



L A N D M A R K S
P R E S E R V A T I O N
C O M M I S S I O N

S T A F F R E P O R T

FOR COMMISSION ACTION
APRIL 7, 2022

2113 Kittredge Street – California Theater

Landmark application #LMIN2022-0001 for the consideration of City Landmark or Structure of Merit designation status for a theater completed in 1914 – APN 057-2020-009-00

I. Application Basics

- A. Land Use Designations:** Commercial Downtown (CD-MU) Zoning District
- B. CEQA Determination:** Categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061.(b)(3) for Review Exemptions.
- C. Parties Involved**
- **Initiated by:** Verified Application of 140 Berkeley residents
 - **Application Author:** Art Deco Society of California
P.O. Box 5539
Berkeley, CA
 - **Property Owner:** Mary J Ferroggiaro & Addington L. Wise, Jr.
3434 Tice Creek Drive, #2
Walnut Creek, CA
- D. Staff Recommendation:** Resume and conclude the hearing; consider favorable action on this request for local designation.

Figure 1: Vicinity Map – highlighting nearby City Landmarks and Structures of Merit

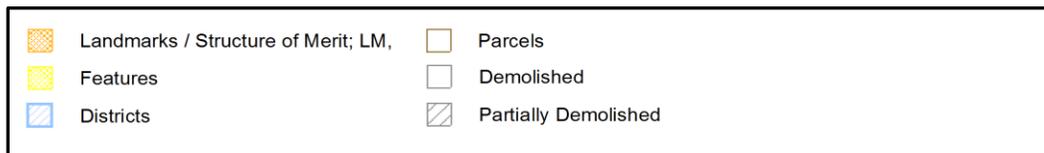
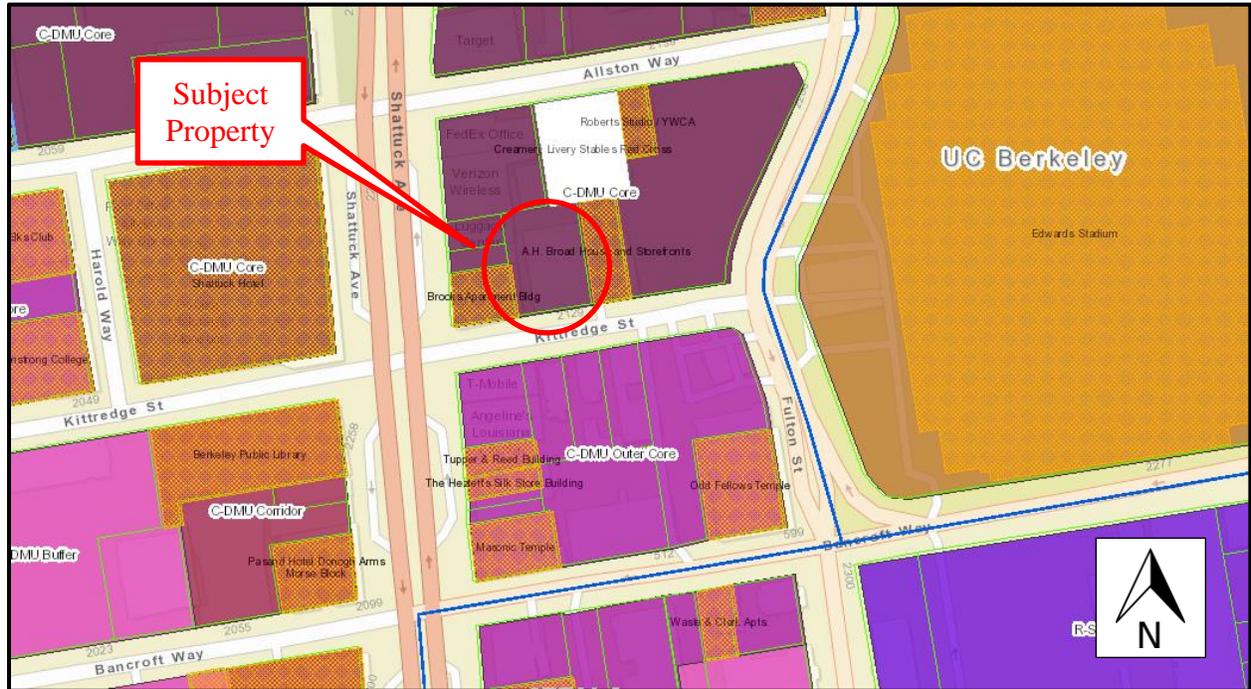


Figure 2: Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context & Survey Study Area Map

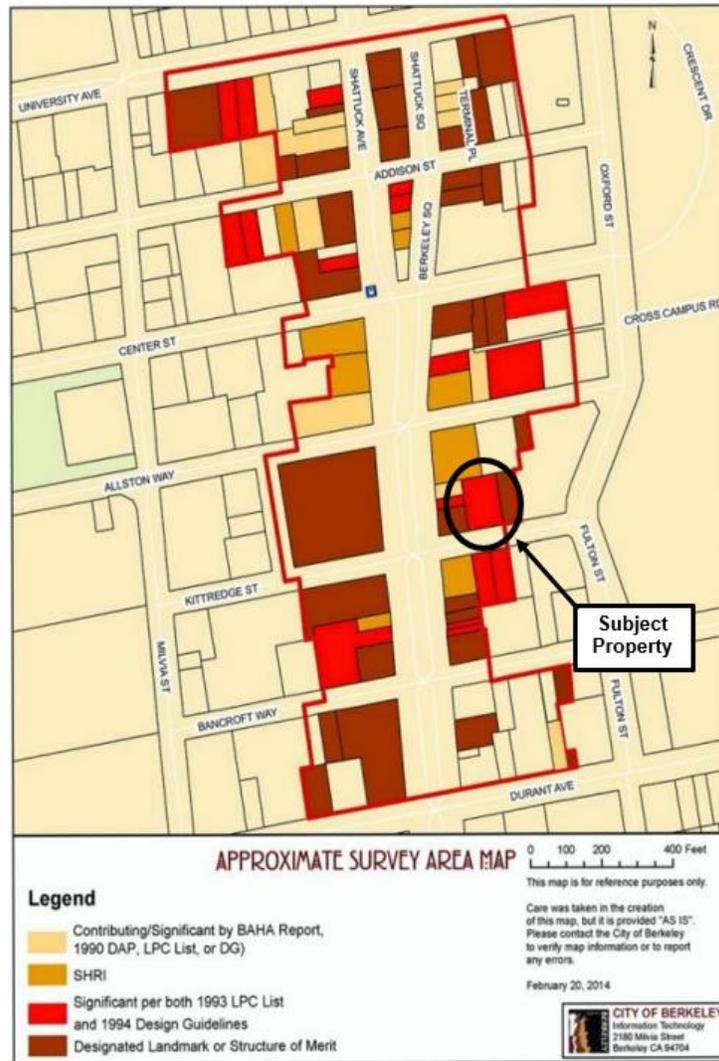


Figure 3: Subject Building -- Existing Site Conditions (Anthony Bruce, 2021)



Figure 4: Subject Building -- Entrance & Box Office, 2015 (Archives & Architecture)



Figure 5: Subject Building circa 1930 (Berkeley Historical Society)



II. Application Chronology

On January 11, 2022, the City received a Landmark or Structure of Merit application petition for the subject property that was accompanied by the requisite Landmark application and the signatures of 140 Berkeley residents. In accordance with Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Section 3.24.120, this petition and application have initiated consideration of this property for designation status. Copies of the petition and application are provided as Attachments 2 and 3 to this report.

On January 18, 2022, staff sent a letter to the property owners informing them of the initiation and pending public hearing. On March 28, 2022, staff mailed and posted public notices for the Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing that occurred on April 7, 2022. At that meeting, the Commission opened the hearing on the matter and heard comments from members of the public and relatives of the property owners. The Commission then continued the hearing without discussion to May 5, 2022, in order to grant staff additional time to prepare a recommendation for final action.

The Commission will resume the hearing tonight, receive presentations from staff and the nominator, and then will consider final action on this designation request.

Since January 2022, the City has received more than 20 letters in support of this request; see Attachment 5 of this report.

III. Historical Resource Status

The subject building is not included in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources but was found eligible for listing.

In 2015, the City's historical resources survey of the immediate area concluded that the subject building is located in a potential Historic District and serves as an important Contributor to the district owing to its distinctive design and historical associations; see Attachment 4 and Figure 2, above.

Nearby City Landmarks include: Roberts Studio/YWCA at 2134 Allston Way (1930); A. H. Broad House & Storefronts at 2117 Kittredge Street (1894); Brooks Apartment Building at 2231 Shattuck Avenue (1906); Hezlett's Silk Store at 2277 Shattuck Avenue (1925); Tupper & Reed Building at 2271 (1925); Odd Fellows Hall at 2288 Fulton Street (1926); and Berkeley Public Library at 2090 Kittredge Street (1930). Some of these structures are highlighted in Figure 1, above.

IV. Property Description

Building Description. The City's 2015 CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR) Form A includes the following description of the subject building: *The symmetrical front façade features a tripartite stucco-clad design. A central composition of vertical piers and stepped parapet walls is flanked by a pair of outer wall planes. Each outer wall is punctuated by a narrow central niche. The outer walls include a tall base topped by a wide sill band with speed-stripe bas-relief, an angled fluted upper band, and a unique Art Deco coping that includes subtle oval scalloping and triangular teeth. The center architectural bay features five vertical stripes that step out from the wall. Between each stripe is a high plaster bas-relief of a stylized sunrise and scrolls. Accenting the bas-relief elements are projecting rectangular corbels with zig-zag faces. The materials and elements are all commensurate with a 1930 WPA-era Art Deco design.*

The marquee is notably a mid-century replacement. It centers around a neon element that curves like a wing or a lyre. The symmetrical projecting prow-shaped form includes neon representations of the "California" name and changeable sign lettering bands. Centered under the marquee, in the recessed entry area, is a blocky and angular, almost brutalist, stucco-and-glass box office. The ceiling of the recessed entrance, in contrast, is more highly ornamented with a fanned-out array of massive,

stylized tropical leaves typical of mid-century design fashion. The exterior of the building is brick.

A full seismic retrofit project in 2001 altered the exterior sides and rear of the building with full-height exposed steel bracing in vertical, horizontal and diagonal members.

Character-defining features include: blocky overall massing; stepped-parapet front wall; brick wall structure; recessed entrance; symmetrical, tripartite front façade; stucco front façade; tall outer architectural bays including: tall bases topped by a wide belly band, narrow and tall central niches, angled fluted upper string course, and unique Art Deco coping; central architectural bay with vertical piers, plaster bas-relief ornaments, and projecting rectangular corbels; neon marquee; decorative leaf-patterned ceiling. The blocky and angular, almost brutalist, stucco-and-glass box office is likely original to the 1950s remodeling; however, neither its form nor its materials relate strongly to the remainder of the building's design. The possible, but not necessarily likely, alterations include the poster displays cases and the aluminum entrance doors.

The historic elements of the building appear in excellent condition (Attachment 3, page 6).

Further information, detailed inventory of the building features, and photographs are available in Attachment 2, the Landmark application prepared by the Art Deco Society of California.

Brief Property History. The City's DPR Form B includes the following historical information about the subject property, re-organized below for efficiency:

Prior to 1913, a house and a large shed existed on the project site. The theater building, popularly known locally as the California or Cal Theater, was constructed in 1914 under City building permit #3418 as the Turner & Dahnken (T&D) Theatre, showcasing both live theatre and films. The original building was designed by architect Albert W. Cornelius in the Greek Style and constructed by local contractors Kidder & McCullough and F.W. Foss. The founders of T&D were J.T. Turner and Frederick Dahnken. Together, they operated one of the largest independently owned chains of picture playhouses in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The T&D Theatre was renamed the "California" likely by the beginning of October 1923. Shortly after West Coast Theaters Inc. of Southern California acquired the subject property in 1928, the firm merged with Fox Theaters, the studio founded by William Fox. The merger resulted in Fox West Theater chain and the subject building underwent a renovation designed by the Los Angeles-based group Balch & Stanbery.

In 1933, National Theater Corporation acquired the property, and an extensive "Skouras Style" remodeling occurred, at which time the City's consultants speculate that the extant marquee was likely installed. This term refers to theaters that Charles Skouras remodeled at relatively low-cost to imitate the grander decorative styles of the

era. Designer Carl G. Moeller was employed to remake theaters with a character that reflects a transition from Art Deco to Streamline Moderne. The buildings done in this style are characterized by the use of aluminum sheet metal used in three-dimensional hand-tinted and etched scrolls applied to walls and facades.

Some of the design professionals associated with the initial construction and 1930s renovation of the subject building are described below.

Albert W. Cornelius, architect: The 1914 T&D theater design was the work of Cornelius, a San Francisco-based practitioner. His work included residential projects though he was known for his theater designs, some featured in an article in *Architect and Engineer* entitled, "Development of the Moving Picture Theater (1915)." He worked with architect John Conant frequently during this time, and likely trained under him.

Clifford A. Balch (1889-1894), architect, and Floyd Edgar Stanbery (1892-1949), engineer: The 1930 Art Deco remodeling of the subject building was designed by the architectural partnership of Balch and Stanberry, who specialized in movie theatres. Most of their significant work occurred in the mid-to-late 1920s when the firm was active in Southern California. Their clients included the Fox Coast Theatres Corporation as well as United Artists; they designed Berkeley United Artists Theatre in 1931-32 (extant at 2274 Shattuck Avenue).

More detailed histories of the property appear in the Art Deco Society's Landmark application, see Attachment 2, and the DPR Forms A & B, Attachment 4, pages 4 through 6.

V. Analysis and Evaluation

The analysis section of this report will refer to the research and information provided in the Landmark application (Attachment 2) and the 2015 DPR Forms A & B prepared by Archives and Architecture (Attachment 4) regarding the subject property's historic context and existing conditions. This section analyzes the extent to which the property appears to meet significance criteria set forth in the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (LPO), Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 3.

Historic Context¹. The subject site is associated with multiple historical themes, including design, entertainment/recreation, and commercial development generally as well as specifically in Berkeley's Downtown. Its period of significance would have begun upon the subject building's completion in 1914. The City's consultant studied the property in relation to the historical development in the Downtown, and concluded that this building's historical period end date coincides with the close of the neighborhood's period of significance in 1958.

¹ National Register Bulletin #15, Item V: *How to Evaluate a Property within its Historic Context* (2002); National Register Bulletin #16A, Section III: *How to Complete the National Register Registration – Period of Significance* (1997).

Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (LPO) Significance Criteria. When it designates a property as a Landmark, Historic District, or Structure of Merit, the Commission must find that the property meets one or more of the required criteria codified in LPO, BMC Section 3.24.110. These criteria are relatively specific and appear to align with California Register and National Register criteria. The significance criteria for a Structure of Merit are broader than those for Landmarks status, and include properties that qualify individually as good examples of architectural design, or that qualify as contributors to the context of a larger streetscape or area.

The Landmark application and DPR Forms provide information and analysis that confirm the subject property's eligibility for local register designation consideration as an individual resource in the areas of *architectural design* and important *historical associations* as well as a contributing resource within a concentration of other resources. Staff's summary of these findings is provided below.

LPO Landmark criteria – *Architectural Merit* Based on the research and evidence presented in the Landmark application and DPR Forms, the subject building appears to meet the LPO criteria for designation as a City Landmark owing to its evident architectural merit.

- **BMC Section 3.24.110.A.1.b – *outstanding example*.** Theaters were a common building type for Art Deco architecture, and the subject building appears to be a worthy example of this design style in Berkeley. It possesses many essential hallmarks of this style, including: simplified (overall) form; linear massing and appearance; stepped outline; smooth wall surface; stylized (geometric) ornamentation and detailing; fluting details; and low-relief decorative elements.

The California Theater derives its architectural expression from its Art Deco features as well as from building elements acquired during other periods of its evolution. Its overall scale and massing occurred at the time of its original construction in 1914; Balch & Stanbery introduced the distinctive Art Deco refinements in the 1930s; and a prominent marquee with exposed neon lighting was installed during the 1950s. These elements combine to create a stately and harmonious public-facing façade that conveys the building's considerable design value.

The Landmark application author has presented a comprehensive list of specific building Features to be Preserved; see page 8 of Attachment 2. For the Commission's consideration, this list is reflected in staff's recommended draft of Findings for Designation approval; see Attachment 1.

- **BMC Section 3.24.100.A.1.c – *part of neighborhood fabric*.** The Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context Statement (2015) identifies the California Theater as an important contributing resource to the establishment of a

historic district in Berkeley's Downtown. On page 9, Context Statement explains that *the commercial properties that contribute to this historic [Downtown] setting are integral to the continued sense of place that marks Berkeley's city center*. For this reason, the theater building would satisfy the LPO designation criterion for architectural examples that are worth preserving for the exceptional values they add as part of the neighborhood fabric.

The theater is located within a concentration of other historically significant structures from its period of significance and shares connections to the historic theme of commercial development with an urban core. Through its design, the California Theater is linked to other Downtown period buildings, such as the Art Deco City Landmark Berkeley Public Library (one block west). Its height and scale are comparable to the neighboring City Landmark Brooks Apartments building, abutting immediately to the west, and mirrors the stature of other historic buildings along Shattuck Avenue.

LPO Landmark criterion – *Historic Value* The subject property is directly associated with the development of Berkeley's Downtown neighborhood. It was originally constructed during a formative period in the emergence of Downtown as a commercial and transportation center (1910s), and later renovated in response to a subsequent period of intensification and increased activity (1930s). Notwithstanding its recent vacancy, it has retained its historical use as a theater house and continues to convey its identity – thereby maintaining unambiguous connections to its historic period. According to the City 2015 Shattuck Avenue Historic Corridor Survey, the property represents commercial forms and materials that were prominent in the downtown during its period of historical significance (Attachment 3, page 6).

BMC Section 3.24.110.A.4 permits the Commission to designate a property as a City Landmarks when it exhibits, through its physical appearance, important patterns of development in Berkeley. In its extant condition, the California Theater represents Berkeley's early commercial development and expresses the qualities of design and form that characterized a formative era of the City's history.

The Commission has received sufficient evidence to take favorable action to designate the subject property as a City Landmark. Draft Findings for Designation approval are provided for the Commission's consideration in Attachment 1.

LPO Structure of Merit criteria. As discussed above, staff believes the subject property could meet the criteria for designation as a City Landmark. However, if the Commission concludes that it does not (in whole or in part), then the Commission may consider the extent to which it meets the criteria for designation as a Structure of Merit, in accordance with BMC Section 3.24.110.B.2.c. The subject building is a bona fide and intact example of the Art Deco style of architectural design. It serves as a contributing structure to the Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor, a potential historic

district in the Downtown neighborhood. As such, the California Theater building would meet both of the following Structure of Merit criteria:

- **Section 3.24.110.B.2.c** – *“The structure is a good example of architectural design.”*
- **Section 3.24.110.B.2.d** – *“The structure has historical significance to the City and/or the structure’s neighborhood, block, street frontage, or group of buildings.”*

No draft findings for approval as a Structure of Merit are provided with this report, however the Commission can direct staff to prepare such findings if needed to support action under these provisions.

VI. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission consider the extent to which this property meets the criteria for City Landmark or Structure of Merit designation pursuant to BMC Section 3.24.110.A.1, and then take favorable action.

Attachments via web link:

1. **Draft Findings for Designation Approval**
2. **Landmark Application** for 2113 Kittredge Street, recorded by Art Deco Society of California; received January 11, 2022.
3. **Landmark Petition for** 2113 Kittredge Street, initiated by petition of 140 signatures of Berkeley residents; received January 11, 2022.
4. **CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation Forms A & B** for 21135 Kittredge Street, prepared by Archives & Architecture for the City of Berkeley; recorded 2015.
5. **Correspondences** received.

Prepared by: Fatema Crane, Senior Planner, fcrane@cityofberkeley.info, 510-981-7410

ATTACHMENT 1

FINDINGS FOR DESIGNATION

MAY 5, 2022

2113 Kittredge Street – California Theater

Landmark application #LMIN2022-0001 for the consideration of City Landmark or Structure of Merit designation status for a theater completed in 1914 – APN 057-2020-009-00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

City Landmark designation of the property at 2113 Kittredge Street – California Theater

CEQA FINDINGS

1. The project is found to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code §21000, et seq.) pursuant to Section 15061.b.3 of the CEQA Guidelines (activities that can be seen with certainty to have no significant effect on the environment).

LANDMARK PRESERVATION ORDINANCE FINDINGS

2. Pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Section 3.24.110.A.1.b of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (LPO), the Landmarks Preservation Commission of the City of Berkeley (Commission) finds that the subject building exhibits architectural merit as an example of Art Deco architectural design in Berkeley's Downtown. The extant building was constructed in 1914 and then renovated during the Art Deco period. It retains many of its character-defining features of this style, including: simplified overall building form; linear massing and appearance; stepped outline; smooth wall surface; stylized, often geometric, ornamentation and detailing; fluting details; and low-relief decorative elements. The building is in good condition and retains all necessary aspects of design integrity.
3. Pursuant to BMC Section 3.24.110.A.1.c, the Commission finds that the subject property is an architectural example that is worthy of preservation for the exceptional value it adds as part of the Downtown Berkeley neighborhood fabric. The City's 2015 intensive survey evaluation of this property concluded that the California Theater is an important primary Contributor to the establishment of a historic district in the greater Shattuck Avenue area.
4. Pursuant to BMC Section 3.24.110.A.4, the Commission finds that the subject property expresses and embodies the history of Berkeley through its direct associations with the development of Downtown Berkeley as a center of commerce and transportation. The Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey (2015) determined that this building, in its extant condition, continues to represent commercial forms and materials that were prominent in the Downtown during the period of historical significance.

FEATURES TO BE PRESERVED

This designation shall apply to the subject property and the following distinguishing features of the main building shall be preserved, and missing features shall be restored to the extent possible:

- Rectangular mass
- Height of approximately 60 feet
- Brick wall structure
- Stucco façade
- Art Deco-style façade with five vertical piers & six ornamental bays
- Art Deco stepped design pattern of façade and roof parapets
- Four stepped roof parapets
- Main central bay and two flanking bays on upper 3/4th of street façade
- Angled fluted upper string course and Art Deco curved coping
- Zigzag saw-tooth pattern under the coping
- Banding trim divided into four strips above the entrance that visually separates the base and the upper part of the building
- Two slightly coved niches located on the widest, outer architectural bays
- Projecting corbels and zigzag ornaments
- Plaster *bas-reliefs* (frozen fountains motif)
- Two rectangular neon signs on a projecting prow with stylized lettering that each spell out CALIFORNIA
- Projecting prow/angled marquee, surrounded in neon tubing
- Lyre shaped center metal piece covered in neon tubing
- Leaf-patterned ceiling/soffit beneath the projecting marquee
- Recessed entry
- Stucco-and-glass box office
- Glass-and-aluminum entry doors
- Glass poster-display cases

CITY OF BERKELEY
Ordinance #4694 N.S.
LANDMARK APPLICATION

California Theatre
2113 Kittredge Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Land Use Planning
Received
January 11, 2022



Figure 1. California Theatre, November 2021. Photo: Anthony Bruce.



Figure 2. California Theatre, circa 1930, Jack Tillmany Collection (courtesy Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association)

1. **Street Address:** 2113 Kittredge Street
County: Alameda **City:** Berkeley **ZIP:** 94704

2. **Assessor's Parcel Number:** 57-2020-9 (Blake Tract No. 3, Lots 7 & 8)
Dimensions: 100 feet x 135 feet
Cross Streets: Shattuck Avenue & Fulton Street

3. **Is property on the State Historic Resource Inventory?** Yes
Is property on the Berkeley Urban Conservation Survey? Yes
Form #: 21286

4. **Application for Landmark Includes:**
 - a. **Building(s):** Yes **Garden:** **Other Feature(s):** Neon sign
 - b. **Landscape or Open Space:**
 - c. **Historic Site:** No
 - d. **District:** No
 - e. **Other:** Entire property

5. **Historic Names:** T&D Theatre; Fox California Theatre
Commonly Known Name: California Theatre, The Cal

6. **Date of Construction:** 1913-14 **Factual:** Yes
Source of Information: Building Permit #3418, December 15, 1913

7. **Architect:** A. W. Cornelius (1913); Balch & Stanbery (1929-30)

8. **Builder:** Kidder & McCullough (1913); A.J. Lane (1929-1930)

9. **Style:** Art Deco

10. **Original Owners:** John Muldoon & Frank M. Wilson

Original Use: Cinema

11. **Present Owner:** Ann Belcher et al

Present Occupant: Vacant

12. **Present Use:** Movie Theatre until Oct 2021
Current Zoning: CD-MU Core
Adjacent Property Zoning: CD-MU Core

13. Present Condition of Property:

Exterior: Good Interior: Good Grounds: N/A

Has the property's exterior been altered? Yes in 1929–30 and again in 1952

Executive Summary

The California Theatre in central downtown Berkeley on Kittredge Street is a rare extant movie theatre in the Art Deco style that is also beloved by the community.

The California Theatre was initially completed in 1914 as an early motion picture theatre for Turner & Dahnken, also known as the T&D Circuit, a large operator of movie theatres in the then-nascent film industry. The theatre was altered and modernized in 1929-1930 by its new operator, Fox West Coast Theatres, in the Moderne style, which is today referred to as Art Deco. Even though the breathless newspaper copy announcing the theatre's reopening¹ was lifted straight from the advertising, the description of the theatre as a "Symphony in Modernism" was an apt one.

Although it has undergone some remodeling and a seismic upgrade, the theatre remains a striking example of Art Deco in downtown Berkeley, completing a trio of buildings in the style within a two-block radius: the Berkeley Public Library (Berkeley City Landmark #56) at 2090 Kittredge Street, completed in 1930 by architect James W. Plachek, and the U.A. Theatre at 2274 Shattuck, completed in 1932, and in which the 1929 architect of the Cal was also involved.

The California is also one of the last 12 surviving movie theatres in the Art Deco style in the San Francisco Bay Area, many of which are either local and/or national landmarks. The California's 107-year history is interwoven with the history of movies and with the students and the faculty of its neighbor, the University of California at Berkeley, just blocks away.

14. Description

The California Theatre is a two-story, brick-framed, rectangular building, situated on two lots, with a façade about 60' high. Initially designed for showing movies and live performances during the early days of motion pictures, the theatre stands on the north side of Kittredge Street in downtown Berkeley, just off Shattuck Avenue, and is a contributing structure in the proposed Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor historic district.²

¹ "Modernism is keynote of new theater building," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, Oct. 9, 1930.

² Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor, Historic Context and Survey, for the City of Berkeley, 2015. [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_\(new_site_map_walk-through\)/Level_3_-_General/ShattuckContextFINAL%20r091515.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_(new_site_map_walk-through)/Level_3_-_General/ShattuckContextFINAL%20r091515.pdf) accessed Nov. 2021.

It dominates the block, where it sits between the Beaux-Arts-style Brooks Apartments on the western corner of Kittredge and Shattuck and the late 19th-century A.H. Broad House and Storefronts, completed in 1894, to the east. Across the street, at 2124–2126 Kittredge, stands the Robert & Elma Elder House (1895), behind a 1926 Mediterranean-style commercial addition. Next door, at 2138 Kittredge, the John C. Fitzpatrick house (1903–04) hides behind a 1935 Georgian Colonial commercial brick addition. On the northeastern corner of Kittredge and Oxford streets stands Oxford Plaza (WRT-Solomon Etc, architects), a multi-use infill development completed in 2009.

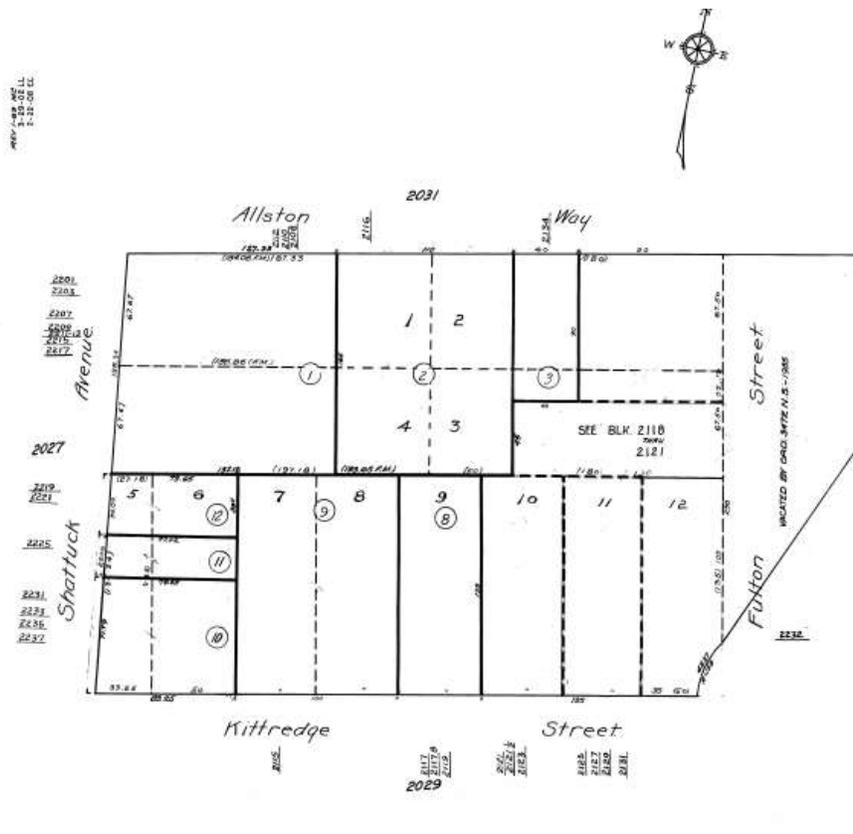


Figure 3. Map No. 3 of the Blake Tract, Alameda County Assessor's Office, Map 57. Note that lot numbers 7 and 8 are identified with the address of 2115 Kittredge, instead of 2113 Kittredge.

According to the original building permits, the theatre's construction in 1913 used concrete footings and piers, and the foundation is concrete with steel rebar. Walls and other piers are brick, and the trusses and girders are steel.

The exterior today is clad in stucco and features a host of Art Deco elements, dating from a major alteration in 1929–1930. The façade presents a symmetrical design with a central architectural bay and four parapet walls, two on each side. The central bay is divided by a row of five vertical piers and is located in a central plane under the highest parapet. Just below the central plane, are two overlapping flanking wall planes on each side, in a stepped pattern, under the

lower parapets. The wider, outer walls are each punctuated with a narrow vertical niche, separated from the base of the building by wide horizontal bands.

The ornament course along the parapet has a curving, scalloped coping. Beneath the coping is an elongated zigzag that resembles a saw tooth pattern. It peeks out from the coping, an unusual treatment of the typical zigzag motif that was popular in the 1920s and 1930s Moderne style.

The five vertical piers that step out from the wall separate a series of plaster *bas-reliefs* of stylized curves. The design looks like a shell or a fan, and is also known as frozen fountains. At the base of the fountains are cascading swirls, like bubbling water. Below the frozen fountains are projecting rectangular corbels, faced with a vertical zigzag motif.



Figure 4. Art Deco details on façade, including piers, rectangular corbels, and “frozen fountain” bas-reliefs, November 2021. Photo: Therese Poletti

At the center of the façade, above the entrance, is the theatre’s large marquee, from whose center projects a neon sign that curves like a lyre. A two-sided projecting prow in the marquee showcases stylized neon letters, with each side spelling out California on a background of navy-blue, highlighted by light blue vertical neon tubes. The blue neon tubes in the background were originally set to act as chasers, and flashed one after the other, in sequence.

The metal neon letters and the lyre-like centerpiece are outlined in gold, denoting the blue and gold school colors of U.C. Berkeley. The letter forms are

straight up and down, instead of slanted, and in a typography style that marks a transition between the Art Deco era and into mid-century modernism.



Figure 5. California Theatre's blue and gold marquee and neon sign. November 2021.
Photo: Therese Poletti

One unusual feature of this sign is that the letters are individually formed or sculpted of metal and outlined in neon tubing, giving the letters a sculptural quality. Many theatre signs of the era often had letters painted onto the so-called metal tin can. The neon tubes were then attached over the painted letters, bent to spell out a business or a theatre, such as C A S T R O at the Castro Theatre.³

Beneath the marquee is a recessed entry, where the glass doors and a basic blocky ticket box in glass and steel are currently covered by plywood. The soffit of the recessed entrance is faced with thick plaster ornamentation depicting tropical leaves or vines. On each side of the main entrance are glass display windows, along the building's base, for posters of feature films and coming attractions. This entry, marquee, and stylized neon sign were part of a 1952 remodel by Fox West Coast Theatres.

The building is set back from the sidewalk by about six feet, and both brick sidewalls are visible from the street. Both sidewalls and the rear are exposed brick and completely braced to full height with steel bracing, placed in vertical, horizontal and diagonal patterns in a seismic retrofit, completed in 2002.⁴ New fire escapes were also added to each side. A 20-foot-high block to store the stage machinery used in vaudeville and other live performances in the early days at the back of the theatre was also removed at that time.

³ Phone interviews with Jim Rizzo, founder of Neon Works of Oakland and former service provider of the California Theatre and Randall Ann Homan, co-author of "San Francisco Neon: Survivors and Lost Icons" and neon preservationist.

⁴ City of Berkeley Planning Department, Permit Number, B2001-03243.



Figure 6. Side walls, right side, of the California Theatre, November, 2021.
Photo: Therese Poletti

Features to Be Preserved

The distinguishing features of the California Theatre include the following:

- Rectangular mass
- Height of approximately 60 feet
- Brick wall structure
- Stucco façade
- Art Deco-style façade with five vertical piers & six ornamental bays
- Art Deco stepped design pattern of façade and roof parapets
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- Lyre shaped center metal piece covered in neon tubing
- Leaf-patterned ceiling/soffit beneath the projecting marquee
- Recessed entry
- Stucco-and-glass box office
- Glass-and-aluminum entry doors
- Glass poster-display cases

15. History

The original Blake Tract was made up of land that had originally been owned by José Domingo Peralta, the son of a Spanish pioneer and soldier, Don Luís Maria Peralta, who had divided his property among his four sons. Domingo Peralta sold his land, including today's central Berkeley, to a group of investors. In 1856, George Mansfield Blake purchased Plot 69, made up of approximately 160 acres of the 640-acre Rancho San Antonio, for \$5,000, a plot that he had just three years prior unsuccessfully tried to claim, along with three other Berkeley pioneers: Francis Kittredge Shattuck, James Leonard, and William Hillegass.⁵

Kittredge Street and Shattuck Avenue are both named for Francis Kittredge Shattuck, often called the "founder of Berkeley," having been an early investor in Berkeley real estate, a developer of its downtown core, and an early promoter of rail service to Berkeley.



Figure 7. Francis Kittredge Shattuck, Berkeley Daily Gazette, September 10, 1898

⁵ Daniella Thompson, "The Tapes of Russell Street," February 1, 2005. http://berkeleyheritage.com/essays/block_h_blake_tract.html

In a tragic irony, Shattuck, who was also one of the early mayors of Oakland, died at age 73 of injuries after being accidentally struck with major force by a hurried passenger who was exiting the train at Shattuck Avenue and Center Streets in downtown's Berkeley Station.⁶

In 1876, two years before the incorporation of Berkeley, portions of the Blake Tract were put up for auction by Shattuck, who was Blake's brother-in-law and co-executor of his will. Blake, who died in 1875, was also an influential East Bay citizen, having been a mayor of Oakland, district attorney for Alameda County, and at the time of his death, a judge. His wife, Millicent K. Blake, was F.K. Shattuck's sister and an early educator. Shattuck and his sister were executors of Blake's will.⁷

An ad appeared in all the local papers in October, 1876, describing the auction of much of the Blake Tract as, "That Splendid Property, Known as the Blake Tract!" That auction was for 40 business and residence lots and 140 residence lots, some with frontage on the university.⁸

The Blake Tract, Map No. 3, which includes Kittredge Street, was subdivided in 1881. One early sale was in 1887 of Lots 13 and 14 on the southwest corner of Fulton and Kittredge streets (then spelled Kittridge) to George W. Webb, by Blake's widow, for \$900.⁹ Webb apparently purchased the lots as an investor, as he and his family continued to live in their residence nearby, on Bancroft Way & Fulton.¹⁰

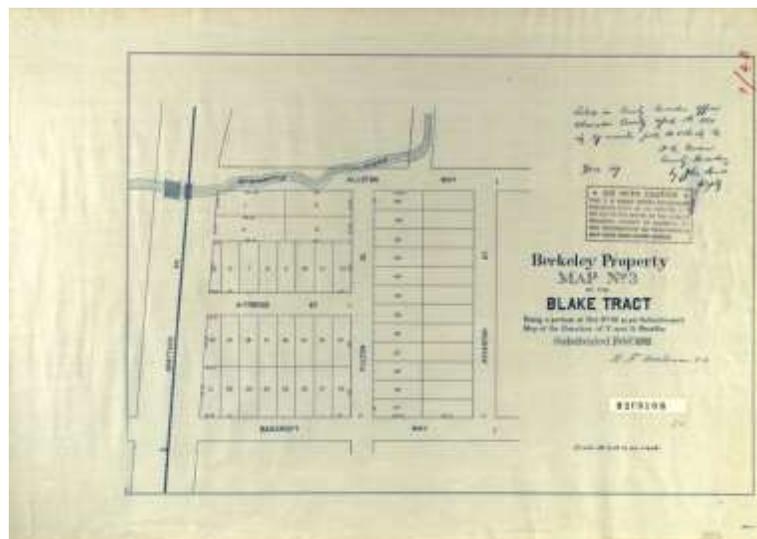


Figure 8 Blake Tract, Map No. 3, 1881. Courtesy Berkeley History Online, Berkeley Public Library, Berkeley, CA.

⁶ "Passing of the Founder of Berkeley," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, September 10, 1898.

⁷ "Judge Blake's Will," *Oakland Tribune*, October 23, 1875.

⁸ Onley & Co Real Estate Auctioneers ad, *Oakland Tribune*, October 9, 1876.

⁹ *Oakland Tribune*, August 29, 1887.

¹⁰ Berkeley City Directory, 1888-1889.

The Muldoon Family

The California Theatre is located on lots 7 and 8 of Blake Tract No. 3. Lot 7 was occupied by the home of John F. Muldoon, a real estate investor, who moved to Berkeley sometime after the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

Muldoon's family and heirs still own the property and the theatre today.

John Muldoon's mother and father were both Irish immigrants, and John was born in Philadelphia in 1862. His father Michael, born in Cork, Ireland and his two older brothers worked as coal miners in the industrial county of Lackawanna, Pennsylvania. John was born in Philadelphia. At age 16, John and a third brother were also working in the mines as drivers.¹¹

By the time he was 21, John had moved west to California's gold country, where he registered to vote in 1884 while living in the town of Jackson in Amador County. According to his obituary, he worked in the Muldoon Mine,¹² named after Edward Muldoon, an unrelated man who discovered it on his grazing land outside of Jackson. (The mine later became known as the Kennedy Extension and the target of a lawsuit between two rival mining firms in 1909.¹³ The Kennedy Mine went to a depth of 5,912 feet, was the deepest gold mine in the U.S. and closed in 1942.)

Even though it was not his claim, Muldoon's early mining ventures appear to have been successful, because he stayed for 20-plus years in the small Gold Rush town of Ione, where he ran his own livery and stable business and was involved in local politics. He also met and, in 1894, married his wife Teresa Scully, of the prominent Scully family. Muldoon eventually amassed many real estate holdings in Amador County, while his wife was busy with her family, a local Masonic order, the Native Sons and Daughters of California, and raising their three children, William, John Jr., and a daughter, Madeline. Her family home in Ione, the Scully Ranch, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Muldoon family left Amador County for the Bay Area sometime after 1906. Muldoon's name can be found buying parcels, lots, or houses in Berkeley and Oakland, beginning in August 1906, when he takes over the deed to a lot in Claremont.¹⁴ It's likely he saw a major investment opportunity in East Bay real estate amid the rush of refugees fleeing San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire,¹⁵ and that could have even been the impetus for him to move his family.

¹¹ 1880 United States Census of Lackawanna, PA, via Ancestry.com, accessed November 2021.

¹² "Funeral Tomorrow for John Muldoon," *Oakland Tribune*, July 30, 1933.

¹³ "Big Mining Suit, Kennedy Extension vs. Argonaut, \$700,000 Damages Asked," *Amador Ledger*, December 3, 1909.

¹⁴ "Lizzie Smith to John Muldoon, Lot 23 Parkside, Claremont," *Oakland Tribune*, August 14, 1906.

¹⁵ Berkeley's population grew from 26,000 in 1906 to about 38,000 a year later, according to Richard Schwartz, "Earthquake Exodus, 1906: Berkeley Responds to the San Francisco Refugees," (Berkeley: RSB Books, 2006), p. vii.

John Muldoon first appeared at 2113 Kittredge Street in the 1908 Alameda County voter registration rolls, but he was listed in assessor's records as early as 1907 as owner of Lot 7, while local investor Frank M. Wilson owned Lot 8. In the 1910 U.S. Census, Muldoon and his family were enumerated as living at 2113 Kittredge Street in a house he owned, and his profession was described as a broker of real estate and stock.

While the Muldoon family were settling into their more urban life in Berkeley, change was happening all around them. The small town of Berkeley was experiencing a major early 20th-century growth burst. The downtown commercial district was undergoing a building boom, and more public transportation was being added to the main Shattuck Avenue commercial corridor, including a new Southern Pacific Railroad station. Constructed for mixed use, many new buildings marked the transition from wood-frame structures to fireproof buildings, clad in brick and/or stucco, with fire escapes and some with fireproof metal sashes.¹⁶

At the same time, entertainment venues for the growing population were also starting up, as the early days of motion pictures proved to be very profitable for savvy entrepreneurs in the young rough-and-tumble business.



Figure 9. Southern Pacific station on Shattuck Avenue, circa 1909

Just around the corner from the Muldoons, on Shattuck Avenue, was the new collegiately named Varsity Theater, reportedly the first playhouse in Berkeley devoted primarily to movies, which opened in November, 1908 on the street level of the newly constructed Brooks Apartments Building.

¹⁶ Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill and Sarah Winder, State of California DPR 523 Primary Record, Brooks Apartments.

“The Varsity theater on Shattuck Avenue which was opened about two weeks ago by an aggressive San Francisco business man, is one of the prettiest moving picture show houses on the Pacific Coast, and is attracting large houses every afternoon and evening,” reported the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* on November 20, 1908. “The Varsity gives nothing but clean, high class programs.”



Figure 10. Ad for *The Varsity* in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, November 6, 1908.

The Varsity’s aggressive business man was Claude E. Langley, a directing manager of the Turner & Dahnken circuit, an up-and-coming moving pictures company in San Francisco. The Varsity was doing so well that in December, 1910, it got a permit to expand into one of the stores next to the cinema, which would add another 200 seats to its capacity.¹⁷ The Varsity closed a year later, when T&D opened the larger Berkeley Theatre at Shattuck & Haste in August, 1911, also run by Langley. In November, T&D officially closed the Varsity. In a bit of a self-serving statement they noted that “the pull” to the larger, more commodious new Berkeley Theatre was too strong to compete against, even though it was also a T&D theatre.¹⁸ But Turner & Dahnken were not finished investing in Berkeley.

San Francisco-based T&D, one of the largest independent theatre chains, began as a partnership between William Turner and Fred Dahnken who started together in the film-supply business after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Eventually, Turner and Dahnken sold their film exchange and invested in early movie theatres. Among their first investments were two small movie houses on Market Street in San Francisco.¹⁹

¹⁷ “Varsity Theater to be Improved,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 8, 1910.

¹⁸ “Doors of Varsity Theater Closed,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, November 17, 1911.

¹⁹ “The History of Contra Costa County,” by Frederick Hulaniski (Elm Publishing Co., 1917), p. 588-589.



Another early venture was the Oakland Photo Theatre (1911), funded by department store magnate H.C. Capwell and located on Broadway and 15th Street, with 1,900 seats and a vaudeville stage.²⁰ By 1913, they had also taken over the Lyric in Oakland, where they had once been the film supplier, as seen in this February 1909 ad in the *Oakland Tribune*.

As T&D expanded in the East Bay, the central section of Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, closer to the university, still interested them. After opening the Berkeley Theatre, they looked at a property on Shattuck and University, but deemed the two lots near their former Varsity on Shattuck as more suitable.

Real estate investor, banker, and Berkeley mover-and-shaker Frank M. Wilson,²¹ who owned one of the two Kittredge Street lots with Muldoon, held lengthy talks with T&D Circuit executives over several weeks.²² In September 1913, the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* reported that Wilson and Muldoon had agreed to build a \$150,000 motion picture theatre to be operated by Turner & Dahnken.

After Wilson orchestrated the deal with the T&D executives, and permits were filed for the theatre, it appears that Muldoon had the family's two-story Victorian wood-frame house moved to 2417 Blake Street, based on the permits filed at the time with the City of Berkeley.²³

Muldoon's children would stay at the Blake Street house until they married, and John Sr. lived there until his death in 1933 at age 71.²⁴



Figure 9. Frank Wilson in his garden at 2400 Ridge Road, courtesy BAHA.

²⁰ "Oakland Theater largest of its kind in the U.S.," *Oakland Tribune*, September 29, 1911.

²¹ Thompson, Daniella, City of Berkeley Landmark Application, 2508 Ridge Road. https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_LPC/2016-02-04_LPC_ATT2_2508%20Ridge_Landmark%20Application.pdf

²² "Turner and Dahnken Complete Negotiations for a \$150,000 Theater Here," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, September 18, 1913.

²³ City of Berkeley, Permit #3490, February 3, 1914, "Repairs to a building moved to that location," Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association archives.

²⁴ "Funeral Tomorrow For John Muldoon," *Oakland Tribune*, July 30, 1933.

John Jr., the second oldest son, went on to be a star rugby player at Berkeley High School and Santa Clara University. After graduating in 1919, John played on the U.S. Olympic Rugby Team²⁵ which won the gold medal in 1920 in Antwerp, and again in 1924. His younger brother William, also a Santa Clara student, was another member of the two gold-medal-winning teams.²⁶



Figure 11. U.S. Olympic Team, 1920, J. Muldoon, back row, 4th from right, W. Muldoon, middle row, 3rd from right. Photo: Rugbyfootballhistory.com

John Jr., who became part owner of the Dana Garage in Berkeley, died at age 47, after an illness, leaving behind his wife and three children, including Jack Muldoon (John Muldoon III),²⁷ who ultimately became the owner of the Cal Theatre before his death in 2012.

The T& D in Berkeley

The permits for the new, single-screen Berkeley T&D Theatre were filed in December 1, 1913, with an estimated initial cost of \$50,000.²⁸

The T&D Theatre ended up costing \$150,000. It opened on December 9, 1914 and showed the film "Cabiria," a three-hour Italian epic silent film with towering sets and thousands of extras, and a two-reel Keystone comedy, "The Property Man." Despite a downpour of heavy rain, the theatre opened to a full house, and Mayor Charles Haywood participated in the opening ceremonies.²⁹

The architect chosen by the T&D Circuit was Albert W. Cornelius, also of San Francisco, and the builders were Kidder and McCullough of Berkeley. Cornelius

²⁵ "Alumni Rugby Teams Stage Fast Battle," *Oakland Tribune*, December 26, 1920

²⁶ "Rugby at the Olympics," list of team members, 1920, 1924 Olympics, Rugbyfootballhistory.com

²⁷ "Garage Man Dies in Berkeley Hospital," *Oakland Tribune*, January 3, 1944

²⁸ City of Berkeley Building Permit No. 3418, December 1, 1913.

²⁹ "New Berkeley Theatre Ceremoniously Opened," *Oakland Tribune*, December 11, 1914.

designed several theatres in California for the T&D Circuit, including those in Pittsburg, Richmond, Sacramento and Salinas. He also designed several residential homes in Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco.

The Berkeley T&D was an imposing two-story edifice, with heavy ornamentation, sculpted *bas-reliefs* inside arches over the upper windows, and a larger arched window over the entrance. The massive window was divided into multiple panes of art glass. The theatre was described as Greek or Greek revival in style, but as in most early movie theatres, the designs often were an eclectic combination of architectural motifs and styles.

Inside, the theatre had a large auditorium and a balcony. With 2,000 seats, it was described as the largest auditorium in Alameda County at the time.³⁰ The theatre had velvet carpets, French tapestries, a ventilation system, a stage and equipment for full theatrical productions, an immense pipe organ, a huge balcony with supporting posts, an enclosed projection room, orchestra pit, upholstered seats, and many exits. Balcony seats cost 20 cents, twice the price of the standard seat. Even though it was the 10th movie theatre in Berkeley at the time, it received a lot of press, due to its central location, size and design.

“Architect Cornelius has made a life study of this particular branch of his profession, and in designing the new building he has incorporated the latest and most modern ideas in theater construction,” reported the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*³¹

Cornelius’s theatre in Pittsburg, named the California Theatre and completed in 1920, is an extant example of a theatre similar to the T&D Berkeley, before its remodel in 1929–1930. The California in Pittsburg is currently a community arts performance venue and has many neoclassical features, such as Corinthian columns, sculpted urns, figurative sculptures, and, as in the T&D Berkeley, a large arched window, set with art glass, over the entrance.

The California Theatre in Pittsburg was also clearly inspired by the Palais Garnier, also known as the Paris Opera House, albeit on a much smaller, less grand and ornate scale. The Paris Opera, designed by Charles Garnier and completed in 1875, was one of the major achievements of Emperor Napoleon III’s reconstruction of Paris, led by Baron Haussmann, and an inspiration to students of Paris’s influential architecture school, l’École des Beaux-Arts.

Many of the early theatres before World War I were designed in the Beaux-Arts style, which became popular in America after the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. After many of the best architects in the U.S. studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, in part due to the paucity of architecture schools in the U.S. during the late 19th century, they passed on the school’s teachings to their American colleagues. Methods included competitions to address an architectural problem, planning, and academic precision in drawing. Studies at the École were

³⁰ “New Theater is formally opened,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 10, 1914.

³¹ “New T&D Theater to open Wednesday,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 7, 1914.

also heavily influenced by the embrace of classical architecture and the antiquities of ancient Rome and Greece.



Figure 12. California Theatre in Pittsburg, CA, A.W. Cornelius
Photo: Cinema Treasures.org

The conservative, imposing style also fit the changing movie business, as it transitioned from the small, scrappy storefront venues – where fire was a danger because of the nitrate film and open projectors – to safer, fire-proofed playhouses to accommodate the growing audiences.

The T&D Berkeley was one of the better of the T&D theatres in the Beaux-Arts style. It also featured the signature T&D logo in plaster, set in the middle of the massive metal awning, directly below the arched art-glass window. Part of T&D's appeal, news stories reported, was its fine selection of moving pictures "of a high moral character," seen as a hallmark of the T&D Theatres. In mid-December, after the showing of "Cabiria," the T&D Berkeley hosted a spectacular production of "Neptune's Daughters" with a cast of 1,000.

"Berkeley's Picture Palace," got far more press attention than the smaller Strand (now the Elmwood) on College Avenue, which opened just days before the T&D in 1914,³² possibly because the Strand didn't buy any newspaper ads for its grand opening, lacking the funds of the T&D Circuit.

³² "Big Drama of the North Will Open New Theater on College Ave. and Derby St., *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 7, 1914.



Figure 13. New T&D Theatre, *The Architect & Engineer*, February, 1915

The T&D Circuit

Several months after the December opening of the T&D Berkeley, the young company was riding high, with a one-page spread in a 1915 issue of *The Moving Picture World* featuring photos of its top four executives, and five of its Bay Area theatres, including the Berkeley theatre.

As a company, though, T&D had already experienced one brief ownership squabble with a manager at the Lyric in Oakland, an incident that landed in the press when an attorney for T&D used an iron bar to batter down the front doors in a standoff with the Lyric's manager.³³

It was a precursor to an even fiercer battle after the unexpected death of co-founder James Turner, struck by the Spanish Flu in 1918, aged 45. Turner died after a 10-day illness, the second death at the circuit during the influenza

³³ "Oakland Attorney Retakes Theater," *Oakland Tribune*, July 25, 1913.

pandemic. Dahnken, who had recovered from it, had just returned to work when Turner succumbed.³⁴

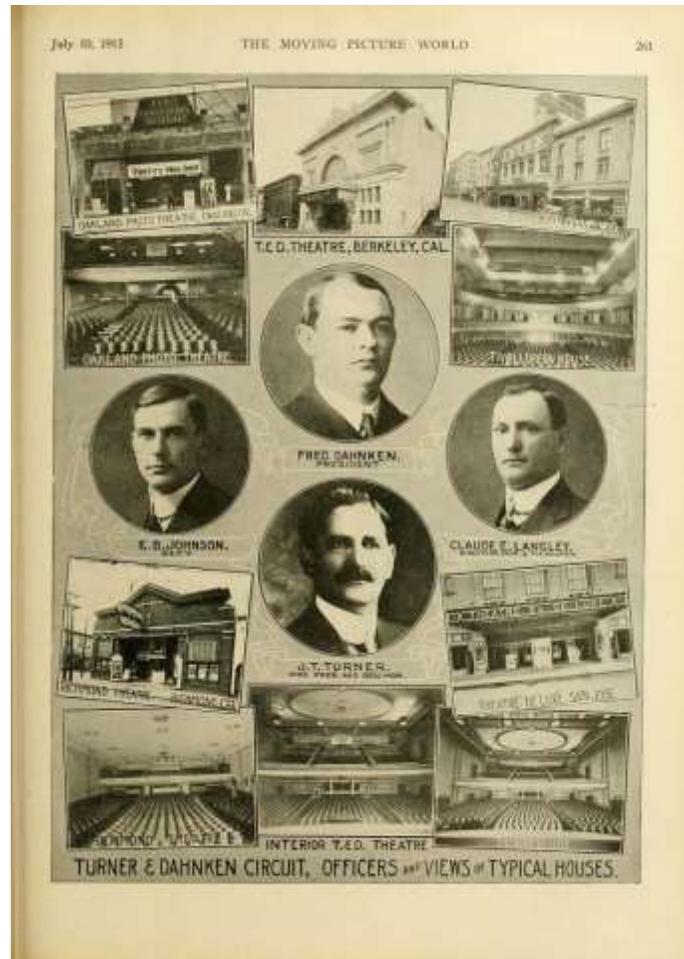


Figure 14. *The Moving Picture World*, July 10, 1915, courtesy Daniella Thompson

After Turner's death, his widow Hattie Turner took over his position, but "dissatisfaction arose in the corporation between [Fred] Dahnken and Mrs. Turner interests."³⁵ In the summer of 1921, Dahnken was ousted as president by the board, and Turner's widow took his place. Dahnken refused to acknowledge the vote and release T&D's books and records to the board. Ultimately, a few months later, the two sides reached an agreement, and Dahnken was made chairman of an advisory committee.

But this saga was the beginning of the end for the T&D Circuit. In January 1923, executives announced that the T&D and its 26 movie houses would be sold

³⁴ "James T. Turner Dies of Influenza," *San Francisco Examiner*, November 5, 1918.

³⁵ "Fred Dahnken Concedes Election of Mrs. Turner as Head of Corporation," *San Francisco Examiner*, October 8, 1921

to a Los Angeles group led by film pioneer Sol Lesser and his firm West Coast Theatres, Inc., for a sum of under \$4 million. The deal was called “one of the largest deals in the history of motion pictures.”³⁶ When the deal actually closed in March, it was described as a \$1.67 million deal for 90% of T&D stock.³⁷

In the very first days of the completed deal, the general manager for the group, A.W. Bowles, talked about plans for some of the theatres, and mentioned the T&D in Berkeley as on the list for a \$100,000 remodel.³⁸ One month later, West Coast Theaters filed for a permit to erect a scaffolding as part of an interior remodeling project to remove the box seats, change rows of balcony seats, and install a new office door. The permit estimated the work at \$4,500, a far cry from the promised \$100,000.³⁹

The year 1923 was also a tumultuous one for the city of Berkeley, which after over a decade of commercial and residential growth, had its own natural disaster: a major fire that started in the Berkeley Hills but descended toward the U.C. Berkeley campus and downtown. Most of the structures destroyed were homes, and another wave of construction in Berkeley followed in the 1920s.

As the 1920s roared on, the Shattuck Avenue commercial district grew with new, taller buildings, department stores, restaurants, and small parking garages. One major downtown development was the creation of Shattuck Square, next to the Southern Pacific station. The three Beaux-Arts style buildings in the square were designed by architects J.R. Miller and Tim Pflueger of San Francisco, and one was designed as the Berkeley branch of the Roos Brothers department store.

With growing commerce, population, and more transit options in urban areas, the movie business was growing, too. Ever-larger movie palaces, featuring revivalist European architecture or references to faraway locales seen only on the silver screen, became part of the cinema-going experience.

Sometime after the T&D sale to West Coast Theaters was completed in August 1923, the theatre on Kittredge Street was renamed the California. While several other theatres in the chain were also named the California, in Berkeley, the new name was also an opportunity to connect more with the local U.C. Berkeley community. The first ads with its new name began to appear in late 1923. Under the new owners, the theatre and its management also got involved with the growing downtown Berkeley business community: they hosted Christmas parties for children, PTA meetings, a fundraiser for the U.C. crew team, and had boy scouts as ushers for an event. The theatre also hosted fashion shows for Roos Brothers, usually in conjunction with a film screening.

³⁶ “Lesser Takes T&D Circuit for \$4 million,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 23, 1923.

³⁷ “T&D Theatres Sold for Sum of \$1,675,000,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 20, 1923.

³⁸ “Old Factor in Movie Game Passes,” *San Francisco Examiner*, August 23, 1923.

³⁹ City of Berkeley, Building Permit 14961, September 18, 1923, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association archives



Figure 15. Roos Bros ad, Berkeley Daily Gazette, February 24, 1926

Enter Fox Studios

The film industry evolved from small nickelodeon operators, to upstart companies, to studio conglomerates with moguls at the top. These studio heads wanted ownership of more theatres. In January, 1928, Fox Studios, led by William Fox, purchased the parent company of West Coast Theaters, Westco Corp., for \$100 million, a deal that included four other cinema chains. A total of 250 movie theatres were involved in the deal.⁴⁰

When Fox made this big acquisition, the industry was just becoming obsessed with a new technology: sound. Even though there had been experiments with sound effects prior to Al Jolson's 1927 film, "The Jazz Singer," when that film became a major smash hit with recorded sound performances, there was no looking back.

The development of sound in film culminated in another shift in the business, a change more technological than architectural. But it still led to a flurry of upgrading and remodeling in many houses, and Berkeley's California Theatre was among them. The switch to sound also was an excuse to further modernize many theatres, or to redecorate and remodel in the range of revivalist, exotic and escapist styles that were becoming popular after World War I.

⁴⁰ Fox Films Buys 250 Theaters, *Los Angeles Times*, January 26, 1928.

Just a few months after the Fox acquisition of the West Coast Theatres, in May, 1928, the California closed with a small, cryptic notice in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, which announced, "'The Dove,' [a film starring Norma Talmadge] will automatically come to a close tonight with the closing of the California Theatre."⁴¹ It wasn't until November, 1929 that Fox West Coast Theatres filed a permit for alterations. Nothing else was on the permit, except "per plans." Costs were cited as \$40,000, it was filed by the Los Angeles contractor, A.C. Lane.⁴²

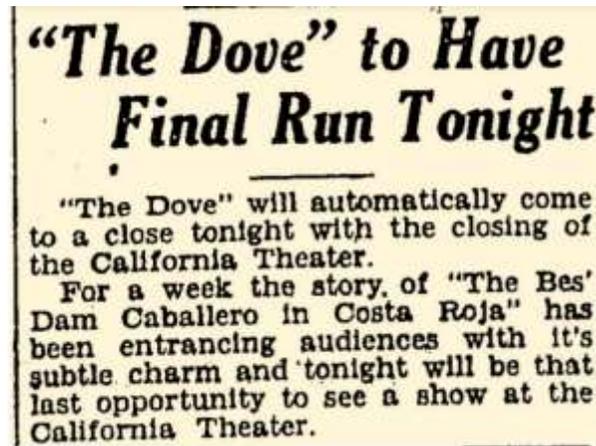


Figure 16. Mention of California Theatre closure in the Berkeley Daily Gazette, May 5, 1928.

The year 1929 was a tumultuous one in America. The stock market crash in October ultimately led to the Great Depression of the 1930s. But in the first few weeks after the crash, it wasn't immediately clear how severe the impact would be, or that the Roaring 1920s were at an end. All over America, building was still going at a breakneck pace; movie palaces were still on drawing boards, including in the Bay Area. In June, 1929, Fox had just completed the San Francisco Fox, a 4,651-seat, so-called spectacular theatre, designed by New York architect Thomas Lamb. In October, Paramount Publix started talking to San Francisco architect Tim Pflueger about a major movie palace in Oakland, an approximately 3,000-seat theatre to compete with the one-year-old Oakland Fox around the corner.

When the California Theatre, now known as the Fox California, finally reopened in October, 1930, as noted by Betty Marvin in the State's Historic Resources Inventory form filed in 1978, "reporters in 1930 were uncertain whether to say the 1914 T&D had been remodeled or demolished."⁴³

⁴¹ "'The Dove' to Have Final Run Tonight," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, May 5, 1928.

⁴² City of Berkeley, Permit No. 33702, November 12, 1929, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association archives.

⁴³ Marvin, Betty, State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources Inventory, "California Theater," January 13, 1978.



Figure 17. California Theatre under construction, 1929 or 1930
Swingle Collection, BAHA archives.

The *Berkeley Daily Gazette* said, “the new structure rises on the site of the old California, an important and colorful theater in the city’s past.”⁴⁴ The *Oakland Tribune*, though, noted that most of the reported \$250,000 in expenditures on the theatre were on the interior furnishings and stage equipment.

In under a year, the theatre had been transformed into a “symphony in modernism” by the theatre’s architect, Clifford A. Balch, his engineer partner, Floyd E. Stanbery, and their decorators. But it is clear from a construction photo at the time that the work was mostly on the façade, where the contractors transformed the once-ornate Beaux-Arts façade into an imposing, tripartite front with a stepped parapet and roofline, narrow niches and Art Deco motifs such as zigzags and frozen fountains, and a new marquee designed of modern materials such as metal, plastic, and neon.

While the exterior of the theatre was modern or modernistic, the interior also combined different themes and references, common among theatre architects of the 1920s. The Fox California followed a “modernistic theme in structure” with “several forms of architecture” adapted for the interior. “A touch of Kipling’s India is to be found in the stage curtains, with French renaissance architecture for the auditorium, and modernized Spanish schemes for the foyer,” commented the *Oakland Tribune*.⁴⁵

The yearning for exotic foreign lands and styles was also a key element of the Art Deco movement, which sought to eschew the standard classical European

⁴⁴ “Theater will be Opened Friday,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, October 9, 1930.

⁴⁵ “Fox Opens New Film Theater in Berkeley,” *Oakland Tribune*, October 11, 1930.

references, or at least transform them. As Maggie Valentine describes in her book on theatre architect S. Charles Lee, *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk*:

Exotic styles not only connoted escape but demonstrated the ambivalence of American attitudes in the 1920s. Having seen much of Europe during the war, America soldiers returned with images of French chateaus and Tudor cottages that over the next decade sprang up in bungalows, apartment buildings, and commercial architecture throughout the United States. However, national disillusion with international commitment and the rejection of a position as a world power shaped the isolationism and laissez-faire policies that characterized the 1920s. Period revival architecture was the cultural expression of that ambivalence.⁴⁶

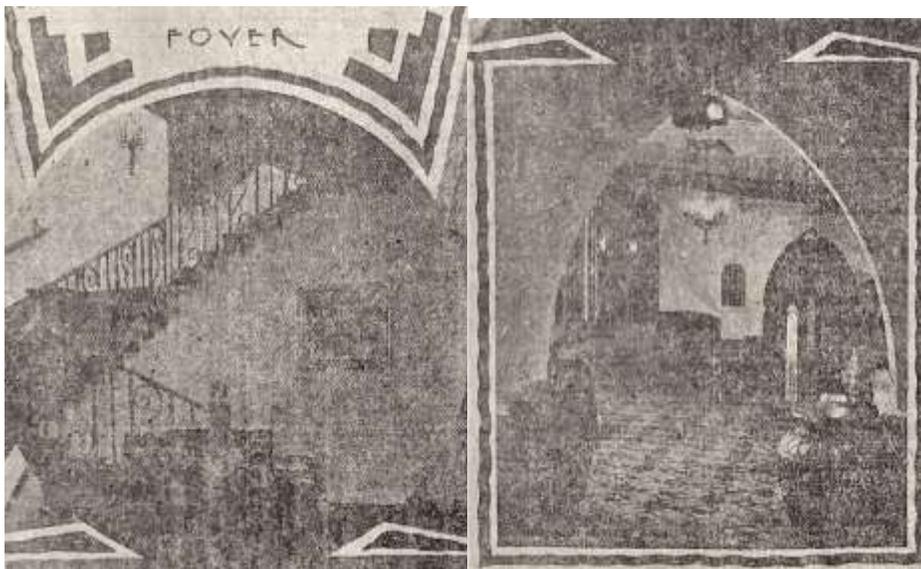


Figure 18. 1930 photos of foyer and mezzanine, published in the Berkeley Daily Gazette

The new theatre maintained much of its original footprint and the wing for theatrical and stage equipment. Its total auditorium, including a new balcony built with steel trusses, still held about 2,000 seats. Patrons went upstairs via one of two sweeping “futuristic” staircases that featured new metal railings with a swirling pattern, passing into the mezzanine through pointed Moorish arches. Black-and-red occasional chairs, comfortable lounges and settees dotted the foyer and the mezzanine, all modelled on modernistic lines.

The main auditorium featured a new proscenium design, where neutral walls flowed into the proscenium of buff- and sand-colored blocks surrounding the screen and stage area, where “one vivid spot of color” came from the curtain designed to cover the new screen, made of a “shimmering orange velvet” with a modernistic floral design, in magenta and a royal blue as a border, trimmed with

⁴⁶ Valentine, Maggie, “The Show Starts on the Sidewalk, An Architectural History of the Movie Theatre Starring S. Charles Lee,” (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), p. 72.

multi-colored gems, silver sequins and metallics. The new pipe organ was a \$25,000 Wurlitzer, finished in gold with raised fleur-de-lis on either side.⁴⁷

There was also a new projection booth twice as large as standard booths, with a double ceiling that was designed as a safeguard against fire, three projectors in sound-proof compartments, and two generators, in case of breakdowns.

Other new equipment included a new Magnascope screen for better picture quality and, most important, the latest in “talking equipment” from Western Electric, intending to give “the people of Berkeley a show house of perfect sound.”⁴⁸ The theatre also provided headsets for the hard of hearing.



Figure 19. Ad in a special section on the theater of the Berkeley Daily Gazette, October 9, 1930.

While the *Oakland Tribune* sounded disappointed by the lack of pomp and long speeches by Berkeley Mayor Thomas Caldecott, throngs were reported to attend the second grand opening of the theatre. The 1930 talking film “Follow Thru,” a whirlwind romantic comedy starring Buddy Rogers and Nancy Carroll, was preceded by some short subjects, including a Mickey Mouse cartoon.

⁴⁷ “‘Modernism’ is Keynote of New Theatre Building,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, October 9, 1930.

⁴⁸ “Perfect Acoustics Worked Out After Study by Engineers,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, October 9, 1930.

The Architect

In the six-page special section on the theatre in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, which gave the theatre the most coverage, nothing was written about the firm Balch & Stanbery, responsible for the design and engineering of the theatre.

Balch and Stanbery were based in Los Angeles and appear to have formed their partnership in the late 1920s⁴⁹ as an architect and engineer team, much like Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan in Chicago. They worked together off-and-on until the late 1930s. Balch also worked with Walker & Eisen, a highly regarded and prolific firm in the Los Angeles area, as an associated architect, where he designed more theatres in the Art Deco style, including the United Artists Theatre in downtown Pasadena and its Berkeley twin on Shattuck Avenue, which opened two years after the California Theatre.

Clifford Allison Balch was born in Preston Lake, Minn. in 1880, the son of a carpenter and the oldest of four siblings. His family moved to California around the end of the 19th century, and in the 1900 census, they were listed as living in Pasadena and the 19-year-old Clifford was working as a day laborer. Ten years later, his mother Anna was a widow, and Clifford described his profession as architect, still living in Pasadena, where he and his three brothers all resided in the parental home.

In 1917, Balch, already a second lieutenant in the National Guard, took a War Department exam and was appointed first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, which had not yet entered World War I.⁵⁰ He eventually joined Company 1 of the 160th Infantry. In 1918, he shipped out of Brooklyn, N.Y. to France. During his service there, his mother's letter-writing friendship with the French woman who was hosting Balch in her home was featured briefly in the *Los Angeles Times*.⁵¹

Balch fits the type of architect described in Valentine's book on S. Charles Lee, as one of the many architects who served in the First World War, and returned to the U.S. with revivalist visions of Europe or other foreign lands. He began working on movie theatres in the 1920s, and one of his first designs to receive attention was the Bard Theatre Building in his home town of Pasadena. The theatre in the mixed-use commercial building was described as Egyptian and presented vaudeville shows produced by Alexander Pantages.

After the 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt, the architect and the theatre's owner, Lou Bard, were swept up in the ensuing Tut-mania that was all the rage through the 1920s, influencing architecture, clothing design and even the makeup of many flappers. Balch and his patron were also likely also inspired

⁴⁹ Pacific Coast Architecture Database (PCAD), listing on Balch & Stanbury, pcad.lib.washington.edu accessed December, 2021.

⁵⁰ "California Commissions in the Guard Confirmed," *Los Angeles Times*, August 17, 1917.

⁵¹ "Strangers But War Makes Them Friends," *Los Angeles Times*, November 11, 1918.

by Sid Grauman's Egyptian Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, which had opened in October, 1922, with the first-ever Hollywood movie premiere.



Figure 20. Ad for Bard Theatre Building, *The Pasadena Evening Post*, June 22, 1925

Great pharaoh heads, silent sphinxes, and racing chariots were among the motifs to decorate the theatre. Reds, jade green, and black intermingled with hundreds of pounds of gold leaf in the mural decorations inside the theatre, reported the *Pasadena Evening Post*.⁵²

Little is known about Balch's early training, but he clearly was interested in drawing and was talented as an artist. In 1902, at age 22, he entered a Board of Trade contest to design the cover of a souvenir book and won.⁵³ According to the Pacific Coast Architecture Database, Balch worked on approximately 38 movie theatres, all of them in California, either on his own, with Floyd Stanbery, Walker & Eisen, or a firm he started later with his brother, Balch & Balch.

One project—the West Coast outpost of the famous New York restaurant Sardi's—showed Balch working in an even more modern style, in collaboration with the Austrian modernist, R. M. Schindler, who by then had settled in Los Angeles. One *Los Angeles Times* mention in 1932 noted, “plans are now being completed by architects C.A. Balch and R.W. [sic] Schindler” for Sardi's. A later ad cites Schindler as the building architect; Balch was architect for the owners.

⁵² “Egyptian Elegance to be Disclosed in Bard's New Theater,” *Pasadena Evening Post*, June 22, 1925.

⁵³ “Sixteen Identified,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 30, 1902.

Sadly, the sleek modernist café-restaurant burned in a kitchen fire in 1936.⁵⁴



Figure 21. Ad for the new Sardi's, Los Angeles Times, January 3, 1933.

As a WWI veteran, Balch tried to serve his country again during the Second World War, registering for the draft in 1942 at age 61. In 1948, Balch and his brother William worked on an “ultra modern” drive-in theatre in Pomona, called the Valley Drive-In. This appears to have been Balch’s last project. He died at age 83 in 1963.⁵⁵

Balch and Art Deco

In many of his theaters that survive today, Balch was working in what we refer to today as the Art Deco style, and described at the time as Art Moderne, Zigzag Moderne, modernistic, zigzag, jazz or, as the ad copy for the Fox California read, simply modernism. The style derived its current name from a 1925 exposition in Paris, called *L'Exposition des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes*, where a

⁵⁴ “Eight Injured as Sardi's Café Destroyed by Fire,” *Los Angeles Times*, November 2, 1936.

⁵⁵ Funeral announcements, “Clifford A. Balch,” *Los Angeles Times*, December 18, 1963.

decorative style that had been bubbling up in Europe, influenced by a convergence of modern art movements, made its debut.

In her book, *Essential Art Deco*, author and V&A museum curator Ghislaine Wood describes the wide-ranging style:

Art Deco is perhaps best understood as the style of an age of extremes. Spanning the boom of the roaring twenties and the bust of the Depression-ridden thirties, it came to represent many things for many people. It was the style of the flapper girl and the factories of Fordism, the luxury ocean liner and the skyscraper, the fantasy world of Hollywood and the real world of the Harlem Renaissance. It could be deeply nationalistic, but it spread like wildfire all over the world, dominating the skylines of cities from New York to Shanghai and sheathing offices and factories from London to Rio. It presented a return to tradition and simultaneously celebrated the mechanized modern world. It embraced handcraft production and the machine...It affected all forms of design, from the fine and decorative arts to fashion, film, photography, transport and product design and reached beyond these to encompass literature, music and dance. It was modern and it was everywhere.⁵⁶

While the newspapers did not go into much detail about the exterior of the California Theatre in its 1930 re-opening, the massing of the façade and its plaster ornament are quintessential of the style and are highly regarded today.

The stepped pattern of the façade is an element that became quite popular, one that was an oblique reference to ancient temples of Mesopotamia, the Mayans, and the Egyptians. This fascination with ancient worlds, combined with the 1914 zoning requirement in New York for setbacks on new skyscrapers to allow more sunlight on the streets, fueled a fascination with ziggurat shapes. This shape, and various Cubist interpretations of it, led to the so-called “skyscraper style,” where even furniture took on the shape, such as the skyscraper bookcases created by designer by Paul Frankl.

Another common motif is what are referred to as frozen fountains, captured in plaster, as seen in the California’s façade. This motif repeats itself again and again in many buildings around the world, from the mid- to late 1920s, when the style was effervescent. The concept of the frozen fountain is possibly a reference to the fountain of glass designed by Renée Lalique, one of the foremost designers of the period, for the Paris Expo. A stained-glass version of the fountain was also depicted on the cover of the French weekly news magazine *L’Illustration*.

In addition, the zigzag pattern, seen on the theatre’s façade, was such a popular motif that it was sometimes used as a nick-name for the style in the 1920s. It was also a likely double entendre referring to carefree drinking during Prohibition, since zigzag was used during World War I to denote drunkenness.

⁵⁶ Wood, Ghislaine, *Essential Art Deco*, (London: Bullfinch Press, 2003), p. 6.

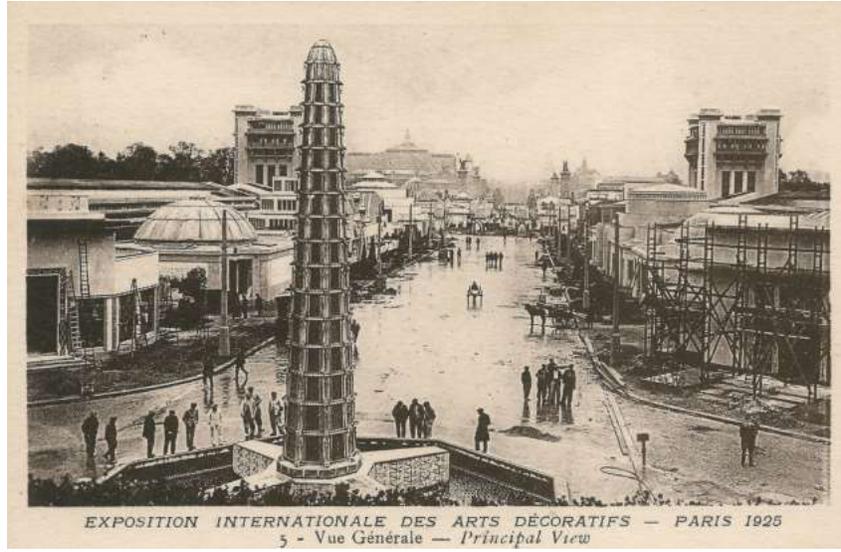


Figure 22. Postcard featuring Lalique's fountain, Paris 1925 Exposition



Figure 23. Stained glass window created for the 1925 Exposition des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes depicts the new style as seen in Lalique's fountain.

Balch also deployed the style in several other theatres, notably in five United Artists theatres, including the Berkeley U.A. on Shattuck Avenue, which was completed two years after the California Theatre on Kittredge. Balch was described as an associate architect with Walker & Eisen of Los Angeles.

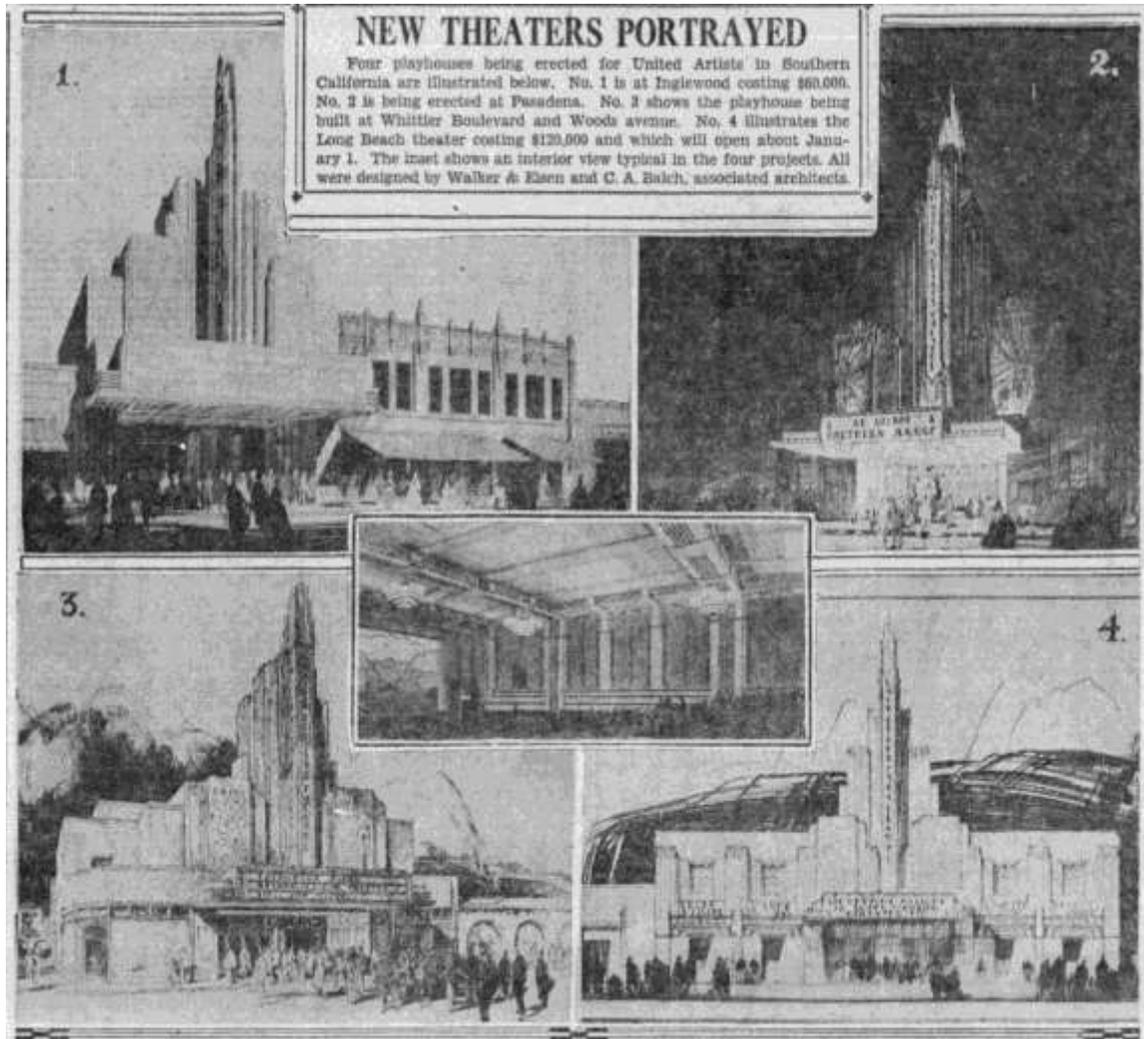


Figure 24. Architectural renderings of four U.A. theatres in the Art Deco style by Walker & Eisen, C.A. Balch as associated architect. (c) Los Angeles Times, September 13, 1931.

The Pasadena Theatre, as seen in illustration No. 3 above, is still extant on Colorado Avenue as a gym and a restaurant. The United Artists Theatre, still an active movie theatre on Shattuck Avenue, is nearly identical in form, with a stepped façade, narrow tower, vertical lines, and sculpted *bas-reliefs* on each side of the tower, depicting “Artistry” on the left and “Unity,” on the right. Theatre historian Gary Parks has noted that the art work is reversed on the façade of the Pasadena theatre.

When the U.A. Theatre opened in September, 1932, the tower glowed with neon, which was removed, possibly sometime in the 1960s or 1970s.⁵⁷ The original United Artists marquee has also been removed.

Like many of the architects of his era, Balch would gradually become more modernist in his designs, as the Art Deco ornament would be stripped from designs in the later 1930s, partly due to budgetary consideration, and as the design evolved into what we now call Streamline Moderne.



*Figure 25. United Artists on Shattuck Avenue, November 2017
Photo: Therese Poletti*

The Cal Endures

In 1933, as the economy worsened during the Great Depression, Fox West Coast Theatres filed for bankruptcy as a way to get out of many unprofitable movie theatre leases. The move was criticized by legislators during a Senate committee hearing on bankruptcies that took place in Los Angeles. One year later, the assets of the bankrupt chain, including 125 theatres, were sold for \$15.6 million to National Theatres Corp., a company organized to purchase the Fox

⁵⁷ Finacom, Steven, "Berkeley's United Artists Theater Turns 75," *The Berkeley Daily Planet*, September 14, 2007.

chain and headed up by Spyros Skouras, the brother of Charles Skouras, a former top executive of Fox West Coast and a trustee of the bankrupt company.⁵⁸

Back in Berkeley, the California Theatre carried on; it continued to screen movies and hosted or sponsored typical community events, such as an Easter egg hunt with partner the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*. The theatre was still named the Fox California; it wasn't until the early 1950s that another big change occurred, as the Fox West Coast chain sought to counter post-war issues that were affecting the movie theatre business. Drive-in movie theatres were becoming all the rage as America started moving to the suburbs, and the threat from television was beginning in earnest, as the numbers of operating television stations grew.

In April, 1952, the Fox California closed for two weeks, as rumors were dropped in a gossip column in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* about plans in the works for a star-studded opening in May. After its brief closure, the theatre had a grand "reopening" to celebrate a remodel that featured a marquee redo and the addition of a huge glowing neon sign, spelling out California on two sides. The exterior of the theatre was also repainted in a shade of chartreuse.⁵⁹ The neon sign today remains the most enduring element of the 1952 remodel.



Figure 26. California Theatre's working neon in 2008. Photo © Thomas Hawk

At the grand re-opening in 1952, actresses Clare Trevor and Jeanne Crain, and the actor Charles Coburn were the biggest stars to attend the event, which raised funds for a U.S. Olympic Games Fund and a Berkeley Chamber of Commerce youth program.

⁵⁸ "National Theaters Take \$15 Million Chain, 125 Houses are Involved, Out of Bankruptcy," *Los Angeles Daily News*, November 20, 1934.

⁵⁹ "Grand Opening Being Planned for California Theater," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, April 30, 1952.

“The theatre itself has been completely remodeled and redecorated,” the *Gazette* reported.⁶⁰ In its own two-page ad, Fox West Coast said it had “engaged the most progressive and modern creators in the architectural and decorative professions.”

In reality, Fox had given its theatre the so-called “Skouras Style” treatment, which was an interior remodel style of Fox West Coast Theatres under the leadership of Charles Skouras, who took over the chain sometime in 1933. The signature style involved the use of plaster in three-dimensional hand-tinted floral patterns and scrolls, applied to interior walls and the surrounds of the proscenium. Fox worked with theatre designer Carl G. Moeller, who also remodeled the box office and the soffit of the marquee in the same scrolling, three-dimensional style. The arches at the top of the staircases were also reconstructed, and turned into curving, rounded entry ways, leading into the revamped mezzanine area.

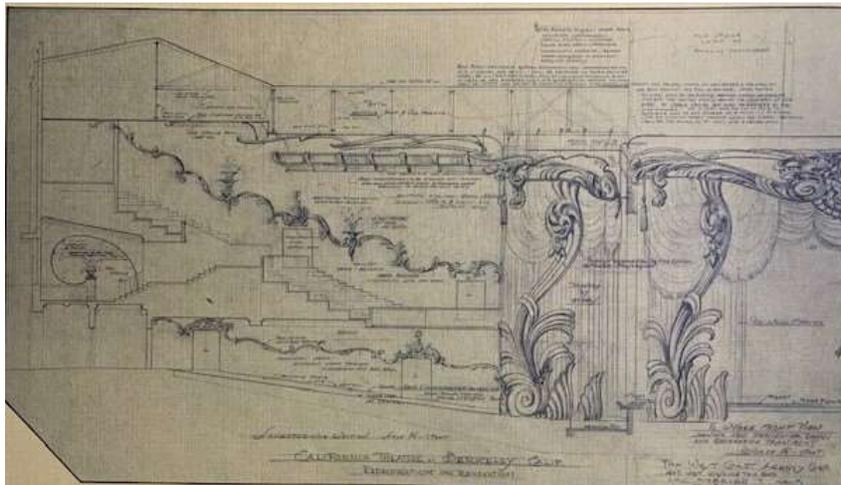


Figure 27. Renderings of the California Theatre interior, longitudinal view, reproduced in the *Annual of the Theatre Historical Society of America*, 1987. Photo courtesy Gary Parks

Preston Kaufmann, the author of a now-highly collectible book on the San Francisco Fox Theatre, also wrote an issue for the Theatre Historical Society of America on the Skouras Style in 1987. Kaufmann said that this form of decoration was almost exclusively seen in showplaces operated by National Theatres, especially the Fox West Coast Theatres. Kaufmann described it as:

Showmanship in architecture...sweeping scrollwork, deep hanging festooned drapes, multi-colored neon-lit coves, generous use of gold leaf, and lighting fixtures of brass and aluminum...are just a few of the very unique components of what historians call the “Skouras-Style.”... Film goers were greeted in the lobby by a clean but fanciful concession stand, decorated with

⁶⁰ “Hollywood Stars to Be Here for Berkeley’s Gala Theater Premier May 14,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, May 8, 1952.

etched aluminum panels. Skouras-Style ornament and painting continued in the auditorium – on the walls and ceiling. Seemingly as in days past, the theatre was a show in itself.⁶¹

The Skouras treatment could be called a lower-cost, three-dimensional version of the heralded Heinsbergen murals that decorated many Californian movie theatres of the 1920s and early 1930s, but at a fraction of the cost. “Obviously, these decorations were relatively inexpensive, compared to use of intricate staff work,” Kaufmann wrote. “But the Skouras[es] were interested in only one thing – making money.” He noted that the style was used for approximately nine years. When Charles Skouras died suddenly of a heart attack in 1954, the inspiration behind the style came to an end.

Not much can be learned about Carl Moeller, the chief creative behind these effects. He is cited as one of the designers of the now demolished Hawaii Theatre (1940) on Hollywood Boulevard, which featured some precursors to the Skouras Style, with floral embellishments.

An ad in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* (Fig. 26) included some rare photos of the stylized ornament on each side of the California Theatre’s proscenium.



Figure 28. Partial section of two-page ad from the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, May 14, 1952.

⁶¹ Kaufmann, Preston, “Skouras-ized for Showmanship,” *Theatrical Historical Society of America, Annual*, No. 14, 1987.



Figure 29. Mezzanine photo circa 1950s, with redone archways, 1930 staircase railings and bas relief in gold or aluminum leaf on the left. Jack Tillmany Collection, BAHA archives.

The 1970s to today

As movie theatres continued to be hurt by the explosion of television in the 1950s and 1960s, some theatres closed or sought new ways to attract the public and remain viable and profitable. The advent of shopping malls and the megaplex in the late 1970s led to another round of pressure on single-screen theatre operators, and many went out of business. Other theatre owners responded by partitioning their theatres, splitting large auditoriums into two or three separate small theatres, where they could screen a handful of movies every day.

The California was one of those venues. In 1976, the theatre was managed by Marty Foster and Phil Harris, whose company, Marphil Corp., operated a chain of art house theatres in the East Bay. They hired architect John A. Elphick of Oakland to split the upstairs balcony into two smaller theatres, each with its own separate entrance off the mezzanine. As much of the Skouras treatment as possible was left intact, but decorative elements that got in the way of the twinning of the balcony level had to be removed.

After the split into three screening rooms, the theatre was called the California 3 for a time. By the 1980s, it was known as California Cinema, as repertory houses came into vogue. In 1994, a company founded by Gary Meyer, who managed the U.C. Theatre, a popular rep house on University Avenue, took over the lease. His then-young company, Landmark Theatres, had the lease on the theatre until October, 2021. Like all movie theatres across the U.S., the theatre was shuttered during the COVID-19 pandemic and was on the verge of reopening when the heirs of John Muldoon III cancelled Landmark's lease.

Under Landmark's management, the California began again to host big movie events that involved the community, as it had done in its early years.

Daniel Ellsberg, author and former military analyst who was the source of the Pentagon Papers, was a frequent movie goer at the Cal. Another local Berkeley celebrity, U.C. Berkeley professor of public policy and former secretary of labor Robert Reich, was also in the house on three occasions for the showing of a documentary, "Inequity for All," by Berkeley filmmaker Jake Kornbluth. Reich, who stars, in the film, participated in a Q&A at each showing.

Another major event took place in 2013 for the showing of the film "Fruitvale Station," about the 2009 shooting of Oscar Grant by a BART police officer, who said he mistook his gun for a taser. The film's director, Ryan Coogler, hosted a packed Q&A session after one showing of the movie.



Figure 30. Filmmaker Ryan Coogler during an audience Q&A after a showing of the film "Fruitvale Station" in 2013. Photo courtesy Dale Sophia

16. Context

The California Theatre is located on Kittredge Street between Fulton Street and Shattuck Avenue, on two parcels, known as Lot 7 and Lot 8. The block is part of Blake Tract, Map No. 3, which was originally bounded by Shattuck Avenue, Allston Way, Atherton Street (now part of the U.C. campus), and Bancroft Way.

This block of Kittredge built up slowly in pre-1906 Berkeley, and then experienced more change in the rapid post-earthquake and fire growth of the small city. From its earliest days, the quiet block right off the hubbub of Shattuck was a popular area for rooming houses and apartments for both students and families, with its easy proximity to the university. In the mid-1920s and again in 1935, commercial storefronts were added to the oldest historic Victorian homes on the block, as the theatre and large corner apartment buildings added to the business activity in the area and the mixed-use nature that still exists today.

Although Blake Tract, Map No. 3 was subdivided in 1881, its development was slow. By 1890, only two houses had been built on the north side of Kittredge, including on Lot 8, the lot that investor Frank M. Wilson would eventually purchase in 1906. This early dwelling on Kittredge was an income property from the beginning, with a dwelling and a small carriage house in the rear.

According to Assessor Records, Lot 8 was owned from 1890 to 1903 by Ann A. Shepard,⁶² who moved to California from Iowa with her daughter, May, a very early student at the University of California, in 1879. They settled at 2020 Hearst Way (then College Avenue), a rooming house where May met her future husband, a law student named Lemuel Warren Cheney. After May and Warren married in 1883, Mrs. Shepard continued to live with them.

Warren Cheney became a journalist and was a well-regarded contributor to the literary magazine called *The Californian*, and eventually took it over in 1882, and then merged it into *The Overland Monthly*.⁶³ After the Cheneys married and sojourned in Europe, they briefly resided in Lodi. They returned to Berkeley in 1886, where they lived on what was then called Audubon Street (now College Avenue), north of Bancroft Way. Their home was located adjacent to the U.C. campus, an appropriate location at the time for the Cheneys.

May Cheney would go on to found the first teacher placement agency west of the Rockies, and her husband would join in its management. In addition, May Cheney was a co-leader in the movement to have Phoebe Apperson Hearst named as the first woman regent of the University of California.⁶⁴ Warren Cheney also sold real estate, where he made important contributions to the development of Berkeley.⁶⁵ In 1890, it appears that Mrs. Shepard purchased the property on Kittredge for investment purposes.

By 1894, most of the north side of the block had been built up, but the south side remained undeveloped. An additional dwelling on the north side of Kittredge, as seen in the 1894 Sanborn map, was a dwelling on Lot 7, also known as 2113 Kittredge. In 1893, that dwelling was owned and occupied by William Murray, a bookkeeper, and his daughter Anita L. Murray, a music teacher,

⁶² Alameda County Assessor Records, BAHA archives.

⁶³ "The Californian magazine has changed hands." *Alameda Daily Argus*, July 22, 1882.

⁶⁴ Thompson, Daniella, "U.C. Offers the American Turgenev's House for One Dollar," BAHA website, http://berkeleyheritage.com/berkeley_landmarks/cheney.html.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

according to City Directories and assessor records. William Murray died in 1896, leaving Anita the house on Kittredge.⁶⁶

Street grading and curbing of the block of Kittredge to the east of Shattuck and west of Fulton did not occur until 1895.⁶⁷ Cement sidewalks were laid out on each side of Kittredge in 1896.⁶⁸

That same year, the *Berkeley Gazette* (which later became the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*) published a cheerful progress report on the young town.

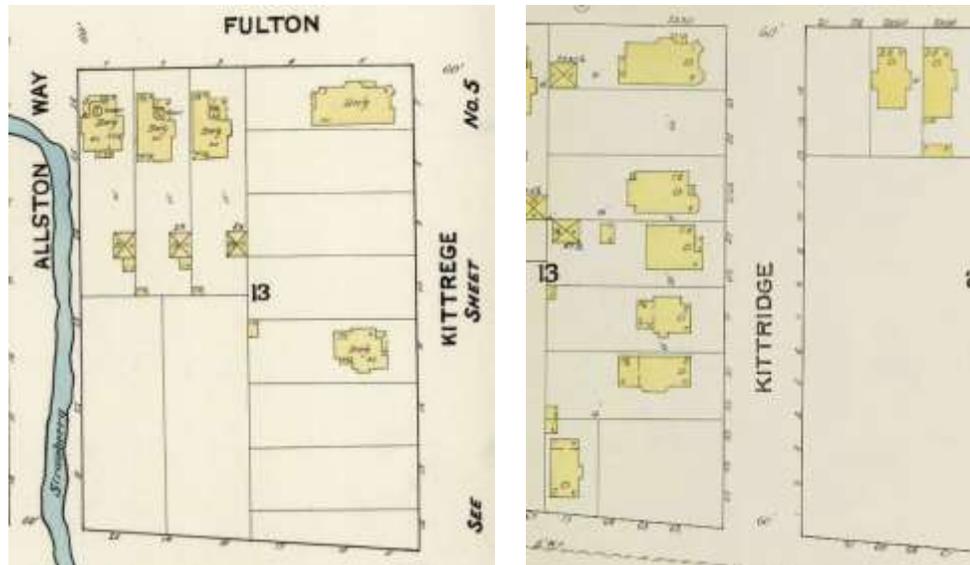


Figure 31. Sanborn map 1890 (left) and Sanborn 1894 (right)

The newspaper was an advocate, citing all the reasons home-seekers should look to Berkeley for the “most beautiful building sites,” with the University a nucleus as an education center. Noting the town’s achievements to date, the writer added, “It is not yet eighteen years since Berkeley was organized.”⁶⁹

Those achievements included a growing manufacturing industry, a police force, a banking institution, services such as electricity in every home, good markets for food, a new public library and a growing number of graded streets. Commercial buildings were one or two stories, wood frame construction, but as the Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey noted, “by 1895, more substantial multi-story structures began to appear that were of brick construction.”⁷⁰

⁶⁶ *Berkeley Gazette*, May 8, 1896.

⁶⁷ “Kittredge Street Macademize and Gutter: Resolution Ordering the Work,” *Berkeley Gazette*, October 3, 1895.

⁶⁸ *Berkeley Gazette*, May 26, 1896.

⁶⁹ “Berkeley’s Progress, Something about the Past and Present Time,” *Berkeley Gazette*, December 24, 1895.

⁷⁰ Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey, City of Berkeley, p. 25.

Public transportation to the fledgling university and the young town growing around it was initiated in 1876 with the 3.84-mile Berkeley Branch Railroad from Oakland. This subsidiary of the Central Pacific had its first terminal on Shattuck Avenue between Center Street and University Avenue.

In 1895, two buyers purchased properties on the south side of Kittredge Street, again for investment purposes. One was Robert Elder, an investor who built a house across the street, slightly cater-cornered, from the California Theatre. The house was originally a two-story wood-frame Shingle Style house. In 1896, it became the home of the new U.C. chapter of the Delta Upsilon fraternity for a couple of years, until the growing fraternity moved to larger quarters. In need of its own house, in 1902, the fraternity began raising funds by incorporating a house association, and built a fraternity house on Channing and Bowditch streets in 1905.⁷¹

Also in 1895, Ivy Melvin Tripp and his wife Emma built a house at 2106 Kittredge Street (Lot 19).⁷² By 1900, the Tripp family had moved out, and their former home became a boarding house. In 1902, a suspicious fire in the boarding house, owned for one week by former miner and capitalist Gustave Wanger, greatly damaged the building.⁷³ A year later, Wanger commissioned Berkeley architect William H. Wharff to design a three-story, fire-proof building on the southeast corner of Shattuck and Kittredge for apartments and commercial storefronts. In mid-1904, J. F. Hink & Sons Dry Goods (the precursor to Hink's Department Store), moved into the ground floor.

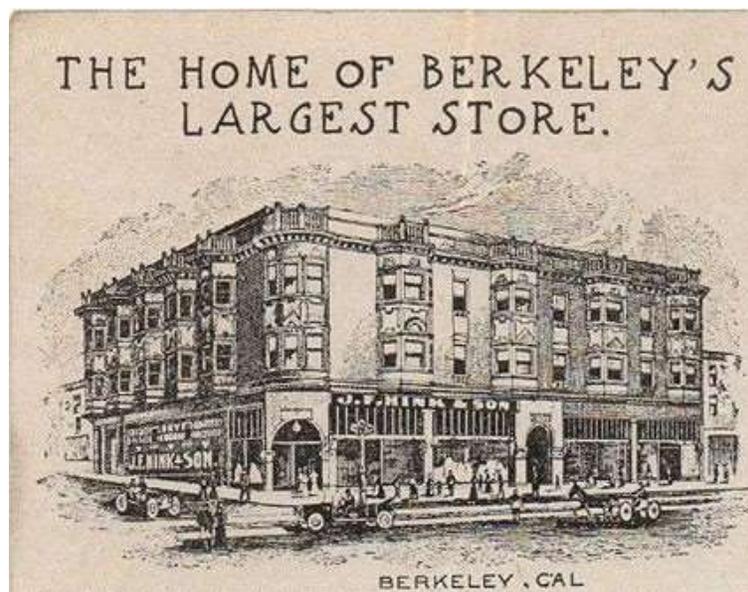


Figure 32. J.F. Hink & Son promotional postcard, circa 1904, of the new store in the Wanger Block courtesy Daniella Thompson.

⁷¹ "The Delta Upsilon Quarterly," Volume XXIV, October 1, 1906, p. 260-261.

⁷² *Oakland Tribune*, January 14, 1895.

⁷³ "Disastrous Fire is Probably Due to Incendiarism," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 29, 1902.

The unbuilt lots on Kittredge Street continued to be sold in the early 1900s, and most of them were income properties, with apartments or rooming houses that appealed to the growing university community. E.J. Martin, a North Berkeley resident who was the manager at the San Francisco gas company, acquired lots as a speculative venture in 1901 and planned to build “tasteful cottages of seven rooms.”⁷⁴ In April of that year, Martin filed a permit for all work except electrical wiring and gas fixtures on a two-story house on the north side of Kittredge, 50 feet west of Fulton, with double specifications.

This likely was the two-story building at 2125-27-29-31 Kittredge, originally four flats that had grown to 12 apartments and rooms by 1950. A classified ad from 1902 for 2127 Kittredge described clean, well-furnished rooms for rent, and a French and Spanish table, where both languages were spoken and practiced.⁷⁵

By 1903, there were dwellings on all seven lots on the north side of Kittredge, while the south side was gradually developing, along with downtown Berkeley. More public transit had an even larger impact on the growth, with the formation of the Key System in 1902 and its arrival in Berkeley with streetcars that left Shattuck for a ferry connection to San Francisco beginning in 1903.⁷⁶

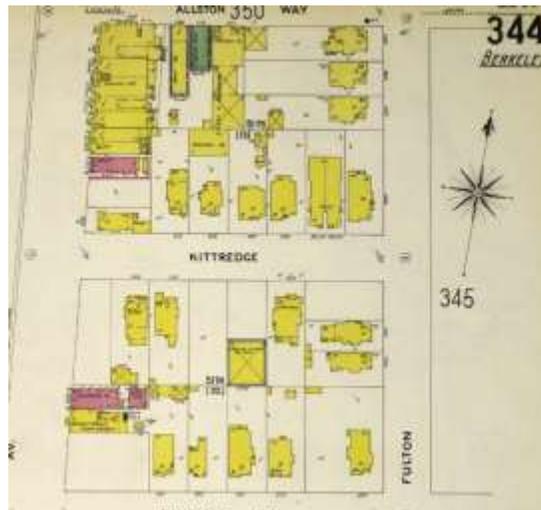


Figure 33. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1903

In January, 1904, a livery and stable owner named John C. Fitzpatrick hired the well-regarded Berkeley architect Wharff to build a two-story residence with a basement on the south side of the block, at what is now 2138 Kittredge, for the large sum of \$4,090.⁷⁷ Fitzpatrick had also purchased the lot next door, to the

⁷⁴ “Will Improve Real Estate,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, May 17, 1901.

⁷⁵ Classified ads, *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, September 30, 1902.

⁷⁶ Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey, p. 24.

⁷⁷ “To Erect Large Building,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, January 4, 1904.

east. He, his wife and their five children, had been living across the street at 2115 Kittredge, according to the 1904 Husted's directory. After many years as a railway superintendent, at the turn of the century, Fitzpatrick had opened up his own livery and stable business on Allston.

After Fitzpatrick's new home was built, he also moved his livery and stable business next door. The original 1904 home, which was built set back from the street, features a full-width hipped main roof and other Victorian era features such as a projecting bay to the east and curved wooden brackets.⁷⁸

Fitzpatrick's livery and stable business evolved with the times. In 1907, it even had a veterinarian who had his office on site, which probably was very useful when horses were stabled there. But transportation was shifting to the automobile, and by 1915, a year after the T&D Theatre opened, it was advertising limousines available at any time at Fitzpatrick's Garage.⁷⁹



Figure 34. View of Kittredge Street circa 1915 with Fitzpatrick's Garage covered in ivy on the left. Postcard courtesy Anthony Bruce

Two major events led to a further explosion of growth of downtown Berkeley. The San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 and the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad station in 1908, both led to more commercial

⁷⁸ Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill, and Sarah Winder, "John C. Fitzpatrick House," State of California DPR 523 Primary Record, March 2, 2015, p. 1.

⁷⁹ Classified ads, *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, December 2, 1907 and December 15, 1915.

construction and development. Some buildings in downtown Berkeley suffered some damage, but nothing like the devastation seen in downtown San Francisco.

The year 1906 was also important for the block. The Victorian house at 2113 Kittredge on Lot 7 was sold by Anita Murray to John Muldoon and his family in 1906, while the house next door passed from Mrs. Ann Shepard at her death in 1903 to her other daughter, Fannie Beardsley.

In March 1906, one month before the San Francisco earthquake and fire, Frank Wilson purchased that same property from Stanford and Sarah Luella Cartwright,⁸⁰ who owned the property for about three years. Wilson is named in Alameda County historic assessor's records as the owner of the property from 1907 through 1913, but the assessment on the Lot 8 improvements was markedly reduced by 1911. The 1911 Sanborn map (Fig. 34) shows only a shed in the rear of Lot 8, indicating that Wilson either razed or moved the house circa 1910-11.

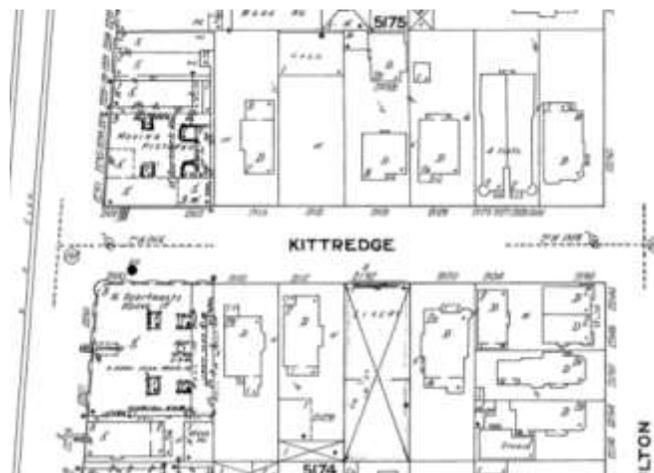


Figure 35. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1911

With so many people fleeing San Francisco, many in Berkeley saw an opportunity both to profit from and to boost the young city's growth in this time of tragedy across the bay. For example, a group of real estate men formed, dubbing themselves the Berkeley Real Estate Exchange, to market the city of Berkeley and its locations, including the Berkeley Wharf, to manufacturers and other businesses in San Francisco that had been ruined or damaged in the earthquake.⁸¹ Their efforts were successful. A few months later, Warren Cheney wrote in the December issue of *Sunset* magazine about the host of commercial enterprises that had moved to Berkeley from the city.⁸²

⁸⁰ *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, March 6, 1906.

⁸¹ "Real Estate Exchange is Working to Secure Large Business Houses," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, May 1, 1906.

⁸² Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context, p. 26-27.

Another investor who sought to capitalize on the 1906 rush of refugees from San Francisco was business leader B.F. Brooks of Berkeley, who commissioned San Francisco architects Henry Meyers and Clarence Ward to design a three-story apartment building of reinforced concrete and brick, for the corner of Shattuck and Kittredge, at a cost of \$60,000.⁸³

Shortly after the Muldoons purchased their home, construction began in October, 1906 on the Brooks Apartment building (also known as the Amherst, Berkeley City Landmark No. 253.) Upon the completion of the Neoclassic Revival style building in 1907, the section of Shattuck Avenue from University to Bancroft was “solidly built” on both sides.⁸⁴ In addition to the large apartments upstairs, the building was home to commercial storefronts, including the storefront Varsity nickelodeon, the first home of the T&D Circuit in Berkeley, accessed on the Shattuck street side.



Figure 36. Postcard circa 1907, showing corner of Shattuck and Kittredge, with Brooks Apartments (left) and Wanger Block (right), courtesy Daniella Thompson

The neighborhood continued its growth into the 1920s, and some of the original building owners, seeing an opportunity, adapted their structures to the need for commercial storefronts. The Robert Elder House, for example, was altered in the 1920s. The charming Mediterranean-style commercial storefront addition, which today has the address of 2124–2126 Kittredge, was built in 1926 and retains its architectural integrity.⁸⁵

⁸³ “Two Handsome Modern Buildings Soon to be Erected in this City,” *Berkeley Gazette*, October 23, 1906.

⁸⁴ Two Handsome Modern Buildings Soon to be Erected Landmark in this City,” *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, October 23, 1906.

⁸⁵ Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill & Sarah Winder, State of California DPR 523 Primary Record, Robert Elder House, March 2, 2015.

Another earlier survivor on the block is the A.H. Broad House (1894) that added commercial storefronts. The A.H. Broad House stands adjacent to the California Theatre, at 2117 Kittredge Street. This Structure of Merit, designated in 2001, was the home of Berkeley builder and artist Alphonso Herman Broad,⁸⁶ who lived there with his family from 1907 to 1915, during a period when the block's character was being transformed from residential to commercial.

Broad would take advantage of this transformation in the mid-1920s, when he built two storefronts in front of his former home.⁸⁷

"Two new businesses that definitely foretell the speedy conversion of Kittredge street to one of commercial activity have just made their bow to the Berkeley public," wrote the *Berkeley Daily Gazette*.⁸⁸

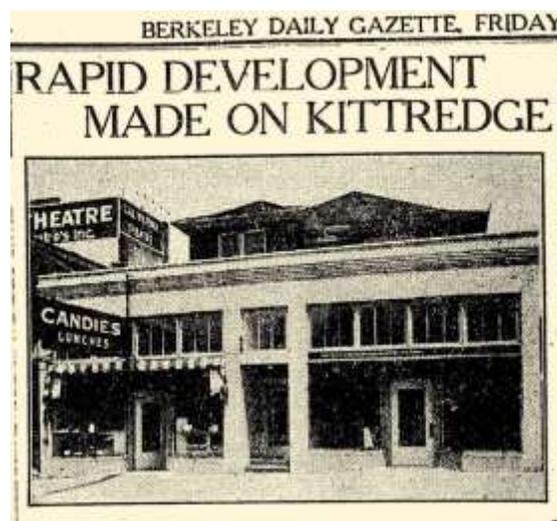


Figure 37. Photo of A.H. Broad building and new commercial storefronts, June 12, 1925, *Berkeley Daily Gazette*.

"Residences and rooming houses have long held sway in this block of Kittredge street, despite the nearness to the city's main artery," said the *Berkeley Gazette*. "Only the California theatre and the Pepper Tree Inn disputing residential dominance in the past."⁸⁹ The new storefront closest to the theatre was a lunch and candy shop, called "The California Sweets," an excellent companion to the T&D Theatre, which had already brought the biggest change to the block since its opening in 1914.

Across the street from the theatre was a relatively new Pepper Tree Tea Room, a neighborhood restaurant and café, which was opened in 1923 by Alma Taylor, after her husband purchased their home at 2138 Kittredge from John C.

⁸⁶ Thompson, Daniella, "Builder-artist A.H. Broad left his mark on Berkeley," August 6, 2009, BAHA website, http://berkeleyheritage.com/eastbay_then-now/ah_broad.html

⁸⁷ Thompson, Daniella, "Builder-artist A.H. Broad left his mark on Berkeley," BAHA website.

⁸⁸ "Rapid Development on Kittredge," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, June 12, 1925.

⁸⁹ "Rapid Development on Kittredge," BDG, 1925.

Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick's wife died in 1919 and in 1921, he put his garage and auto repair shop up for sale, saying it was "at sacrifice, account sickness."⁹⁰ At the time, the garage had storage for 35 cars, was doing a good business, and cleared about \$400 a month, the ad in the *Berkeley Daily Gazette* stated.

The T&D Circuit ended up buying the garage, which it sold a few years later in 1925, to the operators of the University Garage on Telegraph.⁹¹

The second business was a hair salon, described as a ladies and children's hair-cutting parlor. Various owners would take over the hair salon, which lasted through the 1950s.

A Sanborn fire insurance map from 1929, after Fox West Coast Theatres took over the theatre, shows all the commercial activity on the block, including a new gas station on the corner of Kittredge and Fulton.

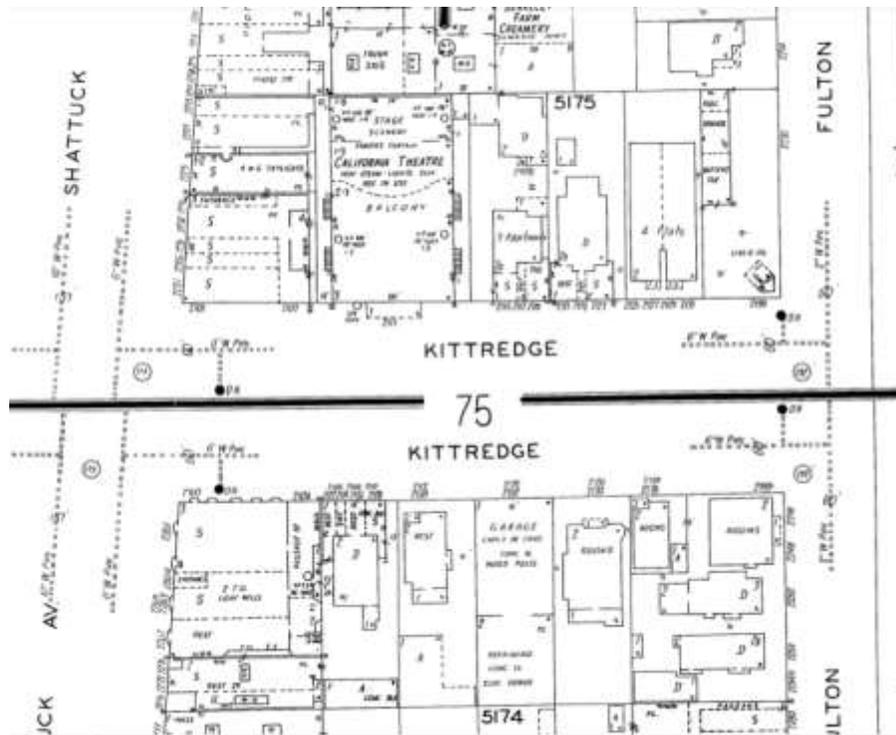


Figure 38. 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, BAHA archives.

The biggest development on the other side of Shattuck Avenue would be the construction of the new main public library, at 2090 Kittredge. The library, completed in 1931, after the 1929–1930 remodel of the California Theatre, would continue the Moderne or Art Deco style. The building was designed by James W.

⁹⁰ "Mrs. C. Fitzpatrick Called by Death," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, March 1, 1919. Classified ad, *Oakland Tribune*, June 15, 1921.

⁹¹ "Felt and Millett buy T&D Garage," *Berkeley Daily Gazette*, September 5, 1925. (This sale was likely conducted by the heirs of Turner and Danhken, since T&D had been sold by that time.)

Plachek, a local architect who single-handedly reshaped downtown Berkeley and the Civic Center area between the wars. The new library was built to replace the smaller library designed by John Galen Howard, the main architect of the U.C. Berkeley core, with funding from industrialist Andrew Carnegie.⁹²

Today, as local City of Berkeley Landmark No. 56 and listed in the National Register, the Berkeley Public Library is an exquisite example of the Art Deco style, in massing, design, and ornament, with *bas-reliefs* that reference Egyptian art, illustrating the trend of designers of the period to incorporate motifs of non-European derivation.



Figure 39. Detail of Berkeley Public Library, November 2021. Photo: Therese Poletti

One year later, the United Artists Theatre on Shattuck was completed, also in the Art Deco style, by Walker & Eisen architects, with Balch as associated architect. Including the California Theatre, these three Art Deco buildings in the area are all excellent examples of the style, and represent the neighborhood's change from early residential to an even larger, modern commercial district.

Another nod to the increased commerce in the area happened in the mid-1930s, when the Taylors, as new owners of the Fitzpatrick house at 2138 Kittredge, also embarked on a commercial renovation, a move that would also accommodate more patrons in the popular Pepper Tree. Their project was built 10 years after storefronts were added in front of the A.H. Broad and Robert Elder houses and injected additional charm to the block.⁹³

⁹² Maggi, Franklin, Leslie Dill & Sarah Winder, State of California, DPR 523 Primary Record, Berkeley Public Library, March 15, 2015.

⁹³ Maggi, Franklin, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder, State of California, DPR 523 Primary Record, John Fitzpatrick House, March 2, 2015.

In 1935, the Taylors commissioned a brick-faced addition to their home, with a two-story, modified Georgian Colonial façade, “inspired by early-American house construction.”⁹⁴ There are graceful arched door openings and arched windows on the ground floor, symmetrical focal windows on the second floor, and decorative steel half-round balconettes. The small, stately addition would fit right in among the Federalist homes on Boston’s Beacon Hill.



Figure 40. Taylor addition (1935) to Fitzpatrick House, 2138 Kittredge Street.
Photo © 2021 Anthony Bruce.



Figure 41. Ad for the remodeled Pepper Tree, November 1935, Berkeley Daily Gazette

Today, this core area of Kittredge Street next to Shattuck Avenue retains its mixed-use character, and most of its historic buildings are contributors to a

⁹⁴ Maggi, Franklin, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder, State of California, DPR 523 Primary Record, John Fitzpatrick House, March 2, 2015.

potential historic district of Shattuck Avenue. In addition, these historic mixed-use buildings from the 1890s to the 1930s are all important links to downtown Berkeley's historic past and its evolution to today's dense urban center.

17. Significance

Consistent with Section 3.24.110A.1.a. The California Theatre possesses architectural merit. Originally constructed in 1913–1914, it was remodeled in 1929–1930 in the Art Deco or Moderne style and retains most of those features: Art Deco façade, including Art Deco style massing and design features such as stepped parapets. The theatre retains all its original Art Deco ornaments, such as the curved coping, zigzag trim, vertical stepped out piers, frozen fountains, and protruding corbels with zigzags. A remodel in 1952 added a neon sign of architectural significance, with rare so-called raceway letters that extend upwards. The stylized letter forms are also individual sculptures of metal and the letter form is a rare up and down script and is fitting with the Art Deco style.

Consistent with Section 3.24.110A.1.b. The California Theatre is one of the last three movie theatres in the Art Deco style in Berkeley, and one of the last 12 extant in that style in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is one of two theatres in Berkeley to be designed in its 1929–1930 remodel by a significant theatre architect, Clifford A. Balch of Los Angeles, who was a prolific theatre designer.

Consistent with Section 3.24.110A.1.c. The California Theatre is an architectural example worth preserving for the value that it adds to the neighborhood fabric. The California Theatre is a striking presence on Kittredge Street and is an extant example of the commercial boom in the 1920s of the area, after the block transitioned from residential homes to small neighborhood businesses. The theatre added to the neighborhood fabric when it was an active movie theatre as a venue for the community to attend films and documentaries, sometimes interacting with directors, and in general, providing educational events on film. The theatre has a history supporting the University of California through hosting events or sponsoring fundraisers.

Consistent with Section 3.24.110A.4. The California Theatre also possesses historic value, as one of the earliest moving picture theatres in Berkeley, and one that is still extant. The theatre also has a close association with early California motion picture pioneers, the owners of the T&D Circuit, William Turner and Fred Dahnken, who commissioned its construction as their third movie house in Berkeley. The California also has a close association with Fox West Coast Theatres, a major force in the early days of Hollywood. The California hosted

many Hollywood film stars and prominent actors during its grand openings of 1914, 1930, and again in 1952.

Historic Value: City Yes Neighborhood Yes
Architectural Value: City Yes Neighborhood Yes

18. Is the property endangered? Possibly. The building is vacant, its fate is unknown.

19. Reference Sources/Bibliography/Acknowledgements:

Special thanks for advice, help, and editing to historian Daniella Thompson. Additional thanks to Fran Cappelletti, BAHA archivist, and Anthony Bruce, BAHA executive director, who were also generous with their help. Thanks again for all the assistance.

Also thanks to Gary Parks, theatre historian and author; Jim Rizzo, neon restorer extraordinaire; Randall Ann Homan of SF Neon; Thomas Hawk; Ira Serkes; Dale Sophiea, a former manager of the Cal; and Gary Meyer and Allen Michaan for their help. Any errors of fact are the responsibility of the recorder.

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Alameda County City Directories, online at Internet Archive
Berkeley City Directories, BAHA archives
City of Berkeley Building Permits, historical permits, BAHA archives
City of Berkeley Building permits
Sanborn Fire Insurance maps
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U.S. Census records, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 via Ancestry.com

Books:

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Earthquake Exodus, 1906: Berkeley Responds to the San Francisco Refugees, Richard Schwartz (Berkeley: RSB Books, 2006).

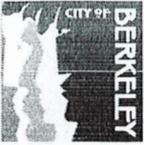
Essential Art Deco, Ghislaine Wood (London: Bulfinch Press, 2003)
The Best Remaining Seats, Ben Hall (New York: A Bramhall House Book, 1961)
The Show Starts on the Sidewalk, Maggie Valentine (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994)

20. Recorder: Therese Poletti Preservation Director, Art Deco Society of California

Date: January 10, 2022



Figure 42. California Theatre at night, 2018. Photo courtesy of Ira Serkes



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

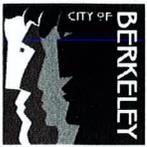
1	Name: <u>Joan Symonds</u> Please Print	Address: <u>65 Tunnel Rd.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Joan Symonds</u>	Date: <u>11/15/21</u>		
2	Name: <u>Hali D. Hammer</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1609 Woolsey St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Hali D. Hammer</u>	Date: <u>11/15/21</u>		
3	Name: <u>Judith Granada-Dewey</u> Please Print	Address: <u>3132 MLK Jr Way</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Judith Dewey</u>	Date: <u>11/15/21</u>		
4	Name: <u>Charlotte Shimura</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2133 Derby St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley, CA</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Charlotte Shimura</u>	Date: <u>Nov. 15, 2021</u>		
5	Name: <u>SUSAN QUAN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2334 DERBY ST.</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Susan Quan</u>			

Date: _____

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6	Name: <u>Rosemary Hardy</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2236 Grant St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Rosemary Hardy</u>			Date: <u>11/16/21</u>
7	Name: <u>Deborah Sperber</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1308 Bonita Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/10/21</u>
8	Name: <u>Robert Moore</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2329 Derby St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/24/21</u>
9	Name: <u>LAUREN MEZEY</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2305 Derby Street</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Lauren Mezey</u>			Date: <u>11/27/2021</u>
10	Name: <u>MANJIT SINGH</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2305 Derby St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/27/21</u>



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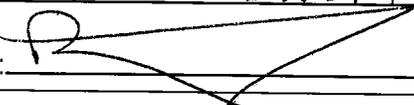
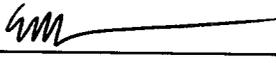
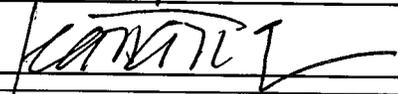
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Name:	Joan King-Angell		
	Please Print		
1	Address:	City:	Zip:
	2605 Piedmont Ave	Berkeley	94704
Signature:	Date:		
	11/10/21		
Name:	JEFF ANGELL		
	Please Print		
2	Address:	City:	Zip:
	2605 Piedmont Ave	Berkeley	94704
Signature:	Date:		
	11/10/21		
Name:	Daniel Carr		
	Please Print		
3	Address:	City:	Zip:
	2734 Parker St.	Berkeley	94704
Signature:	Date:		
	11/10/21		
Name:	Madeline Giumbler		
	Please Print		
4	Address:	City:	Zip:
	2548 Piedmont Ave # 4	Berkeley	94704
Signature:	Date:		
	11/10/21		
Name:	Nina Huffad		
	Please Print		
5	Address:	City:	Zip:
	2812 Parker Street	Berkeley	94704
Signature:	Date:		
	11/10/2021		

Date: _____

Name of Property:	California Theatre
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6	Name: <u>Philip Bolanoy</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2601 Piedmont Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>10 Nov 2021</u>
7	Name: <u>James Hufford</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2812 Parker St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>11/10/21</u>
8	Name: <u>Emily Dean</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2215 Grant Street, #3</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>11/29/2021</u>
9	Name: <u>Jean Tang</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2215 Grant St, #3</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>11/29/2021</u>
10	Name: <u>Austin Tang</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2220 Grant St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>29 Nov. 2021</u>



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1	Name: ALICE JURROW Please Print	Address: 2335 DERBY ST.	City: BERKELEY	Zip: 94705
	Signature: <i>Alice Jurrow</i>			Date: 11/8/21
2	Name: Charles Aitel Please Print	Address: 2335 Derby	City: Berkeley	Zip: 94705
	Signature: <i>Charles Aitel</i>			Date: 11/8/21
3	Name: PHILIP AITEL Please Print	Address: 2335 DERBY ST.	City: BERKELEY	Zip: 94705
	Signature: <i>Philip Aitel</i>			Date: 11/08/21
4	Name: George McCord Please Print	Address: 69 Domingo Ave.	City:	Zip: 94705
	Signature: <i>G. R. McCord</i>			Date: 11/8/21
5	Name: PATRICIA S. ST. JOHN Please Print	Address: 1635 LE ROY AVENUE	City: BERKELEY	Zip: 94709
	Signature: <i>Patricia S. St. John</i>			

Date: 11/8/21

Name of Property:	California Theater
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley

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6	Name: <u>Andrea Scharff</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1321 Bay View Place</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/8/21</u>
7	Name: <u>JAW ROBITSCHER</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2634 VIRGINIA ST. #32</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/8/21</u>
8	Name: <u>Marianne Calam Berger</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1011 Lassen St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94706</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/8/21</u>
9	Name: <u>Mark Nyma</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1174 Euclid Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/8/21</u>
10	Name: <u>Theresa R. Gerritz</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1335 Bonita Av.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/8/21</u>

Name of Property:	California Theater
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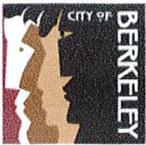
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11	Name: <u>Car slyn Kolka</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2331 Derby</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Carly Kolka</u>			Date: <u>11-12-2021</u>
12	Name: <u>Johan Gustavsson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2344 derby st</u>	City: <u>berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11-12-2021</u>
13	Name: <u>Kathleen Smith</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2328 DERBY Street</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/12/2021</u>
14	Name: <u>Krista Shaffer</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2324 Derby St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Krista Shaffer</u>			Date: <u>11/12/2021</u>
15	Name: <u>Alex Dolginow</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2221 Ward St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/12/21</u>

Name of Property:	California Theater
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge, Berkeley

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16	Name: <u>Jane Ross</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2318 Derby St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Jane Ross</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
17	Name: <u>Craig Alderson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2308 Derby St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
18	Name: <u>Vanessa Tai</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2308 Derby</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
19	Name: <u>Eyle Wolfen</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2304 Derby</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
20	Name: <u>David Bogdanoff</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2311 Derby St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/2021</u>



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

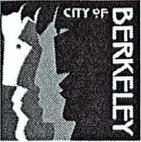
1	Name: <u>Diane Garstler</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2893 Buena Vista</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>12/1/21</u>	
2	Name: <u>Blake Kasemeier</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1735 Carleton St. Apt. B</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>12/1/21</u>	
3	Name: <u>Micaela Bedolla Garcia</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1164 Laurel St. Berkeley, California</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>Micaela Bedolla Garcia</u> Date: <u>11-1-21</u>	
4	Name: <u>Lauren Siegel</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1244 Evelyn Ave</u> City: <u>Brkly</u> Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>12/1/21</u>	
5	Name: <u>Gretchen Dunn</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1015 Euclid Ave</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	

Date: _____

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

6	Name: <u>Fredrick Fittcraft</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1630 Stannage Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: _____
	Signature: <u>Fredrick Fittcraft</u>	Date: <u>12/1/2021</u>		
7	Name: <u>Celine Castano</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2431 Grant St. Apt. G</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Celine Castano</u>	Date: <u>12/1/21</u>		
8	Name: <u>E. Gilrod</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1121 Spruce</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>E. Gilrod</u>	Date: <u>12.01.21</u>		
9	Name: <u>Evan Litwack</u> Please Print	Address: <u>801 Cragmont Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>Evan Litwack</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>		
10	Name: <u>Esten Lindgren</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2914A Deakin St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>Esten Lindgren</u>	Date: <u>12-2-21</u>		



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Genaro Smart</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2175 Kittredge</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12-7-21</u>		
2	Name: <u>Dara Storch</u> Please Print	Address: <u>456 Vassar</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12.12.21</u>		
3	Name: <u>Tasha Yancey</u> Please Print	Address: <u>P.O. Box 5601</u>	City: <u>Valljo</u>	Zip: <u>94591</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: _____		
4	Name: <u>Missy Taina</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2415 Hillegass Ave</u>	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>		
5	Name: <u>Elania Nanopoulos</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1267 Berkeley Way</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/12/2021</u>		

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

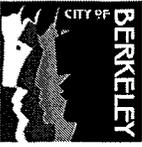
We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

16	Name: <u>DINA RUELDEL</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2524 BENVENUE AVE</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/28/21</u>
17	Name: <u>JAMES F. HRABETIN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1211 VIRGINIA ST.</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/28/2021</u>
18	Name: <u>Arsan Smith</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1624 STUART</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12-1-21</u>
19	Name: <u>Kai Kuan</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2211 CHANNING WAY</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12-2-2021</u>
20	Name: <u>ROBERT ANTHONY LINDSEY</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2516 Piedmont Ave #40</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12-2-2021</u>

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

11	Name: <u>Isabel Goshman</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1618 Blake St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: 			Date: <u>12/2/21</u>
12	Name: <u>Windy Galloway</u> Please Print	Address: <u>893 Dwight Crest Unit A</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94710</u>
	Signature: <u>Windy Galloway</u>			Date: <u>12.2.21</u>
13	Name: <u>Pierre Divenzi</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1029 Keeler Ave</u>	City: <u>Berk</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>Pm Divenzi</u>			Date: <u>12/2/2021</u>
14	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
15	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

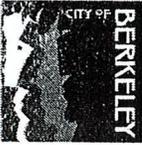
Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>CANDICE WONG</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2613 Hillegas Ave</u>	City: <u>Berke</u>	Zip: <u>94701</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/1/2021</u>		
2	Name: <u>TRIANA KALMANOFF</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2613 HILLEGASS AVE</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/2021</u>		
3	Name: <u>Annalise Kalmanoff</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2613 Hillegas Ave.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/2021</u>		
4	Name: <u>ROSA CAPUTO</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2613 HILLEGASS AVE</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>Rosa Caputo</u>	Date: <u>12/2/2021</u>		
5	Name: <u>Lukas Jones</u> Please Print	Address: <u>931 Modoc Street</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			



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ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
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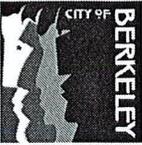
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LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE	
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kiltredge St. Berkeley	

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Ronald P. Maloney</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1231 Blake Street</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>Ronald P Maloney</u>			Date: <u>12/4/2021</u>
2	Name: <u>HARRY STANWYCK</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2515 MABEL ST</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12/4/21</u>
3	Name: <u>Olivia Cole</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2515 Mabel St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12/4/21</u>
4	Name: <u>Joanna PLUHOWSKI</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1301 Blake St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12/4/21</u>
5	Name: <u>VICTOR CATRONICA</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1321 DWIGHT WAY . ART. C</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12/4/21</u>



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
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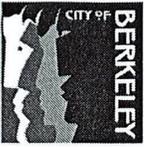
Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
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LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

Name: <u>YUKI BURNS</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1239 Blake St</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	
1	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>
Name: <u>ANDREW BURNS</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1239 BLAKE ST.</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	
2	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>
Name: <u>TOMOKO HACHISU</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1236 BLAKE STREET</u> City: <u>BERKELEY</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	
3	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/3/21</u>
Name: <u>Alan Davidson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1236 Blake St</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	
4	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12-3-2021</u>
Name: <u>Yui Davidson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1236 Blake St.</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	
5	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/3/21</u>



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kithredge St. Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>MARGARET MCADAM</u> Please Print	Address: <u>252 ALVARADO RD</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/3/21</u>		
2	Name: <u>Chuck Stilphen</u> Please Print	Address: <u>252 Alvarado Rd</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12-3-21</u>		
3	Name: <u>Paul Wertel</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2514 Michel St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12-3-21</u>		
4	Name: <u>AMBER HASSALL</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1240 DWIGHT WAY</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/4/21</u>		
5	Name: <u>Dan Hassall</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1240 DWIGHT WAY</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>12/9/21</u>		



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

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LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE	
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kiltredge St. Berkeley	

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Jill McCay</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1240 Dwight Way</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>Jill McCay</u>			Date: <u>12/4</u>
2	Name: <u>SHEILA KOLENC</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2514 Mabel St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12.4.21</u>
3	Name: <u>Joune Tartan</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1413 MABEL</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12.4.21</u>
4	Name: <u>ROBB WALKER</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2430 5TH ST STE G</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94710</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>12/8/21</u>
5	Name: <u>Rowena M Carlsson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2430 5th St. Ste G</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94710</u>
	Signature: <u>Rowena M. Carlsson</u>			Date: <u>12/8/21</u>



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE	
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE ST. Berkeley	

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Scott Newel</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2510 Mabel St</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	Signature: <u>Scott Newel</u> Date: <u>12/9/21</u>
2	Name: <u>YUKIHIRO TAIRA-Edwards</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1239 BLAKE ST</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>12/9/21</u>
3	Name: <u>SAYOKA TAIRA</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1239 BLAKE ST</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94702</u>	Signature: <u>Sayoka Taira</u> Date: <u>12/9/21</u>
4	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____	Signature: _____ Date: _____
5	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____	Signature: _____



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 KITTREDGE

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1	Name: <u>SAM RAVEN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1227 MONTEREY AVE</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/25/2021</u>		
2	Name: <u>Michael Raven</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1227 Monterey</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>M. Raven</u>	Date: <u>11/28/21</u>		
3	Name: <u>Joseph Raven</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1227 Monterey Ave.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/1/21</u>		
4	Name: <u>Clay Patterson</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1227 Monterey Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94707</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/12/21</u>		
5	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		

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Date: _____

Name of Property:	
Street Address(es) of Property:	

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6	Name: _____ <small>Please Print</small>	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
7	Name: _____ <small>Please Print</small>	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
8	Name: _____ <small>Please Print</small>	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
9	Name: _____ <small>Please Print</small>	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
10	Name: _____ <small>Please Print</small>	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		

Date: _____

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge, Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

6

Name: CAROL RUTH DENNEY
Please Print

Address: 1970 San Pablo Ave #4 City: Berkeley Zip: 94702

Signature: *Carol Ruth Denney* Date: 11-21-2021

7

Name: KAT PRINGSHEIM DAUENPORT
Please Print

Address: 2299 Piedmont Avenue City: Berkeley Zip: 94720

Signature: *K Davenport* Date: 11-23-2021

8

Name: Anthony B. Bruce
Please Print

Address: 6 Encina Place City: Berkeley Zip: 94705

Signature: *Anthony B. Bruce* Date: 11-23-2021

9

Name: DANIELLA THOMPSON
Please Print

Address: 2663 Le Conte Ave City: Berkeley Zip: 94709

Signature: *Danielle T* Date: 11/26/2021

10

Name: _____
Please Print

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE	
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley	

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>NEIL OVENDEN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2617 HILLEGASS AVE 31</u> City: <u>BERKELEY</u> Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/10/21</u>
2	Name: <u>Spencer Goss</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2617 Hillegass Ave. #1A</u> City: <u>Berkeley</u> Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/10/21</u>
3	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____
4	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____
5	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____

91

Name of Property:	CALIFORNIA THEATRE
Street Address(es) of Property:	2112 KITTREDGE

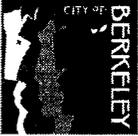
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36	Name: <u>CHRIS GARCIA</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1219 FRANCISCO</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>		
37	Name: <u>DORIS MOSKOWITZ</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2619 Ashby Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12/2/21</u>		
38	Name: <u>MICHAEL Weber</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1727 ADDISON ST</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>12.2.21</u>		
39	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
40	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		

Name of Property:	
Street Address(es) of Property:	

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

31	Name: _____ Please Print		
	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____		Date: _____
32	Name: _____ Please Print		
	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____		Date: _____
33	Name: _____ Please Print		
	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____		Date: _____
34	Name: _____ Please Print		
	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____		Date: _____
35	Name: _____ Please Print		
	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____		Date: _____



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St

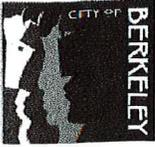
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1	Name: <u>Lindsey Newbold</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2503 Regent St Apt 2</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>Lindsey Newbold</u>			Date: <u>11/19/21</u>
2	Name: <u>Martha Lee</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1047 Overlook Rd</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>Martha Lee</u>			Date: <u>11/19/21</u>
3	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
4	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
5	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____

Name of Property:	California Theater
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

21	Name: <u>GABRIEL FREDMAN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2327 Derby St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11-14-21</u>		
22	Name: <u>Samuella Smith</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1544 Stuart St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/14/21</u>		
23	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
24	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		
25	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____	Date: _____		



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA 94704

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Gerald Bellows</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1610 Franklin St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>Gerald Bellows</u>			Date: <u>11/19/21</u>
2	Name: <u>Frances Bellows</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1610 Franklin St.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>Frances Bellows</u>			Date: <u>11/19/21</u>
3	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
4	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
5	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

11	Name: <u>MARK LIOLIOS</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1846 PARKER ST</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>M L</u>			Date: <u>12/5/21</u>
12	Name: <u>Betsy Carden</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1635 Grant St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Betsy Carden</u>			Date: <u>12/5/21</u>
13	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
14	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____
15	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2115 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>ANDREW ADAMS</u> Please Print	Address: <u>899 GRIZZLY PEAK</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/7/21</u>		
2	Name: <u>Sandra Sood</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2040 Hearst Ave.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/7/21</u>		
3	Name: <u>Therese A. Poletti</u> Please Print	Address: <u>899 Grizzly Peak</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/7/21</u>		
4	Name: <u>HILDY SACKMAN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1801 FRANCISCO ST.</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/8/21</u>		
5	Name: <u>TOM BROWN</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1801 FRANCISCO ST</u>	City: <u>BERK</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/7/21</u>		

Date: _____

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2118 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

6	Name: <u>Pamela Webster</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1912 Blake St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>Pamela Webster</u>	Date: <u>11.08.2021</u>		
7	Name: <u>John T Selawsky</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1912 Blake St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94704</u>
	Signature: <u>John T Selawsky</u>	Date: <u>11/08/2021</u>		
8	Name: <u>CHARLENE M. WOODCOCK</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2355 VIRGINIA ST.</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94709</u>
	Signature: <u>Charlene M. Woodcock</u>	Date: <u>11/8/21</u>		
9	Name: <u>Xanthippe Phillipis</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2143 California St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>Xanthippe Phillipis</u>	Date: <u>11/8/21</u>		
10	Name: <u>RICHARD EHRENBERGER</u> Please Print	Address: <u>3121 COLUMBIAN AV</u>	City: <u>BERK</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/8/21</u>		

124

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2115 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

11	Name: <u>Annie Dillon</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1382 Euclid Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>June 8, 2021</u>		
12	Name: <u>Thomas Bengar</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1011 Lassen St</u> 1040 Ventura	City: <u>Berkeley</u> Albany	Zip: <u>94707</u> 94706
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/08/2021</u>		
13	Name: <u>Gay Schrag</u> Please Print	Address: <u>455 Vassar Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>[Signature]</u>		
14	Name: <u>Judith Frank</u> Please Print	Address: <u>95 The Plaza Drive</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94705</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/8/2021</u>		
15	Name: <u>DALE SOPHIA</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1267 Berkeley Way</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94702</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/12/21</u>		

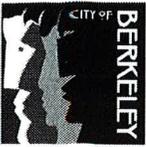
120

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2115 Kittredge St., Berkeley, CA

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

16	Name: <u>Harvey L. Smith</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1801 McGee Ave.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/12/21</u>
17	Name: <u>Diana Yoshida</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1801 McGee</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94703</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/12/21</u>
18	Name: <u>MICHAEL MARLETTA</u> Please Print	Address: <u>880 Grizzly Peak Blvd</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
19	Name: <u>MARGARET GUTOWSKI</u> Please Print	Address: <u>880 GRIZZLY PK</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>
20	Name: <u>PAUL SCHWARTZ</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2653 MARIN AVE</u>	City: <u>Berkeley, CA 94708</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11/14/21</u>

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5. ATTACHMENT 3
LPC 05-05-22

Land Use Planning 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel: 510.981.7410 TDD: 510.981.9603 Fax: 510.981.7420 Email: Planning@ci.berkeley.ca.us

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historic District Petition Form

Name of Property:	California Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge AV St., Berkeley, CA

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

1	Name: <u>Stefanie Schwartk</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2653 Marin Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/14/21</u>		
2	Name: <u>Leo Schwartz</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2653 Marin Ave</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/14/21</u>		
3	Name: <u>ANDREW WOLFRAM</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2877 BUENA VISTA WAY</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/14/21</u>		
4	Name: <u>Michael TenBrink</u> Please Print	Address: <u>2877 Buena Vista Way</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/14/21</u>		
5	Name: <u>KARL MACRAE</u> Please Print	Address: <u>5 THE CRESLENT</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11.16.21</u>		

Name of Property:	california Theatre
Street Address(es) of Property:	2113 Kittredge St

We the undersigned residents of the City of Berkeley, petition the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the property identified above, for consideration as a Landmark, Structure of Merit or Historical District under the provisions of Section 3.24.120 of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. We certify, under penalty of perjury, that we are residents of the City of Berkeley at the addresses indicated.

16	Name: <u>Chris Rasmussen</u> Please Print	Address: <u>988 Regal Rd.</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11-20-21</u>
17	Name: <u>Gregg Greenwood</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1676 Santa Clara St</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: <u>11-20-21</u>
18	Name: <u>Susan Greenwood</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1676 Santa Clara</u>	City: <u>Berkeley</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>			Date: _____
19	Name: <u>CLARK SUPRNOWICZ</u> Please Print	Address: <u>1035 KETH AVE.</u>	City: <u>BERKELEY</u>	Zip: <u>94708</u>
	Signature: <u>Clark Suprniewicz</u>			Date: <u>Dec 10, 2021</u>
20	Name: _____ Please Print	Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
	Signature: _____			Date: _____

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code 3S

Other Listings
Review Code Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 6 *Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) California Theater

P1. Other Identifier: T&D Theater / Fox California Theater

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County Alameda
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Oakland West Date 1993 Township & Range No data
c. Address 2115 Kittredge St. City Berkeley Zip 94704
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S; 564454mE/ 4191517mN
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
Assessor's Parcel Number: 57-2030-9;
North side of Kittredge Street between Shattuck Avenue and Fulton/Oxford Streets

*P3a Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

A building with bold WPA-era Art Deco façade and a mid-century marquee and entrance, the California Theater at 2115 Kittredge St. is a Contributor to the Shattuck Avenue Downtown Historic District. The proportions and materials of the blocky design continue today to serve as a clear example of an early-to-mid-twentieth-century commercial/theater building in the downtown core.

The California Theater is part of a setting of mostly historic buildings that are supportive of the primary commercial corridor along Shattuck Avenue and the transit center that connects the city with the University of California campus.

(Continued on next page)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP10. Theater

*P4 Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)

View facing northwest, January, 2015.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age & Sources:
 Historic Prehistoric Both
1914, 101+ years old, based on COB permit files and newspaper articles.

*P7. Owner and Address:
Cecilia Johnson et al
3434 Tice Creek Dr., #2
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)
F. Maggi, L. Dill, & S. Winder
Archives & Architecture, LLC
PO Box 1332
San Jose CA 95109-1332

*P9. Date Recorded: March 30, 2015

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Archives & Architecture LLC: Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey, 2015.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling State Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List)

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 2 of 6 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) California Theater

*Recorded by Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder *Date 3/30/2015 Continuation Update

(Continued from previous page)

The symmetrical front façade features a tripartite stucco-clad design. A central composition of vertical piers and stepped parapet walls is flanked by a pair of outer wall planes. Each outer wall is punctuated by a narrow central niche. The outer walls include a tall base topped by a wide sill band with speed-stripe bas-relief, an angled fluted upper band, and a unique Art Deco coping that includes subtle oval scalloping and triangular teeth. The center architectural bay features five vertical stripes that step out from the wall. Between each stripe is a high plaster bas-relief of a stylized sunrise and scrolls. Accenting the bas-relief elements are projecting rectangular corbels with zig-zag faces. The materials and elements are all commensurate with a 1930 WPA-era Art Deco design. The marquee is notably a mid-century replacement. It centers around a neon element that curves like a wing or a lyre. The symmetrical projecting prow-shaped form includes neon representations of the "California" name and changeable sign lettering bands. Centered under the marquee, in the recessed entry area, is a blocky and angular, almost brutalist, stucco-and-glass box office. The ceiling of the recessed entrance, in contrast, is more highly ornamented with a fanned-out array of massive, stylized tropical leaves typical of mid-century design fashion. The exterior of the building is brick. A full seismic retrofit project in 2001 altered the exterior sides and rear of the building with full-height exposed steel bracing in vertical, horizontal and diagonal members.

This building serves pedestrian traffic that flows from the primary commercial strip along Shattuck Avenue to related downtown urban uses and the University Campus nearby. The large rectangular parcel is approximately 75 feet wide and 135 feet deep, and the footprint of the building covers much of the property, with some setbacks for egress.

Character-defining features include: blocky overall massing; stepped-parapet front wall; brick wall structure; recessed entrance; symmetrical, tripartite front façade; stucco front façade; tall outer architectural bays including: tall bases topped by a wide belly band, narrow and tall central niches, angled fluted upper string course, and unique Art Deco coping; central architectural bay with vertical piers, plaster bas-relief ornaments, and projecting rectangular corbels; neon marquee; decorative leaf-patterned ceiling. The blocky and angular, almost brutalist, stucco-and-glass box office is likely original to the 1950s remodeling; however, neither its form nor its materials relate strongly to the remainder of the building's design. The possible, but not necessarily likely, alterations include the poster displays cases and the aluminum entrance doors. The seismic upgrade bracing is a recent alteration.

The historic elements of the building appear in excellent condition.

(Continued on next page)

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 3 of 6

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) California Theater

*Recorded by Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder *Date 3/30/2015 Continuation Update



Front façade, viewed facing northeast.



Detail view of entry and box office, viewed facing northwest.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary #
HRI #

Page 4 of 6

*NRHP Status Code 5B

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)

B1. Historic Name: T&D Theatre
B2. Common Name: California Theater
B3. Original use: Commercial B4. Present Use: Commercial

*B5. Architectural Style: Art Deco / Streamline Moderne

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Constructed 1914. Remodeled in 1930 by the architectural firm of Balch & Stanberry. Updated in 1952, including marquee. 2001 seismic retrofit, including metal bracing on exterior.

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: n/a Original Location: n/a

*B8. Related Features:

None

B9a Architect: A.W. Cornelius/Balch & Stanberry b. Builder: Kidder & McCullough/A.J. Lane

*B10. Significance: Theme Arts & Entertainment Area Downtown Berkeley
Period of Significance 1914-1958 Property Type Commercial Applicable Criteria A (1), C (3)

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The California Theater, located at 2113-2115 Kittredge St. in Downtown Berkeley, is a local historic resource that has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The building's significance is based on its distinctive architecture. The theater building was constructed in 1914 as the T&D Theatre, showcasing both live theatre and films. Designed by architect A.W. Cornelius and constructed by local contractors Kidder & McCullough and F.W. Foss, the theater, now popularly known locally as the California or Cal Theater, continues to operate today as a triplex, having been owned and operated by Landmark Theatres since 1994.

According to City of Berkeley permits (COB BP#3418), the original single-screen theater located on Kittredge Street between Shattuck Avenue and Oxford Street was constructed for owners Frank M. Wilson and John Muldoon and the architect of record was A.W. Cornelius. Frank Wilson, a local Berkeley capitalist, and Oakland investor John Muldoon owned the theater, but it was operated under the management of C.L. Langley, who also managed T&D theaters in Richmond, Alameda, Sacramento, and other regional cities.

(Continued on next page)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) None

*B12. References:

- Courier* (Chamber of Commerce), 12/12/1914, 2/27/1915, 4, 11, 2/18/1930.
- History of Contra Costa County* (no author identified), 1917.
- Marvin, B., Historic Resource Inventory form, 1978.
- Naylor, D., *Great American Movie Theaters*, 1987.
- Valentine, M., *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk*, 1996.

B13. Remarks: Proposed historic district

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: March 30, 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 5 of 6 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) California Theater

*Recorded by Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder *Date 3/30/2015 Continuation Update

(Continued from previous page)

The construction of this theater building covered two lots (7 and 8) of the Blake Tract Map No. 3 (Map Book 7, Page 48). Prior to 1913, a house had existed on the most westerly lot with a large shed to the rear of the easterly lot.

The *Berkeley Daily Gazette* published an article about the Berkeley theater on December 7, 1914, providing details about the construction and opening of Berkeley's newest cinema. The building was designed in what was called "Greek style," at a cost of \$150,000. The theater (said to be one of the largest west of Chicago) featured several exits, comfortable upholstered seats, and a live orchestra pit.

T&D opened their first Berkeley theater sometime around 1908 in what was then the Varsity Theater on Shattuck Avenue. The founders of T&D were J.T. Turner (later his widow Hattie) and Frederick Dahnken. Together, they operated one of the largest independently owned chains of picture playhouses in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1922, T&D Circuit Theaters was purchased by West Coast Theatres, Inc., an acquisition that included all 40 theaters in California, as well as all rights, franchises, and leases, including the Berkeley T&D on Kittredge. The T&D Theatre was renamed the California sometime after this purchase, likely by the beginning of October 1923. The news that West Coast Theaters acquired the T&D chain first appeared in the *Oakland Tribune* on March 20, 192: "For a consideration of \$1,675,000 the West Coast Theaters, Inc., a Southern California concern in which Sol Lesser, the Gore brothers, Adolph Ramish and Joseph Schenck are interested, took over the T&D holdings from Mrs. Hattie Turner, widow of James Turner, and Fred Dahnken, founders of the circuit."

Fox Theaters, founded by studio owner William Fox, merged with West Coast Theaters to form the Fox West Coast Theatres chain in 1929. Around this time, the Kittredge Street theater underwent a renovation said to have cost \$250,000, designed by the Los Angeles architectural firm of Balch & Stanberry. Due to an anti-trust suit brought upon Fox by competitors, Fox West Coast went into bankruptcy and was sold to the National Theatres Corporation in 1933 for the sum of \$17 million. Extensive remodeling of the theater building occurred again in 1952 when the theater got a "Skouras Style" remodeling. It is also likely that the current marquee was installed at this as well.

The Skouras style refers to theaters that had been remodeled under the oversight of the Skouras brothers who managed several chains in the late 1930s through the 1950s. They employed designer Carl G. Moeller to remake their theaters with a character that reflects a transition from Art Deco to Streamline Moderne. The buildings done in this style are characterized by the use of aluminum sheet metal used in three-dimensional hand-tinted and etched scrolls applied to walls and facades.

The original architect of the T&D in 1914 had been A. W. Cornelius, a San Francisco architect, who specialized in theater design, incorporating all of the latest trends at that time in theater construction. Albert W. Cornelius was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and immigrated to the United States at the age of sixteen, first appearing in East Bay directories in 1892. Cornelius worked initially as a house builder in Alameda and Oakland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He worked with architect John Conant frequently during this time, likely training under him.

Beginning in 1907, Cornelius is listed in San Francisco directories as an architect, with an office on Kearny Street, and in 1908, he received his architect's license from the State of California. Cornelius remains best known for his theater designs, many of which still exist in Northern and Central California. His designs include the California Theatre in Richmond and the Fox Theater in Salinas. His designs were featured in an article in *Architect and Engineer* titled "Development of the Moving Picture Theater," published in 1915.

(Continued on next page)

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
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Page 6 of 6 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) California Theater

*Recorded by Franklin Maggi, Leslie Dill, & Sarah Winder *Date 3/30/2015 Continuation Update

(Continued from previous page)

The 1930 Art Deco remodeling of the theater was designed by the architectural partnership of Balch and Stanberry, Architects-Engineers. This partnership, which specialized in movie theatres, dissolved by the mid-1930s; most of their significant work occurred in the mid-to-late 1920s when the firm was active in Southern California. Their Southern California clients included the Fox Coast Theatres Corporation as well as United Artists. The Berkeley United Artists Theatre was designed by this firm in 1931-32 in partnership with Walker and Eisen.

Clifford A. Blach worked as an architect primarily in Southern California. Born in Minnesota in 1880, the son of a carpenter, his family relocated to Pasadena in the early 1890s. His partner was Floyd Edgar Stanberry, a structural engineer.

Integrity

The design of the California Theater has been considerably modified twice since its original construction. Over time, these altered designs have attained significance in their own right. The theater retains integrity of location and setting in Downtown Berkeley; integrity of its WPA-era Art Deco design and Skouras-style remodel; integrity of brick walls, stucco façade, and variety of bold and decorative detail materials, and integrity of workmanship. The theater continues to have visual associations with Berkeley commercial/theater design spanning the first half of the twentieth century. The building is readily identifiable as an historic building within the greater downtown core.

Prior Surveys

The property was surveyed in 1978, and found eligible for the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Evaluation

The building is historically significant due to its distinctive architecture and association with important patterns of commercial development in the downtown core.

The property is an important primary Contributor to the establishment of a historic district in the greater Shattuck Avenue area. The building continues to represent commercial forms and materials that were prominent in the downtown during the period of historical significance for this building; from 1913-1958. The form and detailing of both the building and its ticket lobby maintain an important link to the past of downtown Berkeley.



B N C

Berkeley Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 5108
Berkeley, CA 94705

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for all by creating
a unified neighborhood voice for promoting livability and resolving
problems

Website: www.berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com
E-mail: bnc50@berkeleyneighborhoodscouncil.com

January 8, 2022

Landmarks Preservation Commission
Fatema Crane – Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 944704

Ref: California Theater
2113 Kittredge St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

Via E-mail

BNC supports landmarking the California Theater. Like many things in Berkeley, we are losing the history of our city by destroying our historic buildings, neighborhoods and places of interest.

The California Theater is one of the last 12 Art Deco theaters in the Bay Area still in good shape and mostly intact. Historic movie theaters are disappearing every day - once they are gone, they are gone forever.

Berkeley's Arts district needs cultural destinations that everyone, not just the affluent, can afford. If the Cal is gone and the Shattuck ends up getting developed, there will be only one remaining movie theater in downtown Berkeley, which would be a huge loss to the community.

Events held at the Cal over its long history have contributed to the political and social justice character of Berkeley and the broader Bay Area community.

Just a few milestones in the last two decades:

- o Fahrenheit 911 - top grossing theater in the country, July 29, 2004
- o Juno / Planned Parenthood staffed a help desk in lobby - Dec 21, 2007
- o Sorcerer / William Friedkin - September 2013
- o Fruitvale Station / Ryan Coogler Q&A for area students - Dec 4, 2013
- o Inequality For All / Robert Reich Q&A - October 2013

Thank you,

BNC Executive Committee

Shirley Dean, Janis Ching, Dean Metzger, Meryl Siegal and David Ushijima

From: [Charlene Woodcock](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Cc: [Berkeley Mayor's Office](#); [Bartlett, Ben](#); [Wengraf, Susan](#); [Harrison, Kate](#); [Hahn, Sophie](#); [Kesarwani, Rashi](#); [Taplin, Terry](#); [Droste, Lori](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street, Berkeley
Date: Sunday, January 09, 2022 8:51:21 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Landmark Preservation Committee members and Berkeley City Council members:

We must NOT allow another Berkeley cultural, historical, architectural treasure to be destroyed. Berkeley's identity has been shaped by our diversity—cultural, racial, economic, architectural. We have encouraged music, art, film, and crafts to enrich our culture, and Berkeley was once one of the best cities in the country for the wide range of film offerings available here.

We have a model nearby of the community of El Cerrito working together to save their movie theater. Surely Berkeley can do the same and ensure the continuity that makes a community. For the past two decades, we have allowed developers to shape the fabric of our city and it is fast losing its diversity of all kinds. And as Jane Jacobs observed in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, it is that diversity that makes a city an interesting, stimulating, and affordable place for all its residents.

I mourn the University's demolition of the Walter Ratcliff gem of an Arab-souk-inspired filling station and garage on Oxford Street. That building was pleasing and interesting to the eye and it was unique. It enriched the fabric of Berkeley's built environment, and it continued to serve a useful purpose. I fully understand that the University can disregard Berkeley zoning, demolition protections etc. But the loss of that building and the brown shingle boarding house to the west of it makes it all the more important to ensure that Berkeley does not lose the California Theatre.

Please vote to declare the California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street, a Berkeley landmark.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Woodcock
2355 Virginia Street
Berkeley

Juliana Fredman
2418 Roosevelt Ave
Berkeley, CA 94703

Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street Berkeley, CA
94704

January 11, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

Please consider landmarking and preserving the California at 2113 Kittredge St. Berkeley, CA

I grew up in Berkeley and still live a few blocks away. My entire life I have enjoyed watch interesting movies in this beautiful, historical setting- including film festivals and other unique events.

The California Theatre is one of the last 12 Art Deco theaters in the Bay Area still in good shape and mostly intact. Historic movie theaters are disappearing every day – once they are gone, they are gone forever. Berkeley's Arts district needs cultural destinations that everyone, not just the affluent, can afford. We could end up with only one remaining movie theater in downtown Berkeley, which would be a huge loss to the community.

Events held at the Cal over its long history have contributed to the political and social justice character of Berkeley and the broader Bay Area community. Just a few milestones in the last two decades:

- o Fahrenheit 911 - top grossing theater in the country, July 29, 2004
- o Juno / Planned Parenthood staffed a help desk in lobby - Dec 21, 2007
- o Sorcerer / William Friedkin - September 2013
- o Fruitvale Station / Ryan Coogler Q&A for area students - Dec 4, 2013
- o Inequality For All / Robert Reich Q&A - October 2013.

Thank you,

Juliana Fredman

From: [M.E. Lawrence](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#); [Crane, Fatema](#)
Cc: Zelda@artdecosocietyofcalifornia.org; [Harrison, Kate](#); [Berkeley Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: The California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street, Berkeley 94704
Date: Monday, January 10, 2022 1:05:49 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Crane:

I write you, as secretary of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, to urge that the Commission confer landmark status on our beautiful California Theatre, both as a movie theater and as a prime example of Art Deco architecture. The California is one of the last 12 Art Deco theaters in the Bay Area that is still in good shape. Like WPA-era U.S. Post Offices, historic movie theaters keep disappearing--and they are not replaceable, even if a facade is preserved to lend spurious "character" to a dull 12-story tower block. We are proud of our Arts District; we also need more destinations that everyone can afford. And, as a long-time Berkeley resident who lives within walking distance of downtown, I believe that one or two theaters showing first-run movies are not enough for our 125,000 population.

Please let the Commission know that my husband and I, and our movie-loving daughters and grandchildren, are long-time California patrons and would like to remain so. All the downtown housing, "affordable" and otherwise, can't replace the cultural treasures that help make Berkeley our unique and vibrant home.

Yours truly,

Melanie Lawrence and John Smail
Allston Way

P.S. People need shelter, but they can't stay indoors 24/7. We are a gregarious species; we need and want entertainment--we need to go out and mingle, even amid Covid restrictions (which will not last forever). Where will our new residents in the new buildings go to watch movies on a big screen, preceded by dinner and followed by drinks, and other amenities that help maintain our economy?

From: [Carol Stone](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: Fwd: LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA THEATER, 2113 Kittredge .St.
Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:28:56 AM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Carol Stone <seastone11@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 10, 2022 at 3:47 PM
Subject: LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA THEATER, 2113 Kittredge .St.
To: <FCrane@cityofberkeley.info>

Dear Secretary Crane and Commisioners,

I strongly support the landmarks g of the historic Art Deco California Theater at 2113 Kittredge St., Berkeley 94709.

It is one of the last remaining Art Deco theaters is the entire Bay Area in good shape. It has played an important artistic, cultural, architectural role in Berkeley's history as well as being in the downtown arts district and right by BART.

As an important Berkeley asset, it should be preserved and saved for all the inhabitants of Berkeley and the Bay Area.

Vote YES to save the California Theater.

Sincerely,
Carol Stone,
Long time Berkeley Resident

From: [Hersh Brown](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: California Theatre
Date: Friday, January 14, 2022 6:57:59 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Jan 15, 2022

Hersh Brown
336 Whirlaway Dr
San Jose, CA 95111

RE: California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street and Landmark Application No. LMIN2022-0001

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

I've never attended a function at the California Theatre, Berkeley. BUT, I have attended probably over 100 movies at the Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto. You have an asset worthy of saving and I hope you do. It wouldn't be easy to duplicate Stanford Presentations - but hey - this is Berkeley, the City of my late wife's birth.

We attended many events in Berkeley: Member of Norcatos: Performances at Berkeley Community Theatre at Berkeley High School, plus shows at Berkeley Rep, and meetings of Broadcast Legends - before they moved to SSF.

Personally, I watched demolition of the STATE, San Francisco - then watched it become a Roos Atkins... and then? Demolition of the Coliseum, San Francisco to become a drug store... and then? And I watched, after attending the last show, the demolition of the San Francisco Fox. To become an eyesore.

I have also toured The St. Louis Fox, and the Stockton Fox - only to be delighted as to how well they function in their second life.

So, I support Landmark Status for UA-California. I am also a strong believer in Private Property Rights - until those rights for profits impact the community.

Thank You for your consideration.

/h

Hersh Brown

336 Whirlaway Dr.
San Jose, CA. 95111-2848
hershgb@gmail.com
408-421-2437

From: maketv@aol.com
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street Landmark Application No. LMIN2022-0001
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:53:25 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.



1939 Addison Street . Berkeley, CA 94704 - USA

To:
Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

RE:
California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street
Landmark Application No. **LMIN2022-0001**

The California Theatre has been a historical icon for cinema presentations for decades.
The Berkeley Video & Film Festival has been a rentor /contributor holding its three day film festivals
Berkeley cinephiles.

The Neon alone gracing the facade is masterful and memorable.
Please save this art deco icon.

East Bay Media Center



From: [r](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: California Theatre, Landmark App.No. LMIN2022-0001
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:37:19 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Gentkemen,

Being a born and raised Bay Area resident, I plead that this wonderful landmark remain as is. The years of using going to this theater brings backs wonderful memories. Please leave as is!

Thank you,
Nola NcGhee

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Negeene Mosaed](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: Landmark Application LMIN2022-0001-
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 2:26:09 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

WE the long time citizens of Berkeley need a true arts theater one that will bring thoughtful pictures to our city and preserve the history and heritage of the downtown.

We do not want to only have block custers showing in Berkeley theaters, the California has a long history both as an educational theater as many times Berkeley highschool used it to have students go through provoking movies that furthered their thinking and so did the University. We need an affordable venue downtown, not just expensive shoes at the Berkeley Rep.

Theater.

if your thinking of equity and history and culture save the California Theater as a longtime Berkeley icon and institution.

Sincerely,

Negeene Mosaed

(long time Berkeley resident)

1178 Colusa ave. Berkeley Ca, 94707

From: [Joey Raven](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: landmark the california theatre
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:09:26 AM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge St.
Landmark Application no. LMIN2022-0001

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter in regards to the California Theatre, located at 2113 Kittredge St. in Downtown Berkeley. I'm supporting the movement to landmark the theatre.

I worked at the Cal off and on for about ten years, after spending time there as a teenager going to high school in Downtown Berkeley. Until the pandemic hit and then the theatre lost its lease, the Cal remained a vital part of the Berkeley vibe and experience. It is the best movie theatre in the area, but the experience at the Cal went so far beyond that. Just in my time working there we held events for the film Juno, including a help desk in the lobby staffed by Planned Parenthood, a Q&A for students after the documentary Fruitvale Station with Ryan Cooglar, film festivals from around the world, and so much more. The Cal is a gathering place, and it contributes to the social justice character of Berkeley and the Bay Area.

I truly hope the Cal will be made a landmark and will one day have its doors open again, for the sake of Berkeley, the city I love and call home. The neon marquee and the art deco structure could be the postcard for the area, for how beautiful and iconic it is, and the cultural experience downtown would suffer irreparably without it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joey Raven

From: [Steve Seid](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: Support Letter
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:14:25 AM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Landmark Application No. LMIN2022-0001

Dear Landmarks Commission,

I would like to take this moment to support the granting of protective landmark status to the California Theater at 2113 Kittredge Street. The California Theater is notable for its Art Deco elegance, heroic marquee, and its reminder of the grand opulence once afforded cinema. By its substantial architecture alone, it reminds us of the value of not just cinema, but of large gatherings (something sorely missed in this time of Covid). To sit citizen beside citizen for a rock concert, ballet, performance, orchestra, or simply a movie affirms the cohesive bonds of a community. As these grand meeting spaces like the California Theater disappear so too does the opportunity to gather.

But I would go even further in my support of the California Theater. This architectural marvel represents one of the few remaining Art Deco buildings in Berkeley. And though it has obvious merit as a Deco building, what it also represents is simply a bold example of past architectural style. This alone is important as new building development in Berkeley consolidates around a very narrow design sense. A community benefits from diversity of all kinds, diversity of cultures, artistic pursuits, ethnicities, and even the built environment. I would hate to see Berkeley turn into a homogenous stretch of 2020's architectural cliché.

Finally, I wanted to address my personal affection for the California Theater. I spent twenty-five years as a film curator at the Pacific Film Archive (PFA). Beyond attending many film screenings at the California, I staged a rather important event there. A number of years ago, I had the opportunity to bring famed director William Friedkin (*The Exorcist*, *The Sorcerer*, *The Boys in the Band*, *The French Connection*, etc) to Berkeley. When technical problems at PFA arose, the staff at the California offered their theater. The program went off without a hitch, the audience was ecstatic, and, more importantly, William Friedkin was very pleased by the grand setting of the theater.

Please save the California Theater so that its multifaceted importance can be enjoyed by all for years to come. Thanks.

Sincerely, Steve Seid
1668 Santa Clara Street
Richmond, CA. 94804

--
Steve Seid

Media Curator, *retired*
Pacific Film Archive
Berkeley, CA

510/524-3224 (home office)

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/filmseries/

Crane, Fatema

From: FD Leventhal <fdleventhal@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Landmarks Preservation Commission
Subject: Save the California!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings. I was born at Kaiser Oakland, but three days later it was off to Berkeley where I was raised. Oxford, then Thousand Oaks, Garfield (now MLK), West Campus then BHS ('71). I even went to Cal. I hope that is Berkeley enough. When I was in the Berkeley Junior Traffic Police in elementary school we got a movie theater pass for Saturday matinees. We lived in these theaters on Saturdays. Kids weren't so overscheduled back in the 60s and didn't have all the Saturday activities they have now. So we went to the movies a lot with those passes. Good memories. It's safe to say that over the years I have spent a lot of time in the California along with many other Berkeley movie palaces. Sadly, the Berkeley is gone. The Oaks is now closed, too. So are a few others. Thankfully the UC was saved. Let's add the California to the "saved" column, too. We can't afford to lose another. It's a treasure. Please do what you can to rescue this building. Let's relight the neon (photo my me, 2015)!

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Frederic Daniel Leventhal



(Photo©2022 Daniel Leventhal.)

DANIEL LEVENTHAL PHOTOGRAPHY

E: fdleventhal@gmail.com

M: +1 415 290 2136

dleventhalphotography.com

Instagram: dleventhalphotography



January 17, 2022

Re: Landmark Application No. LMIN2022-0001

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Committee
Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing concerning the California Theater at 2113 Kittredge St in Berkeley, CA and to voice my strong support of the Art Deco Society of California's application to have the California Theater declared a City of Berkeley landmark.

This 107-year old theater is an incredible cultural destination, of which I have fond memories from my time living in Berkeley in the 1980s and 1990s as a college student. The California Theater is a treasured part of our culture, just one of 12 Art Deco theaters left in the entire Bay Area and it would be tragic if it were not protected and demolished.

I urge you to protect this historic theater. Once it is gone—it is gone forever. It is crucial to a democratic civil society to have accessible, beautiful places to gather and celebrate the arts. I hope that the California will grace Berkeley Arts District for years to come. I urge you to support making the California Theater a City of Berkeley landmark.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Ferron".

Tracy Ferron
Executive Director
Life on Earth Art

From: [Art Deco Society of California](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: Fwd: you able
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:23:55 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Ref application LMIN2022-0001, please see below:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: AnnMarie Mitchell <annmariemite@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 1:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: you able
To: <Zelda@artdecosocietyofcalifornia.org>
Cc: M Taima <hightai.wave@gmail.com>

To: Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary, Land Use Planning Division

Subject: Art Deco Society of California's landmark application for the California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street, Berkeley, California.
Landmark Application No. LMIN2022-0001

The Shattuck Avenue commercial corridor historical district needs the California Theatre (2113 Kittredge Street, Berkeley). It was originally constructed before the First World War, in 1914 and later updated in the Art Deco style before World War Two, in 1929-1930, and again in 1952.

It has been closed, ever since the Landmark Theatres lost their lease last October, a tragedy for all of us who so loved this theatre. It will be an especially important resource with all the changes planned for Shattuck. It would be great to have it preserved as a place to show movies and as a community meeting center.

So many pre-World War II buildings in the downtown area are gone. It is essential to keep the most important remaining historic buildings of this era. It is a beautiful building, and one by one we have lost so many of the former cinemas that graced Shattuck Avenue, replaced by multi-screen "boxes". There are barely a dozen Art Deco theatres in all the Bay Area. It is essential we not lose more of these cultural icons.

Sincerely yours,
AnnMarie Mitchell,
2610 Hillegass Ave., Apt. 201,
Berkeley, CA 94704

From: [Art Deco Society of California](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: Fwd: Landmark Application LMIN2022-0001
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:21:52 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Fatema,
I am forwarding the letter below, in support of our landmark application, LMIN2022-0001.

This will be the first of several.

Thanks for your consideration, and best regards,
Alice Jurow
Art Deco Society of California

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Negeene Mosaed** <ngmosaed@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 2:35 PM
Subject: Landmark Application LMIN2022-0001
To: <Zelda@artdecosocietyofcalifornia.org>

WE the longtime citizens of Berkeley need a true arts theater one that will bring thoughtful pictures to our city and preserve the history and heritage of the downtown.
We do not want to only have blockbusters shows in Berkeley theaters, the California has a long history both as an educational theater as many times Berkeley highschool used it to have students go through provoking movies that furthered their thinking and so did the University.
We need an affordable venue downtown, not just expensive shows at the Berkeley Rep. Theater.
If you're thinking of equity and history and culture---save the California Theater as a longtime Berkeley icon and institution.

Sincerely,
Negeene Mosaed
(long time Berkeley resident)
1178 Colusa ave. Berkeley Ca, 94707

From: [Art Deco Society of California](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: Fwd: A letter in support of the petition to landmark the California Theater
Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:30:29 PM

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Ref LMIN2022-0001
Please see below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marc Weinstein <amoebamarc@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Jan 16, 2022 at 2:41 PM
Subject: A letter in support of the petition to landmark the California Theater
To: Zelda@artdecosocietyofcalifornia.org <Zelda@artdecosocietyofcalifornia.org>
Cc: Dale Sophia <dalesophia@gmail.com>

To whom this may concern,

As a local resident for 42 years and a Berkeley business owner for 32 of those years, I am writing to support the Landmark application LMIN2022-0001 for the California Theater at 2113 Kittredge Street in downtown Berkeley. 108 years old and one of the few last Art Deco theaters left here.

That theater has been an integral part of Berkeley's cultural history in too many ways to itemize here. It's numerous architectural attributes alone should see this beautiful structure preserved for generations to come to enjoy and appreciate. There is no "replacing" historic sites like this- it ties Berkeley to it's own amazing history - and it celebrates California's unique history of film and filmmaking and has been a local resource for many generations. It can further serve the community in many ways- including film and performance, speaker appearances, and community get-togethers of many kinds as it already has for so many years.

With all the development going on in and around the University and downtown we hope the city will be responsible about not only preserving the character of our beautiful place, but also retain venues like this that provide affordable cultural activities and entertainment. The California is a gem that should not be swept away in the name of developers who often care so much less about these things.

Thank You for taking the time to read my letter.

Very Sincerely,

Marc Weinstein

Co-owner/founder
Amoeba Music and Hi-Fidelity

To:
Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division

2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

CLAREMONT
ELMWOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association
PO Box 5108
Berkeley, CA 94705
info@claremontelmwood.org
www.claremontelmwood.org

January 24, 2022

Charles Enchill, Chairperson
Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)
City of Berkeley
1947 Center Street, 3rd floor
Berkeley, California 94704

Via email Fatema Crane, LPC Secretary: LPC@CityofBerkeley.info

cc: Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), Jordan Klein, Planning Director

Subject: Landmark Application for Wurts-Lengest House ([A.W. Smith], 1901), 2523 Piedmont Avenue

Dear Mr. Enchill and Members of LPC:

In May of 2021 CENA was urged by its membership to initiate the handsome Wurts-Lenfest House for consideration as a City of Berkeley Landmark. Consequently, CENA did file an Initiation Application with the City in June of 2021. Now, many months later, CENA urges the Commission to seriously consider the Wurts-Lenfest Landmark Application, its particular story, as well as the broad significance and noteworthy architectural contribution the Wurtz-Lenfest House makes to the history and fabric of our neighborhood, our city, and the East Bay.

Today if one travels along the streets of the East Bay's early streetcar neighborhoods (c. 1890-1905), one can find handsome clusters of Colonial Cottages, along with clusters of Colonial Revival and Craftsman houses — and, then, in the mix, often a High-Peaked Colonial Revival house(s). Each High-Peaked Colonial is like a marvel, yet most often it has been altered, or it has lost many of its original features. Thanks to the fine work of architectural historians in Alameda and Oakland, as well as our own Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA), especially Daniella Thompson, CENA was able to document and understand, in particular, the historical context and architecture of the Wurtz-Lenfest House.

Of course, our thanks are also due to longstanding CENA members, Lesley Emmington and Anthony Bruce (Executive Director of BAHA), for their preparation of the Wurts-Lenfest House Landmark Application. In addition, we can thank them for their research back in 2002 when preparing BAHA's Spring House Tour featuring the Elmwood's Kearney Tract, including the

booklet "The Making of a Streetcar Suburb; Classic Berkeley Houses in the Kearney Tract on the College Avenue Electric Line." Note cited in the booklet the landmarked house also on the 2500 block of Piedmont Avenue: Merton J. Congdon House (George A. Embury, contractor, 1894), 2527 Piedmont, designated City of Berkeley Structure of Merit, No. 208.

The Wurts-Lenfest Landmark Application does leave open the question as to whether A.W. Smith designed the house, rather than one of the usual contractors of the day (see citations in "The Making of a Streetcar Suburb"). However, as the Application establishes, the house is distinctive not only for its style, but for its refinement of style. Its particular perfection of balance and detail seems to substantiate the architectural talents of A.W. Smith (Smith being one of California's early accredited California architects, raised in 19th C Oakland, later living in his Berkeley home on Telegraph Avenue and known to have a prolific architectural career into the 20th C, adapting to changing architectural styles). Whether Smith can or cannot be accredited for the masterly perfection of the Wurts-Lenfest House does not seem entirely relevant as the house today, regardless, stands as a stunning example of an East Bay architectural phenomenon.

Many members of CENA and the wider community know the Wurts-Lenfest House as the home and home office of David Mundstock (1948-2020). David is widely respected for his tireless civic work in support of "progressive" politics, both in Berkeley and statewide. Currently an exhibition is on display at the Berkeley Historical Society honoring David: "From Streets to Ballot Box Berkeley Politics in the 1970s Selections from the David Mundstock Collection." David cared passionately about preservation of the Wurts-Lenfest House, always maintaining its integrity.

As the LPC considers the Landmark Application, CENA wishes to register its concern(s) *vis.a.vis* the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 3.24) regarding the integrity and purpose of the initiation process. Furthermore, CENA is concerned regarding the process, disclosure, and fair review of any permit(s) that might be considered during the initiation process.

In conclusion, CENA urges the LPC to designate the Wurts-Lenfest House as a significant text-book example of High-Peaked Colonial Revival style, not only for the future life of the Elmwood neighborhood and the City of Berkeley, but also for the future vitality of the East Bay.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Sheahan, CENA President

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

California Theatre 2113 Kittredge
Landmark Application No. **LMIN2022-0001**

Dear Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission,

Hear me out. Let's save the historic California Theatre in Berkeley. Have you seen the marquee? The sweeping, blue and gold neon swan is a truly stunning. You won't find many like it. The art-deco façade will take you right back to Golden Era Hollywood. Inside, matching curved staircases lead to the mezzanine where graceful, curled archways greet you. Many other historic details have been preserved inside.

Something else is preserved inside, as well. Memories. Decade after decade, generations of memories belong to that building. From its first days as a live theatre to the blockbuster crowds at *Marvel's Black Panther*, The California Theatre has been bringing delight to the folks of the East Bay for over one hundred years. When you go there or even just pass by it on the street, you can feel a bit of the passage of time, a glance back through our shared history. It's not something to be lightly put aside.

When I first moved to the Bay Area from the Midwest, I was amazed and excited by the cultural scene in Berkeley. Not only were there live theatre and music venues, there were no fewer than six operating movie theatres in the downtown area. It was a paradise for someone coming from a two-multiplex town. I watched my first Kurosawa at the UC Theatre. I was introduced to Agnes Varda at the Fine Arts. Those theatres are gone now. I saw *Apocalypse Now* for the first time on The California Theatre's movie palace, main floor screen. Will it also be lost? As more and more high-rise housing units and hotels are built, where will the people who reside in them go to gather and share experiences? What will they miss when they look around and can find no trace of the history that came before them?

The California Theatre in Berkeley is a gem that must be saved from the wrecking ball. This long pandemic has taken too much from us already. Our community

gathering spaces – spaces that hold both history and culture within themselves – must be preserved for when we will need them again. I believe that time will be soon and I believe the need will be keen. Let's make sure that this historic beauty of a theatre is a place that we can all return to.

Sincerely,

Annaliisa Ransel
926 43rd Street
Oakland, CA 94608

From: [M.E. Lawrence](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Cc: [Harrison, Kate](#); [Berkeley Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: Landmark status for the California Theatre
Date: Tuesday, April 05, 2022 2:40:10 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

We won't be able to attend the meeting on April 7, but want to express our strong support for granting City Landmarks or Structure of Merit designation for the California Theatre, one of the few remaining Deco movie houses left in the Bay Area. Netflix notwithstanding, we still need public venues for old and new movies and film festivals, as well as live performances.

Yours truly,

Melanie Lawrence & John Smail, long-time residents and movie-goers
Allston Way
Berkeley, California

Public

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

RE: The California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street, Berkeley

To the commission:

The Bay Area is in danger of losing a precious piece of its cultural history and architecture, and we're writing to urge you to take the first step necessary to preserve this cherished landmark. On a personal level, the California Theatre has been my favorite venue for watching independent cinema in Berkeley for decades, and we simply cannot afford to lose this beautiful movie palace that is so conveniently accessible to the campus and the community.

The California Theatre, originally built in 1914, remodeled in the Art Deco style in 1929-1930, and again in 1952 when the fabulous neon sign and marquee were added, has been closed as a movie theatre since the pandemic began. Its loss has been palpable. As one of the last 12 Art Deco theaters in the Bay Area still in good shape and mostly intact, The California serves as a grim reminder that historic movie theaters are disappearing every day, and once they are gone, they are gone forever. After the lease with Landmark Theatres was not renewed, your commission accepted The Art Deco Society of California's application for The California Theatre to designate the building a historic landmark, and has scheduled an eventual hearing, probably in early May (Application #LMIN2022-0001).

With the Shattuck Cinemas' existence rumored to be coming to an end soon, and if The California is not protected, that would leave only one remaining movie theater in downtown Berkeley. This means there could be no large-seating theater in the Berkeley downtown district of any historical, cultural, or aesthetic significance.

Landmarking is the first step towards preserving the theater, and hopefully finding a way to return it to being a desirable destination for Berkeley citizens to savor movies, performances, lectures, and other cultural and educational events important to the city of Berkeley. Please help by acting to preserve the theater's beautiful structure and details.

Please award this gem of a theatre the landmark status it deserves.

Sincerely,

Sonia Mistry
Producer, Film Close-ups
KALX 90.7 FM Berkeley

From: [Emily Wheeler](#)
To: [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)
Subject: Save the California Theater
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:50:43 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please save the California Theatre by granting it City Landmark status!

--

Emily Wheeler

Pronouns: she/her

■ [510 517 3930](tel:5105173930)

■ emily.a.wheeler@gmail.com



FROM THE DESK OF

RON GRONSKY

Land Use Planning
Received
April 12, 2022

Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission
c/o Fatema Crane, Secretary
Land Use Planning Division
2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

*Subject: The California Theatre, 2113 Kittredge Street,
Berkeley*

Members of the Commission:

The Bay Area is in danger of losing a precious piece of its cultural history and architecture, and we're writing to urge you to take the first step necessary to preserve this cherished landmark.

The California Theatre, originally built in 1914, remodeled in the Art Deco style in 1929-1930, and again in 1952 when the fabulous neon sign and marquee were added, has been closed as a movie theatre since the pandemic began. Its loss has been palpable. As one of the last 12 Art Deco theaters in the Bay Area still in good shape and mostly intact, The California serves as a grim reminder that historic movie theaters are disappearing every day, and once they are gone, they are gone forever. After the lease with Landmark Theatres was not renewed, your commission accepted The Art Deco Society of California's application for The California Theatre to designate the building a historic landmark, and has scheduled an eventual hearing, probably in early May (Application #LMIN2022-0001).

With the Shattuck Cinemas' existence rumored to be coming to an end soon, and if The California is not protected, that would leave only one remaining movie theater in downtown Berkeley. This means there could be no large-seating theater in the Berkeley downtown district of any historical, cultural, or aesthetic significance.

Landmarking is the first step towards preserving the theater, and hopefully finding a way to return it to being a desirable destination for Berkeley citizens to savor movies, performances, lectures, and other cultural and educational events important to the city of Berkeley. Please help by acting to preserve the theater's beautiful structure and details.

Please award this gem of a theatre the landmark status it deserves.

Sincerely,

Ron Gronsky
Professor Emeritus
Materials Science & Engineering
UC Berkeley

CONTACT

RONGRONSKY@GMAIL.COM

From: [Carol Clover](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#)
Subject: California Theater
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 9:52:26 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the City of Berkeley:

I write to express my sorrow (horror!) at the news of the California Theater's closing. I don't know to what extent the City can step in, but if it's even one inch, I'd urge you to do so in the strongest terms.

There used to be several beautiful classic cinemas in Berkeley/Albany. One by one, they've shut down. All but the California. I've always thought it far and away the most beautiful, and it also seemed to me the one that had a chance of surviving the pandemic—in part because it's near the university, in part because it has its faithful patrons.

I'm not one of those Berkeley citizens who automatically resent change. Changes have to happen. But not every change idea is a good one, and this one is definitely NOT. To destroy this last landmark would be, well, a kind of historical tragedy for the City—not to speak of a loss to its loyal patrons like me. As a longtime taxpaying citizen, I'm paying close attention to this.

Is there anything we can do to stop this? I'd be willing to participate in any effort to do so, and I believe that others of my movie friends would do the same.

May I ask when the City Council will be meeting on this issue? I'd like to attend, if possible.

Best wishes,
Carol J. Clover

From: [Brooke Bortner](#)
To: [Crane, Fatema](#); [All Council](#)
Subject: California Theater Landmark Status
Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:43:33 PM

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Berkeley City Council,

It is with an ache of futility that I begin this letter to join my voice with others in asking that the California Theater be preserved as a Landmark in the City of Berkeley. Of course, time rolls on, fewer people go to the movies, Netflix and streaming services have made it even harder for small theaters to survive, pandemics happen, etc., and perhaps nostalgia alone is not enough of a reason for some to want to stop the steamroller of the future from erasing some small gems from a beautiful city. When I first moved to the East Bay some 30 years ago I found the charm of Berkeley irresistible: and much of that charm lay in its architecture, and the wonderful parts of the past that its citizens had the taste and foresight to preserve. Despite the current need for more housing, I believe that this theater has a beauty and cultural importance that is worth preserving. If Berkeley is to remain a special place, it needs to continue to retain some such smaller features of its storied past. I do hope that I will be able to continue to go to the California Theater for at least another 30 years. Please consider keeping Berkeley a place of cultural diversity by granting this historic theater landmark status.

Thank you,
Brooke Bortner

April 24, 2022

Landmarks Preservation Commission
C/O Fatema Crane, Senior Planner/LPC Secretary
1947 Center Street
Second Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Land Use Planner
Received
April 27, 2022

Subject: California Theater, 2115 Kittredge Street

Dear Chair and Members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the California Theater and its architectural heritage and contribution to the Downtown. As was discussed by family members at your last meeting, the theater has been owned by our family since it was built more than 100 years ago. Our family has stewarded this property for all of that time and now we recognize the need to allow the property to support Berkeley's Downtown needs for the next 100 years. For a variety of reasons, that use is no longer as a movie theater. However, the following is an overview of how this beautiful façade and marquis can be preserved for the future – and even potentially with a new (performing arts) theater user – the Berkeley-based California Theater Consortium.



We recognize the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC) interest in retaining the unique aspects of the building for future community members to honor and enjoy. To that end, we are committed to retaining the front façade and marquis. We ask only that if LPC considers landmarking the building that the designation refer to the façade and marquis as elements to be incorporated as a part of the façade of a new project, and NOT the balance of the structure. Retention of the rest of the building is not feasible for an adaptive reuse project, given the tall-ceiling nature of a theater. This request is in line with the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance, which does not afford the Commission discretion over the interiors of privately-owned historic resources.

As shared by our family at last month's LPC meeting, movie theater venues are in sharp economic decline nationally and locally. Just this year closures have occurred in San Francisco, Berkeley, and other parts of the San Francisco Bay Area. The competition from online platforms such as Netflix and large multiplexes is overwhelming. Landmarks Cinemas, the prior operator

of the California Theater, stopped paying rent just before the COVID pandemic stalled moviegoing. In Berkeley, this issue became starkly apparent for the former Harold Way project, which attempted to find a theater operator, nonprofit or otherwise, who would operate a brand new theater at a sharp rent discount because of the project's community benefits requirement. There were no takers, and both the housing and theater projects were ultimately cancelled. There simply isn't capital available that can operate an historic theater such as this one successfully and pay the taxes and building maintenance needed to support it while providing a decent return for owners.

What is important about the theater, as recognized by the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association and others, are its magnificent façade and marquis. We are very excited to share that since working with Rhoades Planning Group, the need to preserve the façade and marquis as important pieces of Downtown architectural history was made abundantly clear to the family. As a result, both the real estate offering and the purchase and sale agreement that has been signed require the preservation of the facade and marquis, and that those elements be incorporated into any new project that may come after. The group that will purchase the property has agreed to the adaptive reuse of the façade and marquis in a new project that will rise just behind the façade and incorporate use of the façade and marquis in the new project, which is being designed currently.

In addition, the buyer of the property and their consultant Rhoades Planning Group are working with a local theater consortium in an effort to create a full performing arts theater venue as the ground floor use of the new project. That effort includes working with the California Theater Consortium - an umbrella nonprofit that represents the interest of several community based performing arts groups - to adapt the façade and the marquis for use as both the theater's entry and the project's residential entry. This could be a perfect adaptive reuse of the façade and marquis, and perhaps elements of the lobby, as the ground floor of a building that will provide reinvestment and community engagement with the property for the next 100+ years.



The importance of the theater is neither its user nor the brick box that forms the other three walls. The brick look and integrity of the brick façade was destroyed in the 1990s for the seismic

work that required a steel exoskeleton. Brick boxes in Downtown Berkeley (with and without steel exoskeletons) remain abundant. See the photo above for one such view with several such buildings, one of which is the California Theater.

Any landmark designation beyond the façade and marquis will only lead to additional time and money required to move a project forward that will provide much needed housing units and infrastructure reinvestment (and perhaps a new ground floor theater use). It is estimated that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would cost the project approximately \$150,000 and at least half a year of additional time. The EIR will tell the community what they already know about the building and its history thanks to the historic information already provided by others. That time and \$150,000 could instead be used toward the restoration and reuse of the façade and marquis in support of the new theater. The LPC will still help refine the project design and adaptive reuse of the façade and marquis, through the City's design review process.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We are happy to address any questions you may have. We look forward to this beloved family and Downtown jewel to carry on as a part of a new project that will continue the property's contribution to Berkeley in new and exciting ways, while recognizing the architectural importance of the last 100+ years.

Best Regards,



E. Diane Muldoon

Co-owner of the California Theater

C: Chairperson and Members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission