

PHD 362904

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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

**1 NAME**

WILLIAM B. GIBSON ~~RESIDENCE~~ *Museum*

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

YOLO COUNTY MUSEUM

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 312 Gibson Rd

CITY, TOWN

Woodland

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Fourth Congressional Dist.

STATE

Calif

CODE

06

COUNTY

Yolo

CODE

113

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS   | PRESENT USE  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                    | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED  | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED           | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                          |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME County of Yolo

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Woodland

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Calif

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Yolo County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Woodland

STATE

Calif

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Art history class project under the direction of Dr. Joseph A. Baird  
using preliminary inventory sheets

DATE

June 7, 1961

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

University of California at Davis

CITY, TOWN

University of California, Davis

STATE

Calif

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The oldest portion of the present structure, according to records of the Yolo County Assessor's Office, Woodland, was a rectangular wooden building 16x20 ft. It is not known whether it had one or two stories.

In 1857, this property with adjoining large agricultural acreage was bought by William Byas Gibson, who made several additions to this nucleus. North of it he added a brick structure 31x37 ft. large, consisting of two stories with porches and balconies on the north and west sides. This was completed by 1872 at a cost of \$7,000. He next added a smaller two-story brick building to the south end of the old wooden structure, approximately 17x35 ft. large, extending several feet on each side of the old building, plus screened enclosed porches on the east side of the original structure. The earlier structures were incorporated into the additions and are recognizable today only upon a structural inspection. The style of the main brick structure is modified Georgian in its massing, its hipped roof, and its floor plan consisting of a central hallway with two rooms off to each side, each having a fireplace on the outside wall, and four bedrooms upstairs. (see floor plan)

From a lithograph print of 1879 it can be seen that the house at that time had a veranda encircling the house on the north and west sides. This veranda was supported by square pillars (six on the north side and five on the west side) which stood on simple square bases; each row of pillars was one story high. A wooden balustrade with simple turned balusters encircled the second story on the north and west sides.

The appearance of the house in 1879 thus suggested a combination of modified Georgian and the two-story veranda of the California Monterey type. The tall, narrow double hung windows, however, are evidence of the Mannerist-Italianate influence which was so strong in the Sacramento area between 1850 and 1880.

Two sets of the square pillars on the veranda were taken down at an undetermined date (presumably between 1890 and 1910) and replaced by a classical portico of four Ionic columns extending the full height of the two stories. A peaked roofline was added above the former hipped roof. Also apparently added at that time were the fanciful consoles on the upper sides of the windows which are again reminiscent of Mannerist.

The four Ionic columns of the north portico are not fluted, but generally suggest the Greek Ionic Order in their capitals, though with an additional pendant leaf ornament in the center above the volute. They have the traditional Ionic bases standing on square blocks. The columns have a slight entasis. They are apparently built of wood and are covered with white plaster.

The balcony on the west side is supported by five double posts, one story high, partly fluted and banded again suggesting Mannerist influences in their ornamentation.

(Continued on attachment #1)

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Byas Gibson, after whom the house is named, was born in Louisa County, Virginia in 1831. In 1837 he moved with his parents to Howard County, Missouri.

William Byas Gibson came overland by mule team to California in 1850. He first built a home on Cache Creek in Yolo County, where he homesteaded and became a grain grower and stock raiser. Six years later he sold this property and bought the aforementioned property with some 320 acres.

Located just south of the City of Woodland which became the seat of Yolo County government in 1862, this "home ranch" became the nucleus of his subsequent 3,000 acre estate in Yolo County, where he and his sons specialized in the breeding of high-grade Shorthorn cattle and large-scale farming.

He was married in 1857 to Mary Isabelle Cook, daughter of Yolo County pioneers of Joseph J. and Elizabeth (Chiles) Cook. The Gibsons and their three sons, Robert J., Thomas B. and Joseph W. all played active roles in the agricultural and commercial development of Yolo County. The eldest, Robert J. Gibson, married Elnora Root of Zamora, who occupied the Gibson House until recently. The property had been in the possession of the Gibson family since its first acquisition in 1857.

Gigantic native oak trees mark the site of the original home and additional plantings of citrus, olives and ornamental trees during the 1870's give the substantially enlarged house a park like setting, particularly suited to development of a two acre museum complex. Preservation of these landmark trees is of general concern to Yolo County and the City of Woodland.

The house serves as a physical reminder of the wide spread influence the Gibson family had on agricultural, commercial and civic affairs during the early development of Woodland and Yolo County. Architecturally, it is the only remaining example of Modified Classical Style in a city with an abundance of various Victorian structures that are in a remarkably good state of preservation. With over two acres of land surrounding the home included in the county's acquisition of the site and available for reconstruction of its imposing setting, there is the potential to create a "living monument" to the Gibson Family, while at the same time the fireproof nature of the brick structure would lend itself to the development of a museum housing cultural artifacts and information relative to Yolo County's past heritage.

(Continued on Attachment #2)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HABS Survey by Ms. R.H. Russell, prepared for Dr. Joseph A. Baird, Jr. (1961)  
 DePue & Co. Illustrated Atlas & History of Yolo County  
 San Francisco, CA (1879) Page 88, plate #34  
 Guinn, J.M. Biographical Record & History of Northern California  
 Page 730-731  
 Records of Yolo County

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 1/2 AC

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 606780 4279830  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lat. 121° 46' 20" Long. 38° 39' 50"

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      |        |      |
| N/A   |      |        |      |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Earl A. Balch

ORGANIZATION

Yolo County Parks & Recreation

DATE

4/27/76

STREET & NUMBER

292 West Beamer Street

TELEPHONE

916-666-8268

CITY OR TOWN

Woodland

STATE

Calif

# 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

*Herbert Budes*

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

7/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

AG DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Casey R. ...*

DATE

11/9/96

DATE

11/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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6. Title of Survey

HABS report was filed by Dr. Baird with Dept. of Interior. Illustrated term papers are on file in Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley and West Yolo County Museum.

Also listed in Inventory of Historic Sites in Yolo County (Addendum #2 to Woodland Historical Zone, #37, submitted to Comprehensive Plan for California History, June 15, 1972.

Also, #53 in Walking Tour of Historic Woodland (1976). Measured drawings were made by U.C. Davis students of Richard Berteaux, 1975.

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The main house is built of brick and covered with grey plaster scored to imitate large blocks of stone. There are two doors with flanking pilasters on the north side, one on each level, with the lower being the main entry. The style of the doors is modified Classical Revival framed the undecorated entablature, and the fluted pilasters.

The wall surface of the pediment, on the north side, is shingled in several elaborate patterns.

On the east side of the main brick house is a plan arbor consisting of a simple wooden lattice work, supported by five posts.

The interior walls are of plaster and paper. The floors are of oak (added later) and a floor furnace which also was added at a later date. The formerly two rooms on the east side were made into one large living room. This room had a plain marble fireplace. The two rooms on the west side were used as dining and sitting rooms and are connected by French doors to the older portion of the house which now houses the kitchen.

Upstairs there are now five bedrooms and one bathroom. The fifth bedroom and the bathroom were added into the old portion of the house and are of wood frame construction.

There is a paved walkway from the driveway to the main entrance of the house on the north; the first stone bears the dates 1857-1877.

The house is located on Gibson Road in the southern section of Woodland on property zoned for residential use. The house is almost invisible from the street (Gibson Road) being hidden by large old trees and shrubs. The approach to the house from Gibson Road is via a horseshoe-shaped driveway encircling an elliptical lawn area planted with shrubs and trees. Several out buildings still on the property relate the agricultural heritage of the Gibson Ranch, although they are of a more recent date than the house.

The main part of the house is in a fair state of repair; however, immediate attention must be given to the roof before the deterioration process of the interior becomes irreversible.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Attachment #2)

Measured drawings of the entire residence have been prepared for submission to HABS.

A county-wide Bicentennial Celebration on May 16, 1976, will coincide with dedication of the site as the Yolo County Museum. Several rooms have been refurbished for display purposes and plans for additional restoration work is underway. Further research on the Gibson family and their home is also in progress.