

56-1730



# 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: Wee Kirk  
Other names/site number: Ben Lomond Community Church, Ben Lomond Presbyterian Church  
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: 9500 Central Avenue  
City or town: Ben Lomond State: California County: Santa Cruz  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity: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:  
X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>8/28/17</u>
<b>Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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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: \_\_\_\_\_)

*Joe Elson H. Beall*      10.12.17  
Signature of the Keeper      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>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE/clinic

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/

Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete, Walls: Wood Shiplap,  
Roof: Asphalt Shingles

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Wee Kirk is located on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Main Street in the town of Ben Lomond in the San Lorenzo Valley. It consists of two buildings both constructed in 1891. The 22 by 36 foot Colonial Revival style church is an approximately two story tall, single story, rectangular building with a steeply pitched gable roof, bell tower, and entrance portico. This oldest surviving church building in the San Lorenzo Valley remains in its original residential setting. A cottage was moved to the lot in 1923 from the Ben Lomond Hotel nearby. From analysis of the rooflines the hotel cottage appears to have been an L shape, consisting of two rectangles 28 feet by 11 feet and 21 feet by 17 feet. The church building and cottage were initially connected by a short enclosed corridor that was subsequently fully integrated in 1953 through the removal of the north wall of the nave and the construction of a chancel to the north of the nave connecting to the cottage (**Figures 1, 2**). The cottage is connected to the chancel by a doorway on the east wall of the chancel and an opening on the north wall of the chancel. The south facing front façade of the building abuts the sidewalk of Central Avenue with steps leading from the main portico to the sidewalk. It is flanked on its eastern side by a 60-foot memorial second growth California coastal redwood tree and small garden. The tree was planted in 1927 by the children of the Reverend Edward Walker as a living memorial to his Ben Lomond

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ministry 1916-1927.<sup>1</sup> The north, east, and west boundaries, and part of the south boundary are marked with a white picket fence. The property retains all aspects of integrity.

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## Narrative Description

### Location

The town of Ben Lomond is located in the San Lorenzo Valley, Santa Cruz County, at the confluence of Love Creek and the San Lorenzo River. It is located at the base of Ben Lomond Mountain which is to the south of the town. Wee Kirk is located at the intersection of Central Avenue and Main Street, 380 feet north of the intersection of Main Street with SR9.

The San Lorenzo Valley is a canyon in which the San Lorenzo River flows approximately 20 miles south from the summit of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the ocean at Santa Cruz. From south to north the principal towns in the San Lorenzo Valley are Felton (7 miles from Santa Cruz), Ben Lomond (3 miles from Felton), and Boulder Creek (originally established as the town of Lorenzo 6 miles from Felton).

Ben Lomond Mountain was named by John Burns, a Scotsman who settled on the west side of the ridge in 1851. Burns named the mountain after one in Scotland. Ben Lomond means "beacon peak" in Gælic.

### Materials

The church building and adjoining cottage, constructed in 1891, were built using local materials. These materials, primarily old-growth coastal redwood, are especially important to the San Lorenzo Valley and indeed to Santa Cruz County as in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the area was the fifth largest shipper of timber in the United States. It was the devastation of the surrounding redwood forests that led to the establishment of California's first Redwood State Park, Big Basin Redwood Park, just a few miles from Ben Lomond, in 1902.

### Construction

The building has a concrete foundation. The building walls are ¾-inch redwood single wall construction. The walls are load bearing with 2-inch by 4-inch old growth coastal redwood stud framing at each of the openings. The exterior of the building is covered with painted redwood shiplap sheathing. It is the shiplap sheathing that contributes to the building being read as one, rather than two, buildings.

The symmetrical front façade with the accented doorway has original sidelights, which are double hung with multi-panes, and have triangulated transoms. The bell tower further accents the doorway and has a louvered ventilation opening. The original bell tower railing has been

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<sup>1</sup> The Reverend Edward Walker was a leader in the New Zealand Temperance Movement prior to immigrating to California. *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 29, 1945, 5:4.

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removed and a porch has been added to the portico. The original bell is operational. The entry portico is reached from a flight of steps. The original transom over the front portico has been replaced with a stained glass transom and the double front doors have been replaced with doors containing stained glass panels.

The symmetrical fenestration on the east and west walls of the nave are highly significant being the only example of this style in the San Lorenzo Valley. There are tall, narrow rectangles, capped with steep triangular transoms. Once multi-pane with louvered shutters, these were replaced in 1929 with memorial stained glass. Each is a unique design and each is inscribed with the names of former Ben Lomond residents and ministers. Many of these individuals played a significant role within the community and are an important part of the social history of the town.

The cottage windows are primarily double-hung sash windows with multi-panes. The building eaves are enclosed.

### **Interior**

The rectangular nave of the church is 35 feet 8 inches long by 22 feet wide with an interior ceiling height of 14 feet 8 inches. The nave retains its original redwood tongue and groove wainscoting, chair rail (1-1/2 inches), and baseboard (7-1/2 inches) with a total height of 49 inches. The walls and the wainscoting are painted. The nave has a crown molding which is not original. The ceiling is the original unpainted redwood tongue and groove paneling. The original floor has been covered with a hardwood composite flooring material and the original fir floor can be seen in the closets on the south wall of the nave and in the closets of the bell tower.

The interior walls of the bell tower are sheathed with original full-height redwood paneling that matches the wainscoting in the nave. The bell tower ceiling is covered with the same paneling. The redwood paneling is painted. The nave and bell tower interior hinged doors, doorjambs, and hardware appear to be original, as do the window casings and aprons.

The triangular transoms of the memorial stained glass windows in the nave open at the base. At the intersection of the north wall of the nave and the chancel, part of the apex of the original exterior shiplap sheathed north wall is apparent. It is painted. The ceiling of the chancel is gabled almost to the full exterior height of the nave, with a circular stained glass light at the apex of the north wall.

The cottage windows, window surrounds, and hardware are all original. One window on the east wall of the cottage has been covered on the interior. The window has been retained and can be seen on the exterior of the building. The wainscoting, baseboards, chair rails, and crown molding in the cottage and the chancel were installed in 2014. The ceiling heights in the cottage vary. One ceiling has been lowered to 9 feet. The original wallpaper is retained above the lowered ceiling. Another is 10 feet 8 inches and the third 11 feet 6 inches. All the floors in the cottage were refinished in 2014.

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## Alterations

Significant changes to the church building include the addition of a cottage moved from the grounds of the Ben Lomond Hotel in 1923. In 1929, stained glass memorial windows were installed, and in 1953, the church nave and cottage were fully integrated through the construction of a chancel.<sup>2</sup> The original shake roof has been replaced at least twice over the life of the building.<sup>3</sup>

In 2014, the owners installed ½” thick plate glass in front of each of the memorial windows to protect the windows from future damage since two of the window medallions had been damaged in previous years and had been glued.

In 2016, a vehicle struck the west side of the nave damaging the wall and the memorial windows. Repairs to the wall included restoration of the damaged redwood wainscoting and aprons rather than replacement. One medallion had to be re-created. The three memorial windows underwent a restoration rebuild and the structural rebar upgraded so any future incidents will be much less likely to cause damage. The windows were re-installed with new custom milled wood stops for the plate glass protection system.<sup>4</sup>

## Integrity

The church remains in its original location, keeping integrity of *location*. The physical environment surrounding the property has changed little since the time of original construction, keeping integrity of *setting*. The cottage, built in the same year as the church and approximately 1,000 feet to the northwest, was moved and connected to the rear of the church during the period of significance. While the cottage’s location and setting are not original, the exterior *design, materials, and workmanship* have been retained and are commensurate with that of the church, which also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The continued residential setting, and integration of the buildings through the addition of a chancel, allows the unified property to retain integrity of *feeling and association*.

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<sup>2</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 28, 1953, 4:3.

<sup>3</sup> The Santa Cruz County Planning Department, did not maintain Planning and Building records prior to 1956 for projects in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County; *Santa Cruz Evening News*, September 27, 1932, 7:2.

<sup>4</sup> The restoration work was carried out by The Highland Studio.

<http://www.hylandstudio.com/ChurchRestoration/WeeKirkChurch-BenLomond.aspx>, accessed April 18, 2017.

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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**  
1891-1923

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
1891  
1923

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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.)

Wee Kirk is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building embodies the characteristics of building construction and construction materials used in the San Lorenzo Valley during the late 1800s. The architecture is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style more traditionally found in New England. Although not the work of a master, it is a significant and distinguishable building that reflects the construction practices of the late 1890s in the San Lorenzo Valley, specifically the use of old-growth California coastal redwood lumber, no longer available as a building material because the clear-cut harvesting practices of the late 1800s and early 1900s almost depleted this resource. The period of significance is 1891 to 1923, from construction to the addition of another historic property that approximately doubled the church's footprint. As a property that derives its significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C, the building satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

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

### Architectural Style

The architectural style resembles the New England interpretation of the Colonial Revival style that followed the United States Centennial celebrations, emerging in the 1880s.<sup>5</sup> It features the following architectural elements.

1. Symmetrical front façade with an accented doorway.
2. Sidelights.
3. Decorative pediment.
4. Evenly spaced fenestration.
5. Gabled roof.
6. Double-hung sash windows with multi-panes.
7. Louvered elements.

There are no other examples of surviving Colonial Revival style architecture in the San Lorenzo Valley and no other examples of the New England interpretation of the Colonial Revival style church architecture in Santa Cruz County. A second Colonial Revival church building was constructed in nearby Boulder Creek in 1891, but it burned down in 1893 and was rebuilt in a different style, again lost to fire in 1909. The predominant style of historic church architecture in the San Lorenzo Valley is English Gothic Revival of which two remain: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church (1899) in Ben Lomond and National Register-listed Grace Episcopal Church (1906) in Boulder Creek that houses the San Lorenzo Valley Museum. A third historic church

<sup>5</sup> Rachel Carley, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture* (New York, New York: First Owl Books, 1994).

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building, National Register-listed Felton Presbyterian Church (1893) also known as the Faye Belardi Memorial Building, was built in with Gothic Revival architectural features. It houses the Felton Branch Library. The last historic church building in the Valley is Boulder Creek United Methodist Church (1908). It displays Carpenter Gothic and Queen Anne architectural features.<sup>6</sup>

The Wee Kirk church building represents an excellent example of New England Colonial Revival, represented by the previously referenced architectural elements. The property has outstanding historic integrity with few modifications to the original building, built from locally sourced and milled old-growth coastal redwood, since its construction in 1891. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of building construction techniques of the era and is an example of local craftsmanship as is demonstrated by the exterior and interior details.

### Historical Background

Prior to 1769 the Ohlone were the only people to inhabit the region. There were two Ohlone tribelets associated with San Lorenzo Valley. These were the Sayanta living by Zayante Creek, and the Achistaca living in the vicinity of Boulder Creek and Riverside Grove.<sup>7</sup>

In 1769, the Portola Expedition discovered and named the San Lorenzo River and in 1791 Mission Santa Cruz or Holy Cross, was established. In 1834, Mission Santa Cruz was secularized, land was sold to ranchers, and the few remaining Ohlone were driven away. Then began the period of the Mexican Land Grants in the region. Three land grants were awarded in the lower San Lorenzo Valley: Rancho Zayanta, Rancho Cañada del Rincon en el Rio de San Lorenzo, and Rancho La Carbonera.<sup>8</sup> The San Lorenzo Valley was a wilderness. The canyon was dangerous, inhospitable, and almost impassable. Those that chose to settle in the Valley had to forge their own paths through the steep and rugged terrain.

In 1845, future Governor and explorer John Charles Frémont came to California funded by the United States government. He wintered while undercover in the lower San Lorenzo Valley. After the United States declared war against Mexico in May 1846, Captain Frémont returned leading the US Army and to take control just days after the Bear Flag Revolt in Sonoma, where California Americans had claimed independence from Mexico. The Mexican-American war ended in February 1848 and California was ceded to the United States.

The enormous natural resources of California and especially the vast resources San Lorenzo Valley were about to be discovered, harvested, and exploited. Following the gold rush and statehood, thousands flocked west and between 1850 and 1860 the population of the region grew edging its way up the Valley from the coast. Land that was not part of the ranchos was carved up by the federal government and offered as 160-acre homesteads. Because the terrain was quite

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Randall T. Milliken, *A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area 1769-1810*, Ballena Press Anthropological Papers, No. 43 (Menlo Park: Ballena Press, 1995), 234.

<sup>8</sup> Wallace W. Elliott, *Santa Cruz County California, Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery with Historical Sketch of the County* (San Francisco, CA: Wallace W. Elliott & Co., 1879).

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inhospitable, families were apprehensive; entrepreneurs and businessmen less so. By the mid-1860s there was a paper mill, powder works, lime operations, and 22 lumber mills in the lower San Lorenzo Valley. All products were transported south to be shipped by sea from Santa Cruz.<sup>9</sup>

By the early 1870s, besides scattered settlements, there were two villages, Felton and Lorenzo.<sup>10</sup> Efficiently transporting the cut lumber to Santa Cruz became a high priority.<sup>11</sup> In 1875, a railroad was built from Felton to Santa Cruz but because of the Valley's rugged terrain, a flume, rather than a railroad, was constructed from just north of Boulder Creek to Felton.<sup>12</sup> The flume was replaced by a railroad in 1885.<sup>13</sup>

In 1881, James Pierce acquired the land on which Wee Kirk was built from Jacob Steen.<sup>14</sup> Pierce was acquiring vast acreage in the San Lorenzo Valley for his lumbering operations. Pierce's Mill, The Pacific Mills, was located at the foot of Ben Lomond Mountain, just south of downtown Ben Lomond, close to the intersection of the Old County Road and SR9.<sup>15</sup> In 1885, the mill employed forty men and 20,000 feet of lumber was being cut. James Pierce, company president and owner of "vast tracts of land" decided to move the mill northward to what is now Mill Street, Ben Lomond.<sup>16</sup>

By late 1886, he had built a store and all the machinery of the old mill had been moved to the new site, near the railroad track. Just above the site, a dam was built over the river and a millpond, 480 feet long and 75 feet wide, was constructed. "Quite a little village is growing up, there being sixteen families of mill employees living here, besides several others."<sup>17</sup>

In 1887, a survey of the town, laid out by Pierce, was completed by Thomas W. Wright, the county surveyor. Besides the store, there was a Wells Fargo & Company Express telegraph and telephone office, and a school. A road was completed from the Pacific Mills railroad station to the public highway on Ben Lomond Mountain.<sup>18</sup> The mountain community was known as Ben

<sup>9</sup> Lisa Robinson, *The San Lorenzo Valley*, Images of America Series, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Press, 2012), 7-8.

<sup>10</sup> Wallace W. Elliott, *Santa Cruz County California, Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery with Historical Sketch of the County* (San Francisco, CA: Wallace W. Elliott & Co., 1879).

<sup>11</sup> *Journal of the Assembly during the Twentieth Session of the Legislature of the State of California 1873-1874* (Sacramento, CA: G. H. Springer, 1874), 429.

<sup>12</sup> "Jottings," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 9, 1875, 3:1; "San Lorenzo R. R. and Flume Company," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 16, 1875, 3:2.

<sup>13</sup> "Sentinel Jottings," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 16, 1885, 3:1; Bruce MacGregor, *The Birth of California Narrow Gauge* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2003).

<sup>14</sup> Santa Cruz County Deed Book 31, page 625, transfer date August 23, 1881.

<sup>15</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 18, 1884, 3:3.

<sup>16</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 17, 1885, 3:2; James Pieronnet Piece was a prominent California businessman. He owned the Pacific Manufacturing Company, had business interests in the mining industry, and was the founder of the Bank of Santa Clara County. He played a significant role in the development of Santa Cruz's streetcar system. He also served as a trustee at Mills Seminary, later Mills College, Benicia. From *The Valley of Hearts Delight* by Eugene Sawyer, 1922: "Prominent among the noted captains of industry who have contributed greatly toward the development of the resources of the Golden State, the late James Pieronnet Piece will ever be given an enviable place in California history."

<sup>17</sup> *The Daily Surf*, December 23, 1887, 3:5.

<sup>18</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 27, 1887, 3:1.

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Lomond. When Pacific Mills applied for a post office, the name “Pacific Mills” was turned down, and, in May, that new village was renamed Ben Lomond. Pierce introduced a revolutionary new band saw to his mill, the Climax Patent Band Saw Mill.<sup>19</sup> The steel ribbon band was so thin that significantly less lumber would be wasted when the logs were cut. It is likely that this mill cut the lumber used to build the Wee Kirk church building.

In April 1889, the Ben Lomond Land and Lumber Company was incorporated with Pierce as its principal director, and the company began selling lots.<sup>20</sup> Pierce continued to receive much praise for his new town, which was not a “stump city” but situated in one of those “natural openings found in our mountains, apparently foreordained” for a town.<sup>21</sup>

In 1889, Ben Lomond Land and Lumber Company built the Ben Lomond Hotel, and in 1890 the clubhouse—containing a dancing room, a billiard room, a lavatory, and baths—was added, as well as 12 additional rooms, cottages, and a children’s dining room. Pierce also planted 3,000 trees around the town, including elm, walnut, ash, locust, red gum, and others.

### History of the Property

The Ben Lomond Land and Lumber Company also built the Wee Kirk, and in 1891, they offered the building to “any religious organization that would organize and establish regular services.”<sup>22</sup> The Presbyterian Church organization purchased the building for the heavily discounted price of \$900 thanks to “the generosity of Mr. Pierce.”<sup>23</sup>

The town continued to attract new residents and an improvement society was organized. The hotel was purchased by entrepreneur Daniel W. Johnston in 1895 and was rebuilt and refurbished in 1905 by new owner Frederick A. Cody.<sup>24</sup> It was deliberately burned down in 1914 by Walter Everton acting for the owners who were hoping to claim on their insurance.<sup>25</sup> The clubhouse survived and is now a home on Fairview Avenue. In 1923, the new owners of the hotel property donated one of the hotel cottages to the little Presbyterian Church.<sup>26</sup> The cottage was moved to the church property, behind the church building, where it still stands today.

<sup>19</sup> *The Daily Surf*, July 29, 1887, 3:3.

<sup>20</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 25, 1889, 3:2; Santa Cruz County Deed Book 71, Page 322, transfer date March 1, 1889.

<sup>21</sup> *The Daily Surf*, May 1, 1889, 7:3.

<sup>22</sup> *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 5, 1891, 8.

<sup>23</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 16, 1891, 2:2; Santa Cruz County Deed Book records that in January 1891, Ben Lomond Land and Lumber Co. transferred the property to Thomas Bell and in June 1891, Thomas Bell transferred the property to the Ben Lomond Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz County Deed Book 76, Page 347 and Book 74, Page 478, respectively.

<sup>24</sup> “Booming Ben Lomond,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 25, 1895, 1:5; *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 25, 1895, 3:2. *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 1, 1905, 3:1.

<sup>25</sup> “Claims He Was Given \$5000 To Burn Hotel Ben Lomond to the Ground,” *San Jose Evening News*, March 27, 1914, 4.

<sup>26</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 23, 1923, 4:3.

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In 1929, the church windows were replaced with memorial stained glass lights.<sup>27</sup> They were dedicated by Dr. William Henry Oxtoby, president of the San Francisco Seminary and “religious educator of international reputation.”<sup>28</sup>

In 1949, members of the Ben Lomond Presbyterian Church congregation decided to change the name of the church to the Wee Kirk of Ben Lomond, a name chosen “because of the large number of persons of Scot descent in the Ben Lomond Area.”<sup>29</sup> In 1968, the congregation was merged with the Felton Presbyterian congregation to form the United Presbyterian Church of Felton and in 1969 the building was sold.<sup>30</sup>

From 1969 until 2013, the building was used for a variety of purposes including office space and storage. It underwent some restoration in 2001 and was offered for lease. In 2014, after again falling into disrepair, the building was purchased by Dr. Steven Leib and his wife Vivian. The Leibs have been committed to the restoration and preservation of the building for which they have won local accolades. The building is now used as Dr. Leib’s Country Doctor family medicine practice.<sup>31</sup>

While the property does not rise to the level of significance required for eligibility under Criterion B, Wee Kirk is a visual reminder of James Pierce, father of the town of Ben Lomond: constructed from company-milled lumber by builders and craftsmen in his employ, and offered to the community under generous arrangements.

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<sup>27</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 28, 1929, 7:3.

<sup>28</sup> *San Anselmo Herald*, September 8, 1938, 1:4.

<sup>29</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 29, 1950, 25:4.

<sup>30</sup> *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 15, 1969, 13:1.

<sup>31</sup> “Ben Lomond Couple Repairs Historic Church,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 26, 2014; “Doctor opens Ben Lomond office in historic church building,” *Pressbanner*, December 31, 2014.

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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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Elliot, Wallace W. *Santa Cruz County Calif. Illustrations with Historical Sketch 1879*. (1st Reprint). Santa Cruz, California: The Museum of Art and History at The McPherson Center, 1997.

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MacGregor, Bruce. *The Birth of California Narrow Gauge*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2003.

McCarthy, Nancy. *Where Grizzlies Roam the Canyons – The Story of the San Lorenzo Valley*. 1st. Palo Alto, California: Garden Court Press, 1994.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Ben Lomond 1908, 1926.

Tennant Improvement Drawings for 9500 Central Avenue, Derek Van Alstine Residential Design Inc., 2014.

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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: San Lorenzo Valley Museum; Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Wee Kirk  
Name of Property

Santa Cruz, California  
County and State

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** SCC20R

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.090880 Longitude: -122.090030

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

The property consists of a single parcel number APNS 077-093-30. The total property is about 8,260.8 square feet (0.19 acres), nearly level with a very slight upslope from the street. The property is bounded on the east side by Main Street and on the south side by Central Avenue. The boundaries of the property are shown on the accompanying Site Map.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the church building, integrated cottage, and associated grounds that have historically been associated with the church building.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lisa Robinson, President

organization: San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society

street & number: 216 Blackstone Drive

city or town: Boulder Creek state: CA zip code: 95006

e-mail: [lisaar@yahoo.com](mailto:lisaar@yahoo.com)

telephone: (831) 338-4152

date: March 2017

---

## 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.)



Wee Kirk  
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Santa Cruz, California  
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### 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: Wee Kirk  
City or Vicinity: Ben Lomond  
County: Santa Cruz  
State: California  
Photographer: Lisa Robinson  
Date Photographed: October 30, 2015; July 13, 2016; August 10, 2016

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

- 1 of 32 Front façade, facing north (October 30, 2015)
- 2 of 32 Front façade detail, facing north (October 30, 2015)
- 3 of 32 Front portico detail, facing north (October 30, 2015)
- 4 of 32 Front façade, facing northwest (August 10, 2016)
- 5 of 32 Portico side light detail, facing northeast (October 30, 2015)
- 6 of 32 Bell tower, facing southeast (October 30, 2015)
- 7 of 32 Bell tower, facing southwest (October 30, 2015)
- 8 of 32 Bell, facing north (October 30, 2015)
- 9 of 32 Bell, facing west (October 30, 2015)
- 10 of 32 East elevation of the nave and cottage, facing west (August 10, 2016)
- 11 of 32 East elevation of the nave, facing northwest (August 10, 2016)
- 12 of 32 East elevation of the nave, facing northwest, showing the extent of the south and east boundaries (August 10, 2016)

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- 13 of 32 East elevation of the cottage, facing southwest (August 10, 2016)
- 14 of 32 North elevation of the cottage, facing south (August 10, 2016)
- 15 of 32 West elevation of the cottage, facing east (August 10, 2016)
- 16 of 32 West elevation of the nave, facing east (August 10, 2016)
- 17 of 32 West elevation of the nave and cottage, facing southeast (August 10, 2016)
- 18 of 32 Relationship to memorial tree, building detail includes main ADA-compliant entrance, facing southeast (October 30, 2015)
- 19 of 32 Relationship to memorial tree, whole building, facing southeast (August 10, 2016)
- 20 of 32 Relationship to memorial tree, facing southwest (August 10, 2016)
- 21 of 32 Memorial plaque, facing north (July 13, 2016)
- 22 of 32 North and west elevations of the cottage, facing southeast (October 30, 2015)
- 23 of 32 West elevation of the cottage, facing southeast (August 10, 2016)
- 24 of 32 Roof transition between nave and cottage, facing west (October 30, 2015)
- 25 of 32 Interior view of east wall, facing southeast (October 30, 2015)
- 26 of 32 Interior view of west wall, facing southwest (October 30, 2015)
- 27 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 1, facing west (October 30, 2015)
- 28 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 2, facing west (October 30, 2015)
- 29 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 3, facing west (October 30, 2015)
- 30 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 4, facing east (October 30, 2015)
- 31 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 5, facing east (October 30, 2015)
- 32 of 32 Interior view of memorial window 6, facing east (October 30, 2015)

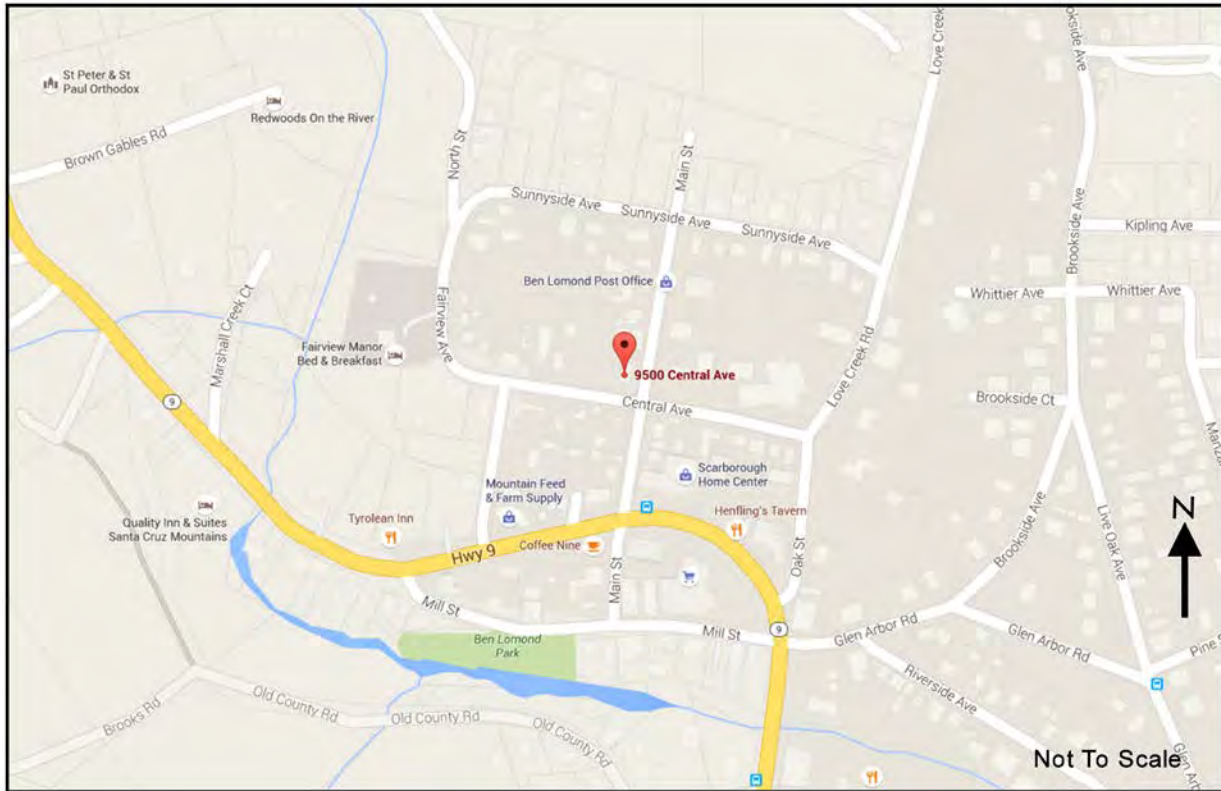
Wee Kirk  
Name of Property

Santa Cruz, California  
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### Location Map

Latitude: 37.090880

Longitude: -122.090030



**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.

Wee Kirk  
Name of Property

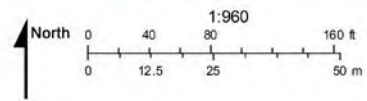
Santa Cruz, California  
County and State

### Site Map



November 24, 2015

- |                  |              |                 |                 |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Streets</b>   | — Driveway   | — Ramp          | — Unnamed       |
| --- Alley        | — Levee      | — State Highway | □ Site Boundary |
| — Business Route | — Major Road | — Street        |                 |



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Sketch Map/Photo Key 1 of 2

Photograph Key 1 of 2 - APN 077-093-030, 9500 Central Ave, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

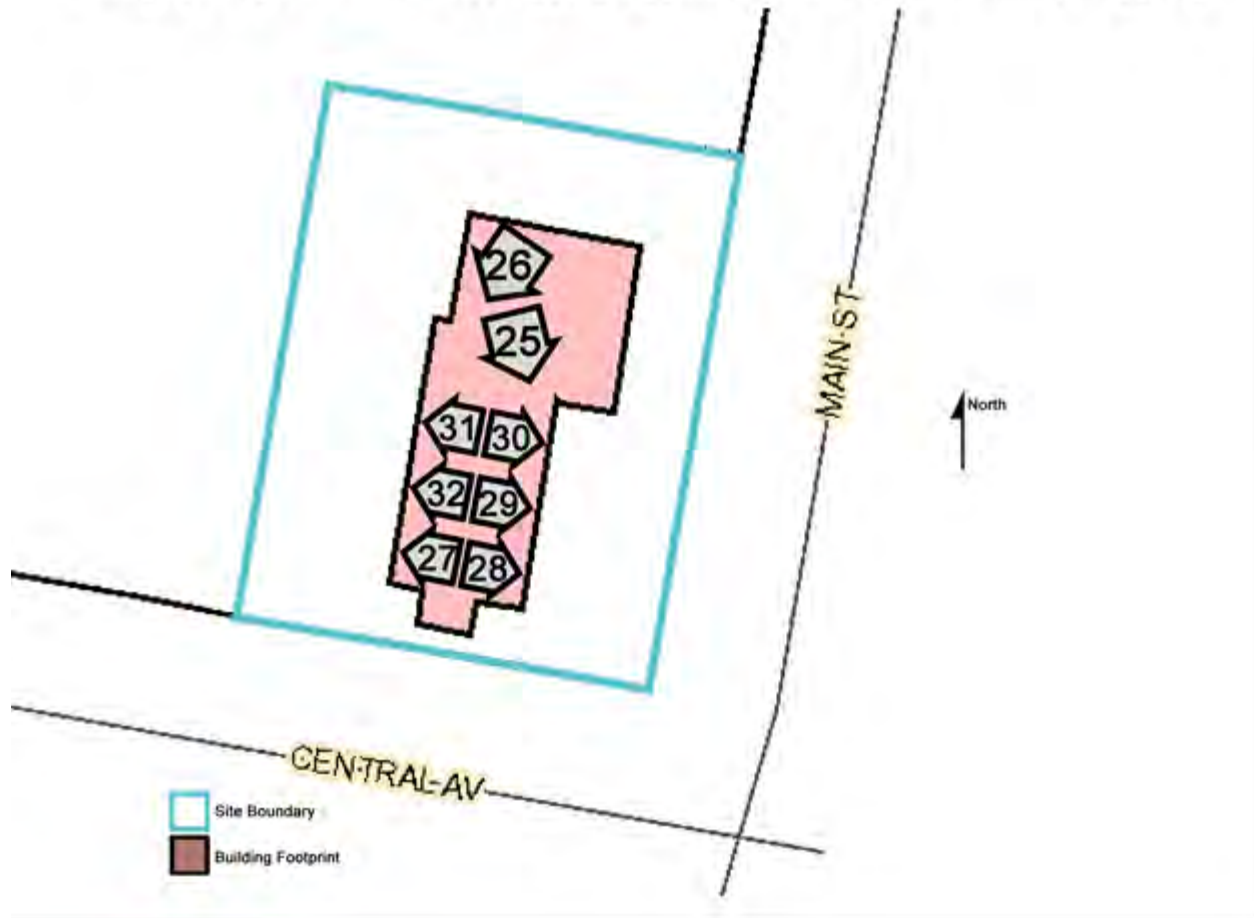


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Santa Cruz, California  
County and State

### Sketch Map/Photo Key 2 of 2

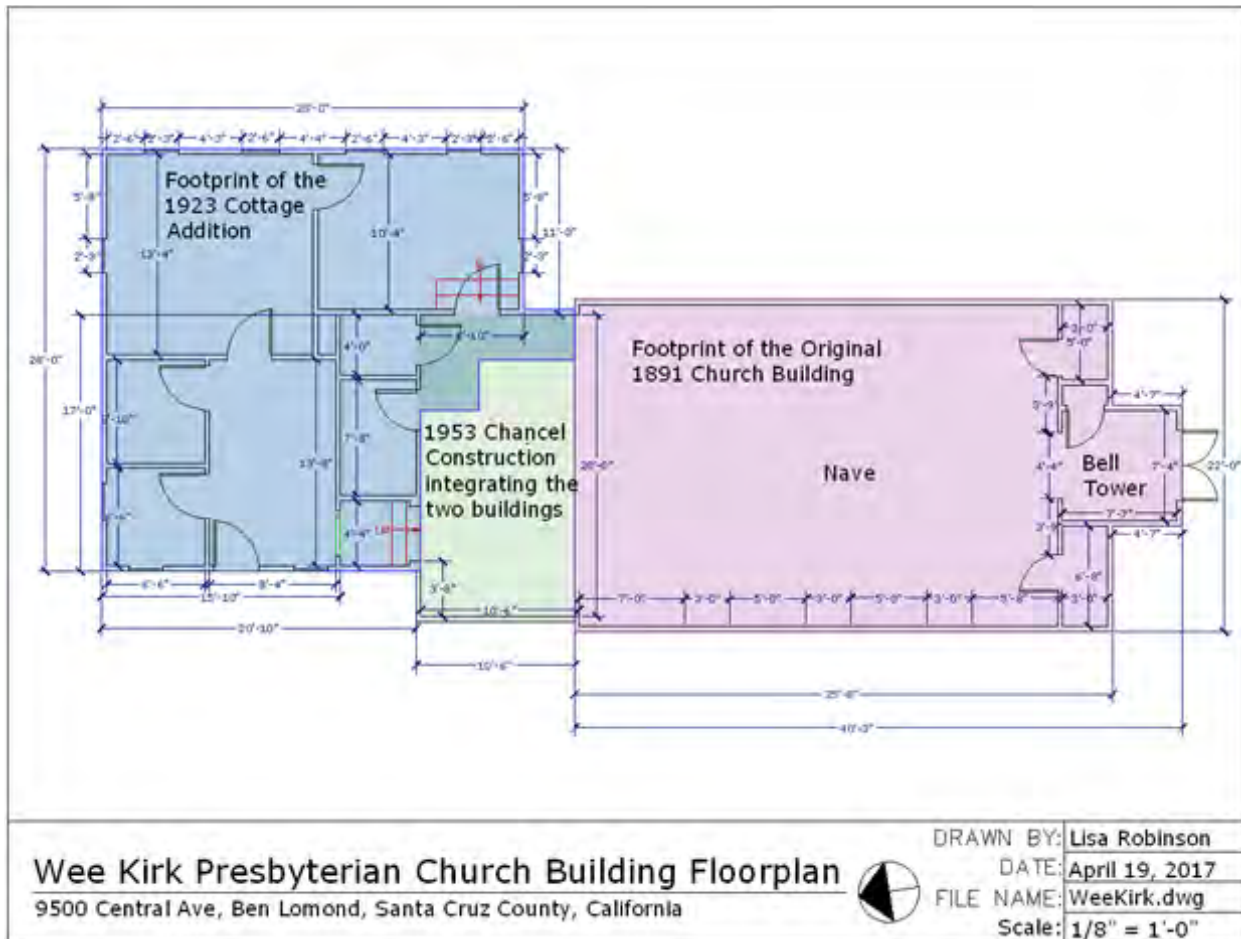
Photograph Key 2 of 2 - APN 077-093-030, 9500 Central Ave, Ben Lomond, CA 95005



Wee Kirk  
Name of Property

Santa Cruz, California  
County and State

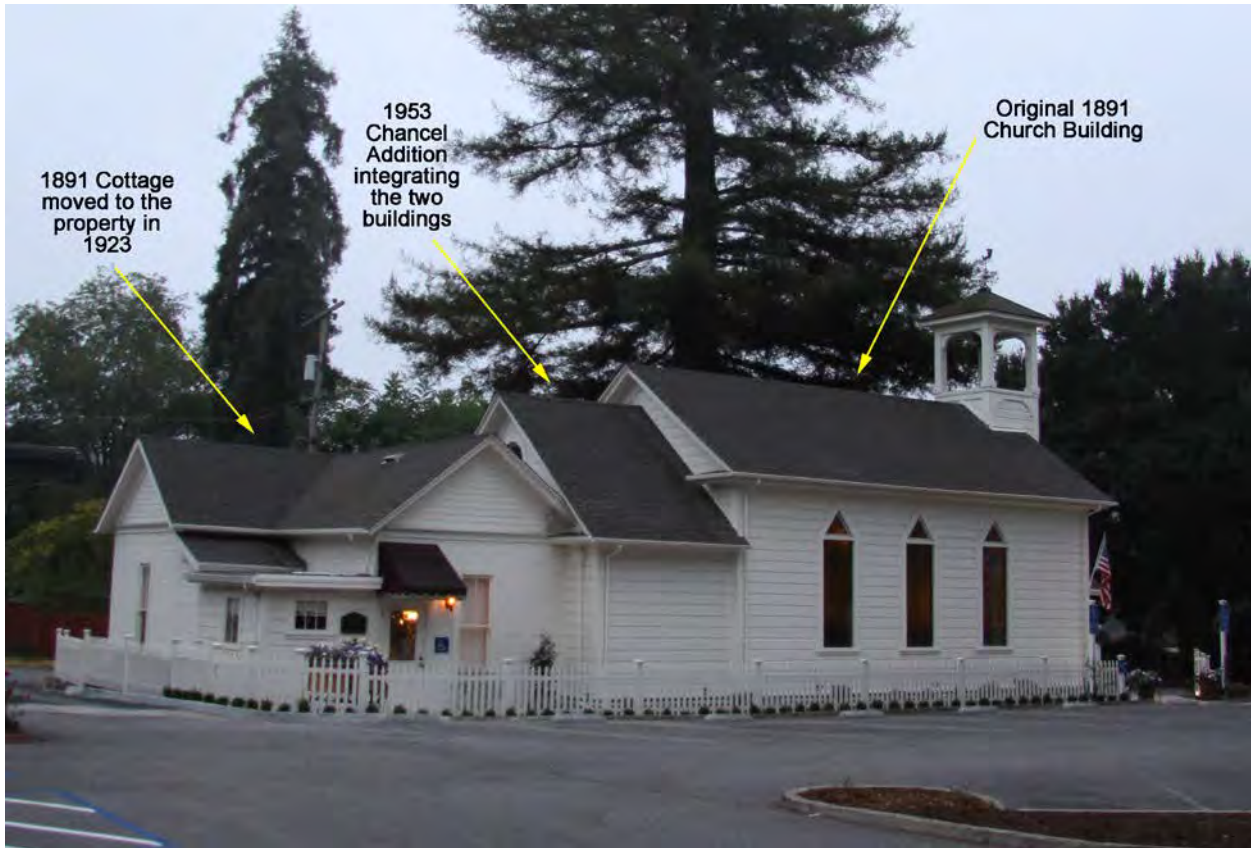
**Figure 1.** Floorplan.



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**Figure 2.** Annotated photograph.

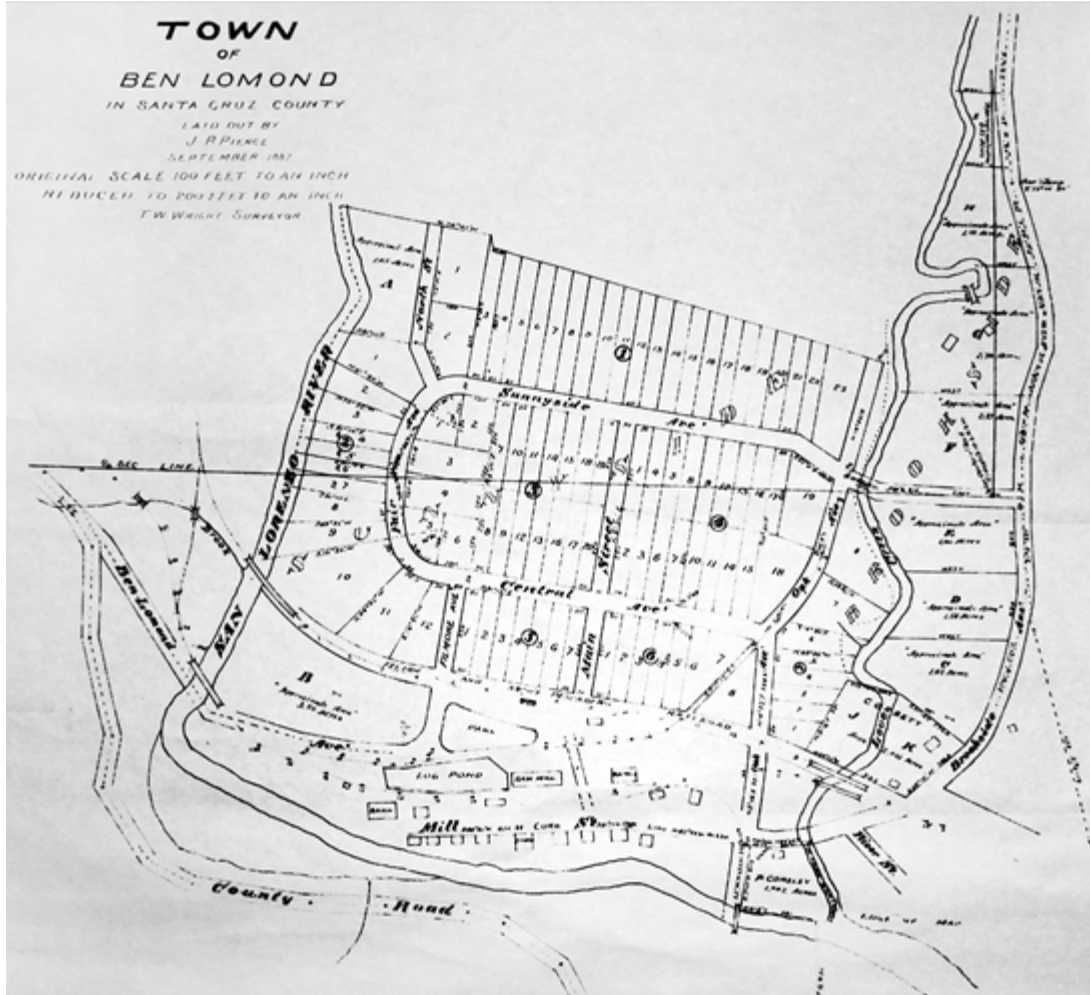




Wee Kirk  
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Santa Cruz, California  
County and State

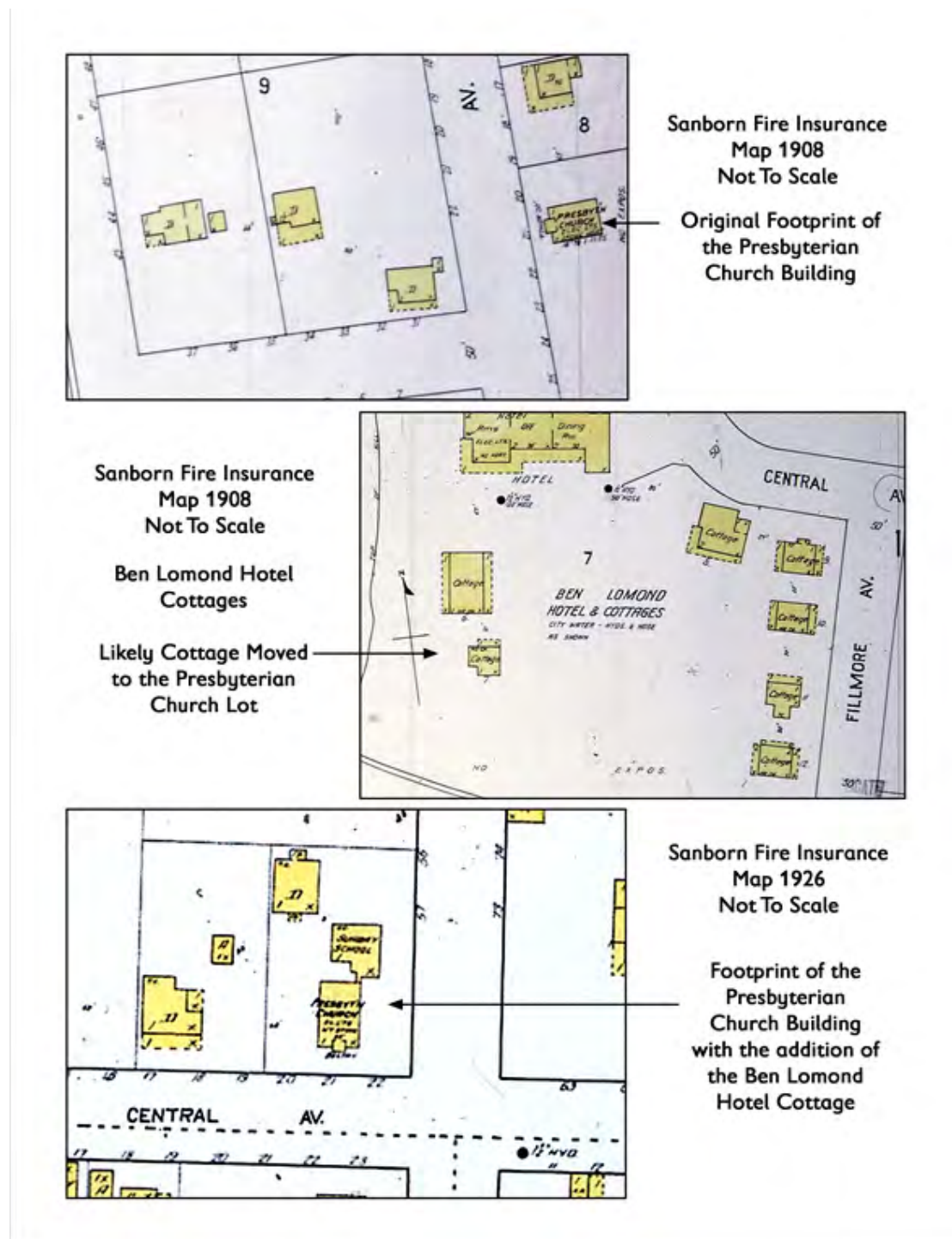
**Figure 3.** Annotated Ben Lomond Town Plan as laid out by J. P. Pierce, 1887. San Lorenzo Valley Museum Collection.



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**Figure 4.** Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.



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**Figure 5.** Postcard, circa 1923, Ben Lomond Presbyterian Church, San Lorenzo Valley Museum Collection.



**Figure 6.** Watercolor, 1937, Louise Sheppa Lovett, Ed Walker Collection.



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**Figure 7.** Line Drawing, 1954, Perry Dale Wilson, San Lorenzo Valley Museum Collection.



**Figure 8.** Carved Leather, 1967, by Charles H. Miller, Steven and Vivian Leib Collection.

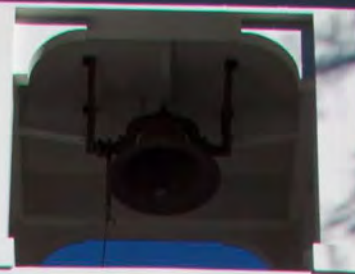


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**Figure 9.** Line Drawing, 1979, by Rachel Bachrach, San Lorenzo Valley Museum Collection.





est. 1987  
Steven Leib, M.D.  
Country Doctor  
21st Century Medicine  
Old-Fashioned Care





est. 1981  
Steven Leib, M.D.  
Country Doctor

































♿  
PARKING  
ONLY  
VAN  
ACCESSIBLE  
MINIMUM  
FINE \$250

♿  
PARKING  
ONLY  
MINIMUM  
FINE \$250

♿

♿











THE CHILDREN OF  
REV. EDWARD WALKER  
DEDICATE THIS REDWOOD  
AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO  
HIS BEN LOMOND MINISTRY  
1916 - 1927













I AM THE VINE, YE  
ARE THE BRANCHES

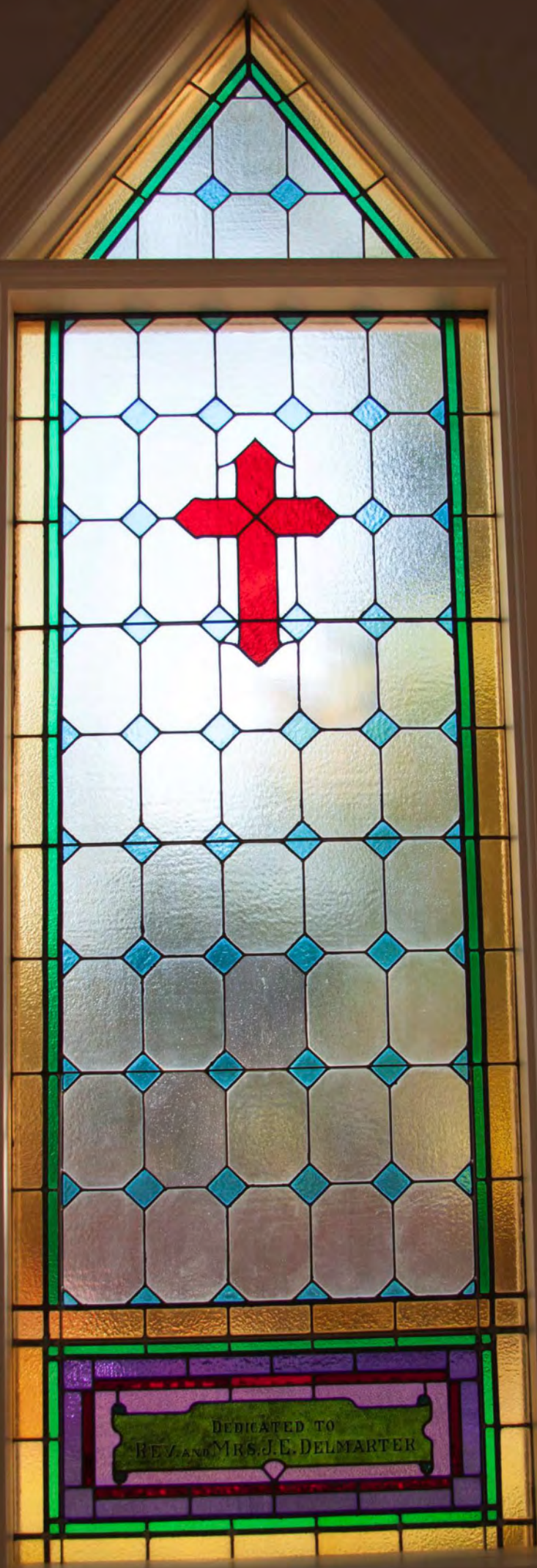
DEDICATED TO  
MR. AND MRS. ELISHA BROOKS.





IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MR. AND MRS. N. P. COLE

MR. AND MRS. N. P. COLE



DEDICATED TO  
REV. AND MRS. J. E. DELMARTER



IN HONOR OF MINISTERS OF THIS CHURCH 1891-1929.  
ALEX. EAKIN                      WM. HICKS  
C. R. NUGENT                    J. W. ATKINSON  
GEO. R. BIRD                    R. B. HUMMEL  
D. F. TAYLOR                    EDWARD WALKER  
   J. E. DELMARTER JR.

J. E. DELMARTER JR.  
EDWARD WALKER  
R. B. HUMMEL



IN HONOR OF  
E. H. SCOTTFORD.  
ELDER, 1911-1925.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JESSIE L. BREWER.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/31/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017      Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017      Date of 45th Day: 10/16/2017      Date of Weekly List: 10/12/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      10/12/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall      Discipline Historian

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Wee Kirk  
Ben Lomond, Santa Cruz County  
Staff Report**

Wee Kirk consists of two buildings both constructed in 1891. The 22 by 36 foot Colonial Revival style church is an approximately two story tall, single story, rectangular building with a steeply pitched gable roof, bell tower, and entrance portico. This oldest surviving church building in the San Lorenzo Valley remains in its original residential setting. A cottage was moved to the lot in 1923 from the Ben Lomond Hotel nearby. From analysis of the rooflines the hotel cottage appears to have been an L shape. The church building and cottage were initially connected by a short enclosed corridor that was subsequently fully integrated in 1953 through the removal of the north wall of the nave and the construction of a chancel to the north of the nave connecting to the cottage. The cottage is connected to the chancel by a doorway on the east wall of the chancel and an opening on the north wall of the chancel. The south facing front façade of the building abuts the sidewalk of Central Avenue with steps leading from the main portico to the sidewalk. It is flanked on its eastern side by a 60-foot memorial second growth California coastal redwood tree and small garden. The north, east, and west boundaries, and part of the south boundary are marked with a white picket fence. The property retains all aspects of integrity.

Wee Kirk is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building embodies the characteristics of building construction and construction materials used in the San Lorenzo Valley during the late 1800s. The architecture is reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style more traditionally found in New England. Although not the work of a master, it is a significant and distinguishable building that reflects the construction practices of the late 1890s in the San Lorenzo Valley, specifically the use of old-growth California coastal redwood lumber, no longer available as a building material because the clear-cut harvesting practices of the late 1800s and early 1900s almost depleted this resource. The period of significance is 1891 to 1923, from construction to the addition of another historic property that approximately doubled the church's footprint. As a property that derives its significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C, the building satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

The property is nominated on behalf of the owner. Three letters of support have been received to date. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine Wee Kirk is eligible under National Register Criterion C at the local level of significance with an 1891 to 1923 period of significance and satisfies Criteria Consideration A. 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  
June 21, 2017

P.O. Box 576 • Boulder Creek, CA 95006  
Phone / Fax: (831) 338-8382  
Email: [slvhm@cruzio.com](mailto:slvhm@cruzio.com) • [www.slvmmuseum.com](http://www.slvmmuseum.com)

August 12, 2016

**Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer**  
**Office of Historic Preservation**  
**California Department of Parks and Recreation**  
**1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100**  
**Sacramento, CA 95816-7100**

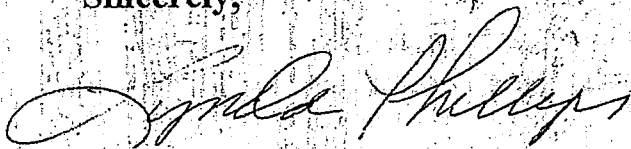
**RE: The Nomination of Wee Kirk for Listing on the National Register**

**To Whom It May Concern**

**The San Lorenzo Valley Museum strongly supports the efforts of Ms. Lisa Robinson in her research and documentation of the Wee Kirk Church building in Ben Lomond, California, and her nomination for listing Wee Kirk on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.**

**The San Lorenzo Valley Museum is owned and operated by the San Lorenzo Valley Historical Society and is the only historical society in San Lorenzo Valley in which Wee Kirk is located. We feel that the Wee Kirk Church building is of significant historical interest to the San Lorenzo Valley community and its historical heritage. We fully support its listing on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.**

Sincerely,



**Lynda Phillips**  
**Executive Director**  
**San Lorenzo Valley Museum**



Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

December 1, 2015

RE: The National Register Nomination of Wee Kirk Church Building, Ben  
Lomond, California

To Whom It May Concern

The Landmark Committee of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History strongly supports the nomination for listing the Wee Kirk Church building on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

The Landmark Committee recognized the building for its historical integrity and significance to the community with a Blue Plaque in 1987. The Museum of Art and History's Historic Landmark program presents blue plaques to structures that are deemed to be of historic, architectural, or cultural significance throughout Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely



Marla Novo  
Curator of Collections  
Landmark Committee Chair

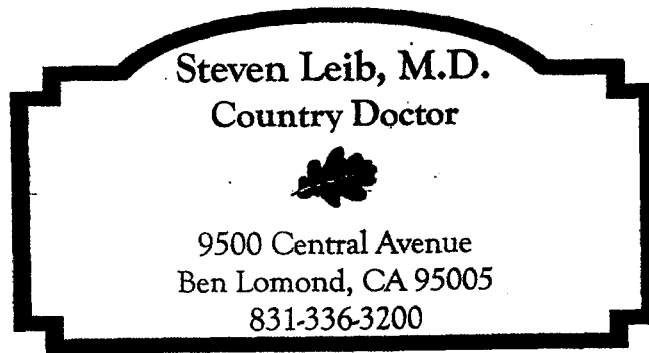


Santa Cruz  
Museum of  
Art & History  
at the McPherson Center

[santacruzmah.org](http://santacruzmah.org)

831.429.1964

705 Front Street, Downtown Santa Cruz



Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

December 1, 2015

RE: The Nomination of Wee Kirk for Listing on the National Register

To Whom It May Concern

We are the legal owners of the Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church Building located at 9500 Central Avenue, Ben Lomond, California. APN: 077-093-30.

We strongly support the efforts of Ms. Lisa Robinson in her research and documentation of the Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church building and her nomination for listing the building on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

We have recently renovated the building, which had fallen into disrepair, using appropriate historical treatments and we are committed to maintaining its historical integrity.

We feel that the Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church building is of significant historical interest to the San Lorenzo Valley community and its historical heritage and we fully support its listing on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely

Steven Leib M.D.

Dr. Steven Leib

Vivian P. Leib

Mrs. Vivian Leib



OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100  
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer



August 28, 2017

J. Paul Loether  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks Program  
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20240

Subject: **Wee Kirk**  
**Santa Cruz 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 WEE KIRK to the National Register of Historic Places.** On July 28, 2017 in San Rafael, 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 an 1891 to 1923 period of significance.

It is a significant and distinguishable building that reflects the construction practices of the late 1890s in the San Lorenzo Valley, specifically the use of old-growth California coastal redwood lumber. The period of significance is 1891 to 1923, from construction to the addition of another historic property that approximately doubled the church's footprint. As a property that derives its significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C, the building satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties.

The house is nominated on behalf of the owner. Three letters of support 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,

Jenan Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure