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United States Department of the Interior National Park 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 Calpak Plant No. 11

and/or common Del Monte Corporation, Plant No. 11

2. Location

street & number 1721 C Street (1701 C) n/a not for publication

city, town Sacramento n/a vicinity of

state California code 06 county Sacramento code 067

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes checkboxes for building(s), structure, site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, accessible (yes/restricted/unrestricted/no), and present use (agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other).

4. Owner of Property

name California Almond Growers Exchange

street & number P.O. Box 1768

city, town Sacramento n/a vicinity of state California 95808

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sacramento County Recorder's Office

street & number 901 G Street

city, town Sacramento state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sacramento Non-residential Building Survey (Tax Certification Part I, 8/25/83) has this property been determined eligible? X yes ___ no

date July 1981 ___ federal ___ state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Sacramento City Planning Department

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	N/A	
<input checked="" 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 cannery building is a large rectangular two story brick structure that occupies two full blocks between 16th and 18th streets along C Street. The post and truss building is bisected mid-block by a taller central element, three bays in width, with a stepped parapet. The post and truss system is of wood. A projecting parapet with stepped portions encircles the building above the cornice line. The street facades contain a series of regular bays with recessed rectangular panels beneath a shallow projecting brick course, a configuration suggestive of a row of columns with capitals. The street facade bays, with the exception of the western end of the south elevation, contain two banks of industrial metal-sash windows, one above the other and with panes of wired glass. Some bays contain metal roll-up doors rather than windows. A canopy projects from the building above doors and the loading dock on the west end of the south elevation. There are semi-circular ventilation screens above the second floor windows on the east elevation. The structure has a concrete foundation, is 722' in length, 218' in width and 19'6" in height, and cost \$325,000 to construct. A raised concrete loading dock extends along the eastern elevation. Attached equipment and additions, include piping, industrial hardware, an attached wooden weigh station structure, and a corrugated metal construction shelter on the southern facade. North facade is the same as the others except for the concrete-framed open bays on the east end. The interior is essentially open, partially divided by the concrete block central portion. Trusses supported by numerous posts, regularly placed, form the structural system. Long rows of skylights light the interior.

A metal bridge spans ^C ~~the~~ Street to another former processing center.

Alterations to the structure during its years of operation include the following: some expansion of the building to the rear in 1937, construction of the weigh scale in 1940 (southeast corner), boiler room extension and concrete foundation in 1943, construction of small brick building opposite central bays for employment office in 1943, and another building expansion to the rear in 1951. Piping and canning hardware and machinery were also attached to the building. Some interior changes of office space and machinery rooms occurred.

The structure is currently being rehabilitated*and modified somewhat for some uses in addition to its original food processing function. Proposed changes are primarily interior. Exterior changes involve the removal of piping, deteriorated canopies except for that on the west end of the southern facade, partial removal of the loading dock and the addition of planters and a driveway replacing the old railroad tracks, and the opening of the central bays to serve as a main entrance to a small commercial sales area inside. The entrance will be marked by a new projecting canopy. Most of the building will remain in service as a part of the almond production activity of the new owners, a food processing company as was Del Monte. The later small employment office building has been removed. The metal bridge, not original to the building, and constructed to move boxes to the originally vacant parking and storage lot across the street will remain.

*Renovation was completed prior to nomination, and is described on the following continuation sheet.

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Description of completed rehabilitation, 1/84

The Del Monte Plant structure has recently experienced rehabilitation and partial adaptation to a new use. The central portion of the building, opposite 17th Street, has been adapted to provide a public entry, sales area, lobby and auditorium. Windows in the central bays have been removed and the bays opened to provide access to the new entrance and lobby area. Office space has been rearranged and improved on the mezzanine floor, which previously had offices as well. An interior space near the sales area has been created to house the company's computer system. The remainder of the plant retains its food processing function.

A ramp and parking areas have replaced the railroad tracks and a masonry and metal canopy has been constructed to cover the public entrance. The canopy is supported by masonry faced supports connected to the face of the building and pillars projecting from the planters. Planters have been created at different heights descending to street level. Planters and landscaped areas contain a variety of almond trees reflecting all of the nut varieties processed by the California Almond Growers Exchange.

The building has been structurally stabilized, repaired and cleaned. Construction of the canopy has affected the surface of the building to a minor degree and is reversible.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1925 **Builder/Architect** Philip Bush

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Del Monte Corporation Plant 11 is significant due to its associations with an industry that contributed importantly to the economic and agricultural growth of the State. The operation of this business firm, the largest of its type in the world by the mid-1920's, had an international as well as national impact upon the food industry. The Del Monte brand became internationally known and encouraged the sales and growth of California agricultural products as a whole. When it was built, Plant No. 11 was one of the biggest fruit canneries in the world. This plant was also the last operating cannery in the Old City area and represents a vital component of the city and region's growth and development.

The Sacramento canning industry was an outgrowth of the successful agricultural activity whose first concentrated beginnings in the area date from John Sutter's Fort settlement and a few scattered settlers in the Sacramento Valley in the 1840's. These activities were limited in terms of production however, and when the Gold Rush of 1849 occurred, bringing tens of thousands of gold seekers to this area, fruits, vegetables and meat were rare and expensive. Preserved goods were even more rare and costly. The scarcity of such goods, almost exclusively imported from the East Coast, prompted a few individuals to begin small packing businesses. Several small companies evolved in the 1860 to 1890 period, primarily around the Bay Area region, utilizing a variety of brand names with few refinements of product quality, classification and standardization.

The Del Monte brand was first used by the Oakland Preserving Co. in 1892, with a label displaying a picture of the prestigious Hotel Del Monte in Monterey. The brand was originally the property of Tillman and Bendel, an Oakland based firm which first used it around 1886 to identify a blend of coffee prepared for that Hotel. When Tillman of that firm founded the Oakland Preserving Co. in 1891, he adopted the label to identify his cannery's premium quality products. This company was one of 18 that, in 1899, were incorporated into the California Fruit Canners Association. CFCA's 28 canneries were scattered throughout California, and Del Monte was chosen as its featured brand.

California began to emerge as a leader in the national canning industry after the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, which served to lower sea transportation costs and allowed freighting rates competitive to those of the railroad. The expanded market encouraged the growth of the agricultural industry including canning operations.

In 1916, the two largest California canning companies (California Fruit Canners Association and Central California Canneries) and four smaller independent and pioneer canning companies including the highly successful Alaska Packers Association, merged to form one large company, the California Packing Corporation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.6 acres

Quadrangle name Sacramento East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	0	6	3	2	4	1	0	4	2	7	1	5	1	0
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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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state n/a code county N/A code

state n/a code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Boghosian

organization Historic Environment Consultants date August 25, 1983

street & number 2306 J Street telephone 916 446-2447

city or town Sacramento state California 95814

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 Maxine Mitchell-Wilcox

title Deputy SHPO date Feb. 9, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register

John A. Brown date 5/17/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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At the time of the merger, the corporation included 53 domestic fruit and vegetable processing plants, the 17 salmon canneries of the Alaska Packers Association, and a pineapple cannery in Hawaii.

However, the every day household use of canned foods was not yet common. Families largely still preserved their own goods, and utilized canned foods primarily out of necessity rather than choice. In 1917, Calpak launched a long range advertising campaign under the Del Monte brand name that would eventually change the shopping and eating habits of millions of consumers and make Del Monte one of the best known brand names in the world. Fortune magazine, in an article on Calpak published in 1938 said, "This long range campaign...induced a new habit of brand buying throughout the country and whipped up an eager market not only for Del Monte but for all California canned goods...Calpak is largely responsible for the fact that the California fruit and vegetable pack climbed from 11,000 cases in 1916 to 37,500,000 in 1937."*

The advertising campaign closely coincided with the marketing revolution of self service markets, initiated in 1917 by Clarence Saunders' chain of Piggly Wiggly stores. The new option of choosing one's own purchases made the advertising of brand names a most important and effective marketing medium and enhanced Calpak's campaign.

By 1925, Calpak had become the largest packing and canning company in the world, the same year that Plant No. 11 was constructed in Sacramento.

At the time of its construction, Plant No. 11 was one of the biggest fruit canneries in the world. The plant contained 250,000 square feet and had a 144,000 square foot warehouse area. Sacramento's location in the heart of rich agricultural regions and excellent distribution transportation systems made it a logical choice for so large a facility, and the city later became known as the "canning center of the West." The plant packed peaches, pears shipped by steamboat from the Delta, tomatoes, pumpkin, squash, spinach, carrots and beets.

Designed by the company's Engineering Department Chief, Philip Bush, it was built by contractors McDonald and Kahn in 1925 at a cost of \$325,000. The structure is an attractive industrial building and a good representative of its type. While its image reflects its utilitarian use, the design, materials, color and scale of the building enhance its visual quality. Essentially unaltered, the design of the building successfully unites functionalism with modest but carefully designed detailing and scaling.

* Fortune, November 1938, PP. 81-82

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Braznell, William; California's Finest; The History of Del Monte Corporation and the Del Monte Brand, published by Del Monte Corporation, 1982.

Donaldson, Clinton; Telephone communication, 31 may, 1983.

McGowan, Joseph; History of the Sacramento Valley, II, 1961.

Sacramento Bee; "Del Monte Today", 6 September 1979, sec. D P.9

Sacramento City Building Permits; 10/9/24, 6/1/37, 11/27/40, 2/25/43, 6/29/45, 6/18/51, 11/6/69.

Sacramento Non-Residential Cultural Resources Inventory; 1981.
Sacramento City Planning Department.

Fortune Magazine, "Calpak: Adventures of Del Monte Brand", November, 1938, PP. 81-82.

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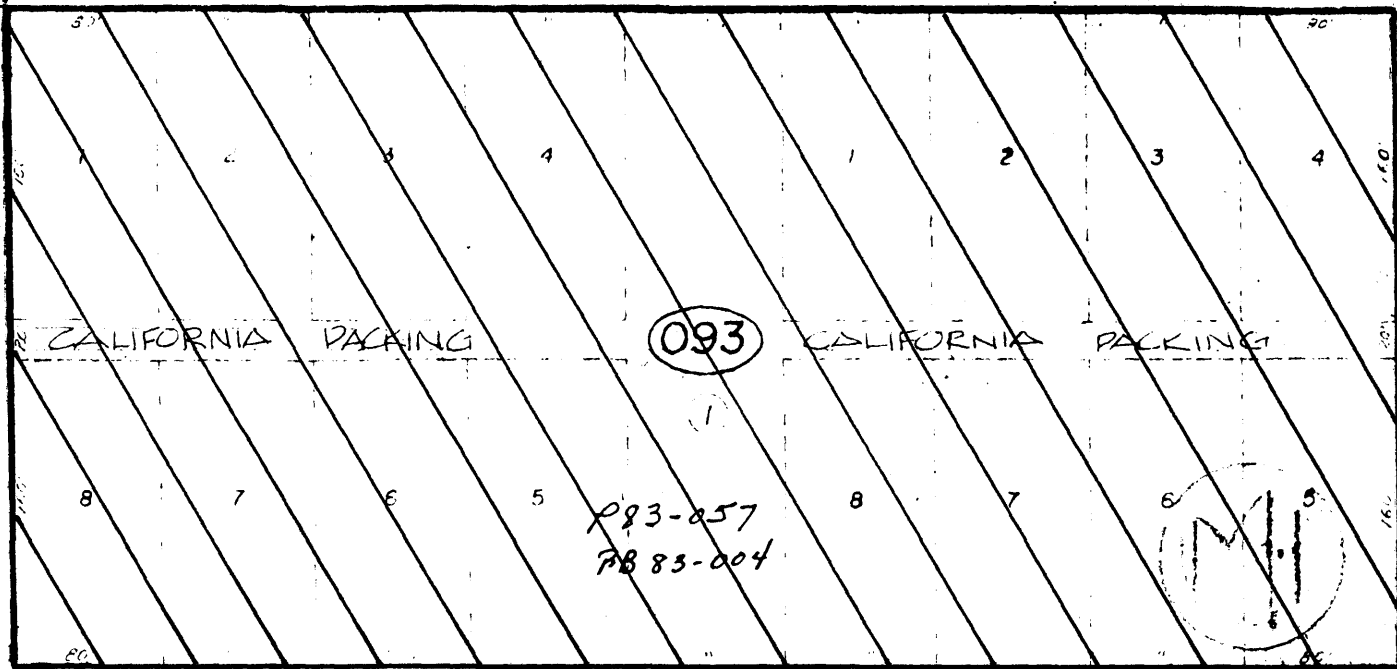
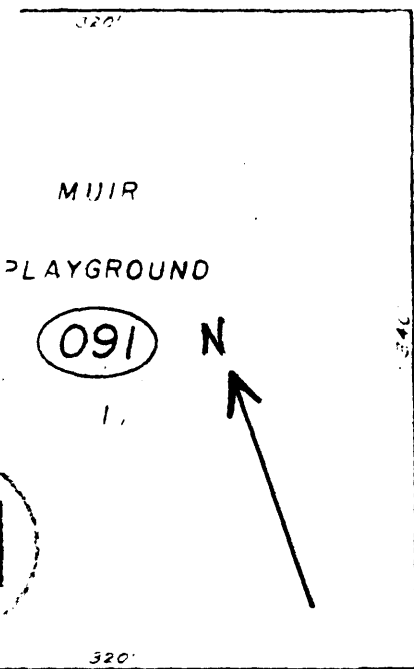
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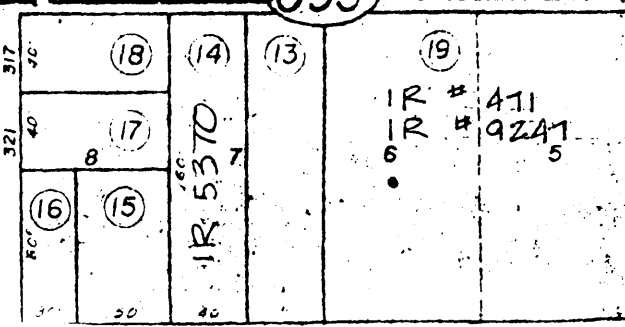
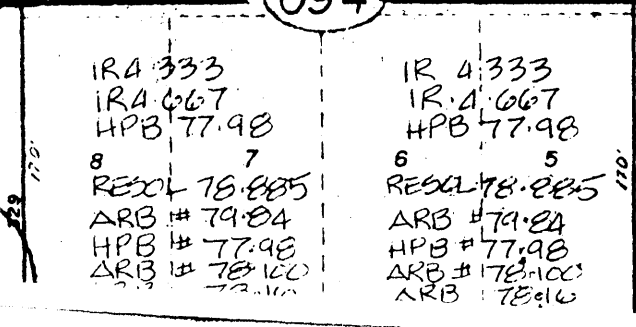
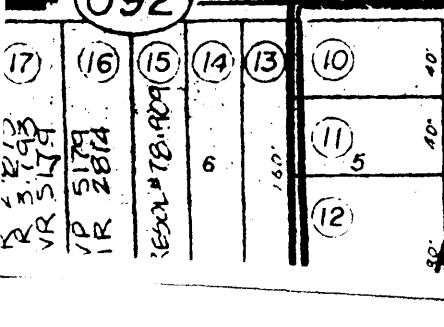
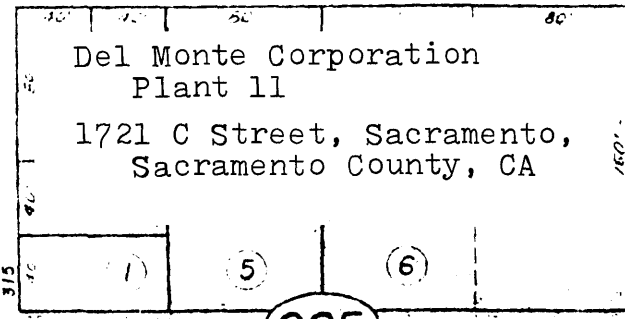
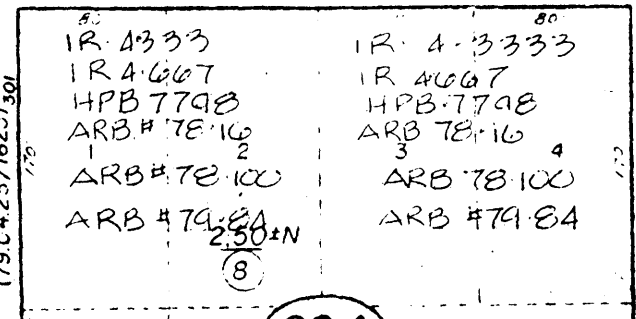
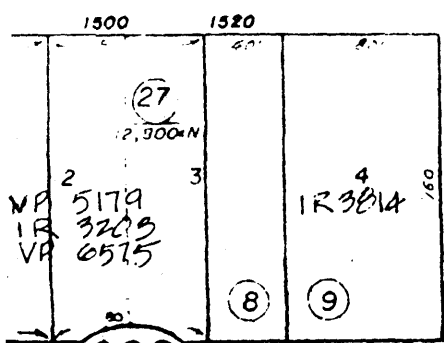
The Del Monte Corporation Plant 11 occupies two square blocks between 16th and 18th Streets, C Street and the Railroad levee, an area of 5.6 acres, or 340' x 720', parcel no. 002-093-01.

The present cannery structure is the original structure on the site. A warehouse, constructed several years later on the north side of the railroad levee and connected then by underground passage to this cannery, is not included in the property nomination. The passage has since been closed. A small overstreet bridge was constructed several years after the cannery, connecting the second floor of the building to a box storage and parking lot across the street to the south. This lot and bridge were not a part of the original building.



C ST

ST.



ST.

17th

18th