

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 1 1985

date entered FEB 28

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bank of Loleta

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 358 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Loleta

N/A vicinity of

state California

code

06

county

Humboldt

code

023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<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 Bank of Loleta

street & number Box 398

city, town Loleta

N/A vicinity of

state Calif. 95551

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Humboldt County Courthouse

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka

state Calif. 95501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco
and Northern California has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Published by Peregrine Smith, Inc., Salt Lake City
Records filed with Dr. David Gebhard, Department of Art History

University of California, Santa Barbara
city, town Santa Barbara

state CA

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bank of Loleta is located in a small, rural community above the Eel River Delta in northern California. It was designed by architect Franklin Georgeson in the Neo-Classical Revival style, popular at the turn-of-the-century for public buildings and financial institutions. The Bank exhibits the simple form and classic detail of that style with fluted columns and pilasters, pediments, a roof balustrade, and ornamented capitals and entablature. Its classic architecture and stark white paint set it apart from the other storefronts in Loleta's one-block long commercial area. Carefully preserved through the years, the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity, having only one apparent exterior alteration--the replacement of the original wood and beveled-glass doors with aluminum ones, but this alteration is not intrusive. Bank officials wish to continue this tradition of care and have initiated the National Register process in recognition of the architectural and historic significance of the Bank to the Loleta community.

* * * * *

Built of reinforced concrete with precast cement decoration, the Bank of Loleta is 28 feet wide and 82 feet long. Located in a row of commercial buildings on a 28-foot by 104-foot lot, the Bank is visible only from the front and rear since the sides abut adjacent buildings.

The front facade has a recessed central entrance of double glass doors, topped by a bracketed pediment which is decorated with a large shell at the apex and half shells at the corners. Plate glass extends above the pediment to the ceiling of the entrance and on either side of the doors. The original wood doors with beveled glass panels have been replaced with aluminum ones. This appears to be the only exterior alteration, probably made in the early 1960's, and is not intrusive.

Flanking the entrance are two, free-standing columns and wall pilasters. The fluted columns and pilasters rest on large bases and have highly-ornamented capitals of alternating rows of "balls" and upside-down "tulips." Individual rosettes and a row of large

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beads decorate the tops of the columns and pilasters, each of which is topped by a plain, square abacus. Above each column and pilaster are six tiny guttae below the triglyphs of the frieze. Above the entrance are the words, BANK OF LOLETA. The cornice is decorated with moulded panels, large dentils, and a row of tiny beads at the edge. Above the cornice extending across the front of the building is a balustrade of pedestals and balusters. Siding at the corners of the building is rusticated.

At the rear of the building is a one-story section containing the Board of Director's room. It has several small windows across the back and some guttering, but otherwise is without notable features. The remainder of the lot is empty and extends to the street.

The interior of the building has also seen few changes. New lighting and, of course, modern equipment are obvious, but the tile floor, wooden tellers' cage, ceiling panels, and wall pilasters and moulding are as they have been since 1920. Above the beautiful vault is a clock mounted in a pediment decorated with brackets and dentils. The interior of the Bank is white with goldleaf trim. The original wood moulding and door pediment remain above the entrance.

The commercial district consists of one side of one block facing the railroad. The grocery store, post office, hardware store, laundromat, and the Bank provide local residents with the basics. Below the town is the bottomland of the Eel River which has, over the centuries, deposited the rich alluvial soils that produce excellent pasture. To the north and east are the open prairie areas, also covered with grass. Planted to crops by the first settlers in the 1850's, these areas were soon recognized as better suited for dairy cows and so it has been for probably the past one hundred years.

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/ 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1920 ~~Builder~~/Architect Franklin T. Georgeson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Loleta is nominated to the National Register for its fine Neo-Classical Revival architecture and its contribution to the broad patterns of history through almost 65 years of service to the dairying community of Loleta. Described in David Gebhard's Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California (1973) as "a modest, well designed small bank in the turn of the century Roman/Renaissance style," the Bank of Loleta retains a high degree of architectural integrity, exhibiting the simple form and classical detail so popular for public buildings, banks, museums, etc., during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Tracing its beginnings to the turn-of-the-century when local ranchers kept their money in the safe of the Dickson & Dickson general merchandise store, the Bank of Loleta has provided banking services for this rural northern California town since the Bank's incorporation in 1910. In recognition of its handsome architecture and long-standing contributions to the community, the Bank of Loleta deserves a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

* * * * *

In 1905 the California Banking Commission licensed Dickson & Dickson to conduct a banking business in their Loleta store. Walter F. Dickson and Robert O. Dickson, nephew and uncle in partnership since 1894, often provided limited banking services to their customers. In 1910 the Bank of Loleta was incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000 with the business continuing in the back of the Dickson & Dickson store. Robert served as president, Walter as vice-president, and Ed Hill was the secretary and cashier.

The official opening of the newly-incorporated Bank of Loleta was noted in the Dec. 23, 1910 issue of the Humboldt Beacon: "On the first day of the present month, the Bank of Loleta, recently organized, made its maiden bow to the people of that town and vicinity and has already taken its place among the foremost of similar institutions in the county."

more

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ferndale Enterprise, 19 Aug. 1910; 13 Dec. 1910. Ferndale, CA.
Humboldt Beacon, 23 Dec. 1910; 16 April 1920. Fortuna, CA.
Perry, M.A. "The History of Loleta." Master's Thesis, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. June, 1963.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .07 acres

Quadrangle name Fields Landing

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	3	9	6	5	0	0	4	4	9	9	3	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification AP#309-132-03, being the south half of lot 5, block 2 in Town of Loleta, beginning 28' S of the NE corner of said lot, thence S 28', thence W 104', thence N 28', thence E 104' to place of beginning. Boundaries encompass the building & its original lot.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susie Van Kirk

organization N/A

date 15 June 1984

street & number 1162 C Street

telephone (707) 822-6066

city or town Arcata

state CA 95521

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

Maion Mitchell-Wilson

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-2-85

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
Chief of Registration

Registered in the
National Register

date 2-28-85

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Sure of its success and the success of the town, the editor of the Humboldt Beacon continued: "That the bank means much to the welfare and growth of the town of Loleta no one can doubt for a moment. It is one of the straws that indicates that the winds of progress and prosperity are blowing Loleta's way. The town is to be congratulated and should congratulate itself upon having such a wide awake and progressive firm as Dickson & Dickson conducting a business within that town. Surrounded as the town is by productive acres and having a large number of progressive merchants, it cannot fail to grow even more rapidly in the future than in the past."

In February 1920, Eureka architect Franklin T. Georgeson completed plans for the Bank of Loleta building and construction was apparently completed that year. Newspaper articles on the 1910 incorporation and an April 1920 announcement that a new bank building was to be constructed were found in local newspapers, but no articles regarding the opening of the new building could be located. Tax assessment records, however, indicate that improvements valued at \$2500 were built on the lot between June 1920 and June 1921.

The Bank continues today, as it has over the past 74 years, to serve the dairying community of the Loleta area. The little town has not seen the growth predicted by the editor of the Beacon in 1910 so the bottom lands and upland prairies remain in agricultural use. Main Street is only one block long with the railroad on one side and the commercial buildings on the other. Three doors down from the Bank is the 1893 Dickson & Dickson Store where the Bank got its start.

In preparation for the 75th anniversary of the Bank of Loleta in 1985, nomination of the 1920 Bank to the National Register is being made. National Register status will give both architectural and historic recognition to this deserving building which has played such a vital role in the life of the Loleta community for almost 65 years.

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Bibliography (continued)

Gebhard, David, et. al. A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Salt Lake City. 1973.

TOWN OF LOLETA

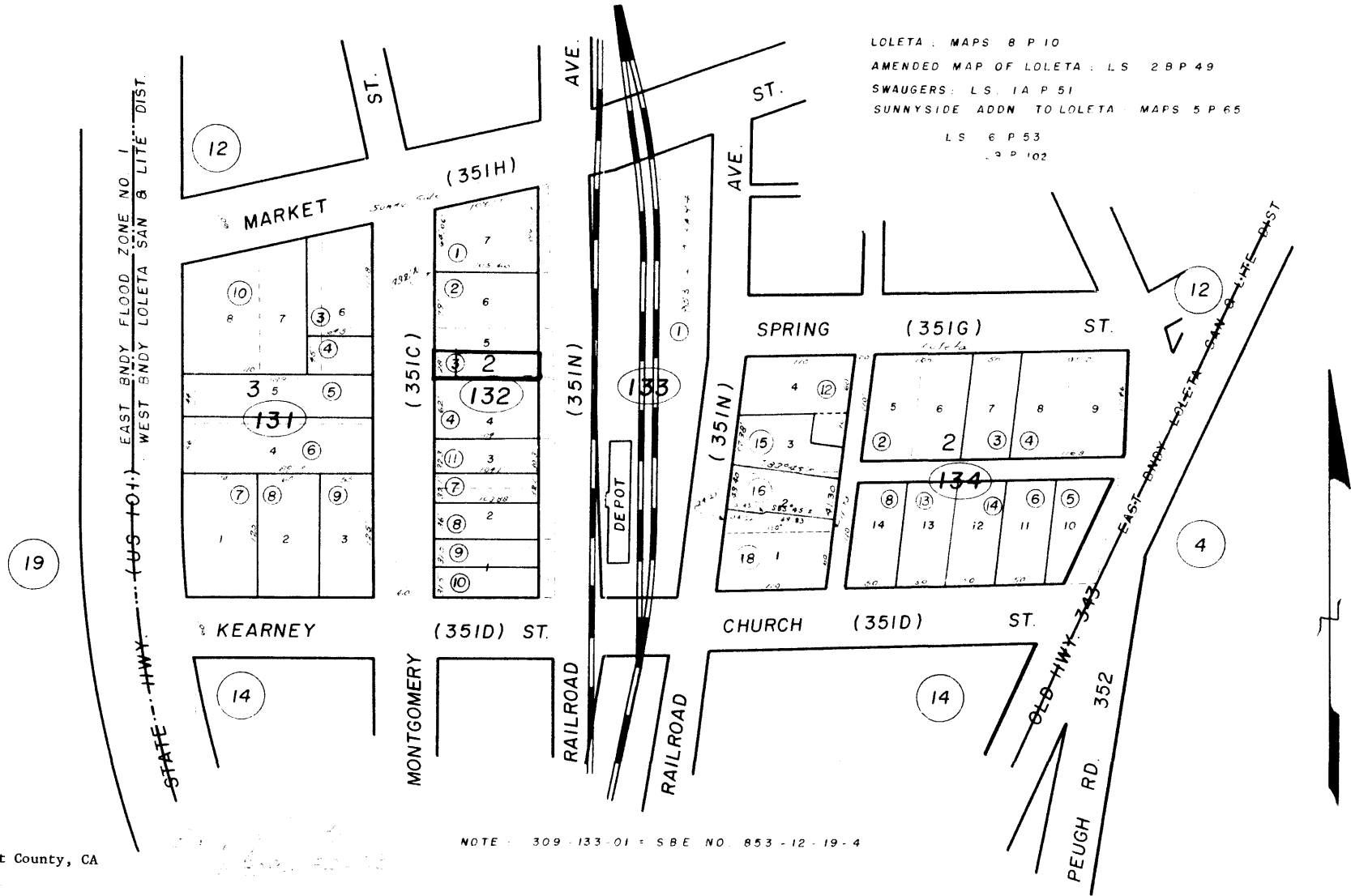
IN SEC 18 3N 1W

309-13

T.C.A 109-01

1997

LOLETA : MAPS 8 P 10
AMENDED MAP OF LOLETA : LS 2 B P 49
SWAGGERS : LS 1A P 51
SUNNYSIDE ADDN TO LOLETA : MAPS 5 P 65
LS 6 P 53
LS 9 P 102



Bank of Loleta
358 Main Street
Loleta, Humboldt County, CA