

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 6 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 14 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old City Hall Building

AND/OR COMMON

Redding Police Department and Council Chambers Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1313 Market Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Redding

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

California

VICINITY OF
CODE

06

COUNTY

Shasta

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Redding

STREET & NUMBER

760 Parkview Avenue

California

CITY, TOWN

Redding

STATE

VICINITY OF Northern California, Shasta County

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder, Shasta County

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse, Room 102

CITY, TOWN

Redding

STATE

California 96001

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

1. Pictorial Study of Historic Buildings in Redding (National Endowment for Arts)
2. Railroad Centennial Edition, The Covered Wagon

DATE

1. June, 1976

2. May 20, 1972

1.

☒ FEDERAL☐ STATE

2.

☒ COUNTY☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Redding Museum and Art Center, Shasta County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Redding

STATE

California 96001

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See attached form 10-300a

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Description (Building Description)

The following historic account of the building's physical description was provided by Superior Court Judge, Richard B. Eaton, a local Shasta County Historian:

The building contract was awarded to William Stephens. It is interesting to note that clay for brick structure had been dug from a pit located four miles south of the building site. The bricks were manufactured locally by the Redding Brick and Tile Company and were later determined to be of superior quality.

In April of 1907, the City completed the two-story, 7,000-square-foot City Hall at a cost of \$10,000; the land was valued at \$5,000. The architect, M.W. Herron, designed the building to accommodate the City offices, the police, and fire department, Council Chambers and one rest room. (See attached original plans and photo exhibit.) At some point the cupola was removed.

In January of 1908, the Women's Improvement Club planted seven palm trees on the north and west sides of the building and then landscaped the remaining open space. Two of these trees survive today and have a height of 50 and 60 feet. The north wall of the building is almost completely overgrown with a vine (parthenocissus quinquefolia).

The western facade of the building facing Market Street had letters spelling "City Hall" attached to it in the 1930's. These were removed when City Hall functions moved to their present quarters in 1961. The only other change in the western facade was that the window in the northwest corner was enlarged to create a doorway for the public entrance to the utilities department. The doorway was later bricked in.

The northern facade was altered to allow public entry to the utilities department. This entry was also bricked in.

The eastern facade was altered by cutting a door near the south end in an area that was formerly the City Jail. The door still exists but is not used.

The southern facade was also altered by a door cut for the Police Department and is presently used for service access to police vehicles.

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Description (Building Description)

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2

The City Council Chambers are in the same location on the second floor as they were when the building was built.

The Council Chambers still exhibits the original tongue-and-groove paneling on the north and south walls. The windows facing Market Street have been covered on the inside with a soundproof partition. The main doors of the City Council Chambers are not original. Since Redding had electric lighting in the 1890's, the Council Chambers originally was equipped with large hanging electrical light fixtures that somewhat resembled chandeliers. At one time, there was a large, revolving electric fan to provide ventilation at Council meetings. On the south wall of the Council Chambers hangs an original oil painting of Benjamin Barhard Reading, who was Secretary of the State of California.

The downstairs rest room is in its' original location and has its' original doors. The upstairs women's rest room was added in later years.

The City Jail originally had two iron cells manufactured by a local blacksmith with double bunks in each. One cell remains with its iron door intact and is used as a temporary holding cell by the Police Department. The other cell serves as the Police Property Room. The pressed metal ceilings in the building are original.

There is no cornerstone in the building, probably due to the added expense.

The two remaining Palm trees, located on the west side of the building, share the distinction of being among the very few Palm trees in the downtown area.

Description (Structural Condition)

7

2

The structural engineer's evaluation of the condition of the building is of a positive nature. The engineer's report may be summarized as follows:

The building's main structural components consist of exterior brick walls, wood frame roof and floors. It is 57 by 60 feet in plan, and 36 feet high to the top of the parapet. (Refer to the attached plans illustrating the current dimensions of the building).

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Description (Structural Condition)

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3

Considering its age, the building appears to be in very good condition. The brick walls, though weathered on the exterior face, are sound. The walls seem to be free of anything but minimal cracks. The brick mortar, except for outside surface weathering, is firm. The wall footings appear to be adequate, though some repair may be necessary.

Roof framing is generally in good condition and is of good grade. The details of roof framing, however, are inadequate and all of the truss rafters will require strengthening. The roof structure is not properly anchored to the brick walls to withstand forces induced by a severe seismic disturbance, but this can be corrected when the building is restored.

It will also be necessary to nail plywood over the entire roof area to stiffen the roof against seismic forces to allow roof and walls to act together.

The timber joist system of the second floor is sound and is adequate to carry future dead and live loads. The first floor timber joists are in good condition and can sustain live loads much higher than the second floor.

Description (Property Description)

7

3

The property is located in the northeast quadrant of the downtown area (for ease of description, refer to attached map exhibits). The property is bordered by Shasta Street and Market Street, in a "C-4" Core Commercial District; and is classified by the Redding General Plan as Retail and Business offices.

The site is bordered on the east by Redding's Main Fire Station; on the south by a motel complex; on the west, across Market Street, by a variety of retail stores; and on the north, across Shasta Street, by an automobile sales dealership.

The property is centrally located on Market Street (Route 273) which is a three-lane, one-way major arterial. The proximity to Market Street has contributed to making the building a major landmark in Shasta County for the past 70 years. The building is especially noticed by south-bound motorists in the fall when the vine on the north wall turns from a dark green to a burgundy red color.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Built in 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Stephens/M. W. Herran

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See attached form 10-300a

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached form 10-300a

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .32

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 51516.20 449.2800
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located on the southeast corner of Shasta Street and Market Street; and has 100 feet of frontage on Market Street and 140 feet of frontage on Shasta Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| None | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jim King, Assistant Planner

January 7, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Department of Planning and Community Development

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

760 Parkview Avenue

916 - 246-1151

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Redding

California 96001

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arnot McEllen

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Harman

DATE 11.14.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. Russell

DATE 11-13-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The Redding City Hall is a good example of a utilitarian turn-of-the-century brick office building embellished with simple classic detailing and, originally, a mansard-roofed cupola. Vertical brick pilasters and horizontal brick corbelling bands are softened by semi-circular arched windows on all four elevations. The stepped brick corbelling at the cornice adds an interesting visual rhythm and defines the top of the exterior wall planes. The original corner cupola will be restored so that it can once again add the kind of visual relationship and importance the northwest corner of the structure had to its site. The cupola was surmounted by a little corona of fancy ironwork and a flag stand (refer to photograph exhibits).

This particular architectural style was characteristic of many buildings in Redding in the late 1800's. Presently, the building is the fourth oldest brick structure in the town and is the oldest building associated with City government since Redding's incorporation in 1887.

In the past, there have been some minor interior and exterior modifications to accommodate the growth of City offices; however, these alterations have not detracted from the building's original architectural charm, including its scale, materials, colors, textures, shades and shadows.

The vine-covered north wall is an important landscape feature. The vine, (*Parthenocissus Quinquefolia*), was planted in 1910 and has contributed to making the building a landmark. The fact that the vine changes with the seasons adds distinction and diversity to the red brick structure. It should be noted that there is a great deal of public sentiment in support of maintaining the vine on the building.

The palm trees in front of the building are regionally significant. In the early 1900's, southbound travelers would ceremoniously stop and photograph the palms because they provided a stark contrast against the native Northern California vegetation.

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Significance (Governmental Significance) 8

2

The Old City Hall building has been the cornerstone of Redding City government since 1907. Even after the City Hall office facilities moved to a new location in 1961, the building still serves as the Council Chambers and Police Department. Both of these functions will be moved to a new location this year, thereby allowing the building to be used for other uses yet undetermined. It should be noted that in 1907, Redding had a population of 3,000, and all the City's governmental offices were accommodated by the 7,000-square-foot building. Today, Redding's population is 43,560, and City Hall departmental offices occupy more than one city block.

Many of the issues debated in the Old Council Chambers have resulted in heated exchanges. One enraged Councilman, in the 20's, informed a heckler in the audience that, "He'd better come armed to the next meeting! If you don't, somebody is going out of here on a slab." (1)

The political debates that City fathers were faced with are mindful of today's issues, but with a slight historic twist. One such debate involved the adoption of an ordinance regulating the speed of horses galloping down California Street.(2)

Police Department activities within the building have added to the building's prominence as a landmark. In the 1950's, a mob threatened to lynch two murder suspects held in the County Jail for killing two Sheriff's deputies. Late at night, the prisoners were moved and hidden in the holding tank of the old City Jail. (3)

For one City resident, the City Jail had been a home. Walter Belbow was arrested 260 times for being drunk in public. The first arrest occurred in 1950. Belbow claimed that he got drunk so he could get arrested and be with his friends. Belbow earned part of his room and board by cooking for the other prisoners. (4)

(1) Redding Record Searchlight, 1961

(2) Ibid

(3) Redding Police Dept.

(4) Ibid

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Significance (Governmental Significance) 8

3

The old building represents many things to the people of Shasta County. Aside from functioning as a police department, jail and Council Chambers, the structure has also served as a wedding chapel, civil defense headquarters, court room and offices for the following:

1. City Manager
2. Mayor
3. City Attorney
4. Planning Department
5. Building Department
6. Fire Department

None of the events associated with these governmental functions could be classified as nationally significant; but when viewed from a regional perspective, they provide a clearer understanding of the historical events and problems of West Coast cities. The fact that these events can be tied to a single small building is an important historic asset to Redding and Shasta County. This is especially true when you consider that the mere presence of the building serves as a kind of historic window from which local residents can gauge the City's growth and reflect on its history.

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The Twon Becomes A City": Published by Edward
Peterson, 1972
3. Peterson, Edward; In the Shadow of the Mountains, "Redding-The
Hub City": Published by Edward Peterson, 1965
4. Tillotson, W. D.; Covered Wagon, "Redding Then & Now":
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5. Eaton, Richard B., Judge; local historian, 1520 West Street
Redding, California 96001
6. Sheppard, Winifred M.; local historian, 1116 Pine Street
Redding, California 96001
7. Henriques, Edwin A.; local historian, 2131 Canal Drive
Redding, California 96001
8. Shasta Historical Society, Redding Museum and Art Center,
Redding, California 96001
9. Pictorial Study of Historic Buildings in Redding; (National
Endowment for the Arts) Redding Museum and Art
Center



JUN 6 1978
LAND USE
SCALE: 1"=200
DECEMBER 1977