

Sacramento Engine Co. #3  
1112 2nd Street  
Sacramento  
Sacramento County  
California

HABS No. CAL-1249

HABS,  
CAL,  
34-SAC,  
38-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT  
Historic American Buildings Survey

CAL-1249

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SACRAMENTO ENGINE CO NO. 3

Sacramento, Sacramento County, California

Address: 1112 Second Street  
Occupant: Cope Brothers  
Use: Restaurant and Bar

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The existing structure remains the oldest Fire House in California, dating from 1853. When restored in 1959 for occupancy and use as a restaurant and bar, every effort was made to preserve as much as possible of the original building.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Sacramento's most devastating fire occurred on the night of November 2, 1852, laying waste almost the entire section of the city west of 9th Street. To prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe, the city fathers approved construction of a water works which would not only supply the citizens but also the Fire Department with water. In addition, the Council approved the reorganization of the Fire Department and the construction of nine "capacious and substantial engine houses", located strategically throughout the city.

The nine were: Confidence Engine No. 1; Protection Engine No. 2; Sacramento Engine No. 3; Eureka Engine No. 4; Knickerbocker Engine No. 5; Young America No. 6; Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Co No. 1; Alert Hook and Ladder Co No. 2; and Tehama Hose Co No. 1. Of the eight, Sacramento Engine Co No. 3 is the only one remaining.

Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Co No. 1 was the oldest volunteer fire company in California, having been organized February 5, 1850; and shared quarters with Confidence Engine Co No. 1 at 917 Third Street. This building was still standing until 1969 when it was demolished to make way for the new Chinatown project.

Sacramento Engine Co No. 3 was built on city property, being parcel 132 of Block 289, at 1112 Second Street. The building was a two-story, brick masonry structure, measuring 20 feet in width and 50 inches in depth. It was built in 1853 at a cost of \$10,000.00.

All of the fire houses were of two stories; the lower floor housing the equipment, and the second floor being a social hall and library. All of the companies were made up of volunteer membership of 50 or more with resplendent uniforms, red shirts with blue trimmings, black trousers, a wide leather belt with company's name on the buckle plate, and Philadelphia type fire helmets.

Sacramento Engine Co No. 3 was disbanded in 1919; and, for the next 40 years, the building was used as a warehouse by Finegold & Company. The building was acquired by the Cope Brothers and remodeled as a restaurant and bar in 1959; the exterior being restored to its approximate original appearance, except for the cupola which was not rebuilt.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

All of the fire houses built immediately after the 1852 fire, employed classic Greek Revival elements in their exterior design. Sacramento Engine Co No. 3 used the pseudo Greek temple facade with flat corner pilasters framing the wide, double, lower-level door and three second-floor windows. A pedimented false gable crowned the front facade, the roof behind being flat.

The original cupola, which no longer exists, is depicted in both the Barber and Baker wood-cut of 1855; and the Baker lithograph of 1857 as being also of classic design, square in plan, with corner pilasters, a typical classic cornice and rounded dome capped by a tall flag-pole.

The building exterior is an excellent example of the Greek Revival "Firehouse" architecture of the 1850's.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Sacramento Guide Book (Dec 1939)
2. Sacramento Directories 1853-56.
3. Sacramento Illustrated (1855)
4. Baker Lithograph (1857)

Prepared by

Clyde F. Trudell, Architect

April 1969

SACRAMENTO ENGINE CO. NO. 3,  
1112 Second Street,  
Sacramento, Sacramento County,  
California.

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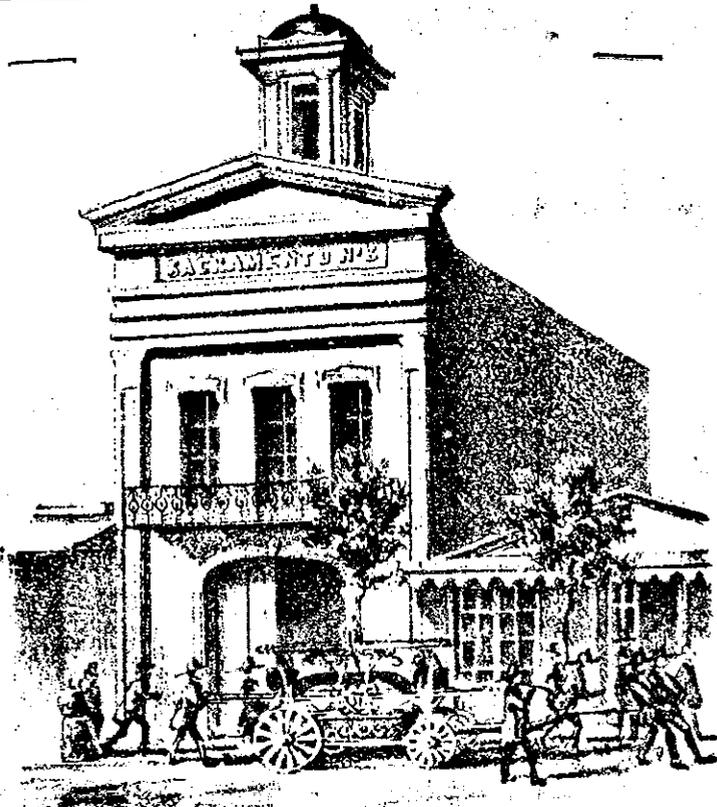


ENGINE HOUSE, NO. 3—SECOND STREET.

FROM "SACRAMENTO ILLUSTRATED"; BARBER & BAKER, 1855.

SACRAMENTO ENGINE CO. NO. 3,  
1112 SECOND STREET,  
SACRAMENTO, SACRAMENTO COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA

HABS NO. CAL-1249



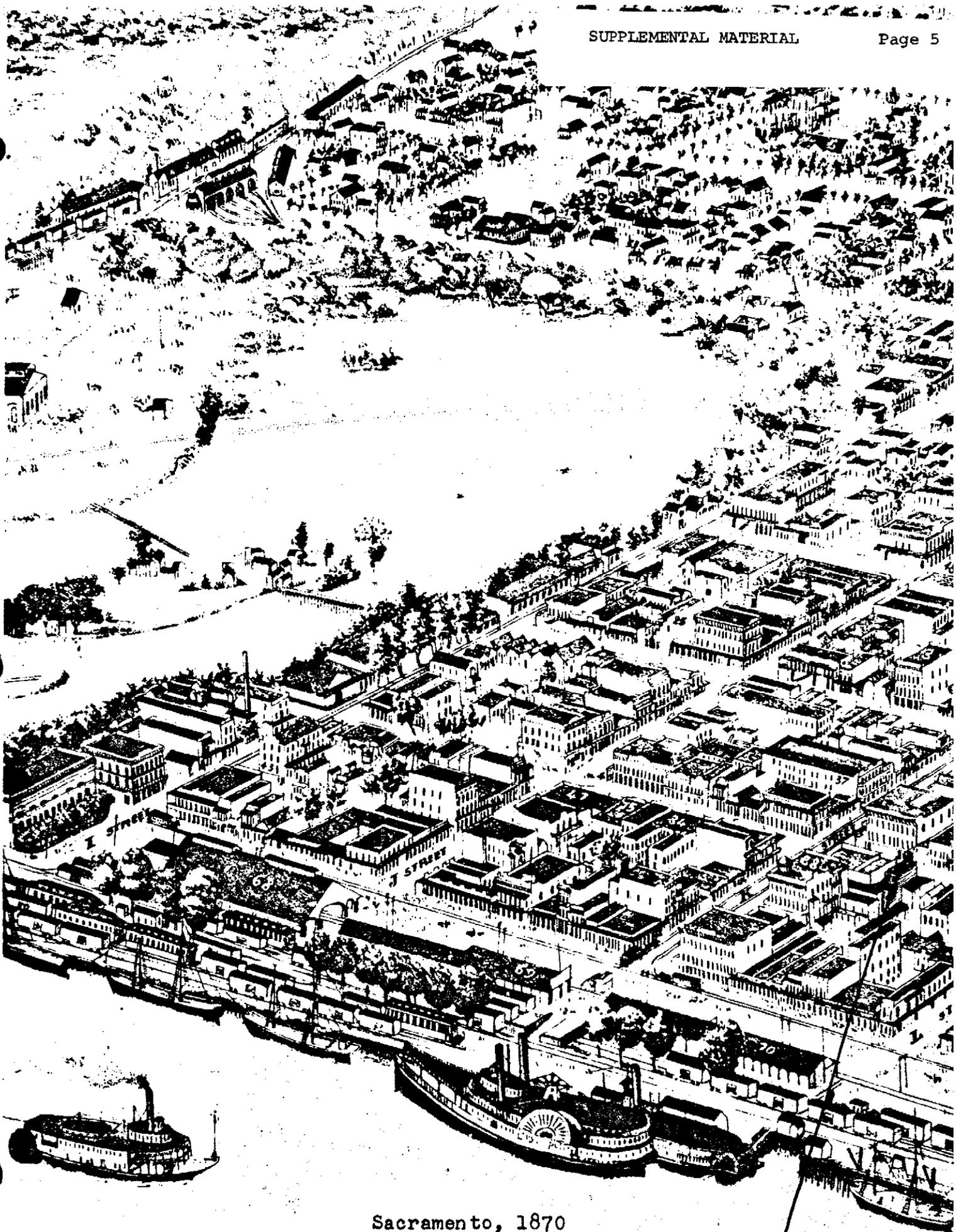
Sacramento Engine Company No. 3, 1857

FROM BAKER LITHOGRAPH OF 1857



Sacramento Engine Co. No. 3  
1959

BEFORE RESTORATION OF 1962



Sacramento, 1870