

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 City Hall and Fire House

other names/site number Boys and Girls Club Auburn



2. Location

street & number 1103 High Street

not for publication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

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

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn,
California

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government-City Hall-Fire House

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce-business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement-Art Deco

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

Built by the WPA in 1935-37, the 88 foot by 110 foot building is located on the corner of High and Lewis Streets fronting on High Street at Central Square in Auburn. The building that housed the City Hall, Fire House and Police Department is an excellent example the Art Moderne style of the Modern Movement in architecture. The horizontal lines, flat roof, stucco wall finish, rounded corners, and bands of windows with metal frames create a distinctive look characteristic of that style.

Narrative Description

The Auburn City Hall and Fire House is located on a city lot on High Street near the corner of Lewis Street. The east and larger side of the building is two stories high while the west end is one and one half stories. The stucco covered building has straight lines with rounded corners. It is divided into three distinct sections, the far east section is set back approximately three feet and has upper and lower story windows; the middle section forms a taller, two and half story tower with windows stretching from the bottom floor up to the top floor on the right, or west, side of the tower with the main entry on the left, or east, side of the tower; and the far west section is a story and half with two garage openings for the fire trucks and entry one door to the east of the garage doors. A curved half wall projects from the west side of the tower portion around to the main entry door. On the east upper story are nine, two light windows with metal frames placed in a row to form a solid line of light. On the bottom story are four, double light, metal framed, recessed windows. The tower has nine, double wide, metal framed windows that extend from the bottom floor to the top floor. The original Art Moderne "Fire House" sign is located over the garage doors.

Alterations include a double door installed in one of the garage doors, a wheel chair ramp, and metal railings in the east landscaped area and in the front of the garage doors. The garage doors have been permanently secured as walls. The "City Hall" sign has been removed. An addition to the back of the building expanded the office area and an addition behind the engine bay for drying hoses was completed in the 1940s.

The interior of the office portion of the building has been extensively remodeled, especially the upper floor. The stairway and reception area appears to be original although the ceiling has been lowered. The engine bay and drying room both have concrete floors; the drying room has concrete block walls.

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

Period of Significance

1935-1960

Significant Dates

1935-37

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sellon, George Clinton /Architect

McCloud, Charles and Ray McLellan contractors
for WPA

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 building served as both City Hall and a Fire House during this period.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Auburn City Hall and Fire House, constructed in 1935-37, meets National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of Streamline Moderne architecture in the city of Auburn and as the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), designed by master architect George Clinton Sellon. Streamline Moderne architectural style emphasized curving forms, long horizontal lines, and reached its height in the mid-1930s. The building is also significant under Criterion A due to its role as Auburn's city hall and firehouse, as a government building under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California MPS.

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

In 1935, during the New Deal of the Roosevelt Administration, the Works Progress Administration provided jobs to unemployed workers and craftsmen during the Great Depression. Nationwide many bridges, dams, sidewalks and other types of construction were completed by the WPA. In conjunction with the City of Auburn, the WPA erected the City Hall and Fire House. Construction began in late 1935. Upon completion of the building in February 1937, the building provided office space for the city officials and staff, the fire and police departments, as well as the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce.

Expansion of local industries such as agriculture, lumber and mining led to increase commercial and residential development in the city of Auburn. The expansion and development of these industries resulted in the need for an official building for the city government to carry on its business. The city offices were located in the basement of the city library and various other buildings in town. A new fire house was needed in central Auburn to replace the two old outdated firehouses. With the WPA program the federal government would pay eighty percent of costs of construction of the new city hall and fire house.

George Clinton Sellon, California's first State Architect, designed Auburn's City Hall-Fire House in 1935. The city told Sellon to "forget all gingerbread" in the design as the voters were to come up with the remaining twenty percent of costs. The Auburn Journal newspaper released a design drawing in August of 1935 and was happy to announce there was no gingerbread on the Art Moderne building. The building with its smooth, rounded stucco walls, flat roof, horizontal placement of the metal framed windows, asymmetrical façade and the Art Deco lettering reflects the Modern Movement.

Sellon held the position of State Architect from 1906 until 1909 when he formed his own firm. Born in San Francisco February 9, 1881, he went to grammar school in Sacramento and graduated from Chicago High School in 1900. In 1894 his father was transferred from Sacramento to Chicago. In his youth he displayed an interest in buildings and their designs. He drew designs of his own and began working in an architect's office in Chicago. By 1904 he had his own firm in Chicago. In 1906 worked in San Francisco briefly then took the position in Sacramento. Sellon designed many public and private buildings throughout Northern California. His projects included San Quentin Prison, the California Almond Exchange, twelve county courthouses in California, Colusa High School, Lassen County Courthouse (previous two listed on the National Register of Historic Places) and Agnew State Hospital which has a street bearing his name on the campus. His firm continues today as the Lionakis Design Group in Sacramento.

The City Hall and Fire House has been enlarged in the back of the building in late 1940s or early 1950s. The original façade remains intact. The Auburn City Hall and Fire House is in very good condition and retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building qualifies for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A as a response to the need for public institutions and its association with the WPA under the New Deal. It qualifies under Criterion C as an example of WPA Moderne of architecture, designed by master architect George C. Sellon.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

By the early 1890s Auburn was home to two fire companies, one in Old Town Auburn and one in uptown Auburn. After the turn of the century a third fire house was constructed in Central Square, the midway point between the two fire houses. Construction began in spring of 1909 and the house when completed would be used by both of the fire companies. The community endorsed the new fire house as "the insurance people have promised Auburn property holders a reduction in fire insurance as soon as the building is completed, with cart and hose," the *Placer Herald* reported. By the 1930s the fire house was outdated and too small for the new fire trucks.

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.

Auburn Journal newspaper, Auburn, California

Burg, William, "Sacramento's First Skyscraper: Rebirth at 926 J Street." www.midtownmonthly.net/april09/sacramentosfirst.html

Dill Design Group, "Historical and Architectural Evaluation." www.archivesandarchitecture.com.

Gilberg, M.E., Auburn, A California Mining Camp Comes of Age. Gilmar Press: Newcastle, California, 1986.

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

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 newspaper. Auburn, 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>667420</u>	<u>4307070</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 002-201-13, Auburn, Placer County CA

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the existing city lot on which the building was constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer/Historian

organization _____ date 13 May 2011

street & number 12190 Holly Vista Way telephone 530-885-7476

city or town Auburn state CA zip code 95603

e-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: Auburn City Hall and Fire House

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: Placer

State: CA

Photographer: Carmel Barry-Schweyer

Date Photographed: 12.31.10

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0001.tif: northwest elevation, camera facing southwest
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0002.tif: west elevation camera, facing northwest
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0003.tif: north elevation, camera facing south
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0004.tif: east elevation, camera facing west
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0005.tif: south elevation, camera facing northwest
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0006.tif: interior stairway, camera facing southwest
- CA_Placer_Auburn_City_Hall_Fire_House_0007.tif: staircase window, camera facing southwest

Property Owner:

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

name City of Auburn

street & number 1225 Lincoln Way telephone 530-885-4211

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.