

**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 Elks Building

and/or common Elks Building

2. Location

street & number 42 North Sutter Street ___ not for publication

city, town Stockton ___ vicinity of congressional district 14th

state California code 06 county San Joaquin code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied (in part)	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial office <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: 90% vacant;

4. Owner of Property

ready for rehabilitation

name Old Stockton, A Limited Partnership

street & number 42 North Sutter Street

city, town Stockton ___ vicinity of state California 95202

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 222 E. Weber Avenue

city, town Stockton state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Stockton Historic Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1979, under current survey ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records California Office of Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed between 1906 and 1908, the Stockton Elks Building is a five story U-shaped Commercial Style concrete and brick masonry building embellished with classical detailing. The building is a steel frame and concrete structure up to the second floor level. From there heavy timber framing supports two-foot thick brick masonry exterior walls.¹ The building occupies the southeast corner of Weber and Sutter streets in downtown Stockton. It extends 100 feet along Weber and 100 feet along Sutter. The rear elevation is divided by a light well which creates the building's north and south wings. Although the historic business streetscape has suffered modern intrusions, the Elks Building retains its architectural integrity. It remains a corner focal point in the neighborhood. A parking lot on the south side of the building replaces two earlier structures.

The ground floor store front bays are surmounted by a series of recessed double hung sash windows organized into identical groupings of windows from the second through fifth floors. A series of symmetrically placed pilasters which rise above the second story belt course and terminate in ionic capitals directly under the prominent cornice line emphasize the verticality of these window groupings. In contrast, the cut granite window lintels add horizontal emphasis to the building's design.

Segmental arch double hung sash windows on the second through fourth floors and round windows on the fifth floor fenestrate the otherwise plain facade of the south wing. Several doors provide access at the ground level of the south side elevation. Segmental arch double hung sash windows fenestrate the first through fifth floors of the north wing's southern elevation. The first two floors of the north wing's rear elevation adjoin a smaller neighboring historic structure.

The building terminates in a flat roof and is embellished with a boldly projecting copper cornice on the two street facades. Copper dentil work and double brackets distinguish this cornice which was originally surmounted by a brick parapet bearing copper urns. The parapet remains, but the urns are gone. These copper urns, placed directly above the double brackets and pilasters, once enhanced the building's symmetrical patterns.

The front facade entrance was altered on the ground floor level in the late 1920's. Originally a cut granite-stone arched entryway flanked two granite pillars supporting a broken pediment and elk's head. This entrance was altered by a "Moderne" tile facade. Above the ground floor entrance the classic detailing and clock remain undisturbed. The original marble walls in the entry and lobby were replaced by plaster walls during the modernization. The original decorative tile floors which bear the Elks' insignia remain. The building retains its original iron fire escape.

1. Apparently the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire was responsible for this unusual structural compromise. The Stockton Daily Evening Record, May 2, 1906, page 5, column 3, reported that "the Elks will probably make a change in the kind of material to be used. The San Francisco fire demonstrated the fact that the modern steel and concrete building is not so badly affected by earthquake and fire." Prior to the earthquake a Stockton Daily Evening Record article stated that the Elks would probably select brick masonry as their building material (March 28, 1906, page 6, column 3).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The first floor was designed to accommodate two large stores, and the store fronts remain substantially unaltered. The original canvas awnings are gone. The second and third floors, designed as commercial office space, and the fourth and fifth floors, designed as lodge facilities for the Elks, also retain their architectural integrity. In several cases fourth floor wood paneled ceilings have been lowered with accoustical tile ceilings. The south wing of the fourth floor opens into the fifth floor to form a large two story ceremonial lodge room dominated by a huge skylight dome. The original stained glass dome has been removed.

The building is currently 90% vacant. Rehabilitation will retain the "Moderne" tile entrance alteration as a reflection of the impact of the Modernistic movement on taste in the late 1920's. Although cost prohibits the replacement of the copper urns and stained glass dome, the original exterior and interior features will be otherwise retained and rehabilitated. The building will be leased for office space.

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 1906-1908 **Builder/Architect** Salfield and Kohlberg, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stockton Elks Building is significant for its architectural style and for its historic associations with Stockton's turn-of-the-century commercial development. This Commercial Style business block embellished with strong classical details is notable for its boldly projecting copper cornice, its imposing position on the corner of Weber and Sutter streets, its well-executed design and use of materials. It exemplifies in architectural terms Stockton's sense of progress and civic pride in the first decade of the 20th century. Constructed during Stockton's turn-of-the-century building boom, it was considered one of the city's finest buildings at the time. Its lodge quarters were proclaimed the most elaborate in the country. Ground floor store space was designed to accommodate Stockton's pioneer pharmacy, the Holden Drug Company, founded in 1850.

The building was designed between 1906 and 1908 by Salfield and Kohlberg, a well-known San Francisco architectural firm. Salfield and Kohlberg were noted as one of nine principle architectural firms in San Francisco in 1889, and took first prize in a design competition that year for the Stockton Jail building. By 1923 their credits included over three hundred buildings, hotels and apartment houses as well as "the Elks Building in Stockton, one of the best buildings in the city."¹

A series of articles in the Stockton Daily Evening Record between 1906 and 1908 record Stockton's building boom during these years, and place the Elks Building among the most significant business blocks constructed during this time. It was referred to variously as "one of the handsomest buildings in Stockton" and "the elegant new Elks Building."² Ground was broken July 11, 1906, and 2000 citizens turned out to see the Elks lay their cornerstone on March 18, 1907. Prominent Elks' member, Benjamin Holt, was honored. Three photographs of the Holt manufacturing plant - the largest harvester and combine factory on the West Coast - were buried in the cornerstone. The structure was completed in October, 1908. It was the second largest business block constructed during Stockton's 1907-08 boom years, and cost over \$100,000.

The five story building was designed as retail store space, offices and lodge. The Elks' lodge rooms on the fourth and fifth floors were reported to be the finest in the country. A November 20, 1908 article in the Stockton Daily Evening Record provided a detailed description of the mahogany wood paneled walls and ceilings which embellished these rooms. Ground floor space was designed to accommodate the prominent Holden Drug Company, Stockton's oldest pharmacy. E.S. Holden, Stockton's first mayor and pharmacist, erected the first two story brick building in Stockton in 1852. After his death in 1885, I.D. Holden, his son, carried on the family business.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet for bibliography.

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 10,000 square feet (Assessor's Parcel #1, Block 5)
Quadrangle name West Stockton (.23 acre) Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>650690</u>	<u>4202920</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the southeast corner of Sutter and Weber proceed easterly 100 feet, thence southerly 100 feet, thence westerly 100 feet, and thence northerly 100 feet to the point of beginning. (The building and parcel occupy the same boundaries).

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela McGuire, Historic Resources Consultant

organization _____ date October 30, 1979

street & number 3549 Folsom Boulevard telephone 916-456-2196

city or town Sacramento state California 95816

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 Kenneth M. Ellison

title _____ date April 15, 1980

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

Sally G. Olden
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature]
Chief of Registration

(11/78)

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In 1908 the Holden Drug Company opened another store in the Elks Building. They stayed there until 1927. McNeil & Co., listed in the 1908 Stockton City Directory as suppliers of "Organs, Pianos, Graphaphones and Musical Merchandise." occupied the north half of the ground floor until 1914. R.E. Doan, director of the Chamber of Commerce in 1917 leased this space for his automotive and sports equipment store through the 1920's. The Western States Electric Company occupied an office in the Elks Building prior to 1916. They were there during 1912 and 1913, and again in 1915 through 1919. This company was one of the several companies which supplied power to Stockton during this period. The building remained occupied until 1974.

The building's historical usage, and its architectural integrity and importance as a corner focal point make it one of the more important structures in downtown Stockton.. It remains an impressive reminder of Stockton's civic pride and the Elks' contribution to the commercial development of early 20th century downtown Stockton.

1. Tinkham, George H., History of San Joaquin County, California, pp. 1494-95.
2. Stockton Daily Evening Record, November 13, 1907, page 3, column 1; November 20, 1908, Page 5, Column 3.

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San Francisco Call, August 14, 1885.

Stockton City Directories, 1902-1929. Variously published by
Polk-Husted Directory Co., and F.M. Husted & Co.

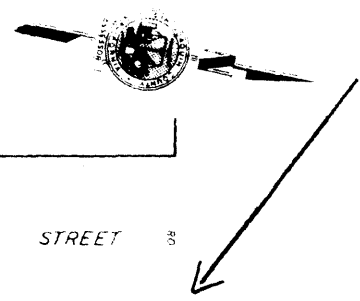
Stockton Daily Evening Record, March 28, 1906; May 2, 1906; July 11,
1906; November 19, 1906; March 6, 1907; March 18, 1907; October
26, 1907; November 13, 1907; March 31, 1908; September 22, 1908;
November 20, 1908.

Stockton Evening Record. Resourceful San Joaquin Valley Edition,
"Stockton is Retail Center of Great Valley," Saturday, August
8, 1914.

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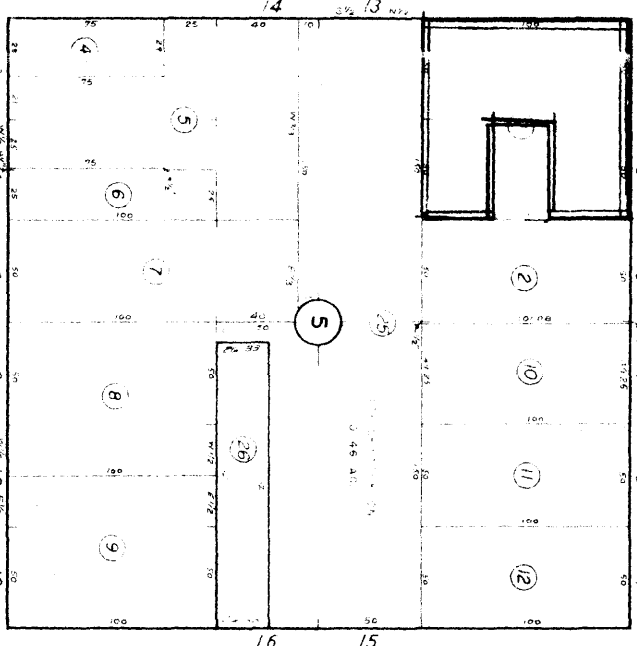
Stockton Record, June 9, 1938.

Tinkham, George H. History of San Joaquin County, California.
Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1923.

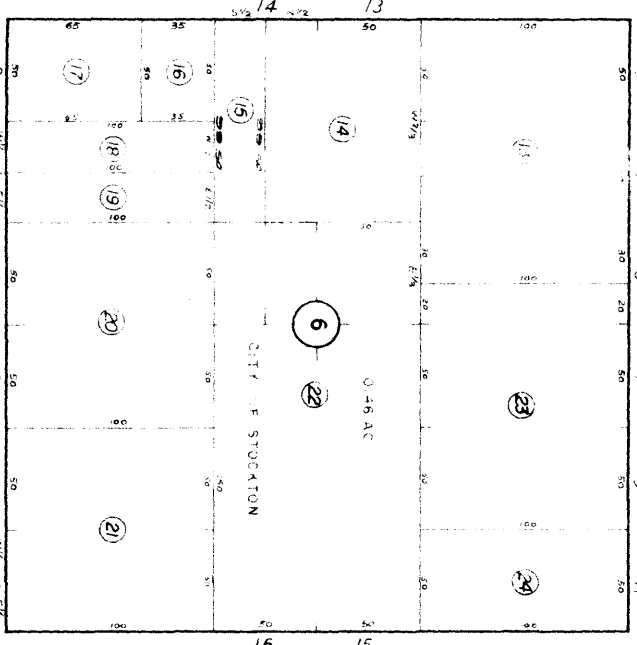


EAST OF CENTER
BLOCK 4

SUTTER (10) STREET



CALIFORNIA STREET



AMERICAN STREET

BLOCK 7
EAST OF CENTER

WEBER (400)

AVENUE (500)

BK 139

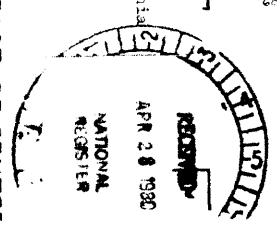
NOTE: Original dimensions are Stockton City Standard. E. U.S. Standard, lots average 50.50' x 101' and 50.50' x 151.50'

EAST OF CENTER

BLOCK 5 & 6
SCALE 1" = 60'
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAPS

Elke Building
Stockton, San Joaquin County, California
Assessor's Parcel #1 Block 5

JUN 3 1960
EAST OF CENTER
BLOCKS 5 & 6



BLOCK 66

BLOCK 67