



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www.CityofSacramento.org

12

Public Hearing  
November 16, 2010

Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

**Title:** Nomination of Hall, Luhrs & Co. Building, 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (M10-013) and Bell & Cupola located at Fire Station 8, 5990 H Street (M10-016) as Landmarks for listing in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources

**Location/Council District:** 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Assessor's Parcel Number 006-0012-022-0000, Council District 1 and 5990 H Street, Assessor's Parcel Number 005-0241-001-0000, Council District 3

**Recommendation:** Adopt an **Ordinance** placing the properties located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 5990 H Street in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (Register) as Landmarks, specifying each property's significant features and characteristics.

**Contact:** Susanne Cook, Associate Planner, (916) 808-5375

**Presenters:** Roberta Deering, Senior Planner, (916) 808-8259

**Department:** Community Development

**Division:** Planning

**Organization No:** 21000

### Description/Analysis

**Issue:** This proposal would add the properties located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 5990 H Street as Landmarks to the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources. The Hall, Luhrs & Co. Building (914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) was recorded and evaluated after Staff received a Landmark nomination application from the property owners, and the designation sought relative to eligibility for the City's Landmark Assistance Grant program, which requires properties being considered for the grant program be listed as Landmarks in the Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources. The Bell & Cupola, located at Fire Station 8 (5990 H Street) Landmark nomination application was submitted by the Pioneer Mutual Hook & Ladder Society, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to

preserving and recognizing Sacramento's fire fighting history. As part of their application, a letter of support of the nomination from the Fire Chief Ray S. Jones was included in the materials.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

The Hall, Luhrs & Co. Building (914 2<sup>nd</sup> St.): The Preservation Director made the preliminary determination that the property is eligible under the following Criterion:

- i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation;"
- iii. "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period;" and,
- vi. "It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the prehistory or history of the city, the region, the state or the nation."

The recommended period of significance is 1857-1885 to early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the building changed to a hotel use (documentation of that date has not been found at the time of printing this report.)

Fire Station 8 Bell Tower Cupola (5990 H St.): The Preservation Director made the preliminary determination that the property is eligible under Criterion:

- i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the state or the nation;" and,
- iii "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction."

The recommended period of significance is 1855-1961.

**Policy Considerations:** This proposed action is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan Focus Area of "sustainability and livability," as well as the Historic and Cultural Resources Element of the 2030 General Plan and the Historic Preservation Chapter of the City Code.

**Commission Action:** On October 6, 2010, the Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council adopt an ordinance listing the Hall, Luhrs & Co. Building as a Landmark in the Sacramento Register of Historic & Cultural Resources. During this meeting, one of the Commissioners commented on the Hall Luhrs & Co Building's 2<sup>nd</sup> Street storefront sashes with the rounded corners. The photos that were found show other storefronts and not the original, so it is unclear what the original 2<sup>nd</sup> Street storefront was. Staff has changed the contributing features to reflect this.

**Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** The Environmental Services Manager has determined that this action is not a Project per Section

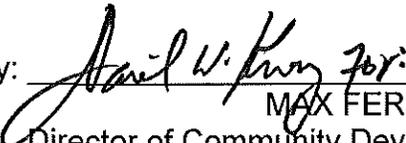
15378 of the CEQA, because it will not result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Any future development proposals affecting the property may require environmental review.

**Sustainability Considerations:** Not applicable.

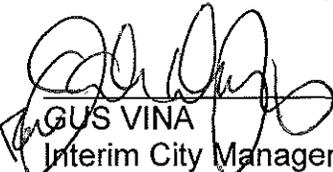
**Financial Consideration:** There are no financial considerations associated with this item.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** This nomination is consistent with processes established in the Historic Preservation Chapter of the City Code (Attachment 1, page 5). The properties meet the eligibility criteria for listing in the Sacramento Register as Landmarks.

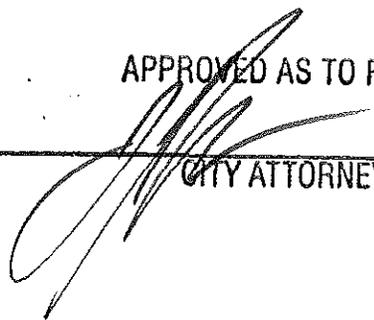
Respectfully Submitted by:   
DAVID KWONG  
Planning Director

Approved by:   
MAX FERNANDEZ  
Director of Community Development

Recommendation Approved:

  
GUS VINA  
Interim City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
CITY ATTORNEY

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## Attachment 1: Background

### REQUIREMENTS, BENEFITS, AND RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH NOMINATION

Requirements for placement on the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (Register) as a Landmark or as a Contributing Resource within a historic district are listed in Sacramento City Code section 17.134.170. Generally, nominated resources are noted for one or more of the following characteristics: they are associated with the history of the city and/or the lives of persons significant to its past; they embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, have high artistic value, and/or have significant historic or architectural worth; and concerning historic districts, they have a geographical definable area with a significant concentration or continuity of resources unified by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

The City Council has found that placement of qualifying resources and historic districts in the Register benefits the community and the owner in numerous ways. Protecting and preserving historic resources helps to maintain and revitalize the City and its neighborhoods by stimulating economic activity, encouraging the use and reuse of historic buildings, and protecting buildings and neighborhoods from deterioration and inappropriate alterations, all of which enhance the City's economic, cultural, and aesthetic standing. The Preservation Commission is authorized to develop and implement preservation incentives, including the use of the State Historical Building Code, which may provide flexibility in means to meet Building Code standards to retain historic fabric and preserve historic structures.

Sacramento's Historic Preservation Chapter of the City Code, Chapter 17.134, regulates the approval and issuance of permits and entitlements involving resources included in the Register, including building permits for new construction; exterior alterations of existing buildings or structures, including work on windows; work affecting certain significant publicly-accessible interiors and site work; relocation of any structure; demolition or wrecking of any building or structure; sewer connection or disconnection; sign permits; and certificates of use or occupancy.

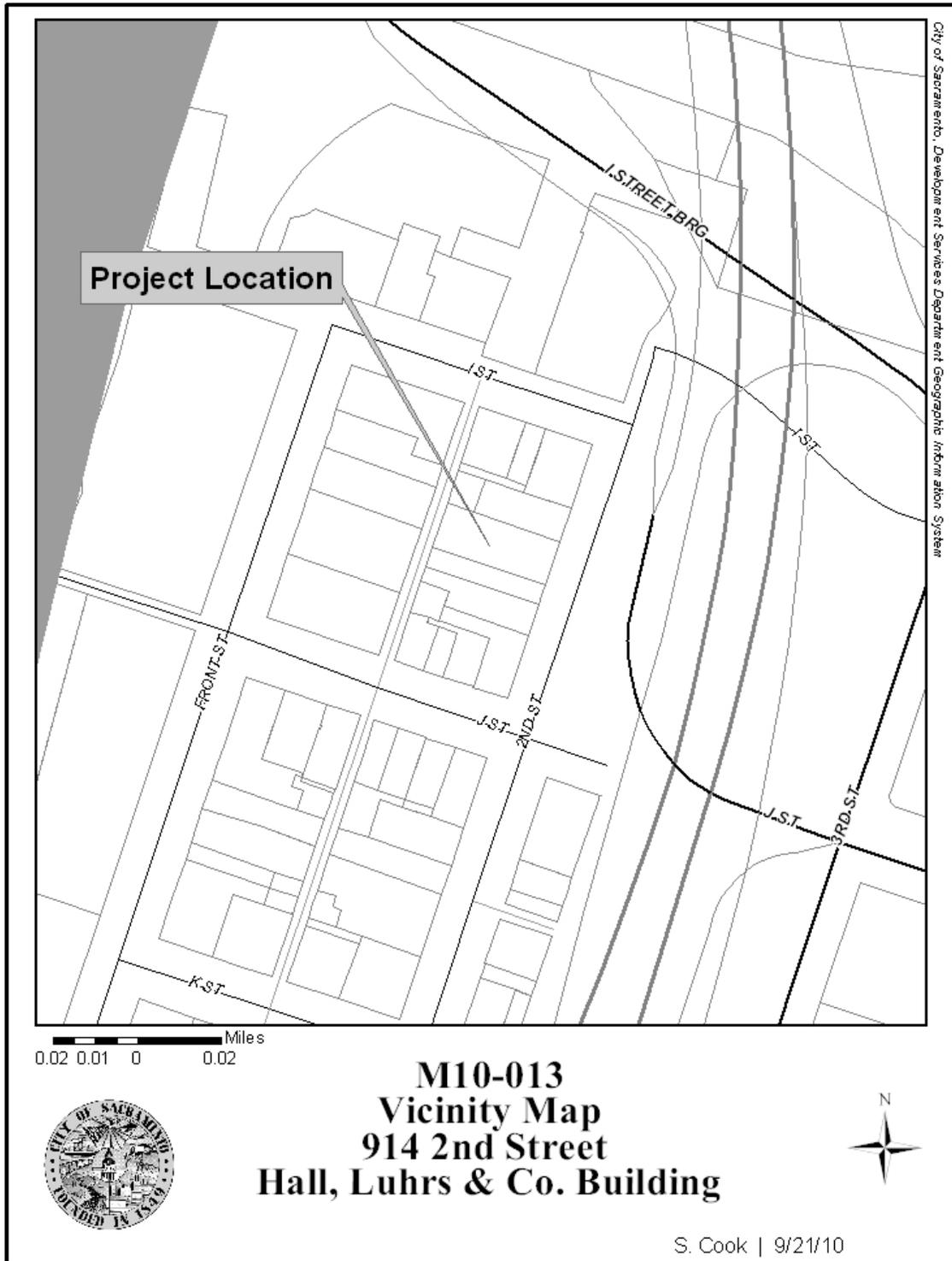
Resources nominated by the Preservation Commission by recommendation to the City Council are regulated under Chapter 17.134 for a period of 180 days in the same manner as if they were on the Sacramento Register. After 180 days has elapsed, if the City Council has not adopted an ordinance placing the resource on the Sacramento Register, these restrictions will no longer apply, unless the City Council extends the time period for an additional 180 days.

In addition, Chapter 17.134.490 sets forth minimum maintenance requirements for the purpose of protecting Listed Historic Resources from deliberate or inadvertent neglect.

Prompt correction of structural defects is required. The Code Enforcement Manager and Building Official are authorized to enforce the provisions of this Chapter and utilize provisions of Chapter 1.28 of Title 1 of the Sacramento City Code. The City Attorney is authorized to take such legal actions as are legally available.



## Attachment 2: 914 2nd Street Vicinity Map





### Attachment 3: 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Evaluation Forms

State of California <input type="checkbox"/> The Resources Agency		Primary # _____
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		HRI # _____
<b>PRIMARY RECORD</b>		Trinomial _____
		NRHP Status Code _____
Other Review Code _____	Reviewer _____	Date _____
		Listings _____

Page 1 of 2 \*Resource Name Hall Luhrs & Co. Building or #: (Assigned by recorder) \_\_\_\_\_  
 P1. Other Identifier: \_\_\_\_\_ \*P2. \_\_\_\_\_

\*a. County Sacramento and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

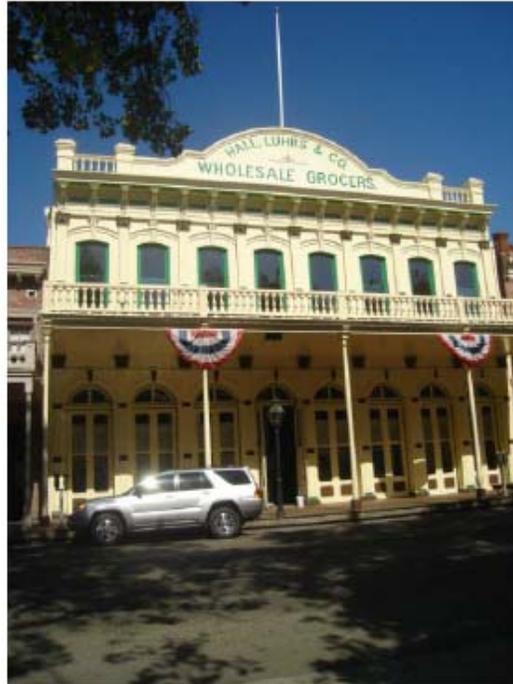
\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_; R \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ of Sec \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ B.M.

c. Address 912-916 2<sup>nd</sup> Street City Sacramento Zip 95814

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ mE/ \_\_\_\_ mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)  
 APN# 006-0012-022-0000

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)  
 The Hall Luhrs & Co building is a relatively large, brick, two-story building with a full basement and high floor-to-ceiling heights. The plaster-finished, symmetrical front/east façade of the building is elaborately decorated and contains simple Italianate influences. The ground level of the building contains eight evenly spaced arched multi-pane glass and wood-framed double doorways across the entire facade. Above the arched doorways is a second story wooden porch with decorative posts and balusters. Eight evenly-spaced double hung windows on the second story facade provide access to the porch and retain the building's symmetry. Above the windows is a deep set cornice held by decorative brackets. Above the cornice is a parapet with an ogee pediment which bears the name Hall Luhrs & Co. Wholesale Grocers. Alley façade is brick with evenly-spaced tall 4-over-4 double hung wood windows on both the second and first floors, with a large double-door main entry and boarded up openings at the basement



level. All window openings have slight arch to top. The interior is heavy timber construction in the basement and turned decorative posts with plaster walls on the upper floors with skylights over an interior stairwell. Below grade hollow sidewalks and street walls and archaeological sites.

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:  Historic  Prehistoric  
 Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Hall Luhrs Building LLC  
4240 Watkins Drive  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Michael McNeil  
City of Sacramento,  
Preservation Office, 300  
Richards Blvd Sacramento,  
Ca 95811

\*P9. Date Recorded: 09/27/10

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	Primary # HRI#
<b>BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD</b>	

Page 2 of 2

\*NRHP Status Code

\*Resource Name or # **Hall Luhrs & Co Building**

- B1. Historic Name: Hall Luhrs & Co.
- B2. Common Name: Hall Luhrs Building
- B3. Original Use: Wholesale Grocer
- B4. Present Use: Offices and Retail

\*B5. Architectural Style: Italianate

\*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)  
 Building constructed in 1885; earlier buildings on site archaeological elements, and 1860/1870 hollow sidewalk/raised street elements in basement.

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown Date: Original Location:

\*B8. Related Features:  
 Basement archaeological features and hollow sidewalks/raised streets areas

B9a. Architect: b. Builder:

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Grocery Distribution and Transportation Area:  
 Period of Significance: 1857-1885s to early 20<sup>th</sup> c. when building changed to hotel use. Property Type: Commercial  
 Applicable Criteria:  
 i. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation  
 iii. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction  
 vi. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the prehistory or history of the city, the region, the state or the nation.  
 (Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The site and that next door, owned and operated by German immigrant and long-time Sacramento business man, George Schroth, became home to the newly constructed Hall, Luhrs & Co. Wholesale Grocers. The wholesale grocery business, was one of the first to undertake the cross country shipping of fresh fruit utilizing refrigerated rail car technology, achieved through the quarrying of ice from the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The building continued to operate as a wholesale grocer until the early twentieth century when it turned in to the Enterprise hotel. During an 1970s restoration effort the building was given the name the Halls Luhrs building . The building is one of the largest and most recently constructed of the historic brick with plaster finish structures in Old Sacramento with high floor-to-ceiling heights and elongated vertical openings, broad covered walkway, deep set decorative cornice and parapet; interior is heavy timber construction in the basement and turned decorative posts and plaster walls on the upper floors with skylights over the interior stairwell. Property owners on the block raised the street in 1865, so the area immediately in front of the building's basement wall, within the street right-of-way includes hollow sidewalks and the brick street walls holding the fill of the raised streets. The site of the Hall Luhrs building also contains archaeological value, since the building sits on top of what were historically three separate lots. In 1857 a frame building and one of brick, both two stories occupied the property. By the late 1860s, two one-story brick buildings were depicted here. The site was once the location of the first hospital in Sacramento County, operated by Proctor and Price in 1856, and a bath house in the 1850s and 1860s. Before 1875, these lots included address numbers 14, 16, and 18. After 1875, when the city revamped its street-numbering system, they became 912, 914 and 916. Archaeological report from archaeologist Dave Abrams relays detailed information about the various archaeological resources on the site, including several references to businesses run by women, two of them African-American women, from the 1860s through 1870s.

\*B12. References:  
 Old Sacramento Historic Area and Riverfront Park Technical Report;  
 Old Sacramento Historic Illustrations Guide;  
 Old Sacramento Underground Tours: Get the Low Down, An Interpretive Plan, Heather Lavezzo Downey

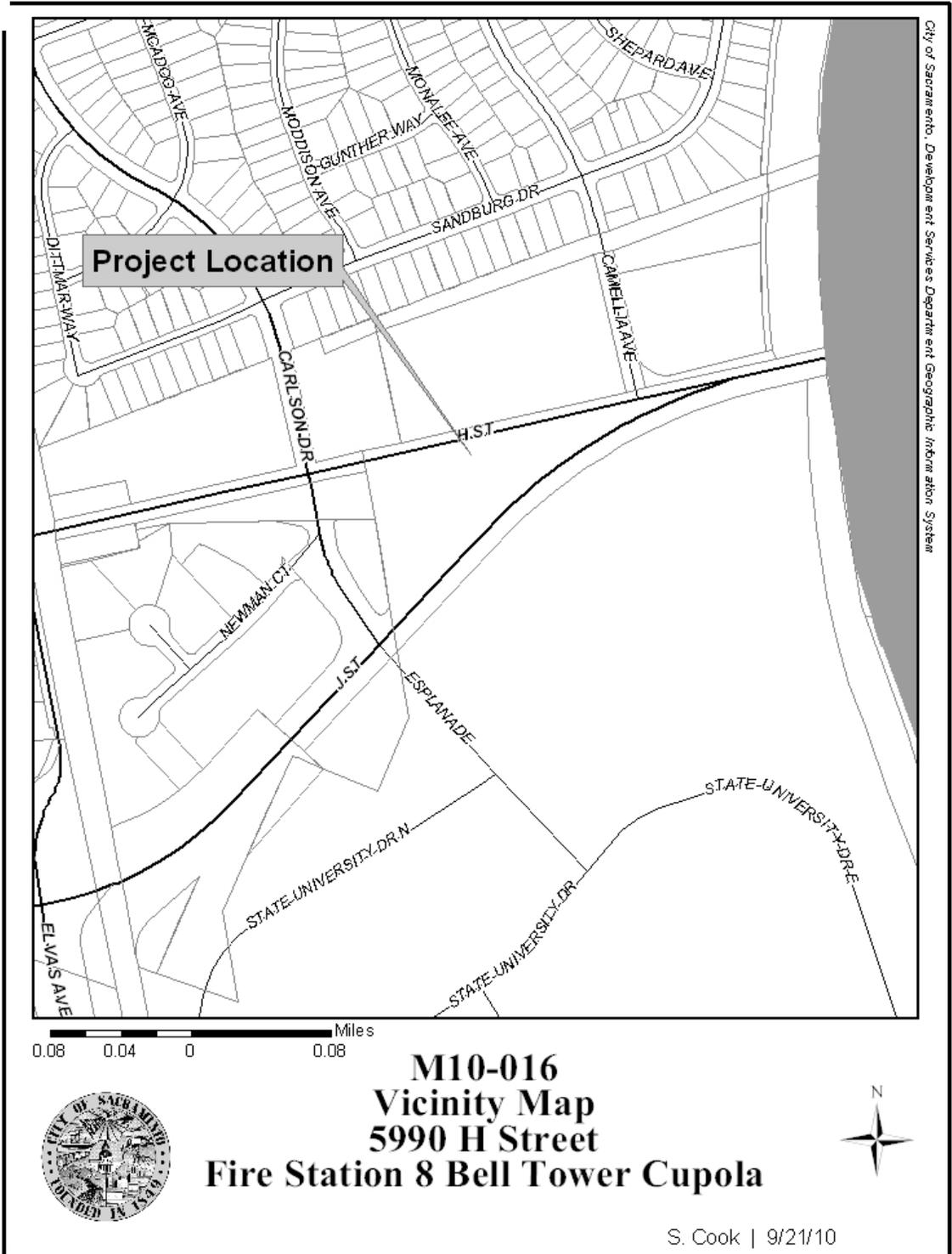
B13. Remarks:

(This space reserved for official comments.)

\*B14. Evaluator: Michael McNeil, Intern  
 \*Date of Evaluation: September 27,2010



### Attachment 4: 5990 H Street Vicinity Map





State of California — The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	Primary # HRI#
<b>BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD</b>	

Page 2 of 2

\*NRHP Status Code

\*Resource Name or # (CUPOLA & BELL MONUMENT, located at Fire Station 8)

- B1. Historic Name: Cupola & Bell from the Young America Engine Company Number 6  
 B2. Common Name: Cupola/Bell located behind Fire Station 8  
 B3. Original Use: Fire House Cupola/Bell      B4. Present Use: Monument  
 \*B5. Architectural Style: Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century commercial

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

The cupola was originally constructed in July, 1855, as part of a two story brick fire house on the east side of 10<sup>th</sup> Street between I and J Streets in downtown Sacramento. The cast metal bell was purchased in New York and added to the station in 1857 and rung for the first time on New Year's Night 1858.

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown      Date: 1961      Original Location: 10<sup>th</sup> Street between I and J Streets, Sacramento, California

\*B8. Related Features:

B9a. Architect:      b. Builder:

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Sacramento Fire History

Area:

Period of Significance: 1855-1961      Property Type: Monument

Applicable Criteria:

- i. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation.
- iii. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)  
 The Cupola/Bell structure from the Young America Engine Company represents an earlier and simpler Sacramento fire fighting structure. At the time of the original fire station with the cupola's construction Sacramento did not have professional fire fighters and the engine companies in the area all worked on a volunteer system. Eventually the city professionalized fire fighting renaming the structure the Engine Company # 2. A strong rivalry between competing fire companies in the downtown, for which got to a fire first, was the impetus for the Young America Company to decide an alarm bell was needed, resulting in the purchase of the bell for the station in 1857. Once it arrived from New York by ship coming around Cape Horn, it was rung on New Years and other momentous occasions, in addition to its fire alarm role, ringing during some of history's most important events. On April 13, 1860 the bell rang announcing the arrival of the first Pony Express rider to come to Sacramento and also rang once news was received of Abraham Lincoln's election on May 16, 1860, and his assassination on April 14, 1865. The bell was also rung on May 10, 1869, to mark the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The Young America Company's building and site were sold in 1931 and the building demolished. The cupola and bell were saved and have on their own served as a monument in a variety of locations, including Sutter's Fort and Folsom Lake State Park. Through the efforts of Fire Chief Tom Deise, the bell and its tower and the name plate were returned to the City of Sacramento by the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks in May, 1961. The cupola and bell exemplify the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century aesthetic that would incorporate cupolas with fluted columns and other decorative elements atop fire stations, and cast metal bells that would be rung by hand as a means of communicating important information or commemorating important events. Note, alterations appear to have been made to the cupola over time simplifying the capitals of the columns, eliminating balustrade around base and eliminating the flag pole, replacing it with the metal ball.

The Historical Marker Database,  
<http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=17538>  
 (Accessed September 21, 2010)

Research from the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society

B13. Remarks:

\*B14. Evaluator: Michael McNeil, Intern, City of Sacramento Preservation Office

\*Date of Evaluation: September 27, 2010

## Attachment 6: Letter of Support from Fire Chief Ray S. Jones

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
PRESERVATION OFFICE

MAY 16 2010

RECEIVED

SACRAMENTO FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RAY S. JONES  
FIRE CHIEF

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

575 HILLTOP BLVD  
SUITE 200  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95821

May 6, 2010

PH 916 808-1300  
FAX 916 808-1629

Ms. Roberta Deering  
Historic Preservation Director  
c/o Development Services Department  
300 Richards Boulevard  
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Ms. Deering,

Please accept this letter as a show of support towards the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society's efforts to place the Bell Tower Cuppola [housing the Young America Company 6 Bell] on the list of Historical City Landmarks.

The Cuppola and Bell are currently located on the park-like grounds at Fire Station 8, in the River Park neighborhood of East Sacramento. The Cuppola and Bell are historical treasures from 1850 to 1871 when our fire department was comprised of volunteer companies. Volunteer firemen from the Young America Company 6 would respond to the toll of their bell whenever flames threatened the City. The Cuppola and Bell are symbolic of Sacramento's first citizens protecting life and property from the ravages of fire.

The Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society is dedicated to the preservation of many fire department artifacts such as the Cuppola and Bell. The dedication and sacrifices of our first fire department are representative of this Cuppola and Bell and I fully support the society's endeavors in keeping a piece of fire history available for present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Ray S. Jones  
Fire Chief



## **Attachment 7: Ordinance**

### **ORDINANCE NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council on

### **NOMINATING AND ADDING 914 2ND STREET AND THE BELL & CUPOLA AT 5900 H STREET TO THE SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AS LANDMARKS (M10-013 AND M10-016)**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:**

#### **SECTION 1**

The Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources is amended by adding the properties located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Bell and Cupola at 5990 "H" Street as Landmarks.

The property located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (006-0012-022-0000) is eligible under Criterion i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation;" and iii. "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period;" and vi. "It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the prehistory or history of the city, the region, the state or the nation."

The bell and cupola structure located at 5990 H Street (005-0241-001-0000) is eligible under Criterion i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the state or the nation;" and iii "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction."

#### **SECTION 2**

Sacramento City Code Section 17.134.180 prescribes that the Significant Feature(s) or Characteristic(s) of the resources to be added to the Sacramento Register shall be identified in the designating Ordinance.

The significant features and characteristics of 914 2nd Street - Hall, Luhrs & Co. Building - include the following:

Contributing features include but are not limited to:

- Building, including but not limited to

- Entire east/front elevation, plaster and wooden elements, including color scheme window and door openings unless documentation from original building construction found of original 2<sup>nd</sup> Street storefront designs that differ from current, including material (wood), and glazing patterns, and framing with the exception of the storefront windows' and doors' rounded corners of the sashes which would not have been original, and trim, porch posts and ornamental railings,
  - Cornice, brackets and parapet design, including painted sign
  - West/rear elevation brick façade, window and door openings, materials, and trim, framing and glazing patterns and color schemes.
  - Interior heavy timber framing in basement, turned columns on first and second floors, and skylights over interior stairwell.
- Archaeological sites in basement
  - Hollow sidewalk and raised streets element at basement level

Significant Features & Characteristics: The significant features and characteristics of 5990 H Street - Bell Tower Cupola - include the following:

Contributing features include but are not limited to:

- Fluted columns surrounding the bell
- Metal flared dome with ball finial
- Original cast metal bell and related ring elements
- Elements of original column capitols, cupola railing, and flag pole, which had been altered in alteration of cupola.

### **SECTION 3**

Pursuant to Sacramento City Code Sections 17.134.170 and 17.134.180 and based on the duly noticed hearing conducted by the Preservation Commission and City Council, the staff reports and nomination materials attached thereto, and the testimony presented at the hearing on the nomination, the City Council makes the following findings in support of its action to designate the properties located at 914 2nd Street and 5990 "H" Street as Landmarks and to place them in the Sacramento Register:

The properties meet the Criteria for Sacramento Register Landmark eligibility pursuant to Sacramento City Code Title 17, Chapter 17.134, section 17.134.170-C (1-5):

- A. The nominated resource located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (006-0012-022-0000) meets Criterion i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the region, the state or the nation;" and iii. "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period;" and vi. "It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in the prehistory or history of the city, the region, the state or the nation."

- B. The nominated resource located at 5990 H Street (005-0241-001-0000) meets Criterion i. "It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of the city, the state or the nation;" and iii "It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction."
- C. In addition, the nominated resources have integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association; and
- D. The nominated resources have important historic or architectural worth, and their designation as landmarks is reasonable, appropriate, and necessary to protect, promote, and further the goals of this chapter, pursuant to Sacramento City Code Title 17, Chapter 17.134, section 17.134.170-C (b-c).

Adoption of these Landmarks promotes the maintenance and enhancement of the significant features and characteristics of the Landmarks pursuant to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Adoption of these Landmarks promotes the maintenance and enhancement of the historic materials and fabric, as well as the appearance, of the Landmarks.

Adoption of these Landmarks is consistent with the City's Historic & Cultural Resources Element of the 2030 General Plan.

Adoption of these Landmarks will afford the properties the use of the California Historical Building Code and eligibility for any future preservation incentives that may be adopted for listed properties.

Adoption of these Landmarks helps to protect historic resources of the City of Sacramento.

#### **SECTION 4**

The Preservation Director of the City of Sacramento is hereby directed to add the properties located at 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (006-0012-022-0000) and the Bell & Cupola at 5990 "H" Street (005-0241-001-0000), as Landmarks to the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources.