

**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 Fresno Brewing Company Office and Warehouse

and/or common Mingle Warehouse

2. Location

street & number 100 M Street N/A not for publication

city, town Fresno N/A vicinity of congressional district 15th

state California 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 Mrs. Margaret A. Mingle and City of Fresno

street & number 2443 Stanislaus Fresno City Hall
2326 Fresno Street

city, town Fresno N/A vicinity of state California

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 93721

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 10, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Fresno City Hall
2326 Fresno Street

city, town Fresno state California

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved

date _____ N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fresno Brewing Company office and warehouse is Romanesque in style and constructed entirely of brick in a design that reflects the function of the building. Built in 1907, the rectangular building measures 42' x 172.95' and contains the two-story office and single-story warehouse and full basement. It is located in an area of downtown Fresno surrounded by warehouses, commercial businesses, and light industries. The building site is on a corner with a vacant lot on the north that separates it from adjacent commercial structures. Orientation is from east and west with the main entrance facing west towards "M" Street. The Fresno Brewing Company office and warehouse is original and unaltered in its form and appearance.

A concrete office porch is raised 4'5" above ground level and inset with three granite stairs. The porch joins a concrete loading platform that parallels the south side and the north portion of the warehouse. Black fluted cast iron columns support a corrugated tin awning above the front porch. The awning also covers the loading platforms on the north and south sides. Common red brick unites the building both aesthetically and structurally. The facade and foundation are laid up in English bond pattern that rises up to a crenelated parapet wall. Reinforced arches add support above ground floor and basement windows.

Semi-circular arches accentuate the double hung windows recessed into the facade. A classic relieving arch is above each pair of second story windows recessed into a second arch. All upstairs windows consist of eight lights, many of them broken. Ground floor window sashes and mullions are painted white. All window frames are of clear redwood. Windows and doors are set in symmetrical proportions to the facade. Two full length single pane side sidelights flank a solid redwood glass paneled door. A single light clerestory window completes the entry.

The exterior decoration is restrained and limited to the masonry details. Most prominent is a beltcourse below a double stringcourse, under the second story window sills. A single stringcourse wraps the second-story facade above the windows and a triple stringcourse is repeated at the roofline. The corporal capitals at the top of the facade add a finishing touch.

The elaborate interiors of the Fresno Brewing Company office are original and intact. Inside the doorway is a cashier's window screened by thin vertical bars, similar in design to those of banks of the early 1900s. A heavy wood enclosure separates the small entry area from the central office.

The view in the central office area is of ornate pressed tin wall and ceiling treatments. The metal is cut in one-foot strips and painted white. An interesting floor covering of hard black and white rubber tiles, cut in an interlocking jigsaw pattern, is used throughout the offices. The most prominent furnishing is an oak ledger table, originally used by the bookkeepers. This is attached to the south and east wall along with some cabinets and combination lock drawers. In the center of the south wall is a large oak panel that covers what appears to have been a fireplace converted later to a gas furnace.

The east wall is the most striking part of the office interior. Directly in line with the entry is an original Mosler walk-in safe. It retains the original gold and silver paint with the company name painted above. The safe is framed by pilasters with a broken pediment on top. A lion's head decorates the cornice.

(Continued on CONTINUATION SHEET)

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The smaller rooms on the north wall adjoin the central office. Both are symmetrical in shape and measure 12' x 14'. The front office wall treatment is of oak wainscotting with pressed tin walls and ceiling. An elaborate gold chandelier with lamps decorated by cut metal leaves hangs from the ceiling.

Adjoining the central office is a combination bathroom and cloak room. Exemplary craftsmanship is represented in this room in the treatment of the wood partitions and wall treatment. The wood partitions are painted to simulate dark oak. A thin cork-like textured wallpaper rises up to within one foot of the ceiling where a dark border separates the cork wallpaper from a light colored small decorative print above.

The warehouse includes a full basement and measures over 10,800 square feet in area. Flooring is of granite sheets 37" x 39-1/2" laid without any binding mortar. Windows pierce each of the 14 bays in the warehouse combined with a clerestory. All are boarded over to protect them from vandalism.

On the northwest corner of the warehouse is an original Otis elevator. The elevator is electrically powered and rises from the basement to the second story. Parallel to the elevator is a black cast-iron spiral staircase.

The warehouse support system consists of iron columns placed every 21 feet. An I-beam supported by the columns runs the length of the warehouse and supports the roof. The ground floor is supported by the use of barrel vaulting visible from the basement. These vaults are spaced every four feet across the basement ceiling.

The upstairs offices complete the building's interior. There are a total of five rooms in the upstairs; two face the front; two face the south; and a main entry and storage area is located at the top of the stairs. The main entry area walls and floors are of plain, unfinished, wood. There is no ceiling treatment. The rafters are left exposed. Walls, floors and ceiling in the smaller rooms are also plain, covered simply with gypsum wallboard.

Attached on the rear of the Fresno Brewing Company offices is a triangular corrugated metal building with separate entrances from the brick offices. It was added on in approximately 1925, and does not contribute to the significance of the building.

The offices of the Fresno Brewing Company were part of a 20 acre brewery complex. The brewery itself was built in 1900 and measured 119' x 109' and was located directly south of the company offices. The building was six stories in height with the brewing facility located on the northwest corner. The four story cellar for fermentation adjoined the brewery on the east. A one story keg room complete with basement adjoined the cellar. The brewery complex was demolished in 1955.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Fresno Brewing Company office and warehouse remains one of the oldest examples of industrial architecture in Fresno. The design appears to be the work of Eugene Mathewson based on the architectural style, materials, and elevator contract records. Mathewson designed and built several prominent civic, industrial, and residential buildings in the classical revival styles of architecture, among them the Fresno City Hall of 1907 and the Prescott home (now Lisle Funeral Home) in 1905. The building remains one of the few turn-of-the-century buildings in Fresno built entirely of brick, which was once a common construction method and material. It is all that remains of the brewery, one of the first large industries in the city.

The Fresno Brewing Company was part of the major growth of Fresno at the turn of the 20th century. Its construction was described in the newspaper of 1900 as, "the creation of another great industry for Fresno", providing jobs for over 1,000 people at its peak of production. The brewery was also the first and largest brewery in Fresno supplying beer from Merced to Bakersfield. The six-story brewery was described as a "skyscraper" because of it being one of the largest buildings in Fresno in 1901.

The brewery was founded in 1900 by Ernst Eilert and operated until 1919 when Prohibition went into effect. Changing the name to Eilert Products, production resumed by bottling soft drinks and other beverages. Production of beer resumed in 1933 and continued until the brewery was sold to Grace Bros. of Santa Rosa in 1942.

Ernst Eilert and his son, William J. Eilert, moved to Fresno in 1899 from Humbird, Wisconsin, where Ernst owned and operated another brewery. Trained in European brewing techniques in Germany, Ernst Eilert began producing beer in the same manner in Fresno. After his death in 1902, William J. Eilert and Fred Huntzicker both from Humbird, Wisconsin, continued production using the same technique Ernst Eilert began with.

The brewery was demolished in 1955 after a series of ownerships. All that remains of the original brewery complex is the brick office building, an attached metal storage shed, and an adjacent wood shed. The building is located in an area of commercial and light industrial development and is currently on a City of Fresno road right of way that cuts through the southwest corner of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 0.4 acre

Quadrangle name Fresno, South, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	2	5	2	1	2	0	4	0	6	8	0	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing					

C

Zone			Easting					Northing					

D

Zone			Easting					Northing					

E

Zone			Easting					Northing					

F

Zone			Easting					Northing					

G

Zone			Easting					Northing					

H

Zone			Easting					Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property and building is an L-shaped parcel shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled Assessor's Map, Book 468, Page, County of Fresno, Calif. por. sec. 10 Township, 14 S, RZOE, M.D.B. 8M. The boundaries encompass the historic building and its attached shed, with approximate dimensions as follows: starting at the southwest corner, proceed north 60', then east 269', then south

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries
 98', then west 96', then north 38', then west 173' to point of beginning.

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Supple

organization N/A date March 15, 1983

street & number 337 N. Yosemite telephone (209) 264-5413

city or town Fresno state California 93701

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 *Patrick Supple*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/18/83

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I hereby certify that

John A. ...
 Keeper of the National

Attest:

Chief of

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

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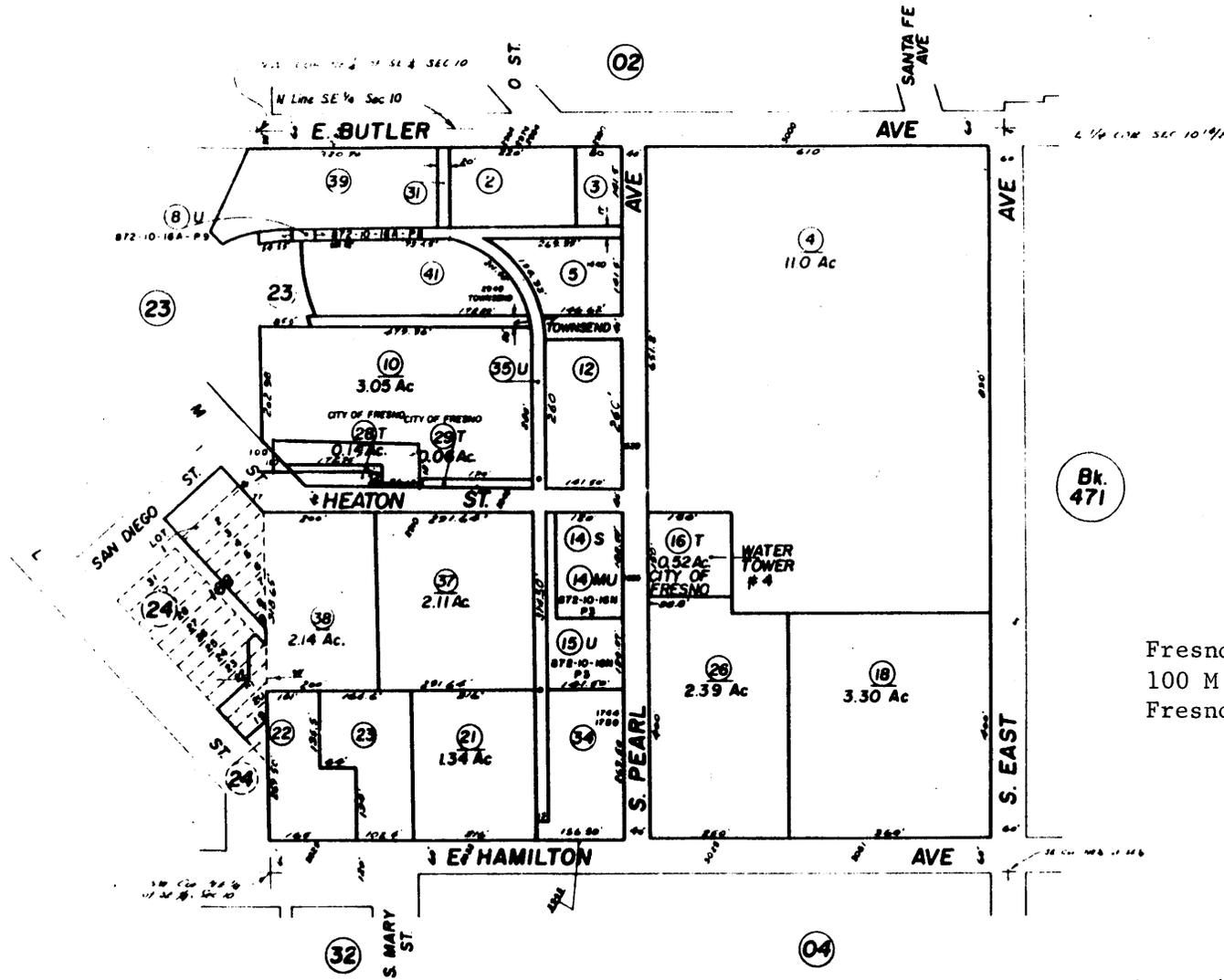
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REFERENCE LIST

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Bk. 471

Fresno Brewing Company
100 M Street
Fresno, Fresno County, California

Assessor's Map Bk 468-Pg 03

County of Fresno, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles



1" = 200'

