The building at 2150-60 Shattuck Ave. was constructed in 1969. Known originally as the First Savings Building due to its primary tenant, it was designed by architect David Termolen, with Bakke, Cann & Paige. The construction was by Sollitt Construction Co. of South Bend, Indiana.

The building is historically significant as the first suspended high-rise building in Northern California, representing a revolutionary method of construction at the time.

Now 46 years in age, the building is not a Contributor to the Shattuck Avenue Downtown Historic District due to its age, as it is outside of the period of significance (1895-1958).

(Continued on next page)
The First Savings Building replaced the prior John Galen Howard-designed First National Bank building originally constructed on the subject site in 1903. The early building was demolished and the new 14-story tower constructed shortly before the introduction of BART to Downtown Berkeley in 1973.

A contemporary International Style building derivative of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill’s 1960 John Hancock Building in San Francisco but with more ornate curtain walls and unique structure system, the opaque glass and brown anodized aluminum curtain walls and outer floors are suspended from the steel straps that are hung from two top trusses mounted on two concrete tower. Intended to revolutionize high-rise building, variations of the construction technique continue to be found throughout the world today.

The building has had no significant exterior alterations since construction. Various changes have occurred to the building signage over the years and antennas installed on the roof, and a seismic retrofit of the building took place in 2000-2001.

The property was identified as a historic resource in 1979 by Charles S. Marinovich of Berkeley Architectural Heritage. JRP Historical Consulting reevaluated the property in 2004 and concurred on the significance. It was subsequently found eligible for the National Register and is now listed on the California Register of Historical Resources.

References:
Construction Methods, 2/1970.
Interior Building Systems, 6/972.
Center Street frontage, viewed facing east.