

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1978

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC VACAVILLE TOWN HALL

AND/OR COMMON  
Old Town Hall

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
620 East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Vacaville VICINITY OF 4th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Solano CODE 095 ✓

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: hospitality center

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
City of Vacaville/Solano County

STREET & NUMBER  
650 Merchant Street

CITY, TOWN Vacaville VICINITY OF California STATE California

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Solano County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse, Texas Street

CITY, TOWN Fairfield STATE California

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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		

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

The old Vacaville Town Hall has experienced only minor alteration since its construction in 1907. The building is reinforced concrete, measuring 32' x 44', situated on a 60' x 98' parcel on East Main Street near the old commercial center of the City of Vacaville. The two story building is rectangular in plan, with a belltower at the northwest corner rising through both stories, terminating in a small dome supported by Tuscan columns; the original bronze bell still remains in the belltower. The tower is supported by three large Tuscan columns at the base; three highly stylized columns extend the tower above the first and second floors. The facade of the building is dominated by the corner tower, while the upper and lower stories are separated by a broad unornamented band supported by engaged Tuscan columns; this band becomes a broad, low arch where it crosses the large opening which once served as the entrance to the fire department. The entrance to the jail is at the left side between two of the engaged columns, while the entrance to the Town Hall section on the right is through the base of the bell tower. The original arched opening in the facade was enclosed with a windowed frame wall when the fire department was relocated; this wall was subsequently altered by removal of windows, sheathing of the wall and adding a small entrance and a pair of large side hung barn doors. The large space formerly used for the fire engine was converted to additional city office space, and is now used by the Vacaville Heritage Council. Windows are double hung, crowned with voussoirs. The rear corners of the building are quoined, rising into small domed turrets at the upper corners. The cornice is corbelled, capped by a low unornamented parapet wall.

The jail section is located on the ground floor. It contained two cells of heavy riveted strap iron and iron barred windows; a marshall's office, cell for women prisoners and a general detention cell were also part of the complex.

The second story is reached by a stairway under the bell tower. It has a spacious council/courtroom chamber (approximately 24' x 27'), two small offices, and a lavatory.

Complete renovation of the building is planned and historic house museum is proposed where appropriate and feasible.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Community services
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

1907

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

F. A. Steiger

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Vacaville Town Hall, built in 1907, served the early community's governmental needs from this single structure. It functioned as the town hall, courthouse, fire station, and branch county jail. The jail was used jointly for many years by the town and the county sheriff's department. The first council meeting was held in the old Town Hall on Tuesday, August 6, 1907. It continued serving as the town's center of government until new city offices were built in the 1960's.

The building was designed by Solano County Surveyor, F. A. Steiger, who prepared the plans in 1906. It's architecture demonstrates a small town's attempt at creating a feeling of monumentality and civic pride; its designer borrowed freely from historical antecedents to achieve this effect. Its high degree of integrity makes it an important representative of the early architecture in a town where recent rapid growth has removed many of the communities early structures.

Presently the old town hall houses the collections of the Vacaville Heritage Council, including books, records, photographs, artifacts and other local documents. It also serves as a local museum and community hospitality center.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vacaville Reporter - July 7, 1906; July 2, 1907; August 10, 1907

Solano County Records

Vacaville City Records

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.135

QUADRANGLE NAME Elmira, Calif

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 0 | 5, 8, 8 | 7, 0, 0 | 4, 2, 4, 5 | 6, 4, 0

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

E [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

F [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

G [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

H [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cliff Bisbee, Curator

December 30, 1977  
DATE

ORGANIZATION

Vacaville Heritage Council

STREET & NUMBER

620 East Main Street - Post Office Box 477

TELEPHONE

707 - 448-0600

CITY OR TOWN

Vacaville

STATE

California 95688

# 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

*Knorr M. Ellison*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/78

FDR NPS USE ONLY

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

*R. B. Kettig*

DATE 9/18/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William DeBoerich*

DATE Sept 14, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION