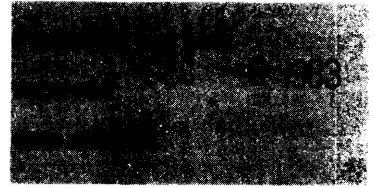


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



Tenal

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OHP

1. Name

historic Hotel Arcata

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 708 9th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Arcata

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

California #1

state California

code 06

county Humboldt

code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Arcata

street & number 736 "F" Street

city, town Arcata

N/A vicinity of

state California 95521

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 825 5th Street

city, town Eureka

state California 95501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Reflections of Arcata's History: eighty years of architecture has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Susie Van Kirk 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Arcata, Community Development Department

city, town Arcata

state California 95521

see continuation sheet

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Locted on the northeast corner of the historic Arcata Plaza, the Hotel Arcata is a three story, flat roofed, brick building with minimal Beaux Arts detailing. Built in 1914-1915, the 48 room Hotel fully occupys a 75' wide, 115' deep city lot, with its west wall abutting another building. The street level stores have recessed entrances between plate glass show windows. Second and third stories each have vertically arranged symetrically grouped, two-pane windows encircling the front, east, and back sides. The main entrance, centered on the south side and facing the Plaza is covered by a decorative stationary marquee and ornate bracketed hood with the words, HOTEL ARCATA. Additional decorative detail includes an ornamented metal cornice, marble vestibule, horizontal bands above the upper story windows, and inlaid tile motif in the brickwork. Aside from storefront alterations and minor deterioration, the original and present appearances are the same. The Hotel Arcata is the last remaining hotel in Arcata, and has been in continuous use as hotel and shops. Arcata continues to be a small city and the Plaza continues as the primary commercial area. The Hotel Arcata is an integral part of the Plaza and Arcata.

Although there are some alterations and damage the Hotel Arcata is essentially the same as when it was built. Between 1937 and 1948 two additional shop entrances along "G" Street and one on 9th Street were constructed. The style of entrance and showcase windows is consistent with those in the building originally. Earthquake damage in 1954 necessitated steel bracing on the southwest rcof corner and replacement by another material where bricks fell out of the west wall. Many other earthquakes have occurred since 1915 and areas of wall show cracks. A fire in mid-1970's in a third story east side room resulted in minor damage to the cornice. The two affected rooms were repaired, but some of the original woodwork was destroyed. The flagpole on the top of the building is no longer there. Between 1937 and the mid-1970's, the original lobby area was gradually converted to shops in such a way that much of it could be converted back to lobby. Three sky-lighted showrooms have been converted to a manager's apartment. In the mid-1970's, the first story of the 9th street facade was sand blasted. The first story on the "G" Street side is painted at this time. The building can be restored to its original grandure.

The main entrance has several ornate features. The vestibule walls are covered with Tokeen Alaskan marble with the floor covered with one inch ceramic tile and colored border. The original oak veneer door has been replaced with a steel frame plate glass door. At each side of the vestibule entrance is a partial column, constructed of brick, with a Tuscan capital and scroll entablature. A cast metal and hammered copper marquee, held stationary by turn-buckles, has a shell motif, reed moulding, and is fringed by small square spaces containing glass. The marquee is damaged in a few spots, and the wired glass that formed the marquee roof is no longer there. Above the marquee, a hood projects from the building about 12 inches and is the same width as the marquee. A fillet and scroll motif moulding, which extends around the south and east sides of the building is continued across the hood. The hood is topped with a shell crest.

see continuation sheet

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1914-1915 **Builder/Architect** W. H. Weeks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Within the context of the small City of Arcata, the Hotel Arcata has made a major architectural and commercial contribution. Located on the historic Arcata Plaza, the Hotel Arcata has been at the hub of Arcata's commercial district since 1915. Today the Hotel Arcata appears essentially the same as it did when newly built and in the limelight of Arcata's commerce and community life. The Hotel Arcata was there to serve the rush of travelers brought to the Redwood Empire by the railroad (completed in 1914) and the Redwood Highway (completed in the early 1920's). The Hotel Arcata played a role in that era of expanding commerce by providing elegant lodging and dining for travelers, and meeting rooms for civic, business and social organizations. The style, stature, and size of the Hotel Arcata made it a prominent structure in 1915 and accounts from that era describe the pride and thrill of having such a building and modern hotel business in Arcata. Alterations have not changed the feeling conveyed because they are minor and are consistent with original use. The upper stories have always been used exclusively for lodging. The Hotel Arcata stands alone in Arcata; there are no other surviving hotel buildings and the only other three story building in Arcata is the Jacoby Building. The building is the work of the noted California architect, W. H. Weeks, and is a good representative of its type and period, employing Beaux Arts detailing popular in American architecture of the early 20th century. The building continues to convey the feeling of community and commercial life of a small city in the early 20th century.

The inclusion of electricity throughout the building, telephones in every room, and hot and cold water in every room made the Hotel Arcata a totally modern and convenient facility. Fifty mounted heads of elk, moose, and deer, and a pistol range (in the basement) made the Hotel into the "Sportsman's Headquarters" of northern California. The large lobby provided the community with a place to gather and socialize.

The building is relatively unaltered, and remains a good example of its architectural type. This commercial structure utilizes minimal Beaux Arts detailing to create a strong local statement of early 20th century design. The architect, W. H. Weeks, was from San Francisco and designed the Bank of Arcata building which once stood on the west side of the Plaza. Mr. Weeks, one of California's most prolific early 20th century architects, was known for his designs of public buildings, especially schools and libraries, as well as churches, apartment houses, and hotels. The contractors, George C. Jacobs and Bill Elsemore, were well known Humboldt County men who built the county's first concrete road. Mr. Jacobs was on the Eureka School Board and Eureka City Council and was once Mayor of Eureka. A Eureka school was named in his honor. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are remembered for having established several college scholarship funds. Mr. Elsemore was well respected as an engineer and is remembered for having established a shoe fund for school age children.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arcata Union, 1914-1955

Davis, Ellis A., Davis' Commercial Encyclopedia, Davis Publishing Company, 1915

Fountain, Susie Baker, Notebooks, unpublished

Polk, Humboldt County Directories, 1916-1981

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .198AC

Quadrangle name Arcata South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Parcel Number - 21-106-04. Building occupies its original 75' x 115' lot at the northwest corner of 9th and G Streets in Arcata.

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 Edith Butler/Consultant

organization City of Arcata, California

date June, 1983

street & number Route 2, Box 146A

telephone (707) 443-3289

city or town Eureka

state California 95501

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

title

date

11/10/83

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that

Keeper of the

Attach

Chief of

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

State of California Historic
title Resources Inventory

date March 30, 1979 federal state county local

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento state California 95811

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7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Verde Antique marble originally formed the base under plate glass shop and lobby windows and extends around the east corner the length of one window. The marble is still in place except on one section, just east of the Hotel entrance, where a shop entrance has been added. Glossy black square tiles form the surface around the newer shop entryway. The shop entryway floors are tiled the same as the Hotel entrance. Shops with street entrances have plate glass show windows. Two sets of ten transom windows are above the plate glass and shop entrances on each side of the main entrance.

The south and east sides are the main ones viewed and are visually linked together. Pressed cream-colored brick are used on both the south and east walls. On the facade the second and third story two-paned windows are arranged identically in three sets of two and two sets of three, each with a band of unpainted cement with six inlaid glazed moulded tiles setting off the sets of two windows. Between the second and third stories are three sets of three diamond shaped inlaid glazed moulded tiles. A galvanized iron cornice in large scale fillet extends around the south and east sides below the upper edge, and slightly above a fillet moulding. Deterioration is notable where small sections have come off and many rusted-through spots are apparent.

The cap is an unpainted cement band with three raised sections at center, and the sides of building-front. Cement has broken away, exposing bricks in several sections.

The first story of the east side originally had restaurant and lobby windows and an entryway to the barber shop. Two shop doorways have been added and the entryway has been converted into a shop. Two of these have the same glossy black square tiles as are on the doorway added to the front side. The pattern of the second and third story two-paned windows is similar to that of the front. The inlaid tile accents are continued similarly to those on the front. There are seven diamond shaped inlaid glazed moulded tiles.

The back of the building has cream-colored paint on red brick. Above the third story windows "HOTEL ARCATA" is printed in large black letters across most of the back. First floor windows are small and serviced the original kitchen and dining areas. Second and third story windows are symmetrically arranged, two-paned, and the same size as those on the east and south sides.

The west side is a solid brick wall, now patched in the light shaft area to repair earthquake damage. The red brick is painted a cream-color. Because of other buildings, this wall is not very visible, except from the alley behind the Hotel.

A light shaft and skylights admit light to the interior of the building. Interior rooms are in the original size and number. Most woodwork in the rooms is original. The original nine feet wide staircase is in the rear of the lobby. A full cemented basement extends under the 9th Street sidewalk.

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8. Statement of Significance

In 1915, the Northwestern Pacific Railroad had recently brought passenger rail service to Humboldt County, ending the necessity of traveling by either sea or horse and carriage. In 1914 a decision was made to permanently locate Humboldt State Normal School in Arcata and a committee of Arcata citizens was formed to develop Arcata as a resort for tourists and students. In the early 1920's the Redwood Highway brought auto touring traffic to Arcata, with "G" Street serving as California Route I. It was also the era when public and private groups were taking action to preserve tracts of redwoods as public parks and reserves. All of these factors contributed to the need for more accommodations for the traveling public. The five original owners were prominent Arcatians who set out to serve this need. The first manager had a shuttle bus meet every arriving train. Show rooms were available for traveling salesmen to show their wares and catalogs. Because the Hotel Arcata was considered the finest in the county, the film casts of the 1916 shooting "Hazards of Helen", and the 1917 "Valley of the Giants" stayed at the Hotel. During their stay dining room business increased as many local citizens sought opportunities to see the movie stars.

The Plaza has been the commercial center for Arcata since it was used for the loading of pack mules taking supplies to the gold miners on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers in the mid-1800's. The Plaza has remained in common use and City of Arcata Resolution No. 16 (1958) renewed the City's commitment that the"primary purpose of the City Plaza is to provide a public park to be enjoyed by all citizens of Arcata." Additionally, most Plaza buildings, including the Jacoby Building, have historical significance. In 1976, the historical renovation of the Jacoby Building was completed. Currently two buildings on the east side of the Plaza are undergoing historic renovation. The City of Arcata is in the beginning stages of a redevelopment program. The Hotel Arcata is a prominent contributor to the community atmosphere and cultural/historical statement of the Plaza. Aside from storefront changes and the removal of the City Hall from a lot across the street from the Hotel, the Plaza and surrounding commercial area remains much the same as it was in 1915.

Through the years the Hotel has been widely used by local citizens. In the early years of the Hotel, the mail arrived on the evening train and was immediately distributed. People would pick up mail at the post office and often go to the Hotel lobby to read mail and visit with friends. Young people would gather in the lobby to socialize. Reporters would gather news of guests and townfolk at the Hotel. Mr. Devlin, who was desk clerk for many years, was particularly hospitable and made towns-people welcome in the lobby. For many years Sunday dinner in the restaurant was considered a special occasion. Civic and social groups, such as Rotary, Eastern Star, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Arcata Credit Bureau, and the Arcata Cotillion used the Hotel for regular or special events. In the mid-1930's, a night club opened in the Hotel. In the 1940's and 1950's, the owner had lively dice games in the lobby, in which many local men participated daily. Restaurants and coffee shops were remodelled from time to time. By the early 1950's, additional office space was created where the night club and the restaurant had been. From about 1958 to 1966, the Arcata Justice Court occupied some of the office space and held court there.

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8. Statement of Significance

The lot on which the Hotel Arcata sits has historical significance of its own. There is indication that in 1852, Arcata's first hotel, the Eagle Hotel, was located on that site and later the Hotel Francais was located on that site. Alexander Brizard's first store was on the site, and after it burned in 1875, he purchased the Jacoby Building in 1880. The vacant lot was used by traveling peddlers to set up tents at a charge of \$3 per night. From about 1898 to 1906, A. W. Erickson and his brother occupied a small building on the site where they had their photo and print shop.

Arcata is a dynamic community with an appreciation for both progress and history. Travel and tourism continue to be significant in the local economy. The Plaza, and the Hotel Arcata will continue to provide a focus and sense of permanence for community events and identity.

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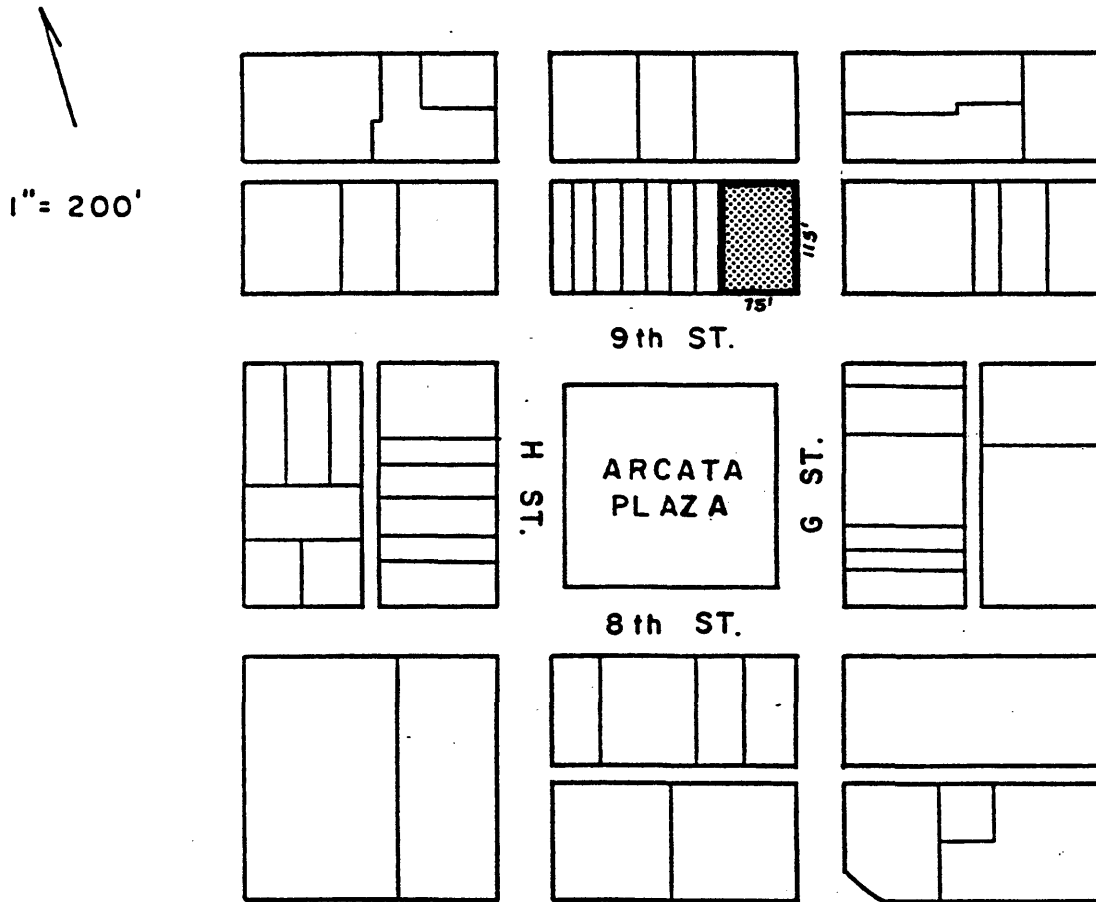
ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

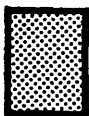
Van Kirk, Susie, Reflections of Arcata's History: eighty years of architecture, Arcata,
Bug Press
Weeks, W. H. Architectural Specifications, 1914, unpublished
Conversations with numerous local residents, May and June, 1983

ARCATA HOTEL

SKETCH MAP



HOTEL ARCATA
708 9th Street
Arcata, Humboldt County, CA



ARCATA HOTEL