

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 Auburn Masonic Temple

other names/site number Masonic Hall

DRAFT

2. Location

street & number 948 Lincoln Way

not for publication

city or town Auburn

vicinity

state CA code CA county Placer code 061 zip code 95603

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

Date

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
Government

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal

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

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.)

- Social-meeting hall
- Commerce (bottom story)
-
-
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Social – meeting hall
- Commerce (bottom story)
-
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: concrete
- walls: brick
-
- 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 Masonic Hall is a two story brick building of Beaux Arts style, with a terra cotta primary façade on the south elevation. Five arched windows separated by double Corinthian pilasters adorn the upper two stories. The bottom story houses multiple store fronts. The lower story houses businesses while the upper story house the hall, meeting rooms, anti rooms, banquet room, and kitchen. The building fronts onto Lincoln Way on Central Square business district in Auburn.

Narrative Description

The building's terra cotta façade is two stories, with the lower containing retail storefronts and the upper stories the meeting hall kitchen, banquet hall and other rooms. At the building's left end, the second floor stairway entrance consists of a vestibule opening framed by two lesser Doric pilasters and a denticulated entablature with the words "MASONIC TEMPLE" inscribed in the frieze. Above this is a glazed semi-circular arch with pellet ornaments in the spandrels. This entrance is framed by two Doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature which spans the façade and rests on a single Doric pilaster with double bronze framed glass doors. The upper story is ornamented with six accouplements of Corinthian pilasters forming five bays, each containing a window opening formed by a compound semi-circle arch, resting on imposts, with the sill descending to the plinth line. Each window is divided vertically by two mullions in a Diocletian motif and horizontally at the impost line by a heavy chord member and a transom bar below that. The fluted shafts of the pilasters and their Corinthian capitals carry an entablature with a denticulated cornice with modillions supporting a corona and boldly projecting cymatium. The cornice is crowned by an unadorned attic containing six pedestals positioned above the coupled pilasters.

The bottom story was faced with stacked, slender terra cotta bricks below the large plate glass windows during a remodel in the mid-1950s. In old photos it appears that it may have been concrete or stucco below the plate glass windows. The original metal awning was replaced during the 1950s with a canvas look awning that spans the entire storefront area of the building. An original store door on the bottom west end was taken out prior to the 1930s and replaced with a plate glass window that matches the rest of the windows. The remaining two store doors have been replaced with glass framed with aluminum doors. The building has been well maintained through the years and is in excellent condition. The building retains 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

Social History

Period of Significance

1914-60

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Fellows, Allen D., 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)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the upper story and terra cotta façade applied to the building in 1914, and ends in 1960 after a remodel of the first-floor façade for a new tenant and following the renovations made in preparation for the 1960 Winter Olympics.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Masonic Hall building, built in 1914-15, is an outstanding example of the Beaux Arts Commercial style popular from 1885 to 1920. It meets National Register Criterion A within the context established by the the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California MPS. The building also meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of Beaux Arts style in the city of Auburn and as the final work of local architect Allen D. Fellows.

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

Criterion A: Community Organizations

Although there were Masons in Placer County as early as 1849, the Eureka Lodge in Auburn was not organized until November of 1851. The first hall was constructed on Maple Street on the current courthouse grounds. In the 1870s they moved to the upper floor of a store on Commercial Street now owned and occupied by the Native Sons of the Golden West. 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. The Masonic Hall 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.

In October 1913 the lodge purchased the eighty foot by eighty foot stores of William G. Lee and the Birdsall Shoe Company. William G. Lee was a department store that went bankrupt in 1937. That year, J.C. Penney opened a store in the Lee portion of the building. The Masons celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary in the building in 1941 during the celebration they burned the mortgage on the building. In the early 1950s Penney's moved out and Pacific Bell Telephone used the bottom story for their offices. At that time terra cotta stacked bricks were added to the lower three feet of the building. This was during the period of updating and sprucing up the town prior to the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley.

Criterion C: Beaux Arts Architecture by Master Architect Allen D. Fellows

The Masonic Hall, with the fine façade of terra cotta manufactured by the Gladding, McBean Company of Lincoln, California, creates what appears to be singularly built structure but it is in fact the result of a 1914 remodeling to an existing one story block of department stores which were built less than ten years earlier and a portion of which remains to the east of the building. In its design, the Masonic Hall exemplifies the kind of civic pride that produced the fine club buildings in this city. The architect's use of the Beaux Arts style projects a powerful expression of prestige, confidence and permanence—all highly desirable attributes for any social organization. The fine edifice represents in a more personal way the highest achievement of Allen D. Fellows who, as a local architect using locally produced materials and assisted by local craftsmen, created in this his final work a landmark that declared to citizens and to travelers along the Lincoln Highway alike the rising prominence of the city of Auburn. Fellows also designed the Auburn Library and the Lincoln Carnegie Library in Lincoln, California, a National Register listed property.

The building retains all of its original architectural elements of design with the exception of the bottom floor department store that was remodeled in the mid-1950s, when the Bell Telephone Company occupied the bottom floor. A slender terra cotta stacked brick façade was placed on the bottom two feet of the building, the door configuration was changed and the awning was changed at the same time. The setting and location remain unchanged. Lincoln Way was paved in front shortly after the building was completed. It is an excellent example of Beaux Arts design by Allen D. Fellows and retains integrity.

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

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>667370</u>	<u>4307150</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel number 002-145-14, City of Auburn, Placer County

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the city lot where the building and parking lot are located.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer/Historianorganization City of Auburndate 12.4.09street & number 12190 Holly Vista Waytelephone 530-885-7476city or town Auburnstate CAzip code 95603e-mail carmphil@sbcglobal.net**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: Masonic Hall**City or Vicinity:** Auburn**County:** Placer**State:** CA**Photographer:** Carmel Barry-Schweyer**Date Photographed:** 12.09.09**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

CA_Placer_Auburn Masonic Hall_0001.tif, south elevation, camera facing northeast.

CA_Placer_Auburn Masonic Hall_0002.tif, south elevation, camera facing northeast

Property Owner:

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

name Masonic Hall Association Auburnstreet & number 956 Lincoln Waytelephone 530-885-7804city or town Auburnstate CAzip 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Auburn Masonic Hall
Name of Property
Placer, CA
County and State
Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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Figure Log

Figure 1: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, 1916

Figure 2: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, circa 1945



Figure 1: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, 1916



Figure 2: Historic photo of Masonic Hall, circa 1945