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 | REEDLEY NATIO | NAL BANK | | RECEIVED |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| and/or common | Old Bank of Ar | nerica Building | M | AY 7 1984 |
| 2. Loca | ition | | | ОНР |
| street & number | 1100 G Street | | N | A_ not for publication |
| city, town | Reedley | NA_ vicinity of | congressional district | 15th |
| state | California c | ode 06 county | Fresno | code 019 |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category district X building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X N/A | Status <u>X</u> occupied <u>unoccupied</u> work in progress Accessible <u>X</u> yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture _Xcommercial educational entertainment government industriai military | <pre> museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:</pre> |
| 4. Own | er of Prope | erty | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| name | Akira and Nad | omi Tajiri | | |
| street & number | P.O. Box 820 | | ····· | |
| city, town | Reedley | <u>NA</u> vicinity of | state | California 93654 |
| 5. Loca | tion of Leg | gal Descripti | on | |
| courthouse, regis | stry of deeds, etc. Fi | resno County Hall | of Records | |
| street & number | 2: | 281 Tulare Street | | |
| city, town | F | resno | state | California 93721 |
| 6. Repr | resentation | n in Existing | Surveys | |
| titie Fresno | County Landman | rks List has this pr | operty been determined e | legible? yes _X_ no |
| date March | 8, 1984 | | federal sta | ate X county local |
| depository for su | rvey records Fresh | o County Free Lib | prary | |
| city, town | Fresn | 0 | state | California 93721 |

7. Description

| <u> </u> | excellent |
|----------|-----------|
| | good |
| | fair |

Check one deteriorated ruins unexposed

Check one A original site moved date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

_ unaltered

aitered

Constructed in 1920, on lots bought in 1919, this early 20th commercial building, occupying a prominent corner site, is classical in style, rectangular in plan, is two stories high and has a full basement. The construction features concrete footings and foundation walls which carry the loads of the brick masonry exterior walls. Steel roof trusses, span the entire width of the building. The 23 ft. high ceiling gives the entire building envelope a sense of grandeur. The main facade (west) fronting G Street and the north facade facing 11th Street, are brick masonry sheathed in ornamental terra The rear of the building is exposed brick. cotta. In general, the exterior facades are well-proportioned, historically accurate, well-preserved, and retain high integrity wa with minimal alterations.

The building was originally a bank, but currently houses an optometrist's office. It stands immediately adjacent to a neighboring building only along the south wall. The main entrance on G Street is centered between three quarter engaged classical columns which stand on plinths, are fluted and characterized by entasis. Large pilasters trimmed in low relief Greek fret patterns and corner flower medallions emphasize the front sides of the building. The corner

8. Significance

| Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900– | Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art Commerce communications | | ng landscape architectur law literature military music | e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify) |
|---|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Specific dates | 1920 | Builder/Architect | rnest J. Kump, Arch I.G. West Company of | itect San Francisco/ |

Interior Contracto

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Italy Building in downtown Reedley is significant for both architectural and economic reasons. The architect who designed the building, Ernest J. Kump, Sr. was a prominent architect in the central valley during the early 1900's. He is best known for his public and commercial buildings and for extensive use of ornamentation on the buildings he designed. The Bank of America building is a commercial building, heavily ornamented both inside and outside. Reedley is fortunate to have such a well preserved example of Kump's work since many of the buildings he designed were torn down because of redevelopment and the Field Act.¹ The building is of significance to the citizens of Reedley because it housed one of the city's first banks, the First National Bank of Reedley.

Ernest J. Kump designed many commercial and public buildings in the Central Valley. His buildings were often heavily ornamented and classical in style. His drawings and blueprints were known for their beauty and detail.² Ernest J. Kump's son, Ernest J. Kump Jr., also became an architect

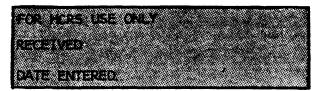
9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet Item 9 Page 1-3

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| Acreage of nominate Quadrangle name UMT References A 1_1 1 2 8_0 2 Zone Easting C L L G L L | Reedley, Quadr | cangle, CA | B Zone Ea | Quadrangio | e scale <u>1:24000</u> Northing |
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| UMT References A <u>1</u> <u>2</u> 8 0 | 81810 410 512 | | Zone Ea | | |
| | | | Zone Ea | sting | Northing |
| | | | _ 1 _ 1 _ 1 | sting | Northing |
| C L ⊥ J L J ⊥ L E L ⊥ J L J ⊥ L G L ⊥ J L J ⊥ L | | لسب | | | |
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| | | | | | 32 in block 38 o: |
| the town of H | Reedley being | 100.36' deer |) and 5.0 | 0' wide co | ontaining 5,017 so ccording to the ma |
| | book 5, page 6 | | | | ne N/E 49.60 |
| ist all states and | counties for prope | rties overlapping a | state or count | y boundaries | APN#3682112 (continued) |
| tate N/A | c | ode cour | nty N/A | 1 | code |
| tate | c | ode coun | ity | | code |
| 1. Form | Prepared | By | | | ······ |
| | | | | | |
| | oel Kehoe resno County (| • - | ed by Lit | a Rodrigu | ez) |
| | evelopment Der | • | date | N May De | ş ^{⊥,} 1984 |
| treet & number 2 | 220 Tulare, 8 ⁴ | th Floor | teleph | one (209) | 488-2992 |
| | resno | | _ | CA | 93721 |
| | | | state | | |
| 2. State | HISTORIC | Preserva | tion Of | ticer Co | ertification |
| he evaluated signific | cance of this property | within the state is: | | | |
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM

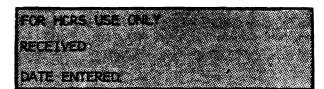
ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

pilasters sit upon 2-foot high plinths. Smaller fluted pilasters are pressed on each side of the corner pilasters. The main entrance is a double glass, steel casement door with a transom. It is framed by molded trim displaying shallow relief ornamental festoons and cameos. The trim is flush with the wall. The dentiled shelf above the header is enriched with low relief swags and medallions. The lintel has a protruding ledge upon which an 18-inch, ornamental terra cotta, wing-spread eagle is perched. The doorway is half as tall as the flanking columns.

The rectangular windows on both sides of the entrance run from the building base to the architrave and are composed of nine lights. The shorter window above the door has only six lights. The lights are fully divided by wooden muntins which are overlaid with metal strips and subsequently painted white. The longer fixed glazing on the south and west facades extend from the building base to the architrave. Two six-lited windows top two doors at the north end of the building on the north facade. These doors are original and give access to offices in the ground and second floor of the building. All the windows in the building are original and have not been

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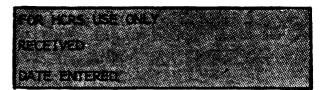


CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

walled off on the interior. The windows in the back wall of the building have iron grills over them. Fluted pilasters separate large casement windows on the west facade. The pilasters on the side of the building are not as pronounced as the pilasters on the front corners of the building. Each pilaster has a plinth, forus, and fillet at the base, a fluted shaft and a capital with square abacus with molded edges. Each pilaster has a fillet and astragal and a neck ornamented with small rosettes. Between the capitals, above the windows and recessed from frieze are strips of architrieval trim with low relief Greek fret patterns on them. Medallions are centered on the frieze above each pilaster on the north elevation in the middle of the Greek fret pattern.

The frieze is plain, interrupted only by guttae under two triglyphs on the large corner pilasters. The frieze on the corner pilasters and the north facing wall has low relief ornamentation, while the frieze on the front of the building (facing G Street) is not ornamented. The frieze on the corner pilasters facing G Street are each ornamented with a pair of triglyphs framing a metope. Within the metope there are two rosette's with a cartouche between them. The frieze on the

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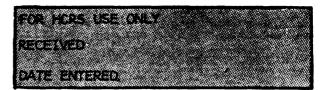


CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

western side of the building is ornamented with round cameos located above the pilasters which separate the windows. The cameos have low relief silhouettes of Greek God's heads. The cornice is dentiled and has elements of the Greek Ionic order. Egg and dart molding and talon trim are included in the cornice molding. The corona is plain and there are small pendents in the trim at corners of the building.

Other details in the terra cotta include low relief ornamentation on the parapet wall, such as tourches located above the columns on the southern parapet wall. Also low relief tiles depicting bound shafts of arrows ornament the corners of the parapet wall. Details on the engaged columns include a square abacus with molded edges on the capital of the An ornamented ovolo and fillet with a neck ornamented column. with three small rosettes. The rosettes are spaced in such a way that one rosette faces the street while the other two are positioned on either side of the column neck. Two astragals separate the shaft of the columns from the capitals. The shafts are fluted and the apophysis rest on a fillet and torus. The architrive around the front entrance is enriched with festoons, fillets, and medallions, the lintel upon which

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

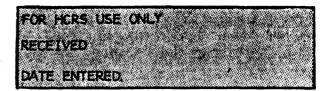


CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

the eagle rests is an ornamented small projection enriched with dentils, fascia and cavetto.

The back wall (of the north facade) is of exposed brick pierced by eight window openings. The brick work is common bond with the edge of the terra cotta siding exposed on the west corner edge of the building. The window openings are of various sizes and are in various positions in the wall. The larger windows have arched headers while the smaller windows have straight headers. All the windows are original single pane sash windows with bars set into the exterior brick work and lug jams. A brick string course edges the top of the parapet wall.

The exterior of the building is unaltered and well preserved. Some interior alterations occured in the 1940's when the Bank of America remodeled the building (changing the pendant lighting and the tellers booths). The ceiling is enriched with decorative plaster ornamentation painted in ivory, gold, and blue. The original ceiling has cain stone panels in it, each bordered by trim of ornamental rosettes. The north and eastern interior elevations of the bank are ornamented with enriched pilasters running from the ceiling to approximately



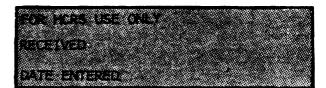
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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

seven feet from the floor, or about door level. A large decorative clock is centered on the back wall of the building. The lower half of the building was very utilitarian and not ornamented. This area was a working space occupied by teller stations and bank vaults. Later this area was altered by the bank to accommodate increased business activity and eventually the vault on the street level was removed. In the 1940's, the bank converted the original pendant lighting to florescent, and some to the wall and ceiling panels were covered with acoustical tile (which is to be removed in the building The ground floor level was altered in the rehabilitation). 1960's to accommodate an optometrist's office. Alterations include a cast concrete slab over the original floor, 2 x 4 frame partition walls, and 8 feet ceiling covered with gypsum The lighting is florescent. The basement has wall board. not been altered. What is most significant about the street level interior is the ceiling, which was sealed off from the rest of the building when the partitions were built.

The basement is brick with concrete floors. The original vault and furnace fixtures still stand, as does the wooden shoot which was used for deliveries and exchanges of money. The shoot runs from the sidewalk down to the basement floor. A

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

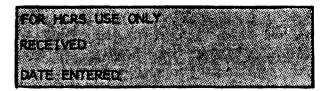


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| كالمستعدية الأثثاث النبيبيين الأنكاف وبالعادية وبالمتري فيتعلق ببيرك فكالمتعاوية والمحمد وتختدي المتتريفي | | وبرعاد التركي التكاك | |

stairway leads from the basement to the bank officer's office on the street level.

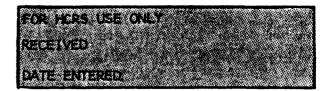
Finally there is office space above the bank officer's office. The door on the northern most end of the outside north elevation is the entrance way to the upstairs office, which once served as the City Attorney's office. The office is very plain with plaster walls, and no ornamentation. There are no windows in the office except the windows which face 11th Street on the northern facade. The interior of the upstairs office was remodeled in the 1960's when the optometrist's offices were put into the building. Remodeling included dropped ceilings, florescent lighting, carpeting, wood paneling and modern bathroom fixtures.

The optometrist's office remodeling altered the interior feeling and appearance of the building. There is no indication from the inside that a well designed, wide open, highly ornamented and sunlit space exists hidden above the 8 feet gypsum wall board ceiling. The owner intends to rehabilitate the building by taking out the offices on the ground floor level of the building and returning it to its original design, with the high ceiling and open floor space to be used for



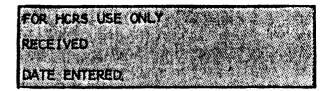
| CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | 7 PAGE 7 | |
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| retail space. The | building's interio | or will be ut | ilized in a |
| new way just as it | has been used and | reused in va | rious ways |
| over the years, but | the ceiling will | remain intac | t and the |
| floor and wall trea | tment will be comp | atible to th | e rest of |
| the building's inte | erior. The optomet | rists office | s will be |
| removed as will the | dropped ceiling. | | ١ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



| CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUM | BER ⁸ PAGE 1 |
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| specializing in public buildings. | 3 Ernest J. Kump Jr. |
| became internationally known for 1 | his very contemporary, non- |
| ornamented schools, which were bas | sed on the "Finger Plan". 4 |
| Ernest J. Kump, Jr.'s public build | dings were very contemporary |
| compared to his father's work. R | eedley is fortunate to have |
| in it's vicinity two buildings wh | ich were originally schools |
| and the bank building, all of which | ch were designed by Ernest |
| J. Kump, Sr. The schools have be | en used for other purposes |
| besides public schooling and the | bank building has been re- |
| tained in the downtown area. Had | these buildings been located |
| in more urban areas, experiencing | development and redevelopment |
| pressures, they might have been to | orn down or altered. |

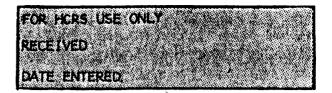
Originally, Reedley had two local banks which eventually merged to form the Reedley branch of the Bank of America. Reedley's first bank, the Reedley State Bank, opened in October of 1903. The bank was locally owned and had a capitol stock of \$25,000. The Reedley State Bank was located on the Jansen block on the corner of what is now G and 10th Streets (originally G Street had been called Main Street). By 1907, the Reedley State Bank sold its stock, took on new stock holders and had a new building built to house its operations.



CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1907, the Reedley State Bank moved into its new building on the corner of G and 11th Streets and changed its name to the Reedley First National Bank. On November 1, 1921, the Reedley First National Bank consolidated with the Valley Bank of Fresno and became known as the Reedley Branch of the Valley Bank. Three years later on March 3, 1924, the Bank of Italy took over the Valley Bank.⁵

Reedley's second local bank, the Farmers and Merchant's Bank, was first located in the 1000 block of G Street (Main Street). The board consisted of Andrew Olson, C.P. Shaffer, I.W. McGrew, I.J. Peck, J.E. Saile, with the officers being Peck, President; Saile, Vice-President; Marion Deneen, cashier and W.J. Wickstrom, assistant cashier.⁶ The board purchased lots on the corner of G and 10th Streets and constructed a new bank building in 1908. By 1910, the bank changed its name to the Reedley National Bank. By 1919, the Bank had outgrown its facilities and purchased lots on the corner of G and 11th Streets, (the location which is the subject of this nomination). The board selected Ernest J. Kump to be the architect for the building. The building was constructed in 1920 and the Reedley National Bank moved into its quarters in September of 1920.^{7,8,9,10}

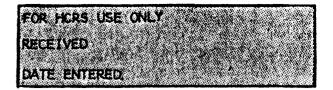


CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

By 1927, the Reedley National Bank was in financial trouble and the independent bank was taken over by the Bank of Italy on May 31, 1927.¹¹ The Bank of Italy moved its offices out of the old Valley Bank building across the street into the Reedley National Bank building. The Reedley National Bank was the last locally owned and run bank in Reedley until recent times when the King's River State Bank was opended with local capital.

With the merger of Reedley National Bank with the Bank of Italy, Reedley had one bank, the Bank of Italy. On October 31, 1930, the institution changed its name to Bank of America. In 1930, Hank Rasmussen was promoted to manager of the Bank.¹²

The merger of these banks was significant because Bank of Italy was the first non-local bank to arrive in Reedley, and was able to make much larger loans to farmers in the area.¹³ Reedley was developing rapidly from a wheat farming town to a tree fruit producing and packing community, and the large orchards and packing houses required irrigation and money. Today the town boasts the title "The World's Fruit Basket". In the 1930's the Bank of America attempted to stabilize



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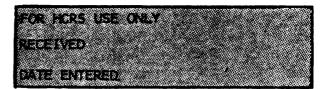
banking on the West Coast; when that was accomplished it emerged as the foremost banking firm in California.¹⁴

In the 1960's, the Bank of America built a new building for itself on another section of G Street. Then in the 1970's, the Bank built still another larger building on the lot just north of the second bank site.¹⁵ The old Bank of Italy building was sold to Akira and Noami Tajiri in 1967, who converted the lower area of the building to optometrist's offices in 1971.

The fact that Bank of America is the only non-local bank which not only stayed in Reedley through the Depression, but has expanded enough to have built two buildings itself, indicates the important role it plays in the Reedley community. Today it is still the largest banking extablishment in Reedley, against which other banks must compete. Reedley is a prosperous farm community which is growing, it is fortunate that the town has retained this fine building as a significant and useful part of the downtown.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliography Footnotes

- Section 15451 of California Education Code, Volume 1, 1959, Chapter 54, Page 1917.
- Information provdied by John Powell of the architectural 2. firm Allen Y. Lew and William Patuaude, Fresno, California. Mr. Powell states that Kump's work was well known for its beautiful ornamentation and classical design. The older Kump designed buildings in a very classical ornamented style, while the younger - Gropius trained - Kump, produced modern style buildings such as Fresno City Hall and the Sill Building in Bakersfield. Powell mentions that while he was preparing the National Register form for the Fresno Bee Building he discovered that E.J. Kump Jr., in partnership with Franklin, designed a classically ornamented addition to the Fresno Bee Building in 1936 (see National Register Nomination for the Fresno Bee Building, Continuation Sheet Item Number 7, Page 3). Powell stresses, however. that this addition with its classical detail (which was subsequently stripped from the building) was certainly the exception to Kump Jr's. modern style architecture. Powell notes that because Kump Sr. designed mostly public and commercial, rather that residential buildings, many of his buildings fell victim to the Field Act and redevelopment pressures.



| CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | 9 | PAGE 2 |
|----------------------|-------------|---|--------|
| South to Allow Sheet | | 2 | rauc ~ |

- 3. "Who is Ernest J. Kump?", Ernest J. Kump file, Fresno Bee Library, (February 2, 1945).
- 4. Mr. Allen Y. lew interviewed by Dr. Sam Suhler, January
 24, 1980. Transcript, Fresno County Free Library, Fresno,
 California.
- 5. Anonymous, THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Special 50th Anniversary Edition, May 2, 1963, page 5.
- 6. Anonymous, THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Special 50th Anniversary Edition, May 2, 1963, page 5.
- 7. Anonymous, "Reedley National Bank to Erect New Building," THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Vol. 28, No. 42, (June 12, 1919), page 1
- 8. Anonymous, "Break Ground for Reedley National Bank," THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Vol. 28, No. 43, (June 19, 1919), page 1.
- 9. Anonymous, "Construction Work Begins on National Bank," THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Vol. 28, (July 31, 1919), page 5.
- 10. Anonymous, "The Reedley National Bank to Move," THE REEDLEY EXPONENT, Vol. 30, No. 4, (September 16, 1920), page 1.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Invento

| Inventory—Nomination Form | | | date entered |
|---------------------------|-------------|----|--------------|
| Continuation sheet | Item number | 10 | Page 1 |

10. Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

Boundaries are drawn upon historic lot lines which encompass the building, with the exception of the rear 49.60 feet of the property occupied by a modern paved parking lot.

