

**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 Masonic Temple

and/or common Masonic Temple; Crocker Bank

**2. Location**

street & number 2105 Bancroft Way; 2295 Shattuck Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Berkeley 94704 n/a vicinity of congressional district 8

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 type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" 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                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a     | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Crocker National Bank

street & number 1 Montgomery Street

city, town San Francisco 94111 vicinity of state California

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alameda County Courthouse

street & number 1225 Fallon Street

city, town Oakland 94612 state California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title . Berkeley Urban Conservation Survey  
2. State Hist. Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1. May 1978 2. July 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 1. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assn., Box 1137  
2. State Office of Historic Preservation, Box 2390

city, town 1. Berkeley 94701 2. Sacramento 95811 state California

## 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>   |
| <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 date <u>      n/a      </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |  |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Temple reaches 60 feet in height with four stories and a basement. Designed in an elaborate classical downtown style, the building is surfaced with light brown brick on a steel frame. The ground floor is commercial, while the upper three floors are lodge rooms. The ground floor was designed with three inset, transomed storefront bays on the 75' Shattuck Avenue frontage and two more stores and the monumental lodge entrance on the longer (111') but less public Bancroft Way side. In 1944, Shattuck Avenue shops were consolidated into a bank with an exterior remodeling that included rearranging doors, aligning new windows with those on upper floors, and tiling the walls with beige terra cotta. Upper floors are virtually intact inside and out.

Upper facades are of buff brick, second and third floors linked by 2-story Ionic pilasters between the windows. Second floor windows have round tops, third rectangular, and all have radiating bricks and keystones. Third floor is topped with a plain frieze, small dentils, and wide cornice molding. Fourth floor has tall narrow round-topped windows in pairs, and a balustraded parapet around the flat asphalt roof. Granite cornerstone reads "A.L.5905"--i.e. 1905. At the center of the Bancroft Way facade is the granite doorway to the upstairs lodge halls. A round-arched door with stained glass square and compass emblem in the transom is framed by 4 Doric pilasters in low relief, 2 frieze and cornice, hanging lamps, and a balustrade above which replaced a deeper porch when Bancroft was widened in 1924. Second and third floor windows above the door (lighting the stairway inside) are also stained glass; the third floor frieze is inscribed "Masonic Temple".

Lobby floor is mosaic tile with fretwork borders and Masonic emblem in a wreath; a marble plaque on the east wall dedicates the vestibule to Past Master Francis Kittredge Shattuck, gift of his widow Rosa in 1907. Original electric elevator is said to be in working order, though disconnected because of building codes; other code work in late 1960s included metal fire doors to major rooms, new fire escapes, and sprinklers. Interior is otherwise unaltered, with extensive redwood(?) cabinet work and board and batten wainscoting, coved ceilings, fireplaces in several rooms, and such ornamental details as brass stair corners. Main rooms on second floor are 36' x 57' banquet hall with stage, 40' x 48' armory (dark wainscoted lodge room with quasi-Egyptian dais), and big tiled kitchen. Third and fourth floors are dominated by the 47' x 62' main lodge room, ornate neoclassic with 30' ceiling with large Eastern Star skylight and recessed lighting above the big dentiled cornice; room is equipped for Masonic ceremonies with daisies, balcony, backstage stairway, and electrical outlets. Building was emptied but not stripped when lodges left 10 years ago: furniture and regalia are gone but woodwork and other built-in features are generally intact. Upper floors have been closed since, except for very infrequent events and inspections.

# 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** 1905 **Builder/Architect** William H. Wharff

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The Masonic Temple is one of the earliest multi-story brick buildings which replaced Berkeley's wooden pioneer business district in the first decade of this century. Designed in 1905 by William Wharff, architect of several buildings which helped establish the brick classical downtown style here in 1903-9, it is the only one of them still largely unaltered. It occupies a prominent corner, and as befits a city's Masonic Temple, was well into the 1900s the largest and most striking building in this part of downtown. In its first years, before completion of the permanent City Hall in 1910, it provided the city's chief large meeting room. As the headquarters of several Berkeley Masonic lodges, it has been associated with 65 years of prominent individual Masons, including Governor Friend Richardson and Justice William Waste, as well as with the organization's civic and educational and charitable activities. With declining popularity of fraternal organizations, and declining willingness to come downtown at night, the Berkeley lodges merged with the temple in more suburban Albany around 1970 and abandoned the downtown temple. The lodge floors are now empty and intact but in need of suitable reuse.

In 1882, 4 years after the city's incorporation, 13 Berkeley members of Oakland Masonic lodges organized Durant Lodge #268, and in 1905 a Berkeley Masonic Temple Association was formed, as explained in its Prospectus: "The growth of the Masonic Order in Berkeley has been quite commensurate with the rapid and almost marvelous increase in our population (now numbering almost 25,000)"--twice that of 1900--" and wealth of our town...and now we are going to erect a fine Masonic Temple in thorough keeping and accord with the general progress and prosperity of our community." Other signs of Berkeley's arrival at full city status about the same time were the "removal of the unsightly freight yards" from the downtown SP station in 1903, the opening of several downtown banks and a Carnegie library, and the 1906 observation that Shattuck Avenue was now "solidly built" downtown.

Temple architect William Wharff (1836-1936, an active Mason since 1872, had already built 2 brick commercial buildings in downtown Berkeley in restrained classical style. Although he was nearly 70, and apparently self-taught half a century before (in Maine), Wharff's buildings were progressive--not only establishing a more urban style in Berkeley but doing so with the most up-to-date materials and ideas. His 1904 Thomas Block was built as a showpiece for brickwork and patent bricks, and the 1903 Wanger Block was admired for its modern apartments with private baths, gas and electric lights, and laundries.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Berkeley Masonic Temple Assn., Prospectus, 1905. Bldg. permits.  
Berkeley Gazette, 3/30/04, 9/16 & 12/2/05; 2/16/07 (4th floor finished); 8/12/24; 4/17 & 21/28 (Lodge news, Wharff anniv.); 1/1 & 2/36 (Wharff obit); 9/20/50 (Lodge news).  
Wharff file, Berk. Arch. Herit. Mrs. Winfield Hyde & Chas. Ratkovich, interviewed 1979 by P. Lundburg.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.19

Quadrangle name Oakland West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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G 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Book 57, Block 2029, Parcel 9; NE corner of Shattuck Av. (75') & Bancroft Way (111') in downtown Berkeley; formerly south 75' of Lots 21 & 22, Blake Tract No. 3.

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

state N/A code  county N/A code

state N/A code  county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Marvin

organization Berkeley Architectural Heritage Assn. date 3/28/81, rev. 6/22/81

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

city or town Berkeley 94701 state California

## 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. Mellor*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-4-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the

*J. Nelson*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of the National Register

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE 2

Excavation for the Masonic Temple was begun in September 1905, and the corner stone was laid on December 2 by the Grand Lodge of California. The strong civic nature of lodges at that time is suggested by the items sealed in the cornerstone: not only Masonic relics and a current newspaper, but a pamphlet on Berkeley and "school statistics at the present time". In 1909, the Berkeley lodges hosted the State Grand Lodge in the traditional Masonic function of dedicating the new Berkeley City Hall. Through the first half of this century in Berkeley as elsewhere the physical prominence of the Masonic Temple paralleled the civic prominence of the Masons and their auxiliary societies in patriotic and welfare work and social life. During the 1960s, Berkeley lodge members increasingly had suburban -- and typically retirement -- addresses in Concord, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek, and demonstrations and subway construction made downtown Berkeley less attractive to visit; so the lodges moved to the smaller temple in Albany and sold the building to its longtime ground floor occupant Crocker Bank. The University Masonic clubhouse was also sold and demolished in 1969; the Masonic Temple has escaped that fate but has spent a full decade as an economic and social (if not historical) white elephant.

0-0716H

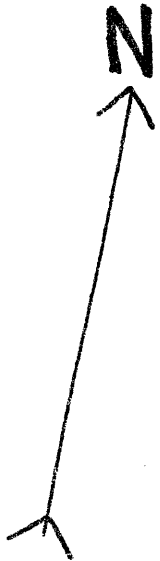
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

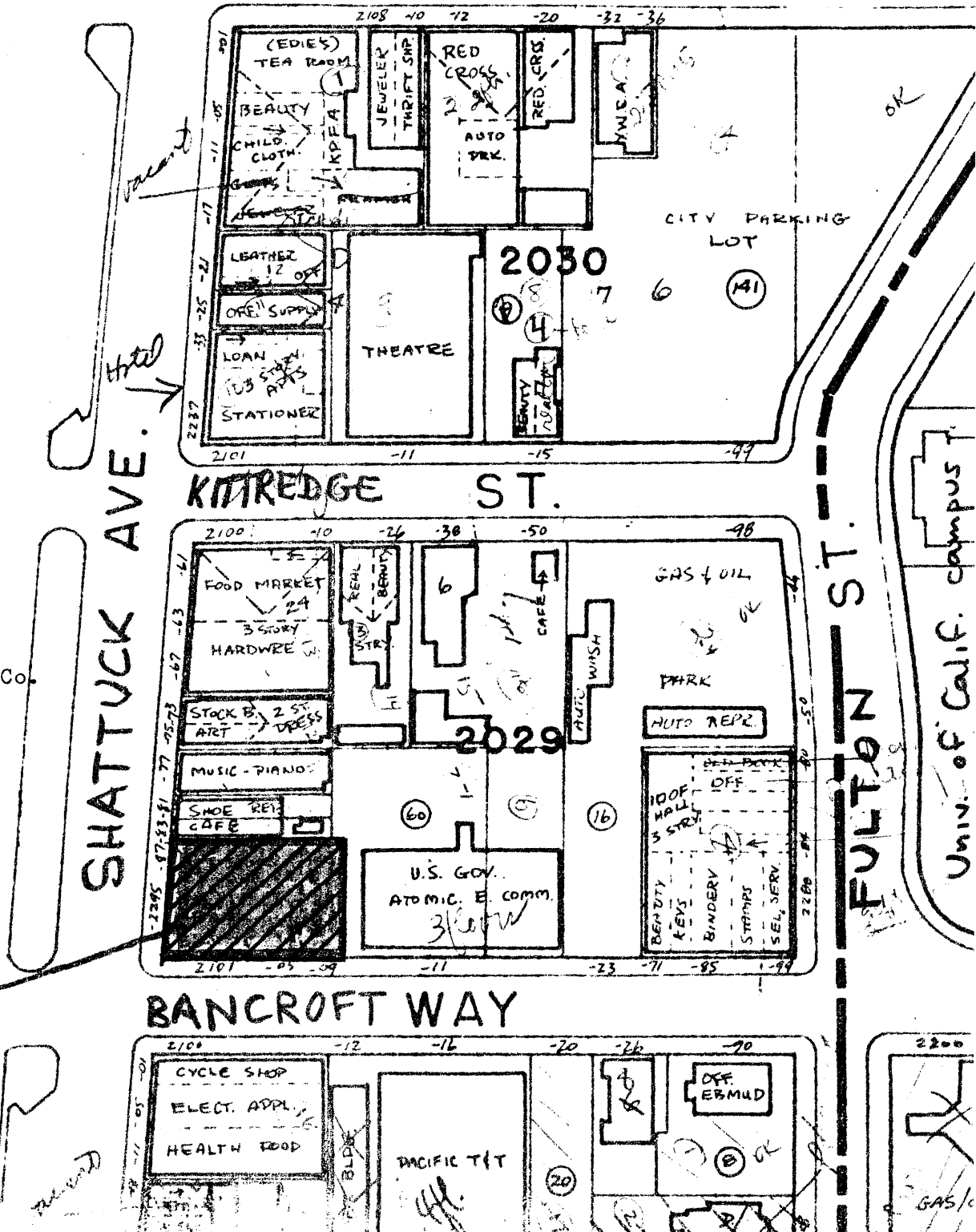
PAGE 1



1" = 100'  
SCALE

Masonic Temple  
2105 Bancroft  
Berkeley, Alameda Co.  
California

MASONIC  
TEMPLE



Univ. of Calif. campus