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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The name Goodman has been associated with Napa from its earliest years. George E. Goodman came to Napa City in September 1855 at the age of 32. The first structure was built in Napa City in approximately 1848.(1)

George E. Goodman and his brother James H. Goodman purchased the land for "\$1,500 Gold Coin of the United States of America", where the Goodman Library was eventually built, May 29, 1877(2). Upon the death of his brother James, George Goodman inherited the property on December 23, 1889.(3) The County Recorders Book 72 of Deeds Page 48 shows that on February 28, 1902 George G. Goodman and his wife Carrie A. Goodman gave the land to the City of Napa. A portion of the deed reads as follows: "To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises, together, with the appurtenances, unto the party of the second part, (the City of Napa) its Successors and assigns, upon the following <u>Conditions</u> to be kept, observed and performed by the said second party, its successors and assigns, to wit:

The granted premises and the buildings thereon are to be forever used and devoted to the use of a <u>Free Public</u> <u>Library</u>, and none other, under such rules, regulations and restrictions with respect to the use of such library as the governing authorities thereof shall from time to time prescribe or enact; but this condition is not to be construed as preventing the use of certain rooms in the building for the purposes of amusements for the patrons of the Library."

From the Napa Register (local daily newspaper) Thursday, March 6, 1952. "John T. York gave the main address at the cornerstone laying May 2, 1901. In the cornerstone were placed a picture of George E. Goodman; copies of daily and weekly local papers; the first printed catalogue of library books published in 1886; a city directory; a board of trade folder; names of State, County, and Municipal officers; history of library since 1885, a silk American flag, and a bible.

The building was formally opened on Thursday, March 6, 1902. 'Goodman Library Tea and Rest Room' was still in use as of March 6, 1952."

The original cost of the building was \$15,000 (4)

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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) Statement of Significance (cont.)

The Architectual Significance of the Goodman Library

The architectual significance of the Goodman Library is really three fold:

1) Its architectual style for the community of Napa and California in general.

2) Its architect.

3) Its virtual completeness as the building was originally designed in 1901 - Its integrity.

Concerning the first point: this building displays the best characteristics of Richardson Romanesque: round-arched window, rusticated stone facing, weight and massiveness which is reinforced by the depth of the window and door openings, and the general largeness in scale and simplicity in form. This is combined as one would expect by 1901, even for a small rural community of California, with neo-classical Beaux Arts elements. These elements specifically are the balustraded cornice hiding the roof and the finished stone arch over the entrance door; although the cornice element is incorporated into the overall style by the use of heavy stone members.

This building is particularly important to Napa as it is a fine example of the late 19th century move away from Victorian decoration to a simpler more homogeneous effect of a building. This example for Napa is important as Napa is blessed with many fine Victorian homes and the library's potential educational benefits, as a demonstration of architectual and social philosophies of different eras, are great.

Its architect, a very significant man locally, was Luther M. Turton who practiced from 1887-1920 (approx. end date) in Napa. Mr. Turton did many of the fine Victorian-Queen Anne style homes in the Napa vicinity. This is an important building for him representing a turn away from his earlier ideas.

Secondly its virtual completeness right down to the original door hardware is remarkable. Both the interior and exterior are complete; the only major intrusion are new lighting fixtures on the interior. But this is minor compared to what remains - many of the original shelves, the fine pressed tin ceilings, the original stairway, the original woodwork, and the original desks, to name a few areas, and much more is totally intact. This gives both the interior and exterior the same spacial and emotional effects today that were sought after originally. Surely this feeling is a remarkable experience for most 20th century men and women.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY . NOMINATION FORM

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