

**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

1. Name

historic JACOBY BUILDING

and/or common JACOBY'S STOREHOUSE BRIZARD BUILDING

2. Location

street & number 791 Eighth Street ^{St.} not for publication

city, town Arcata ^{n/a} vicinity of congressional district 2

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 BRIZARD COMPANY

street & number Jacoby's Storehouse - 791 Eighth Street

city, town Arcata ^{n/a} vicinity of state California 95521

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. OFFICE OF THE RECORDER, HUMBOLDT COUNTY Book 1 of Deeds, Pages 25 and 26.

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Please See Continuation Sheet Attached has this property been determined eligible? yes no Tax Reform Act Certification

date March 9, 1981, Part I
 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

-1857-

The original Jacoby store building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Eighth and H streets, Arcata, California, was built in 1857 for merchant Augustus Jacoby. Builders were Webb and Kincaid of San Francisco. Materials were brick, made in the town, and stone similar to granite, quarried nearby. (Photo #1) The two-story, detached, rectangular building measured 104 feet by 34 feet (outside), with walls two feet thick. Height was approximately 24 feet. The 34 foot (north) end of the building, facing plaza, was dug into a slope below the second floor which fronted the street.

On the north (front), the classic lines of the flat-roofed building were marked by three tall entrances with French doors. Between these were narrow, recessed panels with flat tops. Below the roof parapet, a stone mantle protruded, extending the width of the structure and continuing the length of the west side. (Photo #2)

In the west wall were eight openings, all recessed. On the ground floor, a centrally-located door was flanked by two windows on the north, one on the south. Each window had massive granite sills and lintels. Second floor openings, including a door, were positioned directly above those on the ground floor. All doors, and windows on the ground floor, herein described, were equipped with heavy iron shutters. (Photo #3)

The appearance of the south and east walls is not described in the historical record. In the earliest known photo (Photo #1), they appear solid, rough stone.

The roof was tin, over layers of clay and cement next to the woodwork. Outside walls were covered with cement.

The building faced the plaza, an open, grassy square around which the town was laid out and the central business district had developed. On the east was a hotel, at the rear were mule corrals and loading platforms. Across the street to the west, was the passenger and freight terminal of the first railroad in California (Photo #4)

-1896-

Between 1857 and 1907, there was only one change in the original building. That occurred in 1896 and involved only the north facade. At that time, A. Brizard, owner of the building since 1880, removed the center section of the north wall and installed a "glass front." Between the outside recessed stone panels, two large plate glass sash and transom windows replaced the two outer recessed entrances of the 1857 design. Turned columns connected these windows with two slightly narrower sash and transom windows angling in toward the widened frame of the central entrance door (with movable transom) to form a recessed entry. Above the windows, a bracketed parapet with entablature replaced a portion of the stone mantle and added a Victorian touch to the classic lines of the original building.

On the south, an alley was bridged to connect the main building with a frame annex, acquired earlier. (Photos #5, #6, #7)

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: 1857, 1880, 1896, 1907 Builder/Architect: 1857: Webb & Kincaid/Unknown; 1907: Nelson Johansen/Warren Skillings

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Jacoby Building The basement and first story of the building at 8th and H streets (opposite) was constructed in 1857 for Augustus Jacoby. For many years it was a principal supply point for the Klamath-Trinity mining camp trade. From 1858 through 1864 it served periodically as a refuge in time of Indian troubles. Housing various mercantile firms during its early years, it was acquired by A. Brizard in 1880."

So reads the inscription for California Registered Historical Landmark #783. (Photo #18) As it exists today, this first fireproof building in Humboldt County is significant, not only for its architecture but also for its historical association with exploration/settlement, commerce, and transportation of the Humboldt Bay and interior areas. Since its construction, it has continuously housed independent mercantile firms. From the Jacoby Building, thousands of tons of merchandise brought to the Bay by ocean-going vessels were transshipped by mule pack train, over mountain trails, to the rugged interior. The first merchant to act in this capacity was August Jacoby. Another major participant in this life line was A. Brizard, whose operation in the Jacoby Building was the leading general mercantile firm in northwestern California, providing for the people of this area for over a century.

Jacoby arrived in Arcata in 1850, with the first white settlers. (Photo # 19) He early engaged in packing to the mines and operating a hotel and store. In 1857, to house his wholesale-retail mercantile business and to provide a fireproof warehouse, Mr. Jacoby erected his stone and brick storehouse.

This fort-like structure was so sound that it was sometimes called upon to double as a shelter for frightened townspeople. Troubles between settlers and native Americans became critical in the late 1850s, with increasingly severe confrontations occurring near Arcata. Townspeople often sought refuge for women and children in Jacoby's stone building. The Jacobys themselves had moved from their farm near town to the back of the storehouse and opened this new home to refugees from more remote areas as well.

In the period of prosperity following this conflict, the Jacoby Building changed ownership but continued to be used as a supply center for local residents and warehousing and dispatching freight to the interior. During this period, a young Frenchman, Alexander Brizard, engaged in merchandising in Arcata since 1863, became the principal supplier for the interior mountain region. Brizard experimented in acquiring branch stores (Photo #20) at strategic locations, which he could stock with merchandise during the dry summer months to assure the availability of supplies yearround. This was to become a network of nine branches. The large volume of freight A. Brizard shipped via packtrain to these branches (Photos #21, #22, #23, #24, #25), plus a growing retail trade with the people of Arcata and vicinity, necessitated a larger headquarters and warehouse; consequently, in 1880, he purchased the Jacoby Building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Please See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .21 Acres

Quadrangle name Arcata South, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

110	408	480	45	214	500
Zone	Easting				

B

Zone	Easting				

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots No. 1&2 in the N.W. quarter of Block 154 and the North end of lots 11&12 in the S.W. quarter of said Block 154. The last-mentioned fractions of lots 11&12 described as follows: At a point 62½ feet north from the S.W. Corner of said Block No. 154 and running thence north 52½ feet to the alley; thence east 50 feet; thence South 52½ feet; thence west 50 feet to the point of beginning.

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

state n/c code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wallace C. Appleton and Josephine Brizard Appleton

organization Brizard Company date November 1979

street & number Jacoby's Storehouse - 791 Eighth Street telephone (707) 822-2434

city or town Arcata state California 95521

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local K. Mellon

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 12, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

William A. Sullivan date 6-17-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Anderson date 6/17/82

Chief of Registration

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: The California History Plan, Volume II

Date: 1973

X State

Depository for

Survey Records: Department of Parks and Recreation

City, Town: Sacramento

State: California

Title: California Historical Landmarks

Date: 1975

X State

Depository for

Survey Records: Department of Parks and Recreation

City, Town: Sacramento

State: California

Title: California Inventory of Historic Resources

Date: March 1976

X State

Depository for

Survey Records: Department of Parks and Recreation

City, Town: Sacramento

State: California

Title: Reflections of Arcata's History: Eighty Years of Architecture

Date: 1979

X Local

Depository for

Survey Records: City of Arcata Planning Department/Department of Parks and Recreation

City, Town: Arcata/Sacramento

State: California

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-1907-

The basic shape of the 1857 storehouse was retained when, in 1907, expanding trade made enlargement essential. The building was widened from 34 to 50 feet, lengthened from 104 to 185 feet. Two stories were added, bringing the overall height to 52 feet, including the parapet. Of the original structure, the entire west wall and the north wall from ground to second floor level, remained as a massive cornerstone. Stone was used to extend the north wall. The original east wall was replaced with a four-story wall of solid brick averaging 18 inches in thickness.

From the third floor level to the roof trusses on the west, redwood stud construction extended the length of the building. Elsewhere, except for the new brick wall, new construction was of 2x6 laminated redwood. On the west, south of the two-story 1857 wall and to the third floor level, new construction was covered with metal lath and cemented, so as to match the old stone wall. All remaining frame construction was covered with brick-embossed exterior steel sheathing.

The 1907 remodel reflected the classic lines of the 1857 Jacoby building. (Photos #8, #9, #10) The front recessed corner panels gave way to flat, attached columns with Doric capitals, below the decorated boxed cornice with decorated frieze. At the street level, large show windows angling towards the central entrance, turned columns and an entrance lobby, were similar to the 1896 design, but on a grander scale. Except over the double, glass-panelled entrance doors, transoms gave way to rows of leaded glass tile across the front, above the show windows. Dentil-trimmed protruding wood bands, above a simply decorated frieze, marked the third and fourth floor levels. On each of these floors were eight full-length sash and transom windows, divided vertically with upright bars. On the fourth floor, a triangular pediment capped the two central windows. Atop the building, an electric sign reading "A. Brizard, Inc." in porcelain letters, was 30 feet long, lighted with 115 lamps and said to be the largest in the county.

On the west side, the original recessed single sash windows and door with their heavy iron shutters, remained. Beyond the alley, now bridged by the extended new construction, three double hung windows, for the first floor appeared. For the second floor, seven new single sash and two double hung windows were added. The four original recessed openings were shortened. Third and Fourth floors each were provided 11 openings, fitted with two-double hung windows, divided vertically by upright bars. With plain frieze added, the protruding wood band at the third floor level, the attached columns and decorated boxed cornice with decorated frieze carried over from the front to trim the west facade.

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The new south wall was broken by four double hung windows for the second floor and two each for the third and fourth floors, located directly above the outermost windows of the second floor. There was no opening at the first floor level.

On the east, the only openings were in the redwood wall. Of these, there were 17, fashioned predominately of two double hung windows divided vertically, with upright bars. They were more or less evenly distributed between the three upper floors, with one serving the first floor, near the south east corner of the building. The alley-way provided the only other opening in this wall.

Both south and east walls lacked decoration. The shed roof was completely encircled by a parapet, above which, on the south east corner, the elevator loft protruded.

-1977-

Brizard Company's decision to preserve the A. Brizard building, was based more on the structure's historic economic significance and physical impact on the Arcata Plaza area, than on its architectural uniqueness. Because the costly undertaking was feasible only in so far as the completed project was economically sound, certain alterations would be inevitable. Nevertheless, every effort was made to preserve the architectural integrity of the 1907 building and to emphasize those elements of the 1857 storehouse which had endured. There were no changes in the size, shape or basic materials. Changes to primary structural components were limited to those called for by city building and seismic codes. Changes to the exterior finish were kept to a minimum.

The 1907 brick-embossed steel sheathing on the west, south and east walls, had deteriorated so badly it was impossible to control leaking and resulting water damage to interior and exterior walls. For this reason, these exterior walls were covered with metal lath and stucco. Thus they came to match that portion of wall so treated in 1907 to match the 1857 wall on which stucco (or cement, as it was then called), had been used. The changed function of the building eliminated need for the alleyway for which, for so many years, had been used for shipping and receiving. This area was enclosed to provide additional floor space in the 1977 plan.

In 1977 there were no changes to the north facade above the first floor. (Photo #11) Several changes were made at the ground floor level. New double oak doors with glass panels were installed at the main entrance. A portion of the east show window was replaced by a recessed entry to two doors leading to the required fire exit stairway, serving the floors above and below. Over the entrance, a new

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sign reading "Jacoby's Storehouse" was installed. (The old A. Brizard, Inc. lighted sign, with the iron shutters from the west wall, had been contributed as scrap metal to help the war effort during the World War II.) Those leaded tiles of lavender glass that could be salvaged, were reset and lowered. This necessitated shortening the plate glass window panels which had become brittle and needed to be replaced. Polished copper was substituted for the deteriorating wood finish below these windows and also used to cover the old columns flanking the entryway. Within the entryway, an overhead light fixture, crafted of bronze and opaque glass in forest motif, was custom designed by a local artist. In the central transom, a pack train scene was etched by a local craftsman.

Apart from wall finish, previously described, changes in the west wall mainly involved reduction in the number of openings. (Photo #12) Above the protruding band at third floor level, the only change was the replacement of the 22 pairs of double hung windows. These had badly deteriorated and, as replacement cost was excessive, each of the 11 openings on each of the two floors was filled with one single sash double hung window. At the first floor level, all original recessed openings of 1857, with their exposed massive granite sills, remained. Hinges which held the heavy shutters, were left in the wall. A new double glass-panelled door was hung in the original iron frame. At the sides and top of each opening, rough redwood molding framed an exposed section of the 1857 stone wall. (Photo #13) Openings in the frame wall were eliminated. At the second floor level, no change was made in the old stone wall. From the frame portion, five single sash windows were removed. The only other change in the west wall was the addition, at the south corner, of an attached column duplicating that on the north corner.

There was no change to the east brick wall. From the east frame wall, all windows, except one serving the first floor, were removed so that a completely enclosed fire exit stairway could be installed against the interior wall. A service entrance was located at the conjunction of the brick and frame walls. A new east entry, set off by a plain shelf, included a wooden blind fan light, divided by spokes. Below the fan light, two mahogany single-panel etched glass doors were located, one to serve the fire exit, the other, between glass side panels, leading to the elevator lobby. (Photo #14)

To provide an inviting approach from parking facilities required by zoning regulations, the south facade was redesigned to closely resemble the north facade from the third floor level. (Photo #15) Unbroken interior wall space, required by the elevator shaft and certain of the rental units, eliminated windows for the first and second floors. Excepting for two for the third floor, windows for the third and fourth floors were dummied in. The centered south entrance included a wrought iron canopy with glass panels over a blind fan with spokes. Below this was a single mahogany door with etched glass panel and side panels. Jacoby's Storehouse logo and building directory were centered on wall panels flanking the entrance.

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North, south and east entrance doors were equipped with cast bronze handles in forest motif, custom designed and crafted by a local artist.

The parking area at the south and east of the building, was paved with old railroad ties set in the textured concrete, to suggest the rugged pioneer character of this location where mule pack trains were loaded. The area was landscaped with two raised planters, built of ties placed side by side vertically. These and the beds bordering the area were planted with rhodendron, azalea, yellow broom and prostrate cypress. Next to the building, tall dollar eucalyptus softened the stark east and west walls.

Today, as in 1857, the landmark, with the rest of Arcata's central business district, faces the Plaza. It has become a landscaped park with bronze Haig Patigian statue at its center. West of the landmark, the Arcata Post Office has replaced the early day rail terminus, while at the rear are parking facilities instead of corrals. (Photo #17)

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gold To this location, ever-increasing quantities of merchandise, machinery, and hardware were brought by rail from ships (Photo #26) docked at Arcata. At the stone store, supplies destined for the mountain trade were separated, repacked, and promptly forwarded. Because gold was a common medium of exchange, A. Brizard branch stores accepted, weighed and gave credit for gold. Commerce at the main store included exchange of produce from local farms for cash or credit. The firm was also involved in trade with the Indian people of the region for baskets, recognized as among the finest in the Americas. From the Arcata storehouse, these baskets were shipped to collectors and museums throughout the United States. (Photo #27)

Added to these activities, the influx of people to the Arcata area brought an increasing local demand for a variety of goods. In addition to groceries, yardage, shoes, hats, bedding, furniture, and clothing, farm implements and vehicles, all lines of hardware, iron and steel, building materials, harness, saddlery and plumbing goods were offered as well as tinning and harness fabrication services. The operation was becoming so departmentalized that the Jacoby Building was no longer large enough to accommodate the expanding trade. In 1907, the original building was enlarged.

By the early twentieth century, roads to the interior were sufficiently improved that two five-mule freight wagons could supplement the mule trains which continued to serve mountain communities. (Photos #28, #29, #30) But it was not until the third decade of the twentieth century that A. Brizard branch stores and mountain mines and ranches could rely completely on the firm's motorized trucks for delivery of supplies (Photos #31, #32, #33, #34)

Following the death of Alexander Brizard in 1904, the firm, now A. Brizard, Inc., was managed by his three sons. The Jacoby Building continued to serve as headquarters for its expanding mercantile operation throughout the twentieth century. A. Brizard, Inc. adapted its line of merchandise in response to changing tastes and technology, selling and repairing electrical appliances, for example, and stocking sheet metal building supplies. In the 1930s, the firm's diverse operations necessitated expansion beyond the Jacoby Building, its grocery retailing moving into a storefront next door and its farm implement and construction supply outlets to other locations in Arcata. Despite the firm's expansion and adaptation, A. Brizard, Inc. utilized the Jacoby Building as its headquarters until closure of its mercantile operations in 1974. The present renovated structure, housing retail shops, restaurants, and offices, continues to serve the area under the ownership of the Brizard family.

The original one story brick and stone building was remodeled totally in 1907. At that time the entire building was redesigned by Eureka architect Warren Skillings, and the second and third stories were added. The resulting building is a handsome example of its type and period, utilizing Classical and Renaissance Revival elements popular for commercial and public buildings of the early 20th century. The facade is the most significant architectural element of the building; a rough copy of the facade was reproduced on the formerly undistinguished rear wall of the building during the 1977 renovation. This alteration of the rear wall is clearly a modern product and does not contribute to the historical or architectural significance of the building.

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