

**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 BANK OF EUREKA BUILDING

and/or common CLARKE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

**2. Location**

street & number 240 - E Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Eureka \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 2

state CA 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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" 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 Clarke Memorial Museum, Inc.

street & number 240 - E Street

city, town Eureka \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state CA 95501

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state CA 95501

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Eureka Heritage Society has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date May 21, 1975 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Mrs. Dolores Vellutini, 2424 J Street

city, town Eureka \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state CA 95501

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

This one-story brick, concrete, and terra cotta building, located at the northwest corner of Third and E Streets, was constructed for the Bank of Eureka and Savings Bank of Humboldt County. The girders, beams, and trusses are of heavy steel, and the roof and floor are concrete.<sup>1</sup> The building permit was issued by the City of Eureka on June 1, 1911 for the first Class A fireproof building in northwestern California.<sup>2</sup> It held this distinction until the completion of the present Eureka City Hall in 1959, a period of over 47 years. The bank was built by the W. C. Concannon Company of San Francisco for a cost of \$62,983.00.<sup>3</sup> It was completed on July 15, 1912.<sup>4</sup> The total cost, including furniture and fixtures, was \$75,000.

The building sits on a granite base, while the exterior is clad with glazed terra cotta rusticated to resemble stone. The design of the front facade is classically correct, balanced, and symmetrical -- an American interpretation of the public architecture of the Italian Renaissance.<sup>5</sup> The facade is a tripartite arrangement of the recessed entrance arcade with two rusticated flanking pavilions, each penetrated by a central oeil de boeuf window above a vertical rectangular window. Three arched windows with the same sill height open the center entrance arcade to both the street and much natural light. The building faces east on E Street.

The tripartite symmetry of the entrance recess is emphasized by the four Ionic columns which frame the three arched windows, and by two planters which frame the central entrance while providing some softening vegetation to an otherwise white, composed facade. A frieze runs as a horizontal band above the columns, simultaneously unifying the design elements of the facade, while providing a visually prominent space to display the building's name. Above the frieze runs a simple classical moulding, which also forms a base to the cornice balustrade. The architect unified his design vertically by following through the solid terra cotta above the side pavilions, while the more open and ornamental central balustrade (with solid panels repeating the module of the columns below) echoes the recessed, largely glazed entrance arcade.

The dominant feature of the interior is the large skylight recessed in the center of the main room. It is 23 feet above the floor and terminates in stained glass panels. At the rear are rooms for storage and repair with a mezzanine upstairs, well concealed from the viewing area.

The building was converted to museum use in 1960. In order to display the museum's noted collection of Indian artifacts, an addition was built in 1978 along the north side of the building. Care was taken to avoid detracting from the architectural quality of the main building. The addition is faced with red brick and set back a few feet from the E Street sidewalk. Other than the addition, there have been no changes made in the outward appearance of the original building since its construction.

<sup>1</sup>Architect and Engineer, July 1914.

<sup>2</sup>Building Permit Files, Eureka City Hall.

<sup>3</sup>Humboldt Times, June 1, 1911.

<sup>4</sup>Humboldt Times, July 15, 1912.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

## 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** 1911-1912 **Builder/Architect** Albert Pissis

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The old Bank of Eureka building is the finest example of Renaissance Revival architecture in Eureka. Constructed in 1911-12, the building was designed by the noted San Francisco architect, Albert Pissis. The Bank of Eureka was enthusiastically acclaimed by the Humboldt Times in 1911 as "undoubtedly the most magnificent and modern banking building in all of Northern California." The building housed Eureka's major banking institution, and played an important role in the economic life of the community.

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California recognizes the significance of the old Bank of Eureka building and describes it as "a sophisticated version of the turn-of-the-century Roman-Renaissance Revival." The building is a major design statement of its type and period, and is the work of San Francisco architect, Albert Pissis. The architect's training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts is evident in the quality of the design. Pissis maintained an office in San Francisco from the 1890s until his death in 1914, and designed more than 35 major buildings in California, most of them in San Francisco. Among his best-known buildings are the Hibernia Bank (1892), the Emporium (1896/1908), the Flood Building (1905), and the Mechanics Institute (1910).

"The present structure is the second Bank of Eureka building to occupy this site. An article in the Humboldt Daily Standard of October 29, 1889, announced the awarding of the contract for the construction of the first bank building, a red brick structure," on the northwest corner of Third and E Streets. The site was formerly occupied by the Bay Hotel, which had been recently destroyed by fire. The site was only two blocks from the waterfront in the commercial heart of the city. The institution grew rapidly in its early years, soon becoming the major banking institution in this remote northwestern California community. It retained this role of prominence throughout the first quarter of this century. By 1911, the bank had outgrown its quarters and relocated temporarily while the old building was demolished. Albert Pissis, who had designed the earlier bank building for the Bank of Eureka, was commissioned to design the new building for the old site. The new bank opened in July of 1912 and occupied the building until the late 1950s, when it moved to a new facility nearby. The old bank building became the Clarke Museum in 1960.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.21 acre

Quadrangle name Eureka

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 

1	0	4	0	1	6	1	0	4	5	1	7	4	1	0
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

Verbal Boundary Description: Nominated property includes the old Bank of Eureka Building (Clarke Museum) and the museum annex. Property occupies two parcels forming a lot 84.6' x 110' at the northwest corner of Third and E Streets in Eureka, California. (cont)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard T. Harville, Vice President OHP Staff Revision: 10/27/81

organization Clarke Memorial Museum, Inc. date July 23, 1981

street & number P. O. Box 6010 telephone (707) 442-9061

city or town Eureka state CA 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 [Signature]

title date 2-11-82

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest:  
[Signature]

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED
MAR 8 1982
APR 12 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Architect and Engineer, July 1909.

Architect and Engineer, July 1914.

A Guide to the Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, David Gebhard,  
et. al., Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1976.

Humboldt Times, June 1, 1911.

Humboldt Times, July 15, 1912.

Bancroft Library - Berkeley, Floor Plan and Exterior from files. Courtesy of Eureka  
Heritage Society.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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Assessor's Parcel Numbers 1-093-11 and 1-093-13.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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**MAR 8 1982**

DATE ENTERED

**APR 12 1982**

CONTINUATION SHEET

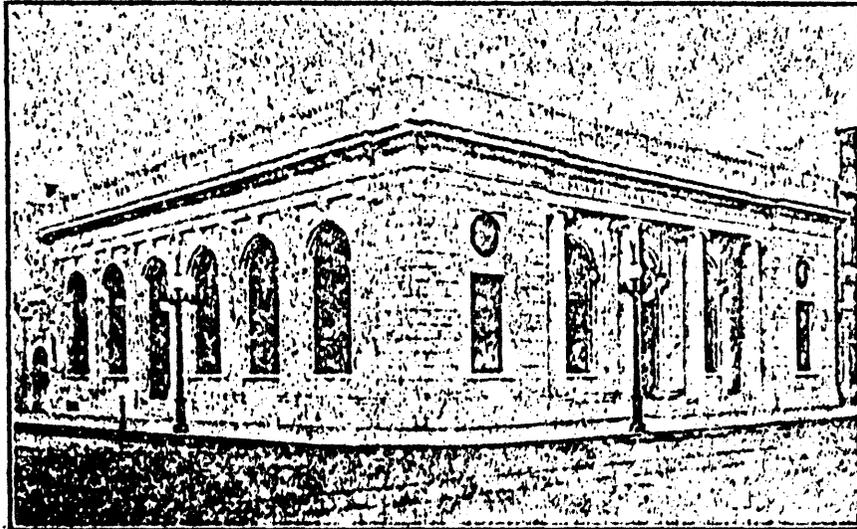
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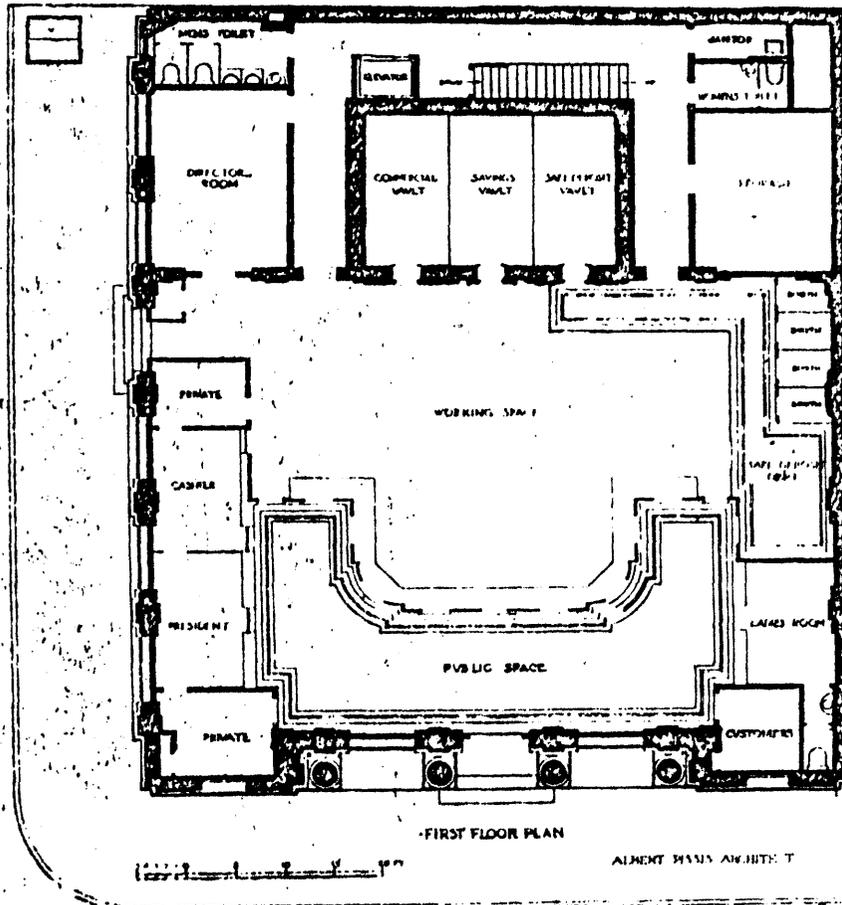
*The Architect and Engineer*

EUREKA HERITAGE  
SOCIETY files

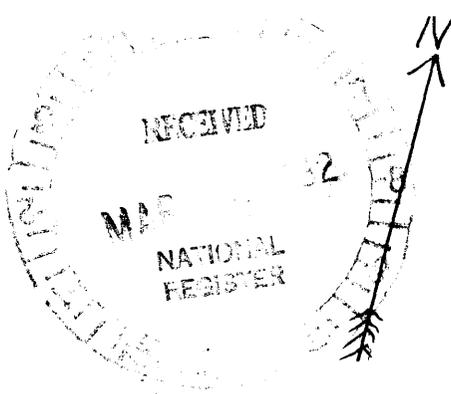
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**BANK OF EUREKA AND FLOOR PLAN**  
*Albert Piasis, Architect*



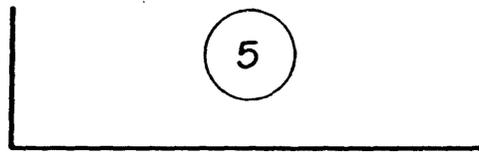
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ANN A



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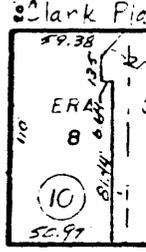
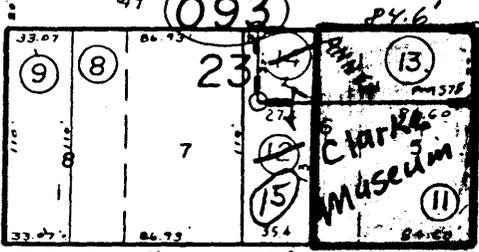
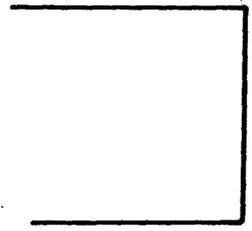
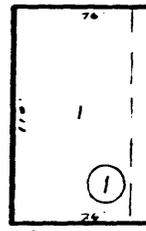
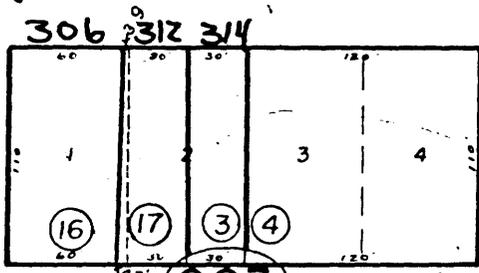
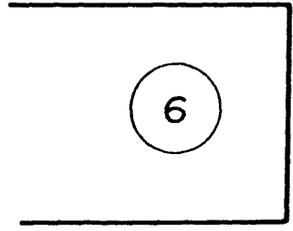


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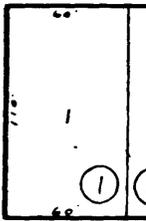
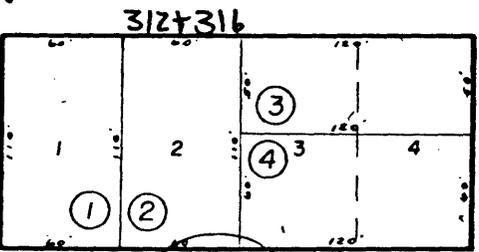
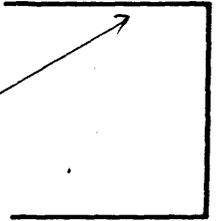
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SECOND

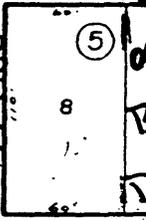
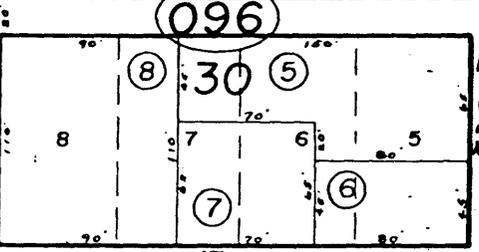
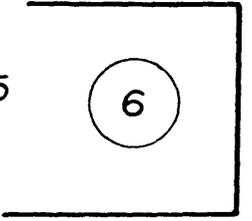


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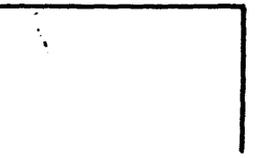
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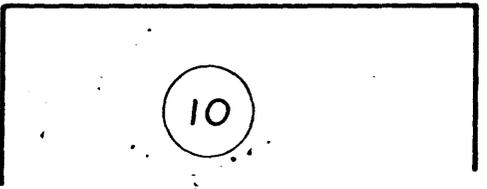
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FOURTH



D



E

Sketch Map: Bank of Eureka Building  
240 - E Street, Eureka, California