

PH0661031

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 24 1978  
DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1978

**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

Carlotta Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Central Avenue

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Carlotta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second ✓

STATE

California

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Humboldt

CODE

023 ✓

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Angelo J. and Sharon L. Batini

STREET & NUMBER

25 W. Washington

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Humboldt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

825 Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Van Duzen River Basin Environmental Atlas

DATE

December, 1975

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State of California, Department of Water Resources

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Carlotta is located in the Humboldt Bay region of northern California approximately 28 miles southeast of Eureka. The surrounding countryside is rural in character with forested hillsides and rolling pasturelands. Established in 1904 as a summer resort on the Van Duzen River, Carlotta had a hotel, store, livery stable-blacksmith shop, saloon and several cottages. Prohibition and the depression brought a slump to the resort business but a new activity emerged with the lumber boom of the 1940's. Today Carlotta is the site of two large lumber mills whose workers live in residential areas outside the town. The store is still in use, but both the livery stable-blacksmith shop and saloon are gone, and only one of the 1904 cottages remains. The hotel shows the effects of time, however, a comparison of 1907 and 1974 photographs indicates little exterior changes. The current restoration work is being done with particular care to retain the original appearance and is limited to necessary exterior repair and interior renovation.

According to descriptions carried in the local newspapers during construction of the hotel in the fall and winter of 1903, the building measures 36 by 80 feet. A kitchen annex at the rear of the building was destroyed by fire within the past year. The three-story hotel has a hip roof with paired shed dormers, bracketed eaves, wood shingle siding on the upper two stories and board and batten siding on the lower story. The third-story windows are half size, but have the same six-pair arrangement of the full-length, four-pane windows on the second story. The first-floor windows are located in sets of three and are centered on either side of the front door which is flanked by single windows. The veranda with bracket-decorated posts and a balustraded balcony runs the length of the hotel and extends around the south side. Exterior brick chimneys are located at both ends of the building.

The ground floor includes a dining room with a serving pantry, a large lobby, and a bar. The sleeping rooms on the second and third floors vary in size, but all were plastered and wallpapered and still have the ceiling gas light fixtures. The bathrooms are located at both ends of the halls with some of the original fixtures--a claw-footed tub, corner lavatories, and toilets. The last remaining toilet tank which hung on the wall above the toilet was recently stolen from the hotel, but another of the originals is on exhibit in the Fortuna Museum. Except for the large registration desk, the safe, and a bar which was brought from Eureka by Joe Matteucci, none of the old furnishings remain.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Standard, Eureka, CA. Issues for 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1909.  
Ferndale Enterprise, Ferndale, CA. Issues for 1903, 1904, and 1906.  
 Fountain, Susie Baker. Notebooks. Vols. 50, 70, and 113. HSU Library, Arcata, CA.  
 Humboldt County Records. Humboldt County Courthouse, Eureka, CA.  
 Irvine, Leigh H. History of Humboldt County California. Historic Record Co., L.A. 1915.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .40 acres

UTM REFERENCES

4 10-375			800		
A	1,0	409037	1448	7086	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
D					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 7, 8, and 9 in Block 1 as shown in Survey No. 23 of the town of Carlotta in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 22, T.2N,R.1E, Humboldt Meridian, on file in the office of the County Recorder of said county in Book 4 of Surveys, page 18.

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

Susie Van Kirk, Historical Researcher

October 28, 1977

ORGANIZATION

1162 C Street

DATE

(707) 822-6066

STREET & NUMBER

Arcata

TELEPHONE

California

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kroy M. Ellison*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Walter Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-23-78

DATE 5-12-78

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DATE ENTERED

JAN 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Susie Baker Fountain Notebook, Vol. 113:247

"December 5, 1903. O.B. Ackerman and Son of Eureka are putting up Mr. Vance's fine hotel at Carlotta. Building is 36 x 80 feet, three stories high."

Daily Standard, February 11, 1904

"Carlotta, the new town built by John M. Vance a short distance from Burnell's, is rapidly coming to the front as a modern residential place, the latest improvements for its inhabitants that has been contracted for being the installation of the telephone system."

Daily Standard, March 5, 1904

"Progressive Carlotta--The new town of Carlotta is going ahead in a manner highly satisfactory to those having interests there. The Fortuna Merchandising Co. is busy opening its branch store....At the hotel building, Mr. Rose was busy making a few alterations and getting the hostelry ready for occupancy. It was expected that a couple of Fortuna gentlemen would complete the negotiations for a lease within a day or two. The building is three stories in height and contains twenty-eight rooms on the upper two stories, the offices, parlors, kitchen, etc. being on the ground floor.

A crew of five men was at work on the new livery stable. This will be 72 by 100 feet, two stories in height and fitted up in first class shape. Mr. Rose stated that the building to be used for a saloon would come next in order and that as soon as it should be completed at least five new dwellings would be erected.

Carlotta is certainly entitled to the name of town and everything points to a genuine boom there this summer. The town already has an adequate water system and within a few weeks the gas plant will supply lights for all purposes."

Ferndale Enterprise, April 19, 1904

"Carlotta Dance Postponed--Owing to a delay in getting the gas fixtures in place, James Elliott's opening dance at the new Carlotta Hotel, announced for next Friday evening, the 22nd, has been postponed until some future date, to be decided upon later on."

"Carlotta Hotel and Livery Stable, James Elliott, Propr. Located at the new town of Carlotta, two miles from Hydesville. Everything new. Everything first-class. A delightful drive from Ferndale and the valley. A beautiful spot for an outing. You will find a satisfactory table and accommodations. Sunday Dinners a Specialty. Call and See Me."

Ferndale Enterprise, May 6, 1904

"F.A. Elliott, a brother of James Elliott of the Carlotta Hotel, is to

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

the Fortuna Merchandising Company whose branch store at Carlotta had been run since its opening in 1904 by Mark Mitchell. In time Mitchell and his son-in-law, Francis Tann, assumed sole ownership of the town except for a few parcels which had been sold off through the years. The Hotel remained in the Mitchell-Tann family until the spring of 1977 when Tann's daughter, Carol Sue MacMillan, sold it.

The Hotel was apparently closed for some years during the 1920's and 1930's before it was reopened by Joe Matteucci about 1936. During the thirty or so years it was run by the Matteucci family, first by Joe and later by his son Albert and his wife Bruna, the Hotel was known for its fine Italian food. The upstairs sleeping rooms, once used by travelers and vacationers, were used to house lumber and construction workers. In recent years the Hotel has been vacant except for a bar at the south end of the first floor, but this was closed last winter after the fire which destroyed the kitchen annex.

Because the Hotel has escaped the architecturally-destructive effects of modernization and remodeling, its potential for restoration are excellent. The present owners envision the Hotel as it once was with a fine dining room and good accommodations for the traveling public and those seeking a place to enjoy a pleasant vacation in California's north country. Nominated as significant in the area of architecture and as a contributor to the broad patterns of Humboldt County history, the Carlotta Hotel deserves recognition and protection as a historic building on the National Register of Historic Places.

Daily Standard, August 29, 1903

"It has been noised about for several weeks that building operations would soon commence at Carlotta, the terminus of the Midland railroad, the road recently absorbed by the San Francisco and Northwestern railroad. Nowhere in southern Humboldt is there a prettier site for a town than at this point. A broad, level prairie, well protected from the winds by the forest-clad hills surrounding it and close to the sinuous windings of the Yager and Van Duzen rivers--nature surely did all in her power to make Carlotta an ideal spot for the habitation of man. A representative of the Beacon recently interviewed Mr. John M. Vance, the owner of the land thereabouts, relative to the rumors afloat concerning the erection of buildings, and from him learned that work was to commence this week on the first structure--a three-story hotel having thirty sleeping rooms. The building will be very attractive in appearance, having a hip roof, while around the upper story will run a broad belt of shingles. An annex will be added to the main building to be used as a kitchen. After the hotel is finished, a store, livery stable and blacksmith shop are to be built, these buildings to form the nucleus of the town, and from Mr. Vance we learn that building lots will be laid off and sold, several having already expressed a desire to purchase land for building purposes.--Beacon."

Ferndale Enterprise, May 6, 1904

"F.A. Elliott, a brother of James Elliott of the Carlotta Hotel, is to

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conduct the saloon in the hostelry. Mr. Elliott is a late arrival from Kentucky and will probably make Humboldt his future home."

Ferndale Enterprise, February 20, 1906

"E.A. Light, formerly proprietor of the Capetown resort, has purchased the stock and fixtures of the Carlotta Hotel, and with his wife will in future conduct the hostelry. It is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Light to cater to the traveling public and especially to those who desire a well kept place where they can enjoy a few week's outing. Mr. and Mrs. Light have many friends here who wish them success in their new location."

Daily Standard, July 2, 1906

"Hotel Carlotta, Humboldt Co., Cal. This hotel, situated on San Francisco and Northwestern Railway between the Van Duzen river and Yager Creek, is one of the finest summer resorts in the state. The hotel will be run in a first class manner, and the table supplied with the best the market affords-Sunday dinner a specialty. Good Hunting and Fishing in Season. E.A. Light, Proprietor."

Irvine, Leigh H. History of Humboldt County California. Historic Record Co., 1915.

"Carlotta is a summer resort located twenty-eight miles south of Eureka. It is on the Northwestern Pacific Railway, being the terminal of the branch line which connects at Alton, six miles distant. It is in the heart of the redwoods. Logged off or open lands grow unexcelled berries and small fruits. Stages from Carlotta connect with the inland towns of southern Humboldt. Ranches in that section outfit at Carlotta, thus making it an important shipping point. There is an excellent hotel there and the fishing and hunting are superb. The population is nominal. Opportunities are numerous for the prospective settler."

Susie Baker Fountain Notebooks, Vol. 70:99

"January 8, 1921. E.W. Haight, A.C. Edson and M. Mitchell, who recently purchased the townsite of Carlotta, have been very busy putting things in order for the expected trade of the summer. The Carlotta Hotel has been put into first class condition with fresh new paint and paper and new furniture in the greater part of the rooms, as well as fresh decorations in the lobby, parlors and dining room. Mrs. W.J. Riley has leased the hotel and in its attractive setting another recent improvement is the new and up-to-date garage 36 by 70 feet with an excellent concrete floor done by Fred Rich of Fortuna. The garage is to be run by the Whitney Brothers, who are both expert mechanics."



HUMB. CO. COLLECTION

Carlotta

1907

N/5