

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. 2

other names/site number Auburn Hose Company No. 2

## 2. Location

street & number Corner of Washington, Main and Commercial Streets  not for publication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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation/Culture-Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Victorian- Shingle

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: wood

roof: Wood shingles

other:

**Narrative Description**

### **Summary Paragraph**

Fire House No. 2 is a Shingle style, two and one half story building located on the corner of Main, Washington, and Commercial streets. The steeply pitched, pyramidal, truncated, red and white striped, shingled roof along with the red painted wood siding with white trim, makes this building unique in the region. The building was moved in 1957 for freeway expansion.

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### **Narrative Description**

Fire House No. 2 is located in what was called the Plaza block between Washington Street and Lincoln Way (Main Street prior to 1913) and on the corner of Commercial Street. The fire house is centrally located in the business district of Old Town Auburn and fronts onto Main Street. This is the original business district of the mining town and the building was surrounded by small businesses.

The square plan building has a concrete foundation, rises up two and one half stories with channeled wood shiplap walls and is the tallest building in Old Town. A six paneled wood door on the southeast corner opens to a stairway to the second floor, and double carriage doors are on the east elevation. The upper portion of the carriage doors has been replaced with Plexiglas so visitors can view the inside of the building and the antique fire engine housed inside. The second story has two asymmetrical four light double hung wood sash windows. The south elevation has no windows, while the west elevation has a one story, lean-to addition of approximately six feet with a shed roof, built prior to 1895, evidently an addition to accommodate more equipment and longer vehicles. The north elevation has two sets of asymmetrical four light double hung wood sash windows; one set on each story.

Flaring at the eaves, a steeply pitched truncated peaked roof rises in white and red alternating banks of straight, octagon and diamond butt shingles. Gabled, dormer windows are located on the half story above the second story with the same shingle treatment. Above these is a platform topped off with the bell tower. A metal pipe railing surrounds the platform. Surmounting the platform, the open timber frame work supporting the bell is crowned by a steeply pitched, flared eave peaked roof with alternating white and red bands of shingles terminating in a flag pole mast.

In December of 1957 California Department of Transportation moved the fire house approximately fifty feet to the other end of the small block on which it was originally located. The orientation of the building was maintained. Two other buildings on the block burned in 1951 leaving room to move the fire house. Highway 40 freeway (later Interstate 80) was to be widened for the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley and the building was located where an off ramp alignment was planned. After the move, some of the shingles were replaced in kind and it was repainted to be made into a static museum for fire apparatus. The museum opened in 1958 and remains in the building today.

The ground floor has four in plank wooden floor, with four 2x12 twelve planks placed two together for the fire engine to sit on. The walls are horizontal six inch boards on the north, south, and east walls as well as the ceiling. The west wall, which is the prior to 1895 addition, has beadboard that is placed horizontally. Electrical wiring in conduits has been added in the northwest corner. Between the two windows on the north wall is a pot-bellied stove. A door in the south wall accesses under the stair storage. Posted on the south wall is the bell system for the city. The stairway to the second floor is behind the south wall and is accessed from the street by the door in the southeast corner on the east elevation. The upper stories were not accessible.

The building is in very good condition. The exterior stairway door and the carriage doors have been replaced with doors with Plexiglas on the upper area to provide public viewing of the interior and the antique engine that is housed there. There are some shingles that need to be replaced and some of the paint is chipping. The city is budgeting for these repairs; shingles will be replaced in kind and the same paint color will be applied. Fire House No. 2 retains integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although the building has been moved, the move was less than fifty feet, the orientation is the same and it is still in a central location of Old Town Auburn, thus the property retains sufficient integrity of setting to remain eligible under Criterion A.

**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**

1891-1960

**Significant Dates**

1891

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**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 an active fire house from 1891 to 1958. In 1958 it became a museum.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

The building was moved approximately 50 feet from one end of the very small block to the other in 1957 due to construction of Interstate 80, but retains original orientation. The building retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and sufficient integrity of site and setting to remain eligible under Criterion A.

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

Auburn Fire House No. 2, constructed in 1891, is historically significant for both its historical association with the community development and its architectural value. It was the only fire house to serve Old Town Auburn through 1957. The property is eligible under Criterion A as a Public Institution under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn, California MPS. The building is also eligible under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a unique Victorian Shingle building. The Fire House has been an iconic symbol of Auburn because of its unusual architecture. The image of this firehouse is included in the City of Auburn logo.

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

**Criterion A: Civic Building, Firehouse**

Auburn Fire House No. 2 is significant in local history as a firehouse in Old Town Auburn that served the community for fifty-four years, from 1891 through 1958. The building housed firefighting apparatus from hand-drawn fire carts to a 1950s fire engine for the volunteer fire department.

Auburn Hose Company No. 2 did not have a firehouse for their equipment, some of it just lay in the street or an old shed. The company and their wives raised money to build a firehouse in Old Town. On July 4, 1891, the City Council voted that the piece of public ground adjoining premises of J.M. White between Main & Washington Streets be granted to Hose Company No.2 for a hose house. A big picnic and celebration was held at the ball park on Race Track Street with all proceeds going to the new building.

On September 18, 1891 Hose Company No.2 ordered the lumber for their new firehouse opposite the Orleans Hotel. The foundation was laid. By October 16, 1891 it was nearly completed and by the end of the month they finished painting it red and white. It was the tallest building in town. The bell committee had purchased the bell that cost about \$150.00. In November the ladies of town held a thanksgiving dinner and ball at the Music Hall where all the food was donated and the proceeds went toward the firehouse. A new 12 foot flag was donated by Harry Hollister and raised for the first time on November 19, 1891. Residents boasted that it was 77½ feet from the ground up to the gilt ball on top of the flag pole and 60 feet up to the peak of the roof. On May 12, 1892, the new 700 lb. bell was raised into the belfry of the new Fire House. The inscription on the bell reads, "Cast in 1886 by W.T. Garratt & Company S.F. Calif." It had a very resounding tone and could be heard for quite a long distance. Previous to this the court house bell was used to ring the fire alarms.

The steeply pitched, pyramidal peaked roof with white and red alternating banks of straight, octagon and diamond shingles, and gabled dormer windows reflect Victorian architecture. The red and white stripped, shingled, pyramidal roof with the flare at the bottom of the roof and belfry on top give the building its unique appearance.

**Criterion C: Shingle Style Architecture**

Fire House No.2 in Old Town was saved by the action of the citizens and in December of 1957 the California Department of Transportation contracted with Acme House Movers of Roseville to move it to the south end of the same block. The community agreed that it be used as a museum. It was repaired and repainted, and has since served as a museum and landmark. After the move a re-dedication ceremony was held complete with a ceremonial champagne christening by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution before a crowd of several hundred people. During the 1960 Winter Olympics the Olympic flag flew from the flagpole on top of the firehouse.

Fire House No. 2 has been sketched, painted, and photographed by more artists and tourists than any other building for miles around, due to its unusual architecture. Although Fire House No. 2 has been moved it retains its orientation, architectural values, and integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

Fire prevention and suppression began in 1851 in the town of Auburn with the establishment of the volunteer fire department and by the turn of the century there would be three volunteer organizations active in the town. The citizenry collected the funds to construct two firehouses in the 1880s and 1890s; one for each end of town. Old Town Auburn citizens met on February 16, 1888 at the Music Hall and organized Auburn Hose Company No. 2. In a few minutes there were 36 names recorded as volunteers and in thirty minutes \$201.00 was collected. Hose Company No. 2 served Old Town Auburn with a fire cart, a pike pole, chain and rope and ladders.

**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 Fire House No. 2

Placer, CA

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.

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

**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 10 666650 4306810  
 Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

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

Parcel 004-012-06, Auburn, Placer County, CA

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the city lot located between Main Street and Washington Street.

**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. 2  
**City or Vicinity:** Auburn  
**County:** Placer **State:** CA  
**Photographer:** Carmel Barry-Schweyer  
**Date Photographed:** 12.09.2009, interior 5.5.2011  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- CA\_Placer\_ Auburn Fire House No. 2\_0001.tif, east elevation, camera facing southwest.
- CA\_Placer\_ Auburn Fire House No. 2\_0002.tif, northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.
- CA\_Placer\_ Auburn Fire House No. 2\_0003.tif, southwest corner, camera facing northeast.
- CA\_Placer\_ Auburn Fire House No. 2\_0004.tif, interior, camera facing west wall.
- CA\_Placer\_ Auburn Fire House No. 2\_0005.tif, interior, camera facing south wall.

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Figure Log:

Figure 1 of 4 Historic Fire House No 2 c 1896

Figure 2 of 4 Historic Fire House No 2 c. 1940

Figure 3 of 4 Historic Fire House No. 2 c.1954

Figure 4 of 4 Historic Fire House No. 2 c 1960



Figure 1 of 4 Historic Fire House No 2 c 1896



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Figure 2 of 4 Historic Fire House No 2 c. 1940

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Figure 3 of 4 Historic Fire House No. 2 c.1954

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Figure 4 of 4 Historic Fire House No. 2 c 1980