

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

Page 1 of 5 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Dr. Nelson Dental Office

P1. Other identifier: William B. Christie Family Dentistry

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted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 Santa Cruz Date Revised 1994 T .11 S. ; R .2 W. ; Mount Diablo B.M.

c. Address: 918 Center Street

City Santa Cruz

Zip 95060

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; 586451 mE/ 4092578 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

southeast corner of Center and Union Streets.

APN# 005-047-01

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

This one-story stucco commercial building at 918 Center St. is a form of twentieth century design known as Streamline Moderne. The building is a clear representation of this style built in 1941, known for its primarily horizontal compositions, slender awnings, pipe railings, speed stripes, portholes, and curves, emulating nautical motifs of the 1930s and 1940s. It was a style particularly suited for buildings associated with transportation and in communities near the ocean. The low form of this one-story office building steps in plan along the sweeping southeast corner of Center and Union Streets. A distinctive feature of the property is the collection of large pine trees that are located within the notched corners of the building.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP6. 1-3 story commercial building

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
(View, date, accession #)
View facing southeast, 2009.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

1941, recorded deed, 68 years old.

*P7. Owner and Address:

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

F. Maggi/L. Dill/J. Kusz

Archives & Architecture, LLC
PO Box 1332
San Jose, CA 95109

*P9. Date Recorded: 5/6/09

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Santa Cruz Historic Building Survey - Vol. III, Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Santa Cruz, 2012.

*Attachments:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> District Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Art Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (List): |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building, Structure, and Object Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Linear Feature Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Artifact Record | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sketch Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Milling Station Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph Record | |

DPR 523A (1/95)

* Required Information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 5

*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Dr. Nelson Dental Office

B1. Historic Name: Dr. Nelson Dental Office

B2. Common Name: 918 Center St.- Dr. William Christie Dental Office

B3. Original Use: Medical Office

B4. Present Use: Medical Office

*B5. Architectural Style: Streamline Moderne

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Constructed in 1941 (SC BP #4633).

*B7. Moved? ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown Date: n/a

Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

None.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Hamilton & Church

*B10. Significance: Theme Commercial Development

Area: Central

Period of Significance: 1941

Property Type: Commercial

Applicable Criteria: (3)

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

Constructed in 1941 for dentist Dr. Francis Norman Nelson, this unique Streamline Moderne building operated as Nelson's dental business into the mid 1970s. It was constructed by local contractors, Robert Hamilton & John Church, who were partners in the local construction business. The firm provided general contracting, painting, and mill work for Santa Cruz area from 1915 until 1949.

In 1975, the business was taken over by Dr. William Christie, who continues to operate his dental business in the subject building today.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) None

*B12. References:

City of Santa Cruz building permits.
Polk. R. L. Santa Cruz City Directory. 1941-1989.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950.

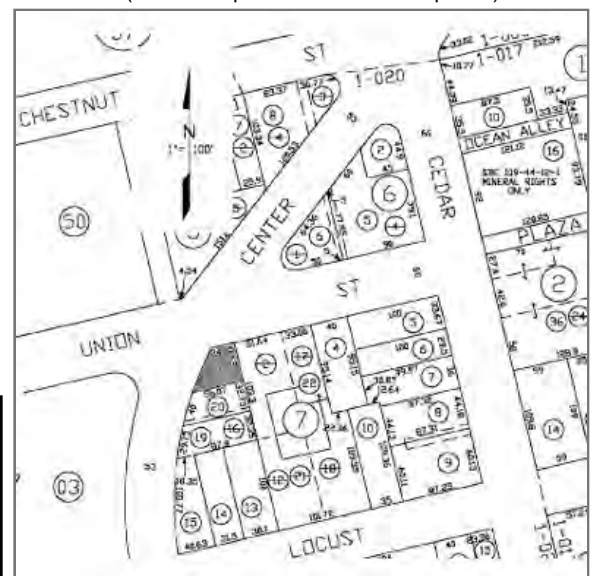
(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

B13. Remarks: None

*B14. Evaluator: Leslie Dill

*Date of Evaluation: May 6, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
LOCATION MAP

Primary #
HRI #
Trinominal

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* Map Name: Santa Cruz, Calif.

* Scale: n.t.s.

* Date of Map: 1954 (revised 1994)



TN*/MN
14 1/2°

Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 4 of 5 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Dr. Nelson Dental Office

* Recorded By F. Maggi/L. Dill/J. Kusz * Date 5/6/2009 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

(Continued from page 1, DPR523a, P3a Description)

The building has a distinctive bow window wall that faces Center Street. The building is clad in stucco, with an intermediate projecting band above the windows. Speed stripes are engraved into the upper parapet walls above the cornice band; the upper walls are punctuated by round terra cotta scuppers. Facing north is an angled bay window that uses the cornice band as a shallow roof. Fenestration consists primarily of steel tripartite units with horizontal muntins in some cases, and tall fixed windows in other forms. Porthole windows accent the main walls along the path to the inset corner entry.

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10 Significance)

SIGNIFICANCE

The property was found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3). The building is not individually significant to the development of the downtown commercial district in Santa Cruz, and thus would not appear to be eligible under Criterion (1). The early person associated with the building is Dr. Francis Norman Nelson. Nelson was a dentist, but is not known to be important to local history, and thus the property does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion (2). The specific architect of the building has not yet been identified, but the building is a unique and distinctive implementation of Streamline Moderne in Santa Cruz, thus the building appears eligible under Criterion (3).

When considered for listing within the Historic Building Survey of the City of Santa Cruz however, the property meets the following criteria:

1. The building is a significant example of the built environment heritage of the City as a representative of a 1940s office building; and
5. The building is recognized as possessing special aesthetic merit or value as a building with quality of architecture and that retains sufficient features showing its architectural significance; and
6. The building possesses distinctive stylistic characteristics of the Streamline Moderne style; and
7. The building retains sufficient integrity to accurately convey its significance.

Integrity

The property maintains its apparent historical integrity as per the National Register's seven aspects of integrity. It maintains its original location on Center Street, in the downtown area of Santa Cruz; it is still surrounded by most of its apparent historic setting, including surrounding commercial buildings of similar age, scale and design and parcels with similar setbacks, parking, and streetscape. It retains its mid-twentieth century office building scale and feeling and continues, through its form, massing and detailing, to illustrate its associations with patterns of modern design in the 1940s. The exterior elevations retain their integrity with the Streamline Moderne style, including: the plain parapet and intermediate cornice, steel windows, speed stripes, and porthole windows.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 5 of 5 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Dr. Nelson Dental Office

* Recorded By F. Maggi/L. Dill/J. Kusz

* Date 5/6/2009

☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Detail view of front wing, viewed facing south.