

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Yolo Branch Library
other names/site number Yole Carnegie Library

2. Location

street & number 200 Sacramento St. n/a not for publication
city, town Yolo n/a vicinity
state California code CA county Yolo code 113 zip code 95697

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
California Carnegie Libraries

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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, this property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Arthur Qualtrici 10/22/90
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Delores Byers 12/10/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Stored in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Woodroof Asphaltother Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1918-1921

Significant Dates

1918

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Weeks, William H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

California Carnegie Survey

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 10 603780 4287640
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

AP # 25-400-13, located at the northwest corner of Sacramento and Second streets, City of Yolo.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy Kortum
organization (Sonoma State University) date 11/89 (rev. 4/90)
street & number 180 Ely Rd. telephone 707/762-6219
city or town Petaluma state CA zip code 94954

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**National Register of Historic Places
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CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: YOLO BRANCH LIBRARY

Section number 7 Page 1

The Yolo Carnegie Library building is a small frame bungalow with Craftsman detailing. Clad in narrow shiplap, one story over a low foundation, the building consists of two wings joined in an L-shape. Each wing is under a low gable roof and, within the "L," the small entrance portico is under an extension of the side gable roof which is supported by square posts on top of a low porch wall. The building is painted a cream color with brown trim, and the roof is gray asphalt. Generous paired windows, an outside chimney indicating the fireplace within, and tall, well-established trees which surround it, contribute to the appearance of a classic California bungalow, except for the small sign under the front-facing gable: "Yolo County Public" in small letters above the much larger "Library." One of the last Carnegie libraries funded, and designed by noted Carnegie architect W.H. Weeks, the building was constructed for \$3400 in 1918. An outside air conditioner is the only addition to the building, and the integrity of style as reflected in its Craftsman detailing has been maintained.

The building is set well back from the street, with the shorter stem of the "L" on the left and facing the street, the longer stem parallel to the street. Within the "L," the small entrance portico under its low sloping roof is emphasized by paired slim square wooden columns, with central detailing, which rest on the enclosed porch wall and support the roof. Within may be seen two doors, one into the smaller left wing and the other into the center of the building. They are of solid oak framed glass, each flanked by narrow glass panes. To the right beyond the covered portico is an uncovered porch which extends almost the length of the side wing, and is reached by low, wide stairs.

In the gable end of the left wing, below the "Library" sign, and on the side of the right wing, are paired windows, one large pane below and the upper portion divided vertically into three. All are simply wood framed. On the side gable end there is an outside chimney of stucco, which projects through the extended overhang of the gable roof. Roof overhangs are trimmed with simple bargeboard, with brackets at the gable peak and below. Similar brackets are repeated at the portico roof, which is framed in at the side.

The interior of the building is essentially unchanged, though functions have altered somewhat as more library space was needed. The right wing, with fireplace, was the original reading room with shelves for books. The smaller left wing is now also used for library purposes; its own door from the portico is a reminder of its original function as a community meeting room. The main door from the portico enters a small central area connected by an arched entrance to the general reading room; it was separated from the community room by a sliding door. A small projection across part of the rear of the building provides additional space for office, rest rooms, and closets. Windows in the rear of the building, and those above the fireplace, replicate the careful attention to detail that characterizes the building.

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The building is unaltered since it was built in 1918, except for the addition of an air conditioner, visible next to the chimney. It is in need of painting but is otherwise well cared for, and the integrity of its style has been maintained. In addition to the tall well-established cedar and olive trees, the small lot is generously planted with and pyracantha and other shrubs. The building is an important visual and social contributor to the small area that is downtown Yolo.

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Yolo's Craftsman cottage Carnegie building was designed by W.H. Weeks, more widely known for his many "Greek temple" Carnegies. It is one of only four California Carnegies constructed of wood and which incorporate some elements of the "Craftsman" style; three are extant. Yolo County pioneered county library service even before the passage of California county library legislation, and a branch in the town of Yolo was among the county's first. When Carnegie funds were to be available to construct a permanent building for just one branch, the town of Yolo was again selected, both because of the dilapidated state of its current location and because it served a large rural constituency. The grant of \$3000 was offered September 14, 1917. Citizens raised funds to purchase the land, and the Board of Supervisors guaranteed tax support. The library opened December 1, 1918 and continues to serve the library needs of the Yolo area.

The town that would become Yolo was located at a natural ford across Cache Creek on the road from Benicia to Colusa, and was called Cacheville even though its post office, established in 1853, was known as "Yolo." Cacheville was the largest town in Yolo County during the time it served as its second county seat; Broderick was the first, from 1851-1857 and again, after Cacheville, from 1860-1862. Next the county seat moved to Yolo City (soon to become Woodland) where enterprising citizens were developing a thriving town based on irrigation, specialty crops, the 1864 arrival of the California Pacific railroad, and construction of a bridge across Cache Creek. Six years later, when Cacheville became a stop on the Northern Railroad (Central Pacific) route between Woodland to Red Bluff, it changed its name to Yolo so that the station name would match the post office name. The surrounding rural area had developed into extensive orchards, and the rural population of 250 served by the new town of Yolo equalled that of the town itself.

As late as 1910, Woodland was the only incorporated city in Yolo County. Its first library dated from 1874, the year of its incorporation. In 1903 Carnegie granted \$10,000 for a library building in Woodland, which was completed in 1905. In that year Woodland established a policy permitting rural residents to use the Woodland City Library free of charge. In 1910 the county board of supervisors contracted with Woodland to provide library service to the rural areas of the county, and in 1915 Carnegie provided an additional \$12,000 to enlarge the Woodland Library to accommodate this responsibility. Eventually forty-eight distribution points were established in elementary and high schools, and small branches were established in twenty-two towns, utilizing such sites as post offices and store fronts. Generally no rent was paid.

The first library in the town of Yolo dates from the county branch established in 1910 by the Woodland Library, among the first under the contract with the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. This pioneer grass-roots rural library service was acknowledged by library organizer Harriet Eddy, who herself travelled all over California for the State Library in its effort to establish county libraries. The Yolo branch included a reading room and was located "next to Borach's Store." Letters in the library files indicates that a permanent site was sought

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as early as 1914. In 1917 the Yolo branch, for which Woodland paid \$5 a month, was in a "small frame building in very bad repair" and served a population of 1500.

Yolo County Library files contain copies of correspondence between Yolo County Librarian Eleanor Hitt and James Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation, beginning January 30, 1917, and extending through April 1, 1918. The first items are resolutions from the Board of Supervisors, documenting the request of \$5000 each for branch library buildings in the towns of Broderick and Yolo. Hitt sent a cover letter and also provided county maps showing towns and population distribution. In the ensuing correspondence, some twenty letters and resolutions, Bertram explained in much more detail than was his usual custom the rationale for his decisions. In her responses, Eleanor Hitt is equally frank and forthright about Yolo County's position.

Responding to Hitt's initial request, Bertram noted that 1900 and 1910 census figures showed a stable population for Yolo County, and doubted the population projection "that the county is practically doubling its population during this decade." He also requested a list of all Yolo towns with a population of over 1000 in 1910, and questioned the choice of Broderick and Yolo, both "at one end of the county."

Hitt cited Board of Trade figures as basis for her estimate that Yolo County's 1910 population of 13,926 would grow to 18,000 by 1917, and called Bertram's attention to the fact that Woodland was the only city in Yolo County with a 1910 population above 1000, the rest of the communities being supported by their outlying agricultural population. She named four communities in other parts of the county where branch buildings should soon be built, and calculated that at \$5000 for each of them, Yolo County taxpayers would have to pay just over 38 cents to generate the amount required to maintain them at the rate required by Carnegie policy.

In an unusual three page response, dated March 9, 1917, Bertram carefully reviewed the Carnegie policy, especially in regard to city/county relationships, and reiterated his faith in actual census figures. According to his calculations, it was not Woodland but Yolo County that already had been the recipient of \$22,000 of Carnegie funds, and "according to our usual [population] standards, everything being equal," Yolo County with its present actual population might be eligible for \$25,000 to \$30,000. He further stated that "Beaus* California has county library systems it cannot get from this Corporation more favorable appropriations than other sections of the country." He closed by suggesting that she wait until at least the publication of the 1920 census "giving Federal authority for the population in each instance."

**Note that "beaus" in the above sentence is an example of the simplified spelling used by Carnegie and Bertram. Other examples appear in subsequent passages quoted.*

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YOLO BRANCH LIBRARY; CARNEGIE LIBRARY

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Hitt responded that Miss Steffens of the California State Library, who had recently met with Bertram, had conveyed Bertram's policy that the maximum that the Corporation would provide a city, county, or town, was an amount so calculated that the required annual maintenance tax of one-tenth of the grant amount, would not exceed fifty cents per capita. She added that "you are entirely mistaken in our attitude if you think that because of its county library system, California expects more favorable appropriations or consideration. . . than other sections of the country. We are merely trying to meet the growing library needs of our people with whatever means we can legitimately employ." Also, Hitt was "curious to know" why they were not informed immediately after their January 30 application that they were not eligible for branch library funding; "I would have thought that so important a condition would have been made clear in the first place."

Bertram disclaimed Miss Steffens fifty cent figure ("I never sought to give Miss Steffens this understanding. . .") and then relented somewhat. "The tone of your letter is one of 'dissatisfied resignation' as if there is apparently no prospect of getting anything [underlining Bertram's]. I did not say so in my letter. . . Suppose you select the most urgent community or district and make a plea on its behalf for one building. . . The 1920 Federal Census is not far off. . . for use in considering further the needs of Yolo County."

Hitt chose Yolo, based on the condition of its present building, and added that she was sure the supervisors would "gladly accept a smaller amount if the Carnegie Corporation regards \$5000 as too large a sum of money for a library building that serves a population of about 1500 people (in the town and the surrounding country)." But Bertram questioned the choice of Yolo: "[I do] not wish to argue with you because you are on the ground and therefore know the circumstances intimately. . . [but Yolo is]. . . relatively close to the present building -- only four and a half miles from it." Hitt reconsidered but did not relent because "Yolo is among the largest in point of circulation of books although it is the most inadequately housed." She noted that Yolo was used by those in the surrounding rural area between Yolo and Woodland (which apparently no longer provided free library use to people outside of the city) and that the community itself had the greater interest in obtaining a library. Bertram next wondered whether "if we concede that library facilities should be provided at Yolo," it couldn't be built for \$2500 or \$3000; Hitt, after citing increased building and furnishing costs, said that she was "sure that we would gladly accept whatever amount the Carnegie Corporation might consider sufficient and would do our utmost to use it to the best advantage."

All of these exchanges took place between the end of January and mid-June, 1917. On June 18 Bertram wrote that the application would be considered at the next Carnegie Corporation meeting which "will probably not be held for some time to come." The offer of \$3000 was mailed September 14, 1917. The few remaining Bertram/Hitt letters were concerned with

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transmittal of pledges and resolutions and arrangements for payment. Citizen interest was verified when they raised by subscription the \$300 cost of the lot. The total building cost was \$3400, with an additional \$1034 provided by Yolo County for furnishings.

The Yolo Branch Library has not generally been attributed to any architect. However Betty Lewis of Watsonville, in her extensive research into the work of William H. Weeks, located a references in California Libraries Quarterly News Items: in January 1918, that plans for the Yolo building were being drawn by W.H. Weeks; in July 1919, that W.H. Weeks was the architect. Further substantiation of Weeks as architect is the almost exact similarity of the Yolo building to the Santa Cruz East Side Library, designed by Weeks and completed September, 1921, also with a \$3000 Carnegie grant, and now no longer standing. More recently and conclusively, the Yolo County Archives/Records Center reports possession of six pages of blueprints and seventeen pages of specifications for the construction of the building (Maps & Blueprints #223), with Weeks' signature.

The building opened December 1, 1918 and was dedicated in January 1919 in ceremonies planned by Yolo Farm Bureau Center members. Today the Yolo Branch Library continues to serve the people of the area.

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Bobinski, George S. Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library Association, 1969.

Eddy, Harriet G. County Free Library Organizing in California, 1909-1918. Berkeley: Committee on California Library History, Bibliography, and Archives of the California Library Association, 1955.

Larkey, Joann and Shipley Walters. Yolo County: Land of Changing Patterns. Windsor Publications Inc., 1987.

Van Slyck, Abigail A. "Free to All: California Libraries and the Transformation of American Culture, 1886-1917." Ph.D. diss., University of California at Berkeley, 1989.

California Carnegie Library survey form: Lois Nash, Chairman, Yolo County Historical Advisory Committee, 1218 Sequoia Place, Davis 95616

Also from Lois Nash:

Yolo County Historic Resources Survey 1986.
Photographs, information, referrals

From the collection of Betty Lewis:

California Libraries, 13:1 (January 1918), p. 81; 14:1 (January 1919), p.75; 14:3 (July 1919) pp. 170 and 345.

From Yolo County Library:

Correspondence between James Bertram and Eleanor Hitt, 1917-18.

CALIFORNIA CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: YOLO BRANCH LIBRARY
PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Yolo Branch Library
2. 200 Sacramento St.
3. Yolo CA 95697

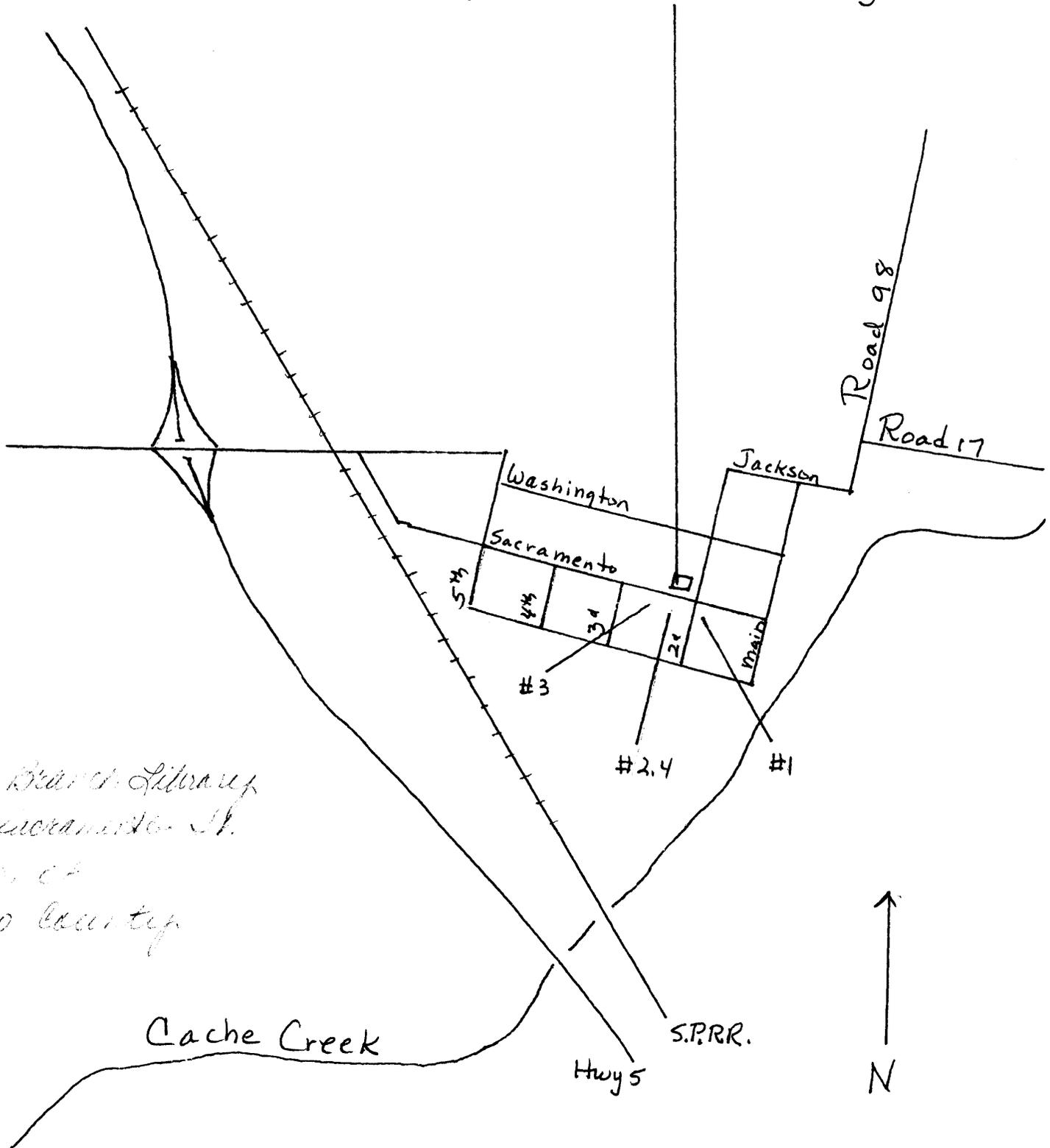
3. Vina Breyfogle
4. September, 1989
5. California Carnegie Survey
6. Right front, view to north
7. Photo # 1

6. Front, view to north northeast
7. Photo #2

6. Left front, view to northeast
7. Photo #3

6. Entrance, view to north northeast
7. Photo #4

Yolo Branch Library



Yolo Branch Library
200 Sacramento St.
Yolo, CA
Yolo County

Cache Creek

Hwy 5

S.P.R.R.

N