

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 10 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 16 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *g*
The Old Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

U.S. Government Post Office & Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

425 Seventh Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

California

— VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Sonoma

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO (until restored)**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM (new) PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Santa Rosa

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1678

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

— VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sonoma County - County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

2555 Mendocino Ave

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State of California Historic Resource Inventory

DATE

May 1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE 1979

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally designed and built, the U.S. Government Post Office and Federal Building (The Old Post Office) is a fine example of Roman Renaissance Revival style architecture, with Spanish tile roof. The building is best described by the Santa Rosa Press Democrat in an article published January 15, 1909, along with the architect's rendering, during the construction of the building.

...The main building face(d) on Fifth Street with 82 feet frontage and extends back on A Street 52 feet. Across the front of the main building there is a portico 51 feet by 13 feet deep. The construction of the building is to be brick masonry laid in pure cement mortar, without the use of lime whatever. The building is to be 'coursed ashlar.' This stone will be 'Indiana Buff Bedford Limestone,' the finest building stone now obtainable in the United States. From the cut stone line to the rafter extensions, the plain brick work will be stuccoed in a rough cast 'stippled' surface and nicely paneled and ornamented in mouldings.

The roof of the building will be covered with best grade of Spanish Terra Cotta tile, including ornamented tile hips and ridges. All of the lintels over the portico and door and window openings will be of cast reinforced concrete, and all sills will be of cut stone same as base course. The portico floor is reached by a set of massive solid granite steps forty-six feet wide.

The roof of the portico is also of Spanish tile, and is held up by two heavy masonry corners and four stone columns, twenty inches in diameter with heavy bases and carved caps.

The cornice of the entire building is over hanging with darkened beams and huge rafters. In all, the effect is one of massiveness and solidity. Each buttress on either side of the granite steps is surmounted by heavy cast iron lamp standard of highly ornamented design and with five large opalescent glass globes to each standard. These lamps stand about ten feet high.

The first floor is given over entirely to the users of the post office. The public lobby extends across the entire front of the building and is thirteen feet deep with high ceilings and heavy plastered arches and cornices. At the left end of the lobby is a fine solid oak stairway leading to the Internal Revenue Offices on the second floor. Another passageway at the left leads to private offices of the Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster.

The workroom occupies all of the center portion of the first floor and is practically two stories in height as is the public lobby. The money order and Registry Department is at the right of the double entrance and is separated somewhat from the general

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workrooms. Large roomy vaults of reinforced concrete and steel are provided for all purposes.

The floor of the portico and public lobby is of marble terrazzo laid off in panels with marble border. All of the base and plinths of the lobby will also be of marble. The second story at the left is arranged into a suite of offices for Internal Revenue Officers with private vaults, toilets, etc. On the right of the second story are arranged a store room, swing room, and toilet rooms.

All of the toilet rooms have terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting. The large toilet rooms on the second floor have exceptionally fine facilities, including shower baths for employees of the Post Office. There will be a basement with ten foot ceiling under the whole building given over to the heating plant, and fuel storage, etc. The mechanical equipment of the building including heating, plumbing, and electrical installation is superb and of the latest types throughout. The heating will have an automatic oil burning plant to operate a hot water heating apparatus.

The plumbing embraces some of the finest fixtures made, most of which will be the John Douglass manufacture. All heating and plumbing pipes will be jacketed with asbestos pipe coverings. There will be four distinct electric installations - one for lighting, one for power, one for vault protection service, and one for telephone service within the building. All electric work will be run in metal conduits.

The inside finish of the building will be almost entirely of quartersawed white oak for all doors, trim, fixtures, counters, desks, etc. All glass will be plate or ornamental opalescent glass. Wood floors will be white maple. Artistic metal grilles at all screen openings and front doors.

As a whole our new Federal building compares favorably with other like California structures and while not so large and pretentious as some, it is fully adequate to serve its purpose. The building was designed by James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department and its construction will be under the personal supervision of Mr. William K. Collier, Superintendent of construction of public buildings who is now in Santa Rosa. Hoyt Brothers have the contract to erect the building.

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The original plans still exist and confirm the above description. The Santa Rosa Press Democrat followed with a series of articles, up to the completion of the building, describing the various phases and materials installed.

In 1926, an addition to the rear of the building enlarged the workroom capacity and extended the concealed viewing corridor. In 1967, when the General Services Administration sold the building to the County of Sonoma, there were interior alterations to convert the space into a Data Processing Center for the school district. The interior alterations, not greatly affecting the existing architecture, removed the public counters and screen and added new air conditioning equipment. A suspended ceiling installed lowered the height of the workroom space and some new partitions were installed.

In spite of these alterations, the Old Post Office still retains the architectural style depicted in the original rendering right down to the two light fixtures each side of the monumental steps.

The building was originally built on a vacant lot surrounded by residences of the 1880-1900 era (Sanborn Maps 1883-1908) as shown in some early photos. Commercial growth has eroded the early environment. All the early residences around the building have been destroyed. The building site was eroded when the government built the 1926 addition and paved the entire site removing the limited amount of original landscaping.

The original site was in the Santa Rosa Urban Renewal Agency's area for a regional shopping center. In April thru June of 1979, the 1800 ton building was moved 800 feet to the north on a series of rails and rollers and sustained only minor exterior cracks which are being repaired. Upon completion of the new foundation the building will be restored for museum use.

The new site for the relocated building is on the North side of Seventh Street between 'A' and 'B' Streets. The adjacent property to the East has a concrete block commercial building (ca 1950) with no historical value and the property to the west (listed on the Santa Rosa Historic Resource Inventory) is a 1894 Queen Anne residence.

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The properties to the North and surrounding area are all examples of early Architecture (1868-1915) forming a potential Historic Preservation Planning Area, which is an appropriate setting for the Post Office Building (much like the setting when originally built.) This area is illustrated in the Santa Rosa Historic Resource survey.

The relocation of the building includes removing the 1926 addition and restoring the exterior of the structure as originally built. The new site will be appropriately landscaped and the new plaza will provide an enhanced setting for the building. The building is being structurally reinforced from the inside (while protecting the Architecturally important areas). Provisions are also being made to provide access to the building for the handicapped without destroying the Architectural Integrity of the front of the building.

The question of leaving the structure on its original site versus the relocation of the structure to a new site has been discussed in the Agency's final EIR and HUD's Environmental Impact Statement. This matter has been reviewed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington D.C. and has resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement to relocate the building to mitigate the impact of the proposed shopping center on the Historic Resource.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) notable Architect
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Post Office and Federal Building was designed by James Knox Taylor, FAIA (Fellow of the American Institute of Architects), Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department. He was an exceptional architect and was publicly called by his peers The National Architect.

The architecture of the Old Post Office and Federal Building is a unique example of Roman Renaissance Revival which has been well proportioned to the small scale of the building and represents sensitivity to local aesthetics and environment.

Though the Bill to construct this building was introduced into Congress on March 9, 1906, it did not pass until June 28, 1906, after the devastating earthquake which leveled Santa Rosa. This structure became part of the Santa Rosa rebuilding after the earthquake and also became Santa Rosa's first federal building. From 1906 to 1910, the Post Office was in a tin building surrounded by rubble.

The Old Post Office and Federal Building represented the pride the community had for its high quality craftsmanship by local people. This is depicted in an article published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, March 3, 1910, which states in part:

....The building was constructed by the well known contracting firm the Hoyt Brothers of this city and reflects great credit upon their skill and ability. Through their efforts, practically all the work was kept in the hands of local men. Throughout the building, save the Mail room, the interior finish is of oak. This work was done by Henry Kroncke, of the Santa Rosa Planing Mills. The plumbing was installed by J.C. Mailer Hardware Company. George Reilly, the well known stone contractor, put in the stone work, including the handsome carved Bedford columns, Mark McConnell did the wiring, and Lomont & Company had charge of the interior wood finish. The plastering, ornamental and otherwise, was done under the personal supervision of Hoyt Brothers themselves.

This building, considered to be the finest north of San Francisco in finish and appointments, contained one of the most advanced mechanical heating systems. It was a hot water system connected with an oil burning furnace automatically controlled to regulate the heat to any

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gebhard, David et al., A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1973.
 USR Research Company, Environmental Impact Report - Santa Rosa Center Renewal Project, 1974
 National Archives & Record Service, Santa Rosa Post Office, NARS Record Gr. 121, PBS.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.46

QUADRANGLE NAME Santa Rosa, California

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 524700 4254670
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property is located at 425 Seventh Street, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California on a 200' x 100' lot with 200' frontage on Seventh Street. The lot is bounded by Seventh, Eighth, A and B Streets, and is recorded as Assessor's Parcel 10-033-10, 11,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES 12, 13 and 14.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dan Lee Peterson, AIA Architect

ORGANIZATION

Dan Peterson AIA and Associates

DATE

June 30, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

930 Mendocino Avenue

TELEPHONE

(707) 545-0895

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Rosa

STATE

California

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Knox Miller

TITLE

DATE

9/28/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Cecil D. Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-16-79

ATTEST:

Kristin O'Connell
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11/15/79

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desired temperature. The fuel supply to the furnace was automatically regulated and at any time the fire went out, the oil supply would shut off so as to prevent a gas explosion. This system was also provided with an auto matic arrangement for instantly heating the water needed in the lavatories by just turning on the hot water faucet anywhere in the building.

The significance of this building is due to the integrity of the architect, James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, Department of the Treasury, who did much to raise the standard of design throughout the country. As a result of the Chicago Exposition, the federal government realized the inferior quality of government architecture and by competition hired James Knox Taylor as Supervising Architect in 1897. It was due to Mr Taylor that the character and design of the buildings erected by the Treasury Department were greatly improved and many towns and cities inherited federal buildings which locally represented the acme of architectural excellence. During his 15 years with the Treasury Department, federal buildings were constructed which compared favorably with buildings of the same class abroad and were very creditable to the United States Government.

Well known architect McKim of McKim, Meade, and White was noted as saying that Mr. Taylor's contemplated retirement from the Treasury Department would be a national calamity. Mr. Taylor did finally resign to become head of the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1912 until 1914.

Mr. Richard C. Maclaurin, M.I.T. President, in his report of 1911/1912 states:

....One of the most important permanent additions that has been made to the staff of the Institute for some time has been that of Professor James Knox Taylor, who has been appointed Director of the Department of Architecture. Mr. Taylor is a former student of the Institute who has already had a powerful influence on the architecture of the country through his occupation for 15 years of the important position of Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department in Washington. From that point of vantage, he did much to raise the standard of design throughout the country, and in his present position he will be able to continue the work of improvement through his influence on the architects of the future. His

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thorough knowledge of the conditions of practice in all parts of the Union and his wide acquaintance with leading members of the profession everywhere should enable him to keep the department that he directs in close touch with actual life.

Mr. James Knox Taylor died in Tampa, Florida, August 28, 1929, at age 71.

This building was nominated in 1974 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites and has been declared eligible for such listing (Federal Register, Vol. 41, No. 212, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1977).

The site which the building was located is part of a major redevelopment program being undertaken by the Santa Rosa Housing and Redevelopment Agency and assisted by the Department of Housing and Redevelopment (Urban Renewal Project No. Calif-R-45). Since it was impossible to leave the building in the Urban Renewal Project area, the memorandum of agreement by the Historic Advisory Council allowed for the mitigation of impact on the historic structure by undertaking the move to the new site. The only alternative was to document (which was done) then to destroy the building.

The significance of the property is due to the Architecture of the building and the site itself has no significance since it was entirely paved except in one corner which was not landscaped and contributes nothing to the quality of the Architecture. It would still qualify under the criteria for the National Register listing paragraph B, which states 'a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for Architectural value or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.' This is providing of course, that the Architectural Integrity is maintained.

The rendering of the building at its new site (see attachments) illustrates the sensitivity being taken to protect the significance of Mr. Taylor's architecture and that the relocation of the building has no effect on the Architectural Integrity of the building. It should be noted that by placing the building on a vacant lot, it has no impact directly on any potentially cultural resources and its impact on the immediate surrounding area will be positive in reinforcing the visual environment of the other Historic Resources to the North.

The structure itself has been moved with only the 1926 rear addition removed and the front stairs were removed to be reinstalled during the restoration process. The building upon completion of restoration

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will have retained all its exterior integrity and the main lobby will also be restored. A historical museum use is proposed by the city of Santa Rosa.

The Santa Rosa Post Office and federal building is one of the earliest examples in California illustrating the shift from using the Beaux Arts Classicism or Neo-Boroque Styles of architecture for Federal Buildings to styles which related to the vernacular of smaller communities. This is evident by comparing buildings built by the federal government in Calif. In an article titled, Development of Federal Architecture in California Progress from Earlier Types shown by Recent Designs, (published in Sept. 1918 by The Architect and Engineer of California). This shift and later development of the small design vernacular is demonstrated by the list of buildings published in the article which is;

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Custom House & Post Office, San Francisco | 1856 |
| 2. U.S. Appraisers Building, San Francisco | 1874 |
| 3. U.S. Mint, San Francisco | 1874 |
| 4. U.S. Post Office and Courts Building
San Francisco | 1905 |
| 5. Santa Rosa Post Office and Ferderal Building | 1909 |
| 6. Alameda Post Office | 1914 |
| 7. Riverside Post Office | 1914 |
| 8. Chico Post Office | 1914 |
| 9. Berkeley Post Office | 1916 |
| 10. Hanford Post Office | 1916 |
| 11. Santa Barbara Post Office | 1918 |

This building is not only significant due to its architecture and the architect but it is a vital part in the evolution of Federal Architecture in the State of California.

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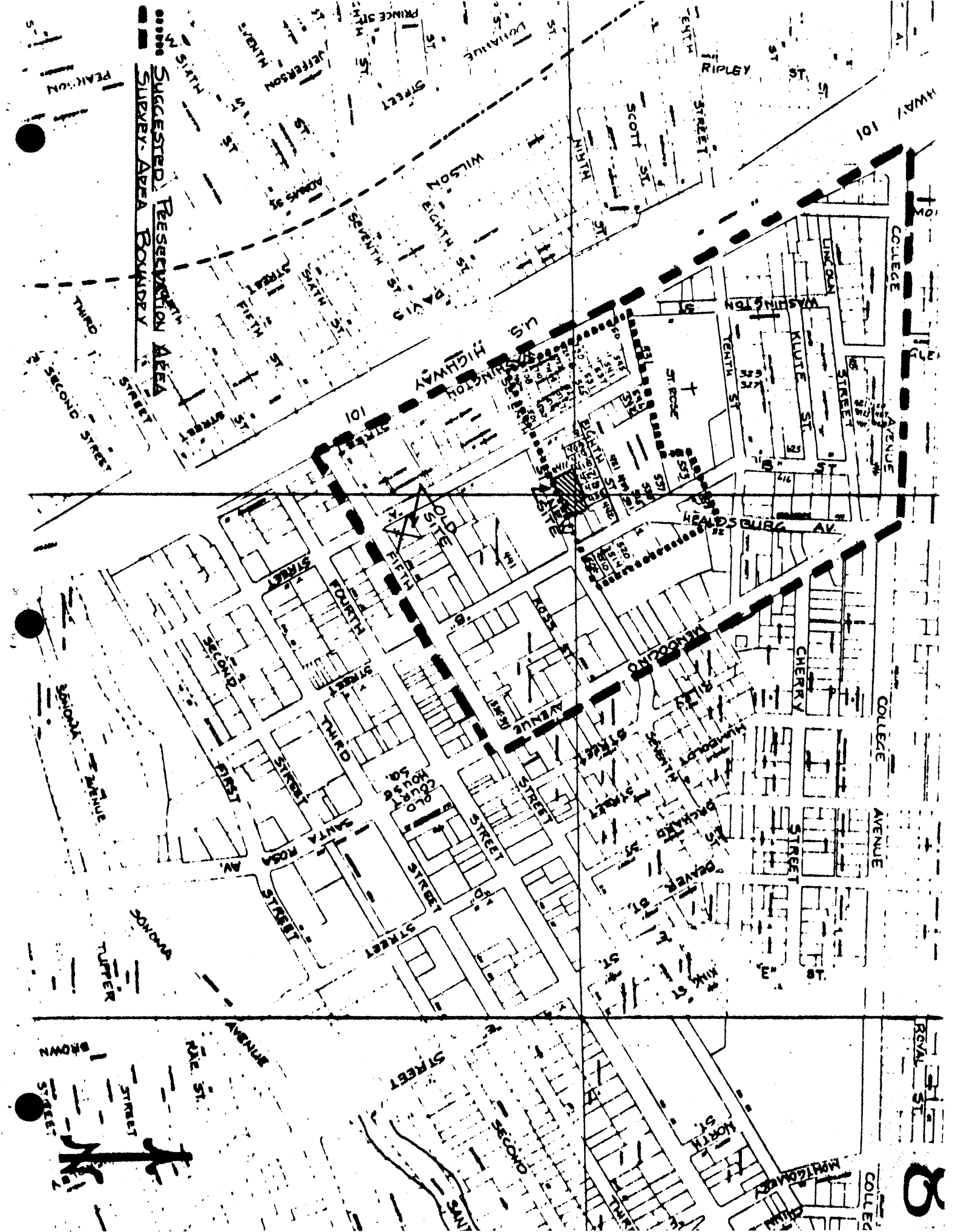
National Archives & Record Service, Bureau of Appointments - James Knox Taylor, NARS Record Group 56, Department of Treasury. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Technology Review, Vol. 14 1912.

Santa Rosa Press Democrat - 3/9/06, 1/15/09, 8/9/09, 1/14/10, 2/18/10, 3/3/10, 3/9/10.

D. Peterson, Old Post Office, Historic Documentation, Architectural preservation Associates, 1979

The Architect and Engineer of California, The Santa Rosa Post Office Building, by William A. Newman, Architect, Vol. XXI June 1910, No. 2, pp. 49-51.

The Architect and Engineer of California, The Development of Federal Architecture in California - Progress from Early Types Shown by Recent Designs, By William A. Newman, Architect Vol. LIV Sept. 1918, No.3, pp. 67-73.



SUGGESTED RESERVATION AREA SURVEY-AREA BOUNDARY

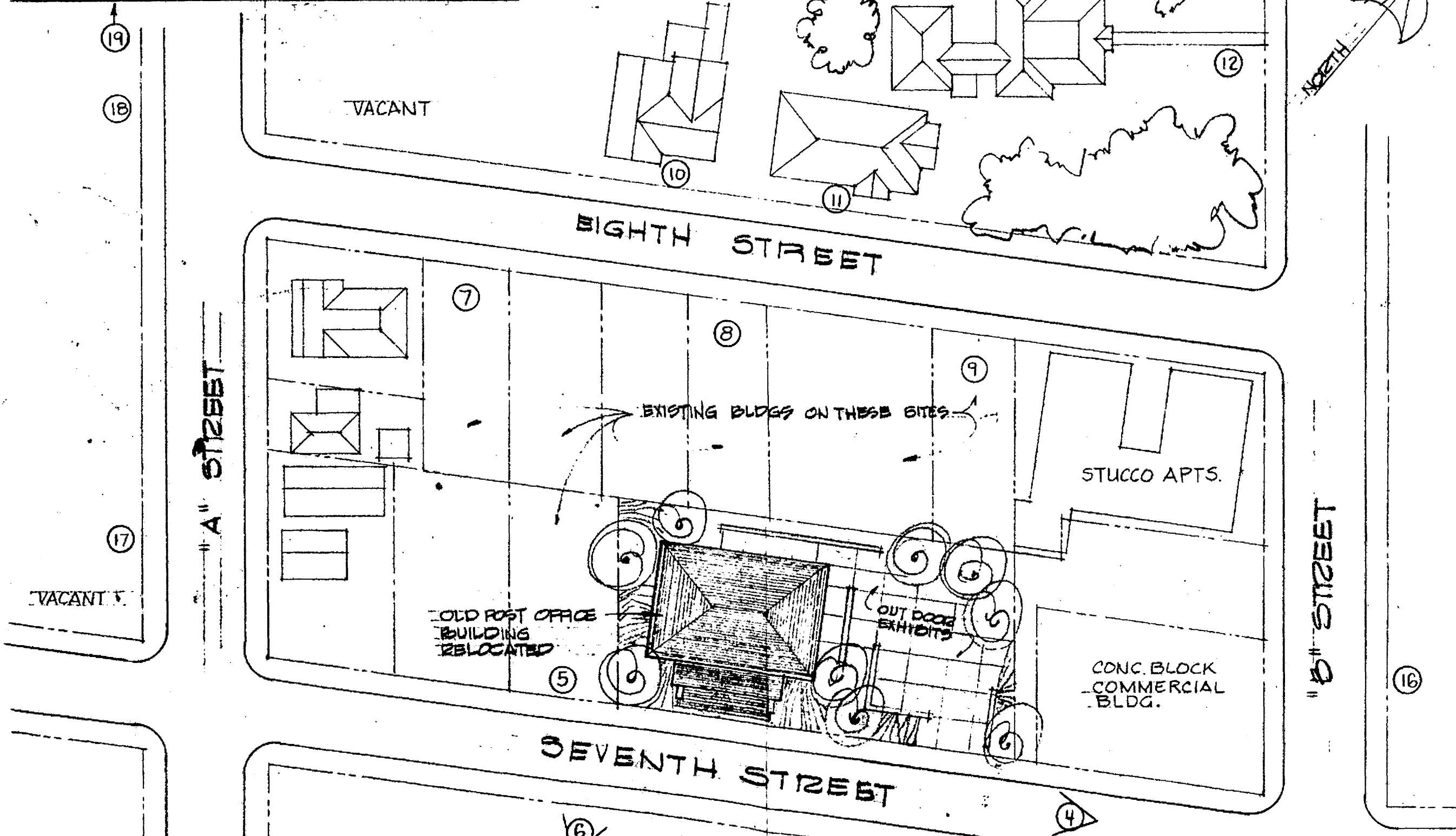
OLD CITY

SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN 1"=50'
PROPOSED RELOCATION OF OLD POST OFFICE

SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DAN PETERSON A.I.A. ARCHITECT

HISTORICAL BLDGS
 MEETS NAT. REGISTER CRITERIA



PARCELS NO. 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 APPROX. 100' x 190'
 AREA OF LOT 19,000 SF (VACANT)