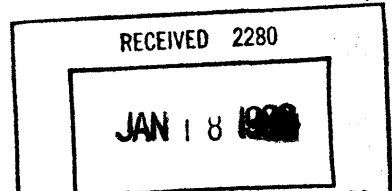


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and historic places. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Park Service Registration Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland Free Library Alden Branch
other names/site number Oakland Public Library Temescal Branch

2. Location

street & number 5205 Telegraph Avenue/ 500 52nd Street not for publication
city or town Oakland vicinity _____
state California code CA county Alameda code 001 zip code 94609

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination / request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/27/95
Signature of certifying official Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register [Signature] 2/16/96 Entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1922

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
walls	<u>Brick</u>
roof	<u>Slate</u>
other	<u>Stucco</u>
	<u>Concrete</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance 1918 - 1946

Significant Dates 1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Dickey, Charles W. (architect)
Donovan, John J. (architect)
Littlefield, R.W. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library;
Oakland City Planning Department

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing		Zone Easting	Northing
1	10	564960	4187950	3	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Marvin

organization North Oakland Voters Alliance (NOVA), Friends of Golden Gate Library, Friends of Melrose Library, Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC), Temescal Neighbors Together date August 10, 1995

street & number 2646 Claremont Avenue telephone (510) 849-1959

city or town Berkeley state CA zip code 94705-1451

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for districts and properties with large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Oakland

street & number 1 City Hall Plaza telephone (510) 238-3301 (City Mgr.)

city or town Oakland state CA zip code 94612

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

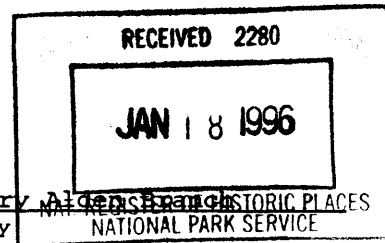
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Oakland Free Library Alameda Branch
name of property
Alameda County CA
county and state



Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
name of multiple property listing

7. Narrative Description

The Temescal Branch Library is a high one story and raised basement Tudor Revival library building. It has an irregular stepped-back plan (basically two large reading rooms forming a T), on a corner lot. The building has exterior walls of variegated dark red clinker brick, with prominent white cast concrete and stucco trim, slate roofs, and large high leaded glass windows with deep cast concrete reveals. Sanborn maps describe it as 28' high, about 85' long and 25'-50' deep, with 12" brick walls.

The south wing along 52nd Street has its gable end facing front, with a tall shallow three-sided, many-windowed bay occupying most of its facade. The leaded glass windows in the bay are grouped together by massive white concrete mullions and reveals, and the bay is topped by a balcony-like band with a frieze and crest. On the long sides of both wings, and on the gabled ends to the sides and back, long banks of windows are set high on the walls (from the eave line to the tops of the shelves inside), and are grouped and framed similarly to the windows on the bay. Below a narrow white watertable molding, the basement story projects slightly, and nearly square basement windows are evenly spaced, recessed, and understated. All the gable ends have slightly raised end parapets with stepped outer ends and concrete coping. The gable ends on the prominent 52nd Street wing have flame-shaped cast concrete finials, louvered vents in miniatures of the window surrounds, and stepped concrete insets.

A small rectangular entry vestibule, set within the angle of the two wings, has a flat roof just higher than the main eaves, with a frieze inscribed "Oakland Free Library Alden Branch" (new covered by a new sign "Oakland Public Library"). The entrance, at the top of wide low stairs with brick sidewalls, has glazed double doors in an ornamented surround with Tudor arched transom and shouldered architrave. At the rear of the building are two basement entries, a small one-story office wing, and a large skylight over the circulation desk. There are small lawns and trees all around the building, and benches in front and back. Except for replacement of a hanging lantern over the front door with a small plastic-clad light fixture, grilles over some of the doors and windows, and the sign over the original inscription, the exterior is intact.

Inside, as in all the Oakland Carnegie Libraries of 1915-18, there is a split-level entry with an oak-paneled stair hall, lit by the window over the door. There is a central flight of stairs up to the main floor and side flights to the basement. The basement contains work rooms, restrooms, utilities, and an auditorium with a small stage; part of the basement is now a city council district office. On the main floor are two large reading rooms (children's and adults'), to either side of the central skylit lobby and circulation desk. Behind the central desk is the office in the small rear wing. A glazed partition separates the stairwell from the desk area. Openings between the rooms are all low Tudor arches. Walls are white plaster with beamed ceilings; shelving and other woodwork is oak. The children's room, to the left in the 52nd Street wing, has the big east-facing bay window with window seats.

Window sash is operable, much of the old library furniture is still in use, and the interior is otherwise virtually intact except that original bowl-shaped hanging light fixtures have been replaced with fluorescents and original dark linoleum has been replaced with lighter colored floor covering. The building continues in its historic use, as an active branch library and neighborhood meeting hall. It is in excellent condition, and its integrity is excellent.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8 Page 6 Oakland Free Library Alden Branch
name of property
Alameda County CA
county and state
Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
name of multiple property listing

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Oakland Free Library Alden Branch (now Temescal Branch), a Carnegie Library, meets the requirements for National Register nomination as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination entitled "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921." It was one of four architecturally similar but varied branches built under a 1914 grant to the city of Oakland, in four different North and East Oakland neighborhoods, designed by Oakland architects of statewide prominence. It has served continuously as a library from its construction to the present. Physically it is virtually unchanged both inside and out.

Oakland pioneered branch libraries in California, opening branch reading rooms as early as 1878 and continuing to emphasize neighborhood branches as the city expanded. The Golden Gate and Alden branches in North Oakland were established in 1899, as promised to those neighborhoods during the annexation campaign of 1897. The Alden branch occupied a succession of rented quarters, in 1905 having to move on 30 days' notice to be replaced by a saloon. Branch libraries all over the city moved frequently from one set of rented quarters to another. This instability helped convince City Librarian Charles Greene that the city should house its branch libraries in city owned buildings, and in 1914 he personally renewed an earlier appeal for Carnegie funds. The city's new application matched the current Carnegie philosophy; since Oakland's downtown Main Library had been funded in 1899, Carnegie's focus had shifted to small towns and, in metropolitan areas, branches, to bring books closer to the people.

Oakland requested and received a grant of \$140,000 for four new branch libraries. The \$35,000 per branch was apparently a typical amount for a medium-large city. The four new libraries were to replace four of Oakland's ten existing branches. The sites selected were Golden Gate and Alden in North Oakland, and Melrose and 23rd Avenue in East Oakland. Oakland's match was to provide sites for the new branch buildings, and 10% of the grant amount per year to maintain the buildings and their operations. (The old working-class neighborhood of West Oakland, part of the original city, petitioned for a new library but was passed over; political and class considerations aside, it had a stable and apparently satisfactory branch location at 712 Peralta Street, in use from 1907 into the 1970s.)

Unlike Melrose and 23rd Avenue, no site was donated for Alden or Golden Gate, and it was necessary to obtain the North Oakland sites through condemnation, a process that involved hearings and negotiation with property owners over a two year period. Building permit #47379 was issued for Alden on December 22, 1917, for a two story brick library, with an estimated construction cost of \$23,887 on the main permit issued to builder R.W. Littlefield, plus additional amounts totalling about \$6000 for plumbing and electrical work. The permit for Golden Gate was issued the same day (with the same builder and same cost), and both buildings were dedicated in December 1918, Alden on the 10th and Golden Gate on the 15th. Speakers at the Alden dedication included Librarian Charles Greene, District Attorney Ezra Decoto, and local inventor and educator Edmund van der Naillen, whose nearby private College of Engineering is commemorated in a display in the library vestibule today.

Temescal was a working class, largely Italian neighborhood, settled by farmers, stonecutters from the nearby quarry and cemetery, and employees of the local Lusk Cannery, Oakland Scavenger Company, and Oakland Traction Company whose carbarn was on 47th Street. An early placard in the library's files appeals to the Italian population: "*La ALDEN RAMO LIBRERIA. Abbiamo libri in ITALIANO per tutti. Mettete il vostro nome in questo pezzo di carta, e andate alla Libreria potete avere uno libro.*" In the years after World War I the Oakland schools and libraries were very conscious of their mission of "Americanization" to Oakland's large foreign-born population of many nationalities.

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name of property
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Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
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The neighborhood name Alden came from Solomon Alden, a farmer who settled on 600 acres in this upper Telegraph Avenue area in 1855. The name Temescal, which replaced Alden in popular usage by the end of the century, came from Temescal Creek which runs through the area: Temescal being the word for Ohlone sweathouses along its banks. In 1947 the Temescal Merchants Association proposed to the library board "that the name of the Alden Branch Public Library should be changed to the Temescal Memorial Library, in honor of the veterans who lost their lives in World War II." The name was changed to Temescal in 1949.

The Alden, Golden Gate, and 23rd Avenue branches were all designed by Charles W. Dickey and John J. Donovan; the first branch constructed, Melrose, was by reinforced concrete expert William Weeks. The three Dickey and Donovan libraries had virtually identical plans and programs, and different period costumes: Alden was one of only two Tudor Revival Carnegie libraries built in California (the other, Hollywood, no longer exists), and Golden Gate was the only Georgian. Reportedly escalating construction costs for the elaborate Spanish Colonial 23rd Avenue branch diverted funds from the Alden and Golden Gate branches, not yet begun. The relatively austere Tudor and Colonial styles chosen for Alden and Golden Gate apparently absorbed any economy measures with good grace.

The Oakland Examiner of July 1, 1917, gave an excellent collective description of the three libraries:

C.W. Dickey and John J. Donovan are the architects for three libraries which remain to be built. The branch to be next constructed [23rd Avenue] will be of Spanish architecture with warm colored stucco walls over brick and a variegated Cordova roof. The Alden branch library... will be of modern English design with walls of dark red brick. The Golden Gate branch library... will be of Colonial design with red brick walls with white trimmings. While the external appearance of the three buildings will be totally different, they will have the same interior requirements and fittings.

Each library will be two stories in height, the main entrance being halfway between the two stories, with broad stairs leading up into the central delivery room, and other stairs leading to the ground floor. The delivery desk is to be so placed that the librarian in charge will have complete command of the two reading rooms flanking the delivery room and of the main entrance.

The reading rooms will each be about thirty-two by forty-one feet, lined with book shelves capable of accommodating 15,000 volumes, besides magazines and newspapers. The rooms will be lighted from three sides in the daytime and by semi-direct electric fixtures at night. The openings from the reading rooms to the delivery room will be so large that the three rooms will architecturally count as one. Back of the delivery room will be the librarian's private office and the book bindery with a private staircase leading to the lower floor.

On the ground floor will be located an assembly room about thirty by forty feet, capable of seating about 250 persons and fitted with a stage and electric connections for a moving picture machine. On this floor there will also be a study room sixteen by thirty-one feet, a staff room with a kitchenette, a furnace room, men's and women's toilets and a large shipping and receiving room with a fumigating closet and book lift to take books to the second floor.

Each of the buildings will cost \$35,000: the construction, finish, heating and ventilation will be modern and first class in every respect.

Architects Charles Dickey and John Donovan were associated on three Oakland Carnegie libraries in 1917, and designed Oakland schools in the 1910s and 20s. Charles Dickey (1871-1942) was born in Alameda and studied architecture at MIT. He practiced in Oakland

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Oakland Free Library Alden Branch

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from about 1903 to 1924 and thereafter in Honolulu, where he is considered to have created a distinctive Hawaiian style of architecture. His numerous major Oakland works include the Claremont Hotel (1907), the 15-story Oakland Bank of Savings at 1200 Broadway (1907; one of Oakland's first skyscrapers), Kahn's Department Store (1913), and University High School (1922). MIT-trained John Donovan (1877-1949) came west in 1911 as supervising architect for Oakland City Hall, representing the New York firm of Palmer & Hornbostel. He stayed to become Oakland City Architect, supervising architect for the Oakland Auditorium and Oakland's \$2.6 million school construction program of 1911-19, an authority on school design, and an architectural consultant for the Bay Bridge.

In uninterrupted use as a neighborhood branch library since its construction, Alden is an Oakland City Landmark, designated November 4, 1980, in a group designation of the city's four Carnegie branch libraries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Significance statement, lists, and brief forms on Oakland libraries from National Register Multiple Property Nomination, "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921"; Oakland brief forms based on reports by William Sturm, librarian, Oakland History Room.

City of Oakland Office of Planning and Building records: building and alteration permits, Sanborn maps, City Landmarks case file # LM 80-326.

Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, City Planning Department: architect files, Citywide Unreinforced Masonry Building Survey files, Primary Record on Alden Branch submitted September 30, 1994.

Oakland Public Library history files (by branch), at Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library: correspondence, clippings, financial records, photographs, ephemera, etc.

Brokl, Robert, et al., National Register of Historic Places nomination for University High School, Oakland, Alameda County, CA, April 22, 1992 (C.W. Dickey)

Jay, Robert, The Architecture of Charles W. Dickey: Hawaii and California, Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 1992.

McArthur, Tay, et al., National Register of Historic Places nomination for Oakland Technical High School, Oakland, Alameda County, CA, June 25, 1985 (John Donovan)

Van Slyck, Abigail, "Helping Those Who Help Themselves: Carnegie Libraries and Rational Philanthropy in Oakland, California," U.C. Berkeley student paper, MS copy at Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, Oakland City Planning Department.

Wurm, Ted, "Our Northern Suburb of Temescal," Oakland Heritage Alliance News, vol. 11, no. 1, Summer 1991.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Assessor's parcel number 014 1219 003 00

Boundary Justification: This is the lot historically associated with the property.

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Oakland Free Library Alden Branch

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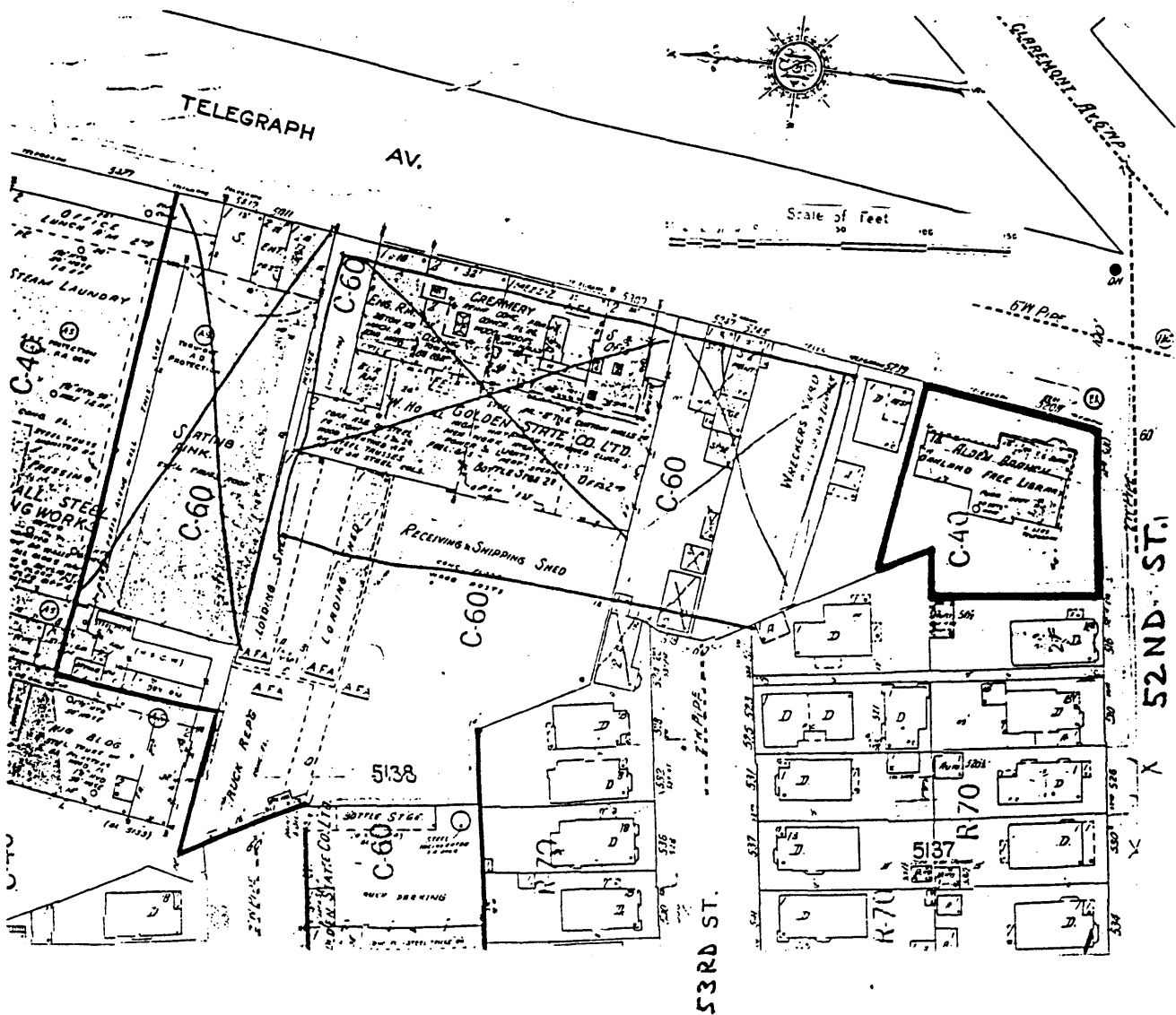
county and state

Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921

name of multiple property listing

Sketch Map showing boundaries and footprints

Adapted and reduced from Sanborn insurance map, 1951 update, page 303,
Oakland City Planning Department



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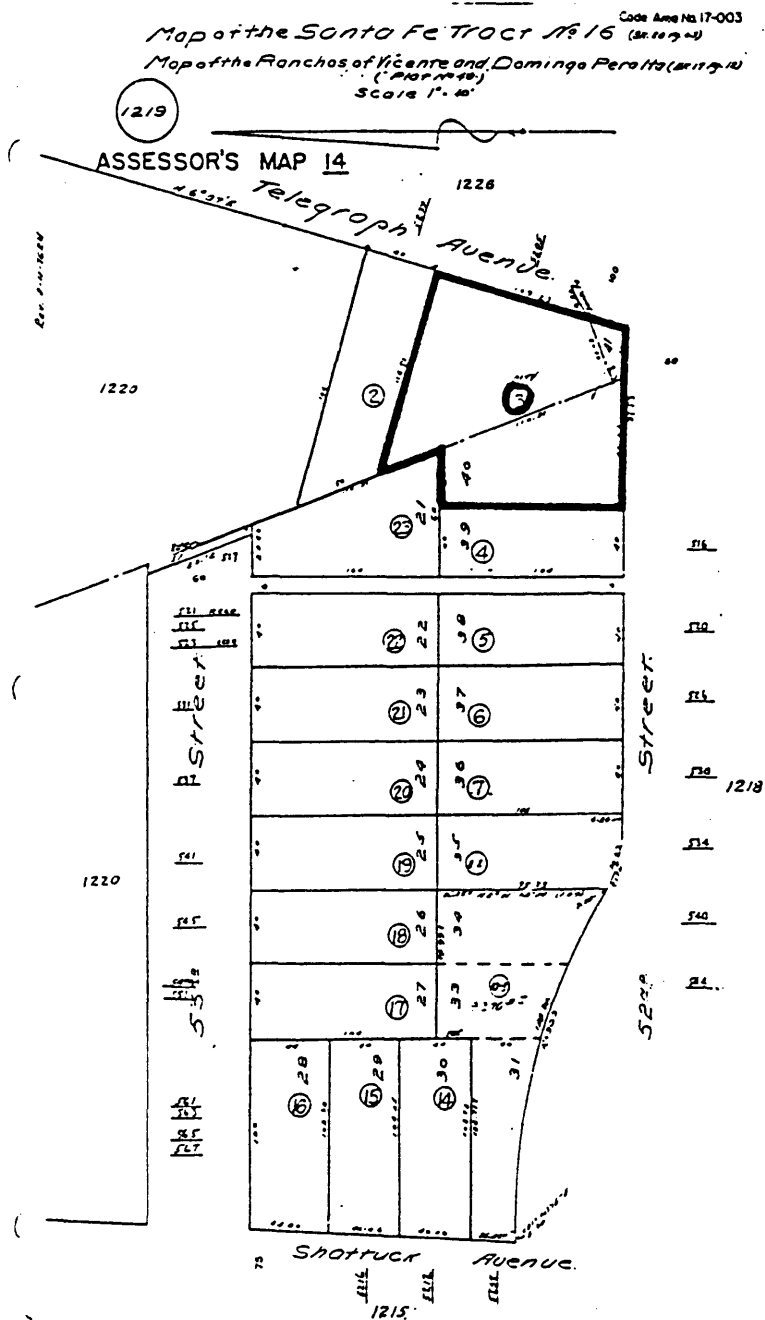
Oakland Free Library Alden Branch
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Alameda County Assessor's Parcel Map showing location

Parcel 014 1219 003 00

As reproduced, about 1" to 100'



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Oakland Free Library Alden Branch

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Photographs

All negatives (and copy negatives) located at Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, Oakland City Planning Department, 1 City Hall Plaza, Oakland CA 94612; telephone (510) 238-3941.

1. photographer Betty Marvin, date July 12, 1995

Front elevation and 52nd Street (south) side, looking west across Telegraph Avenue

2. photographer Betty Marvin, date July 12, 1995

Facade detail, south wing: brick and concrete work, bay, leaded glass, finial

3. photographer Betty Marvin, date July 12, 1995

View northeast across south (children's) reading room: front bay at right, glazed partition to stairwell at left

4. photographer Betty Marvin, date July 12, 1995

View northwest from stairwell toward service desk: glazed partition, oak woodwork, leaded glass, arches, skylight

5. photographer unknown, c.1918 (original at Oakland History Room)

Front elevation, looking west across Telegraph Avenue