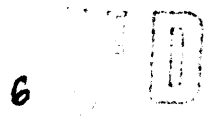


12474

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL
REGISTER

MAY 11 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OHP

1. Name of Property

historic name: First National Bank

other name/site number: Napa Federal Savings and Loan

2. Location

street & number: 1026 First Street

not for publication: N/A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: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</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.

Stade R. Cray Signature of certifying official August 19, 1992 Date

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

- 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):

William Byers 9/24/92

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce/Trade Sub: financial institution
Current : Commerce/Trade Sub: financial institution

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation brick roof other
walls terra cotta other
brick

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: local level

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1917

Significant Dates : 1917

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

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

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
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: City of Napa Cultural Heritage Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>10</u>	<u>562560</u>	<u>4239060</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Napa County Assessor's parcel 01-167-11.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Donald S. Napoli

Organization: _____ Date: July 10, 1992

Street & Number: 1614 26th Street Telephone: (916) 455-4541

City or Town: Sacramento State: CA ZIP: 95816

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

First National Bank Page #1

Description

The First National Bank is a one-story brick building with a flat roof and classical detailing. It has a rectangular plan. The siding materials on its main elevations are terra cotta and granite. Its front elevation has a symmetrical composition. Among the details are a dentiled cornice, fluted pilasters, and engaged fluted columns. The interior still retains some of its original fabric. The building, in the center of Napa's downtown commercial district, extends to its parcels lines and has never had any landscaping. The windows, of dark glass within anodized aluminum frames, are the only major alteration. The building retains its architectural integrity in all aspects.

The building has a rectangular shape. With dimensions of 40 feet by 90 feet, it is roughly half as wide as it deep. Its front (southeast) and southwest elevations display a wealth of terra cotta detail. The rear, which originally was hidden by an adjacent building, is completely plain. The remaining side still abuts a neighboring structure. The roof is flat, covered in tar and gravel, and masked by a plain parapet.

Beneath the parapet, an ornate entablature wraps around the southeast and southwest elevations of the building. The cornice has bevelled bands and a plain, flat fascia. The shallow soffit is detailed with modillions. Egg-and-dart molding tops a row of dentil work. The frieze is plain, except for the inscription "First National Bank" centered on the front. The architrave consists of three decorated string courses.

The front elevation has a symmetrical composition. In the center, directly below the architrave, is a large double-paned window. Below it are the main double doors, made of bronzed aluminum and tinted glass. The door surround has an elaborate floral pattern of terra cotta and is topped with a shelf with dentil work. A large cameo sculpture above the shelf represents the horn of plenty around a plaque that may once have contained the bank logo. The window and door are flanked by paired, engaged Corinthian columns on each side. Beyond the columns are sets of two single-pane windows. In each set the bottom window is slightly taller than the one above. Between the windows and the corners of the building are sets of engaged columns, identical to those flanking the doorway, on each side. Beneath the columns and windows is a granite base that rises three feet above the sidewalk.

The southwest elevation has nine bays defined by paired Corinthian pilasters at each corner and separated from one another by single Corinthian pilasters. Seven of the bays contain sets of windows and two have single windows above doors. The windows, made of tinted glass in heavy aluminum frames, are like those on the front. The door near the rear

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

First National Bank Page #2

is a metal security entrance for the mezzanine offices. The second double door, set one bay off-center, is identical in materials to the front door.

The interior underwent a major remodeling ca. 1966. The three large ceiling sections, each encircled by a cornice with dentil work and many layers of molding, have been partially covered by installation of acoustic tile. The original lighting has been replaced by hanging fluorescent lamps. All the walls originally had engaged columns, but only some of those are now visible. Other classical details have also been removed or obscured. The rear quarter of the building has a mezzanine that contains several small rooms. One corner of the first floor retains the original oak paneling.

The building's setting has not changed fundamentally since its construction in 1917. The property itself is completely unaltered, since the building extends to the lot line and has never had any landscaping. The surrounding neighborhood is still commercial. A building immediately adjacent to the bank on the northwest has been demolished, however, and replaced by a parking lot. In addition, the street on the southwest has been closed, given brick sidewalk, and turned partly into a plaza. About eight feet from the building a row of five magnolia trees marks the edge of the plaza and obscures parts of the elevation.

The major alteration to the building consists of the replacement (ca. 1980) of the original windows. These also had metal casing, but they were taller, with only one window between columns or pilasters, and made up of many small panes separated by narrow mullions and glazing bars. Unlike the current windows, they provided no distracting contrast to other elements of the design and gave a welcoming appearance to customers and passers-by. The doors, which match the present windows, are also replacements. They make up much less of the building's wall surface, however, and thus constitute a less serious alteration. In addition, the rear wall, which had not been visible before, was replaced in the mid-1970's when demolition of a neighboring structure caused severe damage to the original wall and roof.

The new windows and doors represent the use of inappropriate materials and alter the effect of the original design somewhat. Nevertheless, the building retains the form, exterior detailing, and commercial setting from the time of its construction. It thus maintains its essential architectural integrity.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

First National Bank Page #3

Significance

The First National Bank is Napa's most successfully designed commercial example of the Neo-Classical Revival. The building displays the basic elements of the style. These include ornamented cornice, tall columns, and symmetrical orientation of the front elevation. The exterior construction materials, terra cotta and granite, emulate the marble used elsewhere in grander examples. The overall effect is one of order and stability, appropriate characteristics for a building that functioned as a bank. Napa has only a few other buildings in the style and none that illustrates it so well.

The Neo-Classical Revival enjoyed great popularity at the turn of the century, especially from 1900 to 1920. It, more than other styles that used classical references as an antidote to Victorian flamboyance, sought antecedents in Greek and Roman temples. The style bespoke harmony, tradition and security. The Neo-Classical Revival was thus considered particularly well suited for banks and public buildings. Hundreds of examples appeared throughout the country, although small towns were unlikely to have more than a few.

The First National Bank represents the Neo-Classical Revival in Napa. Virtually all elements of the style appear: symmetrical orientation of the front elevation, unadorned parapet, richly ornamented cornice, plain frieze, banded architrave, and columns and pilasters using a Greek order (in this case, Corinthian). The columns, which are engaged, are paired, a treatment unusual in this style but one presumably necessitated by the height of the building, which is only one story, in relation to the width. The exterior construction materials, terra cotta and granite, were typically used in Neo-Colonial Revival buildings, especially those that could not justify the expense of marble, the more classically correct fabric.

Typical, too, was the building's original function. The First National Bank had been operating in Napa for more than fifty years when it opened its new headquarters in 1917. The Neo-Classical Revival was the fashionable choice for a bank building. With its classical detailing and siding that emulated marble, the building gave customers a sense of security and long tradition. An announcement for the opening evoked an image of even more splendid banks elsewhere, calling the new building "a splendid structure, worthy to house a member of the great Federal Reserve System." Despite its stylistic references to ancient Greece, the building was designed to be thoroughly modern. It featured up-to-the-minute facilities inside, including a state-of-the-art Burroughs calculating machine.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 3

First National Bank Page #4

The First National Bank marks an important step in the development of commercial architecture in Napa. It is one of few Neo-Classical buildings in the city, and the one that most completely represents the style. The new windows, with dark glass enclosed by heavy anodized aluminum casing, interrupt the rhythm of the columns and pilasters and detract from the original design somewhat. The building, however, retains its original proportions and all of its exterior classical detailing. The First National Bank conveys its important historical association to the architectural development of Napa.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

First National Bank Page #5

Major Bibliographical References

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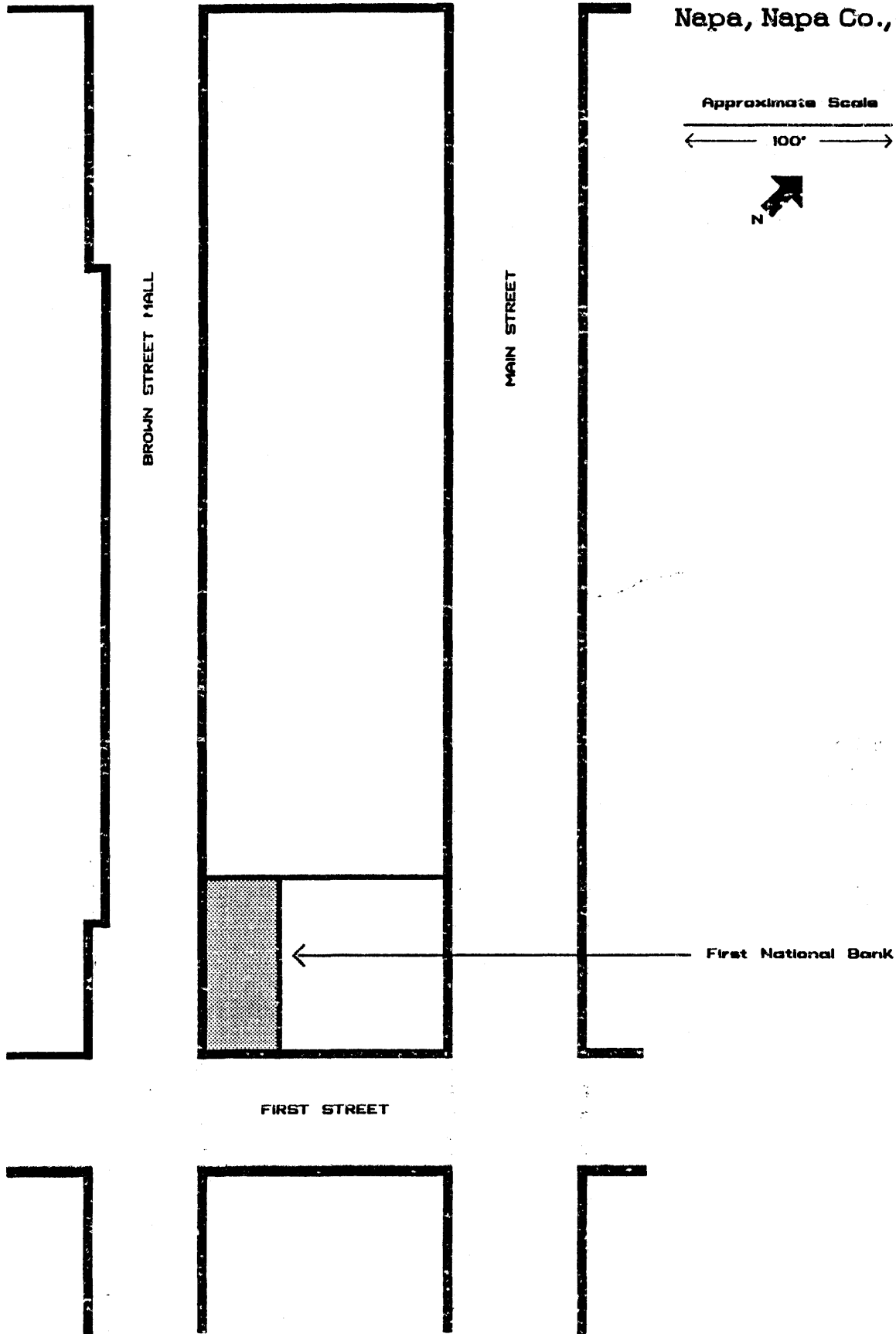
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First National Bank
1026 First Street
Napa, Napa Co., Cal.

Approximate Scale

← 100' →



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation

First National Bank Page #6

Property Owner

Robert O. Symon et al.
1414 High Street
St. Helena, California 94574

Photographs

All photographs have the following information in common:

3. Thomas Schardt, Photographer
4. July, 1991
5. Napa City Planning Department
1600 First Street
Napa, CA 94559

Photo No. 1

6. View from the South

Photo No. 2

6. View from the Southwest

Photo No. 3

6. View from the Northwest