

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **MAR 6 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic REEDLEY OPERA HOUSE COMPLEX

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 10th and G Streets, (1712-20 10th St., 1001 G St.) N/A not for publication

city, town Reedley N/A vicinity of

state CA code 06 county Fresno code 019

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<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 Arthur E. and Patricia A. Bergthold/Makijii Hase Kenneth L. Just

street & number 1708 10th Street

city, town Reedley N/A vicinity of state California 93654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fresno County Hall of Records

street & number 2281 Tulare Street

city, town Fresno state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None known has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 1903 Reedley Opera House Complex is a brick commercial building situated at the southern corner of 10th and G, in the heart of the downtown area. The complex was L-shaped in design, some 150 feet long, with the Opera House forming the base of the L. The remainder of the building contained a bank, a drug store, and a harness shop. A porch canopy once extended along 10th Street and G Street, but was removed at an unknown date. A curved parapet over the Opera House section was removed in 1950. Other major alterations have been reversed, re-creating the historic appearance to a high degree.

The building is composed of two distinct units. The Opera House forms the base of the L and has its own individual treatment of the facade. The broad central segmentally arched entrance is flanked by narrow segmentally arched windows. The edges of the facade are articulated by shallow piers which rise above the parapet and are capped by metal finials. A shallow arch in the center of the parapet has been removed but is scheduled for reconstruction. The parapet steps down to create a lower roofline in the commercial section to the left of the Opera House. This long expanse of wall is punctuated by segmentally arched windows and three doorways indicating the division into two shops in the central portion and the bank at the far end. The bank occupied the northernmost corner. The main entrance was angled across the north corner; the segmentally arched doorway was flanked by two shallow piers rising into metal finials and enclosing a small half-round parapet. The G Street side was treated in a similar manner, but with two large segmental arches instead of a doorway.

The brick in the structure consists of five distinctive colors ranging from tones of orange to deep red, and highlighted with many that are black. This brick was made in Reedley. Some of the brick came from the Gosling's brick store after the 1902 fire. The building has double and triple coursed supporting arches over the doors and windows. The original star patterned iron thresholds are still in each doorway. Distinctive tin decorative finials flank the entrance to the bank and the Opera House rising on three-foot supports. Two of the three curved masonry parapets still exist at the roofline of the building. The Opera House sign is located on the parapet above the entrance flanked on each side by two matching medallions.

In the basement of the Opera House is the 1903 carbide generator that was used for lighting until electricity came in 1907. Two frames of these lighting fixtures were found in the basement also.

The structure has been altered by the removal of the main parapet arch over the Opera House sign when a bond beam was added in the 1950s. The tin finials on top of the building were replicated by a tinsmith to match the ones in the historic photos. The main street frontage windows had to be restored back to the arched original appearance by removing a large square window. The building was sandblasted and coated with two coats of sealer. Many of the original windows were broken and have been replaced with stained glass. The metal canopy shown in the old pictures has been removed. Several of the original doors and windows have been bricked in, and some new doorways cut into the interior walls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See separate reference sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.1928 Acres

Quadrangle name Reedley, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property occupies the yellow shaded portion of enclosed assessor's map (BK 368-pg.16, County of Fresno, Block 52, Town of Reedley). The building is L-shaped, with dimensions given counter clockwise from the northernmost corner: 150'x100'x50'x66'x100'x34'. Boundaries encompass the limits of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries the historic resource.

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia A. Bergthold (OHP Staff Revision: 10/83)

organization Owner date 4/15/83

street & number 417 S. Reed telephone (209) 638-4988

city or town Reedley state California 93654

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 Mervin Mitchell-Walker

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/27/84

For NPS use only

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

J. Alloures Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in National Register

date 4/5/84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

REFERENCE LIST

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2. Anonymous. "Local Brevities." Reedley Exponent. April 16, 1903, p.8.
3. Anonymous. "Local Brevities." Reedley Exponent. May 28, 1903, p.8.
4. Anonymous. "Local Brevities." Reedley Exponent. June 4, 1903, P.8.
5. Anonymous. "Local Brevities." Reedley Exponent. June 25, 1903, p.8.
6. Anonymous. "Opera House Receives Baptism." November, 1903, p.8.
7. Guinn, J. M. History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Record of the San Joaquin Valley California. The Chapman Publishing Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1905, p. 1275.
8. Nickel, Katherine, Beginnings in the Reedley Area. Max Hardison, Fresno, California, 1966, p. 131, p. 234
9. Personal Interview with Ernest Eymann, April, 1976.
10. Personal Interview with Esther Hardison, March, 1983.
11. Personal Interview with Gus Jansen, Nephew of Jesse Jansen, October, 1967.
12. Personal Interview with Esther Miller, niece of Jesse Jansen, October, 1967.
13. Personal Interview with Oscar Noren, January, 1983.
14. Personal Interview with Alberta Saile, October, 1982.
15. Personal Correspondence. L. M. Flewelling, Sunland, California.
16. Personal Correspondence. Catherine Frame, Porterville, California.
17. Reedley Historical Society. Reedley, A Pictorial History. Sequoia Savings and Loan, Reedley, California, 1981.