

**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

FEB 11 1982

1. Name

historic Eureka Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ^{7th} Seventh and F Streets ___ not for publication

city, town Eureka ___ vicinity of congressional district Second

state California 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eureka Hotel Corp., Inc.

street & number Seventh and F Streets

city, town Eureka ___ vicinity of state Calif. 95501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Humboldt County Courthouse

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka state Calif. 95501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1974-75 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Dolores Velluntini 2424 J Street

city, town Eureka state Calif. 95501

7. Description

<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

Located two blocks south of Eureka's downtown commercial district and occupying an entire block, the 150-room Eureka Inn is a rambling three-story redwood structure of Tudor revival architecture. Half-timber construction, stuccoed walls, steep rooflines, gables, multi-paned casements and large chimneys identify this style, adapted from the 16th century English country house. Completed in the fall of 1922, the Inn was designed by California architect Frederick Whitton whose other designs; according to the Humboldt Times of 11 September 1932, included the Remedial Loan Association building, the O'Connor and Moffett Department Store, and the Carlisle and Company building in San Francisco; the Petaluma Hotel; the Feather River Inn and the Berkeley Tennis Club.

The front (north exposure) of the building extends from sidewalk-to-sidewalk with a setback from 7th Street to accommodate landscaping and a circular drive which is covered by a pillared, flat-roofed entrance leading to the front door. Directly above this entrance is a slanted, four-window bay whose top is encircled by a cutout balcony. Flanking the entrance and extending from the ground level through the roofline are two large gables with jettied stories, half-timber and stucco walls, and paired, multi-paned casements. Two roof recesses to the east of each gable contain more multi-paned windows. A large hipped-end gable roofed section with stuccoed second and third stories and a large stuccoed chimney was originally the east end of the main building, but in 1930 the kitchen was added at the end when the original kitchen became the coffee shop. At the same time steep concrete steps were built up to the gabled-and-pillared Coffee Tavern entrance. Grouped casements shielded by slanted awnings of bright-colored stripes mark the location of the coffee shop. The flat-roofed kitchen section, topped by a cutout railing, repeats the half-timber and stucco construction and contains multi-paned windows.

White-painted stucco and dark brown half-timbering are used on the building's third story and in the gables with stucco also used on the jettied stories of the large gabled sections. Elsewhere, the second and third stories are covered with wide, horizontal boards, painted a dark brown.

The F Street side (west exposure) has two, narrow roof gables with the same siding and window form as the front of the building. French doors open from each story onto the fire escape. In 1976 the Rib Room was added to the ground floor on the west side, just to the rear of the main building. This addition continues the stucco and half-timber theme with antique brick around the lower portion.

On 8th Street (south exposure) and parallel to the main building is a 50-room addition, completed in 1925. Paired, multi-paned casements and half-timber and stucco cover the upper walls with wide horizontal boards below.

At the southeast corner of the block (G and 8th Streets) is a small parking lot and drive. Major alterations in this area occurred in the early 1960's when a covered walk, brick wall, swimming pool and banquet room were constructed. The banquet room, known as the Colonnade Room, is flat-roofed but again repeats the stucco and wood motif with some open beam work on the exterior. Of the original garden courtyard only a remnant remains around the swimming pool. Originally there were four pairs of French doors opening from the lobby onto the patio, but now one of these pairs has been absorbed into the covered entrance. The patio remains, along with the massive brick chimney which accommodates the lobby's fireplace. Three sides of the courtyard are formed by the main building, a perpendicular wing and the 1925 addition. The fourth side is the brick wall along the the covered walkway. The patio French doors are covered by striped awnings, like the colorful pavilions of some English country fair.

continued

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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Atop the main building and visible only from the rear is a hipped-end gable cupola with little windows. Three roof recesses with windows are located on the rear of the main building. Repeated throughout the Inn is a cutout quatrefoil which appears on the little balconies below some of the windows and on the railing atop the kitchen section.

Landscaping is formal with plantings limited to edges and because of the building's size, lawn is confined to the front and small areas around the swimming pool. Modern additions and changes are obvious, but are tied to the original architecture through color and detail. The building's overall integrity is preserved and deserves recognition and protection through National Register designation.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
			Center for civic and social events	
Specific dates	1922	Builder/Architect	Frederick Whitton	

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Eureka Inn is nominated to the National Register for its significance in the area of architecture and its 58-year history as the social and civic center of the Humboldt Bay community.

The Inn is a well-preserved example of Tudor revival architecture which is of considerable significance locally as there is nothing comparable in style or size in the area. Additions and modern functional alterations have been done with care and the building's basic form and architecture are intact. Built in the half-timber style reminiscent of 16th century England, the Inn easily identifies, both architecturally and philosophically, with that period. Stucco and half-timber walls, steep rooflines, gables, tall chimneys, multi-paned casements, and courtyard arrangement are all characteristic of the English country house. These massive manor houses, built by the landed gentry with an eye for comfort and luxury, included apartments for the wealthy lord's family so that there might be some "retirement from the motley turmoil" (Sturgis, 1901). Just as Tudor England experienced a new direction with the dissolution of the monasteries and the rise of the wealthy layman, Eureka also assumed a new perspective when, in the 1920's, the Redwood Highway was built and local business interests envisioned a new role for this once remote and isolated region. Certainly it lacked nothing in the way of natural amenities, but attracting the tourist seemed to hinge on providing accommodations, comfortable and luxurious, so that the traveling guest might enjoy "retirement from the motely turmoil." Architect Frederick Whitton saw the opportunities and designed this warm and inviting Inn (even the choice of "inn" over "hotel" seems appropriate) to encourage visitors to the beautiful redwood region.

As it has for nearly 60 years, the Eureka Inn continues to serve the community as a center for social events and civic activities. Each year since its gala opening on the night of September 14, 1922, the Inn has provided the community with space, elegance, and service. Its spacious interior, including lobby, and the banquet and ballroom, are utilized almost daily by a variety of community interests. Social functions, ranging from men's service group luncheons to formal banquets and balls, are easily accommodated by the Inn. Civic activities include conferences and public hearings dealing with such diverse topics as historic preservation and commercial fishing regulations.

* * * *

Following the reorganization of the Eureka Chamber of Commerce in September 1920, a progressive program of activities was developed with the objective of bringing Eureka into the modern mainstream. High on the list was the construction of a hotel to encourage the tourist industry which seemed ripe for development with the completion of the Redwood Highway during the 1920's.

A committee of Chamber of Commerce members was established to sell stock in the Eureka Hotel Company, which was incorporated with capital stock of \$500,000. The 5,000 shares were to sell for \$100 each and in this way, the financing necessary for hotel construction was to be raised. So successful was the campaign that by January 1922, 2,300 shares had been sold and only the sale of another 250-400 shares was needed to completely finance the hotel.

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fountain, Susie Baker. No date. Notebooks, Vol. 66. HSU Library, Arcata, Calif.
Humboldt Times, Eureka, Calif. 29 Sept. 1920; 25 Sept. 1921; 26 Nov. 1921; 6 Dec. 1921;
13 Jan. 1922; 1 Sept. 1922; 15 Sept. 1922; 11 Sept. 1932.
Sturgis, R. 1901. A Dictionary of Architecture and Building, MacMillan & Co., London.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Eureka

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	4	0	1	8	4	0	4	5	1	7	0	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the SE corner of 7th and F St, thence south 240' to 8th St., thence east 240' to G St., thence north 240' to 7th St., thence west 240' to place of beginning, being Block 87 in the City of Eureka.

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

state CA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susie Van Kirk

organization

date 11 February 1981

street & number 1162 C Street

telephone (707) 822-6066

city or town Arcata

state Calif. 95521

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. Mellon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-20-81

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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The Eureka Hotel Company Board of Directors included President H.L. Jackson, T.W. Hine, O.W. Lord, A.E. Connick, L.B. Campton, C.D. Daly, H.B. Daly, Thos. Dillon, H.F. Ferrill, C.H. Palmtag, L.E. Perske, L.F. Puter, J.M. Hutcheson, J.D. Fraser. The Board retained Frederick Whitton to design the hotel with local architect Franklin Georgeson serving as consulting architect. Mercer-Fraser was awarded the contract for excavation and concrete work, the carpentry contract went to Louis Halvorsen and mill work was done by Hammond Lumber Co. Leo Lebenbaum of the Wiltshire Hotel in San Francisco signed a 15-year lease on the hotel, agreeing to furnish the hotel with \$40,000 worth of furniture, assume the expense of upkeep and management and pay a rent of 6.2% per annum on the gross cost of the investment. In return the Hotel Company was to get revenues from the ground floor rentals and assume the financial responsibility of insurance and taxes. Office space was reserved for the Eureka Chamber of Commerce and the California State Automobile Association.

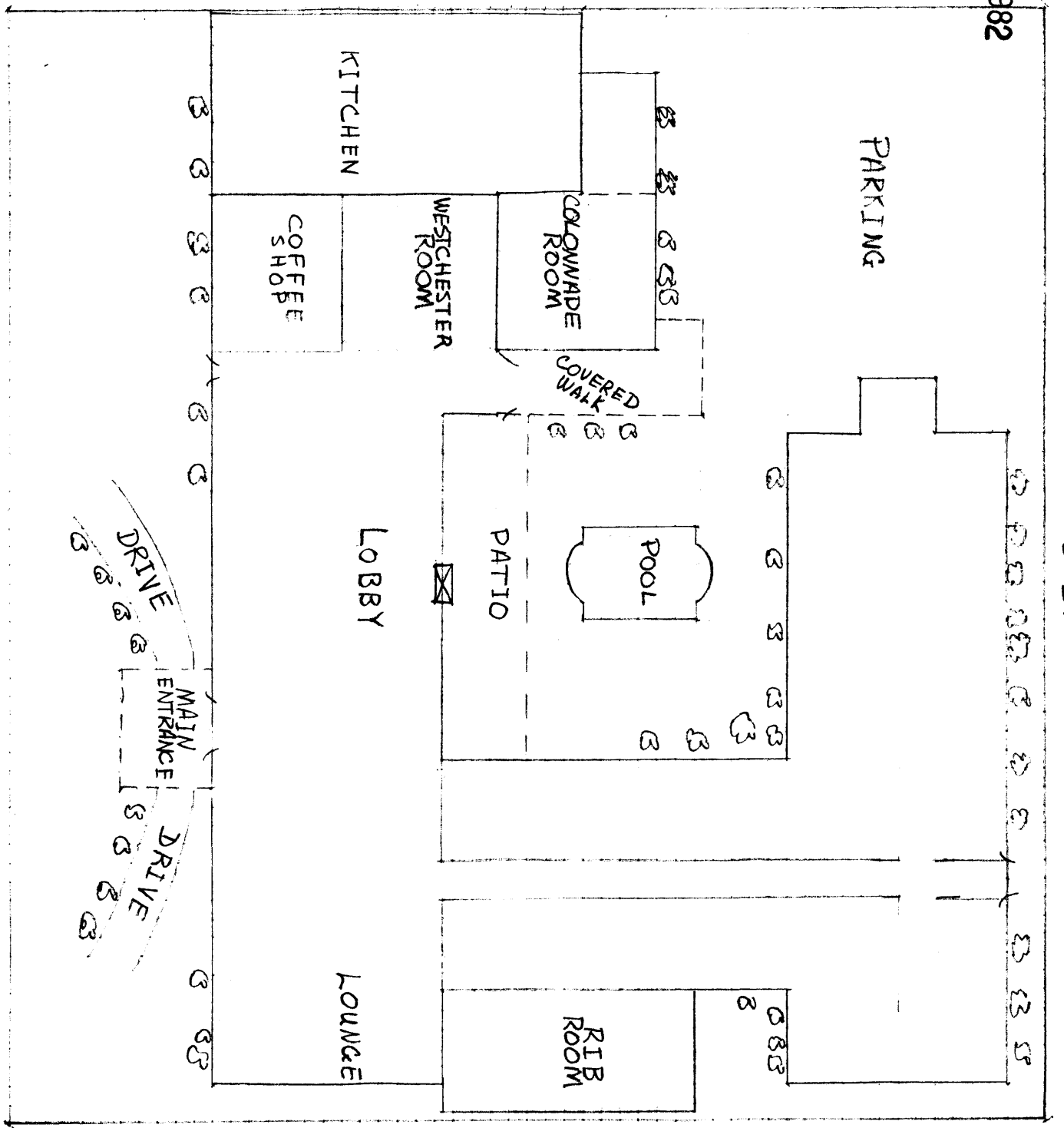
On the night of September 14, 1922, the Eureka Inn opened in grand style with dining, dancing, speech making and musical performances attended by 2,000 people. An advertisement in the Humboldt Times (1 Sept. 1922) touted the Eureka Inn as "a little gem of architecture, a model of convenience, comfort and friendly ease..." and beckoned the tourist to motor on the famous Redwood Highway with their rod, gun, and golf sticks.

Business was good and within two years a 50-room annex was begun. A new kitchen and coffee shop followed soon afterwards. The Eureka Inn became the place to stay in Eureka and that hasn't really changed over the years as many people still think of the Inn as their special place on the northcoast.

* * * *

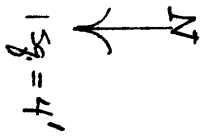
FEB 11 1982

8th ST.



7th ST.

"F" ST.



7th ST.

EUREKA INN
 HOMBOLDT CO., CA.
 AP# 1-156-01
 LOT SIZE 240'x240'