

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code 2S2

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

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*Resource Name or #: (Assigned by recorder) First Savings Building

P1. Other Identifier: Great Western Building / Power Bar / Chase Bank

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*a. County Alameda

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Oakland West Date 1993 Township & Range No data

c. Address 2150-60 Shattuck Ave. City Berkeley Zip 94704

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10S; 564327mE/ 4191645mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor's Parcel Number: 57-2026-2-1;

Southwest corner of Shattuck Avenue and Center Street.

*P3a Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

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)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP7. 3+ story commercial building

*P4 Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)

View facing southwest,
December 2015.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age & Sources:

Historic Prehistoric Both

1969/46 years old, based on
COB permit files and
architect plans.

*P7. Owner and Address:

First Shattuck LLC
2150 Shattuck Ave., B100
Berkeley, CA 94704

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

F. Maggi & S. Winder
Archives & Architecture, LLC
PO Box 1332
San Jose CA 95109-1332

*P9. Date Recorded: May 15, 2015

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Archives & Architecture LLC: Shattuck Avenue Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey, 2015.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure and Object Record Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling State Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List)

DPR523A

*Required information

Page 2 of 3 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) First Savings Building

*Recorded by Franklin Maggi & Sarah Winder *Date 5/15/2015

Continuation Update

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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:

Berkeley Gazette, 2/9/1968, 10/28/1970.

Berkeley Public Library folder, Construction Progress Bulletin #1 (1969).

Construction Methods, 2/1970.

Engineering-News Record, 3/4/1971.

Finacom, S., *The Berkeley Daily Planet*, "Chase Bank Logo To Rise Above Berkeley (News Analysis)", 10/12/2010.

Herrick, J., DPR523 Update Sheet for Map Reference No. 01-15,
JRP Historical Consulting, 2004.

Interior Building Systems, 6/972.

Marinovich, C.S., Historic Resources Inventory form, BAHA, 1979.

Western Construction, 3/1970.



Building podium, viewed facing southwest.

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Continuation Update

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Center Street frontage, viewed facing east.