

Westview Presbyterian Church among new historic landmark sites

Churches

RP

5-7-10

By TARMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

SANTA CRUZ — Nine new Historic Landmark Awards were presented by the Museum of Art & History Saturday including one to Westview Presbyterian Church in Watsonville.

Members of the Historic Landmark Committee, the Santa Cruz Historic Resources Commission and the Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Committee welcomed the public to the 90-minute ceremony that highlighted the new historic landmarks sprinkled around the county.

The Blue Plaques of 2013 were awarded to:

- Craggie Lee Cottage, the Rankin home, 1909, 9625 Highway 9, Ben Lomond.
- William and Julia Knapp home, c.1863, 80 Stage Road, Pescadero.
- Park Hall, est. 1912, community owned since 1923, 9400 Mill St., Ben Lomond.

- Bennett's Boarding House, 1888, Parker House Apartments, 1942, 803, 805, 805 ½ Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz.

- Gilmore/Mobile Gas Station, 1926-1973, part of Walker's Cottages, 302 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz.

- Marco Zaro home, 1885, 121 Market St, Santa Cruz.

- Placer Gold House, 1905, 303 7th Ave., Santa Cruz.

- First National Bank, first bank on the East Side, 1923, 1100 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz.

- Japanese Presbyterian Church, est.1898, then became Westview Presbyterian Church, built in 1930, 118 First St., Watsonville.

"This is one of the most exciting days of the year," said Suzi Aratin, Historic Landmark Committee member. "This is a special event because it connects the past with the present."

Aratin said this year the plaques were awarded to buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries and recognized



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Westview Presbyterian Church at 118 First St. in Watsonville was built in 1930. The church has received an historical landmark award.

"pioneering spirit" and honored building owners.

The Japanese Presbyterian Church started as the Japanese Mission Home in 1898 where Japanese and English lessons took place, as well as living quarters and studying the message of the Gospel, according to Historic Landmark Committee member Ann Jenkins. The Mission status was changed to a regular church in 1909 and in 1911 a newly built church was dedicated on Union Street.

In 1930 a new site (the current site) was secured at 118 Front St.

"After World War II ended, my family returned to Watsonville," Hubert Yoshida wrote in a 100 year centennial memoir. "Although we lost everything during the relocation and did not

See LANDMARK, page A6

LANDMARK

From page 1

have a home to return to, we were returning to our home church."

In 1945 the church buildings were formally returned to church members,

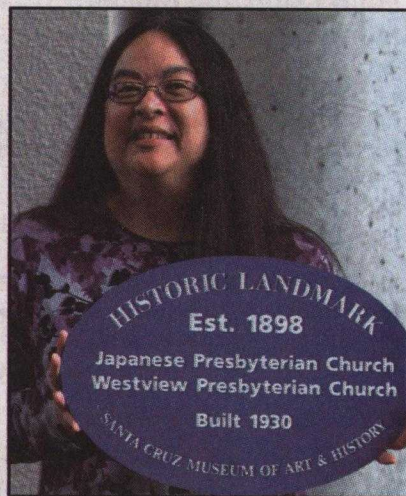
Jenkins said, and it was decided to use the church as a hostel for returning evacuees.

In 1952 the church became Westview Presbyterian Church. It was determined then that, due to a growing Nisei group, a chapel needed to be built. In July of 1954, a ceremony for laying the cornerstone was held.

Westview welcomed pastor, The Rev. Dan Hoffman, in 2010.

Sunday's event was capped with a walking tour of historic buildings of downtown Santa Cruz by Ross Eric Gibson.

Lynne Nagata, a member of Westview Presbyterian Church of Watsonville, shows the Historical Landmark Blue Oval the church was awarded Sunday.



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian