

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

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code 6W

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Santa Cruz County Jail

P1. Other identifier: 104 Front St., Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted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: 705 Front St.

City Santa Cruz Zip 95060

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; 586745 mE/ 4092497 mN

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

west side of Front Street between Cooper Street and Soquel Avenue APN# 005-081-59

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

This Santa Cruz County Jail building built in 1936 at 725 Front St. (originally addressed as 104 Front St.) replaced an earlier jail on this site. The three-story L-shaped structure was designed by Albert Roller, a prominent San Francisco architect, in an Art Deco style. Art Deco and Art Moderne designs sometimes incorporate 1930s Works Progress Administration (WPA) aesthetics with the use of simple expanses of materials and strong graphic imagery. The focal point of this stucco-clad building is its geometric vertical entry element and multiple groupings of windows and spandrel panels. The entry element has a stepped or layered, symmetrical three-story opening, related to the popular ziggerat forms of the 1930s. The proportionately longer and lower office wing features paired window bays and a stepped parapet wall. In 1993, the building was renovated and the Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center was added/attached to the south façade.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP35. CCC/WPA property

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



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

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1936, building permit, 73 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:

☐ None ☒ Continuation Sheet ☐ District Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Other (List):
☒ Location Map ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Artifact Record
☐ Sketch Map ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Photograph Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

* Required Information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 4

*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Santa Cruz County Jail

B1. Historic Name: Santa Cruz County Jail

B2. Common Name: 705 Front St. - Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History at McPherson Center

B3. Original Use: County jail

B4. Present Use: Museum and offices

*B5. Architectural Style: Art Deco

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

Constructed in 1936. Renovated and expanded 1993.

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

Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

None.

B9a. Architect: Albert Roller

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Institutions

Area: Downtown

Period of Significance: 1936 - 1992

Property Type: Institutional

Applicable Criteria: (1), (3)

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

This 1936 County Jail building replaced an earlier jail on this site. The earlier jail building was built in association with the late-nineteenth century Hall of Records (Octagon Building), still extant to the north. The earlier building was replaced in 1936 by this three-story L-shaped structure as a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), funded under Congress's Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 at the height of the Great Depression, and designed by Albert Roller.

Architect Albert Roller of San Francisco was an early modernist architect with a career in Central California that lasted over 65 years. His WPA design is typical of Art Deco buildings of the 1930s, rising out of the economic Great Depression. The Santa Cruz County Jail continued to operate at this location for the next half-century or so.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (list attributes and codes) HP7. 3+ story commercial building

*B12. References:

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

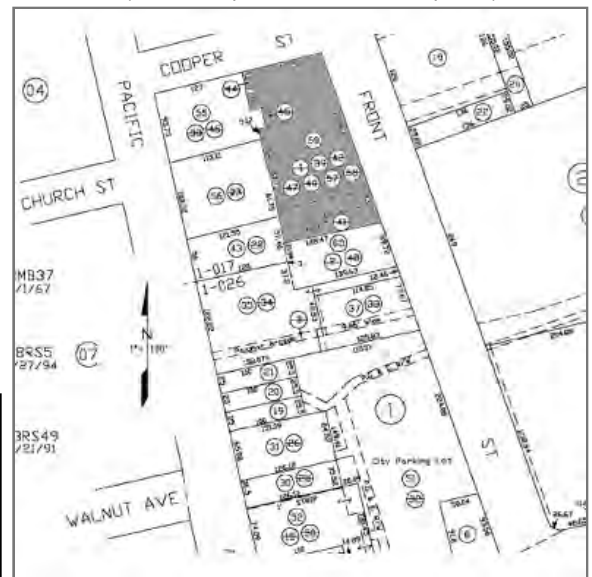
Chase, John, Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture, 2005.
 Lehmann, Susan. Historic Context Statement for City of Santa Cruz. 2000.
 Polk. R. L., Santa Cruz City Directory. 1930-1989.
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1888-1950.

B13. Remarks: None

*B14. Evaluator: Leslie Dill

*Date of Evaluation: May 6, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)





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 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Santa Cruz County Jail

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

* Date 5/6/2009

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

In 1993, the building was renovated and the Museum of Art & History at McPherson Center was attached to the south façade. The San Francisco firm of William Turnbull Associates were the architects for the renovation as well as the new museum addition. The building complex houses the museum and its offices. Retail commercial space is located on the lower level of the new addition.

SIGNIFICANCE

The property was found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (1) and (3). The building has been a prominent building in the downtown area of Santa Cruz since the 1930s, built during the Great Depression and serving as the County Jail for almost half a century. This direct association with important patterns of development in the City of Santa Cruz indicates that the property would be eligible under Criterion (1). The property is not associated with an personages that have been recorded as important in the history of Santa Cruz County, therefore the property would not appear to be eligible under Criterion (2). The building however is a distinctive Art Deco design, designed by a prominent California architect, Charles Roller, and would appear to qualify for the California Register 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 1930s 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/or
6. The building is recognized as possessing distinctive stylistic characteristics or workmanship significant for the study of the Interwar/WPA period; and
7. The building retains sufficient integrity to accurately convey its significance.

Integrity

The property maintains most of its apparent historical integrity as per the National Register's seven aspects of integrity. It maintains its original location on Front Street in downtown Santa Cruz. The property remains surrounded by much of its apparent historic setting, including surrounding buildings of similar age, scale and design and parcels with similar setbacks, parking, and streetscape. Although rehabilitated for commercial use in the recent past, the former jail building retains its 1930s institutional scale and feeling and continues, through its geometrical form, massing and detailing, to retain its integrity with WPA-era Art Deco design and workmanship.