

Auburn Masonic Hall



Placer County, CA

939

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Auburn Masonic Temple

other names/site number Masonic Hall

2. Location

street & number 948 Lincoln Way not for publication

city or town Auburn vicinity

state CA code CA county Placer code 061 zip code 95603

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Mr. Wayne Cook State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official/Title

4 NOV 2011
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title
Government State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Paul R. Jones
Signature of the Keeper

12/19/11
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn,
California

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social-meeting hall
- Commerce (bottom story)
-
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social – meeting hall
- Commerce (bottom story)
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals-Beaux Arts
- Beaux Arts Classicism
-
-
-

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: concrete
- walls: brick
-
- roof:
- other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Masonic Hall is a two story brick building of Beaux Arts style, with a terra cotta primary façade on the south elevation. Five arched windows separated by double Corinthian pilasters adorn the upper two stories. The bottom story houses multiple store fronts. The lower story houses businesses while the upper story house the hall, meeting rooms, anti rooms, banquet room, and kitchen. The building fronts onto Lincoln Way on Central Square business district in Auburn.

Narrative Description

The building's terra cotta façade is two stories, with the lower containing retail storefronts and the upper stories the meeting hall kitchen, banquet hall and other rooms. At the building's left end, the second floor stairway entrance consists of a vestibule opening framed by two lesser Doric pilasters and a denticulated entablature with the words "MASONIC TEMPLE" inscribed in the frieze. Above this is a glazed semi-circular arch with pellet ornaments in the spandrels. This entrance is framed by two Doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature which spans the façade and rests on a single Doric pilaster with double bronze framed glass doors. The upper story is ornamented with six accouplements of Corinthian pilasters forming five bays, each containing a window opening formed by a compound semi-circle arch, resting on imposts, with the sill descending to the plinth line. Each window is divided vertically by two mullions in a Diocletian motif and horizontally at the impost line by a heavy chord member and a transom bar below that. The fluted shafts of the pilasters and their Corinthian capitals carry an entablature with a denticulated cornice with modillions supporting a corona and boldly projecting cymatium. The cornice is crowned by an unadorned attic containing six pedestals positioned above the coupled pilasters.

The bottom story was faced with stacked, slender terra cotta bricks below the large plate glass windows during a remodel in the mid-1950s. In old photos it appears that it may have been concrete or stucco below the plate glass windows. The original metal awning was replaced during the 1950s with a canvas look awning that spans the entire storefront area of the building. An original store door on the bottom west end was taken out prior to the 1930s and replaced with a plate glass window that matches the rest of the windows. The remaining two store doors have been replaced with glass framed with aluminum doors. The building has been well maintained through the years and is in excellent condition. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association,

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1914-60 _____

Significant Dates

1914 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Fellows, Allen D., architect _____

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the upper story and terra cotta façade applied to the building in 1914, and ends in 1960 after a remodel of the first-floor façade for a new tenant and following the renovations made in preparation for the 1960 Winter Olympics.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Masonic Hall building, built in 1914-15, is an outstanding example of the Beaux Arts Commercial style popular from 1885 to 1920. It meets National Register Criterion A within the context established by the the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California MPS. The building also meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of Beaux Arts style in the city of Auburn and as the final work of local architect Allen D. Fellows.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Community Organizations

Although there were Masons in Placer County as early as 1849, the Eureka Lodge in Auburn was not organized until November of 1851. The first hall was constructed on Maple Street on the current courthouse grounds. In the 1870s they moved to the upper floor of a store on Commercial Street now owned and occupied by the Native Sons of the Golden West. East Auburn developed as a commercial center after the Central Pacific Railroad constructed its tracks along the hill skirting the American River Canyon. Many businesses moved from Old Town Auburn to one half mile to the east closer to the railroad. The Masonic Hall is an example of the growth and progress of the community from the small buildings and wandering streets of the old mining camp location to the larger commercial buildings and streets of east Auburn.

In October 1913 the lodge purchased the eighty foot by eighty foot stores of William G. Lee and the Birdsall Shoe Company. William G. Lee was a department store that went bankrupt in 1937. That year, J.C. Penney opened a store in the Lee portion of the building. The Masons celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary in the building in 1941 during the celebration they burned the mortgage on the building. In the early 1950s Penney's moved out and Pacific Bell Telephone used the bottom story for their offices. At that time terra cotta stacked bricks were added to the lower three feet of the building. This was during the period of updating and sprucing up the town prior to the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley.

Criterion C: Beaux Arts Architecture by Master Architect Allen D. Fellows

The Masonic Hall, with the fine façade of terra cotta manufactured by the Gladding, McBean Company of Lincoln, California, creates what appears to be singularly built structure but it is in fact the result of a 1914 remodeling to an existing one story block of department stores which were built less than ten years earlier and a portion of which remains to the east of the building. In its design, the Masonic Hall exemplifies the kind of civic pride that produced the fine club buildings in this city. The architect's use of the Beaux Arts style projects a powerful expression of prestige, confidence and permanence—all highly desirable attributes for any social organization. The fine edifice represents in a more personal way the highest achievement of Allen D. Fellows who, as a local architect using locally produced materials and assisted by local craftsmen, created in this his final work a landmark that declared to citizens and to travelers along the Lincoln Highway alike the rising prominence of the city of Auburn. Fellows also designed the Auburn Library and the Lincoln Carnegie Library in Lincoln, California, a National Register listed property.

The building retains all of its original architectural elements of design with the exception of the bottom floor department store that was remodeled in the mid-1950s, when the Bell Telephone Company occupied the bottom floor. A slender terra cotta stacked brick façade was placed on the bottom two feet of the building, the door configuration was changed and the awning was changed at the same time. The setting and location remain unchanged. Lincoln Way was paved in front shortly after the building was completed. It is an excellent example of Beaux Arts design by Allen D. Fellows and retains integrity.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"A Self Guided Walking Tour the Historic Auburn Buildings." City of Auburn, 1988.

Harris, Cyril M., Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. Dover Publications, New York, 1983.

Lardner, W. B. and M.J. Brock, History of Placer and Nevada Counties. Los Angeles, California: Historic Record Company, 1924.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1990.

Napoli, Donald S, "Auburn Historic Resources Survey." City of Auburn, June, 12, 1987.

Placer Herald, Auburn, Placer County California

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 10 667370 4307150
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel number 002-145-14, City of Auburn, Placer County

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the city lot where the building and parking lot are located.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer/Historian
 organization City of Auburn date 12.4.09
 street & number 12190 Holly Vista Way telephone 530-885-7476
 city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603
 e-mail carmphil@sbcglobal.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Masonic Hall

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: Placer

State: CA

Photographer: Carmel Barry-Schweyer

Date Photographed: 12.09.09

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

CA_Placer_Auburn Masonic Temple_0001.tif, south elevation, camera facing northeast.

CA_Placer_Auburn Masonic Temple_0002.tif, south elevation, camera facing northeast

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Masonic Hall Association Auburn
 street & number 956 Lincoln Way telephone 530-885-7804
 city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Auburn Masonic Hall
Name of Property
Placer, CA
County and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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Figure Log

Figure 1: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, 1916

Figure 2: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, circa 1945

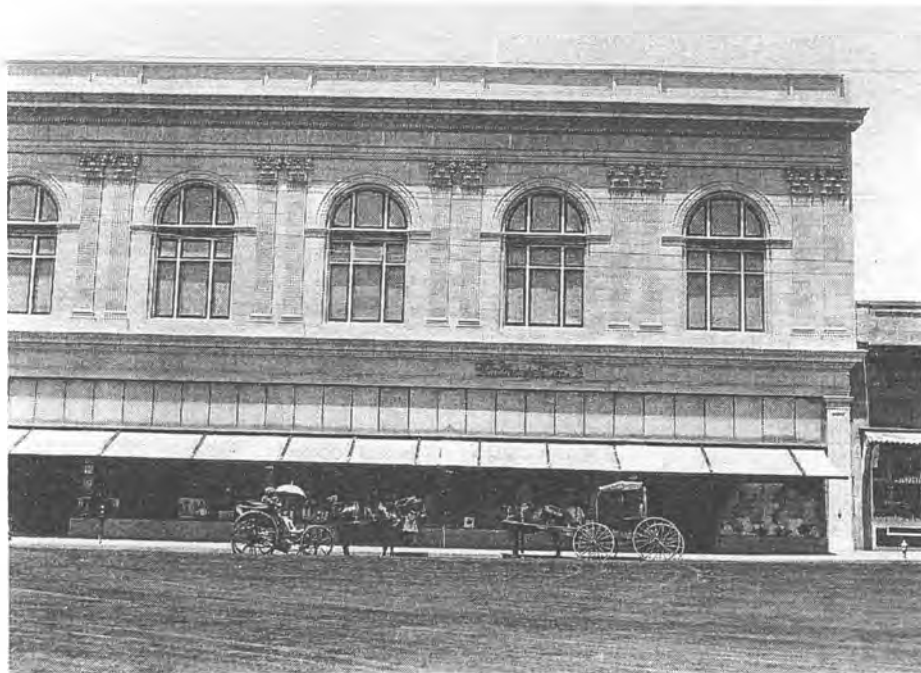


Figure 1: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, 1916



Figure 2: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, circa 1945

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Auburn Masonic Temple
NAME:

MULTIPLE Auburn, CA MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Placer

DATE RECEIVED: 11/10/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/02/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/19/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/26/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000939

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Auburn Masonic Temple

The Auburn Masonic Temple is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History and Architecture. Designed by local architect Allen D. Fellows, the 1914 design (alteration of an earlier c.1905 commercial building) is an excellent local example of Classical Revival style commercial design. The building served as the home of the locally important Masonic lodge, marking that organization's respected social status within the expanding community.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignea DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/19/2011

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**Auburn Masonic Temple
Placer County, California
Staff Report**

Auburn Masonic Temple is a two-story brick Beaux Arts commercial building originally constructed in approximately 1905 but extensively reconstructed in 1914. The primary façade features terra cotta provided by the local firm of Gladding-McBean and was designed by master architect Allen D. Fellows. The property is eligible under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California Multiple Property Listing as an example of the "Social and Religious Institutions" property type.

The building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role as a building associated with fraternal organizations in the city of Auburn, in addition to its role in Auburn's commercial development via the commercial establishments in the building's ground floor. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as the work of master architect Allen D. Fellows in the Beaux Arts style. Fellows' design integrated and expanded the existing one-story brick buildings on the block, adding a second story and a terra cotta façade. The retail stores on the ground floor were occupied by the Pacific Bell Telephone Company in the late 1950s, with a ground-floor remodel of terra cotta completed as part of the citywide efforts to beautify downtown Auburn in anticipation of the 1960 Winter Olympics. The period of significance is from 1914-1960, from the initial rebuilding and expansion of the property to the Winter Olympics remodel. The interior spaces of the second-story Masonic Hall retain a high degree of integrity, as does the exterior of the property.

The property is nominated on behalf of its owner, the Masonic Hall Association of Auburn.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the Auburn Masonic Temple meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level of significance, and the criteria set forth in the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPD. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

William Burg
Historian I
July 1, 2011

1. AUBURN MASONIC TEMPLE
PLACER COUNTY, CA





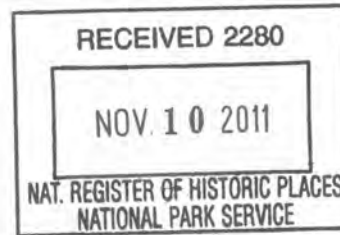
2. AUBURN MASONIC TEMPLE
PLACER COUNTY, CA

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64501103

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



November 4, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Auburn Masonic Temple
Auburn IOOF Hall
Auburn Fire House No. 1
Auburn Fire House No. 2
Auburn City Hall and Fire House
Placer County Bank
Auburn Grammar School
Auburn, Placer County, California
Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find seven nominations, **Auburn Masonic Temple, Auburn IOOF Hall, Auburn Fire House No. 1, Auburn Fire House No. 2, Auburn City Hall and Fire House, Placer County Bank and Auburn Grammar School** to the National Register of Historic Places. All seven properties are nominated under the cover of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS. All properties are located in Auburn, Placer County, California. On August 5, 2011, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the first six properties eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance. On October 28, 2011, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the Auburn Grammar School eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance.

The properties are nominated by Carmel Barry-Schweyer.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

W.D.

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures