

May 24, 2017

To: Members of the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission

Fr: Steven Finacom, Commission Member for District #4

Re: Proposal Initiation of 2500 Shattuck Avenue

I am writing to propose that the Commission initiate 2500 Shattuck Avenue, an early 20th century commercial and residential building, for consideration for either Berkeley Landmark or Structure of Merit designation. It is identified in City records as **APN: 055 182200100**. The building is the original structure built on the parcel and is located at the southwest corner of Shattuck Avenue and Dwight Way. It is on the State Historic Resources Inventory.

2500 Shattuck, is a two-story structure with ground floor commercial and upstairs apartments. It was built in 1923 to a design by noted Bay Area architect Louis Upton for Berkeley-based capitalist George Mattern. The corner storefront was built as a branch bank for a Berkeley banking institution. 2500 Shattuck (*shown below, 2017*) retains its original exterior of unpainted buff colored “pressed brick”, completely intact on the upper floor and on the west end of the north elevation. Although windows have been altered, some intact examples of the original



windows remain. Four original commercial storefront spaces were, by the mid-1940s, remodeled into two. One current storefront appears to retain its original clerestory and some decorative detail. On the other storefront the “frame” and several elements of an ornamental exterior for a corner bank, the design and construction dating to the 1930s-40s, remain. The features include terra cotta pilaster capitals with an entwined “BA” representing the second banking tenant, Bank of America. The building was a prominent branch bank for at least two institutions during the early decades of bank expansion into neighborhood branch service. The Bank of America (originally, the Bank of Italy) was a pioneering leader in developing branch banking both in California and in the United States.



The building anchors the northern end of a largely intact block of late 19th and early 20th century commercial structures. It is also a relatively rare surviving example in Berkeley of a multi-story brick-clad mixed-use building that retains much of its original design and its original brickwork, unpainted.

At left, location of 2500 Shattuck, at the corner of Dwight and Shattuck. Below, details of the historic facade.

If the LPC votes to initiate the property at the June meeting, the landmark application will be complete and I will submit it in time for review in July.

