

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): Messiah Lutheran Church

P1. Other identifier: None

\*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 Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted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: 801 High St.

City Santa Cruz Zip 95060

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; 585068 mE/ 4092822 mN

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

south side of High Street at Kalkar Drive.

APN# 006-061-09

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

The Messiah Lutheran Church at 801 High St. and constructed in 1962, is designed in a form of architecture known as Bay Region II. Bay Region architecture is a Northern California adaptation of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the early twentieth century; it emphasized the connection of buildings in their natural setting and featured natural materials and surfaces. Bay Region II is the Mid-Century Modern extension of this movement. Buildings, such this early 1960s church, feature modern proportions of glass and finished, highlighting natural finishes such as exposed concrete and unpainted wood materials in open settings.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP16. Religious building

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



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

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:

☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

1962, news article, 47 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 5

\*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Messiah Lutheran Church

B1. Historic Name: Messiah Lutheran Church

B2. Common Name: 801 High St.

B3. Original Use: Church

B4. Present Use: Church

\*B5. Architectural Style: Bay Region II

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

Constructed in 1962.

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

Original Location: n/a

\*B8. Related Features:

School

B9a. Architect: Haarstick, Lundgren &amp; Associates

b. Builder: Unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme Institutions

Area: Westside

Period of Significance: 1962

Property Type: Religious

Applicable Criteria: None

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

The Messiah Lutheran Church constructed this place of worship, including classroom buildings, in 1962, moving from a previous site on Mission Street that was led by the Rev. Herbert F. Schmidt. The groundbreaking occurred in late May of that year, and the building was completed by the end of 1962.

The congregation was first organized in Santa Cruz in 1930, and appears to have actually moved to this new location in 1961, as that year it first appears in local Santa Cruz City Directories at the subject property, perhaps operating out of a temporary structure. The Messiah Lutheran Preschool was organized at this location in 1982. Messiah Lutheran is a part of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, one of three groups of American Lutherans. The church continues to provide worship, religious, and educational programming at this site today.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

\*B12. References:

Lehmann, Susan. Historic Context Statement for City of Santa Cruz. 2000.  
 Santa Cruz city directories, 1962-1989.  
 Tutwiler, Paul, Santa Cruz Spirituality, <http://www.santacruzpl.org/history/articles/506/#indexf>. Accessed May 2009.

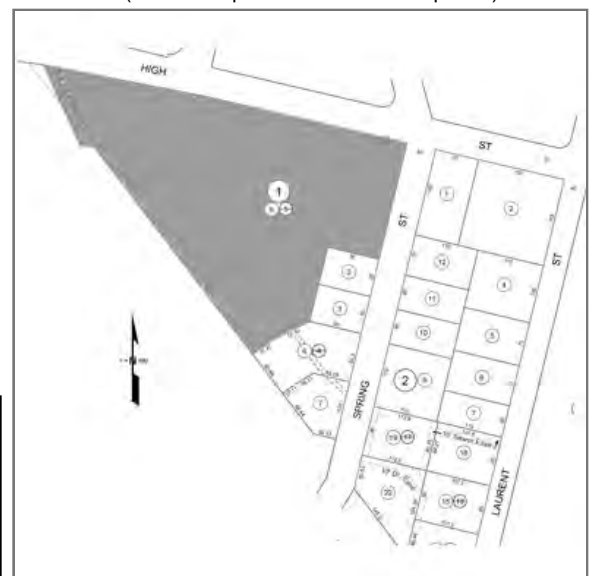
B13. Remarks: None

\*B14. Evaluator: Leslie Dill

\*Date of Evaluation: May 6, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





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**LOCATION MAP**

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\* Map Name: Santa Cruz, Calif.

\* Scale: n.t.s.

\* Date of Map: 1954 (revised 1994)



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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

Primary #  
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Trinomial

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

*(Continued from page 1, DPR523a, P3 Description)*

It has a modern geometrical form that appears to be a metaphor for a typical church steeple. The concrete walls are low, almost an extended foundation, and feature wing walls at each corner. The distinctive roof is a steep truncated pyramid topped by a wrap-around clerestory window and a steeple. The form of the building, with its roots in Scandinavia, recalls the steep geometric forms by internationally recognized Modern Scandinavian architects such as Aalto and Saarinen.

It was designed by the architectural firm Haarstick, Lundgren & Associates. Robert Benninghoff was the project designer.

*(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10 Significance)*

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The property was found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources. Religious facilities are not normally eligible for the California Register under Criterion (1) or (2). The church building is a distinctive design by architectural firm Haarstick, Lundgren & Associates and is considered a structure of exceptional importance and therefore, qualifies for under Criterion 3 of the California Register.

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 twentieth century church building; and
5. The building possesses special aesthetic merit and value due to its quality of architecture, retaining sufficient features that show its architectural significance; and
6. The building possesses distinctive stylistic characteristics of the Bay Region II style; and
7. The building retains sufficient integrity to accurately convey its significance.

**Integrity**

The property maintains much of its apparent original integrity as per the National Register's seven aspects of integrity. It maintains its original location on High Street on the upper Westside of Santa Cruz. It maintains its original setting in a residential neighborhood with other similar age churches nearby of similar scale. It retains its scale and feeling and continues, through its form, massing and detailing, to illustrate its associations with religious architecture construction patterns of mid-twentieth century in this area. The church building retains its integrity with the Bay Region II architecture style including: modern geometrical form, low concrete walls with wing walls at each corner and a distinctive steep truncated pyramid roof.



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\* Date 5/6/2009

☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Aerial view showing building complex.