

**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 Farmer's and Merchant's Bank
and/or common The California Building

2. Location

street & number 11 South San Joaquin Street not for publication
city, town Stockton vicinity of congressional district 14th
state California ⁹⁵²⁰² code 06 county San Joaquin code 077

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 checked="" 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input 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 Barnett-Range Land Company
street & number 2609 East Hammer Lane
city, town Stockton vicinity of state California 95210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Joaquin County Courthouse
street & number 222 E. Weber Avenue
city, town Stockton state CA 95202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | date _____ |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Farmers and Merchants Bank
The *Farmers and Merchants Bank* is a nine story, brick commercial structure located in Central Stockton, at the corner of San Joaquin and Main Streets. The first story and mezzanine levels are faced in granite. This arcaded and rusticated section of the building is very massive in scale and size. Five segmented arches span the San Joaquin Street facade; the southern-most arch opens into the lobby. Massive pilasters of segmented granite separate the arches, with larger pilasters anchoring the corners of the building.

The structure, overall, is segmented horizontally into zones or bands. A richly decorated frieze at the upper part of the rusticated band composed of the first story and mezzanine, includes medallions within the metopes separating triglyphs. A band of dentils surmounts the frieze panels which is immediately below a small moulded coursing of masonry. The second story level has five pairs of double-hung windows which are separated by six bas-relief panels. These panels have an urn and garland pattern. Above these windows is a smaller decorated frieze with a smaller coursing above.

The third through ninth stories are of simple masonry construction, pierced by five pairs of wooden framed double-hung windows. There is a masonry pattern delineating hoods over the windows. Plain horizontal concrete lugsills are under each individual window. Above the ninth story windows is a highly enriched frieze with six pairs of garlands and stylized foliage, spaced by rectangular grates. Two rows of dentils are immediately above this pattern. Projecting eaves are bracketed, and form the concluding statement of this large and impressive structure, helping to weigh the building earthward.

The North side of the facade, fronting Main Street, includes the same detailing except that the building contains sets of three features, while the larger expanse of the Eastern elevation contains five features. Thus, the Main Street elevation has three rusticated, segmented arches, and three pairs of double-hung windows on the third through the ninth floors. The Western facade has a sign painted on the upper stories, now quite faded, identifying this as the California Building. An additional alteration to the original character of this building is the addition of a large fire escape on the Eastern facade.

This building contains many elements reminiscent of the style of architecture designed by Louis Sullivan of the Chicago School. The structure is clearly a reflection of the new technologies developed during this period, and yet, is still an expression of the Second Renaissance Revival period which was popular both before and during this time. No major alterations of the exterior of this building have been perpetrated during the course of this structure's existence. See the Significance Section for further information on the architect and historical background of this structure.

The Farmer's and Merchant's Building occupies all of a slightly irregularly-shaped lot approximately 51 feet by 87 feet, as described in detail in Item 10 of this application.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates Dedicated 9/1/17 **Builder/Architect** George W. Kelham, San Francisco

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

(Farmer's and Merchant's Bank)

The ~~X~~ was designed by George W. Kelham (1871-1936), a prominent architect from San Francisco. Kelham also designed that city's public library, completed in 1917, as well as the St. Francis Hotel. Both buildings clearly reflect Kelham's classical training both at Harvard and the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts. Kelham was also the supervising architect for the University of California at Los Angeles campus in 1922, designing the Library, Royce Hall, the Chemistry building and the Education building. Kelham was commissioned to design a new structure to house the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank in 1916.

The Bank was founded in Stockton in October of 1888. On January 1, 1916, Frank A. Guernsey succeeded his father, D.A. Guernsey, as president of the bank. It was at that time that it was decided that the bank should have new quarters at the Southwest corner of Main and San Joaquin Streets. The opening ceremonies for the new Farmer's and Merchant's bank building were held on September 1, 1917. The Stockton Record reported:

The City of Stockton is happy today in welcoming the new Farmer's and Merchant's Bank building as a permanent fixture. It is a structure that can be pointed to with pride by citizens when showing strangers or visitors some of the excellent features we possess as a city.

The interior was described in this article as being very opulent. Entrance was gained through a pair of heavy bronze doors. The bank screen was hand carved of Eastern Oak by the French artist Laroulandie. The center lobby area had Tennessee marble floors. A long, curved oak check table was in the center of this public space. The walls and pillars were of Travertine marble from the Tiber River region, near Rome, the same as was used inside the Vatican and the San Francisco Public Library. Electroliers of carved bronze with frosted globes were suspended from the ceiling.

The bank vault door was eight inches thick and weighed five tons. The safe deposit boxes were housed in the basement, reached by a flight of marble stairs. The ladies restroom nearby was equipped with writing paper, and a telephone. The mezzanine level contained the director's office which was panelled with oak from floor to ceiling.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Stockton's Newest Skyscraper is Opened Formally". Stockton Record,
1 September 1917, p.5.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED (to be continued)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .11 acres

Parcel No. 149-140-11

Quadrangle name Stockton West, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

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

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| state | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Crow, Consultant

organization

date 4/11/80

street & number 101 Gable Avenue, Apt. D

telephone Days (707) 446-6745

city or town Vacaville

state California 95688

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

Kenneth Wilson

title

date 8-13-80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

Patricia Andrews

Patrick Andrews

12/9/80

12/7/80

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

9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 1

Significance (cont.):

The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank was known as the "Bank of Good Service". The bank was replaced by the David A. Levinson's women's apparel shop in 1941, which is still the first floor tenant.

The Farmer's and ^{Merchant's Bank} is a handsome example of the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture, with the strong influence of Louis Sullivan. Regimented zones, beginning with an arcaded and rusticated ground level, and extending to more sophisticated upper floors are all part of Sullivan's architectural style. Sullivan's influence is apparent in the stylized foliage and highly enriched frieze areas at all levels of the building's exterior. Furthermore, the structure is a handsome example of the movement of "modern" skyscrapers which were built in Stockton during this period when Stockton became known as "the brick city".

The California Building has been designated as a local historic resource by the Stockton City Council in a resolution dated 2 April 1979. This action was taken on behalf of the local heritage group in Stockton represented by Mr. Ray Hillman.

The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank is significant for its architectural merit, retaining a high degree of integrity and being associated with a noted California architect. The structure is significant as well for its contribution to the commercial development of the local community, housing a prominent, locally-owned bank for nearly a quarter-century.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

Bibliography (cont.):

Polk-Husted Directory of Stockton and San Joaquin County. Sacramento,
1916 and 1917.

Wood, R. Coke and Leonard Covello. Stockton Memories: A Pictorial
History of Stockton, California. Fresno: Valley Publishers,
1977, p. 47.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathurn. Biographical Dictionary of American
Architects. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1956
(facsimile edition 1970), p. 334.

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DATE ENTERED

9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

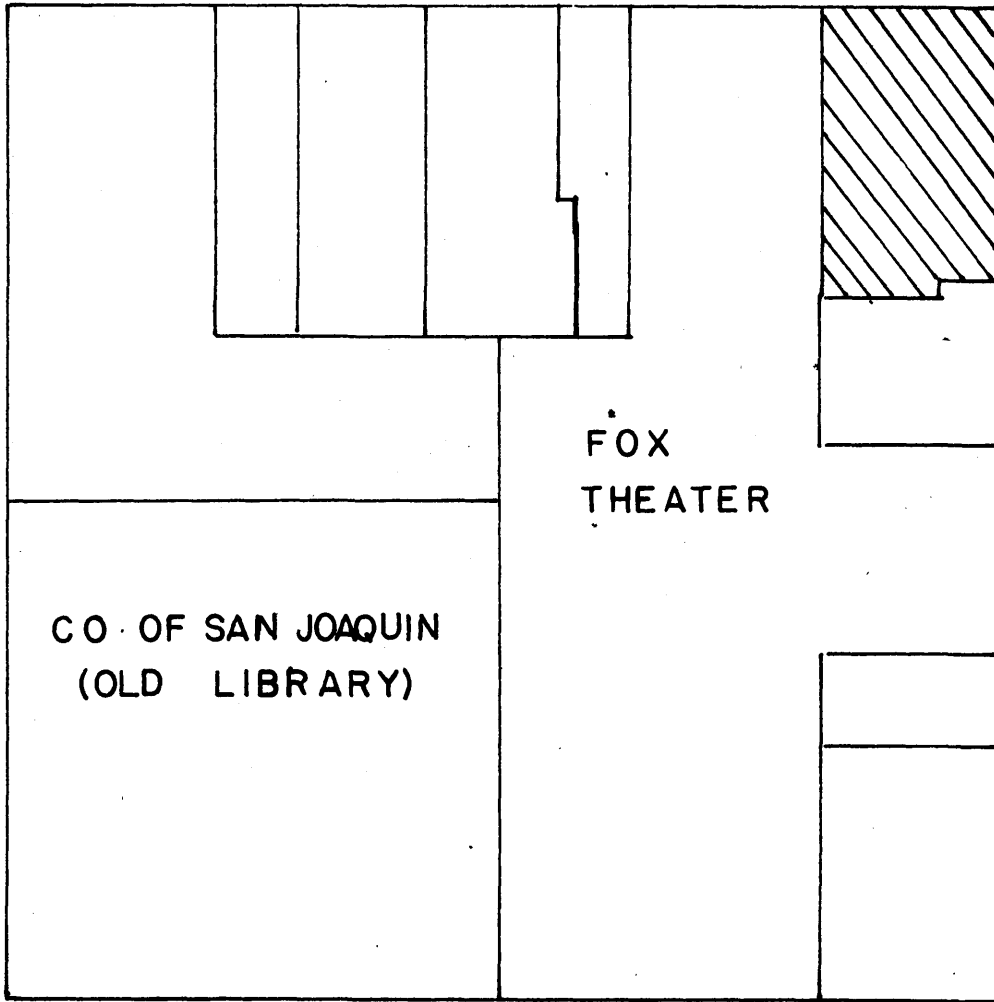
All of lots 1,3, and 5 and the west 10½ inches of the north 90 feet of lot 7, all of lot 13 except the southerly 1 3/4 inches, all in block 13 east of Sutter Street.

Beginning at the intersection of the southerly line of Main Street and the westerly line of San Joaquin Street, proceed south 80.88 feet along said line of San Joaquin Street, then at right angles west 18.21 feet, south 5.82 feet, west 32.97 feet, north 86.7 feet, and east 51.18 feet along said line of Main Street to point of beginning.

COURT HOUSE SQUARE

MAIN STREET

HUNTER STREET



SAN JOAQUIN STREET

MARKET STREET

CALIFORNIA BUILDING



PARCEL NO. 149-140-11

1" = 60'