



941

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 districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Placer County Bank other names/site number Bank of California, Union Bank of California

2. Location

street & number 874 Lincoln Way city or town Auburn state CA code CA county Placer code 061 zip code 95603

not for publication vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title

4 NOV 2011 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

12/19/2011 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn,
California

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade--Bank

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade--Bank

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals-Beaux Arts
Beaux Arts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Concrete

roof: _____
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Placer County Bank Building is a two story Beaux Arts concrete building located in the center of the business district of Auburn. The three Roman arched inset windows, with the door to the bank under the center window, are separated by four Doric pilasters that extend from the two foot high lug sill to the frieze. The symmetrical front elevation has a door on the ground floor and window on the second story at each end of the building. Between the end windows and doors are terra cotta wreaths. The frieze is adorned with the name "Placer County Bank" in the center and "1913" on each side that are incised and decorated with gold leaf. The building is located in the commercial district of Auburn on Lincoln Way. There is a two-story addition to the building in the back. The building has been well maintained and is in excellent condition.

Narrative Description

The Placer County Bank building, built in 1913, faces south onto Lincoln Way in the business district of Auburn. The thirty-five by forty-one foot, rectangular plan contains two stories plus a full basement. The foundation is concrete and the walls are concrete scored to look like large one foot by two foot blocks. Granite steps lead up to the three doors. Three arched windows with Doric pilasters on either side are located in the center of the building. The main door to the bank is located in the center of the building flanked by the two center pilasters. At either end are doors that lead to the offices on the second floor. Above each of the side doors are terra cotta wreaths. On either side of the side doors are bronze finished lamp sconces and on both sides of the main door in the center are bronze lamp standards with five bulbs set out at the beginning of the granite step entry. Above the two story pilasters the frieze contains "Placer County Bank" in the center and "1913" on either side. The letters and numbers are covered with gold leaf. A metal cornice tops the flat roofed building and is embellished by dentils and sixteen lion heads.

The building has been well maintained and retains the original elements with the exception of the original bronze covered doors that have been replaced with aluminum framed glass doors. The center door frame is bronze colored aluminum. Between 1950 and 1954 (the permitting process for the city began in 1954) an addition to the back of the building (north elevation) was constructed of concrete. The addition is on a downhill slope, two stories, and is inset approximately four feet from the northeast corner of the building. The bottom story of the addition is adjoining the basement of the original building while the second story is level to and adjoining the first story of the original building. There is a parking lot off the back addition that accessed from High Street. The parking lot can also be reached by an alley that runs from Lincoln Way to High Street beside the east elevation of the building.

The interior of the building was extensively remodeled in the 1990s. The building retains all of its original exterior elements of design and materials with the exception of the three doors which have been replaced with aluminum framed glass doors. An attached addition was added to the back of the building in the early 1950s, during the property's period of significance. The setting and location are the same as when it was constructed. The structure still evokes the feeling of permanence and stability. The property retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Economics
Commerce

Period of Significance

1913-1956

Significant Dates

1913-1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Herdal, George - builder

Sumner, Charles Kaiser- architect

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

Construction began on the Placer County Bank building in 1913. The bank opened its doors for business that year and has continued as an important bank in Auburn to the present day. In 1956 Placer County Bank merged with the Bank of California.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

None

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Placer County Bank building, built in 1913, is an excellent example of Beaux Arts style popular from 1885 to 1920. The property is eligible as part of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS, under the context Community Development of Auburn from 1865 to 1960. The property is eligible under Criterion A as a Commercial Building important to the growth of the community of Auburn, and Criterion C as the work of San Francisco master architect Charles Kaiser Sumner, known before World War I as Charles Sumner Kaiser.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Placer County Bank is significant in local history as the bank was formed in 1887 by local businessmen to serve the community. The Bank of Auburn was merged with the Placer County Bank in 1907 and in June of 1918 Placer County Bank consolidated with the First National Bank retaining the Placer County Bank name. The bank served the mining, agricultural and logging industries for the area. Placer County Bank continued to serve the Auburn area when it merged with the Bank of California during the winter of 1955-56 according to bank president Harry Rosenberry. The same bank officers and employees continued in their positions under this merger. The Bank of California continued to serve the community until the recent merger with the Union Bank of California.

During the Great Depression there was renewed interest in mining. The bank acted as the agent between the miners and the U.S. Mint in San Francisco. Gold brought into the bank was weighed on scales and transported to San Francisco where the U.S. Mint purchased the gold. According to bank president, Harry Rosenberry, in 1937 this bank branch shipped more gold to the San Francisco mint than any other bank in California, a direct result of the mining in the area.

East Auburn developed as a commercial center after the Central Pacific Railroad constructed its tracks along the hill skirting the American River Canyon. Many businesses moved from Old Town Auburn to one half mile to the east closer to the railroad. Placer County Bank is an example of the growth and progress of the community from the small buildings and wandering streets of the old mining camp location to the larger commercial buildings and streets of east Auburn. Placer County Bank started in a small building on Commercial Street in Old Town and in 1913 moved into the new building more than three times the size (45 by 50 feet) on the Railroad Street, later renamed Lincoln Way as it was the location of the Lincoln Highway through Auburn.

The Placer County Bank building is one of three buildings of the Beaux Arts style in the city of Auburn. The most prominent structure in the commercial district of Lincoln Way, the imposing building provides an example of stability and permanence that financial and government institutions projected in early twentieth century America.

San Francisco architect, Charles Kaiser Sumner, who during World War I reversed his middle and last names, designed the building. He was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1874. He graduated from the Columbia University School of Architecture and traveled to Europe and the Middle East on a Perkins traveling fellowship. He began his working life in New York City in the firm of McKim, Mead, and White, working under Charles Follen McKim, whom he greatly respected and admired for his talent and hard work. He moved to Berkeley in 1906.

Between 1906 and 1941 Sumner designed more than fifty residences in Palo Alto, twenty houses on the Stanford University campus, about fifteen houses in Berkeley, as well as the Claremont Club, taking shares in the club in lieu of a design fee. Also of his design are the Los Altos Golf and Country Club, the Butte County Courthouse in Oroville, and the Rangers' Club for the National Park Service in Yosemite (listed on the National Register of Historic Places). He designed the Palo Alto College Terrace Library, where WPA labor was employed in its construction, were also designed by Sumner. He designed several buildings in Sacramento as well, including several large residences and the multi-story Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Sumner worked within the Eclectic movement, and mastered the details of many styles. This movement spanned the late 19th century through about 1940. The Eclectic movement was much more concerned with faithful representation of earlier styles, such as classical Greek, Roman and European architecture. Greek and Roman architecture were strong influences in commercial and institutional architecture, examples of which you can readily see in banks and university buildings. Sumner preferred the English Cottage, Tudor, and Colonial Revival models, as well as the occasional Beaux-Arts/Mediterranean Revival structure.

Sumner wanted his buildings to reflect a feeling of permanence, obvious strength and durability. He believed the job of the architect was to achieve beauty and restraint was an important element of beauty: composure is the groundwork on which

beauty rests. Composure was for Sumner the object of composition: "the process of composing and quieting a house's various parts, so that they appear happy and at peace together." Chief among the architect's tools for composition, including balance, scale, and symmetry, was proportion. The Placer County Bank building manifests Sumner's ideas of beauty and composure.

Local builder, George Herdal, constructed the Placer County Bank as well as many residences and commercial buildings in Auburn.

The building retains all of its original elements of design and color with the exception of the three doors which have been replaced with aluminum framed glass doors. An attached addition was added to the back of the building in the early 1950s. The setting and location are the same as when it was constructed. The structure still evokes the feeling of permanence and stability. Lincoln Way was paved in front shortly after the building was completed. The building qualifies under Criterion C as an outstanding example of Sumner's Beaux Arts design and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building is eligible under Criterion A as a Commercial Building important to the growth of the community and qualifies under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"A Self Guided Walking Tour the Historic Auburn Buildings." City of Auburn, 1988.

Harris, Cyril M., Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. Dover Publications, New York, 1983.

Lardner, W. B. and M.J. Brock, History of Placer and Nevada Counties. Los Angeles, California: Historic Record Company, 1924.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1990.

Napoli, Donald S, "Auburn Historic Resources Survey." City of Auburn, June, 12, 1987.

Placer Herald, Auburn, Placer County California

Rosenberry, Harry, President of Placer County Bank and Bank of California, oral history, "Banking in the Foothills." Placer County Historical Society, April 28, 1986.

Smith, Mrs. P.T., Mrs. Earl Lukens, and Mrs. D.W. Lubeck, Auburn Blue Book. Placer County Republican: Auburn, California, 1913.

Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, Common Places Readings in Vernacular Architecture. University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, 1986.

"Western Architect and Engineer." Vol 52-53, 28-29, 30-31.

http://www.julielehmanhomes.com/default.asp?f=listing_details&listingid=57356&listingtype=1

<http://www.sachistoricalsociety.org/userfiles/File/GladdingMcBeanSacramento.doc>

<http://www.pastheritage.org/Sumner.html>

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Placer County Bank

Placer County, CA

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Placer County Bank

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: Placer

State: CA

Photographer: Camel Barry-Schweyer

Date Photographed: 5.6.2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- CA_Placer_Placer_County_Bank_0001.tif: south elevation, camera facing north.
- CA_Placer_Placer_County_Bank_0002.tif: east elevation, camera facing northwest.
- CA_Placer_Placer_County_Bank_0003.tif: east elevation, camera facing northeast.
- CA_Placer_Placer_County_Bank_0004.tif: north elevation, camera facing south.
- CA_Placer_Placer_County_Bank_0005.tif: southwest corner, camera facing northeast.

Property Owner:

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

name Julie Longly, Union Bank of California

street & number 874 Lincoln Way telephone 530-885-3701

city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation

Placer County Bank

Name of Property

Placer, CA

County and State

Architectural and Historic Resources of
Auburn, California

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 10

Figure Log:

Figure 1 of 3 Placer County Bank construction 1912

Figure 2 of 3 Placer County Bank c1914

Figure 3 of 3 Placer County Bank 1946

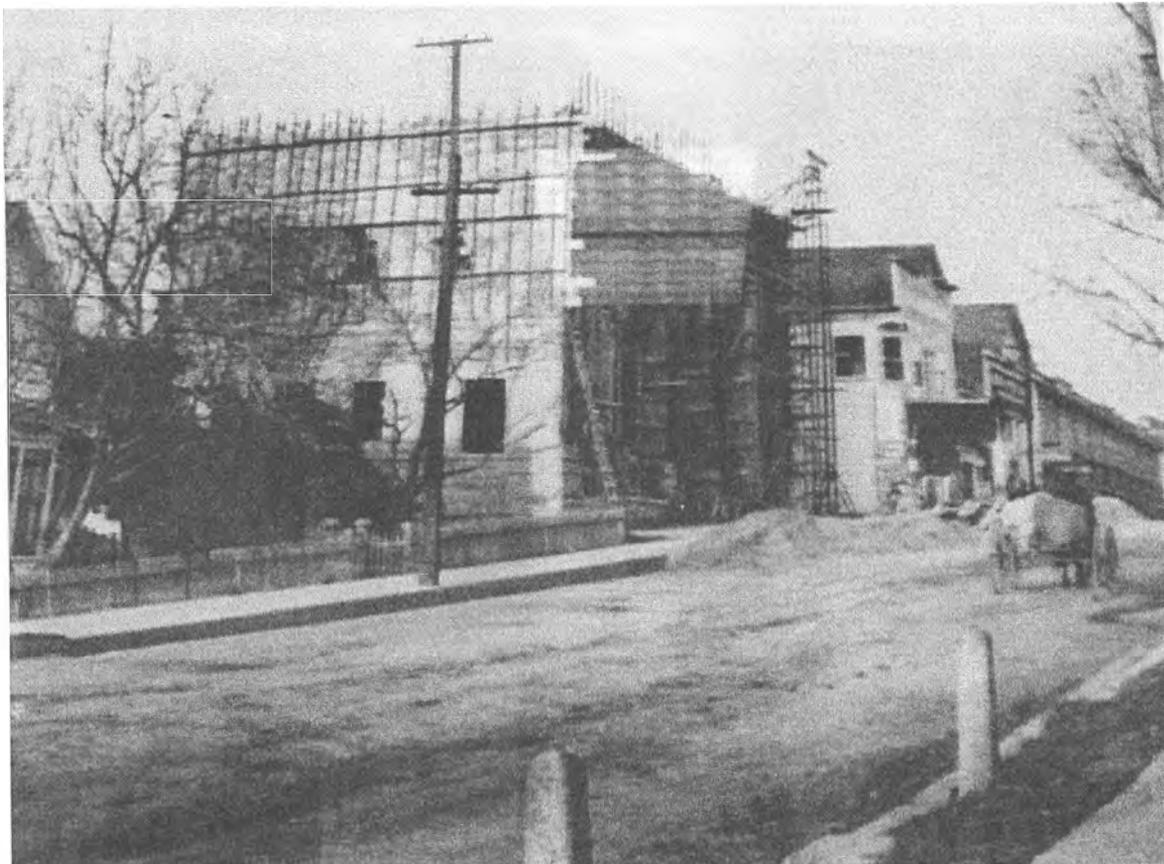


Figure 1 of 3: Placer County Bank construction 1912

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Placer County Bank

Name of Property
Placer, CA

County and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of
Auburn, California

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Page 11

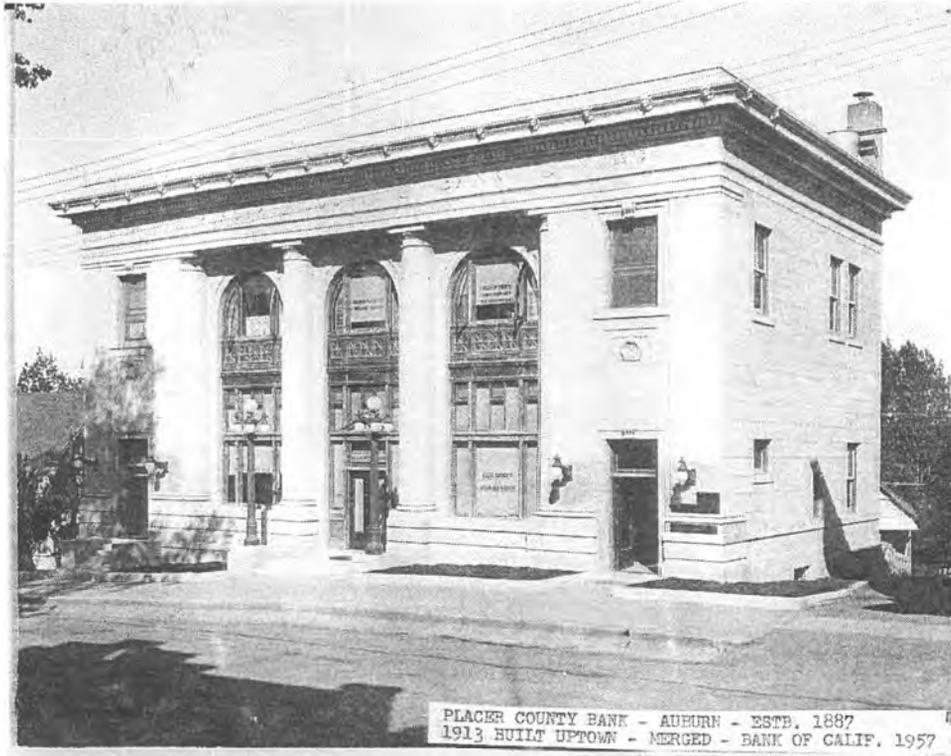


Figure 2 of 3: Placer County Bank c1914

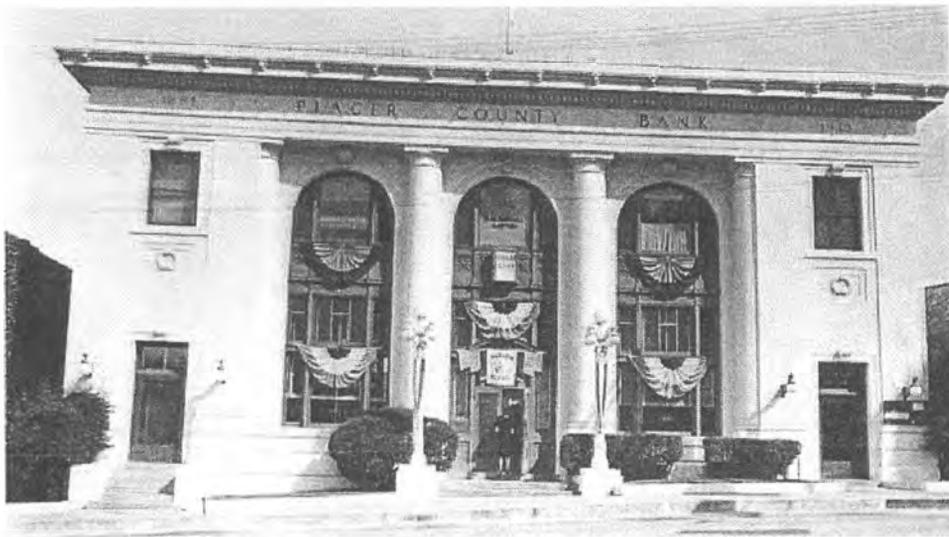


Figure 3 of 3: Placer County Bank circa 1946

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Placer County Bank
NAME:

MULTIPLE Auburn, CA MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Placer

DATE RECEIVED: 11/10/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/02/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/19/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/26/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000941

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Placer County Bank

The Placer County Bank is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. Designed by architect Charles Kaiser Sumner, the 1913 building is an excellent local example of Classical Revival/Beaux Arts-style commercial design. The building served as the home of a locally important financial institution that served the local mining, logging, and agricultural industries of the growing Auburn community. The 1913 building, among the community's most stylish and commanding commercial buildings, reflected the bank's important status within the expanding community during the early twentieth century.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept CRITERIA A/C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignea DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/19/11

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**Placer County Bank
Placer County, California
Staff Report**

Placer County Bank is a two-story Beaux Arts concrete building located in the city of Auburn's downtown East Auburn business district. Constructed in 1913, the property is eligible under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California Multiple Property Listing as an example of the "Commercial Buildings" property type.

The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role in the economic development of the city of Auburn. During the era of the building's construction, Auburn's business district expanded from the Gold Rush era neighborhood of Old Auburn to more modern facilities on the eastern end of town. Placer County Bank was formed in 1887 and operated under the Placer County Bank name until the winter of 1955-56 when it became part of the Bank of California. During the Great Depression, during renewed interest in gold mining in Placer County, this bank acted as the agent between gold miners in Placer County and the U.S. Mint in San Francisco. According to bank president Harry Rosenberry, in 1937 this bank branch shipped more gold to the San Francisco mint than any other bank in California, a direct result of Depression era gold mining.

The property is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Beaux Arts architecture, designed by San Francisco master architect Charles Kaiser Sumner. A graduate of Columbia University, he worked for the New York firm of McKim, Mead & White before moving to Berkeley in 1906. The property retains a high degree of integrity along its primary and secondary facades. An addition to the rear of the building from the late 1950s corresponds with a period of economic expansion in Auburn prior to the 1960 Winter Olympics.

The property is nominated on behalf of its owner, Union Bank of California.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine that Placer County Bank meets National Register Criterion A and C at the local level of significance, and the criteria set forth in the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPD. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

William Burg
Historian I
July 8, 2011

1. PLACER COUNTY BANK
PLACER COUNTY, CA



2. PLACER COUNTY BANK
PLACER COUNTY, CA



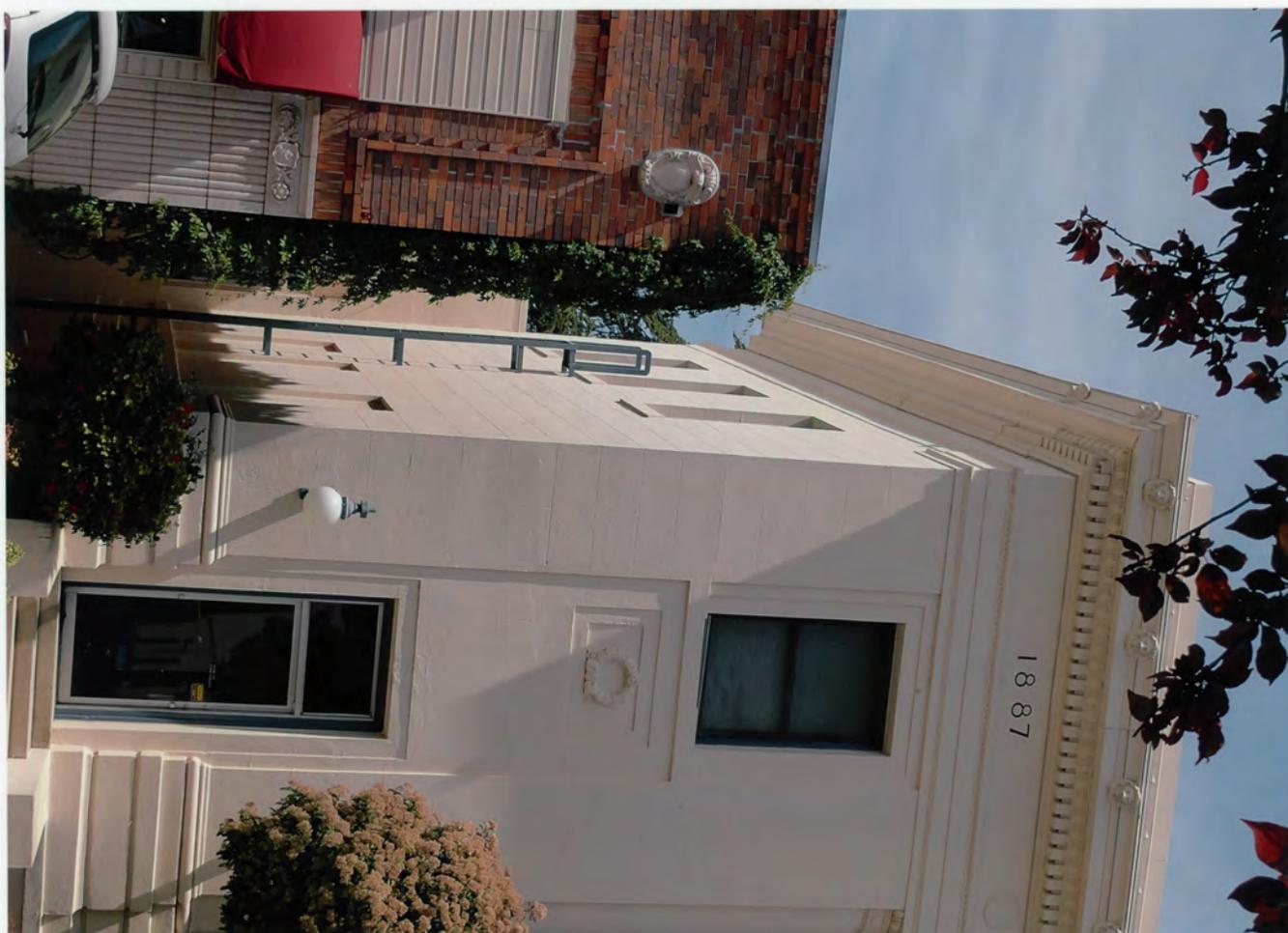
3. PLACER COUNTY BANK
PLACER COUNTY, CA



4. PLACEN COUNTY BANK
PLACEN COUNTY, CA



5. PLACEN COUNTY BANK
PLACEN COUNTY, CA

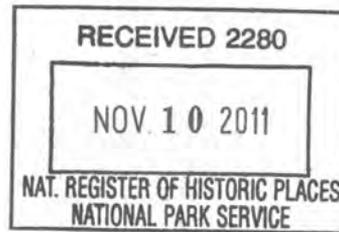


Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64501103

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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November 4, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Auburn Masonic Temple
Auburn IOOF Hall
Auburn Fire House No. 1
Auburn Fire House No. 2
Auburn City Hall and Fire House
Placer County Bank
Auburn Grammar School
Auburn, Placer County, California
Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Shull: *Carol*

Enclosed please find seven nominations, **Auburn Masonic Temple, Auburn IOOF Hall, Auburn Fire House No. 1, Auburn Fire House No. 2, Auburn City Hall and Fire House, Placer County Bank and Auburn Grammar School** to the National Register of Historic Places. All seven properties are nominated under the cover of the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS. All properties are located in Auburn, Placer County, California. On August 5, 2011, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the first six properties eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance. On October 28, 2011, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the Auburn Grammar School eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance.

The properties are nominated by Carmel Barry-Schweyer.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures