

Apollo Building
228-230 K Street
Sacramento, Sacramento County
California

HABS No. CAL-1716

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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APOLLO BUILDING

Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

ADDRESS: 228-230 K Street, corner of Third and K Streets
OWNER: The Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sacramento
OCCUPANT: Now vacant; building to be removed to permit construction of a Freeway
USE: Originally and until recently used by stores on the lower floor. The upper story has been used as a hotel.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building, originally constructed as two twenty-foot wide units, was built in 1852 for Prescilla Carswell. The corner unit, adjacent to Third Street, was built at an estimated cost of \$14,000 and was occupied from 1854 to 1846 by the Apollo Seed and Drug Store, operated by C. Morrill. The twenty-foot wide unit to the west was built by Lackett for Prescilla Carswell at a cost of \$9,000, and was occupied by: Halliday and Company, wholesale merchants; H. Wenzel, merchant; Morehouse and Brainard, commission merchants; and others.

DESCRIPTIVE ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

The lower floor of the K Street facade originally had fine well-designed openings, arched with brick masonry, each decorated with a finely moulded archivolt. Piers, faced with cast-iron pilasters

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supported these arches; one pier has been replaced with a steel beam. Two of the pilasters have been covered with tile. The rebuilt entrances and advertizing clutter detract from the facade that was once quite handsome. On the second level, the three central masonry-arched windows have simple bands of trim. A view, dated 1894, shows that the two arches at the ends had moulded architraves which have been removed since that date; the photo also shows a cornice with paired modillions which were spaced above each pilaster. The present stripped and refinished upper wall is quite different in character from the original design.

On the first floor level of the Third Street facade there are similar arched forms but cast-iron lintels with masonry lunettes are used to form square-topped openings. The pilasters here are wider and are built of masonry, not of cast-iron as those on K Street. Six of the upper arched window openings have simple bands of trim; the pair at each end, now stripped, probably had moulded architraves. The central window had an impressive pedimented head, only a portion of which remains. Stripped of its decorative cornice, and plastered with a gigantic advertizing sign, this facade has little to suggest its former dignity.

INTERIOR

The first floor has little of the original finish remaining. Cast-iron columns, 6" in diameter, support the wood beams and flooring above.

The second floor has a rotunda-like space at the head of the stairs; this space is topped with a skylight. There is a fireplace with a marble mantelpiece in each of three rooms adjacent to the stair.

TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL

Condition of Building: Sound structure; facade modified and cornice removed

Overall Plan Size: 40'-6" wide, 100'-8" long

No. of Stories: Basement and two stories

EXTERIOR

Foundation: Brick

Wall Construction: Brick, load-bearing walls on perimeter

Piers, Columns, etc.:

Cast-iron columns on interior

Masonry piers with cast-iron pilasters on K St. facade

Openings:

Doorways & Doors - arched masonry openings on K Street;
openings with cast-iron lintels on
Third Street

Windows - round arched masonry openings with double-
hung sash on second floor

Roof:

Shape - ridge with very low pitch

Covering - built-up composition

Framing - wood truss form

Chimneys - three fireplaces on second floor

Cornice: Apparently of brick & plaster, removed

INTERIOR

Floor Plans:

Basement - with central load-bearing wall

First Floor - structural cast-iron columns with wood partition walls

Second Floor - similar to First Floor but with central hallway

Stairways: Broad, single-run, wood construction

Floor Construction and Flooring:

Basement - concrete, not original

First Floor - wood flooring over wood joists

Second Floor - wood flooring; central cast-iron columns with longitudinal wood beam supporting wood joists

Wall & Ceiling Finish: Plastered

REFERENCES

Old Sacramento, by Carroll D. Hall and Hero E. Rensch, California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California 1958.
Old Sacramento Inventory of Historical Buildings, Western Heritage Inc., California Division of Beaches and Parks, Sacramento, California 1962.

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