

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 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): Wenban House

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 Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted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: 831 California Street City Santa Cruz Zip 95060

d. UTM:(give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S ; 585950 mE/ 4092172 mN

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

west side of California Street between Walnut and Otis Streets. APN# 006-481-06

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

This exceptional Folk Victorian style house has a relatively simple gabled form with many unusual Stick-era details. This late 1880s two-story house has a full-width gabled roof with a one-story front balcony that covers a square entry bay and front porch. The widely arched, drilled bargeboards at the main gable end are connected by a distinctive turned truss that has the appearance of half of a ship's wheel. The windows are topped by shallow hoods with dentils, and the porch consists of slender posts with drilled corbels and a spandrel of vertical lattice. A tripartite window form at the square bay entry appears to have replacement stained glass but original trim.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2. Single family 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

Late 1880s, recorded deeds,
about 120 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

State of California - The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #

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*NRHP/CRHR Status Code 3CS

Resource Name (Assigned by recorder) Wenban House

B1. Historic Name: Wenban House

B2. Common Name: 831 California St.

B3. Original Use: Single family residential

B4. Present Use: Single family residential

*B5. Architectural Style: Folk Victorian with Stick detailing

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

Constructed ca. 1887

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

Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

Detached garage.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Architecture

Area: Westside

Period of Significance: 1880s

Property Type: Residential

Applicable Criteria: (3)

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

The house at 831 California St. was constructed sometime in the late 1880s. The empty property was sold by Flora Bradley to William and Frank Ely in 1887. William Ely was the general manager and operator of the East Santa Cruz Railway Horse Car Line. The Ely's owned the property for only two years before selling it to Ida L. Wenban in 1889. It is difficult to ascertain who actually built the house as the Ely's may have built it as a spec house or simply sold an empty lot to Ida Wenban, who, along with her husband Edward, may have constructed the residence following its sale in 1889. Architectural details make either possibility plausible. By 1914, the house was occupied by Albert and Charlotte Wilkenson, and by 1924 it was owned by Fred and Catherine Griffen. Fred Griffen was a house painter from Germany. Catherine Griffen continued to live in the residence until at least 1950.

(Continued on page 4, DPR523L)

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

*B12. References:

- City of Santa Cruz Standard Map, 1929, 1947..
- Koch, Margaret Santa Cruz County, *Parade of the Past*, 1979.
- Lehmann, Susan. Historic Context Statement for City of Santa Cruz. 2000.
- Polk. R. L., Santa Cruz City Directory. 1892, 1902, 1916-1989.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1886-1950.
- U.S. Federal Census, 1880, 1900-1930.

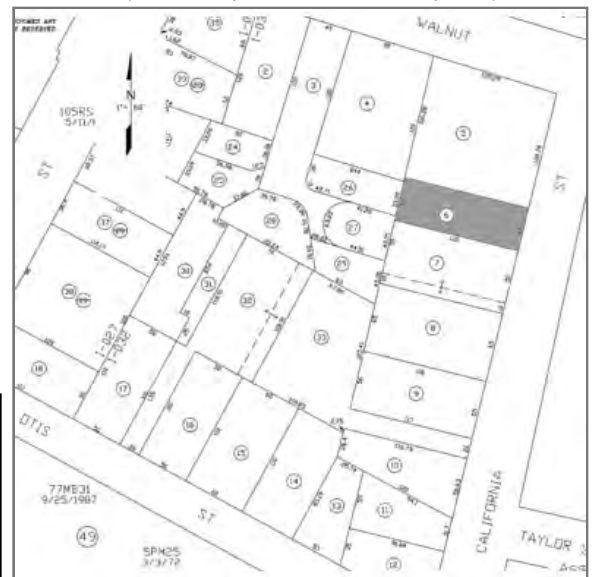
B13. Remarks: None

*B14. Evaluator: Leslie Dill

*Date of Evaluation: May 6, 2009

(This space reserved for official comments.)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)





TN* / MN
14 1/2°

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

Page 4 of 4 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Wenban House

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

(Continued from page 2, DPR523b, B10)

SIGNIFICANCE

The property was found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion (3). The early persons associated with the building are William and Frank Ely, and then Edward and Ida Wenban. Although the Ely's have some historical significance to the developmental history of the City of Santa Cruz, they don't appear to have an intimate relationship to this house, nor are they known to be the builders. Little is known about the Wenbans beyond their tenured occupancy, and they do not appear to be persons important to the development of the local community. The property therefore does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion (2) for personages. Although the specific architect of the building has not yet been identified, it is a distinctive example of Folk Victorian architecture with Stick detailing and as such appears eligible 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 heritage of the city as a representative of a late 1880s building; and
5. The building possesses special aesthetic merit and value due to its quality of Folk Victorian style architecture, retaining sufficient features that show its architectural significance; and
6. The building possesses distinctive stylistic characteristics of the Folk Victorian style with Stick detailing; 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 California Street, west of downtown Santa Cruz, in an area developed mostly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; it is still surrounded by much, but not all of its apparent historic setting, including surrounding houses of similar age, scale and design and parcels with similar setbacks, parking, and streetscape. It retains its residential scale and feeling and continues, through its form, massing and detailing, to illustrate its associations with minor patterns of residential design and development in the twentieth century. The house retains its integrity with its Victorian era style.