cruz, California, July 1, 1893; *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, Newspaper, Santa Cruz, California, June 23, 1866, November 16, 1867, and October 24, 1874.

B13. Remarks:

B14. Evaluator: Dana E. Supernowicz, Historic Resource Associates, 3142 Bird Rock Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

Date of Evaluation: January 2022

(This space reserved for official comments.)

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B10. Significance (Continued):



Figure 1: 3D Google Earth Photograph of the Calvary Episcopal Church looking north.

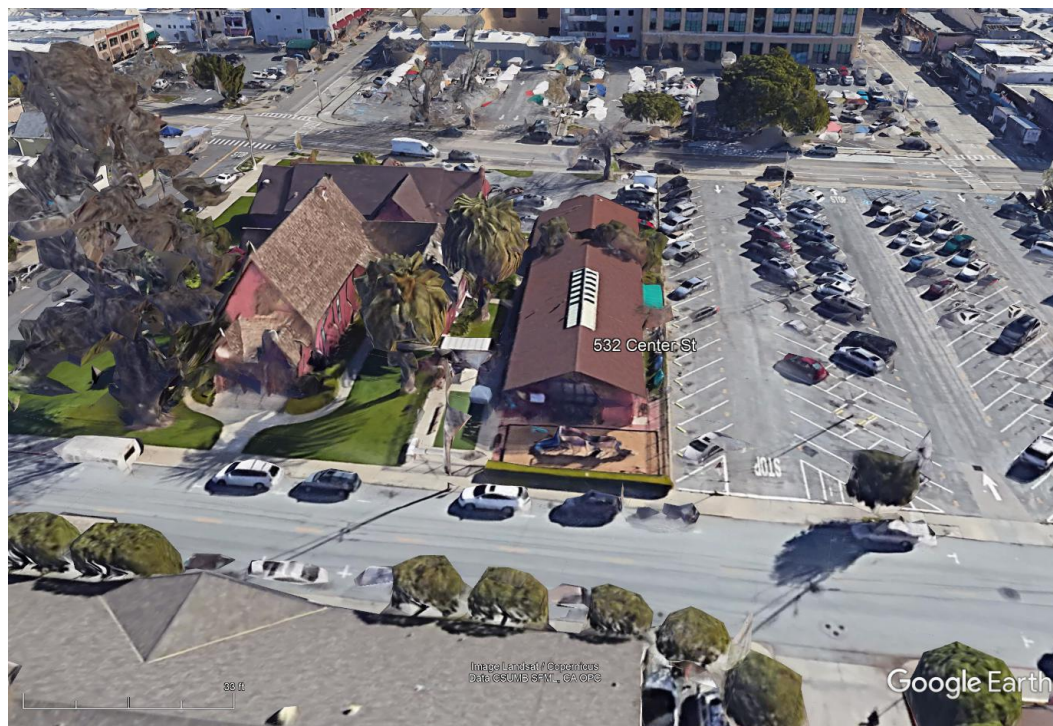


Figure 2: 3D Google Earth Photograph of the Calvary Episcopal Church looking east towards downtown Santa Cruz.

B10. Significance (Continued):

The following history of the church was recounted by Eliza Boston in 1900, annotated in the Parish Register 1903 and transcribed by Carol Walker, parish archivist, in September 2014:

The first service of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held in Santa Cruz, on Sunday May 11th 1862 by Rev. Dr. Ver Mehr. The second service was held on Sunday May 10th 1863 by Rev. C.B. Wyatt, Rector of Trinity Church, San Francisco. The Rev. C.F. Loop, a Missionary appointed by the Board of Missions Domestic, New York City, arrived in Santa Cruz and began regular services in the Court house, July 5th 1863. On Easter Monday [March 28th] 1864 Calvary Parish was formally organized and the Rev. C.F. Loop was elected Rector. On St. Peter's Day June 29th 1864 the corner stone of the Church Edifice was laid by the Rector assisted by the Rev. D.D. Chapin, of San José, and the Rev. Mr. Easton of San Mateo. The first service was held in the new Church Edifice [unfinished] on January 8th 1865. On Sunday October 27th 1867 the debt of \$675 having been paid, the Church was solemnly consecrated to the worship and Service of Almighty God, by the Rt. Rev. W^m. I. Kip D.D. Bishop of California, assisted by the Rector and the Rev. A.L. Brewer of San Mateo. On September 4th 1868 the Rector Rev. C.F. Loop sent his resignation to the Vestry of Calvary Church, which was accepted and also notified the Standing Committee, the Bishop being absent from the Diocese. During its first 100 years, Calvary Church continued to grow and reach out, not only to the city of Santa Cruz, but also to Episcopalians in the surrounding area. The clergy and laity of Calvary were largely responsible for creating and sustaining missionary work in the surrounding areas of Santa Cruz County, especially in helping to establish the present Episcopal churches at Ben Lomond, Aptos and Scotts Valley. In 2015, Calvary Church celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the first service held at the church with the play *Lincoln's Eulogy* written by parishioner Dana Bagshaw. This play told the story of how Calvary was involved in the Santa Cruz community in response to the death of President Abraham Lincoln. While parishioners prepared for the first service at Calvary Church to be held Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, the news arrived that President Lincoln had been assassinated. The floral decorations were removed, and emblems of mourning were hung in the chancel. On April 19, the then-rector Rev. Loop held a special service in honor of the slain president. Accounts in the church records say he was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, and his address to the congregation was so eloquent that the City Fathers of Santa Cruz asked him to repeat it publicly the following week. Calvary's involvement in the community began here, at its inception (Calvary Episcopal Church Website 2021).

The above history provided by Eliza Boston in 1900, wife of Joseph Boston, reportedly donated the land for the church, appears to be consistent with period newspaper accounts as described below. Figure 3, is the earliest know photograph of the church (circa 1865-1866. Historic newspapers indicate that Eliza Boston's husband, Joseph Boston, an avocational architect, designed the church.

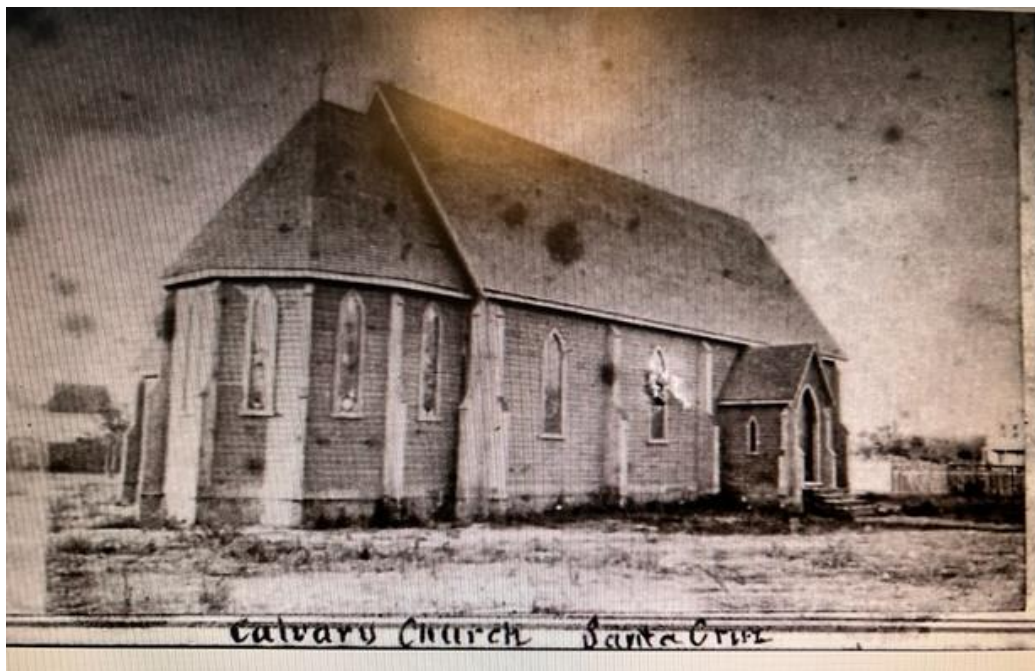


Figure 3: View looking northwest at Calvary Episcopal Church Santa Cruz, circa 1865-1866 shortly after its construction (Courtesy *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 11, 2018).

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B10. Significance (Continued):

Based on an article that appeared in the *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel* on June 23, 1866, the site for the church, rectory, and school were donated by Mrs. Joseph Boston, and in the past year the “church edifice” was erected. In the following year, according to the *Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel* in November 1867:

Calvary Church, Santa Cruz, which was consecrated by Bishop Kipp, on the 27th of October, is a beautiful and substantial edifice of wood, built upon a firm foundation of brick. The style is Gothic of the early English period. The plan is for nave, chancel, tower, porch and vestry-room. The tower is to be built hereafter on the north side. The interior dimensions of the nave are 64 feet by 25, with open timbered roof; the height from the floor to the apex is 37 feet. A wainscot, four feet high, surmounted by a heavy moulding runs round both nave and chancel. The sections of the roof divide the nave into four bays of sixteen feet each. The sides between the posts are plastered and painted a delicate tint of ochre; each bay having a window nine feet in length. The chancel, separated from the nave by a lofty gothic arch, is apsidal in form, 21 x 20 feet in depth; the walls are pierced by six lancet windows filled with rich colored glass, containing the principal Christian emblems. The west gable has a beautiful clustered window of three lights, headed by a trefoil three feet in diameter, soon to be filled with glass of exquisite design and workmanship, from the establishment of Henry Sharp, New York who has furnished the windows for the whole church. The altar is placed against the east wall under the central light, which contains the emblem of the Great Sacrifice – the cross of cavalry and the crown of thorns. At the right is the Bishop’s chair, ornamented by elaborate carvings of black walnut. The chancel rail is upon the chard of the apse, outside of which are the stalls and lectern. A very beautiful Baptismal Font of Nova Scotia stone, made by Fishure & Bird, N.Y., stands outside the chancel arch, at the north side. The floor of the chancel is covered with Brussels carpet of ecclesiastical pattern. On entering the west door, the effect of the interior of this building is not only very pleasing but imposing. We feel that it is a fitting place to offer the sacrifice of prayer and praise, and worthy of being consecrated to the service of God. The whole cost of the building, including the windows, was about seven thousand dollars. By a recent effort on the part of the Rector, Rev. C.F. Loop, and his parishioners, the remaining debt of six hundred and seventy-five (\$675) dollars, was paid. The lot upon which the church is built, containing over an acre, was the gift of Mrs. Joseph Boston (*Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, November 16, 1867).

During the 1870s, prior to his death, Joseph Boston, his wife, and family were living on Mission Street in Santa Cruz (*Santa Cruz Weekly Sentinel*, October 24, 1874). Based upon a newspaper article published on July 1, 1893 in the *Santa Cruz Surf* newspaper for Parish Day, the cornerstone for the church was laid on June 29, 1864, and the first rector was Rev. C.F. Loop.

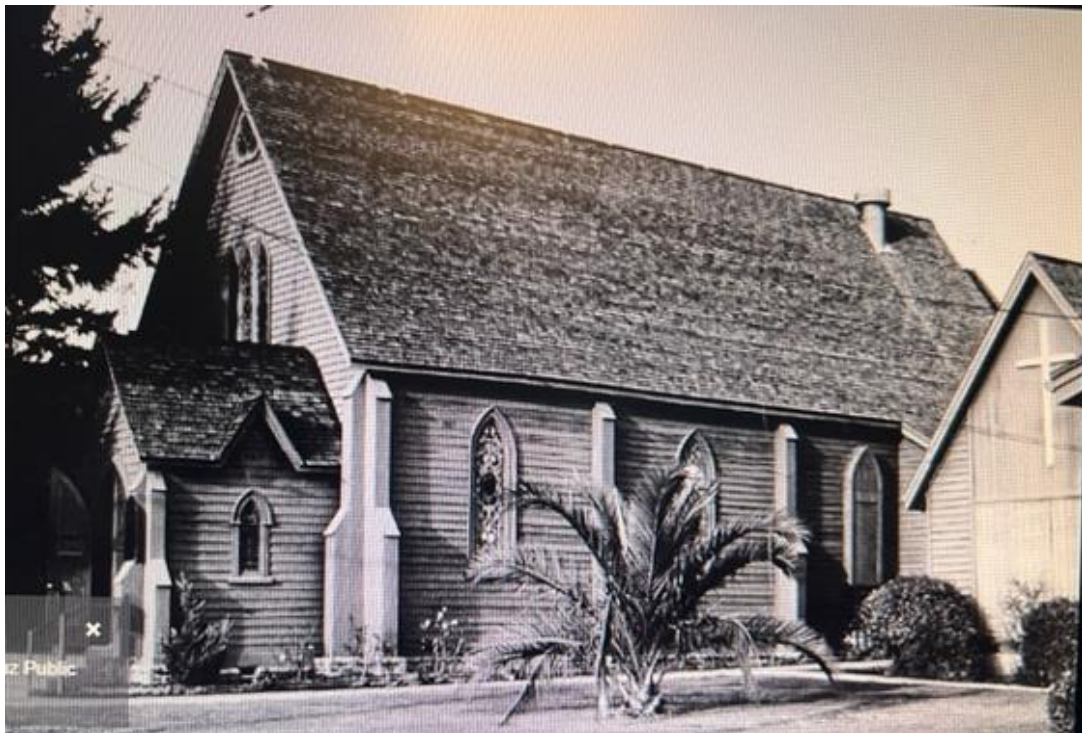


Figure 4: Historic photograph of the Calvary Episcopal Church looking northeast, circa 1930 (Courtesy Calisphere Website).

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B10. Significance (Continued):



Figure 5: Photograph of the Calvary Episcopal Church looking northeast, 2021. The front gable on the right was added after 1950.

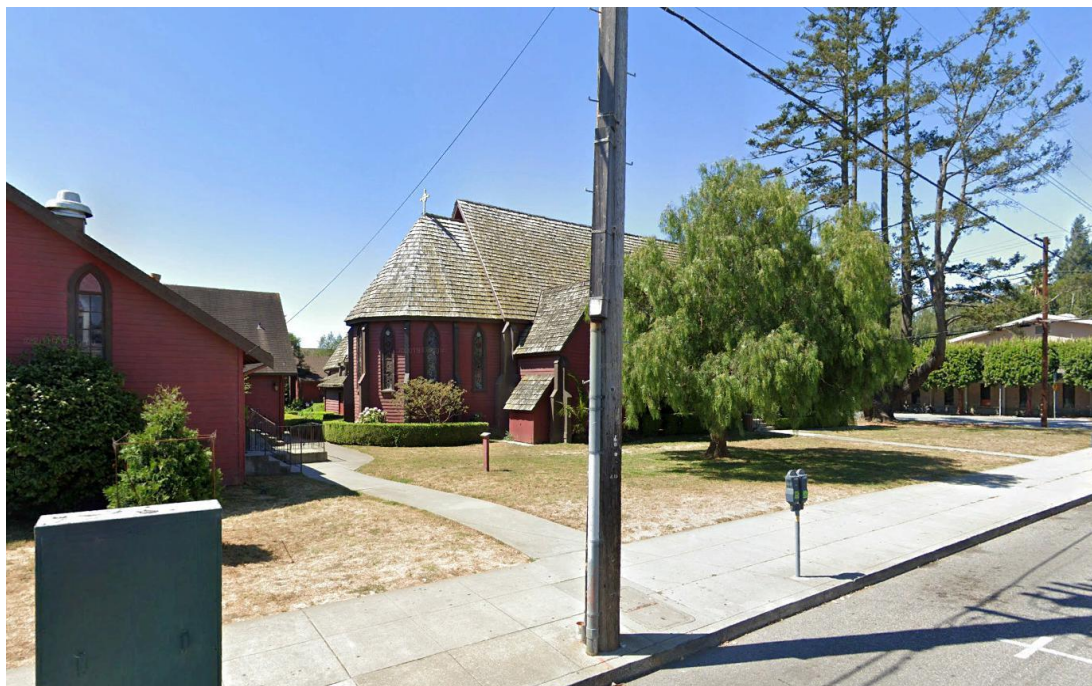


Figure 6: View looking west at the north elevation of the Calvary Episcopal Church and Parish Hall, 2021.

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B10. Significance (Continued):

In 1914, the church celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a Souvenir edition of the church history published in the parish paper known as the Ivy Leaf. From the late-nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century, the church's importance to citizens of Santa Cruz is well documented in local newspapers. The church is a registered historic property in the City of Santa Cruz having been documented in the city's first historic property survey in the 1970s. In 1971, the California Heritage Council, awarded the church by creating a bronze plaque commemorating the property, which is situated in front of the church along Center Street. A metal enamel sign was placed on the north side of the church by the Santa Cruz Historical Society. The church is pictured in Volume I of the Santa Cruz Historic Building Survey (Charles Hall Page & Associates 1976: 65), and is listed in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD) as a 7R status code, meaning it was not formally evaluated.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The property was assessed using the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria for Evaluation, described as the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture found in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets one of the following criteria:

Criterion A: Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Criterion B: Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

Criterion C: Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

National Register criteria considerations (36 CFR §60.4) Consideration A: A religious property according to National Register guidelines, "requires additional justification (for nomination) because of the necessity to avoid any appearance of judgement by government about the merit of any religion or belief." However, religious properties may qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following category - "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance."

The Calvary Episcopal Church remained an important part of the secular and social history of Santa Cruz through the 1930s. Thus, the period of significance for the property extends from its completion in 1865 to 1940, because improvement made during this period contribute to the history of the church. Therefore, despite the addition of the double-gable entrance in the front of the church after 1886 and prior to 1892, thus eliminating the main entrance along Lincoln Street, which became a side entrance, and the cross-gable addition on the south end of the church after 1950, the church retains adequate integrity to convey its historic significance. This is apparent in the post-1950 addition, due to the care taken to construct the addition using materials and a design sympathetic to the original church, without entirely duplicating historic fabric on the original, giving a false sense of history. The Parish Hall and the School or Classrooms, however, appear to have undergone the most dramatic alterations since they were constructed and consequently the integrity of both buildings has been compromised.

In applying NRHP Criterion A, the church represents one of the oldest secular institutions in Santa Cruz, and its significance to the community since its construction in the 1860s is well documented. Therefore, the church appears to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, being the oldest surviving such structure in Santa Cruz. Under Criterion B, no documentation has been found to suggest the church is associated with a person or persons of significance in history of Santa Cruz, despite the fact the church may have been designed by Joseph Boston, whose wife donated the land on which the church is located today. The construction of the church appears to have been a community effort with donations from various individuals living in Santa Cruz during the 1860s. Under NRHP Criteria C, the church building is the oldest surviving structure of its type in Santa Cruz, retains adequate integrity to convey its historic appearance, and is an important example of Carpenter Gothic architecture. Similarly, the church appears to be eligible under National Register Criterion Consideration A, deriving primary significance from "architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance." The parish hall and school or classrooms do not appear to be eligible for the NRHP under any of the criteria, due to numerous additions and alterations post-1940.

B10. Significance (Continued):

PHOTOGRAPH RECORD



Photograph 1: View looking northeast at the church or sanctuary from Center Street.



Photograph 2: View looking southwest at the Parish Hall.

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B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 3: View looking east at the west elevation the church or sanctuary showing the cross-gable extension.



Photograph 4: View of the bronze plaque in front of the church entrance.

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 5: View looking east at the front of the church or sanctuary.



Photograph 6: View of the vestibule leading into the church nave.

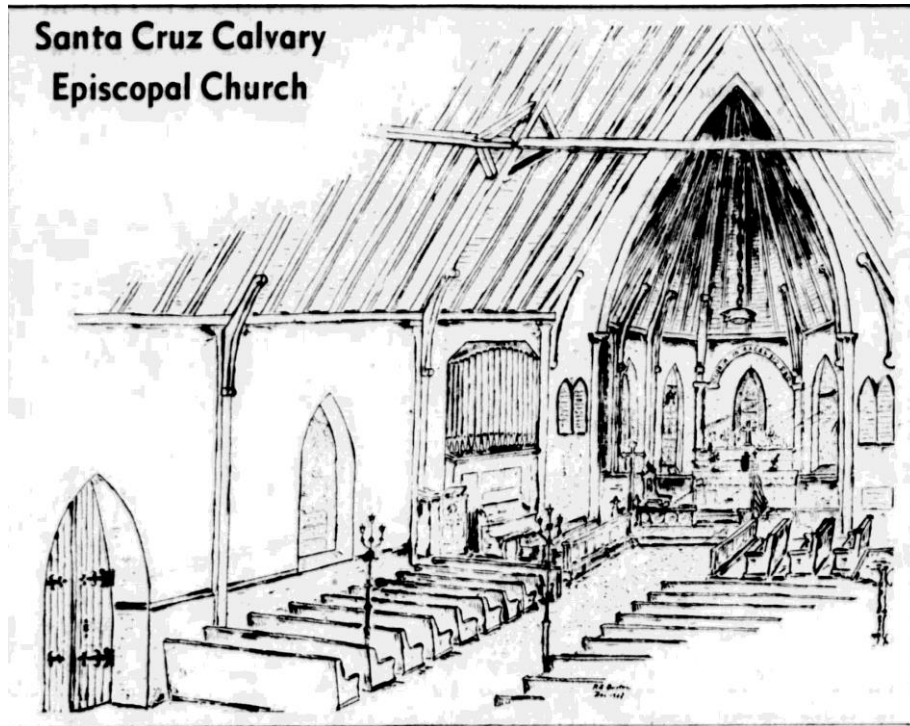
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B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 7: Sketch of the interior of the church from the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 25, 1938.



Photograph 8: View looking south at the north elevation of the church or sanctuary.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 9: View looking east at the north elevation of the church or sanctuary.



Photograph 10: View looking east at the Parish Hall or rectory and office.

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 11: View of the rear of the church or sanctuary.



Photograph 12: View looking west at the east elevation of the Parish Hall. To the left are the classrooms.

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 13: View looking south at the Parish Hall and classrooms in the distance.



Photograph 14: View looking west through the inner courtyard between the church, Parish Hall, and classrooms.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 15: View looking north with the church on the left and the Parish Hall on the right. Note the later addition to the church on the left, distinguished by leaded, rather than stained-glass windows.



Photograph 16: View looking west through the inner courtyard between the church and classrooms.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 17: View looking north at the church and the cross-gable addition facing the camera.



Photograph 18: View looking northeast at the Parish Hall with the church on the left.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

B10. Significance (Continued):



Photograph 19: View looking north at the south elevation of the classrooms.



Photograph 20: View looking north across the parking lot planned for redevelopment with affordable housing. The classrooms and church can be seen in the distance, with the classrooms in the foreground.