

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 Public Library

other names/site number Old Auburn Library

2. Location

street & number 175 Almond Street not for publication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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education _____

Government _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation/Culture _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals _____

Classical Revival _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete _____

walls: Brick covered with concrete _____

roof: _____

other: _____

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Auburn Public Library building completed in 1909 was designed in the Classical Revival style. Local architect Allen D. Fellows incorporated simplicity of form and lines and a full height entry porch with two Doric columns and square pilasters that support the entablature for the Classic look. It is located at the top of the hill in the "Almond Heights" district on Almond Street. The location near the top of the hill adds prominence to this two story brick and masonry Carnegie Library.

Narrative Description

The Classical Revival style Auburn Public Library building is located on the top of the hill on Almond Street in a residential neighborhood known originally as Almond Heights. The slope of the hill descends sharply behind the building so that the basement is almost grade level on the west elevation and is grade level in the rear, or north elevation. The plinth course runs approximately five feet above the ground on the east (uphill) elevation, while on the west elevation (downhill) the plinth course is approximately seven feet above the ground level.

The building is a two story, brick and concrete, symmetrical structure with a flat roof. A cornice with wide trim and dentils below continues around the structure approximately two feet below the roofline. Below the dentils four rows of bricks projected at varying depths appear to rest on the stylized Tuscan capitals of the corner pilasters.

The main entrance in the center and entrance to the basement level (in the southwest corner) are on the south elevation which faces Almond Street. The main floor entrance, on the second level, is reached by eight concrete steps to a landing and a doorway inside the full height pedimented portico entry. The portico is framed with two large pilasters that extend from the plinth course to the roof with two Doric columns between the pilasters and the door. The architrave and frieze depths are exaggerated. Dentils adorn the pediment and frieze. On the frieze are the words "Auburn Public Library" in raised letters. Above the door and below a cornice held by brackets are the words "Free To All" in the same raised letter style. An aluminum framed glass door and transom light has replaced the original wood paired doors and transom at the front entrance. Single light, double hung, wood framed windows flank the portico, with concrete lintel above and concrete projecting sill below. Brick pilasters define all four corners of the building.

The lower level is accessed by an aluminum framed glass door on the west side of the south elevation of the building directly under the window of the upper story. Under the window on the east side of the building below the plinth is a wood framed casement window with six lights, half the size of the upper window.

Paint analysis in 1999 revealed the original colors, and the exterior of the building was repainted in its original pale gray-pink with white trim. Original concrete walkways to the main door and the lower level door and concrete coping for landscaping remain in place.

The east elevation contains six wood framed, double hung windows on the upper story and six casement windows directly below the upper windows are at ground level. The upper windows are single lights while the lower windows have eight lights. A concrete driveway for the neighboring house runs along the east elevation.

The windows on the west elevation repeat the fenestration of the east elevation with the exception of the lower windows that are wood framed, double hung with eight lights. The north elevation upper level contains four, wood framed, single light windows. The two center windows are approximately six inches narrower than the rest of the windows in the building. This is to accommodate the room that was used for the librarian's office. The two outer windows are the same materials and size as the rest of the upper level windows. The lower level contains a double aluminum framed glass door in the center below the two center windows on the upper level, and two casement wood framed windows with eight lights on either side directly below the upper windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Building Interior

On the south elevation the front door opens to a landing approximately four feet by seven feet that is tiled with 6 inch terra cotta tiles. Five carpeted stairs lead up to another landing and a pair of doors that provide entry to the main library room. The stairway is lined with beadboard wainscoting trimmed with six inch molding both along the top and bottom. The woodwork is painted white. The walls are painted the same grey-pink as the exterior. The double entry swinging doors are wood framed with one light and two horizontal panels each, and are painted white.

The entry projects into the center of main floor approximately ten feet. On either side of the entry are two square Doric pilasters. Four square Doric columns form a ten foot square in the center of the main room. Opposite from the entry and three feet beyond the columns is the librarian's office. The doorway is flanked by two Doric pilasters. The four pilasters and four columns support exposed beams trimmed with crown molding that run the length and width of the room. The ceiling is at least twelve feet high. All of the wooden trim is painted white and the walls are grey-pink on this level.

The main library room encompasses the majority of the upstairs of the building. The room is carpeted over the original wood floors. Six inch baseboard trim and fourteen inch crown molding is throughout the interior. The windows have six inch divided band trim with crown molding.

The librarian's office is entered through a door directly across from the main entrance. A four light, frosted glass, wood framed window approximately six foot high by three foot wide is next to the doorway. A wood framed, frosted glass, transom is above the doorway. Inside the office are two windows opposite the door that look out to the north and into the back yard. The walls adjacent to the doors and windows each have built in book cases with crown molding that matches the crown molding in the main room.

To the left of the librarian's office, in the northwest corner, is a doorway that leads to the bathroom and the stairs to the basement level. Beadboard panels the walls in the small hall, a portion of the bathroom and part of the stairwell. The bathroom has the original porcelain corner sink. The original porcelain drinking fountain is attached to the Doric column closest to the bathroom in the main room of the library.

The basement has a concrete floor, is divided into two main rooms that can be separated into two rooms by double pocket doors, with two small rooms in the southeast corner, and a bathroom, stairway, and room for water heater and heating unit along the north wall. The walls are drywall and the wood framed windows have six inch trim around with crown molding on top.

Changes during the renovation in 1998 are minimal. The original wood framed doors have been replaced with aluminum framed glass doors. A new heating unit was installed and is housed in the basement. Track lights have replaced the original light fixtures on the main level and fluorescent lighting was installed in the basement level. Due to the minimal changes the Auburn Public Library 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 _____

Education _____

Period of Significance

1909-1968 _____

Significant Dates

1909 _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Fellows, Allen D _____

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Allen D. Fellows _____

Dorrow and Chester (contractors) _____

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 of 1909-1968 encompasses the year of construction, the years during which the building served as a city library, and the years during which the building served as the administrative office of the Placer County library system.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Auburn Public Library was a city library from 1909 to 1968, and the basement of the building served as the first location of the Placer County Library System had its headquarters in the basement along with the county library that served patrons living outside the city limits of Auburn from 1937 until 1968 when Auburn and the Placer County Library in Auburn combined and moved to Shepard Square on High Street. The building's role as Auburn's sole city library and original administration building for the county library system makes this property unusually significant, thus addressing the requirements of Criteria Consideration G.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The building is significant under Criterion A in that it is significant to the history of Auburn as its original city-owned library from 1909 to 1968, and headquarters of the first Placer County library system from 1937 to 1968. The Auburn Public Library is nominated under the Architectural and Historic Resources of Auburn MPS, under the context of Community Development of Auburn, 1865-1929. The Old Auburn Library building, built in 1909, is an excellent example of Classical Revival style, common in California Carnegie libraries constructed from 1902 to 1915. The building meets National Register Criterion A due to its role as city library from 1909-1968 and headquarters of the county library system from 1937 to 1968, satisfying Criteria Consideration G due to its importance and relevance to the development of Placer County's library system. The building meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of Classical Revival style in the city of Auburn, designed by Auburn-based architect Allen D. Fellows.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Auburn Public (Carnegie) Library building is significant in local history as it served the City of Auburn as its library for 59 years, from 1909 until 1968. The building also housed the City of Auburn offices for 19 years. Since 1968 the Auburn Public Library building has served the local community as offices and meeting places for various organizations. Architecturally, the building is one of only a few examples of Classical Revival style in the City of Auburn.

Carnegie library buildings are important in the respective communities for the association with library development in California during the years 1849-1921. The buildings also reflect the popular styles of the time and because they exemplify a particular and specialized building type. Stimulated by Andrew Carnegie's library philanthropy, Carnegie libraries were to be found in approximately eighty-four percent of California communities by 1921. Library buildings were constructed to provide a permanent home for the community's existing or anticipated library and that home was seen as a civic structure, a demonstration of the community's intellectual and cultural status and of its prosperity.

The earliest recorded library in Auburn with public access was in the Odd Fellow's Hall. Auburn is among the several mountain communities to benefit from the establishment of Odd Fellow's libraries in the 1860s. The Auburn Odd Fellows library had 100 books and \$100 in the library fund. "This Association is not confined exclusively to the members of the order, but will be accessible to all persons on liberal terms. At present in the Odd Fellow's Hall," the *Placer Herald* reported.

In the 1880s the Ladies Library Association was formed. They compiled and printed the popular "Little Gem Cook Book" in 1888 as a fundraiser for a library. It was the Ladies Library Association, also known as the Endeavor Club of the Congregational Church that brought the public library to reality. The Crescent Club, an athletic group for men, also contributed their books. By 1888 they had gathered over 200 books. The first location for the library is believed to be in the old Congregational Church located in Central Square. The library existed in a succession of housings even after it came under the auspices of the city in 1906.

Carnegie funding was sought in 1907 and a \$10,000 grant was received. By this time there was so much enthusiasm that twenty-two lots in the city were offered and considered. A lot was purchased for \$400 from W.B. Lardner on Almond Street after considerable debate regarding location.

Allen D. Fellows, local architect from Auburn, who also designed the Lincoln, California, library at about the same time was selected as architect. Auburn Public Library was dedicated May 26, 1909, although the basement was not completed for a number of years. The first librarian, Georganne Willits, was paid \$25.00 a month and given \$30.00 per month to buy books.

Mrs. Kelly Dunlap Robinson, a member of the City Library Board, in her speech to the Colfax Ladies' Aid Society on April 6, 1936, began the campaign to establish a free county library. On May 6, 1936 the Board of Supervisors unanimously

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

approved the creation of a county library. Placer County was the 47th of fifty-eight counties to establish a county library system.

In 1937, the Placer County Library System was established and moved into the City Library's basement on April 8, 1937, when the City of Auburn offices moved into the new City Hall. Citizens of the county were not allowed upstairs in the city library

Mrs. Faye K. Russell began as County Librarian in January of 1937. Mrs. Mazie Harris Huntley was appointed assistant county librarian and cataloguer. By April each of the five supervisorial districts had a library with one hundred books each. Colfax, Foresthill, Loomis, Sheridan and Auburn (for residents outside the city limits) each had a branch. By June of 1938 Newcastle, Dutch Flat, Tahoe City, Penryn, and Applegate had branches. Branches were added in Alta, Gold Hill and Thermalands in 1939. More branches followed: Kings Beach, 1941; Rocklin, 1943; and Big Bend and Eden Valley, 1949. In June 1938 the total books purchased equaled 4,706.

Mrs. Portia Moss, County Superintendent of Schools, began a program for local school boards to contract with the library system for services. The money would come from the book fund. Thirty-two elementary schools participated in the program by 1940.

During World War II the Supervisors considered merging the city and county libraries but did not act on it. The merger would take place in the 1968 when both libraries moved to Shepard Square on High Street, then to DeWitt Center, and finally in 1973 moved into the new facility on Nevada Street. The Auburn Public Library building on Almond Street served as a library for 59 years. The City of Auburn retained ownership of the library building.

Numerous organizations have used the upper and lower floors of the Auburn Public Library since the library left in 1968. The building continues in its community use currently as the location of the Auburn Arts Center, office use of the Placer County Historical Society, Placer County Genealogical Society and as the Auburn Senior citizens meeting place.

In 1983 the Arts Council of Placer County, formerly known as Artcetera, occupied the building and developed the Auburn Arts Center. There, many exhibitions and programs in visual and performing arts were enjoyed by the public until 1997, when the Arts Council of Placer County, now known as PlacerArts, relocated its office to downtown Auburn.

Through a grant from the Auburn Foundation and matched by the City of Auburn, renovation of the historic building began in 1998. Initial renovation projects were completed and the building was readied for a new life as the Old Library Art Studio (OLAS). At the turn of the millennium, the beautiful old library building was designated as a historic landmark. A re-dedication ceremony was held on May 26, 2001. There are currently seven artists in residence at OLAS. The Placer County Historical Society and the Placer County Genealogical Society continue to use rooms on the lower level.

The Auburn Public Library is significant to the local community as one of only a few examples of Classical Revival architecture in the City of Auburn. Gabled or low pitched roof, cornice lines emphasized by wide, divided band trim, full height entry porch with Doric columns supporting the entablature are elements of Classical Revival style. The Auburn Public Library reflects all of these with the exception of the gabled roof, however the pediment above the entry gives that appearance.

Allen Douglas Fellows, born July of 1863 in Van Buren County, Iowa, graduated from South of Iowa Normal School. By January of 1890 he was living in Auburn, California and married Beatrice McMurry in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Auburn. In 1892 he was listed as a carpenter in the Great Register of Voters for Placer County and as a builder in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

1900 U.S. Census. In 1901 he designed the Placer County Hospital and was a partner in the firm of Linniger and Fellows, contractors in the city of Auburn. Fellows was named architect for the J. F. Hink building on Lincoln Way in uptown Auburn in 1905; the building currently holds retail stores and restaurants and is now known as the Hink Block. In 1908 he won the bid for the Auburn Library with Darrow and Chester of Roseville as contactors. 1909 found him designing the Carnegie Library for the city of Lincoln where he used terra cotta, pressed brick and tile roofing from Gladding McBean and Company of Lincoln.

He designed and built many homes in Auburn including a house for Arthur Green on the corner of Finley and Orange Streets in Auburn in 1910. Fellows designed the new Masonic Hall for the Auburn lodge in 1914. The Masonic Hall is considered his highest achievement. He used locally produced materials and local craftsmen for the project. In 1916 he was confined in a hospital in Los Angeles for several months and by 1917 he was back in Auburn where he designed the Mt. Pleasant Hall in Lincoln. In the fall of 1917 he taught manual arts at Placer High School and Sierra College in Auburn. He was being treated at Lane Hospital in San Francisco in August of 1918 where he was expected to undergo an operation. His wife and Dr Rooney, local Auburn doctor, were with him during his stay in San Francisco. He died in November 1918 at the age of fifty-five.

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.

Auburn Journal newspapers. Auburn California

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

"Great Register of Voters Placer County, 1900", Placer County Archives.

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 County Directory, 1861, Placer Herald Press.

Placer Herald newspapers. Auburn, California.

Placer Weekly Argus newspapers. 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Auburn Public Library Placer, CA
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <u>10</u> | <u>667275</u> | <u>4307230</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 02-144-04, city lot #175 on Almond Street as shown on city map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The city lot on Almond Street includes the entire parcel historically associated with Auburn Public Library.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carmel Barry-Schweyer/ Historian
organization _____ date 12.4.09
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.

Name of Property: Auburn Public Library

City or Vicinity: Auburn

County: Placer

State: CA

Photographer: Carmel Barry-Schweyer

Date Photographed: 10.09.10

Auburn Library

Placer, CA

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, south elevation
- 2 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, southwest elevation
- 3 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, south elevation
- 4 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, east elevation
- 5 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, north elevation
- 6 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, north elevation
- 7 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, main entrance stairway from the interior
- 8 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, main level interior
- 9 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, interior entrance doors, main level
- 10 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, interior column detail
- 11 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, librarian office doorway
- 12 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, main level window detail
- 13 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, drinking fountain, main level
- 14 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, restroom, main level
- 15 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, stairway to basement level
- 16 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, smaller section of basement
- 17 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, larger section of basement
- 18 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, main level interior
- 19 of 19. CA, Placer County, Auburn Library, sliding pocket door between sections of basement

Property Owner:

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

name Bob Richardson, City Manager, 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.

Auburn Public Library
Name of Property

Placer, California
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 11

Auburn Public Library
Name of Property

Placer, CA
County and State

Auburn Public Library c1912, south elevation, camera facing northeast.

Auburn Public Library c 1910, south elevation, camera facing northwest.

Auburn Public Library c1910, south elevation, camera facing northwest.