

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Alameda City Hall

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, northwest corner \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Alameda \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 9

state California code 06 county Alameda code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Alameda

street & number Santa Clara Ave. and Oak St.

city, town Alameda \_\_\_ vicinity of state California 94501

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alameda City Hall - the Auditor/Assessor's Office

street & number Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street

city, town Alameda state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alameda Historical Resources Inven- has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
City Landmark tory

date January, 1976 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Alameda City Hall

city, town Alameda state California

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alameda City Hall is a three-story, masonry structure with a hipped roof. The two upper stories rest on a ground floor with slightly battered walls and a concrete surface that is rusticated to simulate sandstone. The ground floor terminates in a water table. Square windows are set in deep reveals and generally divided into four lights. The Oak Street entrance has double glazed doors with a transom set in a segmental arched opening with a scored fan pattern above mimicking a masonry arch construction. A long flight of granite steps with a solid railing leads to the main entrance on Santa Clara Avenue.

The structure is divided vertically in three blocks, the center block being recessed on both the front and rear elevations. On the principal, Santa Clara Avenue facade, the recessed central portion has the entrance in the central of three monumental, round headed brick arches embellished with a continuous architrave molding. The arches spring from capped piers with engaged colonnettes. Behind this arcaded section an entrance porch precedes the round arched entrance doors with fan transom. Windows flank the entrance doors. Above the arcade is a plain cornice with the legend "City Hall" set in raised letters above the central arch. The rest of the second story has round arched openings set in the brick-faced wall. The double-hung windows have transoms with a fan pattern divided into five section.

The third story is also recessed in the central portion of the main and rear facades. On the main facade the central portion projects over the entrance arch and has three narrow windows. To either side are segmental arched windows set in the main plane of the wall. These, like the rest of the third floor windows, have a central mullion and a transom section. Windows are double-hung. A plain stringcourse expresses the division between the second and third stories. The third story terminates in a frieze of bricks imitating machicolation. A bracketed, molded cornice supports the eaves.

The recessed, central portion of the rear elevation has a rounded central bay or stair tower.

The structure is a rectangle, 90' x 120'; it is set on a lot 191' x 207' with a landscaped portion in front with several mature trees and hedged beds. The concrete and steel frame structure is faced with brick on the upper two floors. Floors throughout the building are double-laid with 3/4" of mortar in between as a fire prevention measure. The rear portion of the property is occupied by a city parking lot.

The building originally had a two-story clock tower rising above the central portion of the main facade. The tower had round-arched windows and shallow balconies on the upper story and a hipped roof with bracketed cornice. Damaged in the 1906 earthquake, the tower was removed in 1937. The base section remains above the entrance porch.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1895-96 Builder/Architect Percy & Hamilton; Thomas Day & Son (Builder) (architects)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Alameda City Hall is the major civic landmark remaining from the city's initial period of economic prosperity created by the expansion of the railroad network in the closing decades of the 19th century. Constructed a little over twenty years after the City received its charter in 1872, the building summed up the civic aspirations of the Alameda citizenry. Because the City of Alameda was the first in California and the second in the United States to operate its own power plant, opened in 1886, the City Hall had the benefit of incandescent lighting, a significant luxury.

As conceived by George Percy of the firm of Percy and Hamilton, the design reflects the current fashion for the Romanesque Revival Style initiated in this country by Henry Hobson Richardson and used in his famous Allegheny County Courthouse design of 1884-1890. The Alameda City Hall modestly echoes that building in its general format. The firm of Percy & Hamilton designed about 200 buildings in the San Francisco Bay Area including the notable Stanford University Art Museum and the Children's Playhouse in Golden Gate Park.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gebhard, et al., A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, 1973  
 Richey, Elinor, The Ultimate Victorians, Howell-North, 1970 Peregrine-Smith, Inc  
 Vigness, Paul, Alameda Community Book  
Alameda Encinal, Sept. 1895  
Alameda Argus, 1896 Alameda Library, Pamphlet File: Alameda City Hall

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property lot size - .91 acres

Quadrangle name Oakland East Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A 

110	5666710	4117991610
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally B. Woodbridge, Architectural Historian

organization for the City of Alameda date April 26, 1980

street & number 2273 Vine St. telephone (415) 848-4356

city or town Berkeley, state CA 94709

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. Noel Mellon

title \_\_\_\_\_ date 8/11/80



*Handwritten initials and marks on the left margin.*

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 18 1980
DATE ENTERED	UCT 14 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

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Verbal Boundary Description

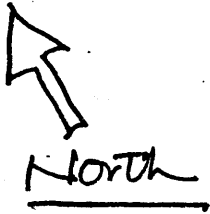
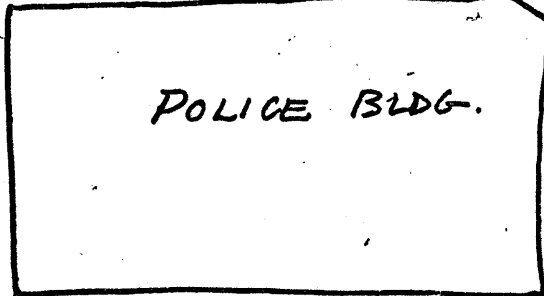
AB 166/30, 71-219-1, lots 6 through 9, Block 37.

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northerly line of Santa Clara Avenue with the westerly line of Oak street, running thence along said line of Santa Clara Avenue 191 feet, thence at right angle 207 feet north, 191 feet west to Oak Street, and 207 feet south along said line of Oak Street to point of beginning.

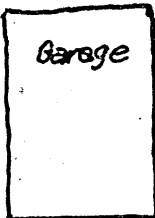
LINCOLN AVE.

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1980  
OHP

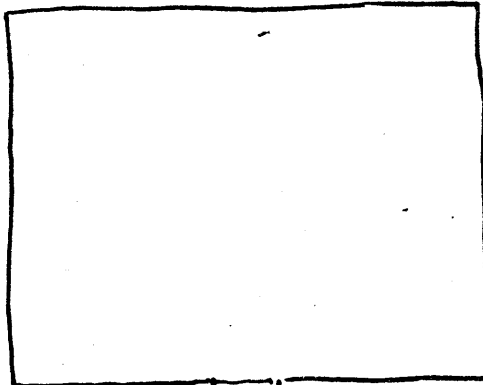
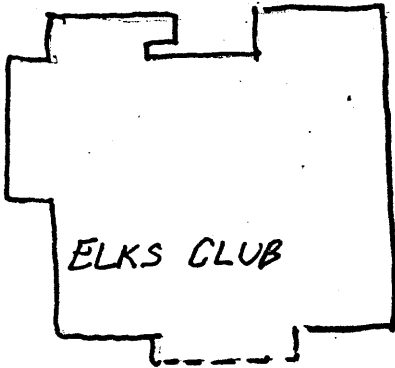
Site Plan  
Alameda City Hall  
Alameda, Alameda Co.  
California



PARKING



PARKING



CITY HALL

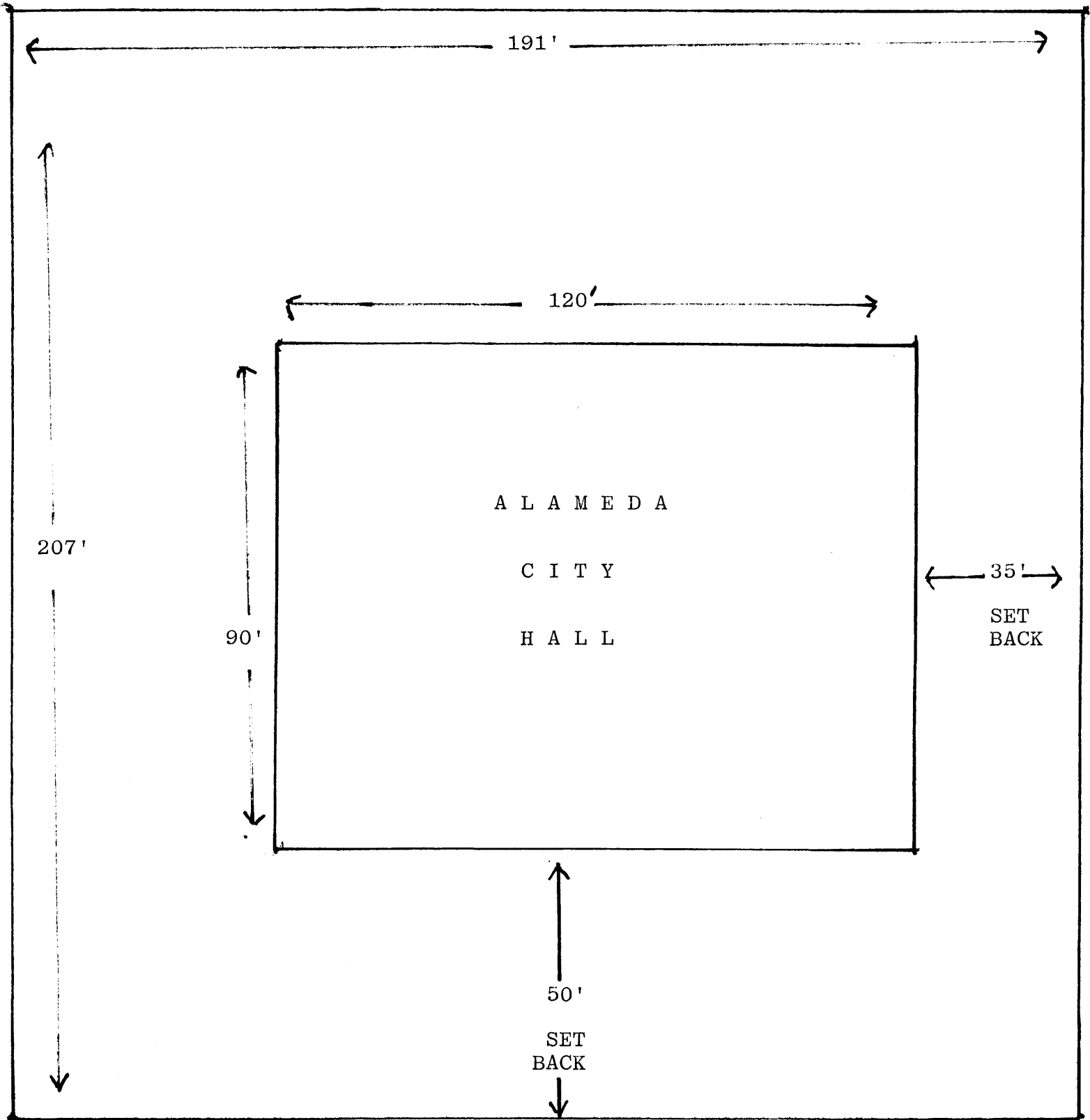
OAK STREET

SANTA CLARA AVE.

AUG 18 1980



LOTS 6 - 9 LANDS ADJACENT TO TOWN OF ENCINAL



Scale 1" = 25'

SANTA CLARA AVENUE

ALAMEDA CITY HALL, Alameda, Alameda County, California

AUG 18 1980