

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 Fire House No. 1



other names/site number Auburn Hose Company No. 1

2. Location

street & number El Dorado Street/Highway 49 and Lincoln Way not for publication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 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.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- 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.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Fire House

Vacant

Irrigation Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian/ Stick and Queen Anne

foundation: concrete

walls: wood

roof: Composition shingles

other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1888, Fire House No. 1 is a rectangular firehouse building with a broad, front-gabled roof that has elements of both Stick and Queen Anne styles of architecture. Elements of Stick architectural style are incorporated into the design of the building are the gabled roof, steeply pitched with side gable, overhanging boxed eaves, and wooden wall cladding interrupted by patterns of horizontal and vertical boards raised from wall surface for interest. Queen Anne elements include patterned shingles, asymmetric design elements, cutaway bay windows, decorative detailing, and decorative corbels along the cornice line, and corner brackets.

Narrative Description

Fire House No. 1 has two stories atop a concrete foundation. On the north elevation is the main entrance to the garage that housed the fire engine. The double carriage doors have paired wooden sash windows in each door and panels above and below each window that are trimmed with decorative molding and highlighted by contrasting red and white paint. On either side of the carriage doors are paired windows with the same panel treatment as the doors. A gabled sunburst adorns the top of the two windows on either side of the doors.

The upper story has two highly ornate, cut away bay windows with balconies and railings at both corners. In the center top story over the garage doors are paired double hung wooden sash windows in front of which is a small balcony supported by brackets. The railings for the balconies have a square pattern of two small squares over one large square with square, chamfered newel posts. White paint with red accents highlights the railings and newel posts.

The roof is a steeply pitched, front-gabled roof, with a large side gable on the east elevation. The north and west gabled ends are decorated with bargeboard and the pedimented box cornices are covered with a band of each: fishscale, octagon and diamond patterned shingles. Windows are both single and paired double hung with plain molding and continuous sills. Brackets under the eaves form the upper extension of the vertical strips that frame the windows. The north and east pediments have boxed cornices with frieze and brackets and shingles in fish scale and picket fence patterns. Jig-saw, or picket fence, pattern trim decorates the roof ridges, along the bottom edge of the balconies, and at the bottom of the cut away window railings. The entire building is painted red with white trim and red accents.

The west elevation has three double hung windows with one light in each sash, in both stories. Double sets of windows are placed in the center of both stories symmetrical with the gabled pediment. Single windows are located at the southeast corner one above the other on each floor. The south elevation has no windows or doors other than a semicircular louvered vent beneath the main gable, and the west elevation has one double hung window on the upper story at the southwest corner and a door at the northwest corner on the ground floor.

The interior bottom floor has a concrete floor and wood panel walls with wainscoting on the east, south, and west walls, and wood panel ceiling. An enclosed stairway to the upper floor is located along the west wall. The upper floor is one large room with redwood, beadboard wainscoting, and four inch fir flooring covered with remnants of linoleum. Five redwood cupboards, one with glass doors, are built into the north side of the room flanking the windows; there are also two built in book cases on the north wall. The windows and cupboards are all trimmed with redwood molding with decorative corner blocks. The wainscoting and trim are painted pale green that has cracked through time.

The exterior of the building is in excellent condition; although the interior has not been maintained through the years the original woodwork is in excellent condition. The upstairs ceiling has some water spots where there roof leaked sometime in the past.

Fire House No. 1 was originally located on the upper end of Lincoln Way near railroad tracks. The building faced north onto Lincoln Way where Lincoln Way makes a turn to the north paralleling the railroad tracks. It was moved in 1973 to approximately 100 ft north on the corner of Lincoln Way and El Dorado Street/Highway 49 by Rust Moving Company of Sacramento. The move took three days due to the side slope of Lincoln Way and relocation of a Western Union cable. At its current location the north elevation with the carriage doors faces El Dorado Street/Highway 49 while the east elevation faces the railroad tracks, the same orientation as it was originally.

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

1888

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Davis, John and Hoffman, Frank--Builders

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 was constructed in 1888.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Fire House No. 1 was moved one block in 1973 to make room for expansion for then Central California Savings and Loan headquarters. The property is nominated for its architectural significance, as its change in location makes the property ineligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

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

Auburn Fire House No. 1 is eligible for National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding example of a non-residential government building with both Stick and Queen Anne elements in the city of Auburn. The property was the first firehouse constructed in Auburn, built in 1888, and remained in use until the 1930s. was later the office of Frederick Birdsall and the Bear River Water and Auburn Water and Mining Company office and headquarters, later purchased by PG&E. The property is eligible under the context established by the Architectural and Historical Resources of Auburn MPS as a government building eligible under Criterion C.

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

Fire House No. 1 meets Criterion C as it displays distinctive characteristics both Stick and Queen Anne Victorian styles of architecture. Elements of Stick architectural style are incorporated into the design of the building are: gabled roof—steeply pitched with cross gable, overhanging eaves, and wooden wall cladding interrupted by patterns of horizontal and vertical boards raised from wall surface for interest. Queen Anne elements include: patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, decorative detailing, and corner brackets.

Although Fire House No. 1 has been moved it retains its architectural values and integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. When compared to historic photographs the only alteration has been a balcony on the east elevation below the windows of the upper floor matching the front balcony has been removed. It was removed sometime prior to the move. The wooden roof shingles have been replaced with asbestos shingles and the wooden floor on the bottom story has been replaced with concrete. In 2004 Placer County Contractors Association volunteered their time to repair and repaint the exterior of the building. Other materials that needed replacement (very little, less than one percent) were replaced in kind under the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines. The building is vacant but sits as a welcoming icon for travelers entering Auburn from south on Highway 49; it is planned to have static displays inside the building.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Auburn Fire House No. 1 is a fine example of community development as it was entirely funded and constructed by the citizenry of the town. As the community shifted from mining town to a stable town supporting a variety of industries public institutions were developed to meet the changing needs of the citizens. The bottom floor of the building was used to house fire apparatus for the first organized city fire company with the top floor housing the office of the Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company, the first large scale water system for agricultural needs in Placer County. The building meets Criterion A due to its importance as both development of the city fire department and water development for growing agricultural needs of the county and expanded the city water system.

In January of 1888 Hose Company No. 1 met and discussed building a two story building with the help of Frederick Birdsall. The fire company would own the first floor and Birdsall the second. The upper floor would house the office of the Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company owned by Birdsall. It was decided that Birdsall would purchase all of the materials and the fire company would furnish the labor with members John Davis and Frank Hoffman in charge of construction. Wood was purchased from the local Towle Brothers Lumber Company. The fire company paid also paid \$10.00 a month until half of the cost of the building was paid. Construction was completed in February of 1888. PG&E continued to use the second floor of the firehouse as an office until a new building was constructed in 1930.

After moving to Auburn, Frederick Birdsall took over the Bear River Ditch Company that had one of the oldest mining ditches in the area, constructed in 1852. He then formed the Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company, enlarged the system, and brought canals down the foothills almost to Loomis for agricultural use. He developed the numerous canals into a large scale irrigation system; the first large scale irrigation system in Placer County. Later he constructed the Auburn water supply system and constructed a reservoir on the hill to retain water. He sold the Bear River and Auburn Water and Mining Company in 1890 to the South Yuba Water Company, later bought by the PG&E Company.

The firehouse remained in use through the 1950s. PG&E owned the land and second floor, and the city owned the first floor. The Boardman Canal flows silently along right under it. In 1958 according Fire Chief, Henry Gietzen, there were 75 active volunteer and 30 reserve firemen. PG&E deeded the building to the city of Auburn in 1964. In 1973 the building was moved approximately 100 feet north. It still is on the top of the hill, with the same orientation, near the railroad tracks and still sits over the canal.

Discussions of organizing a fire department, or hose company, began in 1881 when the citizens formed a temporary organization with several men joining. Seven years later adopted the name of Central Hose Company of Auburn on February 21, 1888 the name was changed to Auburn Hose Company No. 1 with the volunteer firefighters calling themselves "Rattlers." The previous December, the Soliciting Committee had collected \$400.00 to buy a hose cart and 150 feet of hose and some nozzles. In January 1888 the hose cart was ordered with an additional \$100.00 provided by the County Board of Supervisors.

Frederick Birdsall came to California in 1851 and spent his time between Sacramento and Placer County. In his early years he built and owned a narrow gauge railroad between Woodbridge and Calaveras County; ran a store in Paradise on the Foresthill Divide; and operated a reduction mill for silver in Dayton, Nevada. Birdsall planted seventy acres of olive orchard on the hillside over looking the American River canyon that he called Aeolia Heights. There he built his home and olive processing operation.

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 Daily Journal newspaper, Auburn, California.

Auburn Journal newspaper, Auburn, California.

City of Auburn, Board of Trustees Minutes, 1888-1893, City of Auburn.

Coleman, Charles M. P.G.&E. of California. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1952.

Fire Department minutes 1887-1893, City of Auburn.

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 No. _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record No. _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey No. _____

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>667730</u>	<u>4307640</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 002-250-03, Auburn, Placer County, CA

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the city lot where the building is currently located after the 1973 building relocation.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer/Historian

organization _____ date 12 May 2011

street & number 12190 Holly Vista Way telephone 530-885-4211

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 Fire House No. 1

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: County

State: CA

Photographer: Carmel Barry-Schweyer

Date Photographed: 12.09.09

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0001.tif: north elevation, camera facing southwest

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0002.tif: west elevation, camera facing southeast

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0003.tif: east elevation, camera facing west

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0004.tif: southeast corner, camera facing northwest

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0005.tif: north elevation, camera facing south

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0006.tif: 1st floor north wall, camera facing north

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0007.tif: 2nd floor interior north wall

Placer_Auburn Fire House No 1_0008.tif: 2nd floor northeast corner showing cabinetry

Property Owner:

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

name City of Auburn

street & number 1225 Lincoln Way

telephone 530.665.4211

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Auburn Fire House No. 1

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 of 3 Firehouse No 1 with wagon in garage c. 1888

Figure 2 of 3 Firehouse No 1 with firemen cart c. 1888

Figure 3 of 3 Fire House No 1 Charles Tuttle, Capt holding baton c. 1888



Figure 1 of 3 Firehouse No 1 with wagon in garage c. 1888

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Auburn Fire House No. 1

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Figure 2 of 3 Firehouse No 1 with firemen cart c. 1888



Figure 3 of 3 Fire House No 1 Charles Tuttle, Capt holding baton c. 1888