

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Arcata Plaza

Other names/site number: Plaza, The Plaza, The Commons, HALS-CA-30

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 844 H Street

City or town: Arcata State: California County: Humboldt

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

LANDSCAPE/Plaza, Park, Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

LANDSCAPE/Plaza, Park, Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

N/A

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: EARTH, CONCRETE

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Arcata Plaza is one square block bound by Arcata's 8th and 9th Streets to the South and North of the property, and G and H Streets to the East and West. It is situated in the heart of Downtown Arcata. It is predominantly covered with grass along with eight concrete walkways with exposed aggregate that radiate from each corner and the mid-points to connect at a circle in the middle of the Plaza (contributing). Each walkway measures 5'11" by 60'10". The two palm trees in the northeast corner were planted in 1906 (contributing). The stone 1912 Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) fountain is located at the mid-point of the walkway on the west side of the Plaza (contributing). At the midpoint of the northern walkway is the Arcata Chapter of the American Legion's Veteran's Memorial placed in 1957 (non-contributing because it is commemorative). The memorial is associated with a flagpole on the same walkway, which was added between 1961 and 1966 (non-contributing because it is commemorative). The California Registered Historical Landmark plaque for the Jacoby Building (non-contributing because it is commemorative) on the southwest corner of the Plaza was placed in 1963. The plaque was removed in 2018 and the text of the plaque was updated in 2025 to reflect additional cooperation from the Wiyot Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, and the California Office of Historic Preservation. The City of Arcata recognizes and respects the indigenous Wiyot people are the ancestral inhabitants of all lands within the City of Arcata and that the lands on which the Arcata Plaza is located are included in the unceded ancestral lands of the Wiyot tribe. Several modern additions to the Plaza have been made, including masonry, several electrical outlets, four mosaic recycling bins designed by local artist Laurel Skye, 16 lampposts, a bronze bas relief rain catcher sculpture titled the Earth Eye, and several benches and undecorated recycling bins. While the Plaza has experienced physical changes, the property has maintained its historic integrity, reflecting the historic location, setting, feeling, and association of the property between 1850-present therefore meeting integrity standards.

Narrative Description

The Plaza has undergone significant physical changes in its history, but none of these alterations have detracted from the integrity of its location, setting, feeling, and association. Rather than detracting from integrity, the ongoing modifications of the Plaza are instead reflective of the

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continued use and association as a public gathering space for Humboldt County's residents and visitors. Archaeologist Thomas C. Patterson has referred to this phenomenon as a "materialization of worldview" where landscapes can be understood as works in progress that were never fully completed.¹ In turn, this site has gained meaning and significance with changes over time as the community around it continues to use it for recreational, social, and community engagement activities.

The Plaza's integrity of setting and location are intact as noted by its boundaries established by bordering streets, which have been present since its construction. These boundaries are visible in the 1851 Map of Union drawn by its architect, Lewis Keysor Wood.² This intersection of G and 9th, G and 8th, H and 8th, and H and 9th streets has also been key to the Plaza's significance as a hub for political engagement, recreation and social activities, and community engagement activities, as it is in the center of Arcata's downtown area. At the time of settlement, the Plaza was designated a public park, and the surrounding downtown area was a key supply point for those traveling from the interior mining camps on the Klamath, Trinity, and Salmon Rivers.³

The layout and uses of the Plaza since 1850 reflect a New England-style commons or village green. A common is a rectilinear layout of paths or square beds with edging. Famous examples include the Commons of Boston and Cambridge.⁴ New England influences were abundant during the settlement period of Humboldt County (c.1850-1885). The architecture of the first thirty years of settlement inherited many of New England's Greek Revival forms.⁵ The open grass spaces have historically been associated with recreation, community engagement, and grazing for cattle and other animals. Many other developing Californian towns during this era created similar community spaces during their settlement periods. Another prominent example is the Watsonville City Plaza, established in 1860 and on the National Register of Historic Places (*National Register* #83001244).⁶ While there are other cities in California counties which have plazas featured as part of their original layout, Union (later renamed Arcata) was the only settlement in Humboldt County that featured a plaza in its original construction.

From 1850 to 1895, the Plaza's internal design was in flux due to varying uses and an evolving community. An 1878 photo of the Plaza displays a rectilinear grass field without fencing but with four dirt walkways extending from each corner to meet at a short rectangular walkway in

¹ Thomas C. Patterson, "The History of Landscape Archaeology in the Americas," in *Handbook of Landscape Archaeology* (Milton Park, England: Routledge, 2008), 79.

² Lewis Keysor Wood, "Map of Union," Map, The Union Company, 1851.

³ Susie Van Kirk, *Reflections of Arcata's History: Eighty Years of Architecture* (Arcata, California: Bug Press, 1979), 4; California State Parks, Department of Parks and Recreation. *Historic Resources Inventory The Plaza*, 12-5527-7, edited by Susie Van Kirk (Sacramento, 1-2).

⁴ Norman T. Newton, *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971), 248-249.

⁵ Susie Van Kirk, *Touring Arcata's Architecture: Arcata, California* (Arcata, California: White City Publishing, 1988), 3.

⁶ United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form for Watsonville City Plaza* (Sacramento, 2).

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the middle of the Plaza.⁷ The centerpiece of the Plaza in this photo is the Liberty Pole, erected in 1876 and standing until strong winds took it down in 1897.⁸ Sometime between this photo and 1888, a white rail fence and a wooden sidewalk were constructed around the perimeter of the Plaza.⁹ None of the workmanship of the settlement period is still visible, but the design, setting, location, feeling, and association defined by the perimeter of the Plaza established in the settlement period still remain.

At the turn of the century, the Plaza would experience a formal beautification at the hands of the Plaza Improvement Committee, a group of local civic boosters. Initial design plans were made by City of Eureka engineer Frank E. Herrick with contributions from the Vance Mill and Lumber Company.¹⁰ The Committee's first construction was a bandstand in the middle of the Plaza supplemented by a 115-foot tall flagpole in 1901. That same year, the Committee replaced the old white rail fence with a white picket fence, and animal grazing was formally banned from the Plaza.¹¹ However, according to a 1901 photograph, there was a brief period during 1901 when animal grazing and the bandstand overlapped.¹² The new fence came down on June 28th, 1902 when cattle were finally banished from the streets. An axial layout of walkways was completed in 1902 as graveled paths, but they were later paved in 1910 along with additional walking paths.¹³ Eight of these intersecting paths and a circular middle point are still present today. However, this design also featured a circular walkway that is no longer present. In 1903, community member Louis Scholrliig planted three dozen rose bushes, twelve dozen boxwood plants on the outer walks, and the first palm trees on the circular walkway.¹⁴ The two palm trees that are still present today were planted in 1906. The other six palm trees, that were planted at the same time as the two-remaining, died from being waterlogged due to excessive rain. All six were removed from the Plaza sometime between 1916 and 1947.¹⁵

The bandstand was removed in 1906 to make room for a statue of President William McKinley following his assassination. The statue was commissioned by Arcata resident George Zehnder and sculpted by San Francisco-based artist Haig Patigian. Patigian was a prolific sculptor whose works include a monument to the Volunteer Firemen of the 1850s in Washington Square, San Francisco; General John Pershing in Golden Gate Park; and a bust of Herbert Hoover in the White House. Delivery of the McKinley statue to Arcata was temporarily halted because of the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco. Workmen saved the completed statue from the

⁷ Palmquist Photograph Collection. Cal Poly Humboldt Special Collections and Archives, Arcata, California.

⁸ "Local Items," *Ferndale Enterprise*, October 26, 1897.

⁹ Humboldt County Collection Photographs. Cal Poly Humboldt Special Collections and Archives, Arcata, California.

¹⁰ "News from Our Neighbors," *Humboldt Times*, October 20, 1901.

¹¹ Van Kirk, Susie. *The Plaza, Arcata, California* (Arcata, California: White City Pub., 1986), 4.

¹² Palmquist Photograph Collection.

¹³ *Ibid*, 5.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 4.

¹⁵ Palmquist Photograph Collection; Shuster Aerial Photograph Collection. Cal Poly Humboldt Special Collections and Archives, Arcata, California.

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burning foundry.¹⁶ However, the statue was removed in 2019 after a ballot initiative passed that cited the injustices that took place towards Native Americans during Mckinley's presidency.¹⁷

In 1912, a drinking fountain designed by stonemason James Davidson and commissioned by the Women's Christian Temperance Union was installed at the mid-point on the west side of the Plaza.¹⁸ The fountain originally had a spherical top, but a 1970 photo displays it with an oval shaped top. The top ornamentation of the fountain is presently missing. Light posts with five bulbs each were installed on each corner of the Plaza by 1915, but these were replaced by single-bulb light posts sometime after 1947.¹⁹ However, these replacements were removed sometime prior to 1965.²⁰

While the beautification introduced new vegetation and objects to the Plaza, it retained its grass fields and physical boundaries, which have been key to its location, setting, feeling, and association with community engagement and recreation. However, the beautification did alter the Plaza's use because it stopped being associated with livestock. This change is significant because it marks a newly visible divide between the city and the countryside of the Arcata area. This trend was the case for many major American cities at the turn of the twentieth century.²¹

While the Plaza Improvement Committee was responsible for the most formative features of the Plaza, there would continue to be alterations. Four circular concrete planters were added to the western side of the Plaza after 1952 but prior to 1961 and were removed sometime after 1970. A series of aerial images between 1947 and 1961 depict the circular walkway becoming gradually fainter until it is no longer visible. Photographs from 1947 to 1953 depict a flagpole on the east side of the Plaza. However, 1961 and 1966 photographs depict the flagpole in its present location on the north side of the Plaza.²² Additionally, the Plaza received multiple educational markers over the postwar era. In 1957, the Arcata Post No. 274 of the American Legion placed a Veteran's Memorial plaque on the midpoint of the northern walkway. The Arcata Post No. 274 was founded in 1930 to assist local Veterans in reintegrating and reestablishing themselves in the civilian world. The Arcata Post as well as neighboring Posts in Eureka and Ferndale earned a reputation for community outreach, education, and mentoring.²³ Their selection of the Plaza for their marker is indicative of the site's symbolic value to the community. The California Registered Historical Landmark plaque for the Jacoby Building was placed on the southwest corner of the Plaza in 1963. It commemorates one of Arcata's oldest standing buildings that has

¹⁶ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. *Historic American Landmarks Survey Arcata Plaza*, HALS-CA-30 (Washington, DC, 2).

¹⁷ Marissa Papanek, "Statue of President William McKinley Removed from Arcata Plaza, where it Stood Since 1906," *KCRTV*, February 28, 2019.

¹⁸ Van Kirk 1986, 7.

¹⁹ Humboldt County Collection Photographs; Shuster Aerial Photograph Collection.

²⁰ Palmquist Photograph Collection.

²¹ Robert D. Johnson, "The Possibilities of Democracy in America, 1877 to 1917," in *American History Now*, edited by Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 2011), 96.

²² Shuster Aerial Photograph Collection.

²³ "Arcata Veteran's Memorial Building," Arcata Veteran's Hall, arcataveteranshall.org, accessed April 1, 2025.

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been present to witness the development of the Plaza. The plaque was temporarily removed in 2018 and the text of the plaque was updated in 2025 to reflect additional consultations with the Wiyot Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, and the California Office of Historic Preservation.²⁴ These educational markers are the long-awaited physical adornment of the already robust history of community engagement in the Arcata Plaza.

Several modern additions have been made to the Plaza, including the current lamp posts. Walkways in cardinal directions are bordered by two sets of lamp posts, whereas walkways in diagonal directions have only one lamp post. Additionally, there are four lamp posts in the center circle of the Plaza. These current lamp posts were added sometime after 1984.²⁵ All lamp posts match except for one on the southwest corner of the Plaza, which is taller than the others.

While the walkways remain a historic resource, additional modern masonry exists. In particular, the planter bed walls surrounding the palm trees in the northeast corner, the planter bed surrounding the coniferous tree in the southeast corner, the concrete walls surrounding the beds in the circle in the middle, and the walls surrounding the beds on all four corners are all modern. The short, raised wall that borders the Veteran's Memorial on the north side of the Plaza is also modern. These were all constructed sometime after 1984.²⁶ Other recent additions to the Plaza include four mosaic recycling bins designed by local artist Laurel Skye between 2003 and 2007, a drinking fountain at the center of the Plaza, and several electrical outlets.²⁷ There is also a bronze bas relief rain catcher sculpture titled the Earth Eye installed in 2008 on a concrete slab which also serves as the base for an electrical box in a planter box at the center of the Plaza²⁸

It should also be noted that while one nonhistorical boxwood plant and two historic palm trees remain in the Plaza, the ecology of the Plaza has also continued to evolve. There are two large coniferous trees on the west side of the Plaza and one small coniferous tree on the southeast corner. While there are no longer the abundant roses of the beautification period, there are several flowering plants including irises, daffodils, and cherry trees. There is a noted symmetry of rhododendrons and lilies in the middle of the Plaza.

Modifications such as modern masonry and electrical outlets reflect adapting the Plaza's historic aesthetics to continue to serve a modern community. The current physical environment retains the original location, setting, and many associations of the Arcata Plaza throughout its period of significance (1850-Present). The original physical boundaries and many of the Plaza

²⁴ Jeanette M. Cooper, email message to author, April 2, 2025.

²⁵ Humboldt County Collection Photographs.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Mosaic Community Comes Together to Restore Legacy of Visionary Tile Artist Laurel Skye," *Mad River Union*, October 29, 2019, <https://www.madriverunion.com/articles/mosaic-community-comes-together-to-restore-legacy-of-visionary-tile-artist-laurel-skye/>.

²⁸ "Student Sculptures Debut in Arcata, Humboldt Now (blog), May 15, 2008, <https://now.humboldt.edu/news/student-sculptures-debut-in-arcata>.

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Improvement Committee's alterations remain. The site's use for community engagement, recreation, and social activities remains.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1850-present

Significant Dates

1850, 1876, 1884,
1912, 1914, 1964,

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lewis Keysor Wood (1850)
Union Company (1850)
Frank E. Herrick (1901)
Vance Mill and Lumber Company (1901)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Arcata Plaza qualifies for the National Register at the local level of significance in the categories of recreation, community planning and development, and landscape architecture. The Arcata Plaza meets Criterion A because of its association with the founding, design, and planning of the City of Arcata. Additionally, the Plaza has served as a venue for events that have contributed to the broad patterns of our local history, including community celebrations, political engagement, and recreational and social activities.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The period of significance, 1850-present, is defined by the Plaza's uninterrupted use for recreation, community engagement, and social activities since its original construction. During

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the settlement period (1850-1885), the Plaza was a public park that hosted fraternal organizations, amateur baseball teams, miners, loggers, and many others as Arcata grew from 33 people to a few hundred. The Plaza has retained its setting and location marked by its physical boundaries of its bordering streets since 1850. The progressive era (1890s-1920s) saw local civic boosters band together to beautify the Plaza. Essential physical features added during this time include the eight concrete walkways with exposed aggregate, the Women's Christian Temperance Union Fountain, and the two palm trees in the northeast corner. The Plaza saw continued use for political rallies, fairs, and many other activities over the period between 1930-1975. Since 1975, the Plaza continued to host many events close to community culture including the Arcata Bay Oyster Festival, the Kinetic Grand Championship, and the annual Arcata High School Homecoming Parade. In her 1979 Historic Resources Inventory, historian Susie Van Kirk recommended the Plaza as eligible as it has been the continuous social center of Arcata since its construction.²⁹

Founded by the Union Company in 1850, Arcata (originally called "Union") was organized into a grid system, and each member of the Union Company obtained a pre-emption claim on a section of land within the city, where they developed homes, schools, and churches.³⁰ The Union Company soon laid out the Plaza (then called "the Commons"). Its bordering streets defined the Plaza's boundaries. While these were dirt at the time of construction, they have remained the dominant thoroughfares of Arcata keeping the Plaza a bustling center of the city's attention. The Plaza's boundaries have remained unchanged, as seen on the 1851 Map of Union drawn by its architect, Lewis Keysor Wood.³¹

Unlike the rest of Arcata, the Plaza was set aside as a public space over which no specific individual held legal claim. Upon settlement, it was designated as a public park.³² The core intention was to provide a space for the public's benefit. During the settlement period, the Plaza was used for recreation, community engagement, and social activities. There have been events significant to a local historical context such as a month-long celebration of July 4th, 1876 and a large political rally in 1884.³³ However, the Plaza was commonly used routinely rather than for unique events.

Between 1850 and 1885, the Plaza was regularly used as a parade ground where a citizen's military company drilled, a place where cattle and other livestock grazed, a staging area for numerous pack trains of mules for miners, a gathering site for local fraternal organizations, and as a diamond by amateur baseball teams.³⁴

²⁹ California State Parks, Department of Parks and Recreation.

³⁰ Van Kirk 1986, 2.

³¹ Wood.

³² California State Parks, Department of Parks and Recreation, 1.

³³ "Grand Centennial Celebration," Humboldt Times, June 21, 1876; "On the Plaza," Humboldt Times, October 1, 1884.

³⁴ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2; "Crescent B.B. Cina," Humboldt Times, July 24, 1874.

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Not everyone, however, in the community was satisfied with the Plaza. Articles in the Humboldt Times showcase a long-lasting debate (since at least the late 1870s) over land use, with some community members arguing that Arcata should sell the land to the county so that the community could build either a school or a courthouse on top of it.³⁵ These proposals were continuously defeated by local community members who enjoyed the Plaza for its social and recreational benefits. In the progressive era, the Plaza was beautified to underscore its intended purpose.

In 1895, Arcata resident Charles Murdock wrote, “The Plaza should be a thing of beauty and a center of life and interest. No building should rest upon it, but a green sword, well-kept walks, a fountain, shrubs, and trees should be so attractive that it would be the pride of every citizen.”³⁶ His proclamation led to the formation of the Plaza Improvement Committee, an organization of local civic boosters that pooled money to renovate and beautify the Plaza to create the ideal neighborhood community space. The Committee was comprised of five young men who sold subscriptions and recruited local businesses to help design the beautified Plaza.³⁷ The Committee embodied progressivism via its grassroots approach to fundraising and community organizing.

The immediate outcome of their organization was banning animal grazing on the Plaza by 1901. Cattle would be banned from the streets by June 28th, 1902.³⁸ However, the beautification did not result in any other drastic changes to the historic character, functions, setting, location, feeling or associations of the Plaza. The Plaza retained its style as a commons, its historic location in downtown Arcata, its setting at the corner of H and 9th Streets, its feeling as the center of Arcata’s community life, and its association with community engagement, recreation, and social activities.

Between 1930 and 1975, The Plaza would continue to be a centerpiece of Arcata's life. It would be a gathering place for town and national holiday celebrations, the scene of huge 4th of July bonfires, bicycle races, parades, Easter egg hunts, concerts, theatrical performances, fairs, farmer’s markets, and an annual salmon bake.³⁹ Additionally, it would host notable guests such as Hiram Johnson during his governorship and Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964.⁴⁰

In the years since 1975, the Plaza has continued to be the center of Arcata’s community life. It has hosted a weekly Farmer’s Market which includes local vendors since the mid-1980s and several annual events including the Arcata Bay Oyster Festival since 1990, the Kinetic Grand

³⁵ “Not ‘Dead’,” Humboldt Times, February 10, 1876; “School Matters,” Humboldt Times, February 3, 1883.

³⁶ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2.

³⁷ “A Good Move,” Humboldt Times, November 26, 1903.

³⁸ Van Kirk 1986, 4.

³⁹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2.

⁴⁰ Palmquist-Yale Photograph Collections. Cal Poly Humboldt Special Collections and Archives, Arcata, California; Palmquist Photograph Collection.

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Championship since 1969, and the annual homecoming parade for Arcata High School.⁴¹ All of these events exhibit the characteristics of Humboldt County's love for its industry, its artists, and its residents. These are major attractions for visitors looking to learn about our community. In addition to these important community events, an observer will find the area inhabited daily with buskers, students, professionals, and visitors, all enjoying the the Plaza's atmosphere and location. Since 1850, the Arcata Plaza has retained integrity in terms of location and setting in the heart of Arcata's downtown, feeling as the center of Arcata's community life, and association with community engagement, recreation, and social activities. A place on the National Register of Historic Places would underscore the indispensable role The Plaza plays in the life of residents and visitors of Humboldt County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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⁴¹ "About the Arcata Plaza Farmer's Market," North Coast Grower's Association. <https://www.northcoastgrowersassociation.org/arcataplaza.html>; "What is Kinetic Sculpture Racing?" Kinetic Grand Championship. <https://kineticgrandchampionship.com/>; "The History of the Arcata Bay Oyster Festival," The Annual Arcata Bay Oyster Festival. <https://www.arcatabayoysterfestival.com/about>

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Palmquist-Yale Photograph Collections. Cal Poly Humboldt Special Collections and Archives, Arcata, California. <https://cdm16166.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/palmquistyale/search>

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # CA-30

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Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Cal Poly Humboldt Library Special Collections and Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.032

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 10 T | Easting: 408445 | Northing: 4524730 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description

The Arcata Plaza is one-square city block. It is bound by G Street to the East and H Street to the West. It is bound by 8th Street to the South and 9th Street to the North.

Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Boundary Justification

These boundaries have remained constant and clear as the Plaza was laid out at the same time as the bordering streets. Its borders have maintained their constructed borders since its inception and throughout its period of significance until today

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Patrick O'Rourke, MA, Historian and Lab Director, and Jeanette Cooper, PhD,
Co-Director
organization: Cal Poly Humboldt Cultural Resources Facility
street & number: 1 Harpst St.
city or town: Arcata state: CA zip code: 95502
e-mail: pdo3@humboldt.edu
telephone: (310)-606-0089
date: 03/27/2025

Additional Documentation

Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

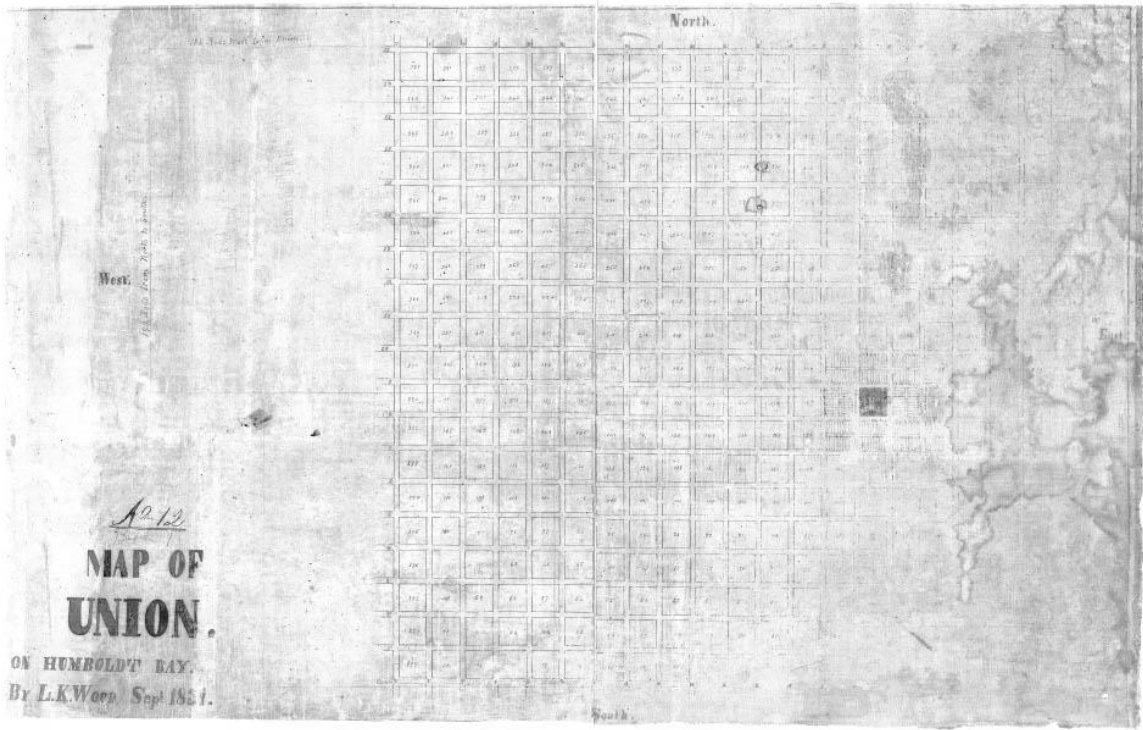
State: California

Artist: Lewis Keysor Wood

Date Drawn: 1851

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Map of Union

1 of 14.



12

Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1878

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photograph of the Arcata Plaza, taken 1878. Displays Liberty Pole, present 1876-1897.

2 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: M.H. Grant

Date Photographed: 1888

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Gathering of the International Order of Odd Fellows in the Arcata Plaza, 1888. Displays no longer present white rail fence and wooden sidewalk.

3 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1888

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photograph of the Plaza. Displays bandstand and graveled walkways.

4 of 14.



Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

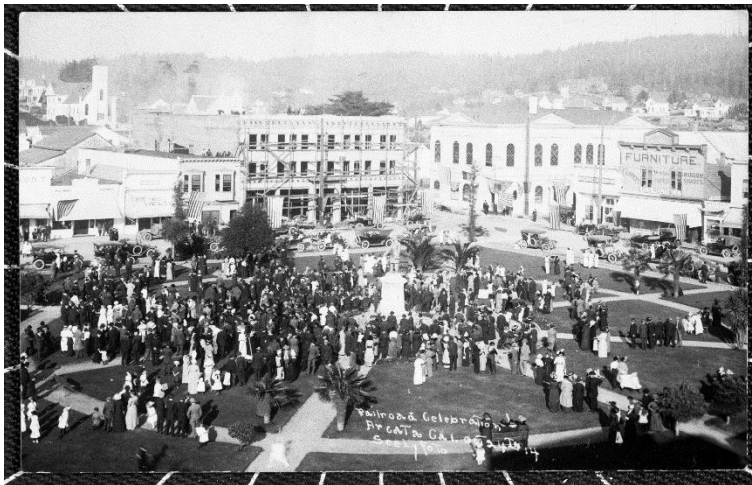
State: California

Photographer: Seely Brothers

Date Photographed: October 23, 1914

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Arcata residents gather on the Plaza to celebrate the completion of the Northwest Pacific Railroad linking Arcata to San Francisco. The Hotel Arcata is under construction.

5 of 14.



Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

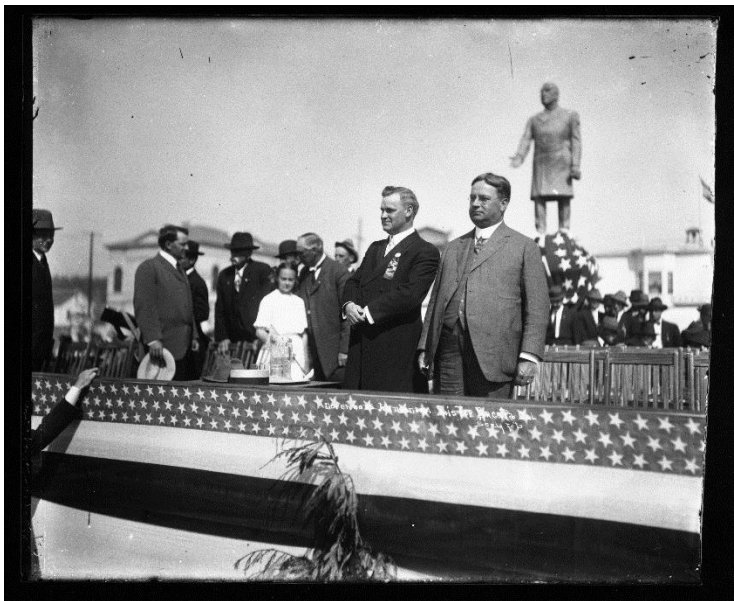
State: California

Photographer: Seely Brothers

Date Photographed: c.1911-1917

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Then-California Governor Hiram Johnson visits the Arcata Plaza with the McKinley statue in the background.

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Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1916

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: The Plaza facing northeast, displaying original lampposts and palm trees. 1916

7 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1921

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: West side of the Plaza, facing north. Displays WCTU fountain with original round decorative top.

8 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Merle Shuster

Date Photographed: 1947

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Aerial photograph depicting a flagpole on the eastern side of the Plaza and an apparent deterioration of the circular walkway.

9 of 14.



Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: David Swanlund

Date Photographed: 1961

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Aerial photograph. Circular walkway is no longer visible, and the flagpole has moved from the east to the north side

10 of 14.



Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1966

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Aerial photograph. Flagpole is now visible on the north side of the Plaza.

11 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Neil Hulbert

Date Photographed: 1964

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Then-Republican Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater addresses a crowd assembled in the Arcata Plaza to hear him speak on his campaign for the Presidency.

12 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: 1970

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: The Plaza facing northeast, displaying the WCTU Fountain with a replacement oval shaped top.

13 of 14.



Arcata Plaza

Name of Property

Humboldt, CA

County and State

Name of Property: The Plaza

City or Vicinity: Arcata

County: Humboldt

State: California

Photographer: Unknown

Date Photographed: Unknown

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: The Plaza during the Kinetic Sculpture Race, facing northeast. Showcasing that the Plaza has continued its recreational, social, and community engagement uses to present day.

14 of 14



Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

Arcata Plaza
Name of Property

Humboldt, CA
County and State

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.