



CITY OF EUREKA
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Rob Holmlund, AICP, Director

531 K Street • Eureka, California 95501-1146
Ph (707) 441-4160 • Fx (707) 441-4202
planning@ci.eureka.ca.gov • www.ci.eureka.ca.gov

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

EUREKA CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Eureka City Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Council Chamber, Eureka City Hall, 531 “K” Street, Eureka, California, to consider the following application:

Project Title: Relocation of Doors

Project Applicant: Wendy Pound, Kurt Kovacs, and Barbara Groom

Case No: HPO-18-0005

Project Location: 617 4th Street; APN 001-136-004

Zoning and General Plan Designations: CC (Central Commercial); C-RC (Core-Retail Commercial)

Project Description: The applicant proposes to relocate the westernmost set of doors on the front of the building adjacent to 4th Street. The doors will be moved forward towards 4th Street, reducing the size of the existing alcove.

All interested persons are invited to comment on the project either in person at the scheduled public hearing, or in writing. Written comments on the project may be submitted at the hearing or prior to the hearing by mailing or delivering them to the Community Development Division, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501. Accommodations for handicapped access to City meetings must be requested of the City Clerk, 441-4175, five working days in advance of the meeting. If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues that you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or written correspondence delivered to the public entity conducting the hearing at or prior to the public hearing. The project file is available for review at the Development Services Department, Third Floor, City Hall. If you have questions regarding the project or this notice, please contact Rob Dumouchel, Associate Planner, phone: (707) 441-4164; e-mail: rdumouchel@ci.eureka.ca.gov



CITY OF EUREKA
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Rob Holmlund, AICP, Director

531 K Street • Eureka, California 95501-1146
Ph (707) 441-4160 • Fx (707) 441-4202 www.ci.eureka.ca.gov

CITY OF EUREKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT
September 5, 2018

Project Title: Relocation of Doors

Project Applicants: Wendy Pound, Kurt Kovacs, and Barbara Groom

Case No: HPO-18-0005

Project Location: 617 4th Street **APN:** 001-136-004

Project Zoning and Land Use: CC (Central Commercial); C-RC (Core-Retail Commercial)

Project Description: The applicant proposes to relocate the westernmost set of doors on the front of the building adjacent to 4th Street. The doors will be moved forward towards 4th Street, reducing the size of the existing alcove.

Contact Person: Rob Dumouchel, Associate Planner; phone: (707) 441-4164; fax: (707) 441-4202; email: rdumouchel@ci.eureka.ca.gov

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve the project as submitted.

Suggested Motion: *"I move the Historic Preservation Commission adopt A Resolution of the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Eureka approving the relocation of doors at 617 4th Street."*

Background: The property at 617 4th Street (also known as 615 4th) is listed on the Local Register of Historic Places. The structure was built in 1892 and was previously known as the Pythian Castle. The building's exterior underwent many significant changes between its construction and its acquisition by the current owners in 1989. Changes have included removal of onion-domed roof turrets, replacement of bay windows with flush-mounted windows, and changes to the rear roofline. A history of the building written by Pam Connors was submitted by the applicant and is included in Attachment #4.

The westernmost set of doors along 4th Street will be moved approximately one-foot forward (south), towards 4th Street, reducing the size of the existing alcove without removing it. This site has had issues with inappropriate use and illegal camping, and the applicant wishes to

deter those uses. Relocation of the doors was chosen over installing a gate. The applicant felt that a gate would have a significant impact on the aesthetics and the historic character of the building.

The doors that are being relocated are in a degraded condition, and are not the original doors based on photos from 1893 (contained in Attachment #4). The age of the existing doors is unknown. The applicant will be replacing the doors with multi-panel doors characteristic of 19th century commercial use. The façade of the building has previously been altered to add the clerestory windows, making this alcove smaller (shorter) than earlier versions of the façade, and the arched frame around the entrance appears to have been added at some time in the past.

Required Findings and Analysis: Title 15, Chapter 157, of the Eureka Municipal Code, Section 157.007(C), specifies that for properties listed on the Local Register of Historic Places that a proposed alteration must be considered in light of its effect on the existing historical character of the affected structure as it relates to the streetscape. Also as provided in Chapter 157, the Historic Preservation Commission has adopted the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as the guidelines for alterations to historic properties and in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards were developed to promote consistent preservation practices. The intent of the Standards is to assist the long-term preservation of a property's significance through the preservation of historic materials and features. The Standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect cultural resources. In the Standards, there are four ways that a historic property may be treated; they include Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction.

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character as it has evolved over time. Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. Finally, Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

The most appropriate standard for this project is Rehabilitation. This treatment standard is chosen by staff because the proposal will alter a historic structure to meet continuing uses while retaining the structure's historic character.

The Secretary of Interior standards do not require that every feature of a historic property be preserved, but do seek to preserve the most significant, character-defining features of a historic site. Contemporary or non-historic materials may be used in the construction where the same materials would be impractical.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural significance when possible. There are 10

standards to consider when determining if Rehabilitation is the appropriate method of preserving a historic resource. Of the 10 standards, the following apply to this project:

1. *A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*

The property is currently used as a commercial facility housing a restaurant on the first floor and a live-work artist's studio on the third floor; the property will continue to host these uses. The second floor will be remodeled to include a new apartment, which is a principally permitted use in the zone district. The changes required for the addition of the apartment are purely internal.

2. *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*

The proposed door relocation will not detract from the historic character of the property. The doors will be moved forward reducing the size of the alcove. The façade of the building will still retain the architectural features surrounding the entryway and maintain some depth between the sidewalk and the doorway. A photo from 1893 (included in attachment #4) appears to show the doors much closer to the sidewalk than they are at the present time.

3. *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.*

The proposal does not include any modifications that will create a false sense of historical development. It simply retains the existing design while reducing the distance between the western doors and the façade of the building by approximately one-foot.

4. *Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.*

The present location of the doors, and the doors themselves, are not known to have acquired historic significance in their own right. The doors, based on historical photos, are not the original doors. The age of the current doors are unknown.

5. *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*

The applicant intends to replace the doors with new doors that maintain a look consistent with the building's façade while moving them forward approximately one foot (see Attachment 3). This will not remove or destroy any distinctive materials, features, finishes, or construction techniques that characterize the property.

6. *Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will*

match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

The doors are not known to be historic and are not the original doors; the applicant will replace them with doors which match the style of the building (see Attachment 3).

- 7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.*

No chemical or physical treatments will occur.

- 8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.*

The parcel is located in an urban area and is outside known archeological areas. There will be no ground disturbing activities associated with the door relocation.

- 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*

While the presence of the alcove is an important feature of the building's façade, the repositioning of the doors will not have a significant impact on the look of the building. The reduction in size of the alcove will be compatible with the existing state of the building.

- 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

If the doors were to be moved back to their original location in the future, it could be done without having a significant impact on the form and integrity of the historic structure as it would be reverting to a previous state.

Summary of Findings:

The proposed door relocation project meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as discussed above. The proposed actions will allow the property owner to reduce opportunities for illegal camping and other inappropriate uses without detracting from the façade of the historical building.

Environmental: This project is subject to environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A project that complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties qualifies for a Class 31 exemption from the preparation of environmental documents. This project is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and qualifies for a Class 31 exemption from CEQA.

Support Material:

Attachment 1	Resolution.....	page 6
Attachment 2	Site Context Photos.....	page 8
Attachment 3	Door Drawings from Building Plans.....	page 15
Attachment 4	Historical Report by Pam Conners	page 18

Rob Dumouchel
Associate Planner

Rob Holmlund, AICP
Director of Development Services

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF EUREKA APPROVING THE RELOCATION OF DOORS AT 617 4TH STREET APN 001-136-004.

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested approval from the Historic Preservation Commission to relocate the western set of doors on the front façade of a historic structure; and

WHEREAS, the property at 617 4th Street is listed on the Local Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Title 15, Chapter 157, of the Eureka Municipal Code, Section 157.006 3(C), specifies that no property, which is designated on the Local Register of Historic Places, shall be altered unless the alteration is approved by the city, following notice to the extent required by § 157.005 and hearing(s) pursuant to the chapter; and

WHEREAS, Eureka Municipal Code §157.000 (J) prescribes the findings required to be made by the Historic Preservation Commission prior to granting approval of projects associated with historic properties; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2018, the property owners submitted an application to relocate doors at 617 4th Street; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2018, the Historic Preservation Commission held a duly noticed public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Eureka that the project was approved with conditions, and the decision to approve the subject application with conditions was made after careful, reasoned and equitable consideration of the evidence in the record, including, but not limited to: written and oral testimony submitted at the public hearing; the staff report; site investigation(s); project file; and, the evidence submitted with the permit application. The findings of fact listed below “bridge the analytical gap” between the raw evidence in the record and the Historic Preservation Commission’s decision.

1. The project, as conditioned, complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation and Treatment of Historic Properties, as the proposed alterations will not significantly alter the overall historic character of the structure.
2. The project is subject to environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and therefore qualifies for a Class 31 exemption from the preparation of environmental documents.

FURTHER project approval is conditioned on the following terms and requirements. The violation of any term or requirement of this conditional approval may result in the revocation of the permit.

1. The applicant shall undertake the project as approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. Any deviation in proposed design, architectural style, or exterior appearance from those currently proposed shall have prior approval.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Eureka in the County of Humboldt, State of California, on the 5th of September, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS
NOES: COMMISSIONERS
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

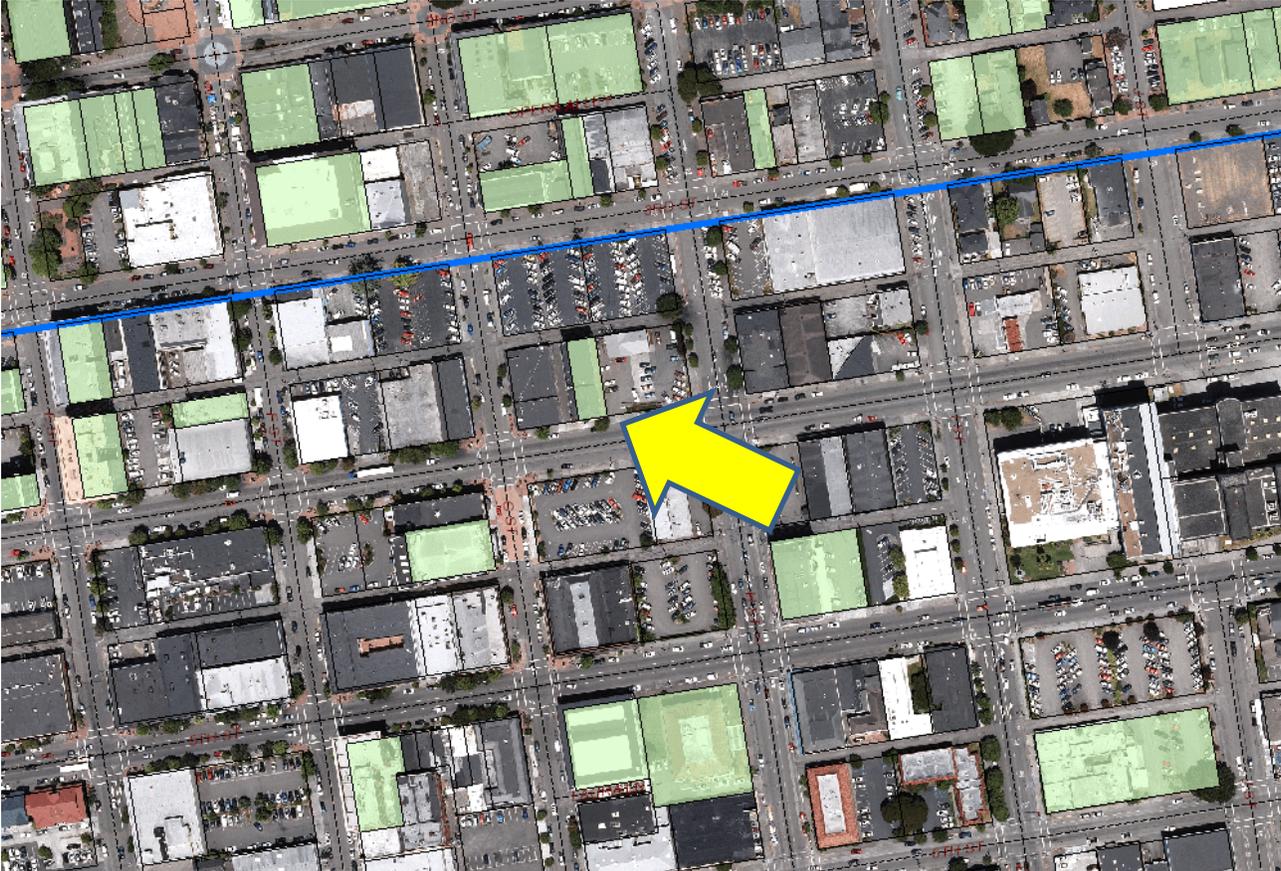
Ted Loring, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission

Attest:

Rob Holmlund, Director of Development Services

Attachment 2

SITE CONTEXT PHOTOS









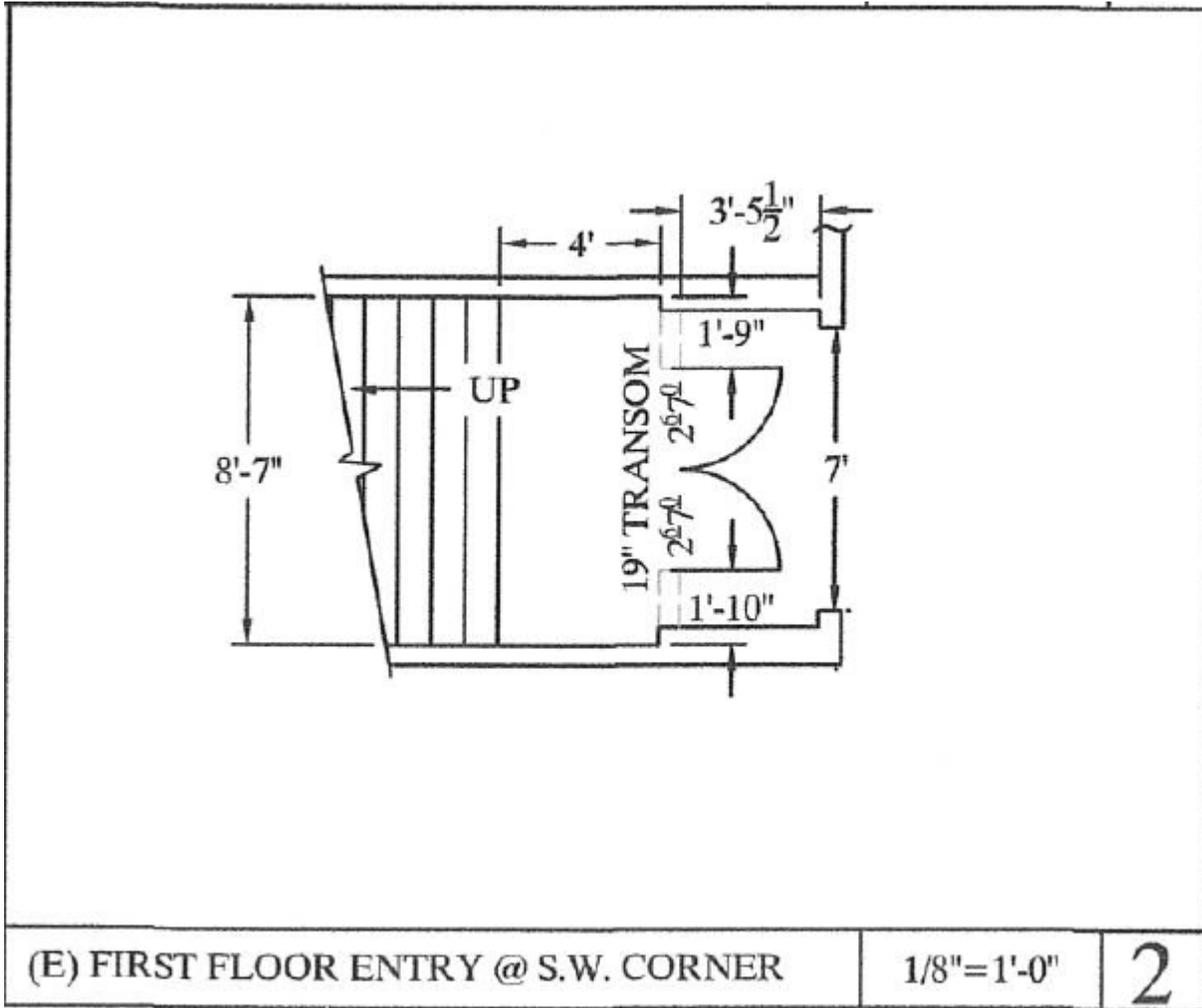




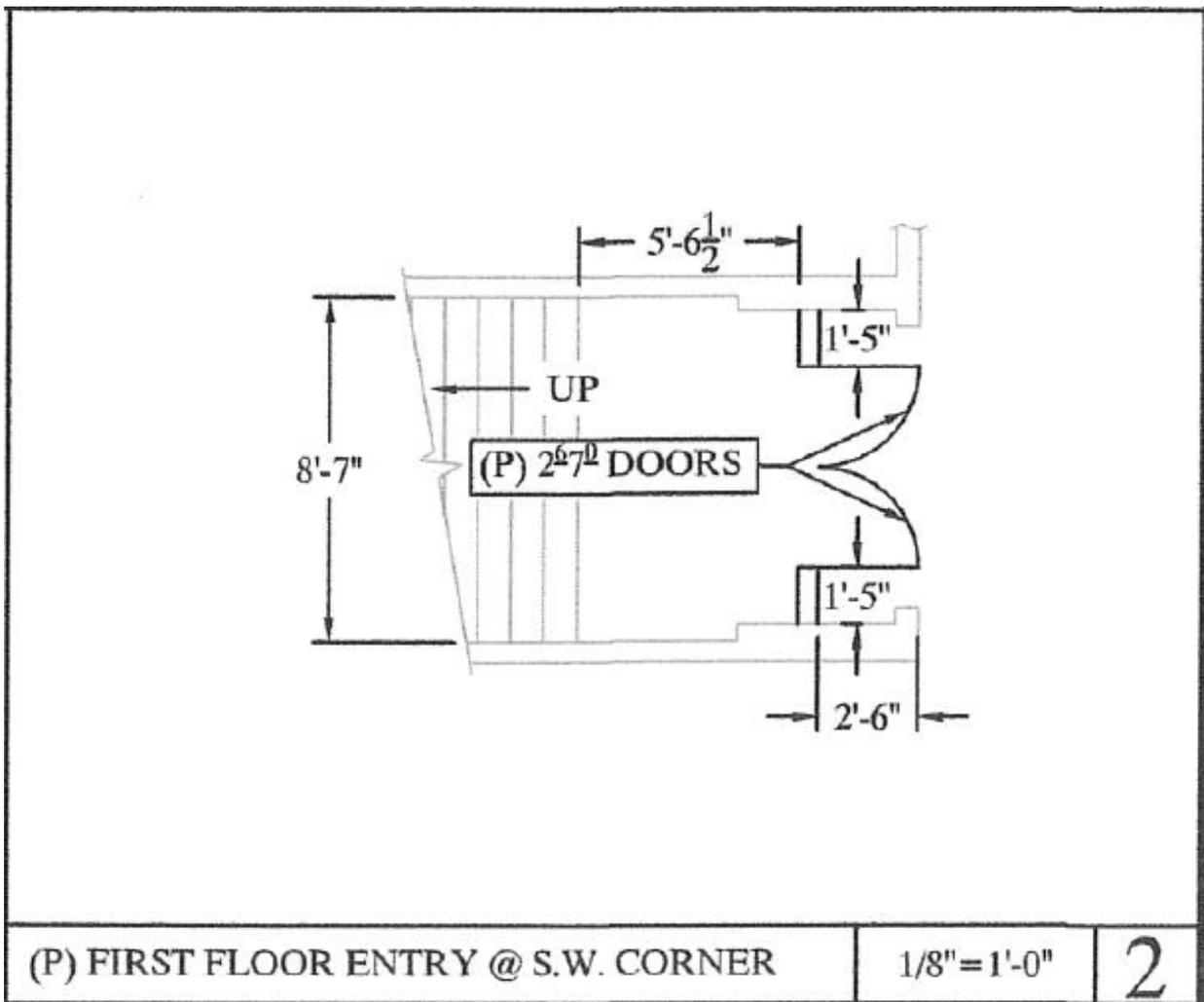


Attachment 3

**Doors
Drawings from Building Plans**



Existing doors and alcove



Proposed doors and alcove

Proposed Doors

Proposed changes to entry doors:

- New doors to be located under the I-beam that was added in 1989 as seismic retrofit; the new location will actually be closer to the depth of the doors shown in the earliest known photo of the building (see page 1)
- When fully open, new doors will not protrude onto the front sidewalk
- New doors to maintain materials (wood, glass, and exterior metal hardware) of current doors, with similar panels and fenestration*
- Door color will stay the same as shown in the 2018 photo to maintain consistency with the rest of the building façade (see page 2)

* In the earliest historic photo, the windows of the doors appear to include an arch within a rectangular frame on the upper 2/3 of each door, instead of the current rectangular shape. To maintain consistency with the current café entry doors to the right, and all the other windows on the front façade, however, we will keep the same rectangular shape for the doors' windows.



Proposed new look for 615 4th Street 2nd and 3rd floor entrance

Attachment 4

Historical Report by Pam Conners



Lost Coast Brewery and Café, 615 Fourth Street, Eureka, November 2017.

Historical Sketch: Pythian Castle, 615 Fourth Street, between G & H, Eureka, California
Work in progress, Summer 2018. Pamela A. Conners, Historian

Background

Business partners, Wendy Pound, Kurt Kovacs, Barbara Groom and Virgil Martin, formed a Tenancy in Common (Tic Toc) and purchased the building at 615 Fourth Street in 1989. Their vision for the building's use was to brew craft beer and open a cafe that featured their beer. The partners purchased the 3-story building from the Knights of Pythias (KOP) fraternal organization for approximately \$200,000. The same team formed a corporation to start The Lost Coast Brewery and Café (LCBC).

The building has two entrances on its front (south) facade: the right leads to the commercial space on the first floor and mezzanine, and the left, to staircases accessing the upper floors. Commissioned by the KOP, the building's upper floors were used by the Knights for their meetings and events from its construction in latter 1892 until 1989. By the late 1980s, there were few active Knights and, according to Pound, the remaining members were elderly and wished to move their activities to a more manageable, single-story space. Just prior to the Knights' divestiture of the building, Everybody's Furniture Mart, a Eureka fixture since 1942, had vacated the lower floor.

The lower floor was remodeled to house The Lost Coast Brewery and Cafe business, and LCBC's grand opening was in July 1990. While extensive work was required to accommodate the commercial kitchen, brew house, bar, and seating—including steel and concrete structural reinforcement—the building's exterior was not significantly changed. In addition to the partners' investment, the City of Eureka Redevelopment Agency and the California Department of Commerce contributed funding for the remodel. The work was accomplished in close coordination with the City of Eureka due to the building's prominent location, LCBC's potential to provide jobs, and the

desire to retain the building's historic character. The Castle had long been regarded as a local landmark and, after the 1987 publication of *Eureka, An Architectural View*, Eureka's Pythian Castle was included in the city's list of historically significant buildings.¹

Safety and structural requirements for the cafe and brew house led to unfortunate damage to the appearance of the upper floor interiors. With focus on the second floor, these changes included adding water pipe for overhead fire sprinklers and opening walls to accommodate new venting and update various utilities, as well as addition of a fire escape. Also, the rear area of the second floor—a ballroom—had been occupied from the 1990s through early 2000s by "World Premiere Theatre," with attendant alterations, including sound suppression paneling, dropped ceiling, light rigging, HVAC, and a sound/light control booth.

The building owners (now Groom, Kovacs and Pound) have long wanted to revisit the second floor and provide a backdrop for bringing new life to the space. This desire, combined with the city's current emphasis on converting the upper floors of downtown commercial buildings for residential and other civic uses, sets the scene for this project.

Project Description

The objective of this project is to renovate the second floor of 615 4th Street and to convert part of it into an apartment. Broadly speaking, what had been a large ballroom occupies the north end of the second floor while the south end had been a kitchen/banquet area and game room. A separate, small office was also in the south end.

Comparing historic photographs of the exterior, it's evident that the building underwent significant remodeling before the current owners' tenure. Only two

¹ This publication, commissioned by the Eureka Heritage Society, is informally known as "The Green Book."

references regarding previous alterations have been found: a 1907 newspaper snippet and an October 19, 1928 building permit; neither provides details of any kind. The most visually striking change occurred in the early 1900s when the front façade was drastically simplified (see historic photographs, below). As yet, no as-built plans, retrofit plans, photographs, drawings or descriptions documenting these alterations have been found.

The current improvements will not involve the front facade except for renovation of the southwest entryway to address access and deterioration problems. The exterior facade's historic, character-defining features include recessed double-door entrances, a distinctive fenestration pattern, and a roof corbel that originally supported a turret.

The current project focuses on interior renovation that retains existing historic, character-defining features. These features include high ceilings, decorative wood panel wainscoting and other millwork, passage doors, fir and redwood flooring, and some hardware.

Historical Summary

Although more details emerge with further research, the general history of 615 Fourth Street follows:

Construction of the three-story Pythian Castle was commissioned by Lincoln Lodge Number 34 of the Knights of Pythias. The Pythian Lodge in Eureka was formed in 1876 by a newly transplanted pharmacist from the East named P. B Morrison. Morrison had been recruited by Frank A. Weck, whose building at Third and F, included a drug store on its lower floor. The Knights of Pythias was a fast-growing fraternal organization with its roots in Civil War-era Washington, D.C.

Apparently identifying with the Pythian motto of "Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence," Morrison was an enthusiastic member of the Knights. As related in a 1956 newspaper article that commemorated Lodge 34's 80th anniversary, during the final leg of Morrison's westward journey, from San Francisco to Eureka, he discovered that the ship's captain was also a Knight. The captain belonged to California Lodge 1 in San Francisco and he promised that, if Morrison were able to recruit prominent Eurekaans, he would bring the proper authorities from San Francisco to officially initiate a new lodge into the order. In addition to Morrison and Weck, the original Lodge 34 roster was:

Louis T. Kinsey

Dr. Reuben Gross [1902 Gross House at 703 Eighth Street "Green Book," p. 92]

D. L. Devlin

Willard McCann

H. M. Mercer

James Simpson (builder of the second Odd Fellows' Hall, 31 F Street, in 1882; also designer and builder of St. Bernard's Church in 1885, and the Simpson/Vance House at 828 G Street in 1882) ["Green Book," pp. 54 & 62]

W. W. Turner

W. J. McNamara

H. J. McCollum

John F. Berry

O. J. Gates

[Humboldt Times, Mar. 9, 1956, Susie Baker Fountain Papers,
scrapbooks p. 329]

Between 1877 and 1891, *The Humboldt Daily Standard's* society column included a notice that the Knights of Pythias met Tuesday evenings at the Pythian Castle, located on the corner of 3rd & E.

Commercial development in Eureka through the 1870s and 1890s mirrored the nation's industrial transformation and economic expansion. Impressive construction in downtown Eureka reflected this growth and beckoned more. Such notable structures as St. Bernard's Church (1885) and the Carson Block (1892) displayed architectural talent and verve. For example, *The Humboldt Daily Standard's* New Years issue, on the last day of 1891, dedicated ink to noteworthy community accomplishments of the year and the outlook for the coming year. Included in the praise were a drawing and article about the new, Romanesque Revival-styled Carson Block building at 3rd & F streets, underway but not yet finished. The Block's architects, Samuel and Joseph Newsom of San Francisco, had also been the architects behind the wildly eclectic, Victorian-styled Carson Mansion. The construction supervisor was W. H. Mills of Eureka. Finished in 1892, the Carson Block was opened to a variety of mixed uses, including offices (notably Carson & Dolbeer), shops, and an opera house. With much local fanfare, the grand opening of the Crocker Bros. store within the Carson Block was described as a "bower of beauty" (HDS, Dec. 31, 1891, p. 3; HDS, Jul. 22, 1892, Vol. XIII, No. 171, p 3; HDS, Sep. 2, 1892, Vol. XIII, No. 207, p. 1).

A block away, on Fourth, between G and H streets, construction of a new and expansive Pythian Castle was in the works. Documentation from 1892 is illusive, but the first issue of *The Humboldt Standard* for 1893 contains an article titled "Eureka Building Operations":

Among the best of the buildings [constructed in 1892] are the following which we mention, not as a [complete] list of building improvements, but simply to show those who put thousands of dollars into permanent improvements must know upon what grounds they are doing it [Jan. 2, 1893, Vol. XIV, No. 1, p. 5, col. 2].

The “Knights of Pythias Temple” was among those notable buildings, and E. G. Mowry was identified as its architect and builder. The building cost was \$10,000. This article also lists Eugene Mowry as architect of a two-story building at 2nd & E that cost \$2000.² Although the construction references found so far do not mention commercial use of the street-level space, it is very likely that the Knights always envisioned that the building’s ground floor would serve as the revenue stream for its maintenance.³

Just prior to completion of the new Pythian Castle, the Eureka chapter of Pythian Sisters was organized. Called Ramona Temple No. 8, the Sisters began meeting in 1891. They, too, met regularly at the new Castle, every second and fourth Friday of the month. Though details are cloudy at this time, it appears that the Pythian Sisters

² Mowry also appeared in a January 8, 1893 *HDS* article as the architect and builder of the James Simpson house at 9th & G—now called the Simpson-Vance House—that had cost over \$10,000. Mowry as architect for the Simpson-Vance House is at odds with information in the Green Book about the architect/builder that lists James Simpson as the house’s designer/builder. The National Register of Historic Places description of the Simpson-Vance House noted that “it seems more reasonable that the house was a base plan book design adapted to the needs of the Simpson family by Simpson and E. G. Mowry.” Mowry is credited as the architect/builder of several prominent Eureka commercial and residential buildings during this era.

³ The first known tenant of the commercial space was D. Barry Groceries. Later, it was occupied by at least two successive home furnishings stores.

were reorganized as Eureka Temple No. 30 on April 12, 1924.⁴

The Eureka Pythian Sisters were involved in local social, educational and benevolent activities as well as mutual aid. From the mid-1920s through '30s, the Eureka group seemed very active in supporting the California Pythian Home—The Hood House—located in the Valley of the Moon near Santa Rosa.⁵

By 1932, the Eureka Pythian Sisters outnumbered the Knights:

At present there are 58 sister members in Eureka Temple and 26 Knights of Pythias members [Humboldt County Historical Society Knights of Pythias clipping folder: retrospective article, Humboldt Standard, Feb. 12, 1932].

But before that happened—about 15 years after completion of the Eureka Castle—it appears that the Eureka Pythians wanted to make some changes to their lodge building. An August 6, 1907 *Daily Standard* article briefly noted:

Building News

The Knights of Pythias contemplate making extensive alterations and improvements to the Pythian Castle on Fourth street. Architect Warren Skillings now has plans prepared for these changes which include a new roof, the remodeling of the towers and also some changes in the interior economy of the upper floors [Humboldt County Historical

⁴ Originally organized in later 1888 in Indiana, the Pythian Sisters was formed as an independent auxiliary of the KOP. Lodges quickly sprang-up all over the United States and Canada, including hundreds in California. Their credo was Purity, Love, Equality and Fidelity.

⁵ After serving only 20 years as a home for elderly Pythians, the organization could no longer support Hood House. The Knights of Pythias sold the property to the State of California and it was repurposed as Los Guilucos School for Girls. In 1974, Sonoma County purchased the property, and Hood House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997; it is also California State Historical Landmark No. 692 (NRHP nomination, Section 8, page 6).

Society Knights of Pythias clipping folder, Daily Standard Aug. 6, 1907].⁶

Skillings' drawings and descriptions of his Pythian Castle remodel have not been found, so whether or not his plans were realized can only be surmised at this research juncture. But it is likely that, in general, the current building on 615 Fourth Street reflects the alterations envisioned by Skillings as hinted at in the vague, 1907 newspaper notice. The current rehabilitation project planned for the second floor may provide clues about interior alterations made for "the interior economy of the upper floors"⁷

A 1937 photo of the Pythian Castle clearly reflects a significant simplification to the front facade and roof ornamentation, but it remains unclear at his writing whether these changes were the result implementing Skillings' 1907 plans.⁸ Additionally,

⁶ Skillings worked on several buildings during his short stay in Eureka. For example, the Murray House, currently the law office of Davis and Poovey at 937 6th Street, was a collaboration of Contractor D. P. Simpson and Architect Warren Skillings (www.jamesdpooveylaw.com/history-of-our-house/).

⁷ For example, damage to the interior fabric of the second floor resulting from preparation of the first floor use as a brew house, cafe and bar in the early 1990s, revealed burn scars from a 1937 fire that damaged not only the Pythian Castle, but also the neighboring building to the east that housed the Darto Playhouse and Duff's Brake & Body Shop. It does not appear from the historic photo of in the fire's aftermath that there was structural damage to the first floor, occupied by Bragdon's Complete House Furnishers, but it is evident that the Pythians' meeting and event space suffered significant damage.

⁸ According to the Pacific Coast Architecture Database, Warren Porter Skillings' first and briefly practiced architecture in Boston, Massachusetts. He moved to Seattle, Washington in 1890 where his firm designed several buildings: predominantly homes and civic spaces. Whether bitten by the gold bug, seeing opportunities in architecture, or some other motivation I do not know, but in 1897, Skillings moved to the Yukon Territories. In late 1902, he left Dawson for San Francisco and joined the prestigious firm of Bliss and Faville. Again, I do not now what drew him away from San Francisco to establish his own firm, but he did so in Eureka, in 1904. His office at 406 F Street, was only a block away from the Pythian Castle.

because the dominant exterior changes removed the two, onion-domed roof turrets that flanked the central turret above the front facade, as well as replaced the four bay windows on the second and third floors with flush-mounted fenestration, it is tempting to think that damage or deliberations following the 1906 earthquake encouraged these alterations.⁹

A 1928 building permit for unspecified work on the building may also refer to one or more of the extensive exterior changes evident in photographs between about 1911 and 1937. The association of onion-domed architectural ornamentation with Russia could have prompted their removal during the first Red Scare following the Bolshevik Revolution and advent of the Soviet Union... a positive public image was important to the Pythians.

There were a few noticeable changes to the building between the time of a 1937 fire that damaged 615 Fourth Street and the current owners' acquisition of it in 1989. By December 1946, the building's exterior appeared much as it did in 1937; the most noticeable alterations being a significant change of the rear roofline, and removal of the the front façade furniture store and the "K P" blade signs. By 1989, when the current owners purchased the building, the Pythian Castle's last spire-topped turret had been removed.

While the building's distinctive features as a Pythian Castle had all but disappeared

He practiced in Eureka only until sometime in 1910, when he transplanted his architectural firm to San Jose (<http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/2699/>).

⁹ A 2007 re-investigation by Geophysicist, Dr. Lori Dengler, of the severity of the 1906 earthquake in Humboldt County, noted that Eureka sustained a MMI intensity VII shake. Strong enough to tumble chimneys, break glass panes, and violently slosh water from tanks, the quake lasted 47-seconds... not counting numerous, strong aftershocks. Daly's Department Store, a stone's throw from the Pythian Castle, on G Street, between 4th and 5th, reportedly had all its merchandise tossed to the floor. Further, newspapers noted that many buildings suffered damaged plaster and cracks (Dengler, "The 1906 Earthquake on California's North Coast," Table 1, 2007).

by the time of the Eureka Heritage Society's historical building survey, it retains its character as a simple yet formidable example of commercial buildings in downtown Eureka during an era when fraternal secret societies flourished.

Historic Photographs of 615 Fourth Street... four, so far



Photograph courtesy of Humboldt County Historical Society, from *The Souvenir*, 1902. Originally published *In The Redwood's Realm*, J. M. Eddy, 1893.

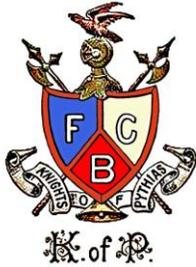
The Pythian Castle, probably, as it appeared when finished. Castle-like ornamentation was common for Pythian lodges. Note also the boardwalk and

elevation change from west to east (left to right).

Photograph Description, front façade, c. 1893

1. First floor commercial space might be vacant; the front display windows appear to be temporarily blocked from looking inside.
2. Each of the two display windows, flanking the recessed entrance to the ground floor, has a semi-circle pane over a rectangular pane.
3. The entrance double-doors echo the look of the display windows, with each tall, rectangular door having an arched, rectangular pane; the door fenestration occupies the upper 2/3 of each door. The rest of the doors' surfaces are wood with geometric decorative panels.
4. The entrance double-doors to the upper floors of the building (southwest entrance) are similar to those that access the first floor (southeast entrance). The differences are that they appear to be slightly narrower and taller and the rectangular, arched fenestration occupies the upper third of the doors rather than the upper 2/3 of the doors. The southwest entryway is more shallowly recessed than the southeast entryway.
5. Both the second and third floors have a pair of bay windows that overhangs the sidewalk, below. The bay windows are symmetrically placed in relation to the building's mass and to each other, but not in relation to the fenestration or doorways on the first floor front facade.
6. Each bay is comprised of 3, vertical, rectangular windows: a central, flat-paned set flanked by a convex-curved set. Each set has one-over-one vertical panes that appear to be fixed (but could be sash windows) above which is a horizontal, rectangular pane that appears to be stained glass. The bay windows are supported by corbels between the first and second floors; simple entablature runs between the corbel and fenestration separating the first and second floors, the fenestration between the second and third floors, and separating the third floor fenestration and elaborate roof ornamentation.

7. The panel between the two bay windows on the second floor includes the building's completion date, 1892, above a simplified version of the Knights of Pythias' coat of arms within an oval frame.



8. The panel between the two bay windows on the third floor includes the building's name, "PYTHIAN CASTLE," above the KOP shield of triangles representing Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence, embellished with crossed swords; all within a shield-shaped frame.

9. The roof ornamentation is the building's most eye-catching element. A crenulated corbel supports each of the three turrets. The turrets are cylindrical, with the taller and narrower central turret topped with a conical dome; a tall (flag?) staff is at the apex of the dome. The flanking turrets are centered above the bay windows and are, therefore, set forward of the central turret. The flanking turrets are squat and are topped with an onion dome. Encircling the lower section of each turret is elaborate, multi-paned fenestration: the central turret fenestration is arched and the outer turrets' fenestration is rectangular. Exterior metal railing encircles the base of the two onion-domed turrets. Windows and railings suggest that, at least the onion-domed turrets' interiors could be entered. At the southeast and southwest corners of the building are onion dome-shaped finials.¹⁰

¹⁰ When conceived for the original Pythian Castle, the intention behind these domed turrets may have been to symbolize and project the Knights' faith that a heavenward, eternal power connected them through friendship, charity and benevolence. In a generation, however, onion domes had become associated with Russia and fear of communist expansion.



Photograph courtesy of Humboldt County Main Library, Eureka, Humboldt Room, Knights of Pythias file, c. 1910.

This oblique-view image shows the building commercial space being occupied by D. Barry, Groceries. According to Sanborn Insurance Maps, the building to the right (east) was an office and the building immediately to the left (west) was a Club Room. Except that it was taken slightly closer to the building, this image also appeared in the *Eureka Herald*, January 20, 1911 (Humboldt County Historical Society clipping file for 615 Fourth Street).

Photograph Description, front façade, c. 1910: changes from the c. 1893 photograph

1. First floor commercial space occupied by D. Barry Groceries; the front display windows allow looking inside.
2. The semi-circle pane over the rectangular pane on each of the two display windows that flank the recessed entrance, are replaced with an opaque material; probably wood semi-circle panels. A short, scalloped awning stretches along the top of the display windows and recessed (SE) entrance. A sign—D. BARRY—is above the store entrance. This photo does not show the entrance double-doors for either recessed entrance.
3. The rest of the building appears as it did in the c. 1893 photograph, except for the following:

Railings that encircled the base of the two onion-domed turrets are gone.

The onion dome-shaped finials at the southeast and southwest corners of the building are gone and replaced with squared blocks.

A brick chimney is visible in the southeast quadrant of the roof. It is likely that it was part of the original building, but that it was obscured from the head-on view provided by the c. 1893 photograph.



Photograph courtesy of Humboldt County Historical Society, Stein Collection, Volume 2, 062, 1937.

The Pythian Castle's front façade had been, by this date, radically simplified.

This oblique-view image shows fire damage of the Pythian Castle and the adjacent "Duff's Brake & Body Shop" and "Darto Playhouse." It shows the commercial, first floor of the Pythian Castle occupied by "Bragdon's Complete House Furnishers."

Photograph Description, front façade, 1937: changes from the c. 1910 photograph

1. First floor commercial space occupied by Bragdon's Complete House Furnishers. The business name is painted on the east wall, replacing "D. Barry Groceries." A Bragdon's sign extending over the sidewalk, above the (southeast) entrance, has also been added.
2. The semi-circles above the two display windows appear to have been replaced by a horizontal belt of rectangular windows. Changes to the entrances, if any, cannot be seen.
3. All of the bay windows have been removed and openings replaced with

windows that are flush with the façade. Each of the four window sets appears to be a large, rectangular, one-over-one sash flanked on both sides by a narrower, fixed window. The horizontal, rectangular stained-glass windows that had been above the clear panes, appear to have been replaced with wood panels or window panes.

4. Corbels that had supported the bay windows have been removed. The entablatures between the corbel and fenestration that separated the first and second floors and between the second and third floor fenestration had also been removed. The onion-domed turrets and the crenulated corbels under them had been removed, leaving only the cone-topped, central turret and its supporting corbel.

5. A blade sign—possibly lighted—with the vertical lettering “K P” (or “KOP”) is attached to the façade at the lower edge of the third floor southwest window and the upper edge of the second floor southwest window.



Photograph courtesy of Humboldt State University, Shuster Photograph Collection, 1946.

Digital image courtesy of Eureka Heritage Society.

This bird's-eye view shows that the 1937 fire damage to the Pythian Castle had been repaired and roof alterations made.

This unique view shows the context of the block, with Duff's Brake & Body Shop and the Darto Playhouse replaced by a service station and parking. The area behind 615 4th Street was packed with other buildings.

Photograph Description, December 27, 1946: changes from the 1937 photograph

1. Though not evident in this view, the first floor commercial space was occupied by Everybody's Furniture Mart; the "Bragdon's" furnishings sign, above the commercial space entrance, has been removed.
2. The 1946 view shows that the horizontal belt of rectangular windows above the commercial display windows continues across the entire façade, albeit with a narrow discontinuity to accommodate the wall between the commercial space and the stairway to the upper floors.

3. The "KP" blade sign appears to have been removed from the second floor southwest window.
4. Repair of the 1937 fire damage appears to have led to truncating the building's third story. The third floor's peaked gable roof in the front 1/3 of the building appears intact, but the third floor (or the extended ceiling space) at the rear 2/3 of the building was eliminated, and that portion of the roof was made flat with a parapet

RESEARCH TO DO

Newspaper articles about the fire that Mike (HCoHS) said was in 1937. Damage to Pythian Castle as well as Darto Playhouse and Duff's Brake and Body Shop.

Any Lincoln Lodge documents kept by KoP HQ?

Style description of 615 Fourth Street: original Pythian Castle and remodel. Influences include Queen Anne Revival; minimally Classical ???....

1906 earthquake damage to downtown buildings; any reference to 615 4th.

January 20, 1911 Eureka Herald photo. Why was the photo in the paper? It was sometime between whenever that photo was taken and the reportedly 1937 fire that the facade was radically altered by removal of the bay windows/detailing and onion-domed turrets, as well as addition of the "K P", lit, blade sign.

Newspaper or other references to the remodel(s) that removed the bay windows and the two turrets on either side of the central roof tower. Any relevant physical (e.g., cracks, liability...)political or architectural context for the exterior changes.

Clarke Museum: talk with curator of the KoP installation about additional information and/or artifacts related to Lincoln Lodge. (Also mention correcting the website typo about when Lost Coast Brewery & Cafe opened on the first floor; it was in 1990, not 2006.)

Contact the current KOP Lincoln Lodge at 1437 California Street, Eureka: 707.443.8231. Especially regarding alterations (e.g., business meeting notes, etc.), plans, interior photos, 1937 fire....

Eureka papers following Aug 1907 article re Skilling alterations.

1937 newspapers regarding fire.

1906 newspaper articles re earthquake damage downtown.

1870 & 1890 census records for P. B. Morrison (which eastern state did he migrate from?, etc) Also vital statistics for when Morrison died: find his obit. Also did he have a family by 1880 or 1890? Occupations of other charter members, e.g., L. T. Kinsey, D. L. Devlin, John F. Berry... Who's Who of Hum Co in lte 19th century.

Sanborns, etc. Was te Weck Bldg at 3rd & E (meeting hall of Pythians before the building on 4th. Also, early images of Weck Bldg.