

PH 0085863

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

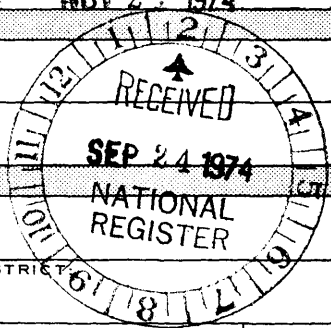
(Type all entries, complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**California**

COUNTY:  
**Napa**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**NOV 24 1974**



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Semorile Building**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Same**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**975 First St.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Napa**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**1**

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Napa** CODE: **055**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<b>UNOCCUPIED</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		<b>Previous Use:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<b>Commercial</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Mossie Semorile Nevin et. al.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1867 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Napa**

STATE:  
**California**

CODE:  
**06**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Napa County Courthouse: County's Clerk's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Brown Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Napa**

STATE:  
**California**

CODE:  
**06**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS See Also Continuation Sheet**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic Architectural Preservation Study**

DATE OF SURVEY: **January 1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Hall and Goodhue: Planning Consultants**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**100 Bush Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**San Francisco**

STATE:  
**California**

CODE:  
**06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **California**

COUNTY: **Napa**

ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 24 1974**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

2 story brick commercial structure, built in 1888.  
 The building is located on the South side of First Street between Main St. and Napa Creek in the City of Napa.  
 The lower floor front has ornate cast iron columns, large store front windows, and recessed doors.

2nd story facade has an ornamental iron balcony and parapet. The facade has ~~plasters~~, decorative moldings, medallions, and a nameplate, capped by a stone cornice with date (1888) in the center of the pendant.

The upper floor windows are arched with decorative keystones; upper portion of the arch is surrounded by moldings. The red brick of the building is contrasted with white stone work in the window voussoirs.

Character of design is red brick contrasted by white stone molding and trim. Cornice supported by decorative scroll brackets.

Early photographs show that no major changes have been made.

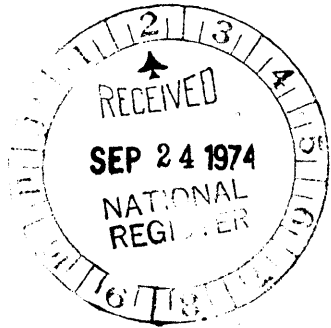
Minor Changes include;

1. Temporary removal and storage of two stained glass windows from the second story of the building. This was done by the owners after the theft of the small center window. These windows are believed to have been brought to Napa from another building in Mariposa County by the building's original owner.

2. Loss (cause and date unknown) of 4 decorative stone pieces from the parapet.

The building is presently unoccupied.

*Plaster  
 removed  
 Redwood*



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1888

WL

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is easily the most refined example of Italianate commercial architecture in Napa. A very carefully designed building for its period. This building has long been a landmark in downtown Napa. In Historic Preservation in Napa, the Napa Community Redevelopment Agency describes the building as one of the "Commercial structures of a unique and distinctive quality that contribute historic values to the Napa environment."

The Semorile family was prominent in Napa's early mercantile history. Members of the family are said to have been involved in the first Napa tannery and first Napa City brandy distillery, as well as the grocery business in this building. The Semorile family came originally from Portofino, Italy (in 1855) to Mariposa. They moved to the Napa Valley in the 1860's. The grocery business in the Semorile Building was operated by Bartholomew Semorile and his sons.

Architect for the building is believed to have been L. M. Thurton, leading Napa architect at the turn of the century. The style of the building reflects the Gold Rush country from which the family had come.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Darms, H.A. Napa City and County Portfolio and Directory Napa, 1909.  
 Goodman, J. H. and Co. Bank, Napa County and Banking J.W. Woods Pub. 1905  
 Napa Community Redevelopment Agency, Historic Preservation in Napa,  
 Napa, 1974  
 Nevin, Mr. and Mrs. Unrecorded conservations, 1973, 1974, Napa.  
 Pierpont, R. , "Very Important Structures" This is unpublished survey done  
 for the Napa Community Redevelopment Agency.

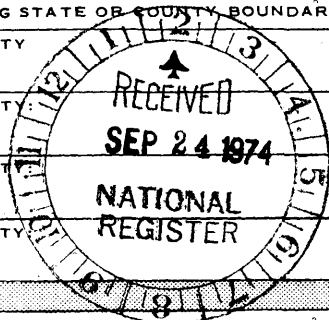
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	38 °	17 ' 58N "	122 ° 17 ' 02W "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .04 ac.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
10/56262  
422906  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kathleen Kernberger, Secretary**

ORGANIZATION: **Napa Historic Preservation Society**      DATE: **April 9, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 793**

CITY OR TOWN: **Napa**      STATE: **California**      CODE: **06**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *[Signature]*  
 Title **State Historic Preservation Officer**  
 Date **Aug. 1, 1974**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*[Signature]*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/21/74

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-13-74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Napa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 21 1974

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Preservation in Napa

January 1974 Local  
Napa Community Redevelopment Agency  
1559 First St.  
Napa, California

Very Important Structures (This is a preliminary unpublished survey  
done for the Napa Community Redevelopment Agency by R. Pierpont.)

Summer 1973 Local  
Napa Community Redevelopment Agency  
1559 First St.  
Napa, California

