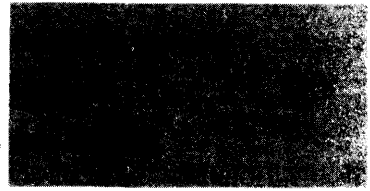


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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1. Name

historic College Women's Club

and/or common College Women's Club

2. Location

street & number 2680 Bancroft Way not for publication

city, town Berkeley vicinity of congressional district 8th

state California code 06 county Alameda code 001

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 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious (sorority)
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Arthur Ross

street & number 14 Atherton Avenue

city, town Atherton vicinity of 94025 state California

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 1225 Fallon Street

city, town Oakland 94612 state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- 1) State Historic Resource Inventory #565
- 2) title Berkeley Urban Conservation / has this property been determined eligible? yes no
- 1) March 19, 1979 Survey #17897
- date 2) January 1979 federal 1 state county 2 local
- 1) Office of Historic Preservation
- depository for survey records 2) Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association
- city, town 1) Box 2390/1220 K Street, Sacramento 95811 California
- 2) Box 1137, Berkeley 94701 state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 College Women's Club is a two-part composition consisting of a large three-story section and a smaller two-story section. It is a wood frame building with light colored stucco siding and dark brown wood trim and accents of green Chinese tiles. The building is approximately 45x100 ft.

The prominent three-story rectangular mass of the building contains the primary spaces. This portion facing north is the front of the building. It is symmetrically divided under a low gable roof, the eaves of which are decoratively divided into a square pattern of four light squares and one dark square. Centered under the pitch of the gable is a three-part window unit with each of the three stories treated differently. On the first floor three door-sized casement windows, with transoms of stained glass above, are part of a projecting bay sheltered by simple stucco Tuscan columns topped by a natural wood trellis. Wysteria climbs on the trellis and ivy clings to the columns. The second story door-sized casement windows are set back against the facade with the roof of the first story bay becoming the balcony. The central casement is smaller than the two which flank it and is topped with a fan design in stucco and divided by a stucco-covered column. The windows on the third story are recessed into the building's facade and the three-part composition is divided by square columns. A balcony is created by the set-back and a projected balcony railing. The railing contains square-shaped green-glazed perforated Chinese tiles, four to a section. The square shape of the tiles is repeated in the decorative pattern on the underside of the gable.

The two-story section on the east side of the large three-story section is set back and contains a recessed entry sheltered by the simple Tuscan columns and a trellis. Above this recessed portico is an arched casement window. This section has a shed roof and contains the stair well, the entrance hall and beyond under still another shed roof which peaks above, a "sun porch."

The building, on its west-facing side, overlooking a parking lot and the University Art Museum, is an asymmetrical composition of masses which individually are handled symmetrically.

The main hall on the first floor consists of three lounges. The central lounge measures 42x34 feet and is flanked by two smaller lounges set apart by being several steps higher. The fireplace in the central lounge is massive with its original fireplace screen hand-wrought in an oriental design which compliments the oriental designs of the wide natural wood moldings of the room. Above the fireplace is a mosaic depicting the San Francisco Bay Area. It was designed by the architect's daughter, Helena Lawton. The interior walls are stucco accented by the wide rich wood molding, book cases and beamed ceiling. The hanging light fixtures, although not original, are circular hand-wrought metal and pale yellow glass, and are so compatible with the interior that it would appear that the architect had a hand in their design.

The remainder of the building consists of 22 bedrooms and baths and

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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several sitting rooms on the two floors above the main lounges. In the basement is the original kitchen and dining room. The condition of the interior is good except for the replacement of two of the stained-glass transoms with wood over the interior doors. An updated kitchen has been installed in the west-facing sunroom. After many years of neglect, the building's current tenants, the Phi Mu Sorority, have redecorated and revitalized the interior.

The architect's classical approach to the building's design did not result in an imitative conclusion, but an eclectic and highly individualistic and personally creative statement. The blue-prints of the building are in the Documents Collection, Environmental Design Library, University of California.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect Walter T. Steilberg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Simply as a structure of eloquent and graceful design, the College Women's Club is a significant and unique presence in its environment. Quietly tucked among shrubs and mature trees, the building and its immediate surroundings offer the bustling passer-by a visual and spiritual gift. The building is a soft component on a street dominated by the cold grey institutional buildings of the University, and particularly the hard concrete massing of the University Art Museum to the west and the frivolous fast-food architecture of Yummers to the east. The building's significance is further enhanced by the fact that it was built by the College Women's Club, composed of prominent Berkeley women who, through their forward-thinking ideas, created institutions which are still viable today. The architect, Walter Steilberg, was a prominent figure in Berkeley as well as in the architectural profession.

Walter Steilberg was born in 1886 in Louisville, KY. and grew up on a ranch in San Diego. He graduated from the University of California in Berkeley in 1910 and resided in Berkeley until his death at age 88, in 1974. He worked in the offices of Irving Gill, Myron Hunt, John Galen Howard, Julia Morgan and Walter Reed. He established his own practice in 1921 in San Francisco and designed between forty and fifty buildings during the next ten years. Among them are: 38 Panoramic Way (1917); 1 Panoramic Way (1921); 1 Orchard Lane (1922); 29 Mosswood (1923); 1454 LeRoy (1923); 69 Panoramic Way (1929), 4 Mosswood (1930), 3075 Telegraph Ave. (1938); 1443 Hawthorne Terrace (?), and 2323 Hearst Avenue (1923).

In 1930 he introduced a highly developed reinforced concrete building system called Fabricrete which made him a leader in earthquake and fire-resistant design. The last forty years of his career were largely devoted to structural consulting work. Among the notable architects for whom he consulted were Gardner Daily, Michael Goodman, Warren Callister, Harwell Harris, Mark Mills, Julia Morgan, Richard Neutra, Eliel Saarinen, as well as the University of California. Steilberg's association with the University began as a draftsman in John Galen Howard's office while still an undergraduate. During this period he worked on the details of the Library, Wheeler Hall, the Old Law School and the President's House. These buildings were steeped in the Beaux Arts Tradition. Later, as a structural consultant, he worked on the Stadium, Morrison Music Building and the Greek Theater. At the time of his death he had just completed preliminary designs for the new carillon in the Campanile.

The College Women's Club is one of Steilberg's largest commissions still standing; even larger was the Claremont Junior High School building which has been recently demolished. His designs were primarily residential

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily, Gardner, "Is There a Bay Area Style?" Arch. Rec. 105:94-5, 1949.
 Daily and Steilberg, "American National Red Cross Building, San Francisco Progressive Arch. 30:50, June 1948.
 Dwyer, Jonathon, "Report to the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the College Woman's Club," October 10, 1979. (See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .16 acres

Quadrangle name Oakland West

AGRICULTURE NOT PERMITTED

UTM NOT MARKED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 10 565600 4191340
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification: A portion of Lot 6, Block 9, according to the Map of the Property of the College Homestead Association, recorded May 15, 1866, in Book T of Deeds, Page 799, Alameda County Records, described as follows: (See Continuation Sheet)

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 Susan Dinkelspiel Stern

organization Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association date March 20, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 1137 telephone (415) 845-6591

city or town Berkeley state California 94701

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. M. Ellan

title SHPO date 10-30-81

For HCRS use only

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

for acting
Shelley Sporn
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 1/21/82

Attest:

Chief of Register

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and this building is domestically scaled despite the fact that it contains large public rooms and twenty-two bedrooms and baths. His use of Chinese perforated tiles as an integral decorative element within a classical tradition was a distinctive and personal statement used often by Steilberg, and is exemplified here in a highly sophisticated manner. His creative individualism is present also in the interior where Oriental motifs are used within the Craftsman Tradition to simplify yet individualize decoration. Steilberg carried on the Bay Area Tradition of quality craftsmanship and attention to fine detailing which became lost after the Second World War. The building's architectural significance was recognized by the University when planning the Art Museum: "Louis Demonte, an architect working for the University at the time the University Art Museum was built said that the College Women's Club was recognized as a key element in the surrounding environment, and was a prime consideration in the planning of the Museum." At the end of the block, on the west side of the Museum, stands the University YWCA designed by Joseph Esherick, the current Chairman of the Architecture Department at the University, who worked in Steilberg's office in the late 1930s. The YWCA clearly exemplifies Steilberg's legacy on the next generation of Bay Area architects.

The College Women's Club was founded in 1920. The club house was conceived in 1921 as a five-storied structure covering three city lots. The present structure, greatly modified, was completed in 1928. The Club influenced Berkeley's social history by actively promoting new educational opportunities. The Club started the first cooperative day nursery in the country, worked on the first Braille translations, formed a foreign student hospitality organization which in turn inspired the Rockefeller Foundation to build the International House in Berkeley, and promoted the hiring of the first police woman in Berkeley. They also contributed to many scholarships. The Club, although still in existence today, sold the building in 1965. It is currently leased to the Phi Mu Sorority.

The College Women's Club was recognized by the Landmark Preservation Commission on November 19, 1979 as a City of Berkeley Landmark.

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Gebhardt, et al., A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, 2d ed. Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1976.

The Julia Morgan Architectural History Project, Berkeley; The Bancroft Library Regional Oral History Office, 1976. Vol. 1: Walter Steilberg, "Reminiscences of the Department of Architecture, 1904-1954", Vol. 2: Julia Morgan, her office.

Steilberg, Walter T., "Berkeley Disaster Develops New Type of Fire-proof Construction: Fabricrete", Architect and Engineer, 104: 78-89, March 1931; 82-93, April 1931.

_____, "Examples of the work of Julia Morgan," Architect and Engineer, November 1918, v. 55, no. 2, pp. 40-107.

_____, "Preservation : St. John's", Arch. Forum 139:18, September 1973.

_____, "Report to College Women's Club", 1921 (Berkeley Architectural Heritage Archives.

----- "Architect Steilberg dies from injuries", Berkeley Independent and Gazette, December 10, 1974.

----- "College Women's Club Becomes Landmark", Berkeley Independent and Gazette, January 16, 1980.

----- Landmarks Preservation Commission Minutes (taped), October 15, 1979, November 19, 1979, Housing and Development, 1212 Milvia, Berkeley, CA.

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(11/78)

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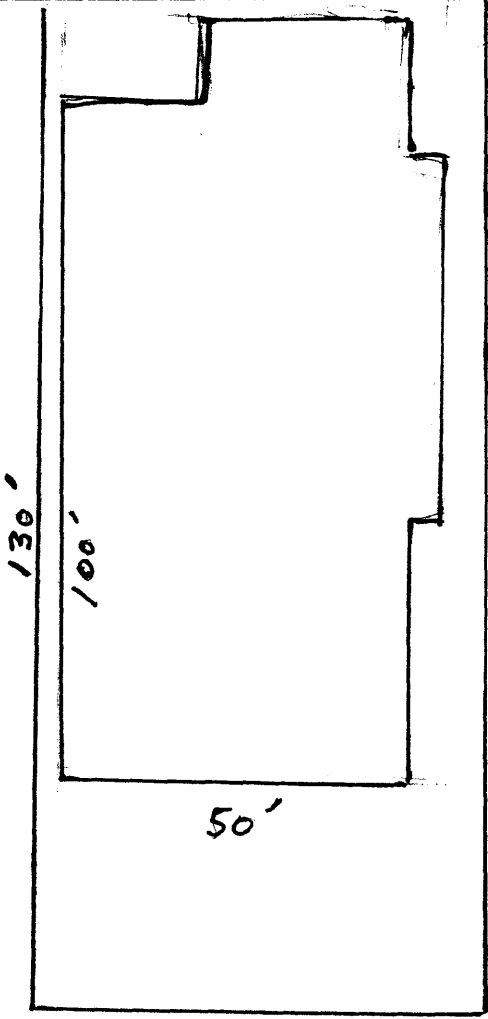
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Beginning at a point on the southern line of Bancroft Way, distant thereon westerly 150 feet from the western line of College Avenue, formerly Audubon Street; as said way and street are shown on the map herein referred to; and running thence westerly along said line of Bancroft Way, 55 feet; thence at right angles southerly 130 feet; thence at right angles easterly 55 feet; thence at right angles northerly 130 feet to the southern line of Bancroft Way and the point of beginning.

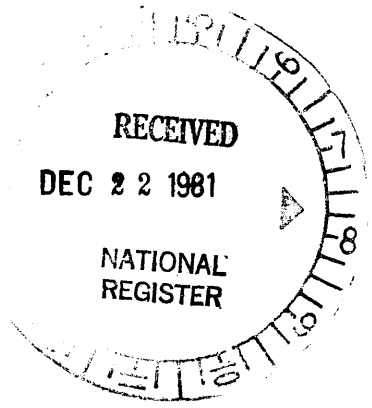
BANCROFT WAY



55'



College Avenue



College Women's Club
2680 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, Alameda Co., California