

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000778 Date Listed: 6/18/92

Napa County Courthouse Plaza
Property Name

Napa County CA State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Antonietta J. Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

6/18/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: The category of property is amended to read: "building."

This information was confirmed with Cynthia Howse of the California State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

778

APR 16 1992

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OHP

OMB NO. 1024-0018

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REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

historic name: Napa County Courthouse Plaza

other name/site number: Napa County Courthouse/Hall of Records

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2. Location

street & number: Bounded by Coombs, Second, Brown, and Third Streets.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Napa vicinity: N/A

state: CA county: Napa code: 055 zip code: 94559

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public- local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Stead R. George Date: May 12, 1992

California Office of Historic Preservation 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 (Antiquities Act)
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):

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action: 6/18/92

6. Function or Use

Historic: Government Sub: Courthouse Government Office
Current: Government: Vacant/Not in use Sub: Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Courthouse: Italianate; High Victorian Italianate

Hall of Records: Renaissance; Second Renaissance Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials:

Courthouse:

foundation concrete
roof metal
walls brick; stucco
other stone; granite

Hall of Records:

foundation concrete
roof clay tile
walls concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: at the local level.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1878-1942
Significant Dates : 1878 1916

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Newsom, Samuel & Joseph
Gilchrist, Ira
Corlett, William H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- X Local government
- University
- X Other -- Specify Repository: Napa County Landmarks, Inc.
P.O. Box 702, Napa, CA 94559

10. Geographical Data

=====
Acreage of Property: 1.32 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u> 10 </u>	<u> 562560 </u>	<u> 4238860 </u>	B	<u> _____ </u>	<u> _____ </u>
C	<u> _____ </u>	<u> _____ </u>	<u> _____ </u>	D	<u> _____ </u>	<u> _____ </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Napa County Assessor's Parcel Number 003-215-01

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: John Whitridge, AICP; Dan Peterson, A.I.A; Rebecca Yerger

Organization: Napa County Landmarks, Inc. Date: March 27, 1992

Street & Number: P.O. Box 702 Telephone: (707) 255-1836

City or Town: Napa State: CA ZIP: 94559

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Courthouse Plaza Page #1

Description

The Napa County Courthouse Plaza complex is located in the City of Napa, County of Napa, in Northern California. Bounded by Second Street to the north, Brown Street to the east, Third street to the south, and Coombs Street to the west, the 1.32 acre Plaza has mature but not all original landscaping. The Plaza contains two contributing buildings constructed in 1878 and 1916. The 1878 Courthouse is a two-story, brick and stone High Victorian Italianate style building designed by the Newsom brothers and Ira Gilchrist that retains all of its location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association integrity and nearly all of its material and design integrity. The 1916 Hall of Records is a two-story reinforced concrete Second Renaissance Revival building designed by William H. Corlett that retains all of its location, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, association and design integrity. A 1978 contemporary addition to the Courthouse replaced the 1878 jail between the Courthouse and Hall of Records.

The site of the County Courthouse and the Hall of Records is known as "Courthouse Plaza" which is bounded by public streets. The earliest remaining building is the 1878 Court House. The Courthouse and Jail Wing were positioned in the Center of the site with the primary facade facing east toward Brown Street. The 1916 Hall of Records was built adjacent to the Jail Wing on the west side of the site with its primary facade facing west toward Coombs Street. Large landscape areas along the Second Street and Third Street still provide the plaza-like setting for the buildings. Mature trees line the north, east, and south perimeter of the site; newer trees and shrubs were planted in 1978 when the addition was built. A flagstaff tower was erected near the northeast corner of the site in 1892 and an original 7 1/2 ton native American grinding rock was laid near the southeast corner in 1942. In 1978, the jail wing was demolished and an addition to the Courthouse was constructed which impacted the visual design separation of the two earlier buildings. The Plaza setting and the primary facades of the Courthouse and the Hall of Records were not effected by the 1978 addition.

The visual association of the buildings in Courthouse Plaza has retained its original setting and character. The associated visual environmental features that still remain and enhance the historic integrity of Courthouse Plaza are the turn of the century commercial buildings on Brown Street, specifically the two designed by William H. Corlett, and the one at the northwest corner of Third Street and Coombs Street, across from the Hall of Records.

The following properties contribute to the complex:

1. Courthouse - The Courthouse was constructed in 1878 and replaced the

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1856 Courthouse which was moved off-site. The Courthouse main facade faces onto Brown Street at the east end of the site; its western elevation is attached to the 1978 addition. Prior to the existence of the 1978 addition, the Courthouse was attached to the 1878 jail. The Courthouse is a High Victorian Italianate style two-story rectangular building (86 feet x 95 feet) constructed of brick and stucco. The outside walls are sixteen inches thick, firmly held together by original iron bands which are firmly imbedded in the solid 5 foot by 3 foot concrete foundation and extend to the plate on top of the walls, arching the building firmly. The interior partition brick walls are twelve inches thick. The outer walls are coated with Rosendale cement.

The hipped roof is framed of wood joists resting on wood studs supported on either brick walls or timber trusses. The roof was originally covered with tin and coated with fireproof paint. A new metal roof replaced the old roof in 1978. The cornice is galvanized iron. A Moorish Gothic and Classic motif tower rose from the front, or eastern end, of the Courthouse and was twenty feet square at its base. A bulb-shaped cupola rested on top of the tower which tapered to a point. The gradually tapering spire was topped with a golden globe and weather vane. The tower was dismantled and removed due to fear of its instability in 1931. A squeezed pediment was added to the cornice when the tower was removed.

Wrapping around the building, the roof cornice soffit has block modillions, and the frieze is banded at the top with dentils. In the center of the frieze is a decorative molding. The entablature is finished with a modest architrave. The hooded windows are double hung, singled glazed and arched. The architrave of the window hoods is simple in detail. On the second floor, every third window on the north and south facade has a bracketed pediment; the other hoods are segmented; and a single band connects the windows at the base of the hoods. Around the entire Courthouse appears a wide string course delineated by simple molding on the top and bottom. This band gives a visual separation between the first and second floors. The first floor window hoods are continuously arched and are connected by an elaborate molded band.

The main facade, on Brown Street, has a squeezed pediment on the center of the cornice; the pediment was added in 1931 after the cupola was removed. The work "JUSTICE" appears on the frieze just below the pediment. The pair of windows underneath the lettering have a single bracketed pediment above them. The main entrance is reached by seven granite steps and is recessed about six feet into a vestibule which has a keystone and arched surround. The double doors are wood grained in imitation black walnut wood with a single pane in the upper half; the door surround is segmentally arched. The doors are not original and were recreated in 1978.

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The entrance vestibule floor is composed of diamond-shaped marble blocks in two colors. The walls are all richly wainscoted four feet from the floor; above that, it is ornamented with stucco-work. The double doors admit one into the grand hall which is 72 feet by sixteen feet wide and eighteen feet high, extending from one end of the building to the other.

The foundation is concrete with a full basement. Floors are constructed of wood joists spanning between brick walls and one inch thick wooden floor sheeting. The main hall floor was tessellated marble and is now carpeted. Government offices are located to the left (south) and right (north) the length of the building. At the rear of the hall is a grand staircase with black walnut balustrades and large newel posts. Originally there were gas jets on the posts. The second floor hall features a vaulted glass dome which was restored in 1978. A large courtroom, jury room, and judges chamber are each on the north and south side of the second floor. The courtrooms have prominent interior window features including heavy bracketed entablatures over each window. The north courtroom has large moulded plaster ceiling medallions with each light fixture. Both courtrooms have wood railings that separate jurors and the public from the attorney's area.

Alterations include removing the tower and adding a pediment in 1931; replacing the metal roof in kind in 1978; restoring the original second floor skylight/glass dome in 1978 which had been covered over; removing the west wall and connecting the west end of the building to the 1978 addition; filling in the first floor center window on the south facade; filling in one first floor window on each side of the main facade entrance; removing the chimneys and second floor window balconies after 1908.

A three-story addition was constructed in 1978 and has an exterior of cement plaster over concrete block. The first floor is a concrete slab over earthen backfill. The second and third floors are steel bar joists with metal decks and concrete fill. Only the first floor level aligns with the first floor level of the Courthouse to the east.

The north elevation on Second Street has a first level doorway and three windows that align with the Courthouse first floor windows. The upper two floor windows, however, are offset. The south elevation on Third Street has only one large door opening on the first level at the west end of the facade. The upper two floor windows are offset as are the upper floor windows on the north side.

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Courthouse Plaza Page #4

All of the windows have segmented arched hoods that are similar to the second level non-pedimented windows of the Courthouse. The roof cornice line matches the Courthouse, but there are no dentils, frieze or other details. The roof has a similar pitch as the Courthouse and is made of the same metal as the Courthouse, but the top of the roof is slightly lower than the Courthouse. The exterior plaster and color match the Courthouse. The 1978 addition has the same mass, exterior materials and color and has a similar window style as the 1878 Courthouse. The interior of the addition replicates an extension of the Courthouse stairway to the higher second floor level of the addition. The wall wainscoting and new office doorways are also replicas of the Courthouse. Although the design of the addition eroded the visual separation between the Court House and the Hall of Records, it did not have an impact on the architectural integrity of the original buildings. Even though there was some attempt to reflect the architectural character of the Courthouse, the addition is clearly a different building.

2. Hall of Records - Constructed in 1916, the Hall of Records is a two-story reinforced concrete building with a clay tile hip roof and large arched openings. All of the detailing of the Hall of Records, belt courses, recesses, rustication, and Roman style entrance with the pediment was accomplished by pouring the concrete into forms that were constructed with the design features. The surface of the concrete was then rubbed to give the final finish. This, then, is an early example of the use of reinforced concrete utilizing poured-in-place cast detailing.

The architectural design is simple, symmetrical, and reflects the new design philosophies the federal government had in designing government buildings for small rural California communities at the turn of the century. The Hall of Records building is the fourth County government building to be constructed

on this site. The building served as the repository for governmental records until 1989. From 1989 to 1990 the Hall of Records was used as storage until it was vacated in late 1990.

The building is located on the west end of the site facing Coombs Street. The building is a simple rectangular shape (84 feet x 38 feet), two stories in height and has a small wing at the rear of the building that originally abutted the jail wing which was part of the 1878 Courthouse building. The rectangular portion uses a design module of five bays wide and two bays deep. The overall building design is very symmetrical with the main entrance at the center bay of the Coombs Street facade.

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The exterior walls, floors, and columns are reinforced concrete. The exterior detailing and rustication were done with formed concrete with a rubbed concrete finish. There is a strong string course at the main floor (upper level) which gives the appearance the building is sitting on a large base. The roof is a moderately steep pitched hipped style covered with straight barrel mission style clay tile. The roof is constructed using a steel truss system which supports a concrete roof deck.

The clay roofing tiles are installed over the concrete deck. The interior ceiling of the upper floor is attached to the bottom chords of the steel trusses. At the center of the roof, spanning the ridge, is a large skylight that provides light to the two central ceiling original skylights. The hip roof extends beyond the face of the exterior walls and is supported by regularly spaced decorative modillions. The upper floor windows are large arched openings divided into three modules and positioned in the center of each bay on the front and side elevations. The rear of the main portion of the building had matching openings in each bay. The center three openings are interior openings into the small rear wing. The opening on all four elevations provided for a very symmetrical design of the upper main records room. The windows for the lower level are tall, narrow, rectangular openings grouped into three units and positioned below the large upper floor arched windows. The main entrance is centered below the central arched opening on the main facade and is surrounded by a simple architrave. On top of the architrave is a pediment containing a sculptured cartouche. Inscribed in the frieze of the pediment is "HALL OF RECORDS".

The interior ground floor area was divided into smaller office spaces. The upper or main floor was originally one large space with low partitions. The only remaining significant features of the interior are the ceiling and ceiling lights of the upper main floor. The ceiling is detailed with wood beams that reflect the two-unit by five-unit module of the building. Around the perimeter of the ceiling there is a decorative wall frieze and cornice detail that reflects the beam design.

Alterations to the building have primarily occurred on the rear of the building as a result of the 1978 addition connecting this building to the 1878 Courthouse. This alteration resulted in closing up the two exterior openings at the rear elevation with concrete and damaging the three central interior openings from the upper main floor to the rear wing. These exterior alterations have not effected the architectural integrity of the primary facade. The lower floor has all new partitions and doors and there are some added ceiling height partitions in the upper main floor spaces.

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The Napa County Courthouse Plaza complex is significant under Criterion A for its association with Napa County government from 1878 to 1942 where Napa County enacted laws and administered all phases of County government. During the period of significance the complex housed the County court system and all administration offices such as the sheriff, treasurer, assessor, recorder, superintendent of schools, and library. The complex is also significant under Criterion C as the 1878 Courthouse building is the only remaining County courthouse; is a well executed High Victorian Italianate style government building designed by California architects Samuel and Joseph Newsom in their first year of practice; and is the only known courthouse designed by the Newsoms in California. The 1916 Hall of Records building reflects new design concepts the federal government had in designing government buildings for small rural California communities at the time with the use of Second Renaissance Revival features and Mission style clay roof material symbolic of early California architecture. The building was designed by a prominent local architect, William H. Corlett, who used reinforced concrete for the walls and architectural features which was unusual for this time period.

CRITERION "A" - HISTORIC CONTEXT

Napa County was one of the 27 original counties created in the State of California in 1850. The City of Napa has always been the County Seat where county government functions have been housed. The first courthouse built on the Napa County Courthouse Plaza was completed and occupied in 1857. Growth in population from 405 in 1850 to 7,163 in 1870, and to 20,670 by 1920 required that increased county services be provided by county officials including law enforcement, finance, records, education, roads, justice, and political decisions. The State constitutional reforms of 1879 increased the consolidation of county offices and granted additional powers to counties. At the same time, judicial system reforms were enacted that established the Superior Court in Napa County. This growth required a new courthouse in the 1870's and a records building in the 1910's.

CRITERION "C" - HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Hall of Record's architect, William H. Corlett, utilized progressive concepts for government buildings and construction techniques that were relatively new.

The use of reinforced concrete in the building industry did not gain acceptance until after 1900 with the invention of the horizontal rotary kiln which led to the production of cheaper, more uniform and reliable cement.

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From the 1920's onward, reinforced concrete construction became widely used with spectacular results. In 1912 Ernest L. Ransome, one of the leaders of reinforced concrete, wrote a treatise, Reinforced Concrete Buildings, A Treatise on the History, Patents, Design, and Erection of the Principal Parts entering into a Modern Reinforced Concrete Building. In that treatise, Mr. Ransome begins to discuss the concept and application of extending the floor slab out to create a belt course which develops architectural features using reinforced concrete. During the early 20th century, concrete was used for utilitarian buildings with plain walls, or factory styles with lots of glass and an exposed concrete skeleton. Architectural rustication and features were normally accomplished with rough cast shapes finished with plaster run molding or with cast plaster features attached to the main structure.

The Federal Government had a strong influence on the styles of buildings that were acceptable to represent the ideals of government. They utilized classical Greek and Roman forms, Beaux Arts Classicism or Neo-Baroque styles of architecture. The majority of the federal government buildings were designed by the Department of Treasury by the staff of the Supervising Architect. During the period of 1897 through 1912, James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, and later the Head of the Department of Architecture at Massachusetts, changed the design concepts for government buildings which became more responsive to the character and scale of the rural communities. This was in part due to the influence the World's Columbian Exposition architecture, held in Chicago in 1893, had on the government. This is illustrated in such communities as in Santa Rosa, Hanford, Berkeley, Chico, and Santa Barbara, which show the Spanish Colonial and Second Renaissance Revival influences in Federal architecture.

The Hall of Records Building reflects the new design concepts for government buildings with the use of the Second Renaissance Revival features, incorporating the Mission style clay tile material on the roof which is symbolic of early California architecture.

Between 1860 and 1890 the High Victorian Italianate style was notable for its window treatment. Arched and segmentally arched window tops, singly and paired, were straight-sided, flat-topped or rectangular. Variety on the same facades was not unusual. The High Victorian Italianate style was primarily a domestic and commercial style traced back to England in the 1840's and 1850's. The High Victorian Italianate style was later a more highly decorated phase in the United States. Between 1850 and 1880 many houses in San Francisco were constructed in the style.

The County Courthouse reflects the High Victorian Italianate style with its use of arched and segmentally arched tall windows, the most prominent features of the building, except for the tower and cupola which was removed in 1931.

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CRITERION "A" - SIGNIFICANCE

The present Courthouse was constructed starting in mid-1878 and completed in early 1879. The second courthouse was moved off-site to make room for the new courthouse. A jail wing was built along with the new courthouse to the west of the Courthouse. The 1879 Courthouse has been the center of the justice system for Napa county since its construction. The second-floor has been used for administration and courtrooms and the first floor offices have had a variety of related County government uses such as County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff, County Recorder, Assessor, and Superintendent of Schools.

By 1916, the growth of Napa County necessitated the construction of additional administrative office space and record storage space. The 1916 Hall of records provided space for the County Recorder, Superintendent of Schools and County Library. By 1941 the County Assessor had moved to the Hall of Records. The County Courthouse still retained all other County government departments including the Superior Court and Justice Court.

The 1916 Hall of Records housed the County records office until the early 1980's when the new County administration building was completed south of the Courthouse Plaza to accommodate growing County needs. Some County offices such as the recorder, treasurer and municipal court were moved from the Plaza complex to the new building. The County plans to expand the Plaza complex to reunite all court facilities in the Plaza.

The buildings in Courthouse Plaza from 1878 to 1942 were associated continuously in use and visual impact with local county government activities. Past buildings as well as the three existing buildings support an association with county-wide government services emphasized by the justice system of courts and their supporting functions. The mass of the buildings, the stately trees and the site design convey this association. The County Court House Plaza is the only local government complex in Napa County that conveys this association.

CRITERION "C" - SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the two contributing buildings is based on their association with prominent California architects, the Newsom brothers, and a locally important architect, William H. Corlett, who used progressive design concepts for government buildings and construction techniques that were relatively new.

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1. COURTHOUSE

The Newsom brothers started their practice together in 1878. They are credited with four Napa buildings completed in 1879: the Courthouse (with Napa architect Ira Gilchrist); Napa Opera House (with Ira Gilchrist); the Nickerson Dwelling; and the Dr. Stillwagon Dwelling. After 1879 there are no recorded buildings in Napa, other than an 1880 two-story school house, attributed to the Newsoms. Only the Courthouse and Napa Opera House remain today as examples of Newsom designs in Napa County.

During thirty years of family practice the Newsoms are known to have designed a few commercial buildings and several hotels and churches in addition to their many residential designs. County government buildings were only two: Napa County Courthouse and the San Bernardino County Hall of Records (1888). The Napa County Courthouse is the only known Newsom-designed courthouse in the State of California.

The Courthouse has one major alteration - the removal of the tower and cupola in 1931 - and several minor alterations, primarily the 1978 restoration which replaced the roof with similar metal material, and uncovered the original second floor skylight. These latter alterations returned the Courthouse to its original integrity except for replacing the tower, which was not done in 1978 due to cost factors. It is reported, however, that one of the Newsoms "told his son that the (tower and cupola) were not part of the original design, but added to appease popular demand."

2. HALL OF RECORDS

The Hall of Records Building reflects early 20th Century design concepts for government buildings with the use of the Second Renaissance Revival features while incorporating the Mission style clay tile material on the roof which is symbolic of early California architecture. This design concept represents government design that is more responsive to the character and scale of rural communities.

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William H. Corlett used a relatively new concept in building construction for the Hall of Records, reinforced concrete, for not only the walls and floor slabs but exterior detailing. All of the detailing of the Hall of Records, belt courses, recesses, rustication, and Roman style entrance with the pediment, was accomplished by pouring the concrete into forms that were constructed with the design features. The surface of the concrete was then rubbed to give the final finish. This is an early example of the use of reinforced concrete utilizing poured-in-place cast detailing.

The Hall of Records, 1878 Courthouse and Jail were positioned in the center of the Courthouse Plaza site. The site was landscaped on the north, south, and west side of the Courthouse and Jail Building. The Hall of Records was designed to abut the Jail wing and face only Coombs Street on the west side of the Courthouse Plaza site. This left the large landscaped areas along Second Street and Third Street intact which created the setting for the 1878 building and the 1916 Hall of Records building that exists today. The 1978 addition between the Courthouse and the Hall of Records did not impact on the feeling of the setting and the buildings' association with the site. The impact that did occur was with the larger scale of the 1978 structure, three stories in height. The visual separation between the Courthouse and the Hall of Records was diminished by this infill. The 1878 Jail wing was smaller in scale allowing the Hall of Records to have a clearer identity.

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The Hall of Records building has not had any alterations to its principle facades and it retains its original design and workmanship quality. The visual association of the building with the site has not been altered and is an important part of the historic characteristics of the 1878 Courthouse setting. The associated visual environmental features off-site which still remain and enhance the historic integrity of the Courthouse Plaza are the turn of century commercial buildings on Brown Street, specifically the two designed by William H. Corlett, and the one at the northwest corner of Third Street and Coombs Street, across from the Hall of Records.

With the exception of the 1978 infill building, the 1878 County Courthouse building and the 1916 Hall of Records have retained their original architectural integrity. The Courthouse was affected by the 1931 loss of its tower. No other changes to the primary facades have occurred.

W.H. Corlett was the son of William P. Corlett who established the family in Napa in 1875. Shortly after arriving in Napa County, William P. Corlett established a planing mill business (ca 1882). William H. Corlett and his brother Robert Corlett operated the planing mill (Corlett Bros., Enterprise Planing Mill). The planing mill grew to be the largest in Napa County serving Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties. In 1911, William H. Corlett, the Architect/Builder, purchased his brother's interest and continued the operation of the mill.

William H. Corlett was responsible for the architectural designs of such buildings as the Napa High School, Elks Hall, Martin's Buildings, Schwartz and Charles Dwyer buildings, and other. He gave special attention to the residential buildings which includes residences for G.W. Smith, Mrs. Vance, F.B. MacKinder, Mrs. Bowen, and on Main Street in St. Helena, the Richie Block.

In addition to the designs of many buildings, the Corlett Bros. were responsible for the construction of buildings that William H. Corlett designed. They also built buildings designed by another well-known local architect, Luther M. Turton. William H. Corlett also had a Class A contractors license. William H. Corlett was active in local government and served on the Napa City Council for three terms and eleven years as a member of the School Board.

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Courthouse Plaza Page #12

Major Bibliographical References

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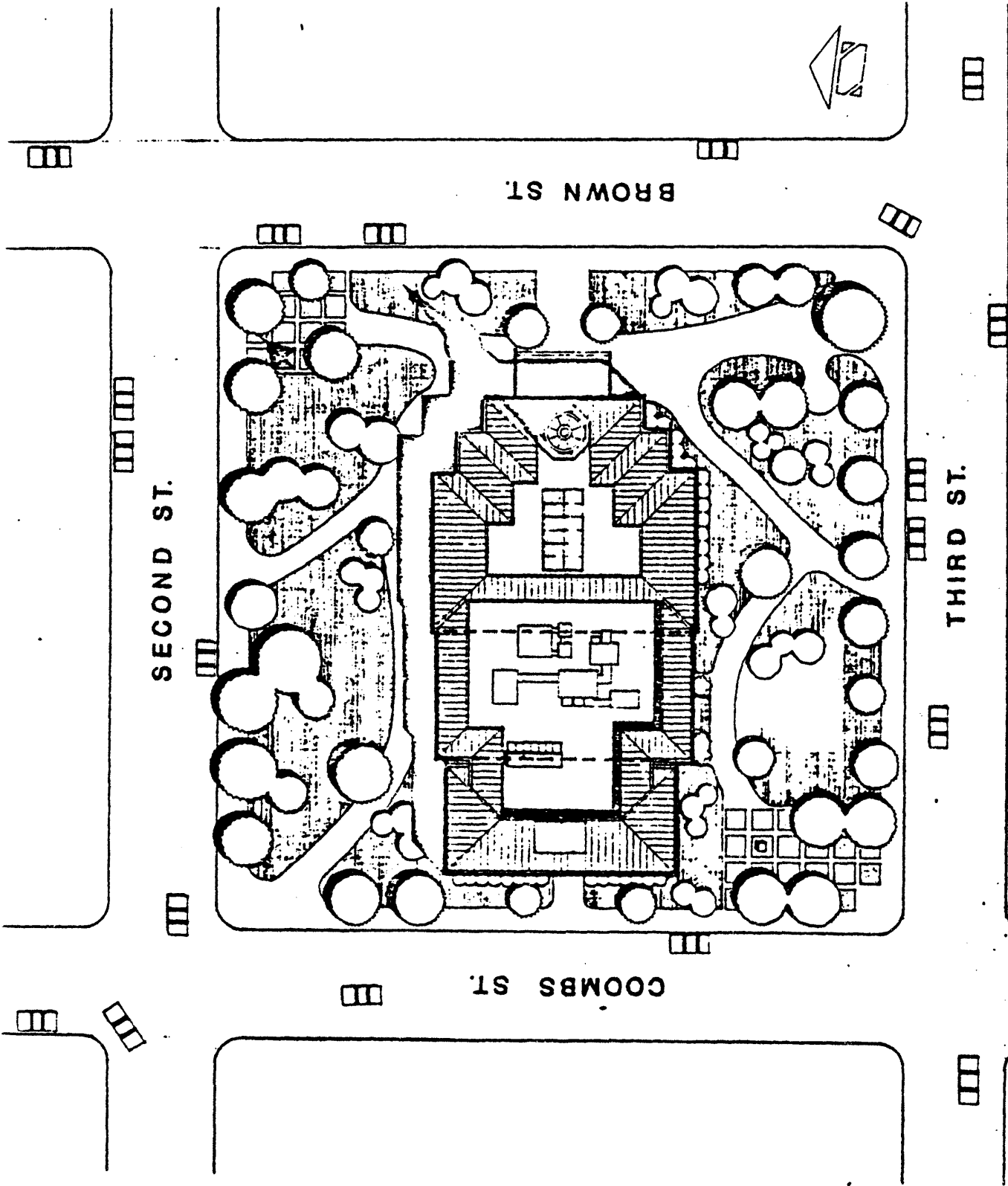
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UNPUBLISHED

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NAPA COUNTY COURTHOUSE PLAZA, NAPA, CALIFORNIA

20
SITE

FEB 18 1992

OHP

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. (1024-0018)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section - Photographs

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- 1) Napa County Courthouse/Hall of Records
- 2) Napa, California
- 3) Thomas Schardt
- 4) February 9, 1992
- 5) Photography by Schardt, 935 Yount Street, Napa, CA 94459
- 6) Photo #1 - Hall of Records, east
Photo #2 - Hall of Records, 1978 Addition; Courthouse, north
Photo #3 - Courthouse, west
Photo #4 - Courthouse, 1978 Addition; Hall of Records, south
- 7) Photo #1 - B
Photo #2 - B, C, A
Photo #3 - A
Photo #4 - A, C, B