

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Planning, Design & Construction

Date 9/24/2022

Exterior Alterations and Signage
The Campus Store, Cal Poly Humboldt
697 8th Street, Arcata, CA 95519
APN: 021-044-008

Architects Statement of Historic Contribution

Introduction

697 8th Street sits on the southeast corner of the Plaza within the boundary of the Plaza District. The Plaza District features several historic buildings which make up its unique character. Buildings such as the Hotel Arcata ([source](#)) and the Jacoby Storehouse ([source](#)) are the leading examples of the historic aesthetic of the Plaza District. The Plaza itself was constructed in the 1850s during the Settlement Period ([source](#)) and is listed as an Historic Landmark. This site of 697 8th Street has historical ties going back to 1850. In the mid-1950s the current structure was constructed as the Bank of America – Arcata Branch. In its current state it serves as The Campus Store for Cal Poly Humboldt. The Campus Store serves the Cal Poly Humboldt students and Humboldt County community as a mercantile space. The store sells a range of products including branded items from Cal Poly Humboldt, College of the Redwoods, and local high schools; HSU legacy items; housewares and accessories; and Apple and Dell electronics. In addition, the store has the only Apple-certified service center in Humboldt County.

Cal Poly Humboldt is proposing to modify the existing structure by increasing the north and west window area as well as removing and replacing the existing entry storefront at the corner of 8th and G St.

As you navigate through this statement you will notice that this site has a long-varied past up to the 1950s when the current structure was erected.

Brief History of Property

Information obtained from Fire Insurance Sanborn Maps and Grant Deeds for the property.

- 1850 – Rev. Asa White formed the First Methodist Society – Notes with building placard at entry. Dedicated June 24, 2000.
- 1886 – Livery ([source](#))
- 1889 -1900 – Pioneer Livery with space for Carriages ([source 1](#), [source 2](#))
- 1908 – Livery with at least two separate dwelling units towards F Street ([source](#))
- 1919 – Store, Ford Garage and Bicycle Repair Shop ([source](#))
- 1937 – First Church of Christ Scientist
- 1955 - Arcata Branch Bank of America

- 2016- Bank of America Building purchased by Tri Counties Bank
- 2021-Tri Counties Bank Building purchased by Humboldt State University Foundation
- Current use: Cal Poly Humboldt, The Campus Store

Construction History

Information obtained from the City of Arcata building records and existing records found inside the building.

- 1850 – 1937 Various uses – Primary Livery Structure
 - Other than the Sanborn Maps from 1866-1919 no records or documents have been found
- 1937 First Church of Christ Scientist
 - Existing buildings and site cleared for new construction
 - Original construction plans are housed in the University Special Collections
 - Architect E. Mathewson (Eugene Mathewson?)
- 1955-Arcata Branch Bank of America
 - Existing Church relocated and site cleared for new construction
 - Limited documentation found – 2 Mechanical Sheets and a Specification manual
 - No record of Architect. Plans prepared by Capital Company, San Francisco, CA.
 - The commercial structure utilizes a concrete slab foundation on grade with the exterior framework made up of laminated redwood studs. The roof is made up of both large trusses and rafters resting on 6x8 posts that run north to south
 - The windows are aluminum frame and sashes
 - The entries are aluminum storefront
 - The exterior of the building has a mix of painted cement plaster and vertical wood siding with brick veneer on the north and west elevations

Notable Alterations to existing building

Information obtained from the City of Arcata building records and existing records found inside the building.

- 1971 – Bank of America Walk-Up Teller Windows with Canopy Addition
 - A low pitch canopy installed at the East side of the building.
- 1978 – Bank of America Canopy Extension
 - The existing canopy was extended at the East side of the building.
- 1981 – Bank of America Interior Remodel and Exterior Paint
 - Interior remodel including new partial height walls
 - Painting exterior
- 1990 – Bank of America Versa-teller Installation and Remodel
 - The existing walk-up teller window location was converted to automatic teller machine
- 1992 – Bank of America Installation of walk-up Automatic Teller Machine (ATM)

- An additional ATM was installed on the East side of the building utilizing an existing storage room for the contained
- 2013 – Bank of America Mechanical Upgrades
 - Replacement of Rooftop HVAC and modifications to ductwork
- 2022 – Cal Poly Humboldt Interior Remodel
 - Demolition of existing bank interior
 - Construction of new offices and mercantile space.

Architectural Evaluation

Designed and built in the 1950s this building can be classified as a loose or insignificant representation of the International Style. Architect of Record unknown. Project developed by Capital Company Construction Department out of San Francisco. International Style is associated with the modern architectural movement. It developed in Europe, post World War I. The style migrated to the United States during the economic expansion after World War II. International Style is often referred to minimalist architecture. Vacant of extravagant ornamentation the style embraced simple forms that blended interior and exterior space utilizing and expressing industrial materials such as glass, stucco, concrete, brick and steel. Below are some of the highlighted features the existing building shares with the International Style.

- Rectangular in form with a distinct lack of ornamentation.
- Flat roof.
- Horizontal bands of glazing on the north and west frontages.
- Glazed storefront entry.
- Exterior materials are simple and clean: Stucco, vertical wood siding and brick veneer

Proposed modifications to existing building

Reference Design Review Drawings submitted with this package.

- The proposed work consists of increasing the glazing depth on the north and west frontages utilizing the existing window openings. Dropping down from the existing header to provide more views into the retail space.
- In addition, the proposed work will replace the existing entry storefront at the corner of 8th and G St. with a new storefront system.
- No other modifications to the existing structure will occur.

Summary

The existing 1950s building does not have significant historical attributes and should not be considered a relevant example of the International Style. The only historically significant event that took place on this site was that it was the location of the formation of the first Methodist Society on July 4, 1850. This has been memorialized with a building plaque which was erected on June 24, 2000. The proposed modifications will not deter from the architectural style from which it was designed. In fact, the modifications will enhance the overall connection to the International Style which promotes large expanses of windows. The increase in transparency on the north and west elevations will connect the building to the public as well as the Plaza. In fact,

the window modifications will better connect this building to the architectural language of other commercial buildings in the Plaza district. Imagine yourself walking north on G St. towards the Plaza and beyond. You pass by the Hatchet House and Brio, addressing the street frontage with large expanses of glazing welcoming views to the interior. This language continues as you view buildings that surround the Plaza. Think Plaza Design, Moonrise Herbs, Sleepworld, etc.

To conclude, it is my professional opinion that the proposed modifications will not detract from the existing architectural language but will enhance the language and better tie into the Plaza District.

Sincerely,



HOWARD F. MAXWELL, ARCHITECT, CA LICENSE C-37414

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