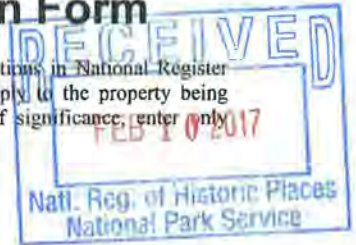


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-778

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Melrose Baptist Church
Other names/site number: Masjidul Waritheen Mosque and Clara Mohammed Elementary and Secondary School
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)


2. Location

Street & number: 1638 47th Avenue
City or town: Oakland State: California County: Alameda
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B X C D

 2/7/17

Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**
California State Office of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

3/27/2017
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

RELIGION/Church School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival
– Spanish Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco, tile roof, decorative ceramic tile

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The former Melrose Baptist Church is located at 1638 47th Avenue in Oakland, Alameda County, California. The location is approximately 5 miles southeast of downtown Oakland in the Fruitvale district. The immediate area is marked by single-family homes, predominantly early- to mid-twentieth century bungalows. Fremont High School, the Fremont Pool, and the Melrose Branch of the Oakland Public Library are all within blocks of the church. The property consists of three buildings on a trapezoidal lot: one contributing and two noncontributing. The contributing building is the Spanish Revival style church and attached school located at the north of the lot. This building includes a 1930 church sanctuary, two-story hall and offices added in 1939, and a two-story school building added in 1949. The building retains all aspects of integrity. The two noncontributing buildings are the circa 1940 preschool and a circa 1920 one-story raised bungalow located near the south of the lot. The single-family residence was constructed earlier and independently of the church.

Narrative Description

Setting

In the nineteenth century, Fruitvale was dominated by fruit orchards, mostly cherry and apricot, and transformed following the migration of refugees of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Fruitvale was incorporated into the City of Oakland in 1909. The church is in the Melrose neighborhood.

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International Boulevard, which runs NW/SE from south of Merritt Lake to San Leandro, is the primary traffic street. Interstate 880 is nearby to the south, while the Fruitvale Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station is a dozen blocks northwest. The local arterial is Foothill Boulevard that has one-, two-, and three-story commercial buildings.

Site

The property is located entirely on Alameda County parcel number 035-2360-032-03. The assessor identifies the whole lot as 1638 47th Avenue. The lot is trapezoidal, roughly 40,808 square feet. It is a full block located between Bond Street at the north, 47th Avenue at the west, Bancroft Avenue at the south, and 48th Avenue at the east. The buildings are oriented to front Bond Street and/or 47th Avenue. The property includes three buildings:

Contributing

1. Church (4701 Bond Street) and School (4727 Bond Street) – 1930 church sanctuary at the northwest corner of the parcel at 47th Avenue and Bond Street; two-story hall and offices were added in 1939, two-story school building was added in 1949, located to the east along Bond Street. To the east of the school is a surface parking lot.

Noncontributing

2. Preschool (1644 47th Avenue) – circa 1940 two-story preschool building located midblock along 47th Avenue between Bond and Bancroft Streets.
3. Single-Family Residence (1638 47th Avenue) – circa 1920 one-story raised bungalow.

The parcel is generally flat. The parcel includes a small courtyard at the north, a yard at the center, and a surface parking lot at the east. The church and school are separated at the north by a small courtyard. The courtyard runs 65 feet wide east-west and is 35 feet deep north-south. The majority of the courtyard is paved with a small grassy area at the center and a few mature trees around the perimeter. A second yard is located at the rear of the church, between the church and preschool building. This yard runs 25 feet north-south and 110 feet east-west. The yard has no character defining features, and there is a modern playset located near the east end. The eastern portion of the lot is dominated by a 9,150 square foot asphalt surface parking lot.

Church – 4701 Bond Street (1930/1939) and School – 4727 Bond Street (1949)

The church was constructed in two phases: the sanctuary was built in 1930 and the two-story hall and offices were constructed at the east in 1939. The addition was based on the original 1930 plans and the whole reads as a single building.

Church Exterior

Melrose Baptist Church, located at the northwest corner of the property, is built approximately to the lot lines. A concrete sidewalk separates the building from the street. The church forms an L-shape in plan and consists of a wood-frame building and painted stucco walls, capped with a clay tile gabled roof, representative of the Spanish Revival style. It runs east and west approximately 50 feet across and roughly 107 feet north and south. It reads as a two-story volume, and mostly houses the sanctuary that spans the width of the building.

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The primary, north elevation (Bond Street) is eight bays wide, composed of painted stucco. The elevation is divided into two sections: a 3-bay 2.5-story gabled section to the west which fronts on Bond Street, and a setback 5-bay two-story wing to the east.

The entrance is located at the gabled end and under a pointed arched opening and features a paneled wood door, flanked by two molded stucco columns. An ornamental tympanum is located within the arch over the door. Two eight-light windows flank the entrance at the transepts. A series of five pointed arches within the central bay, featuring molded stucco arches and Spanish tile delineates the first and second floors. At the second floor is a central recessed oculus window. The second floor also features ornamental Spanish tile in the central bay. Corbelled stucco arches are situated at the roofline in the central bay. Above the roofline at the west transept, a stucco belfry rises one half-story.

The two-story wing contains a secondary entrance in the central bay, accessible by two painted stone steps. The entrance features French doors with an arched 12-light transom. Two paired 18-light steel casement windows with arched transoms are situated on both sides of the entrance. The second floor of the wing contains two metal 8-light windows in the east and west bays, and two central paired steel 8-light casement windows. A painted stucco course is located between the window heads and the roofline. A stucco chimney is located toward the east end of the roof.

The east elevation of the church is three bays wide. The telescoping east transept is one-and-a-half stories high, while the rest of the elevation is two stories high. The transept contains a secondary entrance, accessible by a set of painted stone steps, featuring a painted paneled wood door. A Spanish tile gable supported by ornamental wood brackets is located above the first floor. The southern two bays project outward at the first floor and contain Spanish tile roofing. One 8-light steel window is located centrally in each bay. At the second floor there is a recessed pointed arch with paired metal 12-light arched windows, featuring a molded stucco column. Two quatrefoil-patterned Spanish tiles are located above each bay between the second floor and the roofline. The wood roof rafters are also exposed at this section of the elevation. The remainder of the elevation connects to the school building. The rear, southernmost section of the building is visible and contains one paired metal 8-light window on the first and second floors.

The rear, south elevation is eight bays wide, and utilitarian in design. The eastern six bays are set back from the western two bays. There is one recessed arched entrance at this elevation, enclosed with a metal gate. Three multi-light metal windows are located in the central bays, and two multi-light steel windows are located in the easternmost bays. On the second floor, there is one steel, paired single-light window in the second westernmost bay. The two central bays contain two paired 8-light steel windows, flanked by two 8-light steel windows to the west, and one multi-light and one 8-light steel window to the east. Painted metal downspouts are installed at each section of the elevation.

The west elevation is nine bays wide, composed of painted stucco. The elevation contains a three-story tower that rises above the roofline. The top of the tower features decorative tiles. The

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remainder of the elevation is two stories; the finishes are similar to the east elevation including quatrefoil-patterned Spanish tiles located above each bay between the second floor and the roofline. The three southernmost bays are slightly lower in height and projects west.

At the first floor, the west transept is one bay wide and contains a secondary entrance. Another secondary entrance accessible by painted stone steps is located in the fourth southernmost bay. The entrance bay projects at the first floor only, and contains ornamental brickwork capped with Spanish tile roofing above the opening. The entrance is recessed in a vestibule, which is enclosed by a utilitarian metal gate. This entrance features painted single panel wood double doors. A third secondary entrance is located in the southernmost bay, accessible by painted stone steps, and features a modern metal paneled door.

The central five bays are expressed by stucco buttresses. The first floor projects outward and contains Spanish tile roofing. One multi-light steel window is located centrally in each bay. The southern projection contains two recessed stucco arches, which both contain paired multi-light steel windows. On the second floor, the west transept contains one multi-light steel window. The central five bays all contain a recessed pointed arch with paired metal multi-light arched windows, featuring a molded stucco column. Two quatrefoil-patterned Spanish tiles are located above each bay between the second floor and the roofline. The wood roof rafters are also exposed at this section of the elevation. The southernmost bay contains one multi-light metal window; the remaining two bays contain paired multi-light metal windows. Spanish tile is located between the two paired windows. In this section, Spanish tile roofing is located below the stucco parapet. The southern end of the parapet is capped with Spanish tile roofing and contains ornamental Spanish tile.

Church Interior

The church building forms an irregular "L"-shape. The plan is divided into the sanctuary at the west leg of the "L" and the church hall and office at the east leg. The floor plan of the sanctuary reflects a traditional cruciform cathedral plan with an east tower and a west tower, a nave, east and west aisles, east and west transepts, clerestory windows and a stage/altar. Behind the stage are three floors of smaller rooms for offices, library, storage, and toilets. There is a slight grade to the floor which runs up from south to north. There is also balcony located to the north of the sanctuary. In addition, the building has a crawl space below the first floor, but not a basement.

The primary access point to the sanctuary is from the north elevation, via terraced stairs leading to a double door to a broad vestibule. Two secondary entrances are located in both towers at the east and west ends of the vestibule. The balcony is accessible by two stairs located within the towers. The stairs are wood with an ornamental wood balustrade at the first level, and a utilitarian wood handrail at the rest of the stairs. The nave is accessible by a second set of wood double doors which lead from the vestibule. It is also accessible by an entrance at the west elevation which leads to a set of wood double doors that open into the nave. The nave is distinguished by archways which are located along the length of the aisles. Finishes in the sanctuary include carpet flooring, painted plaster walls, and painted molding. The ceiling

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features exposed wood beams and rafters embellished with painted/stenciled Spanish revival patterns. Metal lanterns with glass globes hang from the beams on chains.

The church hall area and suite of offices is accessible by the east aisle which opens into the hall room. Painted wood sliding doors are located in the opening. The hall is open in plan, and contains recessed pointed archways at the south wall. Finishes are consistent in the hall including wood floors, painted plaster walls, and exposed wood beam ceilings. Four lanterns with glass globes hang on chains in the hall.

A doorway in the west archway, with a painted paneled wood door, leads to a hallway, which access the offices and a kitchen. The hallway contains suspended acoustic tile ceilings and fluorescent light fixtures, as well as painted wood built-in cabinetry. In the hallway, wood paneled doors leads to two offices and the kitchen. The third office is accessible through the kitchen by a modern single panel wood door. Finishes in the offices are not original and were altered circa late 1980s. These changes included carpet, wood paneling, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings.

The mosque that occupied the church altered the interior of the sanctuary in the late 1980s by installing carpet, and wood screen at the altar, which formerly housed a triptych altarpiece. The general form of the altar has been retained.

The second floor of the church building is accessible by a wood stair located southeast corner of the sanctuary. The stair contains a wood handrail and a wood balustrade and painted plaster walls. An open storage area connects to the library. To the east of the stair is a hall which accesses a series of classrooms and offices, as well as a kitchen and storage space. Finishes throughout the second floor are generally consistent, including wood floors, baseboards, painted crown molding, and painted plaster walls and ceilings. In addition, there are skylights in the large classroom, and hallway. The northeast office contains circa 1980s wood paneling and acoustic tile ceilings.

School Exterior

The school connects to the east leg of the church with a colonnade at the first floor and an enclosed hall on the second floor. The school is also two stories in height and similar in materials and design, containing materials characteristic of the Spanish Revival including stucco, Spanish tile, and Spanish tile roofing. The stucco is painted a lighter shade from the ground level to the second floor windowsills, and a darker color from the sills to the roofline. In addition, all windows are steel. It is irregular in form but approximates a rectangle with an extension at the east elevation; it is 130 feet on the north-south axis and 30 feet on the east-west axis.

The primary, north (Bond Street) elevation is five bays wide, composed of painted stucco. The first floor contains paired multi-light windows in each bay. The second floor contains paired multi-light windows in each bay. A molded, painted stucco course is situated below the windowsills. The roof rafters are visible on this elevation.

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The north elevation of the extension at the east of the building is also visible from Bond Street. It is five bays wide on the first floor, and four bays wide on the second floor. The first floor contains paired 6-light windows in each of the western four bays. The 1-story eastern bay, which is capped by a pitched Spanish tile roof, contains a pair of multi-light windows. Ornamental Spanish tile is situated beneath the windowsills. The second floor contains paired multi-light windows in the eastern three bays, and 2-light double doors with a transom in the western bay. The doors lead to an elevated walkway, which accesses another set of doors at the east elevation. The roof rafters are also visible on this elevation.

The east elevation of the school is 15 bays wide, composed of several sections of the building, thus forming an irregular shape. On the first floor, the northern two bays contain no fenestration. The next three bays to the south are recessed. An entrance, accessible by an enclosed walkway, features 2-light double doors topped by a transom is located in the central bay, flanked by multi-light windows. A short railing separates the walkway from the adjacent parking lot. The next four bays to the south project outward, and contain Spanish tile roofing. Each bay contains paired 4-light windows. The next bay to the south is set back slightly, and also contains Spanish tile roofing and a pair of 4-light windows. The next four bays to the south are set back further and each contains one multi-light window. The southernmost bay is set back further and contains a circa 1950 metal paneled door, accessible by painted stone steps.

On the second floor of the east elevation, the northernmost bay contains no fenestration. The next bay to the south contains one 8-light window between the first and second floors. The next three bays to the south are recessed and feature an elevated walkway with a stucco knee wall. The central bay contains an entrance which features double 2-light doors with a transom, flanked by multi-light windows. The next three bays to the south project to the east, and each contain paired 6-light windows. At the next bay to the south (that contains no fenestration), a stucco chimney rises above the roofline. The next three bays to the south contain 12-light windows, with an 8-light window in the fourth bay. The southernmost bay contains two 4-light windows. This elevation contains Spanish tile roofing, and features exposed roof rafters. The southern section of the elevation contains a flat roof, where there is no tile roofing visible.

The south elevation of the school is eight bays wide, composed of several sections of the building, also forming an irregular shape. On the first floor the two eastern most bays project to the south and are capped by Spanish tile roofing. Both of the bays contain paired 4-light windows. The next bay to the west also contains a pair of 4-light windows. The next three bays to the west project to the south. The eastern bay contains a wood paneled door with a transom, the entrance accessible by a stone step. The other two bays contain paired 6-light windows. The next two bays to the west project further to the south. The first floor contains one 6-light window with metal security bars. The westernmost bay contains no fenestration on the first floor.

On the second floor of the south elevation, the westernmost bay contains no fenestration, and is capped by Spanish tile roofing with exposed rafter. This bay houses a stucco chimney, which rises above the roofline. The next bay to the west contains a pair of 4-light windows. The next three bays to the west project to the south. The eastern bay contains no fenestration, while the

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other two bays contain paired 4-light windows. The next two bays to the west project further to the south. The eastern bay contains no fenestration, with a higher roofline with Spanish tile roofing, and features ornamental tile. The western bay has a lower roofline with Spanish tile roofing, and contains one 8-light window.

The south elevation contains Spanish tile roofing in sections. The central section of the elevation has a flat roof which is not visible. Painted metal downspouts are installed at each section of the elevation.

The west elevation of the school is 13 bays wide. The school connects to the church with a hyphen at the center of the west elevation with an elevated hall and a colonnade at the first floor. The north elevation of this hyphen contains two bays with paired 4-light windows. The south elevation of the hyphen also contains two bays. The western bay had a higher roofline and houses two 8-light windows. The northern section of the west elevation is five bays wide. The northernmost bay contains no fenestration; the central three bays contain paired 6-light windows, while the southern bay contains a recessed entrance. The section of the elevation at the colonnade is three bays wide, and contains an entrance with a central set of double doors, flanked by two single doors, all with transom windows. The north and south bays both contain one 6-light window. The southern section of the elevation is five bays wide. The northern bay contains no fenestration, while the central three bays contain paired 6-light windows. The southernmost bay is lower in height than the rest of the elevation and projects to the west. It contains three arched 5-light windows between the first and second floor.

On the second floor of the west elevation there is also no fenestration in the northernmost bay. The other four bays in the northern section each contain paired 4-light windows. The central section is occupied by the hall connection to the church. The northern bay in the southern section contains one 4-light window, while the other three bays contain paired 4-light windows.

Spanish tile roofing with exposed rafters is visible on the entire west elevation.

School Interior

The first and second floors are similar in plan with a central larger room surrounded by smaller classrooms in the northern section and east wing, and two larger classrooms in the southern section. The building does not have a basement.

The first floor and second floor layouts are similar. A cross plan hallway with open central staircase connects the large classrooms at the north, south, and east. At the west end of the first floor is the entrance lobby, and at the west end of the second floor is a hallway connecting to the church. Each classroom is a large room with seven to ten smaller study rooms around the perimeter. On the second floor at the east is a multi-purpose room with a fireplace. Egress stairs are located at the northeast and southwest. Interior finishes are generally consistent, including plaster walls and ceilings with linoleum or wood floors and wood trim. The entrance lobby contains ceramic tile floors.

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Noncontributing Preschool Building – 1644 47th Avenue (circa 1940)

The building closest to the church is the circa 1940 preschool building.¹ Though the building was constructed during the period of significance, it was not built in the Spanish Revival style and is therefore noncontributing under Criterion C. The pre-school was built as a response to fit the growing congregation and in turn student population in the late 1940s. It was likely intended to be a temporary school facility until the funds were raised to build the Sunday school building at the east in 1949.

Exterior

There is a slight green space buffer of roughly 25 feet; this area includes a small play structure. The wood-framed building is roughly 65 feet on the east-west axis and approximately 20 feet wide. The painted, horizontal wood cladding visually divides the building with a thin, plain band dividing the two. The roof is flat.

The north elevation is the primary elevation. On the first floor there is a recessed, covered entry. The porch provides direct access to the room at the east and the room at the west. Paired egress doors also open onto the porch. At the east and west ends of the second floor are four sets of multi-light, wood windows.

The west elevation fronts 47th Street. The ground floor has three multi-light, wood windows centered below an octagonal, multi-light wood window on the second floor. The south (rear) elevation has aluminum windows. The window openings are located to comply with interior use rather than for exterior aesthetics. The east elevation has projecting bay at the south and an exterior stair that is used for egress. The windows on this elevation are aluminum.

Interior

The floor plans of the first and second floor are similar. There are two larger rooms, one at the east and one at the west; the stair is located at the center-north, and a small room is located at the center-south. The finishes are somewhat rough with exposed ceiling beams and gypsum board walls, and flooring varies among tile, carpet, and laminate.

Noncontributing Single-Family Residence – 1638 47th Avenue (circa 1920)

The single-family residence pre-dates the church and is outside the period of significance. It was not built in the Spanish Revival style and is therefore noncontributing under Criterion C.

Located at the southwest corner of the parcel where Bond Street and Bancroft Avenue meet, the house is a raised bungalow with a single car garage and utility room on the lower floor and living space on the upper floor. The roof is hipped with composite shingles. The north elevation of the single-family residence is located three feet away from the south elevation of the pre-school building. At the west and south is a small yard.

¹ City of Oakland Permit #A79318, 07/08/1939.

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Integrity

The property as a whole has sufficient integrity to convey its associated historic values. The building retains all aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The absence of alteration reinforces all seven aspects. The contributing church and school building is in its original location. The church/school building was built for specific purposes and continued these uses until it was vacated in 2016. Key character defining features, such as siting, exterior material, and door and window openings have been retained. The sanctuary with balcony is intact as are many of the schoolrooms. Finishes in many spaces have been updated, and basic material and form have not.

The property's setting has not significantly changed. The portions of the site that have not been developed, i.e. the two courtyard spaces and surface parking lot, do not factor into the building's architectural significance. There is no historic landscape plan for the site. The building locations on the site only allow for associated low-scale planting beds. The school building clearly has an orientation to the parking lot to the east.

The design, materials, and workmanship are all intact. While some materials—specific to the Spanish Revival style—are in poor and in some instances failing condition, there have been no significant exterior physical alterations to the church and school subsequent to the final construction. The church and school building appears as it did when the school portion was completed. The building retains its feeling and association as a house of worship and school even though it is currently vacant.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1930-1949

Significant Dates

1930 Church
1939 Church Addition
1949 School

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Blaine & Olson. Architects
Blaine, Roger
McCall, Charles
Moyer, Cecil S.
Olson, David

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Melrose Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture as an example of Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, also called Spanish Revival. The period of significance is 1930 to 1949, encompassing three distinct periods of construction. The church was completed in 1930, designed in the decorative Spanish Revival style. The hall and office addition was completed in 1939, executed off the original Blaine and Olson design. The school was built in 1949, completed by Cecil Moyer, and clearly inspired if not copied from the original architect's vision. As a religious building eligible for its architecture, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration A for properties owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Spanish Revival in America

The Spanish Revival Style was popular in the early twentieth century and was based on the architecture of the Spanish colonization of the Americas. The Spanish Revival Style is the Californian counterpart of the earlier Georgian Revival in the Eastern states. Like the latter, it was in some degree the result of disenchantment with the nineteenth century present; it was also the result of a reaction against those Eastern styles which had dominated the architectural scene in California since 1848.² The style was most popular in California and Florida, as these were former Spanish colonies and acknowledged their region's colonial roots. Within Oakland and the greater San Francisco Bay area, the style resonated in part because of the Hispanic heritage and the survival of La Mission de San Francisco de Asis (Mission Delores) from that era. Its design was inspired by religious buildings in Spain and Mexico, and in turn inspired other religious properties in the region. Noted Bay area architects Willis Polk and John Galen Howard were among the first architects to study California missions in 1887 and 1888. Throughout its use, the Spanish Revival style has been applied to various building types, from single-family homes to apartment buildings to office towers.

The style is characterized by a combination of several eras of Spanish history, including the Baroque, Colonial, and Moorish periods.³ Arches and tiled roofs are the most general features of the Spanish Revival Style. The arches are usually semicircular, sometimes segmental—the two types may be combined in one building—and are quite free of moldings; the impost is marked by a stringcourse at most. The roofs are of low pitch and either hipped or stopped at the ends against shaped gables of curvilinear outline; sometimes they are entirely hidden by parapets. Walls are

² Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1969), 214.

³ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994), 409.

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nearly always smooth-plastered. Balconies are frequent, and so, at least in large buildings, are towers or turrets capped by domes or by pyramidal tiled roofs.

Melrose Church Complex as an Example of Spanish Revival Style

As identified by the City of Oakland in its Cultural Resource Survey, the Melrose Church complex is an example of Spanish Revival architecture and as evaluated considered to be locally of major importance.

In its best examples, the style is complete and coherent. Massing is asymmetrical both in plan and elevation, including various projections. Materials are earthen, suggestive of adobe with painted stuccoed finishes. Siting aligns with the street and includes interior courtyards. The multi-faceted roofline is typically low-rise and includes tiled gables. Fenestration is a balance of consistency complemented by feature windows. Ornamentation includes cast iron grill work, cast stone, and terra cotta detailing. Other characteristics typically include small porches or balconies.

The Melrose Baptist Church complex fully embraces all of these character defining features. The massing is asymmetric with projecting wall surfaces. Materials are painted stucco. The siting is along the property line at 47th Avenue and Bond Street, but with a recessed central courtyard centered on Bond that leads to a secondary courtyard at the interior of the lot. The roofline is a blend of flat and low-pitch, with tile-like covering. Ornamentation includes decorative cast iron grill, terra cotta, and cast stone.

Church architects Roger Blaine and David Olson traveled through Spain. Their travels clearly influenced their design generally and it is specifically apparent in the church's styling. First, their use of tile; the building's primary entry has decorative tile on the belfry, around the tower, and in niches on either side of the central oculus. Second, tile was not the only decorative element; many locations have elaborative, painted cast-concrete forms including the ornamental tympanum, blind arches, and corbels. Third, Spanish Revival also incorporates Moorish influences, like the window openings above the north entrance. Fourth, aside from the decorative elements, the overall materials of the building, the stucco façade and tile roofs, are typically used in Spanish Revival.

The addition at the east end of the sanctuary that houses a hall, offices, and a classroom was constructed in 1939. The design was based on the 1927 Blaine & Olson drawing and the addition blends seamlessly to the church and reinforces the emblematic Spanish Revival design.

The 1949 school, constructed nearly 20 years after the 1930 church, is an understated, complimentary design to the church. The basic elements of the stucco finish and tile roof are carried over but this building is less decorative. While the church worked within the parameters of a typical layout for a house of worship, the school capitalized on Spanish Revival elements within its floorplan. For example, the architect included a breezeway between buildings at the west and the balcony and covered porch at the east. This building has subtle decorative elements,

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such as the tile cross on the south elevation that would have matched the cross previously located on the north elevation on the second floor of the breezeway.

Comparative Analysis

The Melrose Baptist Church complex is a superior but not isolated example of the style within the greater Oakland area. In chronological order, other examples include:

- First Swedish Baptist Church (circa 1900), 1515 3rd Avenue, architect unknown
- St. Andrews Catholic Church (1908-09, moved 1958), 1909 Market St, Etienne Garin
- St. Bernard's Church (1920s), 1606 62nd Avenue, architect unknown
- St. Elizabeth Catholic Church (1920-21), 1464 34th Avenue, John Foley
- St. Leo's Catholic Church (1925) 4203 Piedmont Avenue, architect unknown
- First Christian Church (1928), 111 Fairmount Avenue, William Weeks
- Church of Latter Day Saints (1928), 3618 Dimon Avenue, Weddington & Burrell
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church (1930) 959 12th Street, Ware & Blohme
- United Brethren Church (1938), 303 Hudson Street, architect unknown
- St. Patrick Catholic Church (1945-46), 1005 Peralta Street, Martin Rist

While these properties are in the great Oakland/East San Francisco Bay area, they are generally remote from the Fruitvale district. The only comparable resource of this style within the immediate neighborhood is St. Elizabeth's, located a mile to the west.

History of the Resource

On December 4th, 1926, Melrose Baptist Church—having outgrown its existing facility—announced its intention to build new and larger church complex.

The evolution and development of Melrose Baptist Church reflects the development of Fruitvale. Fruitvale's roots date to 1820 when the Spanish Crown gifted the land to Don Luis Peralta. Relatively isolated, the area was marked by ranching and farming supported by the gradual influx of homesteaders. Through the mid-nineteenth century, immigrants—a mix of German, Italian, and Portuguese particularly—settled in the area and established small farms, ranches, and orchards.⁴ The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad and establishment of a station at Fruitvale accelerated development. Fruitvale took the form of a successful small town with a contained commercial center surrounded by streets of elegant residences and villas on Fruitvale Avenue and East 14th Street, with Queen Anne cottages near the train station at East 10th Street and respectable working class housing nearby.⁵

It was at this time, late in the nineteenth century, that Melrose Baptist Church germinated. In 1894, Henry Jackson first organized a small Sunday school at the Melrose Schoolhouse, securing several teachers from the Twenty-third Avenue Baptist Church. Religious services and activities grew as did

⁴ Alameda County Public Health Department, *Fruitvale Community Information Book* (Oakland: Alameda County, 2001), 6.

⁵ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, *Fruitvale on Foot* (Oakland, CA: Oakland Heritage Alliance, 2004), 2.

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the congregation. By 1899, a 6,000 square foot lot was gifted by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the first Melrose chapel erected, roughly a quarter mile south of the current site at Foothill Boulevard and Maxwell Park.⁶

Into the twentieth century, Fruitvale grew into a self-sustaining city. In 1903, an *Oakland Tribune* article noted that besides a lovely climate, city amenities include fire protection by a volunteer fire department, a good sewage system, water supply, roads, and train service to San Francisco.⁷ Following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, city refugees came to the East Bay and the population of Fruitvale doubled.⁸

As Fruitvale grew, so too did the Melrose congregation. Melrose Baptist Church formally organized on June 28, 1906. The congregation had twenty-four members, most of whom came from the Twenty-third Avenue Baptist Church. Reverend F. C. Stannard served as pastor. A standard lot at the corner of 47th Avenue (then called Bryant Avenue) and Bond Street was secured. Personal subscriptions and loans from the Baptist Home Mission Society and Church Expansion Society made it possible to erect a building at the cost of \$8,000.⁹ The first service was held on Sunday, June 16, 1908 with dedication the following week. Two years later, the church built a one-story, three-room Sunday school building on site for \$2,000.¹⁰

Fruitvale continued to grow into a prosperous community. By 1909 with a growing need for services, Fruitvale citizens voted to annex to the city of Oakland. As land became more valuable for housing, the orchards and estates were subdivided.¹¹ Oakland grew mightily in the first thirty years of the century. It was one of three fastest growing cities in the US from 1900 to 1930, jumping sharply from 67,000 in 1900 to 150,000 in 1910, and to 284,000 in 1930.¹² By the late 1920s, the Fruitvale commercial district was referred to as Oakland's second downtown. It had banks, hospitals, a courthouse, department stores, and groceries. It became the commercial center for all of East Oakland.¹³

Through the 1920s, the congregation grew rapidly and was active in the community, socially and religiously as well as politically. The church was an active center with programming through the week and not infrequently pastors provided social commentary on community values and issues. In 1922, the church embarked on a plan to raise funds for a gymnasium.¹⁴

⁶ Edgar Hinkel and William McCann, editors, *Oakland 1852-1938, Social Political, and Economic History of Oakland, California*, Volume 1 (Oakland, CA: Oakland Public Library, 1939), 589; "The Story of the East Bay Churches: Melrose Baptist," *Oakland Tribune*, 9/10/1927.

⁷ Magnuson-Peddle, 1.

⁸ Magnuson-Peddle, 2.

⁹ Hinkel and McCann, 589.

¹⁰ "Melrose Baptist Church," *Oakland Tribune*, 11/20/1910.

¹¹ Alameda County Public Health Department, 7.

¹² Richard A. Walker, "Oakland: Dark Star in an Expanding Universe" (Berkeley: University of California, 1997, Unpublished), 2.

¹³ Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, 3.

¹⁴ "Church Plans Drive," *Oakland Tribune*, 5/14/1922.

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By December, 1926, with 360 members, the Church had outgrown its building. Reverend D. M. Dawson announced a campaign to raise \$100,000 for a new church complex on the same site. These discussions had been underway for three years. The vision was to have a \$65,000 church complemented by a Sunday school, gymnasium, and social hall. The school would be large enough for cradle, primary, young people, and adults.¹⁵

Planning continued over the next nine months. Initially, the Church's building committee hoped to break ground in the summer of 1927. Instead, the committee opted to delay the project in order to acquire the adjacent lots to the south and east for \$6,000.¹⁶

The architectural firm of Wythe, Blaine & Olson was given the design commission. The prominent Oakland firm had a significant regional portfolio in church work and in the Spanish Revival style. Originally known as Wythe, Blaine and Olson, after Wilson Wythe's death the firm became Blaine & Olson, Architects. Better-known works from the firm are the 1925 Crocker Highland Elementary School in Oakland, the 1926 First United Methodist Church in Reno, and the 1926-28 El Castillo Building and Masonic Temple in Santa Barbara. The firm also did a fair amount of work in Carmel, working primarily in the Spanish Revival style. In 1927, they designed the La Giralda Building followed by the El Paseo Building the next year. Both buildings were considered artfully orchestrated arrangements based in the decorative vocabulary of old Spain.¹⁷

Despite best efforts, fundraising was a challenge. To move the project forward, the building committee launched a fundraising rally in October, 1928 with a target of \$35,000. The remainder of the construction costs would be financed. In real terms, this meant that the vision was scaled back to include only the sanctuary; the remaining portions of the project were part of the future vision.¹⁸ The groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 13, 1929 for the new church building. Anderson-Hogland was the contractor. The church would continue to meet in the old building while construction was underway; when the first section was completed, the old portion would then be demolished.¹⁹ The dedication of the new building took place on March 18, 1930. The final cost of construction and furnishings was \$45,000, or \$644,700 in 2016 dollars.²⁰

Despite the Depression, Melrose Baptist continued to grow. By 1936, the church's congregation numbered 800 members and the congregation was "said to be one of the fastest-growing congregations on the Pacific Coast."²¹ In December, 1938, the Church held a ceremonial mortgage burning, celebrating payment of the note funding its construction.

¹⁵ "Money for New Church Here Sought," *Oakland Tribune*, 12/4/1926.

¹⁶ "The Story of the East Bay Churches: Melrose Baptist," *Oakland Tribune*, 9/10/1927.

¹⁷ Kent Seavey, *Images of America: Carmel: A History of Architecture* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 99.

¹⁸ "Church Plans Rally to Obtain \$35,000," *Oakland Tribune*, 10/24/1928.

¹⁹ "New Baptist Church Begun," *Oakland Tribune*, 3/13/1929.

²⁰ "The Widening of a Portion of Bond Street; Between 47th Avenue and 50th Avenue," *Oakland Tribune*, 8/10/1928.

²¹ "Church Shows Growth," *Oakland Tribune*, 7/9/1938.

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With payment of the mortgage and continued growth, the Church embarked on the next phase of the vision, building the east wing. That project used Blaine & Olson's Spanish Revival design. Charles McCall was the supervising architect. McCall was an Oakland based architect who worked predominantly in the eastern area of the San Francisco Bay region, known as the East Bay. He is best known for his lavish period revival homes, but early in his career he experimented with a number of other styles as well, though he was best known for his Spanish Revival work.²² McCall also designed the 1918 Central Bank Building in Oakland.²³ The \$94,000 project was completed in 1939, a cost of \$1.6 million in 2016 dollars.

Through the years of World War II, Oakland and the East Bay continued to grow rapidly as city's waterfront shipyards, foundries, and heavy industry provided essential war materials. Over the decade, population grew by 27% to 385,000 by 1950.

The demand for space to fit the growing population resulted in the construction of the two-story wood-framed building to the south in the late 1940s. It was likely intended to be a temporary school facility until the funds were raised to build the Sunday school building at the east in 1949.

In 1949, Wythe, Blaine and Olson's 1927 vision of the church complex came to final fruition. That year, the Church completed a \$100,000 school building, at a cost of \$1 million in 2016 dollars, which attached to the 1939 addition by a courtyard and walkway. Also in the Spanish Revival style, the school building was designed by architect Cecil S. Moyer. Moyer was born in Oakland, Nebraska in 1906.²⁴ He moved to Oakland to study at the University of California, Berkeley.²⁵ During his career in Oakland he served as the secretary of the East Bay chapter of the American Institute of Architects.²⁶ He typically built commercial, industrial, religious, and city planned building types. In addition to the school addition, he is known for the 1954 American Bag Co. Annex in Oakland.

At the Melrose Baptist Church's 50th anniversary in 1956, the congregation had over 1,200 members. In 1975, the Church purchased the 14 acre, Art Deco style Miller Estate in the East Hills, and in 1988 Melrose Baptist Church changed its name to the East Hills Community Church.

Shortly after the congregation left Melrose Baptist Church in 1988, the church converted to a mosque with an African American Muslim congregation. In addition to prayers, the complex offered Sharia arbitration, youth group programs, women's programs, Arabic classes, Qur'an classes, homeless services, and drug counseling. The mosque was owned by Masjidul Waritheen and the associated school was called Clara Mohammed Elementary & Secondary School. The mosque and school vacated the property in 2015.

²² Notable Bay Region Real Estate, "210 Hillside, Piedmont," <https://edificionado.wordpress.com> accessed 5/1/2016.

²³ *Building and Engineering News*, Volume 18, 1918, 6.

²⁴ American Institute of Architects, *1956 American Architects Directory*, 394
<http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/ahd1031662.aspx> Accessed 6/1/2016.

²⁵ AIA 1956 Directory, 394.

²⁶ *Architect and Engineer*, January, 1952; Alameda County Public Health Department, 26.

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Criteria Consideration A

The nominated property no longer functions as a church and will be adapted for residential use. As a property constructed, and formerly owned and used for religious purposes, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration A because its eligibility for the National Register is merited by its architecture.

Conclusion

Melrose Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance as a superior local example of Spanish Revival architecture.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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“The Story of the East Bay Churches: Melrose Baptist,” *Oakland Tribune*, 9/10/1927.

“The Widening of a Portion of Bond Street; Between 47th Avenue and 50th Avenue,”
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: City of Oakland, Historic Preservation Division

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): B1507

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.772034 Longitude: -122.209003

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Melrose Baptist Church is located on Alameda County parcel number 35-2360-32-3. It consists of the entirety of the block bounded by 47th Avenue at the west, Bond Street at the north, 48th Avenue at the east, and Bancroft Street at the south.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the legally recorded boundary lines for the nominated property and includes the entirety of the property historically associated with the complex.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John M. Tess, President; Robert Mawson, Vice President

organization: Heritage Consulting Group

street & number: 1120 NW Northrup Street

city or town: Portland state: Oregon zip code: 97209

e-mail: jmtess@heritage-consulting.com; rmawson@heritage-consulting.com

telephone: (503) 228-0272

date: August 15, 2016

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Melrose Baptist Church
City or Vicinity: Oakland
County: Alameda
State: California
Photographer: Heritage Consulting Group
Date Photographed: February 2016/May 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18 Exterior, Church, north and west elevations, looking southeast
- 2 of 18 Exterior, Church, north elevation, looking south
- 3 of 18 Exterior, Church, north elevation, looking southwest
- 4 of 18 Exterior, Church and School, north elevation, looking south
- 5 of 18 Exterior, School, north elevation, looking south
- 6 of 18 Exterior, School, east elevation, looking west
- 7 of 18 Exterior, School, south and east elevations, looking northwest
- 8 of 18 Exterior, School, west elevation at south, looking northeast

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- 9 of 18 Exterior, Church, south elevation, looking northwest
- 10 of 18 Exterior, Church, west elevation, looking east
- 11 of 18 Interior, Church, first floor, sanctuary, looking south
- 12 of 18 Interior, Church, first floor, sanctuary, looking north
- 13 of 18 Interior, Church, first floor at east, looking north
- 14 of 18 Interior, School, first floor, entry, looking east
- 15 of 18 Interior, School, second floor, classroom at north, looking east
- 16 of 18 Interior, School, second floor, multipurpose room at east, looking north
- 17 of 18 Exterior, Noncontributing Preschool, north elevation, looking southwest
- 18 of 18 Exterior, Noncontributing House, west elevation, looking east

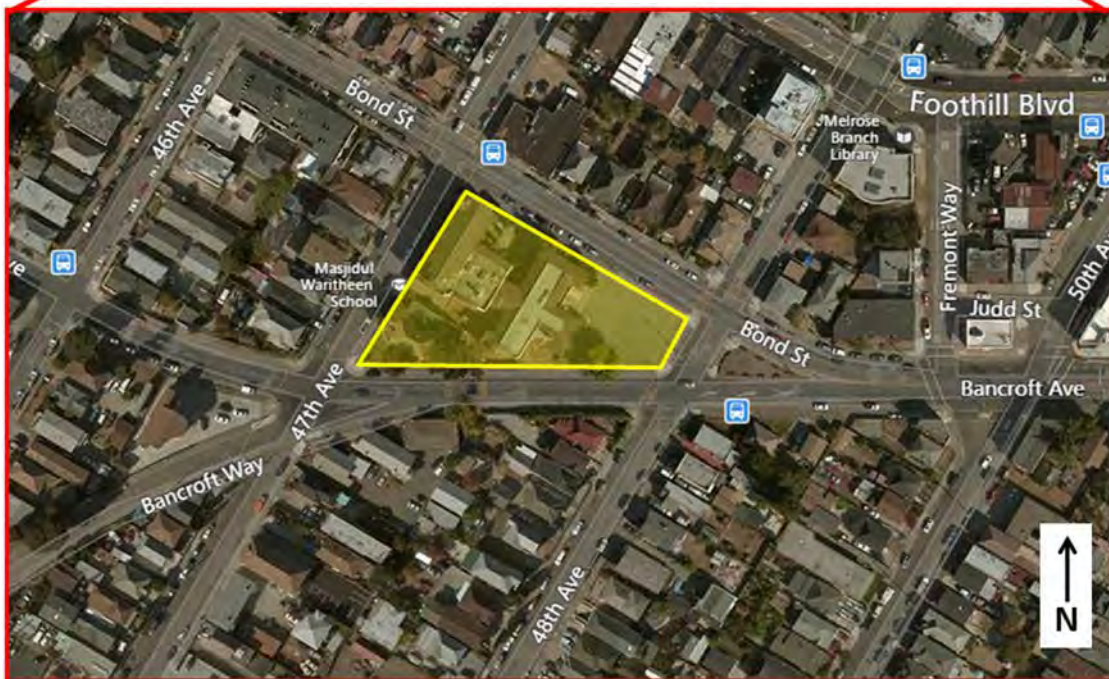
Index of Figures

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- 6 of 10 1930 Church Entry Detail, Blaine & Olson (Oakland Planning Department)
- 7 of 10 1930 Church North Elevation Detail, Blaine & Olson (Oakland Planning Department)
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- 9 of 10 *Oakland Tribune* Article, September 10, 1927
- 10 of 10 *Oakland Tribune* Article, July 9, 1938

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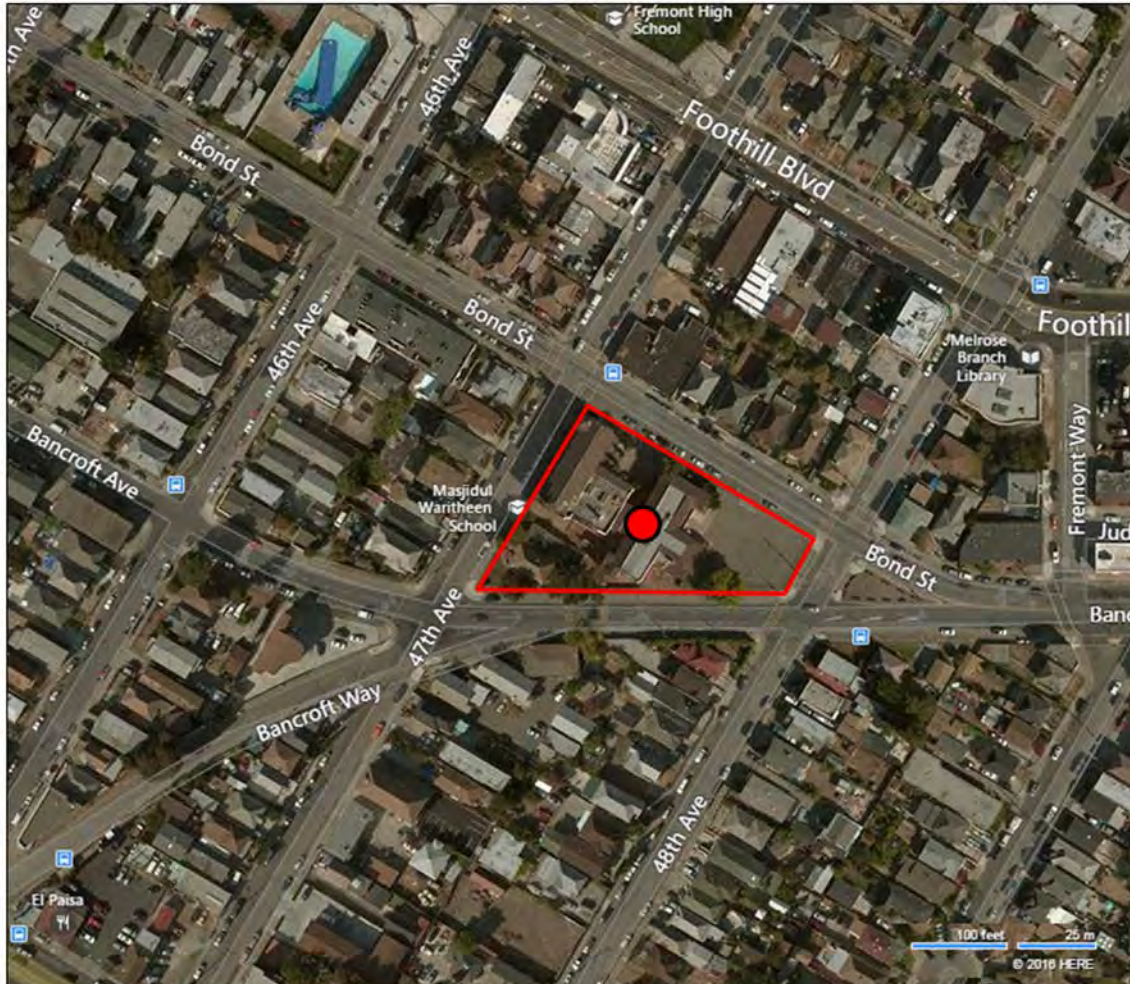
Figure 1. Site Map



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Figure 2. Location Map with Latitude/Longitude



Acreage of Property: 0.94 acres

Coordinates:

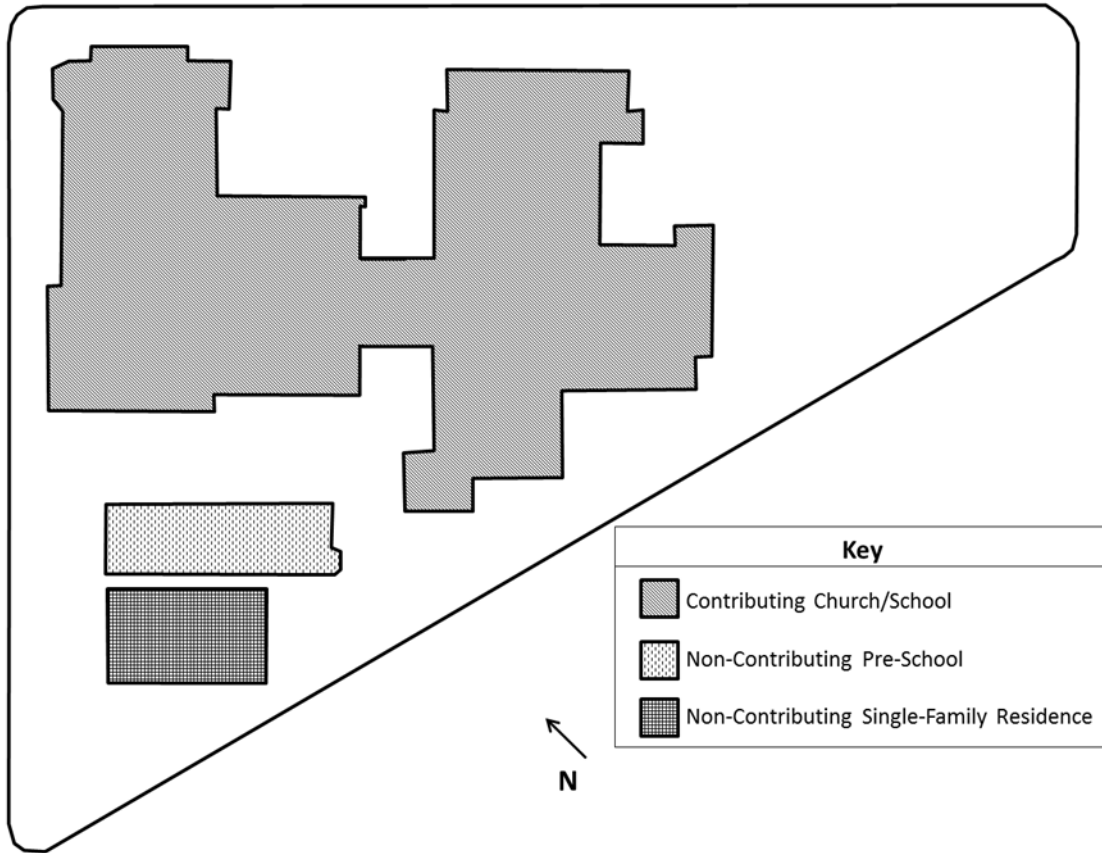
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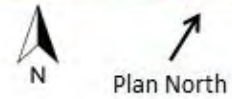
Figure 3. Site Plan



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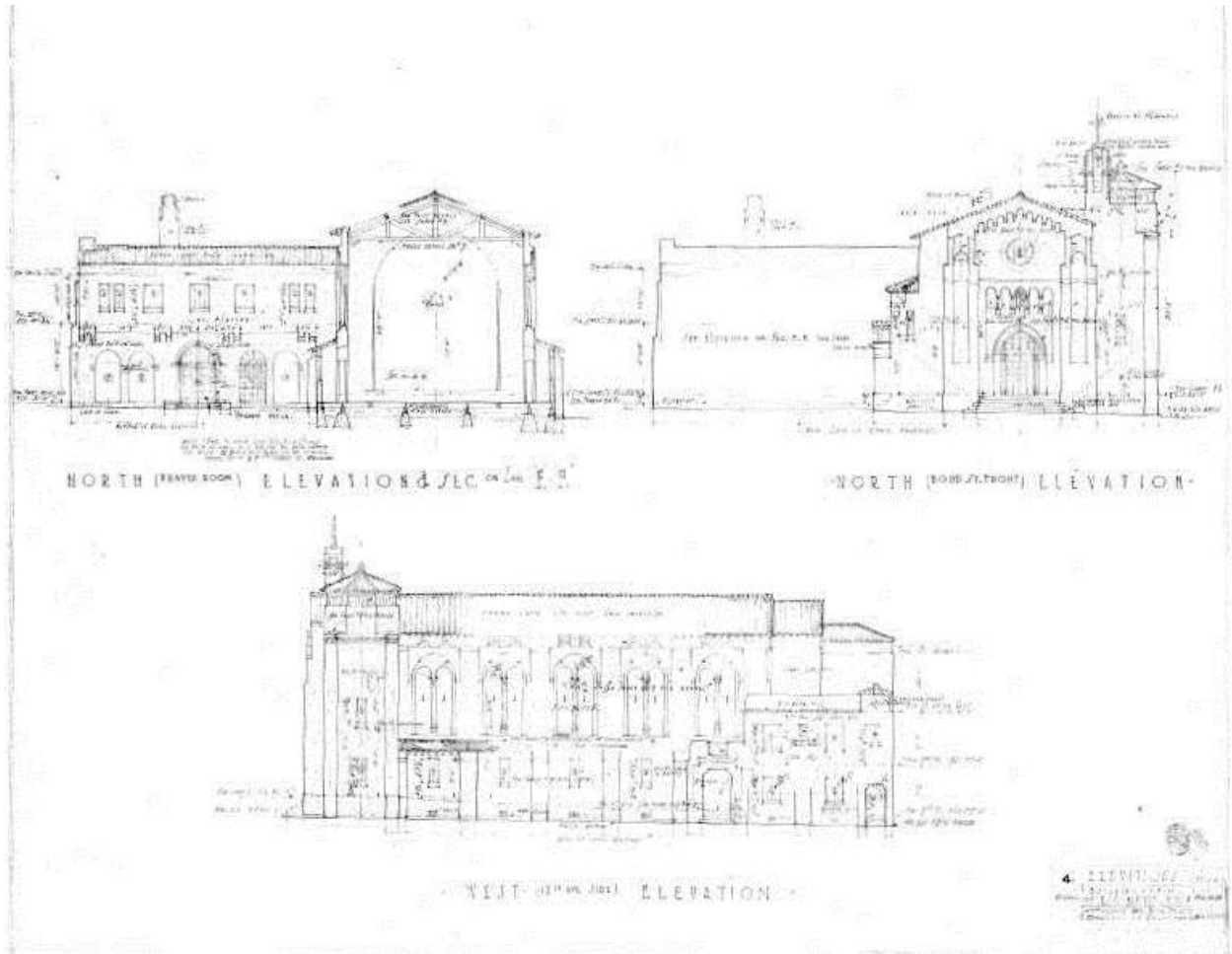
Figure 4. Exterior Photo Key



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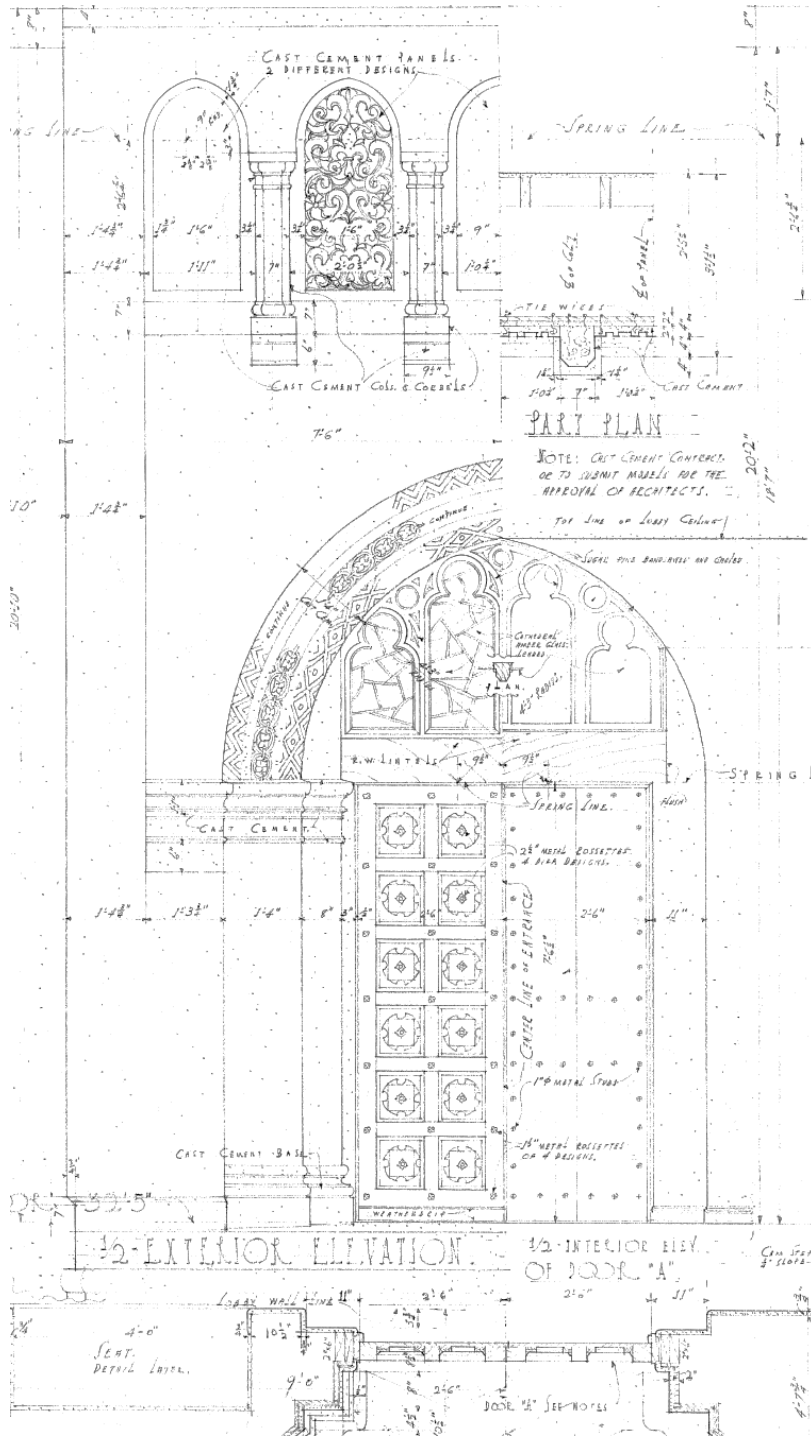
Figure 5. 1930 Elevation Drawings



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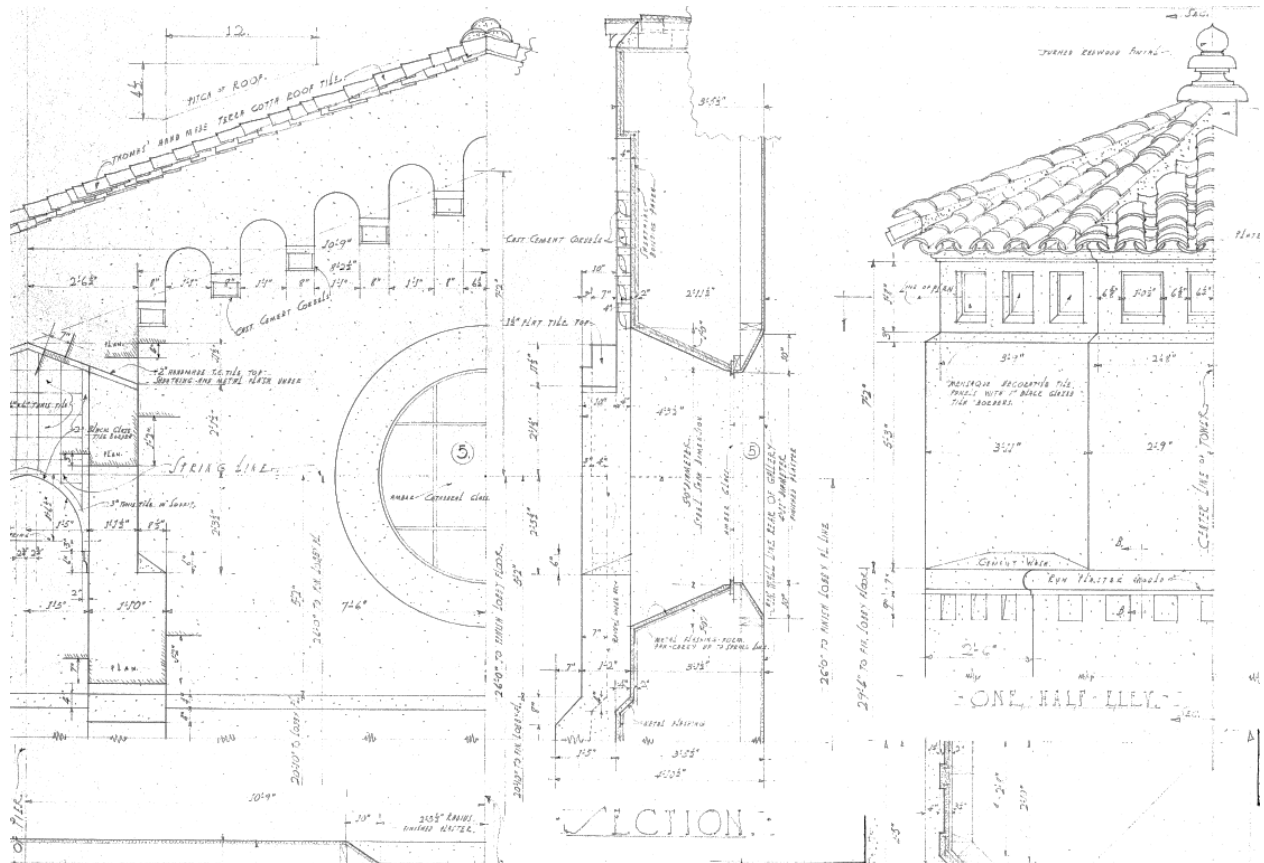
Figure 6. 1930 Church Entry Detail



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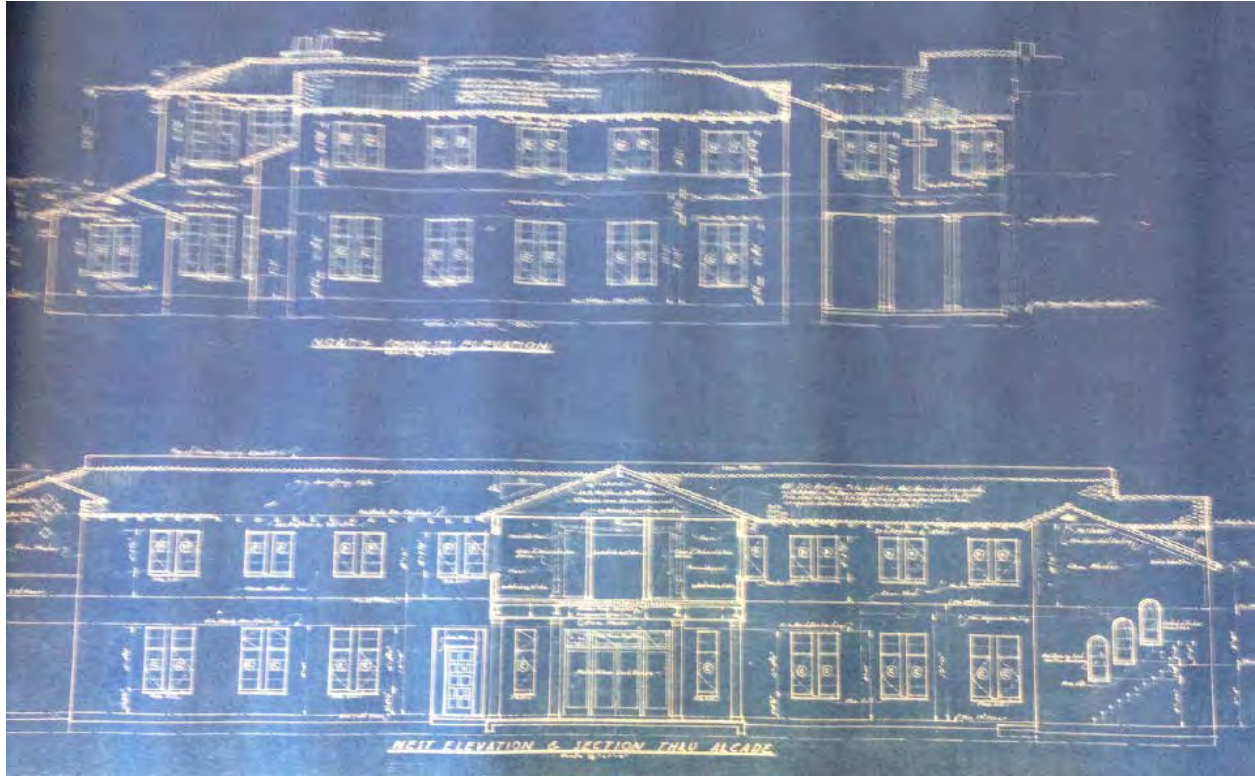
Figure 7. 1930 Church North Elevation Detail



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Figure 8. 1949 School, North and West Elevations



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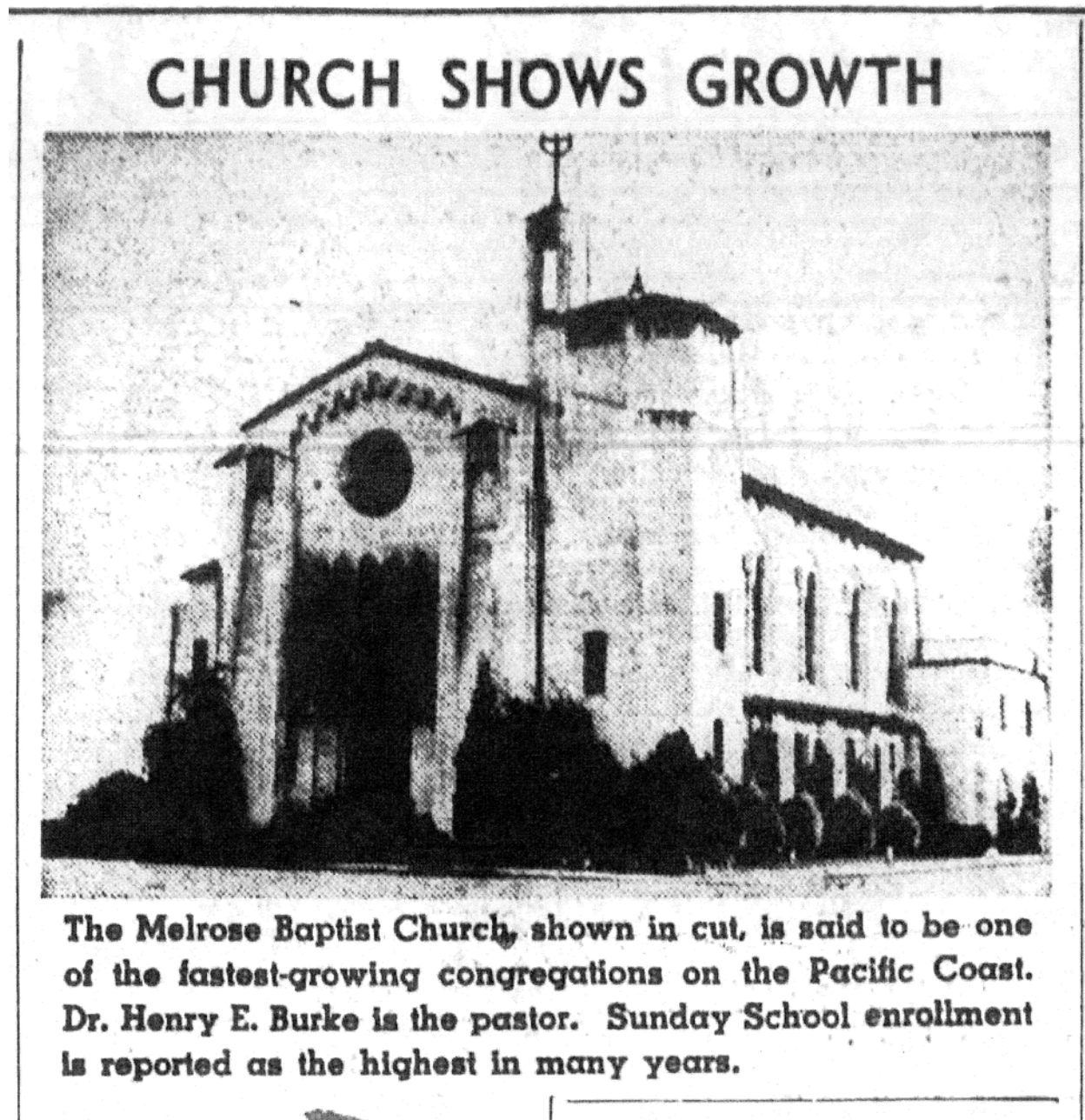
Figure 9. *Oakland Tribune* Article, September 10, 1927



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Figure 10. *Oakland Tribune* Article, July 9, 1938



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photo 1. Exterior, Church, north and west elevations, looking southeast



Photo 2. Exterior, Church, north elevation, looking south



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Photo 3. Exterior, Church, north elevation, looking southwest



Photo 4. Exterior, Church and School, north elevation, looking south



Melrose Baptist Church
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Photo 5. Exterior, School, north elevation, looking south



Photo 6. Exterior, School, east elevation, looking west



Melrose Baptist Church
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Photo 7. Exterior, School, south and east elevations, looking northwest



Photo 8. Exterior, School, west elevation at south, looking northeast



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Photo 9. Exterior, Church, south elevation, looking northwest



Photo 10. Exterior, Church, west elevation, looking east



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Photo 11. Interior, Church, first floor, sanctuary, looking south



Photo 12. Interior, Church, first floor, sanctuary, looking north



Melrose Baptist Church
Name of Property

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Photo 13. Interior, Church, first floor at east, looking north



Photo 14. Interior, School, first floor, entry, looking east



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Photo 15. Interior, School, second floor, classroom at north, looking east



Photo 16. Interior, School, second floor, multipurpose room at east, looking north



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Photo 17. Exterior, Noncontributing Preschool, north elevation, looking southwest



Photo 18. Exterior, Noncontributing House, west elevation, looking east



















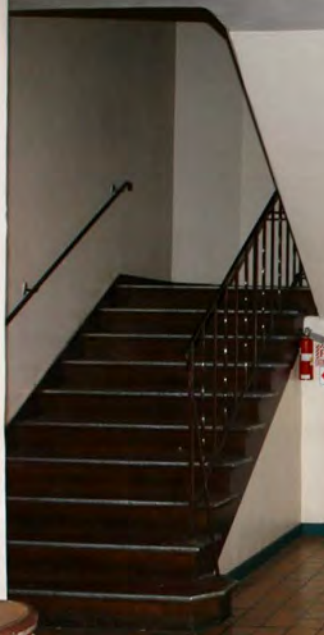














EXIT

NOT AN
EXIT







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Melrose Baptist Church

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: CALIFORNIA, Alameda

Date Received: 2/10/2017 Date of Pending List: _____ Date of 16th Day: _____ Date of 45th Day: 3/27/2017 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100000778

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept Return Reject 3/27/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Melrose Baptist Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C (Architecture). Completed over a period of years between 1930 and 1949, the church complex is a fine local example of the popular Spanish Revival style. Designed by church architects Blaine and Olson, the multi-purpose complex retains high integrity.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion C

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229

Date: 3/27/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**Melrose Baptist Church
Oakland, Alameda County
Staff Report**

Melrose Baptist Church is located at 1638 47th Avenue, approximately 5 miles southeast of downtown Oakland in the Fruitvale district. The immediate area is marked by single-family homes, predominantly early- to mid-twentieth century bungalows. Fremont High School, the Fremont Pool, and the Melrose Branch of the Oakland Public Library are all within blocks of the church. The property consists of three buildings on a trapezoidal lot: one contributing and two noncontributing. The contributing building is the Spanish Revival style church and attached school located at the north of the lot. This building includes a 1930 church sanctuary, two-story hall and offices added in 1939, and a two-story school building added in 1949. The building retains all aspects of integrity. The two noncontributing buildings are the circa 1940 preschool and a circa 1920 one-story raised bungalow located near the south of the lot. The single-family residence was constructed earlier and independently of the church.

Melrose Baptist Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture as an example of Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, also called Spanish Revival, the term used here. The period of significance is 1930 to 1949, encompassing three distinct periods of construction. The church was completed in 1930, designed in the decorative Spanish Revival style. The hall and office addition was completed in 1939, executed off the original Blaine and Olson design. The school was built in 1949, completed by Cecil Moyer, and clearly inspired if not copied from the original architect's vision. As a religious building eligible for its architecture, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration A for properties owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owner. A Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 2 (Description of Rehabilitation) was conditionally approved in January 2017 for rehabilitation that meets The Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, in its role as representative of the City of Oakland, a Certified Local Government, received a copy of the nomination. No letters have been received to date. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine Melrose Baptist Church is eligible under National Register Criterion C at the local level of significance with a 1930 to 1949 period of significance. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
State Historian II
January 20, 2017

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 7, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **Melrose Baptist Church
Alameda County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the MELROSE BAPTIST CHURCH to the National Register of Historic Places. On February 3, 2017 in Sacramento, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C with a period of significance 1930 to 1949.

Melrose Baptist Church is eligible in the area of Architecture as an example of Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, also called Spanish Revival. The period of significance is 1930 to 1949, encompassing three distinct periods of construction. The church was completed in 1930, designed in the decorative Spanish Revival style. The hall and office addition was completed in 1939, executed off the original Blaine and Olson design. The school was built in 1949, completed by Cecil Moyer, and clearly inspired if not copied from the original architect's vision. As a religious building eligible for its architecture, the property satisfies Criteria Consideration A for properties owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owner. A Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 2 (Description of Rehabilitation) was conditionally approved in January 2017 for rehabilitation that meets The Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, in its role as representative of the City of Oakland, a Certified Local Government, received a copy of the nomination. No letters have been received to date. If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenan Saunders".

Jenan Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure