

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc Bta 2+, SL
UTM: A 10/563855/4183333 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

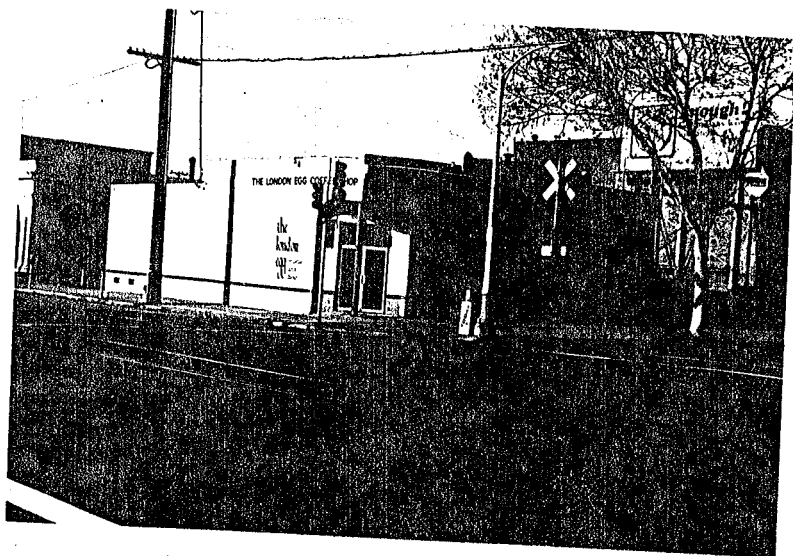
1. Common name: Lupe's Mexican Restaurant Building
2. Historic name: Mme. de St. Germain's Building; Oenophile Store Building
3. Street or rural address: 301 Broadway/450 3rd Street
- City Oakland Zip 94607 County Alameda
4. Parcel number: 1-137-7
5. Present Owner: Nuno M. Dacruz Address: 2471 Cordova St.
- City Oakland Zip 94602 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Restaurant Original use: Wine shop and grocery store; drug store

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Simplified Italianate
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

A one-story plaster surface brick building on a corner site with canted corner entrance. A crude cylindrical iron post supports the roof overhanging the corner entrance. The Broadway side is composed of six circular-arched window openings in addition to the corner entrance. A simple cornice runs above the arches topped by a plain parapet wall with a central slightly-arched, rectangular panel over the three center arches which probably was originally used to identify the premises. The panel is flanked by two posts with raised circular arch tops. An 1860 illustration indicates that the windows were originally divided into six lights with fan lights in the arches. The present canted corner entrance was at that time treated as a seventh arch. Glass doors with light divisions similar to the windows appear to have occupied three of the arches. The 3rd Street side was originally similar to the Broadway elevation with three arched windows, but the windows were later filled-in and the cornice and most of the parapet removed.

A photograph dating from about 1910 indicates that the corner entrance had been added by that time. The entrance now has modern aluminum doors. The wall surfaces appear always to have been plastered.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1857-59
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50' Depth 50'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
1860, 1910, 1981

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: Arches on 3rd Street side have been filled in
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X
Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial X Other: ___
16. Threats to site: None known ___ Private development X Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: ___
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: None

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

This building has the singular historical significance of being the first brick building in Oakland. According to tax assessment records, it was built between 1857-59 by Madame Theophile Adelaide de St. Germain and her husband, Eugene, as a wine shop and grocery store. They apparently shared the premises with "Dr. Carter's drug store", whose proprietor had been at this location since at least 1854. The structure is pictured in Whitcher's 1860 Map of Oakland (upper left-hand border) identified as an "oenophile store" (literally, wine lover's store); it appears suprisingly as it looks today. Two separate accounts in Ye Olden Oakland Days (cited below) identify it as Oakland's first brick building. Tax assessments noted "stock goods on hand" valued at \$4,000 in 1859-1860 and 1860-61, a phenomenal amount for the time and almost three times the value assigned to the building. Very likely this was an inventory of French wine! The de St. Germain's resided one block away at the corner of 3rd and Washington Streets. They appear to have closed their store and moved out of Oakland in 1862-63, since they have no personal property listed in the tax assessment rolls after this date. However, Madame continued to own the property until at least 1905. (See continuation sheet).

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

Architecture 3 Arts & Leisure ___
Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement 1
Government ___ Military ___
Religion ___ Social/Education ___

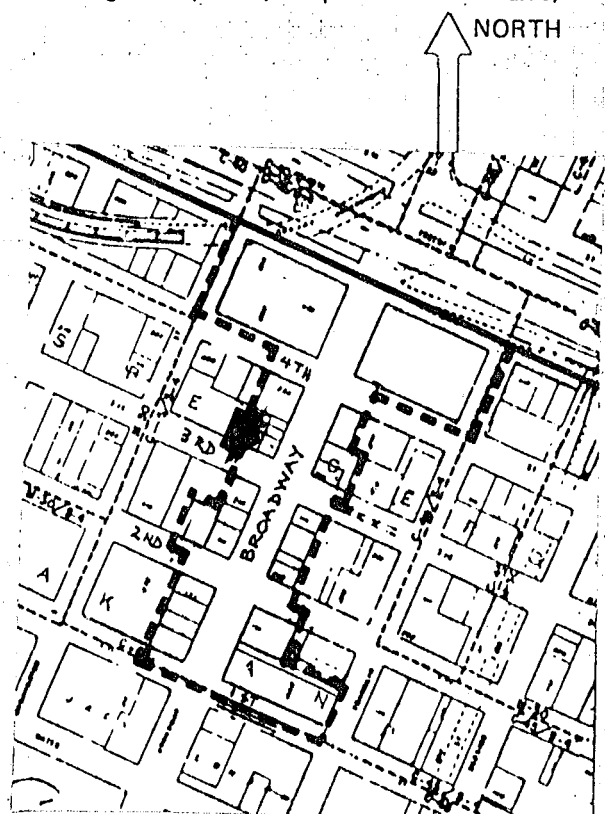
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Sanborn Insurance Map
City Tax Block Books
City Tax Assessment Rolls
Whitcher's, Official Map of the City of Oakland, 1860.

22. Date form prepared May 31, 1981
By (name) Staff and consultants
Organization Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey
Address: City Planning Dept., City Hall
City Oakland, CA Zip 94612
Phone: (415) 273-3941

21. Ye Olden Oakland Days, WPA, 1939
(2/12/1922; 9/25/1921) pp 29, 62, 89
SF Morning Call, 10/31/1912; 5/27/1908

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



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19.

The de St. Germain family was fairly well-known in the Bay Area, especially by the time of Madame's death in Paris and the contest of her will in San Francisco in 1908. An obituary⁽¹⁾ states that she and her husband (a French count) came to California in the early 1850's. When they came to the United States, it was reported that they had eloped. While in California, they lived most of their lives in Oakland, where they "amassed a large fortune" which was invested in real estate on both sides of the bay. Madame's local estate was said to be worth between \$200,000 and \$700,000, mostly in real estate, including the entire San Francisco block at the corner of Kearny and Jackson Streets, excepting the parcel where Abe Ruef's building stood. A grandson, Eugene de St. Germain, contested two Parisian relatives for the estate, although the outcome is not known.

The unique history of this structure, connected with Oakland's Gold Rush period and its early commercial development, is made more interesting by the fact that, except for the alterations to the Third Street facade, the building's exterior is largely unchanged. The structure presents an unusual opportunity for commercial use that amplifies its historical significance and features its anchor quality in the late-20th-century Lower Broadway area.

The building is one of seven surviving brick structures on Lower Broadway dating from the 1850's and 1860's (see separate SHRI forms for 311-13, 315-17, 318-34 and 131 Broadway).

(1) San Francisco Morning Call, May 27,

